

MEDITATION

We all need a porch and a listening ear

DR. JEFF HENSLEY

Philip Gulley writes stories about simple living. Some of his stories involve a Quaker minister named Sam, and one reason I enjoy them is because they seem so true to life, even though they're fiction. But Gulley also writes what seem to be autobiographical stories. Whether or not they actually happened I don't know, but I do know that they remind me of the kind of truth that helps make life worth living.

One story Gulley titled "The Front Porch Classroom." It's a tale about a boy who had a job delivering papers. The job didn't pay much, but the lad knew that having it would help him build character. His first character lesson came to him on the first day he had the job. One of his customers was paying his bill when he asked the young man if he wanted a tip. "Sure," the



Jeff Hensley
Meditation

boy replied, and with a sparkle in his eye the old man said, "Stay away from wild women." I guess that's good advice for any young man.

However, it wasn't the sort of advice that applied to most of the customers this fourth-grade paper boy had to deal with. One such customer was named Mrs. Stanley and her kindness drew the lad's attention. She would watch each day for him to pedal down her street, and by the time he arrived she would have a cold, slushy bottle of pop waiting for him. And as he would sit on her front porch and drink his pop, Mrs. Stanley would talk.

When the boy told his father about his visits with Mrs. Stanley, his dad suggested that she was probably lonely and that maybe he ought to just sit, nod his head from time to time, and smile a lot so that she could get it all out of her system. So that's what the young boy did. Apparently the father was right, for after a few summers of chatting on the front porch with her paper boy Mrs. Stanley reached a point where she

was able to let go of the hurt she felt over losing her husband.

"Nowadays," says Gulley, "we'd send Mrs. Stanley to a psychiatrist. But all she had back then was a front porch rocker and her paper boy's ear, which turned out to be enough."

The Bible says that we ought to "hold unfailing our love for one another" and "practice hospitality ungrudgingly to one another." Such qualities seem few and far between in a culture that causes people to feel increasingly isolated and lonely.

Yet, I'm convinced that one reason God gave believers the church is because God knew that we would need each other. Trying to practice our faith all by ourselves deprives us of encouragement and accountability. And if we're honest, I suspect that deep down inside all of us are like Mrs. Stanley once in a while. We, too, occasionally need a front porch and someone who is willing to lend an ear.

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

KM POLICE REPORT

Shelby main dies in wreck near KM

A Shelby man died in a one-car accident in Kings Mountain Sunday morning.

O. Max Gardner IV was killed when the 1975 Porsche he was riding in wrecked at the intersection of Oak Grove Road and U.S. 74.

Gardner was a Shelby attorney and the great-grandson of the late Governor O. Max Gardner.

According to a press release from the Kings Mountain Police Department, primary reports indicate the suspected driver of the vehicle was Charles Leabron Rogers Jr., 33, of 212 Country Club Road, Shelby.

An investigation is underway. As of press time, no charges had been filed.

ARRESTS

Richard Flowers, 46, 102 A E. King St., DWI, \$500 unsecured bond.

Michael Barry, 300-1 E. Gold St., DV assault on female, DV communicating threats, no bond.

Michele Sarvis, 42, Gastonia, felony larceny, injury to real property, \$5,000 secured bond.

Shannon Gamel, 35, 209 E. Parker St., failure to comply (larceny), \$130 bond.

David Roberts, 25, Gastonia, failure to comply (driving while license revoked), \$435 bond.

Dennis Hogue, 27, 714 Bridges Dr., driving while license revoked, criminal summons for assault on female, \$300 unsecured bond.

Antwian Brooks, 33, Shelby, simple possession of marijuana, \$300 unsecured bond.

Richard Ross, 46, Shelby, speeding, fictitious information, driving while license revoked, \$1,000 unsecured bond.

Susane Ransom, 39, 211 Stowe Acres, two counts contributing to delinquency and neglect, misdemeanor child abuse, \$10,000 secured bond.

Donald Bartlett, 32, 211 Stowe Acres, two counts contributing to delinquency of minor, \$5,000 secured bond.

Kimberly Norman, 40, Blacksburg, SC, felony possession of cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia, \$5,000 secured bond.

CITATIONS

Shannon Gamel, 209 E. Parker St., driving while license revoked, displaying suspended driver's license.

Shannon Gamel, 209 E. Parker St., expired registration plate.

Jeremy Huffman, 124 S. Cherokee St., no operator's license

Ana Aguilera, 717

Landing St., larceny. Jerry McCleave, 1 Kingswood Apt. E, failure to register vehicle.

Michelle Parker, 328 Ebenezer Rd., speeding 77 in 65 zone.

Bruce Gooley, 731 Ray St., speeding 49 in 35 zone, failing to carry registration card.

Jerry Withers Jr., 7010 Richmond Dr., speeding 51 in 35 zone.

Antionette Adams, 210 Orr Terrace, failing to stop at stop sign.

INCIDENTS

McDonald's, 725 York Rd., reported larceny by an employee.

Theodore Smith, 1302 Northwoods Dr., reported that shingles fell off a building and did \$2,000 damage to his truck.

Karen Burris, 737 Canterbury Rd., reported being assaulted.

Diversified Textiles Machinery, 133 Kings Rd., reported larceny of wood poles and fencing.

Shannon Bradley, 128 Lanfield Dr. Lot 9, reported break-in of her vehicle and larceny of money.

Kings Mountain Office Supply, 238 S. Cherokee St., reported that someone shot out a window with a BB gun.

Everette Bynum, 202 Thornburg Dr., reported being assaulted.

Ryan Alexander, 102 S. Wattersen St., reported larceny of a 1988 Mazda valued at \$3,500.

Heather Roper, 204 Phifer Circle, and Beth Baity, 300-1 E. Gold St., reported being assaulted and threatened.

Krystal Williams, 824 Grace St., reported larceny

of a rental TV valued at \$1,800.

Amanda Coble, 303 Bell Rd., reported larceny of a phone and charger valued at \$319.

WRECKS

Dennis Gillikin of Carrollton, VA told police he swerved to miss a vehicle that cut in front of him, causing him to hit a guard rail on I-85 north. Damage to the vehicle was \$2,000.

A vehicle driven by Vicky Barber of Lynchburg, VA left the roadway, over-corrected and hit median barriers at the construction zone at I-85 at exit 8. Damage to the vehicle, owned by Hertz Rental Cars of Atlanta, GA, was \$10,000.

Vehicles driven by Waynesia Adams of Grover and Samuel Garrison of Fort Mill, SC struck on US 74 B at Cansler St. Damage to each vehicle was \$1,500.

Man reported missing found in New York

A Grover man reported missing last week was located in New York, according to his family.

Quint McCoy Jr. went missing April 2. He had been seen last hitchhiking on Interstate 85 northbound. He was located unharmed April 20.

The Cleveland County Sheriff's Department led the missing persons investigation.

CHURCH BRIEFS

Meeting

Kings Mountain Ministerial Association will meet Wednesday, May 4 at 11:45 a.m. at Summit Place.

Service

Family Worship Center, 1818 Shelby Road, Kings Mountain, Power and Praise services Tuesday-Friday, 7 p.m. Evangelist Kevin White. For more information call 739-7206.

Concert

Chapel Grove Baptist Church, 716 Camp Rotary Road, Gastonia, will host the "Salute to Mothers" concert Saturday, May 7 at 7 p.m. Featured singers are the Songsters, the Chapel Grove Quartet, and gospel pianist Rex Smith. For more information call 864-6134, 864-9185 or 865-9680.

Midview Baptist Church, 703 Margrace Road, will host The Praisemasters from Shelby and The Southerners from Gastonia Saturday, May 14 at 7 p.m. For more information call Rev. Bob Hope at 739-1290 or Toney King at 739-7051.

Solid Rock Baptist Church, 1908 Shelby Road, will host The Pine Ridge Boys in concert May 14 at 7 p.m. Admission is free. A love offering will be accepted. For more information call 739-4186.

Fund raisers

St. Peter Baptist Church,

Grover, will host a musical fund raiser for Tyus Gibbs Saturday, April 30 at 5 p.m. Special guest will be Christ Dynasty. For more information call 937-9136.

Bethlehem Baptist Church, 1017 Bethlehem Road, Kings Mountain, will have a yard sale Saturday from 7-11 a.m. Proceeds will support Alaska mission trip. For more information call 739-7487.

Meals

Dixon Presbyterian Church, 602 Dixon School Road, Kings Mountain, family night Saturday at 6 p.m. Covered dish meal. All persons are asked to bring a can of food for the needy.

Family Worship Center, 1818 Shelby Road, will host third annual Kings Mountain mayor's and Pastor's Prayer Circle prayer breakfast May 5 at 8 a.m. at Youth Center. Speaker The Honorable Patrick Gannon, mayor pro tem of Charlotte. Special music by Steve Ferguson, formerly of The Imperials. Call Roger Woodard at 739-4520 for more information.

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

MEETINGS

Thursday
12 noon - Kings Mountain Rotary Club, H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life and Conference Center, 909 E. King St.
6:30 p.m. - Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club, Central United Methodist Church.

7 p.m. - Kings Mountain Little Theatre Board, first Thursday, Joy Performance Center.
7 p.m. - Grover Woman's Club, first Thursday, at Grover Town Hall.

Monday
7 p.m. - Grover Town Council, first Monday of month, Town Hall, 207 Mulberry Road, Grover.

Tuesday
6 p.m. - Moss Lake Commission, first Tuesday of month, City Hall Council Chambers, East Gold St.
6 p.m. - Cleveland County Board of Commissioners, first and third Tuesday, Cleveland County Administrative Building, Shelby.

7 p.m. - Southern Arts Society, first Tuesday of month, Kings Mountain Arts Center, 301 N. Piedmont Avenue. Social hour begins at 6:30.

7 p.m. - Cleveland County Sanitary District, second Tuesday at Sanitary District, Lawndale. Call 538-9033.

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Answers to This Week's Crossword Puzzle

1	C	E	R	E	5	N	O	R	M	A	10	R	E	B	A				
14	A	L	A	N	15	A	R	E	A	S	16	A	L	O	E				
17	C	I	N	D	Y	18	W	A	L	S	H	19	M	I	L	O			
20	T	O	I	L	E	21	L	I	S	E	22	A	Z	A	N				
23	I	T	S	E	24	S	L	I	M	25	C	A	S	I	T	A			
27	S	L	I	M	28	D	E	B	R	A	29	J	A	M	S	30	E	A	U
32	J	A	M	S	33	L	E	S	L	I	E	34	T	I	N	35	E	A	U
40	A	W	A	41	F	L	O	R	I	D	A	42	T	I	N	43	N	O	R
45	N	O	R	46	L	O	U	I	S	E	47	P	H	A	T	48	E	L	Y
49	E	L	Y	50	S	E	51	T	A	L	I	52	A	N	E	53	A	R	S
56	O	L	L	A	57	R	E	E	D	58	M	A	R	I	A	59	W	E	I
62	W	E	I	63	C	A	R	O	L	64	B	R	A	D	65	L	A	C	E
68	L	A	C	E	69	U	T	I	L	E	70	O	D	E	A	71	S	H	E
74	S	H	E	D	75	S	A	N	E	R	76	S	E	R	S	77	S	E	R

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