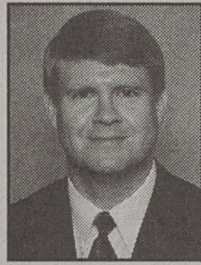


See suffering through the eyes of faith

The other day I received a copy of a denominational news magazine that I read on a regular basis. On the inside I found a rather unflattering photo of myself, accompanied by an article about my family and me. The editor of this periodical is a new friend, who came to visit with me and talk about how dealing with my son's Muscular Dystrophy has affected my ministry. I thought it was a nice gesture to be interviewed about this topic, because I believe that all of us are affected by the challenges that we face.

Yet, I also believe that our daily challenges can be affected by the way we choose to look at them. About fifty years ago, a British minister began to feel very uncomfortable. This particular minister was relatively young and very active physically, so it surprised him when he began to experience discomfort in his throat. Of course, any minister who happens to make a living by using his or her voice would feel frightened with the sort of discomfort that this minister was feeling. Unfortunately, the discomfort wasn't limited to the minister's throat, for in just a matter of months he began to notice that he was tending to drag one leg. His doctor's diagnosis correctly revealed that the minister was suffering from a progressive disease that caused his muscles to atrophy. Regrettably, the doctor told his patient that his life was wasting away, that he would soon find that he could no longer walk or use his arms, and that he

would eventually no longer be able to talk or swallow on his own. It was a terrible blow, but the pastor determined that he was going to be courageous and put the time he had left to good use, so he worked furiously. He wrote articles for religious publications, he wrote books on the spiritual life, and he helped organize prayer groups throughout his native England. And when friends and others



Jeff Hensley
Meditation

offered him sympathy, he would reply, "I'm only in the kindergarten of suffering." As time passed, the minister lost more and more strength until he could no longer use his legs and was unable to talk, but he was still able to hold a pen and write a few words. Then came the season of Easter, one of the most holy times of the Christian year, and this pastor knew in his heart that this would be his last Easter, so he took his pen in hand and wrote down his innermost feelings. Included in this writing was a remarkable expression of faith that went like this: "It is terrible to awaken on Easter morning and have no voice with which to shout, 'He is risen!' But it would be still more terrible to have a voice and not want to shout."

Though it is a frightful thing to watch loved ones suffer, it is truly inspiring to see suffering believers who continue to see their suffering through the eyes of faith.

Jeff Hensley is pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist Church.



Left to right, Eleyna, Philip, Andrew and Michelle D'Angelo after the pre-school graduation ceremony held at Resurrection Lutheran School.

Soldier comes home for daughter's graduation from Resurrection Lutheran

Eleyna D'Angelo will never forget her pre-school graduation; her father came from Afghanistan to be there.

Staff Sgt. Philip D'Angelo with the 228th Signal Brigade, from Spartanburg, SC was able to secure leave to allow him to be home in time for the June 6th graduation at Resurrection Lutheran School. He was scheduled to leave Kabul on Monday, May 29th, but because of a lock-down following the recent riots in Afghanistan, he was unable to leave the city for 48 hours.

On Wednesday, he was able to obtain passage to Bagram; however, upon arrival, his flight was canceled. The next part of his journey sent him to Qatar where he would be placed on a stand-by flight to Kuwait. Finally, on Sunday, June 4, he boarded a flight that brought him home to North Carolina in time for the graduation.

While on leave, in addition to Eleyna's graduation, his family will also celebrate their son Andrew's christening and his first birthday. Andrew was 10 weeks old when SSG D'Angelo's deployment began.

This year's class at

Resurrection is unique in that two of the children have fathers who are deployed with the United States Army. In addition to Staff Sgt. D'Angelo, SGT Mark Smith is stationed in Iraq with the 505th Engineering Battalion. SGT Smith, whose son Maverick also graduated from pre-school, was able to return on leave earlier in the spring.

During weekly chapel times the children have prayed for their fathers, and the others in the class have prayed for their families.

The June 6th graduation marks the fifth year that the pre-school has been open. During the ceremony, which was held at 6:00 pm, fourteen students received their send-off to kindergarten.

As a ministry of Resurrection Lutheran Church, the school seeks to provide high quality pre-school education in a Christian setting. Special attention is paid to preparing the children for kindergarten and providing them a positive school experience. It was obvious at the graduation that these children are quite prepared for continuing their education.

Michael Casey Short ordination service held Sunday at Second Baptist Church

Michael Casey Short was ordained as a minister of the gospel through the Southern Baptist Convention during a special service Sunday at Second Baptist Church, Kings Mountain.

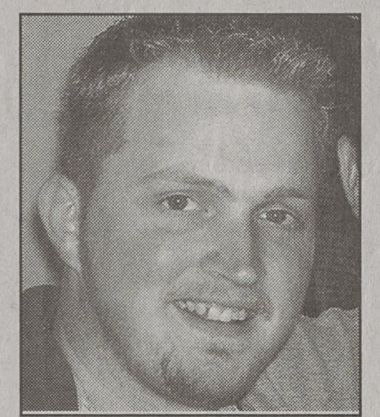
Short has been an active member of the church for 17 years. Pastor Lynn Crouch presided over the service, attended by church members, family and close friends.

Short shared his testimony and call to the ministry, both of which occurred at a young age. He said it was at the age of seven, that, during an annual Vacation Bible School, he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Soon afterward, he spoke of a call to the ministry that would grow stronger with time.

For the past 13 years Short has been an active partici-

part in the youth program and has served on the staff as Youth Minister since 2004. He has accepted the position of Minister of Music at Calvary Baptist Church in Roanoke Rapids, NC, effective June 25.

Short attributes his life and ministry to "the hand of God working through ordinary people that were willing to reach out and show me the love of Christ."



CHURCH BRIEFS

People Baptist Church, 1010 Groves St., Kings Mountain, will hold Vacation Bible School June 17 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. There will be classes for all ages, including adults. For more information call 704-739-0398.

People's Baptist Church, 1010 Groves St., Kings Mountain, will have a special Father's Day service Sunday, June 18 at 11 a.m. Speaker will be Layman Fred Mitchell of Shiloh Baptist Church, Shelby. For more information call the church at 704-739-0398.

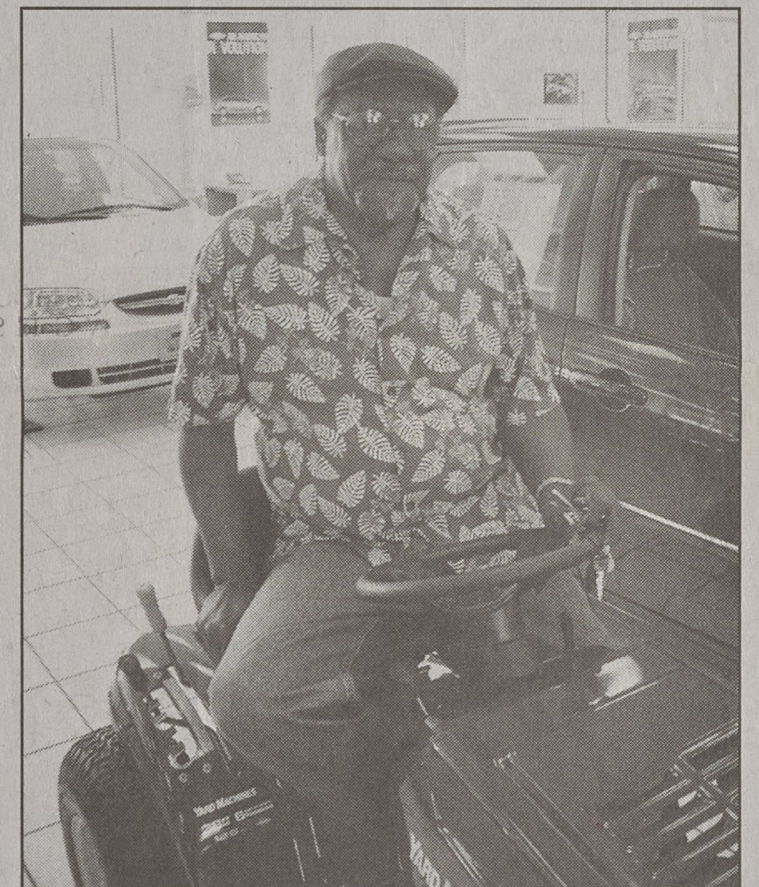
Macedonia Baptist Church, 1101 S. Battleground Avenue, Kings Mountain, will hold Vacation Bible School June 25-30 from 6:30-8:45 pm. The theme is "Trading Places - Where Jesus Made a World of Difference." Rising kindergarten through sixth graders are invited. A nursery will be provided for workers. For more information call 704-739-6811.

Blessed Nations Church's Pastor Care Team will host

Pastor Noah J. Gingles' birthday celebration on Saturday, June 24 at 6 pm at Landmark Baptist Church Family Center in Shelby. The guest speaker will be Overseer Terry Clark, Senior Pastor of Christ Harvest Church, Charlotte. For more information and to RSVP by June 19 contact Sister Cruceta Jeffeirs 704-481-0737

Peoples Baptist Church, 1010 Groves Street, will host the third annual Gathering June 19-23 at 7 p.m. nightly. This is a gathering of the faith-based believers of Cleveland County. The community is invited to attend.

New Bynum's Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, 213 N. Cansler St., will host a health awareness program Tuesday, June 20 at 7 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Dr. Austin Osemeka will speak on "Common Lower Gastrointestinal Disorders." The program is free and the public is invited. Refreshments will be provided and door prizes will be given. For more information call 739-9586, 739-2606 or 730-0027.



Eugene Curry won this lawn mower during a recent drawing at Kings Mountain Chevrolet.

HOW TO REACH US

Contact the Herald at P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, 28086; call 704-739-7496, fax 704-739-0611 or Email gstewart@kingsmountainherald.com

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505 N. Piedmont Ave.
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Sat June 17th at 7pm the public is welcome.