

MIDWEEK MEDITATION

Have faith that God can work through you

BY REV. BOBBY QUINN

"We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak." 2 Corinthians 4:13



We have the same faith. Someone once said, "It's not what you can do for God; it's what God can do in and through you." That is true, but for God to do those things you must have faith that He can do in you and through you what He says He can do.

The problem of the Church, many believe, is unbelief, or not having faith in what God has already said in His Word concerning you. In Matthew 17:18 the disciples asked Jesus, "Why could not we cast out the spirit?" and Jesus said, "because of your unbelief, and that this kind (unbelief) comes out only by prayer and fasting."

The problem is never God, it's us. Look at Jesus' answer to the disciples question on how to increase their faith in Luke 17:5-6 "And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. And the Lord said, If ye had faith, ye might say unto this sycamore tree, be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you."

Matthew 21:21 says "Verily I say unto you, if ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done."

If our faith isn't working we then need to check our love walk and what we are saying. Does it (what we are saying) line up to the Word. Mark 11:22-23 says "Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."

If faith comes by hearing, and it does, then unbelief comes the same way. John 15:7 says, "If you abide in me (love) and my words (faith) abide (make their home in you) you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you." Keep speaking God's promises, walk in His love and you will overcome.

Rev. Quinn is pastor at River of Life Fellowship.

MRI decision could take months

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain Hospital will have to wait several months at least before finding out if it can install a permanent MRI.

The hospital got word in late February that its application had received conditional approval by the state Division of Facility Services though Gaston County's CaroMont Hospital is lodging an appeal.

"We're disappointed but the process is there to protect all participants," said Mark Hudson, executive vice-president at KMH.

In addition to KMH and CaroMont, Rutherford Hospital had applied for permission to install the machine. Regulations require hospitals to get state approval before adding major equipment or making big renovations to prevent unnecessary and costly duplication of services.

Hudson said all three applicants were very serious about the project.

"Everybody put their best

foot forward," he said.

The appeal process could take several months to over a year.

"It just depends on how they proceed," Hudson said. "We'll just have to see what comes through the process."

CaroMont wants to build a freestanding building in Kings Mountain for the MRI. Kings Mountain would install the machine at its hospital. Currently, a mobile MRI visits the hospital once a week.

Hudson argued during a November public hearing that having the MRI on site is safer for critically ill patients.

Because regulations require regulations require shielding around MRI machines in hospitals, the expense incurred there would increase the price of the procedure approximately \$100 over what CaroMont would charge.

Rutherford told state regulators that it should be considered apart from the other two hospitals, saying it is too far away to be competitive.

Rabies case reported

A raccoon found dead on Wright Road, Kings Mountain, on March 4 has tested positive for rabies.

This makes the county's 85th case since June 1998 and fifth case in 2004.

Residents need to make

sure their animals are under their direct control. Animals that are allowed to run loose are at risk of coming into contact with a rabid animal, and if the pets are not vaccinated they will have to be euthanized, said County Health Director Denese Stallings.

For the next six months, anyone living in the vicinity of 246 Wright Road should observe animals for unusual behavior. In addition, residents need to make sure all cats and dogs have current rabies vaccinations.

OBITUARIES

BERTHA BLALOCK
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Bertha Conner Wright Blalock, 85, 110 Colonial Drive, died March 5, 2004 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center in Shelby.

She was a native of Cleveland County, daughter of the late Charlie Pinkney and Florence Morrison Conner. She was also preceded in death by her first husband, Rev. Raymond B. Wright, and her second husband, Herman W. Blalock Sr.

She was retired from textiles, was a homemaker and a longtime member of Macedonia Baptist Church in Kings Mountain.

She is survived by her son, Jerry R. Wright and wife Kay of Decatur, GA; stepson, Jerry Blalock and wife Judy of Kings Mountain; daughter Carolyn W. Blalock and husband "Dub" of Kings Mountain; brothers Clyde Conner of Belmont, Bill Conner of Greenville, SC, Gene Conner of Blacksburg, SC, and Johnny Conner of Wrightsville Beach; sisters Bonnie Collins of Blacksburg, SC, Eunice Lovelace of Kings Mountain, and Betty Bolin of Blacksburg, SC; 12 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. David Philbeck and Greg Moore at 11 a.m. Monday at Macedonia Baptist Church. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Macedonia Baptist Church Building Fund, 1101 S. Battleground Avenue, Kings Mountain, NC 28086. Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

ANNIE SUMMITT

CHARLOTTE - Annie Laura Hicks Summitt, 87, formerly of 611 E. Kingston Avenue, died February 24, 2004 at her residence in Covenant Village in

Gastonia.

A daughter of the late Henry and Laura Hicks Summitt, she was born April 2, 1916 in York, SC but lived

much of her early life in Kings Mountain. She resided in Charlotte for 55 years and was a charter member of Covenant Presbyterian Church. She was also very active in the establishment of the Dilworth Historic Association and in the support of Shepard Center.

Her early years of employment were spent working beside her father in Summitt's Nu-Way Grocery in Kings Mountain, and during World War II, for the U.S. Rationing Board. She was later employed in Charlotte by the YWCA and H&S Lumber Company. In 1981 she retired from North Carolina National Bank after 33 years of service.

Survivors include her nieces, Laura Barnes Costas of Gastonia, Sarah Sissy E. Parrett and Doris B. Bland of Richmond, VA, Barbara R. Munson of Lincolnton, Tina R. Roberts of Taylors, SC and one nephew, Alex T. Randall of Jacksonville, FL.

She is also survived by a group of close and loving great and great great nieces and nephews: Lt. Col. Dean

Costas, Chesapeake, VA; Tika Miller, Gastonia; Susanna Daley, Mechanicsville, Va; Dr. Matthew Parrett, Lexington, VA; Joseph W. Bland III, Chicago, IL; Eric B. Bland, Brooklyn, NY; Abby and Laura Bland, Richmond, VA; Joellen and Heather Randall, Richmond, Va; Kate and Sam Roberts, Taylors, SC; Emily and Sarah Miller, Gastonia; Christina and Michaela Costas, Chesapeake, VA; and Grace, Luke and Corinne Daley, Mechanicsville, VA.

Her sisters, Barbara S. Barnes and Sarah S. Randall, as well as a nephew, T. Eric Costas, preceded her in death.

A memorial service will be held in Charlotte at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 13 in the Morrison Chapel of Covenant Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Dr. John Rogers officiating. The family will receive friends in the narthex of the sanctuary 45 minutes prior to the service. Inurnment will follow the service in the church columbarium.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Barium Springs Home for Children, P.O. Box 1, Barium Springs, NC 28010 or to Gaston Hospice, P.O. Box 3984, Gastonia, NC 28054.

A very special expression of gratitude is extended to Dr. Henry Thomason and the nursing staff and personnel of Covenant Village and Gaston Hospice for their compassionate care and concern for Ms. Summitt and her family.

Condolences may be directed to Laura Costas, 2341 Robinwood Rd., Gastonia, NC 28054.

Arrangements are in the care of Hankins & Whittington Dilworth Chapel, 1111 East Blvd., online at www.hankinsandwhittington.com.

GEORGE CICERANO

ANDERSON, SC - George Cicerano, 80, 311 Simpson Road Apt. E7, formerly of Kings Mountain, died March 8, 2004 at National Health Care Center, Anderson.

He was born in Somerville, MA. He was son of the late Andrew and Anita Ierussi Cicerano. He was also preceded in death by brothers Angelo Cicerano, Louie Cicerano, Primo Cicerano, and Vincent Cicerano.

He was retired from Wilson Food, Boston, MA. He served in the United States Army 29th Infantry Division during World War II. He participated during the first wave of D Day, June 6, 1944, Omaha Beach, and he was awarded the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf. He was a member of the VFW.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Margrace Ford Cicerano; brother Alexander Cicerano of Newbury, MA; sister Theresa Accetta of Belmont, MA and Justine Cicerano of Newbury, MA; and a number of nieces and nephews.

The funeral will be conducted by the Rev. David Turner at 11 a.m. Friday at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel. Interment will be in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Visitation will be Thursday from 6:30-8 p.m. at Harris Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to Macedonia Baptist Church, 1101 S. Battleground Ave., Kings Mountain, NC 28086 or Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Drive, Shelby, NC 28150.

Harris Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

IVY JOHNSON
SHELBY - Ivy Lee Johnson, 69, former resident of 3635 Tryon Courthouse Road, Cherryville, died March 6, 2004 at Century Care of Shelby.

She was born May 20, 1934 in Gulfport, MS, daughter of the late Alton Saucier and Lavider Saucier Pipkins.

Survivors are son and daughter-in-law, Ronnie R.

and Frances Johnson of Columbia, MS; son, Kenneth Wayne Johnson of Freeport, FL; daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Mike Williams of Bessemer City; daughter, Dawn Ecnoyd of Gastonia; sisters, Marie Landrum of Gulfport, MS, Patsy Sheridan and Pearl Givens of Pearl River, LA; brothers, Robert Saucier and Richard Saucier of Pearl River, LA; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Olan W. Johnson.

A memorial service will be held at Saucier Baptist Church, Gulfport, MS on April 17, 2004 at 2 p.m. with Rev. Carl Dickens officiating.

Condolences may be shared with the family at howellfuneral@aol.com.

Arrangements are under the direction of Howell Funeral Home, 2916 Union Road, Gastonia.

WILLIAM MERRITT
ROANOKE, VA - William Russell Merritt (Bill), 80, of Roanoke, joined the Church Triumphant with his Lord on February 27, 2004, with members of his beloved family at his side.

He was born in Mullins, SC on January 21, 1924, to the late David Merritt and Leone Yelverton

Merritt. He was also preceded in death by his sister, Mary Lou Dempsey of Clinton, NC.

A man of many accomplishments and much great service, he is most remembered as a devoted and loving husband, father, and grandfather, and an outstanding churchman.

He leaves to cherish his memory his wife and best friend of 56 years, Elizabeth Patrick Merritt; son and daughter-in-law, William Russell Merritt Jr. and Kimberly Merritt of Rocky Mount; son and daughter-in-law, Patrick Dickson Merritt and Lee Greene Merritt of Raleigh; son and daughter-in-law, David Page Merritt and Sharon Robertson Merritt of Rock Mount; cherished grandchildren, Owen Merritt; Kahra Merritt, Patrick Merritt, Jaeger Merritt, Laura Lee Merritt, Hunter Merritt, and Austin Merritt; brother, Jesse Robert Merritt of Norfolk, VA; special long-time family friend, Elizabeth Carico; and numerous nieces and nephews and other family members. He also leaves a great many dear friends and co-workers in the Lord's vineyard from his many years of Christian discipleship and service.

He received his BS degree in mathematics from Davidson College and his Masters degree in engineering from Georgia Tech, where he also taught mathematics. He did post-graduate work at the University of

South Carolina and Duke University. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943 and graduated from USNR Midshipman's School and Northwestern University. He served his nation proudly during World War II in the Pacific and Asiatic Theater, reaching the rank of Lt. Commander, and served again through the Naval Reserves in the Asiatic Theater during the Korean War.

With his family he has lived in Roanoke since 1949. He was employed as Senior Industrial Engineer and as Assistant Personnel Manager by American Viscose Corporation. He was then employed by Roanoke Iron and Bridge Works for 29 years, retiring as vice-president in 1985. He was widely known and respected for his volunteer service and leadership throughout the community and in his church. He served as President of the Roanoke Area Manufacturers Association, the Roanoke Personnel Association, and the Raleigh Court Lions Club. He was a member of the Presbytery of the Peaks Camps and Conference Board, and was a Board member for the Presbyterian Community Center, where he received special joy tutoring children. He was the Clerk of Session for the Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church, and a Sunday School teacher there for many years. He also served three times on the congregation's Pulpit Nominating Committee, and was at various times in his church life an elder, a deacon, Chairman of the Trustees, Sunday School School Superintendent, youth group leader, Finance Committee Chairman, and Stewardship Campaign Chairman. In 1971, the Roanoke Merchants Association named his "Roanoke Father of the Year" in the field of religious activities. That same year his family was named Virginia All-American Family, and finished second runner-up nationally.

With his sons, he was active in scouting, serving as Assistant Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 2 and as Cub Master for Cub Scout Pack 2. He also served with his wife as Co-President of the PTA's at Virginia Heights Elementary School and Woodrow Wilson Junior High School.

He was an avid tennis player, gardener, and sports fan, and an accomplished saxophonist. Most importantly, throughout his active and successful career and his many services to his church and the community, he was most involved in supporting his family, attending literally thousand of sporting and cultural events to cheer for his sons and grandchildren. His pride in and love for his entire family and character, kindness and humility, gentle humor and loving support has served as an abiding example for everyone who has known him. He has been a very special husband, father, and grandfather, and a true Christian gentleman, and while he will be greatly missed on this earth, he will be joyfully received in heaven.

Graveside service was held at Evergreen Cemetery at 11 a.m. Monday morning, followed by a service of celebration and witness to the resurrection at 11:30 a.m. at Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to the Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church Building Fund.

The Family of Kenneth Downey would like to thank Second Baptist and Eastside Baptist churches, friends and neighbors for your prayers and all expressions of love to us.

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