

**MEDITATION**

# Anger is good if it's for the right reasons

Anger is one of the most powerful emotions we have. And contrary to what people sometimes say, anger itself isn't a bad thing, but there are times when we do bad things because of our anger.

In Matthew 5 Jesus warned us about the danger that comes with anger. "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment." This remark appears in the context of a discussion about the sixth commandment, but instead of simply reminding us that we should not murder Jesus says we should not be angry.

The point, of course, is that anger can often lead to killing, so if we want to avoid the result then we ought to avoid the cause. When Jesus allowed himself to become angry, it was for a good reason. Jesus expressed anger when he saw injustice or a lack of proper respect for God, but we sometimes choose to express our anger for reasons of less merit.

Billy Martin tells a story about himself and Mickey Mantle. Billy says that he and Mickey were hunting down in Texas. Mickey had a friend who would let him hunt on his ranch, and when they got there Mickey told Billy to wait in the car while he cleared things with his friend. Permission was quickly granted for them to hunt, but the owner asked Mickey to do him a favor. He had a pet mule in the barn that was going blind and he didn't have the heart to put him out of his misery, so he asked Mickey to shoot the mule for him. Mickey agreed.

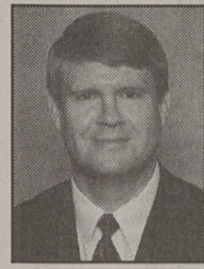
On the way back to the car Mickey came up with a plan. When he reached the car, he pretended to be angry. He scowled and slammed the car door shut. Billy was surprised by Mickey's behavior and wanted to know what was wrong. Mickey said that the owner wouldn't let them hunt after all.

"I'm so mad at that guy that I'm going out to that barn and shoot one of his mules!" Mickey exclaimed. He then drove like a madman to the barn, while Billy was protesting about the chosen course of action. "We can't do that," Billy said. But Mickey was adamant. "Just watch me," he shouted.

When they got to the barn, Mickey jumped out of the car with his rifle in his hand, ran to the barn and shot the mule and killed it. When he got back to the car he was taken aback by the sight of Billy, who had also taken his gun out of the car. Seeing the smoke swirling up from the barrel of Billy's gun, Mickey said, "What are you doing, Billy?" And Billy answered, "We'll show that son-of-a-gun. I just killed two of his cows."

We all get angry sometimes. It's normal and it's okay, but we do need to be careful that we don't let it happen for the wrong reasons.

Rev. Jeff Hensley is the pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist Church.



**Jeff Hensley**  
Meditation

**RELIGION**

# Campolo to speak at Racial Unity service at Gardner-Webb Sunday

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Nationally known author Tony Campolo will speak during the third annual Racial Unity service at Gardner-Webb University Sunday evening.



Campolo, who authored "Is Jesus a Republican or Democrat" and "Twenty Hot Potatoes Christians Are Afraid To Touch" among other titles, is professor emeritus of sociology at Eastern University in St. Davids, PA. In a telephone interview with the Herald, Campolo said that race relations are no better nor worse in the south than more northern states. According to Campolo, institutional policies on race

are more progressive in the north but southerners have stronger cross-racial friendships.

Nationwide he sees a reluctance among white churchgoers to sit under a black minister. Campolo said he would like to see predominately white churches encourage 25 of their wealthiest members to take their resources and join predominately black churches.

When asked about his sometimes controversial reputation, Campolo said he is just practicing what Jesus preached.

Aldersgate United Methodist is bringing Campolo to Cleveland County through a speaker's endorsement. Campolo will preach the morning service at the church. Aldersgate minister Rev. Jeff Patterson said Campolo's prophetic voice calls cultural assumptions into questions which

makes some uncomfortable. Patterson said Campolo's message is in line with his congregation's values.

"They're thrilled to have him come," Patterson said.

The first racial unity service fell on the weekend immediately preceding Martin Luther King Day. However, so many activities were planned that weekend that scheduling the racial unity service became a problem, according to Walter Miller of GWU and Zoar Baptist.

"Tony with his practical based message touched at the heart of where we want to go," Miller said.

He points to last spring's Jesus Video project as an example of cross racial cooperation in the county.

Locally, Rev. William Thompson of St. Peter Baptist Church in Grover gave Cleveland good marks on racial unity.

"The county is working

diligently to improve unity," he said. "It's like a marriage. If you don't purposely work on it, it will deteriorate."

Thompson is part of a Kings Mountain-area, inter-racial ministers group.

The service runs from 5 to 6:15 p.m. at the Paul Porter Arena of the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center at GWU. Pre-service music provided by a community choir and directed by Dr. Andy Roby begins at 4:30 p.m. A pastors' gathering with Campolo begins at 4 p.m. in the Abernethy Suite at the convocation center. Pastors should RSVP to Walter Miller by Friday. He can be reached at [wmiller@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:wmiller@gardner-webb.edu) or 704-406-4238.

The community also is invited to hear Campolo at Aldersgate Sunday morning at both 8:30 and 11 a.m. The church is located at 1207 West Dixon Boulevard in Shelby.

**CHURCH BRIEFS**

**Services**

**Resurrection Lutheran Church**, Kings Mountain, Lent Series, 12 noon Wednesday, March 9. Rev. Jamie Billings will speak on "The Vine." Offering for Kings Mountain Crisis Ministry. Light lunch available for \$3. For more information call Rev. Eddie Gray at 739-3215 or 616-8136.

**Concert**

**Kings Mountain Baptist Church**, corner of Mountain Street and Piedmont Avenue, Kings Mountain, will host the Songsters in concert Sunday at 6 p.m. Call 739-2516 for more infor-

**mation.**

**Christian Freedom Baptist Church**, 246 Range Rod, Kings Mountain, Adult Worship Choir "Evening of Praise" Saturday, March 5, 7 p.m. Public invited. For more information call 739-4152.

**Revival**

**Proclaiming the Word Ministries**, 701 Cleveland Ave., Grover, revival March 10-12, 7 p.m. Speaker Rev. Marvin Durham. For more

**information call 937-7390.**

**Adams Chapel AME Zion Church**, 112 Lake Montonia Rd., Kings Mountain, will host Youth Explosion 2005 March 7-11. Dinner and homework assistance each day from 4:45-5:45 p.m. Workshops for all ages from 5:50-6:50 p.m. Praise and worship service at 7 p.m. Speaker Rev. Carl Roberts, pastor of Unity AME Zion Church.

**Seminar**

Shelby Seventh-Day

**Adventist Church**, 2350 Hoey Church Rd., Shelby, presents "The Prophecy Code," a seminar to unlock Bible secrets, Friday, March 4, 7 p.m. Presentation in both English and Spanish, plus a special children's program. For more information call 482-9188.

**Fund raiser**

**Grace United Methodist Church**, 829 Cleveland Avenue, Kings Mountain, chicken pot pie dinner for See Briefs, 8B

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