

MEDITATION

Ministers sinners used by the Spirit

One of my greatest pleasures is to teach people about the Bible. My weekly Bible studies at my church are a joy, but I also enjoy teaching courses for the local Baptist association, and I was recently given the chance to teach a course introducing the New Testament and a course on the book of Philippians.



Jeff Hensley Meditation

Even though I have worked hard over the years to be prepared to teach courses like these, I always approach them with a feeling of unworthiness. Oh, I can teach people about scholarly theories and the historical background of the biblical text, but there is so much more to a Bible study than that.

In Vienna, Austria, there is a church in which the Hapsburgs are buried. The Hapsburgs were once the ruling family of Austria. It is said that when royal funerals arrive at the church for burial rites, the mourners leading the funeral procession knock at the church door to gain entrance and then participate in a rather interesting ritual.

A second knock then generates yet another question from the minister within. This time, however, the leader of the processional announces the deceased as "the highest emperor." Again the minister cries out, "I don't know him."

Whenever we are given the chance to minister to others or teach others in God's name, we are simply poor sinners who are being used by the Holy Spirit, but whenever that happens we also realize that the real power in ministry comes not from the one doing the ministry, but from God.

Jeff Hensley is pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist Church.

CHURCH BRIEFS

The World Care 2006 Fundraiser Gala will be held February 18 from 2-5 p.m. at Tabernacle Baptist Church Family Life Center, 519 West 19th Avenue, Gastonia. Master of Ceremonies will be Rev. John Houze, pastor of People's Baptist Church, Kings Mountain.

Resurrection Lutheran Church, 600 Crescent Circle, Kings Mountain, will hold a hot dog sale Friday, Feb. 24 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. to benefit the educational and scholarship fund.

Saint Paul United Methodist Church, N. Cansler St., Kings Mountain, will hold its 93rd anniversary and 26th in its present sanctuary on Sun., Feb. 19 at 3 p.m. Guest speaker will be the Rev. Nathaniel Craig of Walls Memorial Baptist Church.

New Bynum's Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, 212 N. Cansler St., will hold a health awareness program Tues., Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. Lisa Huntsinger, R.N. from Sanger Clinic, will speak on "Cardiovascular Disease - Focus on Women's Health."

Lawndale Baptist Church, Main St., Lawndale, will host The Songsters Quartet in concert February 16 at 7 p.m. Admission is free but a love offering will be received.

Macedonia Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, will hold a hot dog/lunch supper fund raiser February 18 from noon-6 p.m. Hot dog plates are \$5. Single hot dogs are \$1. Homemade desserts will also be sold.

Macedonia Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, is selling Easter hams for \$40 for a whole ham and \$20 for half a ham. Orders must be placed by April 2 by seeing a church member or calling 739-6811 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Sandy Plains Baptist Church, 5323 Union Rd., Gastonia, will host a gospel singing and poor man's super Sat., Feb. 25. The supper will be from 5-6:30 p.m. and the singing begins at 7 p.m. Admission is free. Proceeds received from a freewill donation will go to New Life pregnancy Services.

Dixon Presbyterian Church, 602 Dixon School Road, Kings Mountain, will hold a Mayberry Bible study each Sunday night in February at 7 p.m. at Dixon School. Pastor Randy Patterson will lead the class. The public is invited.

Celebrating 40 Years of Caring Cleveland Home Health Agency, Inc. Self-Care of Diabetics. Besides monitoring their blood sugar levels, diabetics can take steps to avoid some of the many complications of the disease.

LOCAL



Pictured left to right are Highway Patrol Commander Colonel W. Fletcher Clay, Lieutenant David L. Allen and Crime Control and Public Safety Secretary Brian E. Beatty presenting Lt. Allen the Award of Valor.

TROOPER

From 1A

It was a pile of wreckage," Allen recalled. "It didn't even resemble a truck at all and I couldn't find a way to get in."

Allen went to the other side of the cab and still couldn't see the man. But he was able to pull on what had been the sleeper compartment and pulled on a piece of fiberglass and it broke off. He was able to see the man.

"He was reaching up and I was pulling on him, and another truck came by and a guy (Howard Crater) helped me pull him out," Allen said. "We got him away from the truck and within a minute the truck had burned to the ground."

The man was covered in diesel fuel and soot, Allen noted, and he had serious cuts.

He is still in the hospital. Last week, The NC Department of Crime Control and Public Safety presented Allen with the Heroism Award, which is CC&P's highest award for bravery and is given only to those who have risked their own lives to save others.

Allen was willing to take that risk. "I was scared to death I was going to stand there and not be able to do anything," he said. "I was more afraid of that than for myself. I knew I had to do something; otherwise, it wasn't going to have a happy ending."

"Thanks to the unselfish action by Lieutenant Allen and Mr. Howard Crater, the driver in the tractor trailer was saved from being burned alive in this crash," said Colonel W. Fletcher Clay, Highway Patrol Commander. "He is to be commended for his unselfish act of bravery."

HIDDEN

From 1A

work, finding transportation; these are all things that Stone refers to as a "second sentence."

Besides the jail and the fines, you also have to deal with the aftermath and the shame it can cause on you and your family," says Stone.

Stone recommends that everyone who plans to drink should either designate a driver for the night or bring a sleeping bag and sleep in your car.

Insurance is a big enough pain on your wallet without a DWI conviction. Add one on, and you may see your rate jump an average of 30 percent.

According to insurance quotes from Integon National, a basic-liability policy on a 1990 Ford model compact car costs \$370. That is considering you have a spotless driving record.

Now with a DWI occurring within the last three years on that driving record, the premium is bumped up to \$645. Add two DWI charges within the past three years, and the premium more than quadruples to \$2,023.

"While not reflective of separate past incidents or how many cars are on a policy, these figures are common indicators

of what you would pay," says Bob Maner of B.F. Maner Insurance Agency.

Probably the most personal aspect of a drunk driving conviction is the one felt at home. The convicted is often so confounded with the legal and financial problems that it causes him or her to be short with family members.

There is also a level of shame involved with a DWI, and not because the offender stands to lose face. Gaston County marriage counselor Eric Cowart describes a feeling of emptiness felt by a spouse for what the other has done.

"There is a sense of an inability on the other party to fill a void, a void that the other spouse has tried to fill with alcohol, and that can distance a marriage," says Cowart.

Alcohol is responsible for 80 percent of marital abuse in the United States. Driving while drinking it is no different, because you put your life at risk and in turn put your family's well-being at risk.

There is still more to a DWI that anyone can truly appreciate until they see what happens down the road. A first offense can possibly ruin your insurance, ruin your marriage and ruin your future employment. It is a crime that is no longer tolerated by modern society.

KMPD RADAR WATCH

Kings Mountain police will run radar Feb. 19-25 at the following locations:

- Sun., Feb. 19 - York Rd.
Mon., Feb. 20 - Groves St.
Tues., Feb. 21 - Gold St.
Wed., Feb. 22 - Shelby Rd.
Thurs., Feb. 23 - Northwoods Dr.
Fri., Feb. 24 - Margrace Rd.
Sat., Feb. 25 - Linwood Road.
\*Police run radar every day on I-85 and US 74 Bypass.

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Kings Mountain Little Theatre & The Caveny Agency Nationwide Proudly Presents The Glass Menagerie at Jay Theatre Feb. 17th, 18th, 24th, 25th, - 7:30 pm Feb. 19th - 3:00 pm All students admitted for 1/2 price. (Courtesy of the Caveny Agency)

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