MIDWEEK MEDITATION

God's love is unconditional

BY MOSES NUEMAN

There are different meanings for the word love. We find that there is romantic love - the kind of love between a man and a woman. There is brotherly love that we have for friends. There is also parental love for children. But there is more.

NUEMAN

In most of the civilized world, this the week of Feb. 14 is celebrated as lovers week. Most people are ready for Valentine's Day - and planning a day of exchanging gifts with loved ones. Is your love governed by a sense of commercial gain - or spiritual understanding? A friend once described love as a general emotion surrounded by expenses. Which example of love do you practice?

It is understandable to love, because true love is a commandment from the Lord Jesus Christ. In John 13:34 Jesus said "A new commandment I give unto you, that you love ye one another; as I have loved you, that you love one another." What Christ is saying in this passage of scripture is that there is a genuine way to real love - which is unconditional. In short, Jesus has asked you to do what He has done, and He is letting you know that He leads by example. Jesus chose to die for you because He loves you. It was for no other reason - but that he loves you- and not for what you can offer Him (except yourself).

As we celebrate this season of love, let us not forget that God gave the greatest gift to you - His loved ones: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life" John 3:16. God gave this gift to show us an example of who He is. God is love,

When it comes to God, His love is unconditional. Romans 5:8 says "...that God demonstrates His own love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." This love is still being demonstrated to those who want to give their lives to God. God's kind of love is an unselfish motivation, which results in doing the best for one another - even at a personal cost - and without expecting payback. God does not expect us to pay him back, because He knows that we have nothing we can offer in exchange for salvation.

To the people of God, the Apostle John states in his first epistle: "Let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone that loves has been born of God, and knows God" (I John 4:7). I believe that in order to love God, we must love our fellow man as well. This is what Christ called the great command of the law. He said: "Thou shalt love the Lord they God with all your heart and with all your soul and with your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, thou shall love your neighbor as thyself. On these hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22: 37-40).

God wants us to love, so let us share unconditional love with our children, wives, husbands, parents, friends and neighbors. Let us put any past hurts behind us - and then bind ourselves together in the love of God.

(Rev. Moses Nueman Sr., a Kings Mountain resident, directs World Care Ministry in Dallas, N.C.)

Texas evangelist Ken Freeman to preach at Oak View, KMHS

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

San Antonio Evangelist Ken Freeman will be in Kings Mountain next week.

Freeman will deliver the message Sunday, February 15 at Oak View Baptist Church during the 11 a.m. service.The church is located on Highway162 South. Sunday through Wednesday, he will preach at 6:45 p.m. at Barnes Auditorium, Kings Mountain High School.

In a telephone interview Monday, Freeman said he plans to challenge the church community to reach out more.

"If we don't change our methods, they won't come to hear the message," he said.

Unlike the typical clerical garb, Freeman won't wear a robe or suit and tie. Instead, he preaches in jeans and casual shirts.

An associate pastor at Community Bible Church, he leads the Saturday night service there in the same casual style.

Freeman says many people use not having formal clothing as an excuse for missing church.

"I try to tear down the walls people put up, make it where they want to hear the message," he said.

Freeman will also preach on faith, getting over the past, everyday issues and the use of excuses to justify wrongs.

"I try to take the Bible and make it come alive," he said.

Oak View member David Caldwell describes Freeman as a dynamic speaker.

"He has a passion for lost people, hurting people," Caldwell said.

Oak View's youth and associate pastor Jeff Neelands, Freeman and several of the church's youth saw Freeman preach at the Big God Youth Conference in Myrtle Beach over the New Year's holiday.

Caldwell said around 200 youth made decisions for Christ.

"Our youth came back excited, pumped up for what God has done," he said.

The church approached Freeman about coming to Kings Mountain. His schedule usually fills up a year in advance Caldwell said, though he had the February opening.

"We feel like the Lord's in it," Caldwell said. "Our town needs revival, our nation needs revival."

Caldwell's son Cary Caldwell worked with Freeman for two summers before marrying last year. The ministry group traveled to Wild Weeks at Furman, Southeastern Seminary at Wake Forest and other schools.

Drama teams from Christian Freedom and West Cramerton Baptist churches and the Christian Freedom choir will perform during the revival.

A love offering will be taken each night.

Freeman is the author of "Rescued by the Cross." According to a press release, he grew up in a fatherless household. During his youth, Freeman had nine different stepfathers and attended 24 schools. The troubled teen lived in the streets until accepting Christ at age 16. He joined a traveling music ministry at age 19 and became a full time minister of youth and music at age 22.

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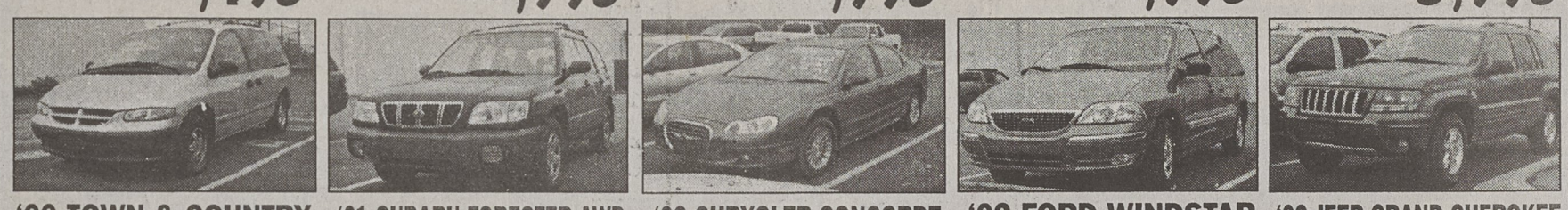

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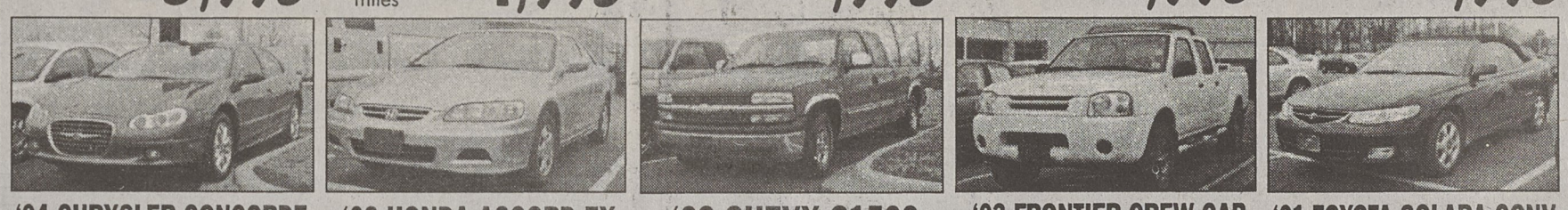

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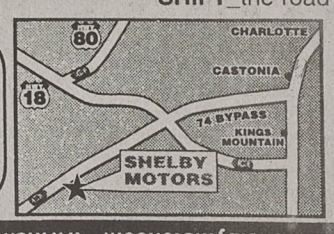

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