

WORSHIP

Be true to your Christian principles

The summer of 1984 was a whirlwind for my bride and me. We were married on June 8, I was ordained on July 22, and then we moved to Wake Forest, North Carolina, where I entered seminary. Though I was the one who was actually attending classes, my wife was a vital part of the journey because she was working hard to help us keep food on the table.

I thought about this again the other day when I read a story about another seminary wife. Her name was Karen and she, too, worked hard to help keep food on the table while her husband attended seminary.



**Jeff Hensley
Meditation**

Karen was a quality-control inspector for a major pharmaceutical company. One day, as a result of faulty procedures, the automated machines produced a large order of syringes that became contaminated and therefore failed inspection. Karen reported the problem to her boss, but he quickly computed the cost of reproducing the order and decided that it was not "cost-effective" to do so.

Because the company had so much money tied up in this order, the boss instructed Karen to go ahead and sign the inspection clearance form, in spite of the situation. Because of the nature of her job, Karen was actually the only person who could sign this form. If Karen didn't sign, then the syringes couldn't be shipped, but Karen refused to sign.

The boss was so upset with her that he contacted the president of the company, who told Karen that if she didn't approve this order she would lose her job. Karen was devastated because her job was the only means of income that she and her husband had, and it was a well-paying job too. Losing her job could even lead to her husband having to drop out of seminary.

Though we may not have to face a situation this dramatic, all of us are occasionally tempted to compromise our spiritual principles in order to please the world around us, and the honest truth is that it takes a great amount of faith and integrity to continue to uphold what we know to be right in spite of the many influences to the contrary.

Karen didn't compromise her principles, and the president of her company did exactly as he had threatened to do - he fired her. But the story doesn't end there, for because she wouldn't sign that form, the syringes were delivered late.

The delay led the purchasing company to investigate, and when they did, they learned about the contamination and how Karen had been willing to protect them, even at the cost of her own job. The management of the purchasing company was so impressed with Karen that they offered her a job and paid her an even larger salary.

It is unfortunate that not all stories of integrity end this well, but the fact remains that when we are true to our principles we can have a tremendous impact on others.

Jeff Hensley is pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist Church.

CHURCH BRIEFS

The Kings Mountain Community Lenten Series will continue March 5 at David Baptist and March 12 at Boyce Memorial ARP.

Resurrection Lutheran Church, 600 Crescent Circle, will hold an evening meal and prayer service each Wednesday during Lent. The meal will begin at 6 p.m. and the prayer service at 6:45. Remaining dates are March 5 and 12.

Grace United Methodist Church, 830 Church St., Kings Mountain, will hold its second annual Supper and Singing Fri., Feb. 29. A poor man's supper will begin at 5:30 and a singing featuring The Songsters will begin at 7 p.m. Donations will be accepted for supper and will go to Relay for Life. A love offering will be taken at the singing. For more information call 704-739-8676.

Resurrection Lutheran Church to install new pastor March 2

The congregation of Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church will honor its new pastor, Thomas Hobson Outten, for the Rite of Installation on Sunday, March 2, at 11 a.m.

Rev. Elizabeth Toler, Dean of the Gaston, Cleveland, Lincoln Conference will preside over the installation. All clergy attending are encouraged to wear red.

Pastor Outten comes from King of Glory Evangelical Lutheran Church, North Myrtle Beach, SC. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia, Washington State University and the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in

Columbia, SC.

Pastor Outten grew up in Greenville, SC. He is the son of Joe and Millie Outten. Pastor Outten and his wife, Catherine, have four children. Pastor Outten said he and his family are excited about being in Kings Mountain and look forward to getting involved in the community.

Along with Pastor Outten's installation, the congregation will also dedicate a new baby grand piano given by Dina Jo Nanna, the church organist.

A covered dish luncheon will be held after the service to honor Pastor Outten, his family, his friends and congregation.



PASTOR OUTTEN

Poor Man's Supper at Harvest Baptist

Harvest Baptist Church, 144 Ware Road, Kings Mountain, will host a poor man's supper Friday, Feb. 29 from 5-7 p.m. The cost is \$5 per plate, dine-in or take out. Children under six eat free. Proceeds go toward the purchase of a new sound system.

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