

MEDITATION

**Easter message:
Because Jesus
lives, we may live**

For our largely secular culture, Easter seems to represent the beginning of spring – a time for taking a break, buying colorful clothes and basking in the warmth that comes with the end of the winter months. But for Christians, Easter is much more than this.

A Catholic priest was visiting with one of his parishioners on a cold day. As he arrived at the home, the priest noticed that the man's yard was neat and well ordered. And once he entered the house, he noticed that the neatness of the inside matched the neatness of the outside. Though James was suffering from an advanced form of cancer, he obviously still possessed his desire to take care of his surroundings.

Not long after taking a seat, the priest noticed that James was more agitated than usual, but he made no effort to explain what was troubling him until his priest offered to share Communion with him. Seeing that the pastoral visit was about to come to a close, James got up from his recliner and excused himself. He then went into a nearby room. When he reappeared, he handed his priest a sheet of paper that had been folded several times.

"Tell me," James said, "What do you think of a woman who would do something like this?" As the priest unfolded the paper, he read what he soon realized was a collection of guidelines or notes to help plan a funeral service. James' wife, Sally, who had died a few years before, had written those instructions and they had been followed very carefully when the family mourned her death.

"I think this is a great idea, James," said his priest. "What a wonderful Christian witness your wife left for you and your children!"

Then something dawned on the priest and he said, "James, is this something you want to do?" "Yes," he replied.

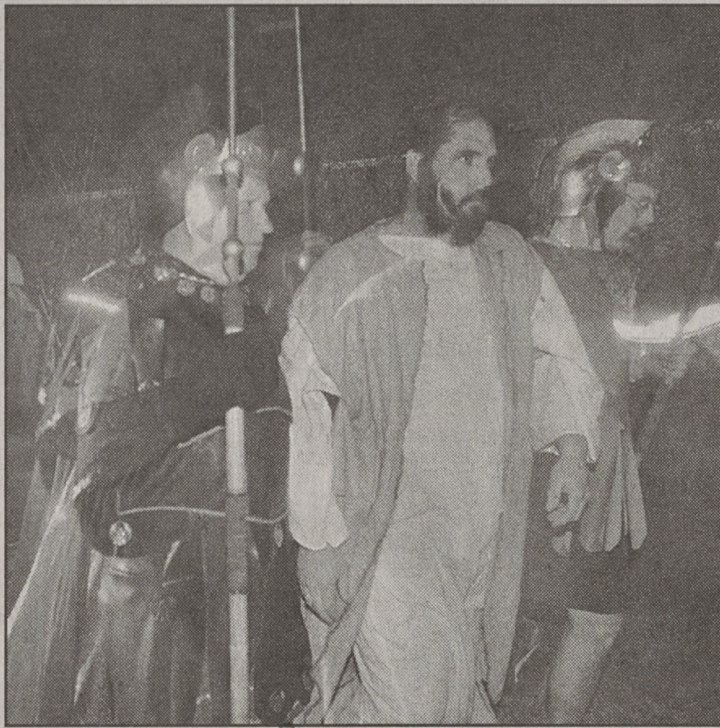
So for the next hour James and his pastor talked about his funeral service and made notes together. Then they shared Communion, and as he left the priest realized that James' former agitation had gone away.

A few months later, the priest received a call to go to James' bedside. They prayed and sang together, and two days later numerous family members and friends shared the funeral service that they had planned together. And in keeping with those plans, a paschal candle was placed at the head of the casket.

On that wintry day when they had planned the funeral, James had said, "You know, pastor, I'm not much for candles, but if putting a candle there will remind everyone that Jesus is alive and that I am with him in heaven, then by all means go ahead and put one there."

They did, and that candle – as well as that entire service – did its job. It reminded a group of mourning family and friends that Jesus Christ lives, and because he lives we, too, may live. And this is what Easter means for Christians.

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



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD
Jesus, played by Eddie Parker, is led to trial by Roman centurions in last week's production of Crosswalk in downtown Kings Mountain.

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.

Pathway Baptist Church, 3100 Parkdale Circle, homecoming, Easter sunrise service Sunday, 6:30 a.m. Message by Rev. Bruce Davis. Breakfast following. Morning worship 10 a.m. by Rev. James Hamrick. Pine Ridge Boys in concert at 11 a.m. Dinner following. Public invited.

Carolina Praise and Worship Center, Grover, Easter sunrise service Sunday, 7 a.m. Breakfast at 7:45, Sunday school 9:30, worship 11. No evening service. Call 937-7541 for more information.

Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, will present the Easter drama "He Chose the Cross" Saturday and Sunday, March 26-27 at 7 p.m. For more information or directions call 739-6151 or 739-9709.

People's Baptist Church, 1010 Groves Street, Kings Mountain, Easter sunrise service March 27 at 6:30 a.m. Breakfast will follow. Worship service will begin at 10 a.m.

Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, Easter sunrise service March 27 at 6:30 a.m. Public invited.

Dixon Presbyterian Church, 602 Dixon School Road, Kings Mountain, Maundy Thursday communion service, Thursday at 7 p.m. Public invited.

Dixon Presbyterian Church, 602 Dixon School Road, Kings Mountain, Good Friday Tenebrae Service, Friday, 7 p.m. Public invited.

Dixon Presbyterian Church, 602 Dixon School Road, Kings Mountain, Easter Sunrise service Sunday at 7 a.m. Breakfast to follow. Public invited.

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.

Eastside Baptist Church choir, 308 York Road, Kings Mountain, will present "Alive in Christ," an easter celebration of redemption, Sunday at 11 a.m. Public invited.

Revival

Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association will hold its annual Crusade/Revival March 28-31 at 7 p.m. at the Shelby High School Malcolm Brown

Auditorium Guest speaker will be Dr. A. Lincoln Jr., Trinity Baptist Church, Richmond, VA. For more information contact Rev. James L. Smith, (704) 484-0017

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.

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 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 739-6811 for more information.

Dixon Presbyterian Church, 602 Dixon School Road, Kings Mountain, Easter egg hunt Saturday at 2 p.m. All children and parents invited.

Oak View Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, will host an Easter egg hunt for ages 0 through sixth grade, Saturday from 10 a.m.-12 noon. Take a basket only. For more information call Juanita Fleming at 739-6512.

St. Peter Baptist Church, Grover, will host a drop-in reception for Sheri De Shazo April 3 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. She is the new vice-president and chief operating officer of Kings Mountain Hospital. Those planning to attend should RSVP by calling 704-937-9136 or revst-peter@bellsouth.net.

Bynum Chapel AME

Zion Church, 213 N. Cansler St., Kings Mountain, hosts Resurrection Jam Friday at 7 p.m. Dancing, singing, rapping, etc. Donation \$3. Concessions will be sold. For more information call Rev. Wavay B. Williams at 868-2144.

Peoples Baptist Church, 1010 Groves Street, Kings Mountain, 15th anniversary of Pastor John Houze Sunday, April 10. Speaker Dr. Moses Nueman, president and founder of World Care Ministries of Dallas. The celebration will continue again at 6 p.m. with Pastor Micheal Moore and the First Baptist Church of Ellenboro. Public invited.

Festival

Water of Life Ministries, 2021 Compennium Road, Cherryville, gospel sing and festival April 9 at 12 p.m. Fourteen gospel groups will perform. Face painting, cake walk, food. Proceeds to floor and roof of the church.

Fund raiser

Dixon Presbyterian Church, 602 Dixon School Road, Kings Mountain,

hamburger and hot dog luncheon Saturday, April 9 from 11:30-1 p.m. Carry-out available. Donations accepted for Relay for Life.

Macedonia Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, Easter smoked dinner hams, Boston butts and ham shoulders, \$30. Call 739-6811 to place order. Pick up date is Saturday, March 26 between 8-10 a.m.

Bethlehem Baptist Church, 1017 Bethlehem Road, Kings Mountain, Easter bake sale Saturday, March 26, 8-11:30 a.m. Call 739-7487 for more information.

Concerts

Cherokee Street Baptist Church, 423 Cherokee Street, Kings Mountain, will host "Crimson Red" in concert Saturday, March 26 at 7 p.m. Public invited.

The Herald welcomes your church news. The deadline is 12 noon Monday. Bring church news to the Herald at 824-1 E. King St., mail to The Herald, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086, call 704 739-7496, fax 704 739-0611 or e-mail gstewart@kingsmountain-herald.com

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