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Focus On Religion

There's a miracle in the making

By SUSAN HUNT
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If you doubt that miracles actually happen, you just may change your mind after talking to Brother Joseph Mitchell and witnessing the Miracle Kingdom Hall on Northampton Drive.

Mitchell is head of the Board of Elders at the East Kingdom Hall on Northampton Drive.

Jehovah's Witnesses are noted for constructing Kingdom Halls in 48 hours. They call it their "48-hour miracle."

"Considering the cost of contractors and skilled workers needed to build a kingdom hall, the cost would be astronomical" if church members paid to have the structures built, Mitchell said. "We are not trying to become known as great builders or miracle workers. This is simply the best way that we know of to get such a Kingdom Hall built in the shortest amount of time. We feel that this is necessary so that we can get back to our most important work, which is going out teaching publicly about Jehovah."

When a congregation outgrows one of the halls, it simply builds another one. There are four Kingdom Halls in Winston-Salem.

Building such a structure requires precise planning and cooperation. The kingdom hall on Northampton Drive has more than 11,000 square feet. It includes a main assembly hall, classrooms, a lounge and restrooms. The new hall was built just a bit larger than the average hall, which is usually 4,000 square feet, has an auditorium which seats 250 and two classrooms, a magazine room, a lounge and two restrooms. Although the kingdom hall on Northampton Drive took a bit longer to construct due to delays in supplies and bad weather, it is known to be the first instant kingdom hall constructed in North Carolina. The estimated value of

the building is well over \$300,000.

Construction requires the best skilled workers, expert electricians, plumbers, carpenters and painters among the Jehovah Witnesses. The workers come from as far away as Virginia and South Carolina to help raise the hall. When a hall is to be built in the 48 hours, all that is done prior to starting will be the laying of the concrete foundation.

The project begins on a Friday evening with a "kick-off" meeting to make precise plans. The needed building materials have been ordered and put in place so the work will be easier. The next morning, at 7 o'clock sharp, the work begins. Usually, there are from 200 to 400 workers involved with specific tasks to ensure the perfection of the entire structure.

"Everyone shares in the work, even the women and children."

-- Joseph Mitchell

Everyone shares in the work, even the women and children, said Mitchell. "When we raised the hall on Northampton Drive, we had young girls who did sheet-rocking work, and they were very good at it." Even those members who are non-skilled carry materials and clean up. A food truck was brought in so that little time was wasted.

By noon Saturday, everything is taking shape. City inspectors are usually cooperative, especially since they don't usually work on Saturdays. If all of the work isn't finished by Saturday evening, crews work throughout the night to finish, so that the first church service can be held that Sunday morning.

Actually, Mitchell said, the work is completed faster than the allotted 48 hours, yet the quality of the work is exceptional in spite of the fact that no one is paid for any work done on the kingdom hall.



East Kingdom Hall: The Jehovah's Witnesses' 48-hour miracle (photo by James Parker).

Brother William Greene, who also attends the Kingdom Hall on Northampton Drive, said "We are happy to do the work on a voluntary basis because this is part of our ministry. We are united in preaching and teaching about God's incoming kingdom. We believe that God's kingdom is a real government and we pray as in the Lord's prayer for God's kingdom to come."

Their faith is what makes it possible for Jehovah's Witnesses to do what others cannot. They begin by trying to rid themselves of hatred, jealousy, social distinctions, drugs and other obses-

sions.

"There are over 200 of these Kingdom Halls already built in the 48 hours, and the numbers are growing," said Mitchell. Jehovah's Witnesses are finding themselves drawn into a unity throughout more countries than belong to the United Nations.

The two-day Kingdom Hall raising is "a taste of paradise building," said Mitchell. This expresses the firm conviction of Jehovah's people that soon earth's Creator will remove all of the elements that ruin the earth and human society to make way for Paradise-building on a global scale.

Church Notes

Homecoming set for St. Paul Methodist Church

The annual fall revival will be held at St. Paul United Methodist Church beginning on Sunday, Oct. 28. Homecoming will be observed at the morning worship service, followed by a special dinner in the fellowship hall. The Rev. Jerry A. Quick, pastor of Goler Metropolitan AME Zion Church, along with his choir and congregation, will conduct the evening worship service at 7 p.m. The guest minister to be featured Monday through Thursday is Dr. Rogers P. Fair, chaplain of Bethune-Cookman

College and pastor of Stewart Memorial United Methodist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla. Dr. Fair, a world-renowned speaker, has received degrees from Clark College, Atlanta University and Bethune-Cookman College. He is actively involved in many civic and religious activities, which include the Civitan Club, the Civil Service Board, the Volusia County Health Authority, the Florida Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry, the Board of Higher

Education and Ministry, and the Florida Conference Task Force on Ethnic Minority of the United Methodist Church. He is also a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the Florida Philosophical Society and is the author of many outstanding published articles. He was named "Who's Who Among American Clergymen" from 1973 to 1978. The theme for the revival is "Celebrate God's Love -- Pass It On." Devotional services will begin nightly at 7:30, followed by

regular services at 8 p.m. The combined choirs of St. Paul will provide music on Thursday night. Special guests throughout the revival will include Galilee Baptist Church, Shiloh Baptist Church, Hanes CME Church and St. Matthews United Methodist Church of Greensboro. The Rev. Belvin J. Jessup is pastor of St. Paul Church. Mrs. Ruth C. Glenn is chairman of the Task Force on Evangelism, which is sponsoring the revival.

Area Deaths And Funerals

Richard N. Marshall, Jr.

Mr. Richard N. Marshall, Jr., of 2923 Bon Air Avenue, died Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 18, at the North Carolina Baptist Hospital.

Mr. Marshall was born in Newberry, S.C., and had lived in Winston-Salem for 60 years. He was a member of the YMCA, Senior Citizens Club, and a retired employee of the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, Factory No. 256.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Delores N. Marshall, of the home; one daughter, Mrs. Luvinia F. Jones of West Palm Beach, Fla.; one step-son, Sgt. Cleo H. Joyner of Germany; two sisters, Mrs. Hattie M. Jones, of this city, and Mrs. Louise M. Caldwell of Newberry; two brothers, Eugene and Albert Marshall, both of this city; ten grandchildren, one daughter-in-law, Mrs. Francina Joyner of Fayetteville; two sisters-in-law, Mrs. Alberta Marshall and Mrs. Irene Marshall, both of this city; one brother-in-law, L.C. Caldwell of Newberry; many nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 21, at St. John Baptist Church. Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery. Johnson's Home of Memory Funeral Directors was in charge of the funeral arrangements.

Nathaniel Thomas

Mr. Nathaniel Thomas, of Route 9, Winston-Salem, Midway Community, died on Wednesday, Oct. 17, at the N.C. Baptist Hospital. He was a native of Davidson County and an employee of the Va Car Battery Company, Thomasville.

Mr. Thomas is survived by his wife, Mrs. Charlotte Thomas, Atlanta, Ga.; two daughters, Lashella Thomas of Atlanta and Diane Cockrum of Midway Community; five sons, Carlos, Quincy, Quinlyn, Jeffrey, Lee and Christopher Thomas, all of Atlanta; six grandchildren; two sisters, Mrs. Gladys Leak of Midway Community and Mrs. Shirley Kearns of Thomasville; three brothers, Mr. George Thomas and Mr. Edward Thomas, both of the Midway Community, and Mr. Edward Lindsay of Thomasville; three uncles, five aunts and other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held on Sunday, Oct. 21, at the Gates of Zion Holiness Church. Burial was in the family plot of the church cemetery. Gilmore Funeral Directors was in charge of the funeral arrangements.

Eula J. Bailey

Mrs. Eula J. Bailey, of 1426 Derry St., died Wednesday, Oct. 17, at the Pell Care Nursing Home. She was a native of Laurel, N.C. She was a member and Mother of the Beulah Baptist Church, she was the founder of the Nurses Board, a former member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Young Ministers and Deacons Union, a member of the Kimberly Park Senior Citizens and a retired employee of the Winston Leaf Tobacco Company.

Mrs. Bailey is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Lorene B. Thomas, of the home, and Mrs. Effie B. Brown, of this city; five grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren; one sister, Mrs. Nora Curran of Gastonia; a devoted niece, Mrs. Margaret B. Smoot, of this city; one brother-in-law, two sons-in-law, and other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday, Oct. 20, at the Beulah Baptist Church. Burial was in the Evergreen Cemetery. Gilmore Funeral Directors was in charge of the funeral arrangements.

Marie E. Kelley

Mrs. Marie E. Kelley, of 1201 E. Ninth St., Apt. 2Q, died Wednesday, Oct. 17, at the N.C. Baptist Hospital. She was a native of Darlington, S.C., and moved to this city 10 years ago.

Mrs. Kelley was a retired beautician from Washington, D.C. She is survived by a devoted niece, Mrs. JoAnn McWillis Clark, of this city; a devoted nephew, Mr. James McWillis, of this city; many great-nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were held on Saturday, Oct. 20, at the Evergreen Cemetery. Gilmore Funeral Directors was in charge of the funeral arrangements.

Mary Pace Spease

Mrs. Mary Pace Spease, of 5040 Joyace Ave., died Thursday, Oct. 18, in Knollwood Hall. She was a native of Pfafftown, N.C., and had lived in Forsyth County all of her life.

Mrs. Spease was a member of Bethlehem A.M.E. Zion Church, where she served on the Usher Board, Pastor's Aide, Missionary, and was the past president of the Young Women's Christian Association. She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Annie Maude Jones and Mrs. Lillie Mae Armstrong; two sons, Mr. David Lee

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CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25

* Crusade Services will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the City of God Prayer Fellowship at 2201 N.E. 23rd St. The speaker will be the Rev. Charles E. Beasley, pastor of the Full Gospel Deliverance Tabernacle. The public is invited to attend.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26

* The Rev. Charles Beasley will continue Crusade Services at 7:30 p.m. in the City of God Prayer Fellowship at 2201 N.E. 23rd St. The public is invited to attend.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27

* The Rev. Ashley Thompson will conduct services at 7:30 p.m. in the City of God Prayer Fellowship at 2201 N.E. 23rd St. The public is invited to attend.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28

* Saints Home United Methodist Church at 1390 Thurmond St. will present its annual tea at 4 p.m.

* Union Baptist Church will present its second annual Hall of Fame at 6 p.m. in the church at 406 Northwest Blvd. The church will recognize those persons who have helped the growth of the church through their Christian leadership. The public is invited to attend.

* Evangelist Mary Ervin Abbott will be the guest speaker for the 40th Anniversary of the W.P. Holiness Church at 365 W. 4th St. at 4 p.m. Bishop Jake Johnson is the pastor. The public is invited to attend.

* The Spiritual Choir of Hickory Grove AME Zion Church in Clemmons will celebrate its sixth anniversary at 3 p.m. The theme of the program will be "Rise, Shine, Give God the Glory." The Rev. Bennie Plowden of the True Light Gospel Singers will be the Master of Ceremonies with a host of choirs and gospel groups present. The church is located off I-40 at the Tanglewood exit on Harper Road. The host pastor will be the Rev. Robert H. Bailey. The public is invited to attend.

* Women and Men's Day will be observed today at 11 a.m. at Prince of Peace Baptist Church at 1909 E. 25 St. The men will be in charge of the morning service. Their speaker will be the Rev. R.L. Watlington. At 4 p.m., the women will sponsor as their speaker Mrs. Ricky Wilson. The public is invited to attend.

* First Baptist Church at 700 Highland Ave. will celebrate its 105th anniversary beginning with the 11 a.m. service. The Rev. Howard Chubb, pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Greensboro, will be the speaker. The anniversary will end with a concert featuring all of the choirs of the church at 4 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

* The Gospel Choir of Zion Memorial Baptist Church at 101 N. Dunleith Ave. will present its annual "Worship in Song" program at 5 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

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