

## LOCAL

## Local man helps Franklin Graham deliver gifts to kids around the world

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

A Kings Mountain man participated in the international Operation Christmas Child ministry run by Franklin Graham's Samaritan's Purse.

Master Sgt. Michael Bolch along with other members of the North Carolina Air National Guard and other volunteers loaded two Russian cargo planes with 126,000 shoe boxes. The boxes left Charlotte-Douglas International Airport for Sudan, Africa and Columbia, South America. More boxes were shipped from across the United States to 95 countries.

"It's great," Bolch said. Not only does he help load the boxes, Bolch, his wife Rise and children Trey and Celisa and their church, Christian Freedom, donate boxes. The Bolchs visited the Dollar Tree to purchase items like tooth brushes,

wash clothes, flash lights and candy. They also include a family portrait.

"We've prayed over each and every box," Bolch said.

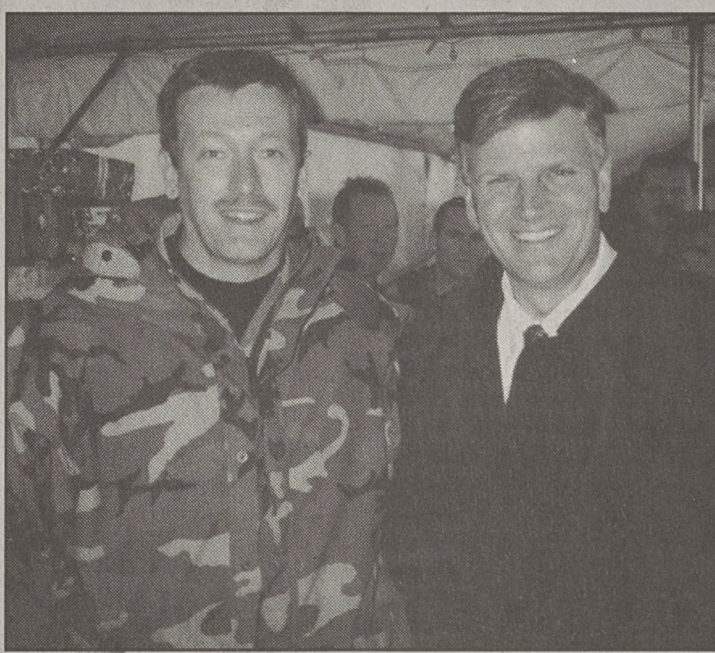
The family is hoping to start a correspondence with the people who receive the boxes.

The church's youth group also has visited the Charlotte processing center to help ready boxes.

Having seen poverty up close while with the military in the Philippines and Honduras, Bolch says he knows how much the boxes mean to the recipients.

The stories he has heard at Graham's headquarters also have inspired him. One young boy received a harmonica in his shoe box and almost never stopped playing the instrument. Another child took one pencil from a pack he was given and gave the rest away.

Meeting and having a photo taken with Graham was another highlight of the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Michael Bolch, left, met Rev. Franklin Graham while volunteering with Operation Christmas Child.

volunteer job.

"He's a great guy," Bolch said.

Last year, over 6 million boxes were distributed

across the globe. This year's goal is 7 million. For more information, visit samaritanspurse.org.

## Police, fire officials urge residents to make this a good, safe holiday

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

While most folks are filled with holiday cheer, police and fire officials are urging everyone to remember these safety tips while celebrating.

Real trees should be kept watered and away from heat sources.

"They burn easily," cau-

tions Fire Chief Frank Burns.

The same warning goes with greenery used for decorations. It should be very fresh and kept watered and away from candles. Children should not be left unsupervised around candles.

Businesses or other public places choosing to use a real tree should either use a live tree with a root ball or a cut

tree which has been treated with flame retardant. Someone affiliated with the business or group must put in writing that the tree has been treated and agree to be responsible for keeping it watered.

"If it becomes dry they need to get it out immediately," Burns said.

Only lights bearing the UL label should be used. The red label signifies the lights are only safe inside. The green label means the lights may be used either inside or outside. All lights should be turned off before leaving home or sleeping.

Winter arrives just days before Christmas bringing with it cooler temperatures. Burns reminds people heaters can overheat when plugged into an extension cord. Instead plug the appliance directly into the socket.

Only white kerosene should be burned in kerosene heaters. A window also should be raised a few inches for ventilation.

Chimneys should be checked by a professional chimney sweep before use to search for cracks and missing bricks.

Electric blankets are warm but can be a fire hazard. Additional blankets should never be piled atop an electric blanket. While turned on, electric blankets should never be folded or piled up.

"All that heat builds up in one spot and can cause it to ignite," Burns said.

Kings Mountain Police Chief Melvin Proctor warns of charity phone scams. Before donating, he advises getting references or contacting the Attorney General's Office or the Better Business Bureau.

Thefts often increase around Christmas, police say, though so far this year in Kings Mountain that has

not been the case.

Crooks pretending to be salespeople or just someone needing to use the phone often operate in pairs. One distracts the resident while another searches the home for valuables. Elderly are especially vulnerable, Proctor said.

Never shop alone. Place packages in the trunk or otherwise out-of-site. Look for well lit exits at stores and malls. When using a credit card, take receipts home and shred.

"There are people who do filter through trash to get numbers to steal your identity," Proctor said.

Placing boxes which expensive presents came in on the curb for pick-up can make your home more attractive to thieves. Instead, take boxes to a county convenience site, Proctor advises.

Create a buddy system with neighbors to keep an eye on your home while away during the holidays and any other time.

Proctor suggests motorists refuel when the gas tank is half empty. People often get so busy with holiday errands that they forget and run out of gas.

"We do have that happen pretty often especially on Interstate 85," Proctor said.

A blanket, a snack and bottled water stashed in the trunk come in handy if a motorist does get stranded.

If holiday celebrations include alcohol, motorists should be aware of strict state laws governing driving while impaired. The Governor's Highway Safety Program sponsored a "Booze It or Loose It" campaign Dec. 11 in Kings Mountain. Over 16 citations were written and four DWI arrests made.

## OBITUARIES

## K.E. "RED" MORRISON

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Kenneth E. "Red" Morrison, 75, 403 Maner Road, died December 17, 2004 at Summit Place. A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of the late John Morrison and the late Myrtle Welch Morrison Flowers, and husband of the late Reba Doris Gladden Morrison. He was also preceded in death by brothers W.D. "Red" Morrison and Roy Morrison, and stepfather Robert Flowers.

He was retired owner operator of Morrison Loan and Finance Company and retired salesman for Wade Ford. He is survived by his son, Ron Morrison and wife Kathy of Savannah, GA; daughter Judy M. Baker and husband John of Snow Camp, NC; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. David Blanton at 11 a.m. Monday at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel. Interment was private.

Memorials may be made to Victory Junction Gang, 4500 Adams Way, Randleman, NC 27317.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

## MORRIS E. TIMMS

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Morris Eskew Timms, 84, 117 Urban Drive, died December 17, 2004 at his home.

A native of Oconee County, SC, he was the son of the late Benjamin Franklin and Lula Mae Eskew Timms, and husband of the late Claudie Wells Timms. He was also preceded in death by his brother, Clifton Eugene "Chick" Timms.

He was a member of Macedonia Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon. He was employed with Cleveland County Schools for 19 1/2 years and retired as Maintenance Superintendent. He served in the United States Army during World War II.

He is survived by his son, Mark Dewayne Timms of Gastonia; niece Gail Timms Smith and husband Mike of Kings Mountain; nephews Ronald Clifton Timms and wife Wanda and Morris Eugene Timms and wife Darlene, all of Kings Mountain; seven great nieces and nephews, and 14 great-great nieces and nephews.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Ronnie Wilson at 2 p.m. Monday at Macedonia Baptist Church. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Macedonia Baptist Church, 1101 S. Battleground Avenue, Kings Mountain, NC 28086 or Gaston Hospice, P.O. Box 3984, Gastonia, NC 28054.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

## ALBERT J. HEAD

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Albert J. Head, 81, 902 Rhodes Avenue, died December 15, 2004 at Hospice of Cleveland County.

Born in Rutherford County, he was the son of the late James R. and Mamie Haynes Head. He was also preceded in death by a brother, Carl Head, and sister, Frances Bailey.

He was retired from Kings Mountain Hospital/Cleveland Regional Hospital and was a member of Faith Baptist Church. He was an Army veteran of World War II.

He is survived by his wife, Nellie Ledbetter Head of the home; daughter Louise H. Barrett and husband John of Waco; grandchildren John Barrett Jr. of Waco, and Tina Sturgill and husband Ray of Shelby; and great grandchildren Daniel Sturgill and Ashley Sturgill, both of Shelby; and grand dogs Meisha, Jet and Brandi.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. J.R. Robbins at 2 p.m. Saturday at Faith Baptist Church. Interment was in Capernium Cemetery, Waco.

Memorials may be made to Capernium Cemetery Fund, c/o Waco Baptist Church, P.O. Box 297, Waco, NC 28169 or to Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Drive, Shelby, NC 28150.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

## BRIEFS

## Luminaries display at El Bethel UMC

El Bethel United Methodist Church, 122 El Bethel Road, Kings Mountain, will display luminaries around the church and on all graves in the cemetery on Christmas Eve beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Area residents are urged to drive by the church on El Bethel Road and view the display. This is the second year the church has offered the display.

## Luminaire display Friday at cemetery

The annual luminaire display at Kings Mountain's Mountain Rest Cemetery will begin at 5:30 p.m. Friday and continue until midnight.

Luminaries will light part of East King Street and Dilling Street at the entrance to the cemetery. Once inside the cemetery visitors will see approximately 6,000 luminaries lighting the roads around the cemetery,

the hillside and most of the graves.

Anyone who wants to be assured that there is a luminaire on their loved one's grave should go by the cemetery and place one. Volunteers will light them.

## Place Christmas trees at curbside

Some folks leave their Christmas tree up through New Years Day, others wait out the 12 days of Christmas while some want the tree gone within a few days.

Regardless, Kings Mountain and Cleveland County are ready to help.

In Kings Mountain, live trees placed at the curb will be ground using the wood and leaf chipper. Trees should be free of all lights and ornaments. Tree chipping service will begin after Christmas and run for several weeks.

Cleveland County convenience sites accept live trees for chipping also. Plastic trees may be placed in the bulk waste container.

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## Coverage for Home Health Care

Caregivers, patients, and families may avoid pursuing home health care services for fear of the perceived expense. Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance plans, however, cover most services. For home health care services, payment sources base their reimbursements on the medical necessity of the care and whether the patient meets specific coverage criteria. When medical equipment and supplies are needed, they are most often covered, provided a doctor orders them and they are deemed medically necessary.

Cleveland Home Health Agency has a long-standing reputation, since 1966, for providing the best quality home health care in our

area. Our experienced clinical staff offers a combination of skilled nurses, physical, occupational, and speech therapists, medical social workers, and home health aides. A referral from your physician is required for skilled home health care. We also provide a wide range of medical equipment and supplies. Our home medical equipment store is open Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00. Contact us at 704-487-5225 or visit us at 105 T.R. Harris Drive in Shelby.

Hint: Cleveland Home Health Agency accepts Medicare, Medicaid, and most private insurance coverage.

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Happy Birthday!



Kyle Loveless

turned 7 years old on December 8th. He celebrated with family and friends at Westlane Bowling. Kyle is the son of Chris and Lee Loveless of Blacksburg and he has a sister, Carlee, who is 2 yrs. old. Grandparents are Marie Wray of Blacksburg, the Carl Wray and the late Mike and Dottie Loveless.

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