

Help ourselves in helping others

I am sure that most of us are familiar with the safety demonstration provided by flight attendants. The demonstration typically includes the reminder that airplane seat cushions may serve as "floatation devices" and that oxygen masks will fall from the overhead compartment in the case of "a loss of cabin pressure."

It is this last bit of safety instruction that has always seemed to me to be contrary to the logic of average parents, for I suspect that most parents tend to want to see that their children are safe before they

worry about their own safety. I know that's the way I typically function. But the airline attendant says that we need to put our own oxygen mask on first, and only after having done this should we help our children.

This bit of airline logic is based on the notion that we can't help anyone else if we are suffocating ourselves. I thought about this familiar experience when I recently read a new article on church health. The article was written by two people whose job it is to help hurting congregations deal with situations of cri-

sis. In a sense, they provide the floatation devices and the oxygen masks for churches that are in danger of dying.

Statistics suggest that many congregations are falling into this category these days, for our so-called "postmodern" world has resulted in a number of changes in church life that have probably happened without many of us even noticing them. Yet, here we are living in days when church attendance is the cultural exception rather than the rule, which has caused many congregations and pastors to begin

Meditation



Dr. Jeff Hensley
Pastor
Kings Mountain Baptist Church

Faced with this reality, we tend to look into the community and wish that more people would become involved in our churches. But when asked

wondering just how many more years we will be able to "keep the church open."

why they feel this way, church members will sometimes say that the reason they want more people to come to their church is so that they can keep their programs running and their doors open.

The sad thing about this motive, though, is that it is the same as putting a child's oxygen mask on before putting on our own. When we want more people to come to our church just to keep the doors open, we are allowing ourselves to think of the people in our community as the means of salvation for our churches, rather than think-

ing of our churches as the means of providing God's salvation to our community.

Unfortunately, this perspective is backwards, for the purpose of the church is to bring people into loving, life-transforming relationships with God and others. This is the "oxygen" that churches should be providing to the children of our community, but how can we help others do this unless we are willing to do it ourselves? If we ourselves don't have loving, life-transforming relationships with God and others, then we are missing the point.

Fellowship & Faith



Featured Church of the Week:

David Baptist Church

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739-7276

To follow is a list of upcoming Churches of the Week. If your church is listed here and you have a special event that you would like listed on your feature week - please contact Lisa at 704-739-7496 or e-mail lisa.kmherald@gmail.com

- 7/22 True Gospel Holiness
- 7/29 KM Baptist Church
- 8/5 Sunrise Baptist
- 8/12 Midview Baptist

KINGS MOUNTAIN
Long Creek Presbyterian Church
701 Long Creek Road
704-629-4406

Love Valley Baptist Church
2032 Bethlehem Road
704-730-0075

Macedonia Baptist Church
1101 S. Battleground Avenue
704-739-6811

Midview Baptist Church
703 Margrace Road
704-739-6711

Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church
220 N. Watterson Street
704-739-8354

Mountain View Agape Church
506 Sparrow Springs Road
704-739-0160

Mt. Olive Baptist Church
Compact School Road
704-739-4516

Mt. Zion Baptist Church
220 N. Watterson Street
704-739-8354

New Beginnings Church of Jesus Christ
541 Crocker Road
704-730-9507

New Bynum Chapel Zion Church
N. Cansler Street
704-739-2606

New Camp Creek Baptist Church
863 New Camp Creek Ch. Road
704-487-7128

New Life Family Worship Center
428 Oak Grove Road
704-739-9371

New Way Missionary Baptist Church
105 Waco Road
704-724-0414

Oak Grove Baptist Church
1022 Oak Grove Road
704-739-4833

Oak View Baptist Church
1517 York Road
704-739-7831

Pathway Baptist Church
3100 Parkdale Circle
704-734-0852

Patterson Grove Baptist Church
301 Oak Grove Road
704-739-5826

Peoples Baptist Church
1010 Groves Street
704-739-0398

Progressive Church of Our Lord
1001 Cleveland Avenue
704-734-1070

Resurrection Lutheran Church
600 Crescent Circle
704-739-5580

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church
201 N. Piedmont Avenue
704-739-7466

Second Baptist Church
120 Linwood Road
704-739-4216

Shady Grove Baptist Church
339 Shady Grove Road
704-739-8920

St. Paul United Methodist Church
N. Cansler Street
704-739-1256

Solid Rock Baptist Church
1908 Shelby Road
704-739-4186

Sunrise Baptist Church
208 Mail Road
704-692-3007

Temple Baptist Church
612 N. Cansler Street
704-739-4716

True Gospel Holiness Church
1608 Shelby Road
704-739-6764

Unity AME Zion Church
948 Unity Church Road
704-228-0328

Vestibule AME Zion Church
2175 Vestibule Church Road
704-739-7961

Westover Baptist Church
114 Westover Drive
704-739-2187

GASTONIA
Bethesda United Methodist Church
3714 S. New Hope Rd

Grace Community Advent Christian Church
206 West 3rd Avenue
704-739-9230

GROVER
Bethany Baptist Church
423 Cleveland Avenue
704-937-3010

Carolina Praise and Worship Center
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Proclaiming the Word Ministries
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Notice
In order to accommodate the number of churches in our communities, we will print two alternating lists of churches each week. If you don't see the church you're looking for, be sure to check next weeks paper.

First National Bank
Shelby
106 S. Lafayette St.
704-484-0222
Bessemer City
1225 Gastonia Hwy.
704-629-3906
Kings Mountain
300 W. Mountain St.
704-739-4781
Gastonia
529 S. New Hope Rd.
704-865-1111

YOUNG RV SALES
Hwy 74
@ Oak Grove Rd.
Kings Mountain,
North Carolina
704-734-0595

Worship & Praise

CGA
Christian G. Anderson, MD, PA
Board Certified in Internal Medicine
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502 West King Street
Suite 100
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Phone: 704-734-0576
Fax: 704-730-1712
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704-739-0193

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