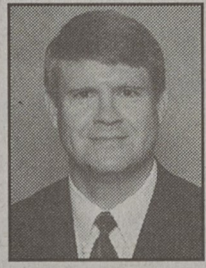


MEDITATION

We can always count on God

One of my favorite books in the Hebrew Bible is Jeremiah. I like the book of Jeremiah because of how Jeremiah's passionate personality may be seen so clearly in his prophecy.



Jeff Hensley
Meditation

After reading his words, it isn't hard to see why Jeremiah has been called the "weeping prophet." He served God at a difficult time, had to proclaim a message that nobody wanted to hear, and he had to witness the demise of his homeland at the hands of the Babylonians.

In the year 1630, Rembrandt produced a beautiful painting that is today housed in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. It is called, "Jeremiah Lamenting the Destruction of Jerusalem." Rembrandt placed Jeremiah on a promontory at a distance from the city of Jerusalem, which is seen engulfed in flames and surrounded by roiling smoke. In the center of the painting is an aged Jeremiah, whose posture and face show how deeply he felt his grief. As I read Jeremiah's words, I always remember Rembrandt's powerful depiction.

Jeremiah had often predicted the destruction of Jerusalem, so often, indeed, that the conquering Babylonians are reported to have treated him with kindness (Jer. 39 and 40). Over and over he had upbraided God's people and pled with them to repent. Yet, the people rejected him, their king outlawed him, they burned his writings and then they locked him up. Of course,

Jeremiah was proven right in the end, but that fact did not diminish his pain, for Jeremiah loved his people and wished for them to renew their relationship with God. The fact that the people wouldn't believe him and that their lives were destroyed as a result simply broke Jeremiah's heart.

In addition to his passionate personality, I also like Jeremiah because he serves as an appropriate model for those of us who try our best to do effective ministry in the name of God. I don't know any pastor who would say that being a minister is an easy task, especially when the message we have to deliver is not well received. At times like that, all believers, regardless of whether or not they are professional ministers, may find comfort and courage in a prophet like Jeremiah.

In Rembrandt's painting, Jeremiah is leaning his weary head on his arm, which rests on the top of a Bible, and even though the Bible would not have been available in this particular form during Jeremiah's day, Rembrandt's point is well taken. For when he found himself nearly struck down by the fulfillment of the word he proclaimed, Jeremiah leaned for support on the only source that he knew could be trusted to be true, the word of God.

Like Jeremiah, we would do well to trust God, for as Saint Augustine said, "We can count on God's mercy for our past mistakes, on God's love for our present needs and on God's sovereignty for our future." When Jeremiah felt the loneliness of the prophetic task, he turned to God and so also should we.

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

CHURCH BRIEFS

El Bethel United Methodist Church, 122 El Bethel Road, will have a service of consecration for its new facilities on Sunday, October 2 at 4 p.m. Those attending are asked to take finger foods. After a short service there will be an open house in the new addition.

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

Sunrise Baptist Church, 208 Mail Road, Kings Mountain, will celebrate "Ole Timey Day" Sun., Oct. 2 at 11 a.m. There will be a dinner on the grounds after the worship service.

Midview Baptist Church, 703 Margrace Rd., will have a "Campers for Christ Jubilee" from noon Friday, Sept. 30 until noon Sat., Oct. 1. Free admission and plenty of parking. Take tents,

campers (no hookups), lawn chairs, and shelters. There are bathroom facilities and handicap assistance. Take food. A grill will be available for cooking or take your own. Gospel music by various local groups. Fun and games for young and old. For more information call 734-0231.

Eastside Baptist Church, 308 York Rd., Kings Mountain, will have homecoming October 2. Guest speaker Rev. Buddy Williams. For more information call 739-8055.

Crowders Mountain Baptist Church, 125 Mayberry Ln., Kings Mountain, will have its 30th anniversary homecoming Sun., Oct. 2. Rev. Clarence McMahan will preach at the 11 a.m. service. There will be a meal and then a singing at 2 p.m. featuring

"His Anointed." For more information call Ponda Thacker at 739-5553.

Crowders Mountain Baptist Church, 125 Mayberry Lane, Kings Mountain, will have revival October 3-7 at 7 p.m. Rev. Clarence McMahan will be the speaker. For more information call Ponda Thacker at 739-5553.

Resurrection Lutheran Church will have a blessing of the animals commemoration of St. Francis service on Oct. 8 at 5 p.m. The brief service will include prayer, Scripture and song with a Rite of Blessing over each pet that is brought forward. Pets should be on a leash.

Resurrection Lutheran Church invites the community to an Oktoberfest Celebration Oct. 9 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. There will be foods

including brats, kraut and hot dogs, music and dance. Harold Rodie of HBR Productions will entertain with German music and dance songs for the children. He plays bells, horn and keyboard.

St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church, 116 Poplar Dr., Grover, will host the trial sermons of Sallie Thompson and Mahaila Roberts Sun., Oct. 9 at 5:30 p.m. For more information call 937-9136.

Earthen Vessels, a local interdenominational ministry, continues to collect supplies at Family Worship Center for victims of the hurricanes. The supplies are distributed through Operation Compassion, a national interdenominational relief effort. The church is located on Shelby Road.

SOCIAL BRIEFS

The Kings Mountain High School Class of 1970 will hold its 35th year reunion October 8 at 2 p.m. at Lake Crawford at Kings Mountain State Park. Take your own goodies.

The 1955 graduates of Bethware High School will hold their 50th reunion at El Bethel Fellowship Hall on Saturday, October 29 at 6 p.m. Those who have not received letters are asked to call Lois Blanton, 704-734-1876 for details.

The Foothills Quilters Guild will hold a show Oct. 7, 8 and 9 at the Cleveland County Arts Council.

Registration for the Miss Kings Mountain pageant will run through Sept. 29.

The pageant is Saturday October 1 at the Joy Performance Center. Rehearsal is Thursday, September 29 at 6 p.m. at the center. Contestants ages 1 to 19 may enter in the following categories: Tiny Miss, ages 1 to 3; Wee Miss, ages 4 to 6; Little Miss, ages 7 to 9; Junior Miss, ages 10 to 12; Teen Miss, ages 13 to 15; Miss Kings Mountain, ages 16 to 19. For more information, contact Brenda Lovelace or Cindy Wood at (704) 739-4782.

The Gaston Regional Branch of the American Association of University Women will meet Tues., Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. in the Board room of Gaston College. It is located on the second floor of Myers Center. For the first time, AAUW has opened its membership to those who have earned an associate degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution. This is an open meeting and the purpose and scope

of AAUW will be explained. All interested persons are welcome.

The Gaston County Gem and Mineral Club's 27th annual show and sale will be October 7-8 at Biggerstaff Park, Hwy. 279, Dallas. Admission is free. There will also be children's activities and drawings for prizes.

Mauney Memorial Friends of the Library is collecting used books for a fund raising sale. Good used books may be dropped off at the library's main circulation desk. Do not take textbooks or encyclopedias. The books will be sold during the Oct. 15 Gateway Festival from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Crafter's Alley.

The annual FII reunion (for all employees and former employees of the Shelby Plant of Fiber Industries, Celanese, Hoechst, Ticono or Kosa) will be held Sat., Oct. 15 at 2 p.m. at the Shelby Plant Rec Club. The event will pay tribute to former Plant Manager Gene LeGrand. There is no fee for the reunion. A BBQ meal is available for \$12.50 each.

Meal tickets must be purchased prior to October 3 by sending checks or money orders to Carl Spangler, 2403 N. Lafayette St., Shelby, NC 28150. For more information call 704-538-0062.

The 28th annual reunion of the descendants of John Thomas and Mary Kesiah McDaniel will be held October 9 at the fellowship building of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Kings Mountain. Lunch will be served at 1 p.m. Take a picnic basket and drinks. Paper products will be provided. For more information call Shirley Yarbrow Guyton at 739-2480, Kathy Yarbrow at 739-6987, or Judy Palmer Crawford at 739-8387. Descendants include the families of Alice McDaniel Herndon, Carrie McDaniel Stewart, Martha McDaniel Randall, Minnie McDaniel McSwain, and Noonie McDaniel Bookout. For more information visit the website www.daisyly.com.

The 54th annual reunion of William and Susana Ross Randall will be held

Sun., Oct. 2 at Bethlehem Baptist Church Fellowship Center, Bethlehem Rd., Kings Mountain. A picnic lunch will be spread at 1 p.m.

The annual reunion of John William and James Edward Carroll families will be Sun., Oct. 2 at Temple Baptist Church, Kings Mountain. Lunch will begin at 1 p.m. Family and friends are invited.

The Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce is seeking a hay wagon and tractor to use for hay rides during the Oct. 15 Gateway Festival. The equipment will be used from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and expenses will be available. Volunteers also are needed for the event. For more information, call Shirley Brutko at 704-739-4755.

Bessemer City Recreation Department will organize a Spades League for card players ages 16 and older October 3 at 6:30 p.m. For more information call Carlos Jackson at 629-5111 between 8 a.m.-5 p.m. or at other times call 460-7139.

Herald to be sent to soldiers in Iraq

Mike Butler is collecting donations to send copies of The Herald to members of the 505th Army National Guard unit serving in Iraq. The Herald is making papers available on a buy

one, get one free basis. Donations may be taken to Grounds Keepers Nursery and Landscaping. For more information, call Butler at 704-734-0080 or 704-739-7188.

New company seeks applications

DISH Network/EchoStar Communications Corporation will take applications on Tuesday, October 4 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Cleveland Community College. The main positions the company will be looking for at this time are customer service representatives. Call 704-487-8521, ext. 23 to register for an interview. Any walk-ins will be placed in the schedule as soon as a spot is available.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SMELL GAS

1. Do not operate any electrical switches.
2. Extinguish all open flames. Do not use matches, cigarettes, or other possible sources of ignition.
3. Open doors and windows to ventilate the structure.
4. Evacuate the occupants of the structure to a safe distance, if necessary.
5. Contact the Gas department immediately through the numbers listed below:

- KINGS MOUNTAIN NATURAL GAS DEPARTMENT (704) 734-4516**
- KINGS MOUNTAIN POLICE DEPARTMENT (704) 734-0444**
- KINGS MOUNTAIN FIRE DEPARTMENT (704) 734-0555**
- KINGS MOUNTAIN CITY HALL (704) 734-0333**

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG
Should you plan to dig around buried gas piping, the piping should be located in advance and all digging should be carefully done by hand in the vicinity of the pipe. It is always a good idea to contact the City of Kings Mountain Natural Gas Department or the North Carolina One Call Center at 800-632-4949, three days in advance of digging in order that all utility owned buried pipe and cable may be located. This is a free service.

Section 192-615 Emergency Plans D.O.T. Subpart L Operations
City of Kings Mountain Natural Gas Department -
Mike Nicholson, Director

9-30-2005

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Jancinta Joiner, MD

Welcome Our Newest Physician at Shelby Family Practice

For over 28 years, Shelby Family Practice has been committed to you and your family. Now with the addition of a new family medicine physician to our team, we are the perfect solution for your healthcare needs.

We are pleased to announce our continued commitment with the addition of Jancinta Joiner, MD, board-certified in family medicine. Dr. Joiner earned her undergraduate degree from Kentucky State University and her medical degree from University of Kentucky. She completed her residency at Franciscan Medical Center in Dayton, OH, and has been in private practice since then. Dr. Joiner is a member of the American Academy of Family Practice and the American Medical Association.

Dr. Joiner is accepting new patients and same day appointments. We appreciate your choosing Shelby Family Practice and we look forward to providing quality healthcare and excellent service to you and your family.

To make an appointment please call 704-487-1148.



Shelby Family Practice
Carolinas HealthCare System

www.carolinashealthcare.org

808 Schenck St. • Shelby, NC 28150
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