

RELIGION

Shot by a blank

Throughout the ages countless battles between good and evil have been waged.



Vince Hefner

Think About It events that changed the course of history. The true story that I am about to share with you did not change the course of history, but it has a good moral, so listen up! A few weeks ago I participated in a terrorist drill in town to help our police, fire fighters, and emergency personnel train in the event of an actual attack. It was held at our Christian Outreach Center at our Church on a Saturday morning. Our youth were asked to serve as hostages while the Police Chief, Fire Chief, and myself, were to play the ter-

rorists. Before the exercise began, we were given directions on how to play our parts, (terrorists, victim, etc) and briefed as to why the terrorists were upset with the town. I must be honest, it is hard to get motivated to play a "bad guy" in the town where you are a pastor. I can't imagine how the Police Chief or Fire Chief felt! However, we were all good sports and listened as we were told what would happen during the exercise. We were also given the news that none of us (the terrorists) were going to make it out alive. So much for a happy ending to the story. The only question I had to answer was where and how I was going to die in the exercise! Before we were given the guns to be used in the exercise, the instructors made sure that only blanks were used. I was grateful for this precaution because I have heard stories where people have been shot by "empty" guns, and I did not want to wind up a fatality in my own Church. I was given two hand guns and plenty of

blanks to reload during the shootout. I have seen movies where gangsters shot a gun with both hands, so I gave that a try when I rushed outside the building firing up into the air. Somebody said that I looked like Roy Rogers as I shot both of my guns at the same time! It didn't take long to shoot six shots, so I raced back in the building when I was out of blanks. This went on for close to an hour as the head terrorist negotiated with the police. I knew my time was near the end so I went to the back of the building and had a shootout with some of the officers. We were too close to each other when our guns fired and two of us wound up with powder burns on our hands. I did not know it at the time, but when I looked down at my hand after the shooting, it was covered in blood! So much for not getting shot by a real bullet, even a blank can be dangerous at close range! I decided that this was a good time to "expire" from the exercise and call it a day since I was bloodied and half-deaf from the guns shots.

As I walked back to my house I thought about the events of the day. First, I was grateful that we had men and women who had dedicated their lives to protect and defend us from the "bad guys" of the world. Second, I was thankful for those who rushed into danger while others ran from it. Third, a blank in a gun can hurt you if it is discharged too close to your body. Fourth, death can come at anytime to anybody. Even though we do not choose our own time of death, we know it is a reality. James 4:14 says, "Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while then vanishes away." We should make the most of the time God has granted to us to live our lives. Our time should be precious in our sight, and that preciousness should be used for God's glory. This is Dr. Vinny "Two Guns" saying, "Don't give in to sin. Think about it!"

Vince Hefner is pastor of First Baptist Church, Cherryville

MEDITATION

Be properly dressed for God's banquet

Television journalist Hugh Downs and his wife were attending a function in Washington, D.C. When the time came for them to return to New York, they discovered that their flight had been cancelled due to bad weather.

Trying his best to work out an alternative means of travel, Downs called the front desk at the hotel where they were staying and was informed that they could catch a five o'clock train, which would be leaving in 45 minutes. Mrs. Downs was showering, so to save time Hugh hurriedly packed all their belongings, called the bell captain, and asked that their bags be rushed right over to the station and put on the train.

A bellhop came to the Downs' room immediately and picked up their bags. Hugh then sat down to wait on his wife. About 10 minutes later, Mrs. Downs stepped out of the bathroom wrapped in a towel.

"Dear," she asked, "would you please hand me my green dress?"

In the twenty-second chapter of Matthew's gospel, Jesus told a familiar story about a royal wedding banquet. Unfortunately, when the first invitations were sent out, the invited guests refused to respond. So the king told his servants to go out into the streets and invite anyone they could find, which then caused the wedding hall to be filled to capacity.

But the king was surprised to find that one guest was not wearing the proper clothes.

"Friend," he asked this man, "how did you get in here without wedding clothes?"

But the man didn't know what to say. So the king told his servants to tie the man up and throw him outside where, according to the story, there was "weeping and gnashing of teeth." And Jesus then concluded his story by saying, "Many are invited, but few are chosen."

This parable reminds us of two important spiritual truths. First of all, it reminds us that God's invitation is indiscriminate. God is gracious to all of us, and no matter what our past sins may be; there is a place for us at God's banquet table.

However, a second truth illustrated by this parable is that God is not some sort of grandfather in the sky, who indulgently overlooks human evil. Though God's invitation includes the outcasts, the underprivileged and the scorned, he expects a certain responsibility from all of us. God invites everyone to have his or her name on the guest list for the heavenly feast, but God also expects us to live according to his will.

The improperly dressed guest in Jesus' story was excluded from the festivities. He was thrown into what the Bible calls "outer darkness." In the ancient world there was a distinct difference between the warmth and comfort of a lighted banquet hall and the unrelieved "darkness" outside. In that the excluded guest could weep and gnash his teeth in regret for his cavalier attitude. So it seems to me that we all should ask ourselves, "Am I properly dressed?"

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

L-R A Cappella Choir to sing April 13 at KM High School

The Lenoir-Rhyne College A Cappella Choir, directed by Dr. Paul Weber, will appear in concert on Wednesday, April 13, at two Cleveland County High Schools. The public is invited to attend either of the concerts.

The Choir will perform at 10:30 a.m. at Shelby High School and at 1 p.m. at Kings Mountain High School and will present choruses from Messiah as well as other seasonal a cappella and accompanied works. The Choir recently performed Handel's complete Messiah with the Western Piedmont Symphony in Hickory.

The Lenoir-Rhyne College A Cappella Choir was established in 1935 by a graduate of St. Olaf College and an alumnus of the famed St. Olaf Choir, Kenneth Lee. Dr. Paul Weber serves as only the third director of the ensemble in its seventy-year history.

CHURCH BRIEFS

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.

Allen Memorial Baptist Church, Grover, April 3-6, beginning at 10 a.m. on Sunday and 7 p.m. Sunday-Wednesday night. Rev. Mark Canipe speaker. For more information call 937-7961.

Sunrise Baptist Church, 208 Mail Rd., Kings Mountain, revival April 3-6. April 3 at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., April 4-6 7 p.m. Guest speaker Rev. Larry Brewton. For more information call Rev. Dennis Harmon at 730-0978 or 734-1983.

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.

The Kings Mountain Ministerial Association will meet at Summit Place April 6 at 11:45 a.m.

Festival

Water of Life Ministries, 2021 Compernum 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 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.

First Church of the Nazarene, Kings Mountain, will hold a public auction Saturday, April 9 at 10 a.m. at 121 Countryside Road, Kings Mountain.

Concessions will be available. All proceeds go to the church building fund. For more information call (864) 839-4448 or (704) 739-5363.

Special Events

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.

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

Put your next club, church or organizational event in the paper. Fax you briefs to 704-739-0611 or email to news@kingsmountainherald.com

Ask A Lawyer

Brought to you by Harris, Ragan, Patterson, & Rodgers

Q: I was in an accident yesterday and before I even got home from the hospital, I had a call from the adjuster wanting to settle my claim asking that I sign a release. What should I do?

A: This has become a hot topic recently with the train accident down in South Carolina. Many insurance companies have developed what are called quick response teams, where they send adjusters to someone in an accident to sign a release right away. They claim that this is to benefit the people in the wreck and to promptly address their claims. However, their goal is the same as it is in almost all facets of their business. To reduce their exposure to claims.

release and any medical expenses incurred a year from the accident for related injuries. Others provide for a complete release with a lump sum payment. In either case, the insurance company is attempting to limit their exposure by getting a release prior to you knowing the full extent of your injuries. To be candid, there are times when you do not suffer any injuries and the release and payment are a "good deal for you". On the other hand, most of the time injuries in an accident are not known until the general soreness has worn off or several days after the accident. I cannot tell you at this time which is in your best interest. To be safe, if you are hurt you should be checked out by your family doctor or care giver to determine what your injuries are prior to signing any release.

There are cases where lawyers have been forced to try to "undo" these quick hit releases. This usually occurs where someone has discovered very significant injuries but has signed one of these releases, when an adjuster saw them right after the accident.

As always, you should carefully read anything you sign and if you have any questions or concerns consult with an attorney.

Brent Patterson Attorney at Law

HARRIS RAGAN PATTERSON & RODGERS PLLC Trial Attorneys



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COLLEGE BUILDING SUPPLIES

WOODEN STORAGE BUILDINGS PRICE INCLUDES DELIVERY AND SET UP ON YOUR LOT

Table of storage building prices: 8x8 \$799, 8x10 \$949, 8x12 \$1049, 10x12 \$1,199, 10x16 \$1,399, 12x16 \$1,649

Ask DON LYLES, DBS Doctor of Building Supplies TRACY LYLES, Manager

Table of exterior siding prices: 4"x8" Lap Edge, Ger. Side, 4x8 Smart Panel, etc.

Table of cull lumber prices: 50% OFF BY THE BUNDLE

Table of paneling prices: Hardboard, Wood, TLEBOARD, etc.

Table of Colorlock Dog Houses: 60.00, 75.00, 85.00, 120.00

Table of Armstrong Tile prices: Laminate Flooring, No Wax, Metal Tile Strips, etc.

Table of Plywood prices: 3/4" Plywood, 5/8" Plywood, 1/2" Plywood Clips, etc.

Table of materials for storage buildings prices: 8x8, 10x12, 10x10, etc.

Table of materials for treated deck prices: 8x8, 10x10, 10x12, etc.

Table of treated lumber prices: 2x4, 2x6, 2x8, 2x10, 2x12, 1x4, etc.

Table of regular lumber prices: Trusses can be ordered any size: 2x4, 2x6, 2x8, etc.

Table of materials for garage package prices: 12x20, 24x24, etc.

5 V GROVE GAV. METAL 8' \$7.79, 10' \$10.25, 12' \$11.95

Between Dallas and Gastonia on Hwy. 321 (Across from Gaston College) M-F 8-5:30; Sat. 8-1; Winter Fri. 8-5:00 704-922-8649