

MEDITATION

God goes beyond our expectations

Hank Aaron once spoke of how other people often made him feel like an outsider just because of the color of his skin. He recalled his early days in the Negro League. On one occasion the team ate in a restaurant behind Griffith Stadium in Washington. He said he could still hear the kitchen employees breaking all the plates in the kitchen so as to make sure no white person had to eat on the same plate a black person had used. Later, as he broke into the major leagues, Aaron received death threats and hate mail just because he was a black man who had passed a white man's home run record.



Jeff Hensley
Meditation

Through the centuries people have found many reasons to create an "us versus them" mentality in the world. On the basis of age, gender, skin color, nationality, religion, education, or any of a number of other factors, we have regularly divided ourselves into either the insiders or the outsiders, and if you've ever been on the outside looking in, then you know how Hank Aaron felt.

When Jesus selected his disciples, he didn't operate this way. Instead, Jesus chose people who probably wouldn't have been our choices. One of the first disciples was a man named Simon, who was also known as Peter. Though Peter made a profound impact on the early Christian community, historians tell us that he was probably illiterate and definitely among the ordinary people of the land. In fact, the best historical evidence tells us that as much as 95 percent of the population in Galilee during Jesus, ministry would have been unable to write their own name, and it was in this simple kind of setting where Jesus chose to carry out most of his ministry.

Furthermore, if we look carefully at the teachings of Jesus, we discover that the Kingdom of God places a high priority on people whom many folks would consider very ordinary, even outsiders. Why is that? Wouldn't it have been easier to take the message first to the scribes and religious authorities? But this wasn't and isn't the way God typically works. Instead, God often chooses the simplest ways to show the beauty of his creation and the most ordinary people to carry out his work.

To teach her daughter about the simple beauty of God's creation, Jennie brought home a rose that was not yet opened. She told her daughter how a flower grows and how pretty the rose would be when it blossomed. Later, as Jennie passed through the room, she noticed that the petals had all been torn off the rose and it was destroyed, which prompted her to ask what had happened. The little girl replied, "I got tired of waiting, so I blossomed it!"

It always amazes me how God works in ways and among people we would least expect, so maybe all of us ought to be more patient and open to the possibilities that go beyond our expectations.

Dr. Jeff Hensley is pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist Church. His column runs weekly in The Herald.

CHURCH BRIEFS

Rev. Joseph Alghrary will speak Sunday at Boyce Memorial ARP Church in Kings Mountain.

Rev. Alghrary is an ARP minister who has been called to reach out to the Muslim community in America. His father's tribe of 300,000 live in Iraq and are Sunni Muslims. His mother is from North Carolina and was raised in Charlotte.



ALGHRARY

Rev. Alghrary has traveled to Iraq numerous times and offers a unique perspective on Islam and its current tensions with the West.

Sunrise Baptist Church, 208 Mail Road, Kings Mountain, will host His 4-Ever Singers in concert April 30 at 6 p.m.

Macedonia Baptist Church, 1101 S. Battleground Ave., Kings Mountain, will host the Chapel Grove Quartet in concert Sunday, April 30 at 6 p.m.

For more information call 739-6811. **Westover Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, will host His Anointed Ministries in concert April 30 at 6 p.m.** Refreshments will be served after the singing. For more information call 739-2117.

Family Worship Center will host guitarist Doyle Dykes in concert May 3 at 7 p.m. A freewill offering will be received.

Family Worship Center will host the fourth annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast Thursday, May 4 at 8 a.m. Special guest will be Senator Radu Tirlu of Bucharest, Romania. Doyle Dykes will present special music. Tickets are \$15. For more information call 739-4520.

Allen Memorial Baptist Church, Longbranch Road, Grover, will hold a children's bike-a-thon May 6 at 11 a.m. at the ball field. Proceeds will go to Relay for Life. Lunch will be provided for the children after the bike-a-thon. For more information call 487-1234.

Allen Memorial Baptist Church, Longbranch Road, Grover, will hold Ladies Nite Out May 6 at 6:30 p.m. Guest

speaker will be Ashley Hartley. Special music will be by Rhonda Freeman. The cost is \$10 with proceeds going to Relay for Life. For more information call Tracy Creswell at 284-5456.

Allen Memorial Baptist Church, Longbranch Road, Grover, will hold a yard sale/breakfast May 13 beginning at 7 a.m. Sausage, ham and gravy biscuits, juice and coffee will be available for purchase. All proceeds benefit Relay for Life.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 258 W. Franklin Blvd., Gastonia, will host Antiques Off Roadshow Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Professional appraisals (limit 2 items) are available for \$10 per item. There will be entertainment, raffle, food, antique and gift shops and tours of St. Mark's Church. All profits benefit church charities. For more information call 704-864-4531 ext. 19.

Victory Life Assembly of God, 1655 Shelby Highway, Cherryville, will hold a yard sale Saturday from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. to raise funds to support a mission trip to Ecuador. For more information call 704-435-5539.

ART

Carey's photos on display at CCC

The Pennington-McIntyre Art Gallery at CCC is currently hosting "Eye of the Camera," featuring photographs by award winning photographer Fred Carey. The exhibit will be on display until the end of May.



CAREY

A Shelby native, Carey has won several Kodak-sponsored and newspaper-sponsored photo contests, including an honorable mention in the Kodak sponsored National Park Service Photo Contest for his photo of Mabry Mill located on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia. He also won a space in the 2006 National Park Calendar. There were 14,800 entries in the contest.

"I want to share different ways people can enjoy national parks and how they can take good pictures even on days with bad weather," Carey said of his photographs of the Blue Ridge

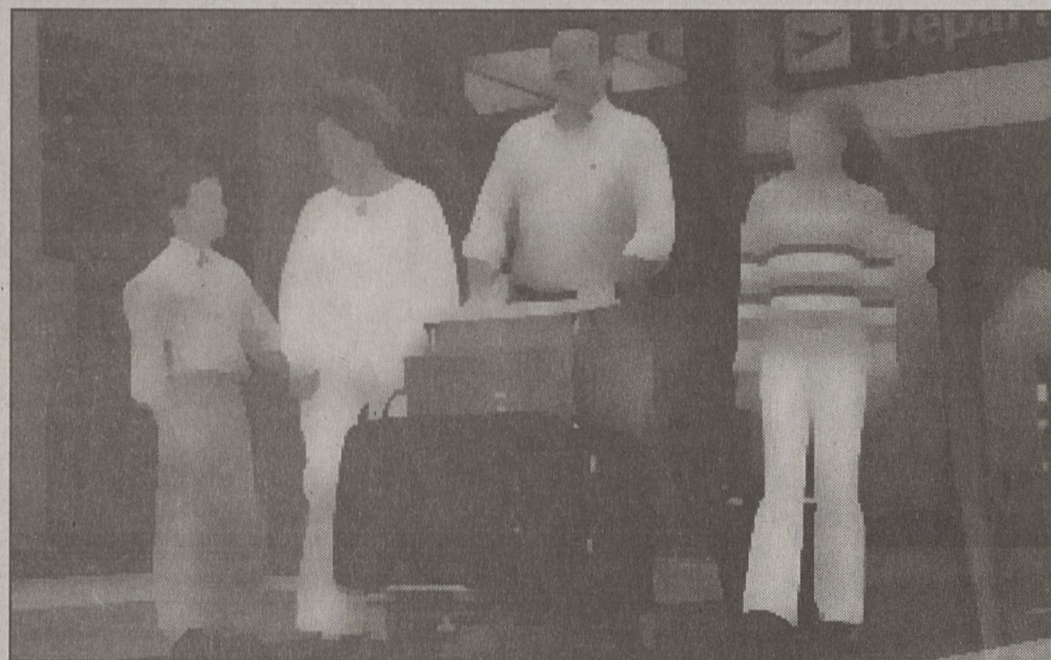


Butterfly farm in Aruba

parkway. The CCC exhibit displays a variety of photographs featuring different national parks and scenes from abroad as well as local photos. The exhibit is free and open to the

public during regular College hours, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays. For more information, contact Hal Bryant at 704-484-4023.

Is your life a blur? Lost Your way?



This is a personal invitation for you to come and visit and let the Peace of God help you find your way!

Central United Methodist Church

Kings Mountain, NC

Activities

Sunday Morning
8:45 Praise and Worship Service
9:30 Sunday Morning Fellowship
9:45 Sunday School
10:50 Traditional Services

Sunday Evening
Children's Activities: Ages 4 to High School
Snack supper and Bible Related Activities
5:00 to 5:30 Children's Choir- Preschool to 5th gr.
5:30 to 7:15 Kids for Christ- 5th gr. and younger
5:30 to 7:15 United Methodist Youth- 6th to 12th gr.

Tuesday Evening
6:30 Youth Bible Study - 6th gr. to 12th gr.
6:30 Boy scouts

Wednesday Evening
5:15 to 5:45 Children's Choir Practice- Preschool to 5th gr.
7:00 Adult Choir Practice

Thursday Evening
7:00 Over 40's Basketball

Community Kitchen
Serving our 11,000 meals in 2005
Monday- 11:30AM to 1:00PM
Thursday- 5:00PM to 6:00PM

Preschool
Ages 2 to 4 years
Monday - Friday 8:30AM to 12:30PM

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