

MEDITATION

Encouragement goes a long way

We called her "Mrs. Weaver." She was our high school English teacher, and she kept our feet to the fire. And though she worked us hard, I came to appreciate both her skill as a teacher and her passion for students. She was the sort of teacher who cared about us. We may not have been able to see it while we were in her class, but after going on to college, seminary and graduate school I can say with confidence that she was one of the finest teachers I ever had.

Mrs. Johnson was also a caring teacher. One day she was trying to get across to her class a difficult math concept, but it seemed that the more she tried the more frustrated her students became. Sensing their anxiety, Mrs. Johnson made a decision.

"Put away your books," she said, "and take out a piece of paper."

Then she gave these instructions: "On your paper I want you to list the names of every student in this class, and then beside each name I want you to write something nice. Make sure that you write something that suits each of your classmates."

When the class was over, Mrs. Johnson collected the papers and went home. Over the weekend she made her own lists. She took a piece of paper for each student and wrote the name of one student at the top of each piece of paper. Then, on those papers she listed for each student all the good things their classmates had written about them.

On Monday morning, Mrs. Johnson gave the papers to her students and told them what she had done. As each student read what his or her classmates had written, the tenor of the class began to change. The anxiety of the past week began to evaporate and the class began to make progress.

Several years later, during a class reunion, those students gathered around their teacher. With a smile on his face, one of them reached into his wallet and took out a ragged piece of paper that had obviously been folded and refolded many times. Mrs. Johnson recognized it immediately. It was the list she had made many years before. Then, one by one, the rest of her former students began to tell of how they had kept their lists. One told of keeping hers in her dresser drawer, while another said she had pasted hers in her wedding album.

Mrs. Johnson was overwhelmed to think that such a minor gesture had meant so much to so many. As the years had passed, whenever those former students were feeling down, they had pulled out those pieces of paper and found encouragement.

I guess we're all like that, for a little encouragement goes a long way with most of us. Mrs. Johnson had no idea the power of the seeds she was planting, but we can all take a lesson from her. A little encouragement does go a long way.

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



Jeff Hensley
Meditation

CHURCH NEWS

Oak View dedicates parsonage

Oak View Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, recently dedicated a new parsonage.

The parsonage is 1 1/2 stories and approximately 2,500 square feet with three bedrooms, 2 1/2 bathrooms, a large upstairs bonus room and a two-car garage. The parsonage is the second in the 66-year history of the church.

Rev. Jamie Billings, pastor, led the service which was followed by a fellowship lunch and an open house at the parsonage.

Special guests were contractor Gene Penner and his family, former pastor Rev. Ralph Sparrow and his wife Doris, Mr. and Mrs. James Billings, the pastor's parents, and Miss Janelle Billings, the pastor's aunt.

The church has 233 members. Members of the parsonage committee were chairperson Paulette



New parsonage at Oak View Baptist Church

Childers, Rhonda Spearman, James Gualtney, David Caldwell and Harold Farris.

CHURCH BRIEFS

Services

St. Peter Baptist Church, 116 Poplar Drive, Grover, presents "Because He Lives," Friday, March 25 at 6 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Call 937-9136 for more information.

Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, Bessemer City, will celebrate Pastor Charles Turner's 25th appreciation day Sunday, March 20 at 3 p.m. Speaker is Rev. Larry Dixon of Long Branch Baptist Church, Grover. For more information call 435-9967.

Mount Zion Baptist Church, 220 North Watterson Street, Kings Mountain, Passion Night Service Friday, March 25, 7 p.m. Topic "The Seven Last Expressions From The Cross."

Mount Zion Baptist Church, 220 North Watterson Street, Kings

Mountain, Easter sunrise service Sunday, March 27, 6:30 a.m. Breakfast will be served following the service. Speaker will be Raymond Gardin, Youth Minister.

Concerts

St. Paul and Galilee United Methodist churches will hold a Palm Sunday service Sunday, March 20 at 3 p.m. at St. Paul UMC, 220 N. Cansler St., Kings Mountain. Guest speaker will be Rev. Clinton Feemster of Mount Zion Baptist Church.

True Gospel Holiness Church, 1608 Shelby Rd., Kings Mountain, will host Mindy Schweiger in concert

March 18 and 19 at 7 p.m. Public invited.

Solid Rock Baptist Church, 1908 Shelby Rd., Kings Mountain, will host the Praise Masters in concert March 19 at 7 p.m. Public invited.

Revival

South Gastonia Pentecostal Holiness Church, 321 South, Gastonia, will have revival April 3-6 at 6 p.m. April 3 and 7 p.m. all other nights. Special guest speaker will be Nikita Koloff, who has traveled the world preaching the word, building schools, and helping with crusades since retiring from professional

wrestling. For more information call Pastor Timmy Whitaker at 866-4273 or Lisa at 747-1246.

Solid Rock Baptist Church, 1908 Shelby Rd., Kings Mountain, will have revival March 20-23. Services March 20 at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. and March 21-23 at 7 p.m. Evangelist is Rev. Larry Brewton. Public invited.

Special Events

Macedonia Baptist Church, 1101 S. Battleground Avenue, Kings Mountain, will have an Easter egg hunt hosted by the children's Ministry Team Saturday, March 26 from 11

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Cleveland Regional Medical Center
Spirit of Women
Presents
Money Matters

Saturday, March 19 — 9 - 11 a.m.
T.R. Harris Conference Center — Cleveland Regional Medical Center

Refreshments will be served.
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