

# RELIGION

## 'Don't ever underestimate a child's faith'

Robbie, our #2 son, has been home for a couple of days, and it has been nice. Our boys are now at the age when we don't get to see them very often, so it is always nice when they get home. Robbie is a very active young Christian; in fact, this summer he will be working with Campus Outreach. Throughout his life Robbie has "provided" us with many good stories to share. Some are funny; some are powerful. Here is one of those moments, and yes, the story is true.

The year was 1984 and Robbie was five years old going on 50. We had a beautiful English setter dog named "Jeremiah" — after my favorite prophet. Jeremiah had been with us longer than our children at the time. But, as is often the case with a dear pet, we had reached a moment when it was necessary to put Jeremiah to sleep. It was a hard decision and one that was reached with great sor-

row on my part.

Following the visit to the veterinarian, Robbie and Richie went with me as I buried Jeremiah that afternoon on a friend's farm where Jeremiah and I had often run.

Now here is where the story really gets interesting! That night, as Robbie said his prayers, he asked God to "please send Jeremiah back." I wasn't sure what I should say to this little five-year-old so I said nothing and talked with an older minister friend about how I should handle this. Armed by what my friend had told me, when Robbie again asked God to "please send Jeremiah back," I said, "Robbie, Jeremiah was very sick and in a lot of pain and since we loved him we don't want to ask God to send Jeremiah back where he was so sick and hurting." Robbie looked at me, paused, bowed his head and prayed, "God, please heal Jeremiah and then send

him back."

Now I was in trouble! How do I explain to a five-year-old with childlike faith that God just doesn't work that way? When I called my friend for some more advice he simply said, "Rich, don't ever underestimate a child's faith." The next day as Robbie was waiting to get on the school bus his younger brother Ward was standing with him.

I suddenly noticed that Ward was petting a dog, but not just a dog. It was a large white male English setter! Just like Jeremiah except this one had a "black eye."

I called the local veterinarian, checked out the "lost and found" section of the local paper, and asked all around the neighborhood. No one had lost or knew anything about this dog. Now please understand, dogs like this just don't appear on your doorstep with no one claiming them or adver-

## Pastor's Pen

Rev. Richard Vaughan  
Raeford United Methodist Church

tising for them.

But this one did! And that night Robbie came home and named our new dog, what else, Jeremiah II. Jeremiah II lived with us for another six years, and I learned a lesson rarely taught in seminary.

I learned the lesson of the power of prayer and a childlike faith. Robbie never doubted that God would send Jeremiah back (as his pastor father did).

And that is exactly why Jesus said, "whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

Amen and Amen.

## Roll call for prayer



In light of the terrorist attacks of September 11 and responding military action, The News-Journal is compiling a prayer list for those service men and women who may be in harm's way or are just in need of our prayers at this critical time. We also think their families should be included in our special prayers.

Call in, e-mail, or fax the names of those you want to be included on the list so that their names may be published and the entire community can add their prayers to yours.

Include names, branch of service and the service person or person's connection to Raeford Hoke County or their close family members. For security reasons, we are not including the rank and unit.

Our list so far includes:

A special request from a U.S. Air Force commander in Afghanistan — "We need Christians to pray, pray, pray. We're in a blood bath here! Please pray for God's protection of our troops and His wisdom for their commanders. Pass this on to as many as you think will respond."

Another special request is for the chaplains who "have been running ragged" in many capacities including officiating at the funerals of those killed in action.

### U.S. Army

Chuck LaMonte; Samuel Eden, husband of Yolanda Eden, son-in-law of Dorothy Cook; Anthony Cook, husband of Karen Cook, son of Dorothy Cook; Brian Wells, husband of Deane Dougherty Well; James A. Wilson, Thomas C. Wilson and Cathy Wilson, sons and daughter-in-law of Pat Allen Wilson; Michael Sundborg, husband of Dawn Reynolds Sundborg and father of Ryan, Stephanie and Laura; Shelton Terry, Pam Terry and son Ira McKeller, former Raeford residents; Karl Wilkie, son of

### U.S. Air Force

Michael S. Frame, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Frame; Mac Langdon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Langdon; Steven P. Knoll, husband of Rhonda G. Knoll and father of Josh; Steven Lovette and Jessica Lovette, son and daughter-in-law of Colin and Bobby Lovette; Neil Kellar, son of Patricia Kellar; Tony Mitchell, husband of Cathy; Mario Montoe, nephew of Mary Roper; submitted by Raeford Methodist Church — Matt McMenamin, James Henderson and Lester Davis.

### U.S. Navy

Larry Tyrelle McLeod, son of Mary Bronson McLeod, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bronson, brother of Conelia McLeod; James W. Watson Jr., son of James and Linda Watson; Lewis Dees, son of Rachel Dees and the late Bill Dees; Jermaine Johnson, son of Derwin and Veronica Johnson; submitted by Raeford Methodist Church — Karl Rauch, Gabe Brazell, James Keith Jackson, Philip Ballard.

### Civilian

Charles M. Bledsoe.

## Word of Life Temple, Freedom Chapel in fellowship together

Word of Life Temple's Bishop J.O. Cunningham and members have been invited to fellowship with the Rev. Ray Owens and members of Freedom Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church. Bishop Cunningham will minister the word.

Vacation Bible school at Word of Life will be held June 17-20. Classes will be available for all age groups.

Word of Life will not have their standard Sunday school and worship service on Sunday, June 23. This day will be observed as church vacation.

Minister Veronica Piggott will minister at Abundant Life Ministry during their Youth Services on Friday, June 14 at 7:30 p.m.

The fifth Sunday of each month is observed as Youth Day. Youth are in charge of services and the morning sermon is a topic that concerns the youth. Each first Sunday at 3 p.m., the

Evangelistic Ministry goes to Autumn Care rest home to minister to the residence.

### Faith Anointed having softball tournament

Faith Anointed Temple Church is sponsoring a men's softball tournament Saturday, June 22 at the Raeford Armory Park.

The tournament will be double elimination with first, second and third place trophies and 15 individual trophies for first place. Umpires will be certified. Churches, schools, leagues and community teams are invited to participate.

For more information, contact Dee Dee at 423-2992; or call the church at 843-8481. The church is located at 3116 South Duffie Road, Red Springs.

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Joani Tabor here

Nationally known singer and conference speaker Joani Tabor will be at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Rockfish on Sunday, June 2. She will speak to the women at 6 p.m. and sing at 7 p.m. The public is invited to both events. There is no charge, but a love offering will be received.

The church is located in Rockfish at 3219 Lindsey Road. For more information, call 875-2825.

### Apostolic tent revival at Solid Rock Pentecostal

Solid Rock United Pentecostal Church invites you to an apostolic tent revival with Evangelist Cortt Chavis. Events are scheduled Friday, May 31 and Saturday, June 1 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, June 2 at 10 a.m.

Cortt and Amanda Chavis of Spring Lake will sing and preach. For more

information, call Pastor Frank G. Dublin at 424-0378. The church is located at the corner of U.S. Highway 401 and Parker Church Road at the Wayside Community Building.

### Male chorus of Spring Branch has praise fest

The Spring Branch Baptist Church Male Chorus will present a musical praise fest Saturday, June 15 at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. The church is located on Old Wire Road, Wagram.

### Full Gospel Temple

Beginning Sunday, June 2 through September 29, Full Gospel Temple's morning worship service will begin at 8 a.m. with Sunday school immediately following.

### Preschool openings

The Raeford United Methodist Church is taking applications for next year's preschool. There are openings for three and four years olds. Call Jane Britt at 875-4398 for more information.

## Military Briefs

### Price enlists in Air Force ORS

Kevin E. Price has enlisted in the Air Force Obligated Reserve Section (ORS) for the purpose of participating in the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Program. He is a cadet in the ROTC

Detachment at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte.

Price is the son of Miriam and stepson of James Gibney of Raeford. He is a 1998 graduate of Northwood Academy, Fayetteville.

### Leak-Frazier completes advance

Army Spec. Vonda C. Leak-Frazier has graduated from the unit supply specialist advanced individual training course at Fort Lee, Petersburg, Virginia.

Leak-Frazier was trained to receive, inspect, segregate, store, inventory, issue, deliver and turn-in organizational and installation supplies and equipment; maintain automated supply systems for accountability with use of unit computers;

issue and receipt of small arms, and secure and control weapons and ammunition supplies.

Leak-Frazier is the daughter of James T. Leak of Raeford.

Her husband, Terry, is the son of Estell Frazier of Winston Salem.

The soldier is a 1989 graduate of Hoke County High School and a 2001 graduate of Fayetteville State University.

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