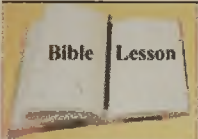


5B

RELIGION

Life 1B



Forgive and restore

1 Corinthians 12

From an earlier lesson, we know that Paul founded the church at Corinth as noted in Acts 18:1-18.

A few years later, Paul spent a significant amount of time in Ephesus. While there he received a letter from the Corinthians asking for guidance on several difficult issues (1 Corinthians 1:11; 7:1). He responded by sending the letter of 1 Corinthians and also by sending Timothy to assist the struggling church (4:17; 16:5-11).

But these remedies apparently were unsuccessful. After Timothy returned with the bad news, Paul paid them a visit "in heaviness" (2 Corinthians 2:1). This was an unpleasant experience, as Paul apparently had to confront a number of individuals. Paul also suffered slanderous accusations (2 Corinthians 10, 11, 12:11).

After he returned to Ephesus, Paul sent Titus to supervise the situation. Upon hearing no report, he began to worry and decided to return to Corinth. On the way, however, he met Titus coming back to Ephesus over land through Macedonia (Acts 20:1, 2; 2 Corinthians 7:5-7).

Paul was generally pleased with Titus' report, but some issues still needed to be addressed. He therefore sent the letter of 2 Corinthians to prepare the church for his impending return (2 Corinthians 13:1).

Today's Aim

Facts: to examine passages from 2 Corinthians that deal with forgiveness and restoration of damaged relationships.

Principle: to teach the importance of forgiving and restoring relationships between Christians.

Application: to encourage Christians to make the decision to forgive and to make the effort to restore relationships.

1. How many letters did Paul write to the church in Corinth?

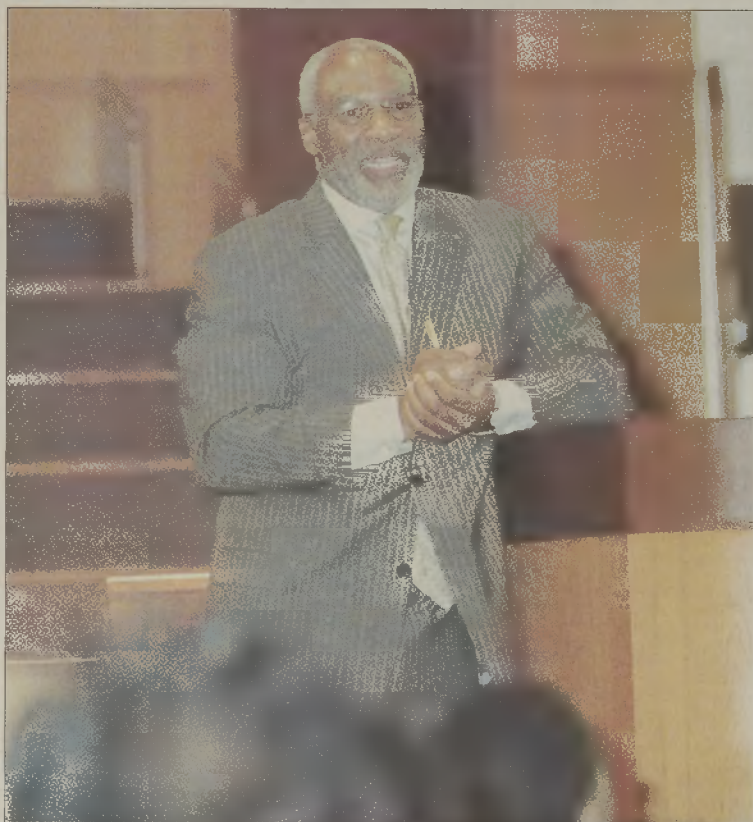
It is noted, Paul may have written other letters to the Corinthians: one before 1 Corinthians (cf. 1 Corinthians 5:9) and one between the first and second epistles, often called the sever letter (cf. 2 Corinthians 2:3,4) however, these letters did not survive.

Merciful Judgment (2 Corinthians 2:5-11)
Sufficient Suffering (vs. 5:6)

2a. What offense caused all the "grief" at the church in Corinth (2 Corinthians 2:5,6)?

While in Ephesus, Paul received word that a member of the church in Corinth was having an affair with his stepmother. Paul recognized that the sin involved demanded that this man be barred from the fellowship until he repented (1 Corinthians 5). The Corinthians were tolerating something that should not be tolerated.

Friendship open house



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

The Rev. Clifford Jones, senior minister at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, describes the new 135,000 square foot campus on Beatties Ford Road.

By Cheris F. Hodges

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The new Friendship Missionary Baptist Church won't open officially until August 27, the public was given a sneak preview last week.

Located on Beatties Ford Road, the 135,000 square foot campus includes a conference center that can accommodate 1,000 people, recording studio and gymnasium. The complex also features two inter-

rior courtyards—one for adults, the other for children. The facility has state of the art technology, with more than 14 miles of wiring and several areas of the complex, including the contemplative courtyard, have wireless access.

The church also has 14 classrooms that will also serve as meeting rooms.

Senior Minister Clifford Jones Sr., said the new church isn't just for

Friendship's members, but shows a commitment to all west Charlotte.

While the church is very modern in its design, the sanctuary gives a nod to classic church style by abandoning the current trend of auditorium-style seating, even though it can hold 3,000 worshippers. The church also has a 6,000 piece pipe organ and faceted glass window, which depict biblical and significant historic

Please see **FRIENDSHIP/6B**



'Presence' goes all out with praise

Judith Christie McAllister
In His Presence Live
Michael Bereal and
Judith Christie
McAllister, producers
Aremis Gospel



The praise & worship genre can leave a lot to be desired. Too much repetition can be a very bad thing, especially if the repetitive lyrics don't say a lot.

Some how Judith Christie McAllister avoids the trappings of today's praise & worship. Maybe because McAllister is the current queen of the genre and has been doing it well for more than a decade. She got her start with the West Angeles Church of God In Christ on those spectacular "Saints In Praise" recordings.

McAllister has moved on to a stellar solo career of her own. "In His Presence" is her latest and perhaps best recording.

McAllister's songs fit in with most of what you hear in praise & worship, except she brings truckloads of passion. She's singing as if she's lived every word of what she sings - a trait that seems to be missing in a lot of other recordings.

It also helps that McAllister has a rich and resonant voice. Her background vocalists are no slouches, either. Those vocals soar way above the melodies more often than not, while McAllister anchors the middle.

The first four songs - "To Our God," "We Sing Your Praises," "One Thing" and "My Confession" - could stand as an exceptional EP. But then you'd miss the "Expressions From My Soul" medley or the haunting "As Your Word Says It" and that would be a crime.



Ratings	
Classic:	☆☆☆☆☆
Excellent:	☆☆☆☆☆
Good:	☆☆☆☆
Fair:	☆☆
Why?	☆☆
No stars - A mess	

Author urges single black women to greatness

By Cheris F. Hodges

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Charlotte native Sheron C. Patterson has a message for single black women: "Wear your crowns."

Patterson, a West Charlotte High School graduate with a doctorate in ministry, will discuss her latest book "Put On Your Crown, The Black Woman's Guide to Living Christian and Single," at the Beatties Ford Road branch of the public library Tuesday from 12-1 p.m.

"It's an empowerment book for black single women to live like queens and not

messy, silly foolish women," Patterson said in a telephone interview.

As senior pastor of Highland Hill United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas, Patterson has spread her message to thousands through her nationally syndicated ABC radio show "Rejoice" and on "Good Morning Texas."

With her book, Patterson said that she hopes to challenge the way black women view themselves.

"When it titled the book 'Put on Your Crown' it was a challenge to women to see themselves as queens," she said. "Queens

won't wallow in self-pity and not check on herself."

Patterson said black women may suffer from depression, but don't get the mental help that they need.

"If you're a queen, you don't live your life in such a sad state," she said.

Patterson is known as America's Love Doctor because she founded the Love Clinic, a Christian relationship institute dedicated to healing the hurts in the African American community. Since its inception in 1995, the clinic has produced

Please see **CHARLOTTE-BORN/7B**

Huntersville church leads drive for museum

By Cheris F. Hodges

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Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church is hoping to create the first museum of African American church history.

The Huntersville church is in the beginning stages of restoring an early 20th century house across from the church. The roof of the house built in 1916, will be replaced this weekend, said Pearlie Boarders, director of the project.

"We're also working with Rural Hill Farm and Latta Plantation because our church connects with them because some of our ancestors worked there," she said.

A museum of African American church history would be the first of its kind in the U.S.

Boarders said that Mount Olive Missionary Baptist purchased the one-story farmhouse in 1991 from a member of the congregation for storage space. But the congregation decided to do something more meaningful with the space.

"We want the museum to extend nationally, because many black churches have a similar history," she said.

Boarders said Mount Olive first held its services in a brush harbor and built its first baptistry in the church yard.

"There is no other museum that focuses on African American church history," she said. "We want to make history connect with not just Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church but with all churches."

Boarders said \$13,000 has been raised for the project, which is enough money to repair the roof.

If you'd like to donate to the museum effort, send your donation to the MOMBC Historic Project, in care of Pearlie Boarders, project director, Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church 6101 Neck Road, Huntersville, NC 28078.

CHURCH NEWS

The deadline for calendar items is noon on Fridays. Fax announcements to (704) 342-2160 or e-mail your announcement to cheris.hodges@thecharlottepost.com. Please put "church news" in the subject line.

August 12

Cornelius Parks and Recreation Department will host its third annual gospel fest at Smithville Park. Tonya Rivens of Praise 100.9 will host the event. For more information, call (704) 892-6031 ext. 160. The event runs from

1p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

August 13

Voices of Morning Star will celebrate their 20th anniversary at The New Hampton Life Center, located at 211-1 Hampton Church Road, Charlotte. Doors open at 3 p.m. and the show begins at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door and can be purchased by calling Robert Garlin at (704) 596-2063.

August 19

Gethsemane Baptist Church, 565 Jetton

Street, Davidson, will host a "06 Back 2 School Break-Out" festival, Saturday, August 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the church. This year's themes are: "P.A.S.S. - Parents And Students Succeeding" and "The Paths to Success are God, Education and Fellowship." There will be entertainment, games for kids, food and school supplies. Free. Details: (704) 892-1635.

The Children's Church Ministry of Steele Creek AME Zion Church, located at 1500 Shopton Road invite all children and youth to

the "Back to School Jam" from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Please contact the church office (704) 523-6552 for additional information and to provide the number of children attending from your church or you may email steelcreek_publicrelations@yahoo.com.

The Gaston-Mecklenburg County Chapter of Women of Real Destiny will host its monthly women's fellowship event. The guest speaker will be Minister Yvonne Davis of Communi-

Please see **REVIVAL/6B**

