

Failures don't have to be final

In just a couple of weeks I am going to celebrate my forty-fifth birthday. It's amazing how time seems to pass differently at certain moments in life. When we are children, time seems to be so slow, especially when we are waiting for something exciting. As we get older, time seems to pass much faster, and we occasionally look at the calendar and wonder how we got here. Another experience that comes to all of us as the years pass is failure, but failures don't have to become final. Just consider these two examples.

Most of us probably know that

Woodrow Wilson was the President of the United States, but we may not know about what happened to him before he entered the White House. In 1902, Wilson became the President of Princeton University. His presidency there was marked by a number of reforms that he was able to bring about, but his colleagues and the faculty often found him to be haughty and self-righteous in his leadership. This unfortunately led to Wilson having to resign his position in 1910.

For other people, such a defeat could have led to discouragement and debilitating despair, but such was not the case for Woodrow Wilson. Soon after he left the university, Wilson's name was put forth as a candidate for the governorship of the state of New Jersey and then, in 1912, he was elected to the Presidency of the United States. Wilson's life after his resignation from Princeton inspired one of his biographers to conclude of him that: "No man in the history of American politics had such a

spectacular rise to prominence." A second example of success beyond failure may be found in the remarkable story of Frank Bourgin. Frank had written a Ph.D. dissertation on Franklin D. Roosevelt's then new social programs. In this dissertation, Bourgin had defended Roosevelt against the charges that his plan was unconstitutional. Unfortunately, the dissertation committee rejected Bourgin's thesis and refused to grant his Ph.D., so he left the



Jeff Hensley
Meditation

university, found a job in business, and went on with his life. Yet, Frank was not willing to give up on his dreams, and in 1987, on the occasion of the bicentennial of the US Constitution, he mailed a copy of his dissertation to historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr., who had just published a book that set forth some of the very same points that Frank had made in his dissertation decades earlier. Schlesinger sent Frank a letter that praised him for his "strikingly original piece of work" and promised that he would contact the University of Chicago and

urge them to take another look at his dissertation. They did, and the next year, at seventy-seven years of age, Frank Bourgin rolled across the stage in a battery-powered scooter to receive his Ph.D.

In my forty-five years, I have made my share of mistakes and have certainly known some failures, but I thank God that none of us have to be defined by failure.

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

There's still an urgent need to donate blood

More than two weeks after it first put out its appeal for blood donors, the American Red Cross has seen some improvement in the blood supply, but there is still an urgent need of blood types O positive and O negative. The current supply of those types is at a half day supply.

"The public is responding to the call for blood donors," commented Carrie Bridges, Blood Director of Cleveland County American Red Cross. "The supply of type B blood has improved to almost a two-day supply. However, that's still a day lower than the three-day supply we need to have on hand."

Cleveland County American Red Cross is open from 9:00 am until 5:00pm. Call 704-487-8594 for more information.

Upcoming drives are as follows:

Saturday, July 28 at Buffalo Baptist Church, 1410 Buffalo Church Road, Shelby from 10am until 2:30pm.

Tuesday, July 31 at Double Springs Baptist Church, 1130 Double Springs Church Road, Shelby, from 2:30 pm until 6:30 pm.

Tuesday, July 31 at Christian Freedom Baptist Church, 146 Range Road, Kings Mountain, from 2 pm until 6:30pm.

The blood supply typically experiences a drop in the summer. This drop occurs when schools and colleges close; people take vacations and extended holidays; and businesses hold smaller blood drives due to modified summer operations.

Eligible donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in general good health. Donors of all blood types are welcome.

For more information about or to schedule an appointment, call Carrie Bridges 704-487-8594.

CHURCH BRIEFS

The youth of Second Baptist Church, 120 Linwood Road, Kings Mountain, will hold a car wash Saturday, July 21 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the church. Donations will be accepted to help finance a summer retreat.

First Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, will hold Vacation Bible School July 23-27 from 9 a.m.-12 noon. The theme is "Game Day Central." There will be classes for ages K-6th grade. For more information call the church at 704-739-3651.

Sunrise Baptist Church, 208 Mail Road, Kings Mountain, will host Grateful Hearts in concert Saturday, July 28 at 6 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the singing. The public is invited.

Westover Baptist Church, 114 Westover Drive, Kings Mountain, will host The Songsters in concert July 29 at 6 p.m. A love offering will be received and refreshments will be served following the service. Rev. Dale Angel, pastor, invites the public.

Beulah United Methodist Church, 1534 Stony Point Rd., will have a breakfast buffet July 21 from 7-10:30 a.m. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 12.

The Kings Mountain Crisis Ministry is looking for talented singers and choirs who will donate their talents to benefit the Crisis Ministry at a singing Saturday, October 6 at 7 p.m. at Family Worship Center, 1809 Shelby Road, Kings Mountain. A freewill offering will be received that night to support the Crisis Ministry as it serves citizens who need assistance. Soloists, groups and choirs are encouraged to participate. Call the Crisis Ministry at 704-739-7256 or Mike Smith at 704-739-4260 to sign up or for more information.

Kings Mountain Crisis Ministry is in need of volunteers. Volunteer opportunities include "on-call" services such as filling in on short notice; person to pray on site for clients' prayer requests on a weekly basis; handymen to do small

repairs for the lame and elderly; spokespersons for the agency in your home church; food pickup (van or truck required); reception duties such as answering the phone and greeting clients; and secretarial duties such as correspondence and calling community organizations. For more information call the Crisis Center at 704-739-7256.

Grace Baptist Church, Gastonia, will have a youth reunion September 29. People that were in the youth department between 1980-1989 are asked to call 704-824-1242 or 704-865-6957 by July 14.

Patterson Grove Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, is registering players for Upward Soccer. Players ages four years through sixth grade are eligible. Deadline for registering is July 31. Evaluation dates are Wednesday, July 18, from 6-7:30, Saturday, July 21 from 10-12 and Tuesday, July 24 from 6-7:30. All players must attend an evaluation. The cost for registration is \$45 and there is a \$10 late registration fee after July 24. Practice begins August 27 and games begin September 8. For more information call the church office at (704) 739-5826 or Mike Harris at (704) 853-1174 day and (704) 739-6023 evening.

South Mountain Baptist Camp, located in Burke County, will be celebrating its 50th year Saturday, August 18. Former staff members, speakers, campers, camp committee members and others who have contributed to the work at SMBC are asked to contact Norma D. Moose at 704-739-5600 or bna14@earthlink.net.

Family Worship Center, 1818 Shelby Road, Kings Mountain, will host the Kevin White Camp Meeting July 29-August 3 at 7 p.m. Special musical guests include Church of Cross Worship Team of Reykjavik, Iceland, Sanctuary Choir of Dilworth Church of God, Dilworth, AL and the River Church Choir of Guntersville, AL. For more information call 739-7206.

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For more information have your parent or guardian call:
487-3182 or 487-3199

Class size is limited. Pre-registration is required.



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