

## Our purpose is to be imitators of God

Consider a couple of stories, one that is funny and another that is serious. The funny story is about a man who was about to make his first parachute jump. The plane took off and slowly carried the man to an altitude of 10,000 feet. "This is it," shouted the jumpmaster, "jump!" Taking a deep breath, the man jumped from the plane, counted to ten, and then pulled the ripcord, but nothing happened. Falling rapidly, the man began to see his life flash before his eyes. He pulled his emergency ripcord, but again nothing happened. And just

then, he looked down toward the ground and was surprised to see another man hurtling up towards him. He couldn't believe his eyes. As the two men passed each other, the falling parachutist yelled out, "Do you know anything about gas stoves?" To which the ascending man cried out in return, "No. Do you know anything about gas stoves?"

The serious story comes from a battle between the Greeks and the Persians in 490 B.C. The Greeks were the underdogs in this particular battle but, though

the Persians were expected to be victorious, they nevertheless emerged as the clear victors. The place of the battle was called "Marathon" and, though the Greeks had certainly won the battle, they had not totally destroyed the Persian army, and knowing that the Persian fleet was

certainly going to attempt to sail around Attica and then try to take the city while it was undefended, a young soldier named



Jeff Hensley  
Meditation

Phaedippas was chosen to take the message back to Athens. The distance between the cities was about twenty-six miles, and though the poor soldier ran all the way, shouting "we have won" as he went, he was so exhausted upon his arrival that he fell down dead.

Harking back to this historic event, a popular magazine once ran an amusing cartoon that depicted a rather nerdy-looking

runner at the completion of his twenty-six mile run, ready to announce the good news of victory to an expectant crowd. The only thing was that he had worked so hard to win the race and was so out of breath by the time he was finished that the only thing he could say before fainting was, "Uh, um...I forgot what I wanted to say."

There is something to be said for having the right information at the right time. If we wait until we are plummeting to earth or exploding upward to heaven before we ask about parachutes

or gas stoves, then our information is too little too late. And if we finish the long run but forget the message, then of what use was our effort? In the New Testament book of Ephesians we read that our purpose in life is to be "imitators of God," and if we ever forget that this is the "message" we have to bring to the world, then we will be no better off than the parachutist or the Greek runner in these stories.

Jeff Hensley is pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist Church.

### CHURCH BRIEFS

**St. Matthews Lutheran Church** will host the Kings Mountain community lenten service Wednesday, March 28 at 12 noon. Rev. James Lochridge, pastor of Second Baptist Church, will be the speaker. The sermon will last 10 minutes. An offering will be taken for the Crisis Ministry. A light lunch will be served for a donation.

**Pathway Baptist Church**, 3100 Parkdale Circle, Kings Mountain, will have its 29th year homecoming March 25. Rev. Buddy Williams will preach at the 10 a.m. worship service. Special music at 11 a.m. will feature "The Providence." Dinner will be served afterward. For more information call Rev. James Amrick at 739-3728.

**Cherokee Street Baptist Church**, 423 Cherokee Street, Kings Mountain, will host the "Bluegrass Gospel Tones" in concert Saturday, March 24 at 7 p.m. The public is invited.

Refuge Ministries will spon-

sor a "Fisher of Men" community Bible study Thursday, March 22 at 7 p.m. at the Cleveland County Library in Shelby. The theme is "From Repentance to Restoration." For more information call 704-236-2542.

**Patterson Grove Baptist Church**, Kings Mountain, will host "Connecting Through Story," a story telling concert and dinner featuring Donna Marie Todd Saturday, March 31 at 6:30 p.m. Admission and dinner are free. Reservations are required by March 27 by calling 704-739-5826 (day) or 704-739-6351 (night).

**Galilee United Methodist Church Senior Ministries** will hold its fifth annual prayer breakfast March 31 at 9 a.m. Speaker will be Sister Rebecca Wright. Admission is a \$5 donation.

**El Bethel UMC**, 122 El Bethel Road, Kings Mountain, will sponsor a spaghetti supper and singing featuring the Songsters

Quartet on Sat. March 24. Serving begins at 5:30 p.m. and tickets are \$6. Proceeds benefit the building fund. The singing begins at 7 p.m. and a love offering will be taken. Call 704-734-1876 for tickets or more information.

**IRC Outreach Ministries**, 906 Mountain Crest Drive, will host the Holy Voices of York, SC and The Gosplettes and D'Termination of Gastonia in concert March 24 at 6 p.m. Doors

open at 5:30. For more information call 730-0339.

**Beulah United Methodist Church**, 1534 Stoney Point Road, will host a buffet breakfast Saturday, March 24 from 7-10:30 a.m. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

**Westwood Heights Baptist Church Senior Adults**, Shelby, will sponsor a chicken pie supper Wed., Mar. 28 for the church fund raiser fund.

**Sandy Plains Baptist Church**,

5323 Union Rd., Gastonia, will host the annual "Pro-Life Concert and Supper" at 7 p.m. Friday, March 30 in the Family Life Center. A poor man's supper will be served from 5:30-6:45 p.m. A concert featuring The Songsters and the Golden Chorus will begin at 7 p.m. Admission is free to both events but donations will be accepted for New Life Pregnancy Services, Inc.

**Second Baptist Church** serv-

ices on Sunday, April 1 at 6 p.m. will feature Rev. James Lochridge presenting a "sermon in chalk." The public is invited.

**CHURCH BRIEFS DEADLINE**  
Deadline for church briefs is 12 noon Monday. Bring them by The Herald at 824-1 East King St., call 739-7496, fax 739-0611 or Email [gstewart@kingsmountainherald.com](mailto:gstewart@kingsmountainherald.com). When space is limited, only the events coming up during the current week will be published.

### Trip to "Los Wages" top prize for Chamber's 07 membership drive

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The kick-off lunch for this year's annual Chamber of Commerce membership drive was charged with incentives Friday afternoon at the First National Bank in Shelby. Paul Oliver, founder of the Chamber of Commerce Consultants from Fort Worth, Texas, told a room full of Chamber members that the top prize for the top dollar producer is a trip to "the city of Lost Wages (Las Vegas, NV)."

"I suggest you go to Lost Wages and don't gamble. There's a lot of other things to do and we don't furnish money," he said, as the room broke out in laughter. He added that they are going to try to talk the winner into coming down to Fort Worth, Dallas. "We're gonna buy you tickets and take you or send you to the four most popular religious services in the world. Y'all know who they are? The Dallas Cowboys, the Texas Rangers, the Dallas Mavericks, which are on top now and going to win the whole thing, and the Dallas Stars," he said, adding that Chairman Roger Holland said it depends on who wins the airline tickets whether they are one way or round trip.

There are 2900 businesses in the Cleveland County service area to make members. The best way to tap into that potential, Oliver suggested, was to use the PEC method (Pride, Enthusiasm and Commitment). For Pride, he said, "You've got every reason in the world to be proud of your Chamber. You're not asking these people for a donation or a contribution. You're not asking them for money. You're giving them the opportunity to get on board so we can promote (their) business."

For the Enthusiasm part of the method, he said that if you are enthusiastic about something

then it is easier to tell other people about it. "You can get enthusiastic about it because of what you guys are doing for these people. When you hear that they are going to get three or four times what they are paying for you'll be more enthusiastic about it. But you've gotta believe it," he said. "A man can no more do what he don't believe in than he can come back from where he ain't ever been."

The most members someone has recruited on one of his drives so far is 32. The Cleveland County Chamber was charged to either match or beat that goal. Everyone will be rewarded, he said. Oliver added that if something comes up this week and you can't make it to your session, come at a different time and work for your team.

Commitment - "You've made a commitment which we really appreciate. There is another commitment that I want you to make and that is please be on time and don't try to leave early," he said, adding that if you do they'll "dock your pay and talk about you something awful." Chamber members and teams will work the phones for three hours trying to recruit new businesses. He charged the teams to compete against each other. The seven teams agreed that which ever of them gets the most recruits will be taken out to dinner by the other six teams.

#### Kimberly Rice wins Reader's Choice contest

Kimberly Rice was winner of the recent Reader's Choice contest.

Kimberly's entry form was selected from all of the entry forms submitted to The Cherryville Eagle, Kings Mountain Herald and Belmont/Mount Holly BannerNews. She received \$25.

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