

Group hopes to mail Jesus video to all local homes

A group of Cleveland County Christians hopes to mail 47,000 videos about Jesus to local homes during Easter week.

The film, called the Jesus Video, was developed by the late Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ.

It has been translated into 800 languages and has been seen by more than 5 billion people around the world, according to a press release from the local group.

The group is part of a statewide effort to saturate the state with the video, pray for evangelistic efforts and help new and rededicated Christians find a church home.

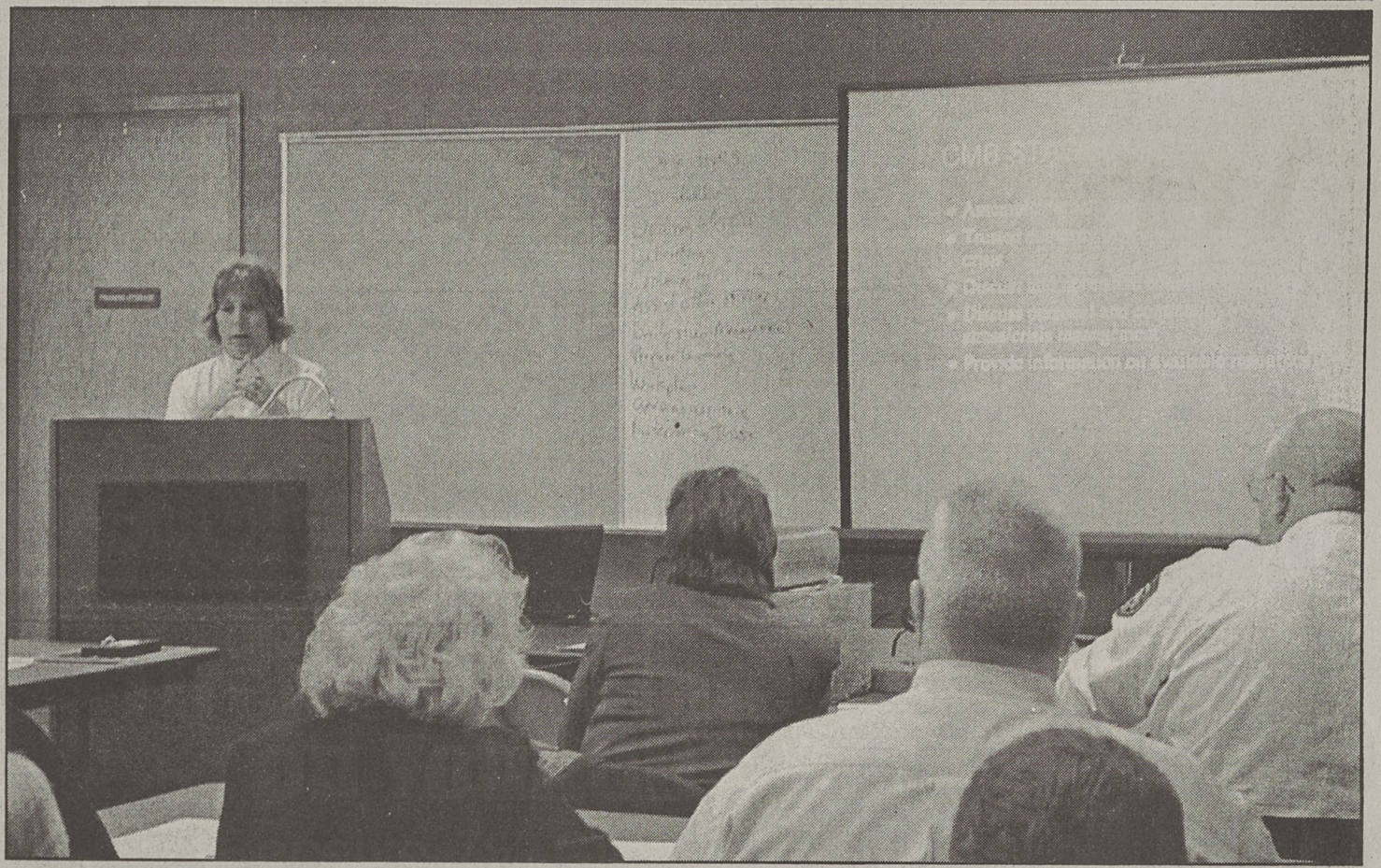
The local group needs \$150,000 to mail the video to 47,000 Cleveland County residents, at a cost of approximately \$3 per mailing.

Tax deductible donations may be mailed to the Jesus Video Project Cleveland County, 1175 Wyke Road, Shelby, N.C. 28150.

The group is holding several meetings this month to show the video, pray for the ministry and distribute information packets.

Meetings are Jan. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Lawndale Community Center; Jan. 20 and Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Shelby YMCA; Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. at the Kings Mountain YMCA and Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. at the Shelby YMCA.

For more information, call Max Miller at 864-487-2409.



Dr. Joyce Ann LiBethe, a psychologist specializing in trauma, spent two days with local representatives from law enforcement, schools, mental health and clergy.

Stress debriefing class helps officers learn how to support one another

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Cleveland County law enforcement, clergy, educators, town and health officials are forming a critical incident stress debriefing team.

Dr. Joyce Ann LiBethe spent two days last week training team members. The class was hosted by the Kings Mountain Police Department.

LiBethe defines critical incidents as natural disasters, deadly accidents, singular acts of violence or terrorism.

Often trauma victims are reluctant to talk about what has happened, however, LiBethe says this can cause long term problems.

"Eventually that doesn't work. People's personal and professional lives suffer," she said.

Talking with someone who has the

right training can help defuse the stress.

"They don't have to keep carrying that with them," LiBethe said.

Police and other people likely to be affected by a critical incident are learning to give support to one another. The training session also allows them to meet local mental health workers. The relationships formed now make it easier for those people to seek out mental health services if needed later, LiBethe said.

LiBethe praised the local group, saying she was very impressed with how community oriented they are.

A member of the American Red Cross critical response team, LiBethe responded to the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001. In October of that year, she worked in New York City with people affected by the World Trade Center

attacks.

How does a stress and trauma expert avoid burn out? LiBethe took her own advice after the two Sept. 11 related assignments. For a short period, she stopped working critical incidents while maintaining the teaching aspect of her job. She also talked with others about the stress.

"Social support is important for everyone," she said. "Often people feel alienated. They see they're not the only one feeling that way. It helps with recovery."

LiBethe is on the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation faculty and is a member of the Aviation Air Incident Response Team, International Disaster Response Unit and the federal Homeland Security Team.

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Unity service set at GWU

A county-wide Dr. Martin Luther King unity service is planned for January 18 at Gardner-Webb University.

According to Rev. John Houze, the event planners are trying to embrace the Christian community and help people understand God's love is real.

There will be a multi-media presen-

tation on King's speeches. Dr. Frank Bonner will give the welcome. Bishop Randy Borders will lead the prayer. Andy Robbie and Ray Hopper will lead congregational singing. Carolyn Briggs will read scripture. Jose Espinal will sing and make remarks.

Meloro Kellstrom will lead the mass

choir. Dr. Gerald Keown will introduce speaker Dr. Robert Smith, a professor of preaching at Samford Theological Seminary. Carroll Page will lead the candle lighting.

A reception will follow.

Houze praised the keynote speaker. "That man can tell you something," he said.

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Head Start taking applications

The Cleveland County Head Start Program is accepting applications for

children for the 2004-05 school year. Programs are held at

Bethware, Casar, East, Fallston, Graham, Grover, James Love, North, and Washington elementary schools.

The program is for eligible children four years of age or who will be by October 16, 2004. They will be given pri-

ority and three year old eligible children will fill remaining openings.

The program is designed for families with low to moderate income, regardless of race, sex, religion, national origin, special needs or disabling conditions.

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