



TEACHER'S PROGRAM AT EAST SCHOOL-Guess who the happy smile belongs to? None other than East School teacher Mike Smith who is introduced by Linda Humphries, left, as highlight of the recent Teachers' Program honoring students.

Author Predicts Rapture Again

Pastors: Books Foolishness

BY MARTY HOHMANN
Of the Herald Staff

Members of the clergy in Kings Mountain have heard it all before and expect they will hear it again. End of the world predictions have become as common as ants at a summer picnic, and frankly, they are tired of hearing them.

Last year's big prediction that the world would end came from author and former NASA engineer Edgar Whisenant. His book "88 Reasons Why the Rapture Will Be in '88" said September 1, 1988 would be the big date. But to no one's surprise, the day came and went without a hitch. So, Whisenant has released another book, "The Final Shout - Rapture '89," predicting yet another Rapture date, September 1, 1989.

Whisenant said he came to the conclusion that the Rapture would occur last year through a series of calculations based upon numbers in the Bible. However, he claims a miscalculation led to his second prediction. He said he did not figure in the first year of the first century because present day calendars count the first year as year one and not zero.

The Rapture is the event when many Christians believe Christ will return to earth and claim his faithful before the destruction of the world. For many Kings Mountain pastors, Whisenant's books are foolishness.

Rev. George Simmons of East Gold Street Wesleyan Church said

he is familiar with the books but hasn't really read them. He was not surprised by the predictions, but he is disturbed that they keep coming.

"The Scripture is very clear that nobody knows (the date of the second coming of Christ) except God himself. So it always bothers me and disturbs me a little bit," he said.

When people try to pinpoint a date for the event, he added, they are essentially trying to put themselves in God's place.

"I know the Lord is coming. I think the main thing is for us to live in such a way to be ready and prepared. I'm disturbed in a person who would try to play God," he said. "It hurts the message of the church and it causes people to doubt even more," Simmons said.

In addition, he noted, when the predicted date does come and pass without incident, the church often looks foolish to the rest of the non-Christian world.

"You know the world grabs onto that like a dog with a ham bone," he said.

Rev. Robbie Moore of Oak View Baptist Church agrees. Although he has read neither of the books, he doesn't encourage thought of what tomorrow will bring. The focus, he noted, should be today. He bases his opinions on the Bible, he said, not on what people may say about the Bible. The point, he noted, is to be ready, whenever Christ returns.

For the Rev. George Allman of

Central United Methodist Church, talking about when Christ will return is utter futility.

"When you get tied up in that type of thinking, it affects your everyday life and living," he said. The Bible stresses not thinking about tomorrow, but focus on the task before you today, he noted. Predictions such as the one espoused by Whisenant cause people to focus on the second coming and let the world as it is today crumble around them.

Allman said that he hasn't had to discuss the predictions with his congregation because, for the most part, people have learned to ignore the calculated guesses by now.

"Most of the people just see it for what it is," he said.

In fact, the local bookstore, Positive People Worldwide, did not stock Whisenant's book last year and there are no plans to stock the new one. Sales of similar books at the store have not been good and there doesn't seem to be much interest from area residents in such predictions.

Rev. James Allen of the Church of God has had some church members who were disturbed by the predictions last year, but Allen said that the fact that it didn't happen was proof positive that such predictions are ludicrous.

See Rapture, 12-A



In Memory of Claude M. Edwards by his daughter Gloria Jean Zelinski and granddaughters Felicia and Claudette

LIVE AND LEARN

I understand you better now— Since older I have grown Your memory lives within my heart; I'll never be alone.

I treasure every word you said; Advice you gave to me Takes on a whole new meaning, And becomes a prophecy.

For all the things you told me Were only words back then, But now a code to live by When I think of them again.

For I was young and foolish With all the glow of youth; When sunshine filled each corner, And laughter was profuse.

But now the sun has slanted, And I see with truer light. Now I know that you are wiser, Your ways were always right.

But a full-blown rose cannot return Into bud form again.

And never has a way been found To send back fallen rain.

No, there's no way of returning To the day that used to be; For life's an upward spiral, From the acorn to the tree.

And I guess it's just like children To now quite appreciate; So God, in all His wisdom Says, "Repent, it's not too late."

He reads the "Thank You" in my heart For all you've done for me. And someday, when He's ready, When my spirit is set free,

I'll fly to you with open arms, And I'll explain somehow: It took a lot of living, But I know you better now.

On bended knee, I'll thank you; Place a kiss upon your feet, For all your precious guidance, That made my life complete.

Love Always Leaves a Tender Spot, And Tears and Hurt Will Find It. But When We Meet, God Heals the wound, And Leaves No Scars Behind.

From the book "LILIES GROWN FROM MUSTARD SEED" ©1979 Bernice Roche Jacobs All Rights Reserved

On Dean's List

Six Kings Mountain area students earned Dean's List honors during the spring semester just completed at North Carolina State University.

age for the semester. They were among 546 undergraduate students to achieve this honor. Of these, 478 were from North Carolina.

Shaw is majoring in Education and Psychology and Ferebee is majoring in Textiles.

Kenneth Lee Wright, Route 1 Grover, Christopher Herndon, Route 2, Chansamone Phanthalack, 111 Tara Terrace, and Joan Marie Reavis, 411 Crescent Hill Road, were listed on the B+ average or better Dean's List.

Track Results

From Page 7-A

100 Meter Dash - 9-10 yrs. Matthew Keaton, 17.65. 13-15 yrs. Ryan Hoover, 12.69; Billy Tuder, 12.84; Female, Nikki Luckey, 13.13. 16-19 yrs - Victor Bell, 11.38; Paul McClean, 11.39; Mike Byers, 11.41. 20-24 yrs. - Joe Barnette, 11:03; Calvin Padgett, 11.20. 41-45 yrs. - Eddie Wyatt, 13.91.

400 Meter Dash - 9-10 yrs. - Matthew Keaton, 1:41.6. 13-15 yrs. - Billy Tucker, 1:01.94; Ryan Hoover, 1:04.1. Female 16-19 yrs. Jackie Plonk, 1:23. Male 16-19 yrs. Michael Perry, 54.7; Victor Bell, 57.09. 20-24 yrs. - Calvin Padgett, 52.6. 41-45 Eddie Wyatt.

Allen Speaks To Kiwanians

I.M. "Marty" Allen spoke to the Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club June 1 at Kings Mountain Country Club. Allen, Environmental Health Supervisor at the Cleveland County Health Department, spoke on the hazardous waste problem.

The speaker stressed that the public must address this complex problem using scientific knowledge and not the previously used concept of "if you can't see it, smell it, or step in it" then it's not a problem.

KM Weather

(Compiled By Kenneth Kitzmiller)

	JUNE 7-13	YEAR AGO
Total precipitation	1.16	.10
Maximum one day	.95 (8th)	.10 (9th)
Year to date	21.98	11.70
Minimum temperature	58 (10th)	46 (10th)
Maximum temperature	89 (12th)	95 (8th)
Average temperature	74.6	71.2

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Ebenezer To Host Celebration

Ebenezer Baptist Church will host 43 churches from a three-county area at the Centennial celebration of Ebenezer Baptist Association Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Rev. D. C. Wilson, pastor, said the meeting will begin on Tuesday night with a musical program at 7 p.m. and continue Wednesday and Thursday in sessions beginning at 9 a.m. in the 106-year-old Kings Mountain church. The local congregation occupied a handsome

new building last September. The Association bears the church name.

Representatives of churches in Gaston, Cleveland and Lincoln Counties will attend the meeting.

Greetings at the Wednesday night session at 6:30 p.m. will be given by Mayor Kyle Smith, City Manager George Wood, Police Chief Warren Goforth, Rev. M. L. Campbell and Bill Hager, all of this community.

The church is located on Cherryville Road.

Singing To Feature Crossbearer

East Church of God will sponsor "Crossbearer" Sunday night at 6 p.m. at East Church of God, Highway 161 across from WKMT Radio.

The public is invited. "Crossbearer" is the product of a life-long dream of three individuals, Dean Hewett, Joey Gore, and Dawn Eubanks. "Many years of experience, hard work and over one million miles on the road well

qualifies this group to become one of the new strong forces in Christian music, said Rev. John Heath, pastor.

Based out of Wilmington, N. C. Crossbearer travels hundreds of miles each week performing in some of America's largest churches, auditoriums and concert halls.

"Crossbearer" currently records on the Lifeline Records label.

Blanton Named Purchasing Agent

Pat Blanton, administrative assistant in the City Gas Department for 10 years, has been promoted to the position of Purchasing Agency.

City Personnel Director Charles Webber said Blanton will assume her new duties July 3.

She will succeed Jack Bennett, who retired several weeks ago after five years service with the city.

Webber said that three current city employees were among the seven who applied for the job.

The city is advertising this week for a replacement for Blanton in the Gas Department.

"Blanton's experience in the Gas Department will prove invaluable in her new duties with the city," said Webber.

Teachers To Ask For More Pay

Twenty teachers from Kings Mountain plan to go to Raleigh Friday for a second rally for higher salaries.

The local delegation will be headed by Mike Smith, president of the Kings Mountain Chapter NCEA.

The rally expects to draw 10,000 educators from across North Carolina to the N. C. Fairgrounds.

Teachers are still demanding the 10% pay raise they wanted when they held a march and rally in Raleigh in February.

Tim Morrow On Dean's List

Tim Morrow, son of Joann and Larry Morrow of Kings Mountain, has been named to the Dean's list for the spring semester at Gaston College.

To be named to the Dean's list a student must earn a grade point average of at least 3.50.

He is a freshman majoring in computer science.

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