



**McLaughlin Finishes Basic Training**

Pvt. Melvin C. McLaughlin has graduated from basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina on Dec. 4th.  
He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James A. McLaughlin, of Rt. 3 Raeford.  
He is a 1982 graduate of Hoke High School.

**Sunday School Lesson**

**Background Scripture:** Luke 2.  
**Devotional Reading:** Proverbs 23:15-25.

Being the parents of the child who was someday to be God's Messiah was not the "snap" we might have expected it to be. First, Mary had to overcome her own natural doubts about Gabriel's message from God. Secondly, Joseph had to adjust to a situation which was mystifying, not to mention socially embarrassing as well.

Furthermore, having been promised this wonderful child sent from God, they must have wondered why such a great honor should be bestowed in the most humble and unprepossessing surroundings. If this was God's "favor," as Gabriel had told them, then what must his "disfavor" be like?

No less troubling must have been the experience with Simeon in Jerusalem. Simeon proclaimed their infant child the "salvation" of God: "a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to thy people Israel." That was a wonderful prophecy, but the following words were as troubling as the first had been wonderful: "Behold, this child is set for the fall and the rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also)..." It must have seemed impossible for Joseph and Mary to put these two messages together.

When they returned to Nazareth, it must have made them wonder how they could go back to life as usual. With all the wonderful promises and prophecies, it would be understandable for Joseph and Mary to expect something more in the days ahead than the quiet, humble life of Nazareth.

Nor did being the parents of God's Messiah mean their life with this boy would be one of harmony and full understanding. When, at age 12 they took him to the Temple for the Passover, Luke tells us that, when Jesus stayed behind in the Temple, "His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the company they went a day's journey..." Like any other parents, there were times when they "did not know" what he was doing and made false suppositions.

When at last they found him in the Temple, Luke tells us "they were astonished," not an unfamiliar experience for any parent. He may have been God's Messiah, but that didn't stop him from doing things that astonished them. Nor was all the astonishment pleasant: "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold your father and I have been looking for you anxiously..."

"And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them," but their failure to understand did not keep them from loving Jesus and keeping their faith God's promises. Nor did their failure to understand him keep Jesus from being "obedient to them."

Even when we fail to understand God's will, like Mary we may nevertheless keep "all these things" in our hearts.

**Christmas Parade Saturday 2 P.M.**

**Cape Fear Hospital Seeking Body Scanner**

Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville will seek approval from the Cardinal Health Agency Board of Directors to purchase and install a "whole body CT scanner" at a total of project cost of \$1,367,000.

Cape Fear Valley, the second largest hospital in HSA V, currently has a head scanner owned and

operated by Fayetteville Neurodiagnostics, Inc. (FNI) on a contractual basis.

FNI also owns and operates a whole body scanner at its office, one block from the hospital.

The "fourth generation" scanner the hospital hopes to purchase features shorter scan times, improved image resolutions, and

would be available 24 hours a day on an emergency basis as well as its proposed 66 hour/week work schedule.

A public hearing on the project will be conducted by the Board's Evaluation Committee in the Agency's Lumberton Office (401 East 11th Street) at 4:00 PM, Wednesday, December 15. Cardinal's

Board of Directors will receive the Committee's recommendations at a 7:00 PM Meeting the same date and place.

Cardinal is the regional health planning and review organization for 15 southeastern North Carolina Counties including Hoke.

All meetings of the Board and its Committees are open to the public.

**Attend Christmas Parade Saturday 2 P.M.**

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