

# MEDITATION

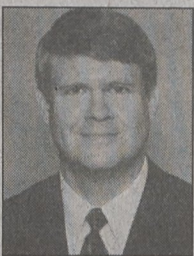
We are living in difficult days. Many in our world today are hungry and hurting. Jobs have been lost, relationships have been severed and hearts broken; and I suspect that there are times when all of us wonder if it is worth it to go on living. Unfortunately, tough times are like smog that clouds our view, for when we are hurting we fail to see our blessings. I read a poetic and poignant story this week that I think all of us need read, and here it is:

"The park bench was deserted as I sat down to read beneath the long, straggly branches of an old willow tree. Disillusioned by life and with good reason to frown, for the world was intent on dragging me down. And if that weren't enough to ruin my day, a young boy out of breath approached me, all tired from play. He stood right before me with his head tilted down and said with great excitement, 'Look what I found!'

In his hand was a flower, and what a pitiful sight, with its petals all worn, not enough rain, or too little light. Wanting him to take his dead flower and go off to play, I faked a small smile and then shifted away. But instead of retreating he sat next to my side and placed the flower to his nose and declared with overacted surprise, 'It sure smells pretty and it's beautiful, too. That's why I picked it; here it's for you.'

The weed before me was dying or dead. Not vibrant of colors, orange, yellow or red. But I knew I must take it, or he might never leave, so I reached for the flower, and

## Meditation



Dr. Jeff Hensley  
Pastor  
Kings Mountain Baptist Church

replied, 'Just what I need.' But instead of him placing the flower in my hand, he held it mid-air without reason or plan. It was then that I noticed for the very first time that this weed-toting boy could not see: he was blind.

I heard my voice quiver, and my tears shone like the sun as I thanked him for picking the very best one. You're welcome, he smiled, and then ran off to play, unaware of the impact he'd had on my day. I sat there and wondered how he managed to see a self-pitying woman beneath an old willow tree. How did he know of my self-indulged plight? Perhaps from his heart, he'd been blessed with true sight.

Through the eyes of a blind child, at last I could see the problem was not with the world; the problem was me. And for all of those times I myself had been blind, I vowed to see the beauty in life, and appreciate every second that's mine. Then I held

# CHURCH BRIEFS

## Y.E.S. Crusade

"The open door experience" is how TyVin McSwain describes the upcoming Y.E.S. Crusade coming to People's Baptist Church, 1010 Groves St., July 15-17. McSwain, president and founder of Young Adults Experiencing Success, said that the crusade will attract speakers each day and will culminate on Saturday with the Encounter Concert at 6 p.m. featuring a

that wilted flower up to my nose and breathed in the fragrance of a beautiful rose, and smiled as I watched that young boy, another weed in his hand about to change the life of an unsuspecting old man further down the path on his own park bench."

number of gospel singing groups. Pastor Rayshawn Terry of Charlotte will lead the Thursday 6:30 p.m. service, Pastor and Bishop Jarroon C. Williams of Atlanta, Ga. and Pastor Robert William of Gastonia will lead the 6:30 p.m. service Friday. On Saturday at 12 noon the speaker will be Pastor Tarsha Jefferson of Columbia, SC.

## Breaking Curses

Kingdom Life Covenant Ministries will present the program "Breaking Generational Curses" Saturday July 17 at 3 p.m. Messenger will be Apostle Cruceta Jeffers.

Come out and learned to walk fully in freedom. We are located at 114 South Railroad Avenue Kings Mountain. For more information contact 704-466-5279.

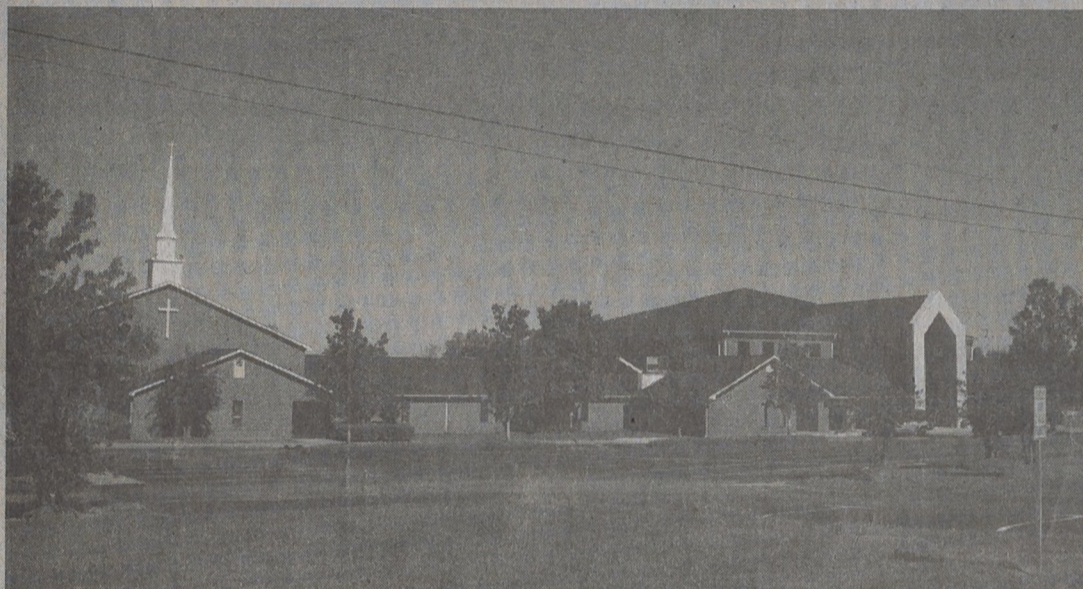
## Christmas in July

Boyce Memorial ARP Church, 111 Edgemont Dr., will sponsor and host a Christmas yard sale on Saturday, July 24 beginning at 7 a.m. Proceeds from this yard sale will go to Kings Mountain Crisis Ministry. A great opportunity support the community and to get a head start on Christmas, items for sale will include ornaments, linens, decorations and maybe even a tree or two.

## Bible School

"Gem Mining for God's Treasures" is the theme of Vacation Bible School July 25-30 from 6-8:30 p.m. at Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church, 618 Chestnut Ridge Road. The gem mining sluice will be in operation nightly Saturday through Thursday of Bible School week.

# Fellowship & Faith



Featured Church of the Week:

## Family Worship Center

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 Worship Center  
420 Branch Street  
704-739-7700

## Griffin Drug Center

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Bessemer City  
1225 Gastonia Hwy.  
704-629-3900  
Kings Mountain  
300 W. Mountain St.  
704-739-4781  
Gastonia  
529 S. New Hope Rd.  
704-865-1111

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**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

**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.

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