

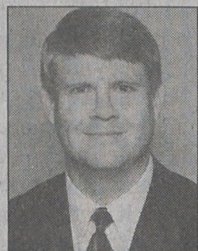
MEDITATION

Jim Kelsey was an Episcopal Bishop, who served as a denominational leader for twenty-seven congregations located in Northern Michigan. Seeing the changing landscape in so called "mainline" churches, Kelsey began to preach about the need for change.

"This is something I have found to be true without exception," Kelsey said, when any of us "focus on things in our lives that are passing away, we get scared, we get anxious, we get depressed, we lose hope;" but "when we focus on things that are being birthed and are coming newly into creation, we get excited, we get imaginative, we get optimistic, we feel drawn closer to one another, we feel as if we have meaning and purpose in this life, and we have joy."

In years past, when a baby was born, the mother was surrounded by doctors, nurses, midwives and others who were helping her through the ordeal, while the father had to wait with other well wishers until the news finally came that it was either a boy or a girl. I, for one, am grateful that this has

Meditation



Dr. Jeff Hensley
Pastor
Kings Mountain
Baptist Church

our three sons were born; hearing their first cries, holding them when they were so new and witnessing the miracle that is birth. It seems definite to me that allowing a new father to experience this wondrous event first hand deepens the joy and strengthens the connection that new parents have with their child.

Of course, Bishop Kelsey was talking about something much smaller than the birth of a child. He was talking about the new birth - or rebirth, that is - of a local church, and I think he had an im-

portant point, for it is clear that change is in the air in religious life in this country.

When I was in seminary, we were all taught about what has come to be known as "the seven last words" of a church. Those words are: We've never done it that way before." I think these words are true for all churches, regardless of their denomination, and I really think that the local churches that are able to thrive in ministry in the years to come will be those that have learned to stop living by these seven last words.

Now I can't say exactly how each church or believer may have to change, but I do believe that we are going to have to be open to change before change can happen. Furthermore, I believe Jim Kelsey was right about one thing: when we are involved with birthing something new - when we focus not on what we are losing but on what we are gaining - then we get excited, imaginative, optimistic, and are drawn together with other believers.

portant point, for it is clear that change is in the air in religious life in this country.

When I was in seminary, we were all taught about what has come to be known as "the seven last words" of a church. Those words are: We've never done it that way before." I think these words are true for all churches, regardless of their denomination, and I really think that the local churches that are able to thrive in ministry in the years to come will be those that have learned to stop living by these seven last words.

Now I can't say exactly how each church or believer may have to change, but I do believe that we are going to have to be open to change before change can happen. Furthermore, I believe Jim Kelsey was right about one thing: when we are involved with birthing something new - when we focus not on what we are losing but on what we are gaining - then we get excited, imaginative, optimistic, and are drawn together with other believers.

CHURCH BRIEFS

Gospel Singing Sunday

"The Heavenly Echoes" of Maiden will sing Sunday, April 18, at 6 p.m. at Carolina Praise & Worship Center, 201 N. Main St., in Grover. The public is invited.

Peoples Church May event

The Peoples Baptist Church will host a mother-daughter brunch Saturday, May 8, from 10 a.m.-12 noon. The cost is \$5 per person. The speaker for the semi-formal event will be Minister Maxine Degree from Jerusalem C. F. Church of God in Shelby. For more information contact Sister Fonda Houze at 704-739-0195.

Benefit breakfast Saturday

Grace United Methodist Church, 829 Cleveland Ave., will serve a country-style breakfast, all you can eat, Saturday, April 17, from 6 a.m.-10 a.m. for a donation of \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 7-12 (children under 12 eat free) and \$5 for senior citizens 60 and over. All proceeds benefit the building fund.

Chicken Pie supper

Dover Baptist Church, 1501 Polkville Rd, Shelby, will serve a chicken pie supper Saturday, April 24 from 5-7 p.m. Take-out or dine inside the fellowship hall. Donations will be accepted. Dr. Bulo Price, pastor, invites the public.

Church Yard Sale Saturday

Christian Freedom Baptist Church, 246 Range Rd., will hold a car wash and bake sale Saturday, April 17, from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Proceeds benefit the church. The public is invited.

Fellowship & Faith



Featured Church of the Week:

David Baptist Church

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
201 N. Main Street
704-937-7541

Proclaiming the Word Ministries
7011 Cleveland Avenue
704-937-7390

Kerns Trucking, Inc.
You Call We Haul
704-739-4747

Laughlin Furniture
For All Furniture Needs
400 N. Lafayette St.,
Shelby, North Carolina
704-484-3204

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

CGA
Christian G. Anderson, MD, PA
Board Certified in Internal Medicine
Internal Medicine and Primary Care
502 West King Street
Suite 100
Kings Mountain, NC 28086
Phone: 704-734-0576
Fax: 704-730-1712
E-Mail: ANDERSONCG@AOL.COM

Amity Finance
(704)
739-1311

PLONK
Tire Inc.
227 S. Cherokee St.
Kings Mountain
704-739-0193

Dilling Heating Co.
PREMIER DEALER™
LENNOX
HOME COMFORT SYSTEMS
1250 Linwood Rd. • Kings Mountain
704-739-3446
Mobile: 704-297-0397

SHELBY ALARM CO.
Kenny Spangler
President
704-482-9896
2408 Kings Road
Shelby, NC
Locally Owned and Operated
www.shelbyalarm.com
Security & Surveillance Systems
Specialists for 32 years

C&C Heating & Cooling, LLC
Sales ~ Service
Installation
Bobby Childers - Owner
NC License #9507
704-739-1043
502 York Rd., Kings Mtn.

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

Griffin Drug Center
"Serving Kings Mountain Since 1919"
Friendly Hometown Service
"Free City-Wide Delivery"
704-739-4721
129 Mountain St.,
Kings Mountain

We support our local churches.
Compliments of
ARNOLD'S
Jewelry & Gift Gallery
228 S. Washington St., Shelby
arnoldsjewelry.com

AUTO BELL CAR WASH
704-481-0818
Shelby, NC
Also in Gastonia

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.

Taking care of all your insurance needs
KEITH BRADLEY LUTCF
704.739.4182
bradleyinsuranceservices@earthlink.net