

**MEDITATION**

**Prove your salvation by working it out in worship and service**

People sometimes ask me if my father was a "preacher," and from the context of the question it seems that they assume that, since many televangelists pass on their ministries to their sons, the average pastor does the same. The truth is that my father was an insurance salesman for over thirty years, and I have to admit that he was very good at it, too.

Now when I tell folks that my father sold "life insurance," some automatically make the connection between ordinary life insurance and a spiritual form of life insurance that Christians describe as "salvation."

"You both sell life insurance," they will say to me. When I hear this analogy, I typically accept it - at least up to a point - for there is truth in the notion that Christian salvation is like life insurance because it "insures" us that we will live an eternal life with God in heaven.

Of course there are other similarities between selling life insurance and being a Christian minister. For example, both have to sell people on some idea, whether it is the idea of preparing for what may come by purchasing insurance policies or preparing for an eternal destiny through faith in Jesus Christ. Yet, there are also some important differences between the two. For example, life insurance is about this world, whereas salvation is about the world to come, and there is also a sense in which buying insurance is like investing in the stock market. After all, that's one way insurance companies make money, and I have to admit that this seems very different from Christian salvation.

"Why is it different?" you ask. We can answer that question with just one word - grace. Christian salvation is about grace; it's about the love of God given freely to those who will accept it. Nothing is wrong with investing, of course, but everything is right with the grace of God. At least, that's how I feel about it.

There is also one other quality about life insurance and Christian salvation that comes to my mind as I think about the grace of God, and this quality has to do with something that is called, "proof of insurance." Many people carry with them a number of insurance cards that offer proof of their medical, auto, or other kinds of insurance, and if something happens, all they have to do is whip out the right card.

When a person becomes a believer, however, there is no card we can carry or policy we can file away to prove that we have a relationship with God. Yet, we can show proof by acting on our salvation. In his letter to the Philippians, the apostle Paul wrote: "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." It seems to me that this is where the proof of our salvation is found - in the way we work it out in worship and service.

Jeff Hensley is pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist Church.

**CHURCH BRIEFS**

8th Street Church of God, Bessemer City, will host an indoor yard sale Saturday, April 8 beginning at 7 a.m. Biscuits will be sold at breakfast and hot dogs at lunch. For more information call 629-9202.

Springfield Baptist Church, 109 Fields St., Dallas, will be in revival April 9-11. Services are at 6 p.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday. The speaker will be Eric Sellers.

Central United Methodist Church Scout Troop 93 will hold a yard sale and car wash Sat., April 8 in the church parking lot. The yard sale will be from 7-11 a.m. and the car wash will begin at 9 a.m. Items to be sold include a riding lawn mower, computer, toys, miscellaneous household goods and clothing. Proceeds help fund the Scouts' trip to summer camp.

The weekly lenten series at Word of Faith Church, 1417 Stoney Point Rd., Shelby, will be Friday, April 7. Speaker will be Rev. John Houze of People's Church, Kings Mountain. For more information call 482-2249 or 435-5560.

East Gold Street Wesleyan Adult Choir will present the Easter musical "He's Alive," Saturday, April 15 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 16 at 11 a.m. The public is invited.

Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church, 618 Chestnut Ridge Church Road, Kings Mountain, will host an Easter play Saturday, April 15 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 16 at 10 a.m. For more information call 739-4015.

Dixon Presbyterian Church, 602 Dixon School Rd., Kings Mountain, will hold a Maundy Thursday communion service at 7:30 p.m. Thurs., April 13. The church will hold a Tenebrae service at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 14, an Easter egg hunt for children on Saturday, April 15 at 2 p.m., and an Easter sunrise service at 7 a.m. Sunday, April 16. The public is invited.

First Presbyterian Church, Kings Mountain, will have its Maundy Thursday communion service Thursday, April 13 at 7 p.m. Its Tenebrae service will be held Friday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m.

**LOCAL**

**Turning point of the universe  
CrossWalk brings Christ's passion to streets of KM**

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Embedded in the history of Kings Mountain is one of the South's main turning points of the Revolutionary War. But every year about this time, one can witness what Reg Alexander calls "the turning point of the universe" in the downtown streets of this city . . . at a play called Cross Walk.

Alexander, one of the original organizers with Regal Ventures Creative Ministries, is very pleased of the outcome of the sixth annual play.

"We did very little promotions and many people were from out of town," Alexander said. Three quarters of the 1500 people that came to Cross Walk were from outside of Kings Mountain, including some from Florida, Massachusetts, Indiana and Virginia.

"There is a touring company in Pennsylvania that has put this on their tour for next year," he said.

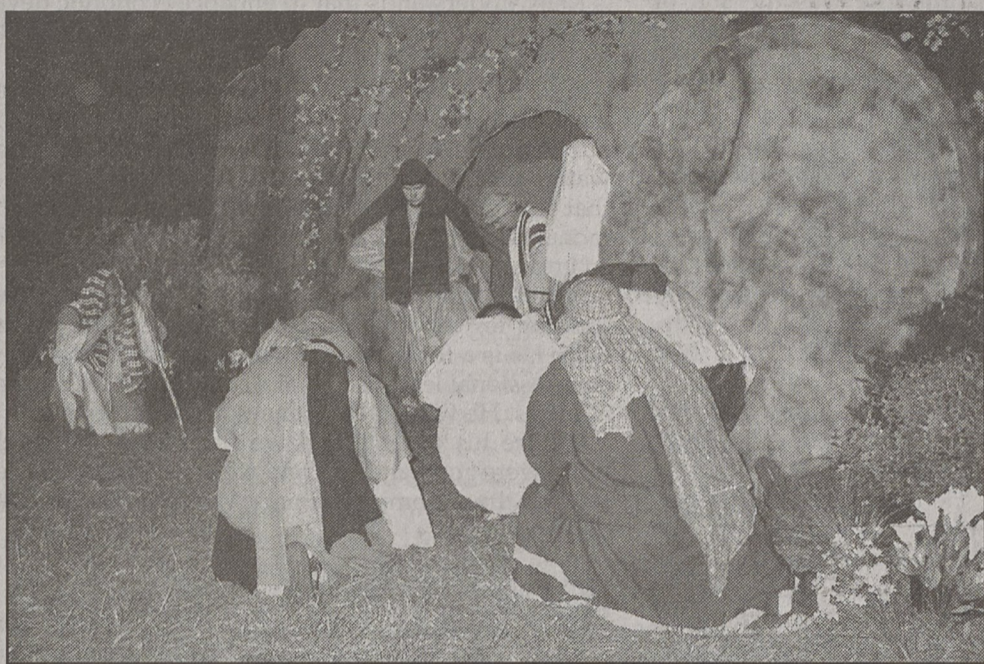
One of the volunteers of the play overheard a spectator on his cell phone explaining to a friend that he was "standing in the market place where Jesus was. We've got to bring a group to this next year!" he said.

"It's really nice to see the camaraderie of the ones involved," Alexander said. Over 200 volunteers come out to help and ended up having a great time in the process.

Jim Belt has played the Centurion for the entire life of Cross Walk. "I like the community involvement, the people coming out and telling the story. It's very emotional for many of us that are involved and we take it seriously," Belt said. Proud to be a part of this event, he felt that the response was great and that the show will get better as time goes on.

"This is something that is really going toward the vision of the destination for this event which is to bring people in to Kings Mountain," Alexander said. "The response from people has been tremendous." He is very thankful of the other people in the community who also share this vision.

"On past shows we've pumped \$10,000 into the city and businesses from people that come in to see this



EMILY WEAVER / HERALD  
The men, after carrying Jesus to his tomb, bowed to pray during this outdoor Easter play which allowed the audience to witness this important story firsthand.

play," he said, knowing that even more revenue has been generated from this years attraction.

"I am thankful that we have the opportunity to get outside the box and do something very creative and I hope that more and more of our citizens will see the benefits and impact of this event," Alexander said.

"We could have had far more people come to Cross Walk had we promoted it more widely. But we are trying to grow cautiously and carefully due to the magnitude of this play and what it can mean to the city."

Cross Walk let each spectator follow the last steps of Jesus acted out on stages among the downtown streets and parking lots. Each audience member was able to witness his healings in the market place, the last supper with his disciples, his prayers and arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, his appearance before Pontius Pilate, crucifixion, burial and resurrection.

The final message was given by Jim Belt, who played the Centurion. "Has the world forgotten that there are no more wages for sin? It's all because of a man who paid a debt he did not owe."

He encouraged people to acknowledge God tugging at their hearts and let each witness know that spiritual counseling was available.

"The most important thing to me is that we're communicating a message that is timeless and when I get beyond that I'm very proud of our city and the story that we're telling out on our streets," Alexander said.

Belt ended the event with the words, "God loves you and we do too," and the song, "Amazing Grace," followed by the applause of a grateful crowd.

The newspaper Jerusalem Herald was handed out to viewers after the program and serves as a continual reminder of this important story. It gives the idea of what this event would have been like if it had appeared in papers during that time. The Jerusalem Herald is a free publication provided by Regal Ventures and will be available in the Herald's weekly edition during Easter week.

All proceeds go to the expenses and production of Cross Walk. For more information visit [www.kmcrosswalk.com](http://www.kmcrosswalk.com).

**Mosquito alert! Fight the bite**

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Beware of the blood-sucking insects this summer! Mild winter weather will bring an increased number of mosquitoes to our region, warns the Cleveland County Health Department.

The freezing temperatures during winter typically help reduce the summertime mosquito's endeavors. But warmer winters indicate more of these pests will be active, increasing the risk of mosquito-borne diseases.

The most common diseases carried by mosquitoes in North Carolina are West Nile Virus (WNV), Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), and La Crosse Encephalitis. These illnesses, also known as arboviruses, are transmitted to humans and animals through the bite from an infected blood-feeding insect. Most cases occur from June to September when these biting bugs are most active.

"The best way to protect both humans and animals is to plan now to reduce the

breeding grounds for mosquitoes and reduce exposure," said Cleveland County Health Director Denise Stallings in a press release.

The two main ways to prevent these potentially harmful bites are through personal protection and risk reduction.

**DON'T BE A MOSQUITO MAGNET:**

>These pesky insects are at their most active during dusk and dawn. Limit the amount of time spent outdoors during these periods.

>If you can take the heat, wear protective clothing, such as long pants and long-sleeve shirts. Remember to wear bright-colored clothing. Mosquitoes aren't the only ones attracted to dark colors - so are bees.

>Apply a repellent containing DEET to your skin and clothing before going out-

side. The higher the concentration of DEET, the longer amount of time you will be protected. For instance, repellents with 10% DEET provide about 2 hours of protection, 24% provide about 5 hours. The maximum concentration of DEET currently recommended for children and infants is 30%. Do not apply to skin underneath clothing.

>If a repellent containing DEET can not be found, look for one containing permethrin. Do not use permethrin directly on skin, only apply to clothing.

>Use screens on doors and windows to keep bugs out.

>Drain all containers that may have standing water and refresh your pets' water bowls weekly. Even the smallest puddle can serve as a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Owners should have all horses vaccinated for WNV

and EEE. Both vaccinations initially require two shots and it is important to start early in first-time cases. The horse will not be fully protected until several weeks after the second shot. The number of WNV and EEE cases in horses has dropped significantly in the last two years since its outbreak of a combined 240 cases in 2003.

State Veterinarian Dr. David Marshall cautions equine owners not to let their guards down because of a decline in cases. "The best way to prevent these possibly fatal diseases is to vaccinate horses against them. The cost of prevention easily outweighs the cost of treating a sick animal," Marshall said. "I encourage horse owners to continue to take measures to protect their animals despite the perception that the threat may have lessened."

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