

MEDITATION

God gives us 'genius' ability

A commercial I saw on the television this week announced a news report that the announcer thought every American should watch. The commercial reported that other countries think of American children as the most "stupid" of all the world's children. When I heard this, I found myself wondering about how we typically define people as either "stupid" or "smart" and whether or not such categories are ever useful.

When I was a student at Princeton Theological Seminary, I was impressed with the feeling one gets when visiting Princeton. It's as if you are in the presence of genius, and all around you there are reminders of the many intelligent people who have walked the hallways and pathways of that famous university town. For example, I used to walk down the street where Albert Einstein's home is located, or I would cross the university campus only to meet up with some other famous scholar, who was at that time living and working there. But I had to wonder about what was unique about such people. Was it that their SAT scores and high school transcripts were perfect? Or was it that they always knew the answer in trivia games?



**Jeff Hensley
Meditation**

To be honest with you, one of the things my time in that learning community taught me was that true genius may actually reside in some other personal qualities, which just about anybody can have and use. For example, a study that was conducted several years ago identified two common threads in those who were classified as possessing "genius." One of these qualities was imagination. Now that may seem surprising to some, but I find it fascinating. A genius is basically someone who can take the stuff of everyday life, that which is common to all of us, and through his or her imagination is able to open our eyes to new ways of seeing or living.

The other quality of genius identified by this study was childlikeness. A genius never loses his or her childlike wonder, and can thus take the stuff of everyday life in some new direction. Instead of simply going with the flow, a genius can see new and wonderful ways to accomplish our goals. It seems to me that this is where so many new inventions come from. Without the ability to imagine a different world or devise new ways of doing things, we wouldn't have some of the best tools that we use everyday. Just consider the computer or the Internet. It wasn't that long ago that such things were mere ideas in the minds of someone's imagination.

Yet, as children of God, I am convinced that all of us have within us the ability to wonder and imagine, which also means that all of us can be geniuses of sorts. Oh, we may not be Einsteins, but we can contribute to the world around us and help shape it for good because God has given us his Presence and a heavenly sense of wonder.

Work scheduled on railroad

The NCDOT Rail Division has been notified by Norfolk Southern Railway of railroad track maintenance that will occur in the Kings Mountain, Grover and Archdale areas of the community beginning March 27.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said that road crossing work tentatively scheduled to occur will affect these areas March 27 - April 4.

Kings Mountain roads: Linwood Street, railroad milepost 409.9; Baker Street, 410.2; Piedmont Street, NC 216, 410.5; Mountain Street, 411.0; Gold Street, 411.1; Oak Street, 411.3; Margrace Mill Rd., SR 2263, 412.2 and Bethlehem Road, SR 2245, 414.7.

Also: Grover, Carolina Ave., SR 2233, 418.6; and Archdale area, Margrace Rd., SR 2263, 425.6; Dixon Dairy, SR 2276, 416.4; and Allen Church Rd. SR 223.8; 416.9.

The work will include surfacing of track and replacement of cross-ties and will affect road crossings within the maintenance limits.

CHURCH NEWS

Cross Walk choir rehearsal to begin

Choirs from various churches in the Kings Mountain area begin practicing Monday night at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church for the upcoming Easter season production of "Cross Walk" being presented for the sixth season by Regal Ventures Creative Ministries and 200 volunteers from Kings Mountain.

"We invite anyone who wants to sing with us to sign up at Monday's meeting," said Rev. Reg Alexander, director of the Southeast's most unusual Passion play which has been attended by thousands.

"Cross Walk" will open with a musical concert by the popular Cross Reference on Friday, March 31, and Saturday, April 1. Performances each evening are at 6 p.m., 7:10 p.m. and 8:10 p.m.

Alexander said work on the current pro-

duction has been in the works for a year. "We start immediately critiquing after the close of our season." He said this year's performance will also include a few changes.

Rev. Dale Swofford, former Kings Mountain minister, is the narrator and portrays Joseph of Arimathea, who is guide as the busy crosswalks of a North Carolina city explodes with the pageantry of Easter in a way that has never before been experienced.

"We need volunteers to work behind the scenes and also to serve in the choir and perform as characters in the drama," said Alexander. The address to find out more about the production is 1-800-282-2561, or www.kmccrosswalk.com

Alexander said that it is estimated that each year Cross Walk generates in excess of

\$13,000 in income to Kings Mountain businesses. This includes the production expenses, almost all of which goes to local businesses as well as the local food and gas revenues that are generated by bringing an additional 200 people into the downtown area on a weekend. Alexander said the potential is greater each year as more visitors come into Kings Mountain from further distances. He added that as the event becomes more widely attended the immediate and long range impact on tourism in the area will continue.

The uniqueness of the event has proven a draw outside the city since attendees receive brochures about local attractions as well as a map detailing the city's restaurants and at least one motel that has a special rate for Cross Walk lodging.

CHURCH BRIEFS

Dixon Presbyterian Church, 602 Dixon School Road, Kings Mountain, will hold a hot dog and hamburger lunch Saturday, March 25 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the fellowship hall. The cost is a donation to Relay for Life.

Patterson Grove Baptist Church will host a hot dog plate fund raiser for Relay for Life Monday March 27 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The cost is \$5 per plate and includes 2 hot dogs, chips and a snack. For more information call Jennifer Stacey at (704) 616-6060.

Kings Mountain Crisis Ministry will hold an open house at its new location Sunday, March 26 from 2-4 p.m. The office, food pantry and clothing closet have moved to the back of the YMCA building on Cleveland Avenue. Staff and board members will greet the public. Refreshments will be served.

Cherokee Street Baptist Church, 423 Cherokee St., Kings Mountain, will host "Real Faith" in concert Saturday, March 25 at 7 p.m.

Central United Methodist Church, Kings Mountain, will hold a church-wide work day Saturday from 8 a.m.-12 noon.

Central United Methodist Church, Kings Mountain, will begin a Bible study "If You Want to Walk on Water You've Got to Get Out of the Boat" during the Sunday School hour at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, March 26.

Central United Methodist Church prayer chain meets Wednesday at 4:30 at the church.

Grace United Methodist Church, 830 Church St., Kings Mountain, will host a coffee house called "Cup of Grace"



Local church women plan for this year's dinner. Left to right, front, Connie Bell, Myra Fisher and Myrtle Christenson. Back, Judy Crawford, Shirley Brutko, Katherine Hicks, Chris Lowell and Janice Phifer.

Saturday, March 25 from 5-11 p.m. All ages are invited to the drop-in event in the fellowship hall. There will be entertainment and games. Coffee, sodas and cookies will be served.

Pathway Baptist Church, 3100 Parkdale Circle, Kings Mountain, will have its annual homecoming Sunday, March 26.

Rev. Larry Brewton will preach at the 10 a.m. worship service. There will be special music at 11 a.m. Dinner will follow. For more information call Rev. James Hamrick at 739-3728.

Christ Covenant Church, 1050 Sam Lattimore Road, Shelby will host a unity prayer breakfast Sat., March 25 at 7:30 a.m. RSVP by March 20 by calling 704-482-6101.

Patterson Grove Baptist Church, 301 Oak Grove Rd., Kings Mountain, will host The Songsters and Cross Reference

at its "Spring for Christ Celebration" and gospel singing Saturday, March 25 at 7 p.m. Admission is free but a love offering will be received. Refreshments will be sold by the PGBC youth. For more information call 300-3493, 864-9185 or 734-1001.

Peoples Baptist Church, 1010 Groves St., Kings Mountain, will host a blood drive March 29 from 5-8 p.m. in the fellowship hall. For an appointment call Annie before 1:30 at 739-0398.

Sunrise Baptist Church, 208 Mail Rd., Kings Mountain, will hold a BBQ plate sale March 31 beginning at 10 a.m. Plates are \$6 for pork and \$7 for beef. Orders of 10 or more plates can be delivered. For more information call 734-1983 or 692-3007.

The weekly lenten series sponsored by the Kings Mountain Ministerial

Association will be held Wed., March 29 at noon at Boyce Memorial ARP Church. Rev. J.R. Robbins will preach. An offering will be received for the Crisis Ministry. A light lunch is available for a \$3 donation. For more information call Rev. Eddie Gray at 739-4266.

The Kings Mountain Ministerial Association will meet Wednesday, April 5 at 12:30 p.m., immediately following the lenten service at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. For more information call Rev. Danielle Duncan.

The weekly lenten series at Word of Faith Church, 1417 Stoney Point Rd., Shelby, will be Friday, March 31. Speaker will be Rev. Tony Giles of Zion Faith Temple, Henrietta. For more information call 482-2249 or 435-5560.

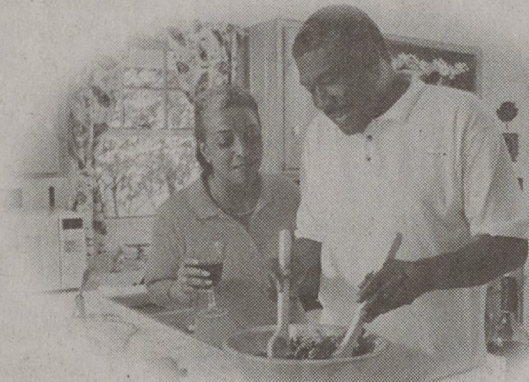
Word of Faith, 1417 Stoney Point Road, Shelby, will hold a Gospel Explosion Sunday, March 26 at 4 p.m. Various church choirs will participate through song and worship. The public is invited. For more information call 482-2249 or 435-5560.

The Kings Mountain Council of Church Women's annual dinner will be held May 4 at 6 p.m. at St. Matthews Lutheran Church. Sponsors are St. Matthews, Resurrection Lutheran, Boyce Memorial ARP, First Presbyterian, Central United Methodist and Grace United Methodist.

Christian motivational speaker Merry Taylor of Columbia, SC will speak on "Loving the Woman Inside of Me - Feeling Like Raggedy Ann in a Barbie World."



Sound The Alert!
Are you at risk?



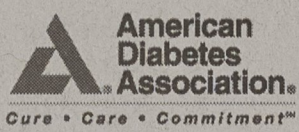
The American Diabetes Association estimates that as many as 5.4 million Americans have Diabetes but haven't been diagnosed. Many people discover they have Diabetes when they are being

treated for Diabetes-related complications such as heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, blindness, or amputation.

Don't let this happen to you or someone you love.

Warning signs for Diabetes include:

- Abnormal thirst
- Frequent urination
- Constant hunger
- Sudden weight loss
- Blurred vision
- Extreme fatigue
- Frequent skin problems
- Tingling or numbness in the hands or feet



FREE DIABETES BLOOD GLUCOSE SCREENINGS

Friday, March 24
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Cleveland Regional Medical Center
Main Lobby

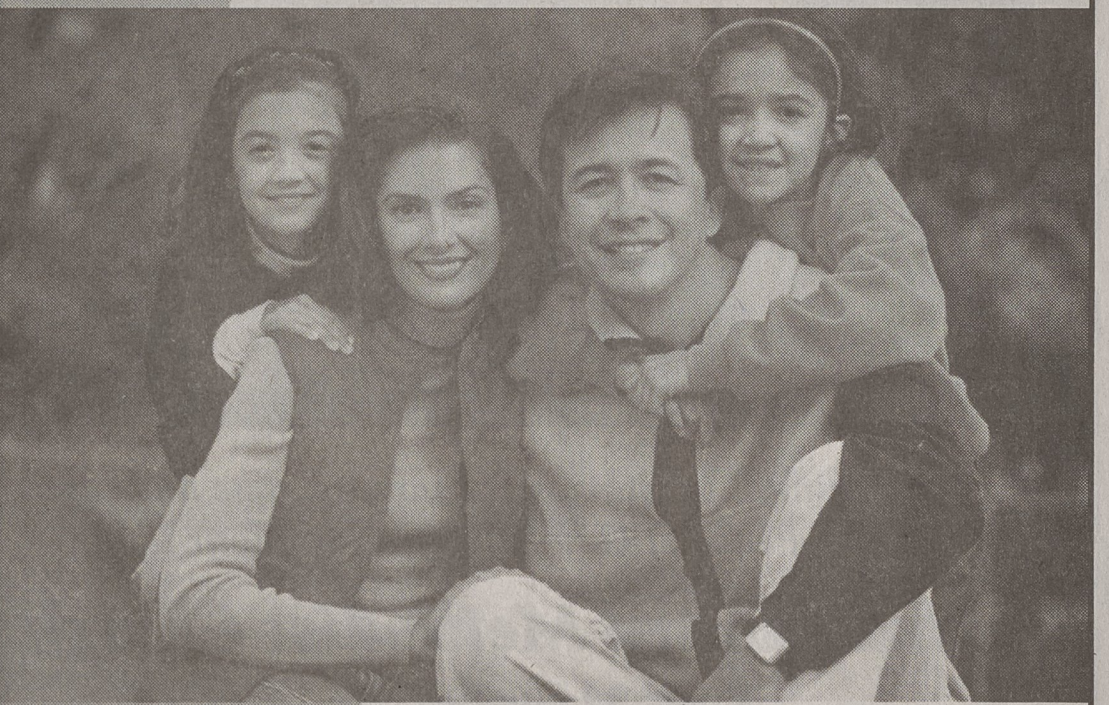


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