

## MEDITATION

### 'Here I stand. I can do no other'

One name that holds a significant place in the history of Christianity is Martin Luther. There are many reasons for Luther's fame, but one of the most significant ones has to do with his response to a preacher named Johann Tetzel.

It started on All Saints' Eve in 1517, when Luther publicly objected to Tetzel's act of selling indulgences. Now indulgences were documents prepared by the Church, which were then bought by individuals either for themselves or on behalf of dead loved ones.

These documents represented the grace of God that was believed to be provided through the Church for the forgiveness for sins. In essence, Tetzel was playing on the people's fear by telling them that they could buy their way out of hell, and he poetically promised, "Once the coin into the coffer clings, a soul from purgatory heavenward springs!"

Martin Luther challenged this trafficking in indulgences and called for a public debate on this and many other issues when he went to Wittenberg and

### Meditation



Dr. Jeff Hensley  
Pastor  
Kings Mountain Baptist Church

ness?"

From this point forth, the Reformation quickly began to unfold. It was just two years later, during a public debate in Leipzig, that Luther announced that "a simple layman armed with the Scriptures" is superior to the Pope without them. For this belief that the Bible is superior to Church tradition Luther was threatened with excommunication.

Luther replied to that threat with his three most important treatises: "The Address to the Christian Nobility," "The Babylonian Captivity of the Church" and "On the Freedom of a Christian". In the first composition,

tacked his 95 theses on the church door. Those 95 theses then became a call for reform in the Church. This call to reform led to the questioning of the Church's authority. For example, Luther asked, "Does the Pope have the authority to sell forgive-

he spoke of the priesthood of the believer. In the second work, he said that the sacraments should be reduced from seven to two (Baptism and the Lord's Supper), and in the third book, he wrote of how Christians are free from the law (especially Church law) but called to love to their neighbors as themselves.

In 1521 Luther was called to an assembly at Worms, Germany, so that he might appear before Charles V, who was the Holy Roman Emperor. Luther arrived expecting another debate, but he quickly discovered that it was a trial instead, and that he was going to be asked to recant his views.

It was at this trial that Luther spoke those now famous words: "Unless I can be instructed and convinced with evidence from the Holy Scriptures... I cannot and will not recant." To which he then added, "Here I stand. I can do no other."

I wonder how our lives might change, if more believers were courageous enough to speak as openly for their faith as Martin Luther did. Perhaps more of us need to follow Luther's example, and say with love in our hearts: "Here I stand. I can do no other."

## CHURCH BRIEFS

### Sunday Cookin' at Bynum Chapel

In celebration of Black History Month, Bynum Chapel AME Zion Church will sponsor "Sunday Cookin'" on Sunday, Feb. 21, from 12 noon-4 p.m., dine in or carry out. Plates are \$8 per plate and \$4 for children under 12 years. The menu will feature fried/baked chicken and pigs feet with all the trimmings. Proceeds are earmarked for the building fund.

### Red and White Ball

The second annual Red and White Ball will be held Saturday, Feb. 13, from 7 p.m. until midnight at Bynum Chapel Family Life Center under sponsorship of Board of Evangelism. A prize will go to the best dressed couple and a rose for the first 25 ladies in attendance. Worship, fun, laughs, dancing and food will be featured. Tickets are donation \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door; proceeds benefit the church.

### Haiti survivor to speak Sunday

Michelle Remy, a survivor of the Haiti earthquake, will talk about how God spared her life for a purpose at Sunday morning worship services at 11 a.m. at Dixon Presbyterian Church on Dixon School Road.

Remy, 36, was born of missionary parents to Haiti and was working on the third floor of the Port-Au-Prince Capital Bank on Jan. 12 when the 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated Haiti's capital leaving staggering numbers dead and massive destruction.

Rev. Randy Patterson is pastor of the church.

# Fellowship & Faith



Featured Church of the Week:

## Cornerstone Church of God

### KINGS MOUNTAIN

Bethlehem Baptist Church  
1017 Bethlehem Road  
704-739-7487

Body of Christ Fellowship Center  
405 S. Cherokee St.  
www.bodyofchrist7.com

Boyce Memorial ARP Church  
Edgemont Drive  
704-739-4917

Burning Bush House of God  
310 Long Branch Rd (KM)  
704-739-2877

Calvary Way Holiness Church  
1017 Second Street  
Pastor Clifton Morgan

Carson Memorial Baptist Church  
262 Sparrow Springs Road  
704-739-2247

Central United Methodist Church  
113 S. Piedmont Avenue  
704-739-2471

Cherokee St. Baptist Church  
421 S. Cherokee Street  
704-739-7697

Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church  
618 Chestnut Ridge Road  
704-739-4015

Christian Freedom Southern Baptist Church  
246 Range Road  
704-739-4152

Christ The King Catholic Church  
714 Stone Street  
704-487-7697

Church at Kings Mountain  
108 E. Mountain St.  
(KM Women's Club Bldg.)  
704-739-1323

Cornerstone Church Of God  
202 Margrace Road  
704-739-3773

Cornerstone Independent Baptist  
107 Range Road  
704-737-0477

Crowders Mountain Baptist  
125 Mayberry Lane  
704-739-0310

David Baptist Church  
2300 David Baptist Church Road  
704-739-4555

Dixon Presbyterian Church  
602 Dixon School Road  
dixonpresbyterian.com

East Gold Street Wesleyan Church  
701 E. Gold Street  
704-739-3215

East Kings Mountain Church of God  
Hwy 161, Bessemer City/KM Hwy.  
704-739-7367

Eastside Baptist Church  
308 York Road  
704-739-8055

Ebenezer Baptist Church  
1621 County Line Road  
704-739-8331

El Bethel United Methodist Church  
122 El-bethel Road

704-739-9174  
Emmanuel Independent Baptist Church  
602 Canterbury Road  
704-739-9939

Faith Ablaze Church  
1128 S. York Road  
704-739-8496

Faith Baptist Church  
1009 Linwood Road  
704-739-8396

Faith Holiness Church  
Hwy. 161/Bessemer City Rd.  
704-739-1997

Family Worship Center  
1818 Shelby Road  
704-739-7206

First Baptist Church  
605 W. King Street  
704-739-3651

First Church of the Nazarene  
121 Countryside Road  
704-734-1143

First Presbyterian Church  
111 E. King Street  
704-739-8072

First Wesleyan Church  
505 N. Piedmont Avenue  
704-739-4266

Galilee United Methodist  
117 Galilee Church Road  
704-739-7011

Gospel Assembly Church  
202 S. Railroad Avenue  
704-739-5351

Good Hope Presbyterian Church  
105 N. Cansler Street  
704-739-1062

Grace Fellowship  
144 West Mountain Street  
704-481-8888

Grace United Methodist Church  
830 Church Street  
704-739-6000

Harvest Baptist Church  
144 Ware Road  
704-734-0714

Kings Mountain Baptist Church  
101 W. Mountain Street

704-739-2516 Kings Lighthouse  
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420 Branch Street  
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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.

We support our local churches.  
Compliments of  
**ARNOLD'S**  
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228 S. Washington St., Shelby  
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