

MEDITATION

Meditation



Dr. Jeff Hensley
Pastor
Kings Mountain
Baptist Church

Most Christians know what we mean by the phrase "personal testimony."

These two words conjure up images of people standing before a congregation and telling the story of how they came to faith in Jesus Christ. This personal story is what we are talking about when we say "personal testimony," and the act of presenting a personal testimony in public is often called "testifying."

I was always taught that a personal testimony should tell people three things: (1) what your life was like before you learned about Jesus, (2) how you came to know about Jesus, and (3) what has been different in your life since you professed faith in Jesus. Like many members of Christian churches these days, I was raised by parents who took me to church when I was still an infant and so it is fair to say that I have been "raised in the church."

Personal testimonies are sometimes filled with stories of hurt and suffering as well, for most church-goers have heard people testify of how their life before Christ was characterized by various addictions and other forms of harmful behavior, yet the real point of every testimony is to say that Jesus has changed us. For some the change has been dramatic, while for others it has been less so. No matter what the specifics of the story are,

though, three very important themes are often heard: (1) our salvation is in essence an eternal relationship with God that has been given to us by grace, (2) this relationship has brought hope and fulfillment to us, and (3) it is not merely about a state of being that has changed in us, but also about a process of growing that we have begun.

I think it is helpful for all believers to hear and celebrate the testimonies of other believers, for it seems that being reminded of the fact that we are all sinners and that our encounter with God is a gift of grace helps each of us to see ourselves more honestly as the sinners that we really are and helps us to be more forgiving and gracious toward others. Unfortunately, the quality of grace sometimes gets lost in all the conflicts that we have in our denominations and churches.

For example, I recall an occasion when a Baptist leader was brought before a body of other Baptists because they were angry about a book he had recently published. With great fanfare and hateful rhetoric they offered a resolution to censure this fellow believer and the vote passed by a two-to-one margin. On that same day, although the body as a whole did not know it, this man's twenty-nine-year-old son-in-law died suddenly of a brain tumor.

Believers who have been around for a while know that orthodox doctrine or right belief is indeed important, but I can't help but think that on that particular day of conflict, if that group of Baptists had known more about this man's testimony, including his childhood journey in faith and the challenges he was facing at the time, perhaps it would have been much more ready to act out of grace than condemnation.

Taylor completes Ministry degree

Bethlehem Baptist Church Pastor Rev. Stephen L. Taylor has completed his studies at The Masters Seminary and has attained his Doctor of Ministry degree.

Graduation ceremonies were held on the campus on May 15 and the Bethlehem congregation honored him at a luncheon May 22 immediately following the morning worship service.

Dr. Taylor became Bethlehem's pastor two years ago. He is married to Tois Roach, formerly of Shelby. Their daughter, Whitney, is a nursing student at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.

18 from 10 a.m. until in the parking lot of East Gold Street Wesleyan Church, 701 E. Gold Street. Donations will be accepted for the car wash. All proceeds will fund the Sports Ministry Department.

The Gathering at Peoples June 20-22

"The Gathering" will be held at Peoples Baptist Church, 1010 Groves St., June 20-22 at 7 p.m. nightly. Pastor John Houze invites the public to worship with the local congregation Monday-Wednesday. "A time to celebrate our faith and honor our Father."

Bible School

Vacation Bible School will begin Sat., June 25, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. with registration at 8:30 a.m. at People's Baptist Church. Plan on a full day learning about Jesus with a little fun on the side, says Pastor John Houze.

Women of Faith

The Women Ministry of People Baptist Church, 1010 Groves St., invites the public to come and fellowship with them as they celebrate the Women of Faith, Sunday, June 26 at 5 p.m. The church has six powerful women of faith to honor.

East Gold Street Wesleyan fundraiser set for Saturday

East Gold Street Wesleyan Church invites the public to a free car wash and hot dog sale Saturday, June

Come with sandals on...
Jesus wore sandals too!
NEW Praise & Worship Service
Sundays at 9am
Hephzibah Church
1911 Hephzibah Church Rd.
704-435-1535
Praise Music ~ Fellowship
Coffee & Donuts before the service

Fellowship & Faith



Featured Church of the Week:
Love Valley Baptist Church

KINGS MOUNTAIN
Advent Lutheran Church
KM Senior Center
909 E. Kings St.

Arise Church
American Legion Hall
613 E. Gold Street

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 Worship Center
420 Branch Street
704-739-7700

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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.