

**Religion**



O CHRISMON TREE- Mary King admires the Chrismon tree created by the congregation at Cherokee Street Baptist Church in Kings Mountain.

# Crismon tree symbols tell the real Christmas story

By Alan Hodge

Celebrating Christmas in a way whose roots go back over forty years, Cherokee Street Baptist Church in Kings Mountain decorated a Chrismon tree at a special service December 6 in the church sanctuary.

Utilizing religious symbols from the Bible called Chrismons instead of more commercialized decorations, the people at Cherokee Street Baptist Church celebrated their second Chrismon tree decorating just as the first one held in Danville, Virginia in 1957 was done.

Composed of white and gold materials, the Chrismon decorations symbolize Christ's purity

and perfection. The green of the tree represents everlasting life, while the tiny white lights point to Christ as the light of the world.

One of the 18 original founders of Cherokee Street Baptist Church, which dates back to 1956, Mary King explained the ceremony.

"We have Biblical symbols such as the Alpha or Omega sign crafted into ornaments," said King. "Then we give each member of the congregation an ornament. When our pastor Gene Leigh reads a verse in the Bible corresponding with a particular symbol, then that person comes up and places the ornament on the tree."

The idea to incorporate the

Chrismon tree into Cherokee Street's service came after King saw a similar tree at a Methodist church in Charlotte.

"We decided we wanted to put more Christ in Christmas," said King. "The Chrismon tree is especially good for the children and gives them something more special to remember Christmas by than just toys."

Happy to share their knowledge of the Chrismon tree and its tradition, or to help anyone who wants to do a Chrismon tree of their own, Cherokee Street Baptist Church may be reached at P.O. Box 1415, Kings Mountain, 28086.

## KM's New Life Worship Center is newest church in the area

The new Pioneer church work in Kings Mountain, located at 428 Oak Grove Road, is the New Life Worship Center.

Senior pastor, Dr. Robert Eng, stated that there is a great need for more churches in the nation, noting that in the south alone there will be 16, more people hungry for the gospel in the next 20 years.

"The way it stands we will need 1,600 more churches, with each church having a congregation of 1,000 people, to meet the future needs," Dr. Eng said. "At present two out of every three people are not attending church. We believe that doing church as a team is God's design for effective ministry, no big I's and little yous. A spirit-

empowered serving with the willing-hearted involvement of every person is vital to God's plan being accomplished."

Dr. Eng said the New Life Family Worship Center will promote wholeness through Jesus Christ, as a family in a corporate worship and serving arm of the community.

"Reaching out to the needs of the community, accepting and nurturing the victorious and the broken, promoting Biblical teaching for wholeness, with winning souls to Christ is our number one priority," he said.

Dr. Jack Fox, Associate Pastor, has 42 years experience as a senior pastor, and has been involved in building numerous churches.

"God is surely doing a great work here in Kings Mountain,"

he said. "Never have I seen God supply all of the needs so fast with so many different denominations reaching out and giving. Each we are amazed at how God has more than supplied our needs."

Pastor Eng stated that this is the year of Jubilee and that many people "want the blessings of God to be upon them, therefore, this is the reason that seeds of faith are being planted in so many of God's ministries.

The church's Sunday schedule is 10 a.m. (Sunday School) with nursery and children's church provided, and 11 a.m. worship. Family training is Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., Sunday night service at 6:30 p.m., and special youth ministry is 7 p.m. Friday.

The public is invited to all services.



CHURCH STAFF - Leadership staff of the New Life Family Worship Center are, left to right, Rev. Myron Cheek, youth pastor, who is a graduate of East Coast Bible College; Rev. Lonnie Fox, Outreach Minister who is a graduate of Jacksonville Theological Seminary; Rev. Jack Fox, D.D., ThD, PhD, Associate Pastor; and Rev. Robert Eng, ThD, PhD, Senior Pastor.

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\*All Vehicles subject to prior sale, price includes all mfg. discounts and rebates. Does not include tax, title and \$194.50 processing fee. One vehicle per example shown. Financing in lieu of rebate to qualified buyers. Sale ends Dec. 21, 1998.