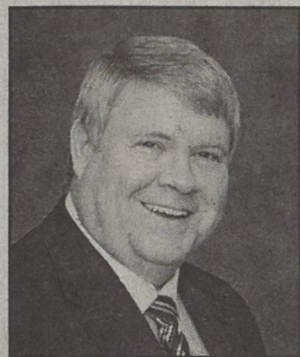


MEDITATION



Dr. Jeff Hensley
Pastor
Kings Mountain
Baptist Church

I grew up hearing about a number of great evangelists of a previous generation. One was a British evangelist named Rodney Smith, who was known to me by the name of "Gypsy" Smith. Influenced by his father, Ira Sankey, and by an encounter with John Bunyan, the famed author of "A Pilgrim's Progress," Smith was converted at the youthful age of 16.

Young Gypsy taught himself to read and write and began to practice preaching, and was

Standing on the shoulders of believers

known for singing hymns to folks – a quality of his personality that led to his becoming known as the "singing gypsy boy." In the 1870s Smith became an evangelist with the Christian Mission (later known as the Salvation Army) having been noticed by William Booth.

Another evangelist who was often mentioned in the sermons of my youth was a man named Mordecai Ham, who was an Independent Baptist evangelist and began his ministry with a radio broadcast. Having descended from eight generations of Baptist ministers, Ham reportedly claimed that from the age of eight years he had never thought of himself as anything other than a Christian.

At the tender age of nine he had already begun to experience the sense that God was calling him into the ministry. Although Ham was significant in his own right, I suspect the one reason why he was lifted up to me as an example was because of his

connection to Billy Graham.

It was the 1930s and young Billy's parents had attended one of Mordecai Ham's meetings. The preaching of Ham was so significant for them that Billy's father claimed that Dr. Ham's meetings opened his eyes to the truth. Despite his parents excitement, Billy did not want anything to do with someone known as an "evangelist," and so he refused to go.

Yet he later read in the Charlotte News of Ham's charge that there were immoral conditions in the local schools, and Billy realized that this man might just know what he was talking about. The news report led to the plans of some students planning to demonstrate at the evangelist's meetings, and it was this assertiveness on Ham's part that attracted Billy, for he liked a "fighter," who would stand up for what he believed in.

Ham's preaching so attracted Billy Graham that he felt as if he was hearing a voice other

than Ham's – the voice of the Holy Spirit – and it drew Billy like a magnet so that even all of his father's mules and horses could not prevent him from attending every meeting. What dawned on Graham during those weeks was "the miserable realization" that he did not know Jesus Christ for himself, and this led to his conversion experience and personal transformation.

Growing up in the mountains of Western North Carolina, these were the kind of men who were often held up to me as models of Christian ministry. Although many things have changed over the years, and my own ministry has traveled in different directions, I thank God for the treasury of ministry that has been passed down to me.

It is certainly true that we all stand on the shoulders of believers who have gone before, and it is a joy to know that we have the chance to pass this on to younger generations.

BRIEFS

Chestangs to sing Sunday at Pathway

The Chestangs, a Bluegrass gospel singing group from McIntosh, Alabama, will sing at Pathway Baptist Church Sunday, Aug. 26, at 11 a.m. Pastor James Hamrick invites the public.

Fundraiser for Crisis Ministry Aug. 24-26

A fundraiser for the Kings Mountain Crisis Ministry will be held Aug. 24-26 at Ingles on Shelby Road from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Boar's Head hotdogs and drinks will be available to the public with all proceeds to the KM Crisis Ministry.

Senior Open Mic Night

August 24, 2012 at 6 p.m the Gaston County Senior Center will host an Open Mic Night. Come out and show off your vocal talents. For more information contact Gaston County Parks & Recreation Senior Center at 704-922-2170 or visit the County's website at www.gastongov.com.

Fellowship & Faith

Church Service Directory

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

Proclaiming the Word Ministries
7011 Cleveland Avenue

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

Resurrection Lutheran Church
600 Crescent Circle
704-739-5580

Royal Praise Ministries
2055 Shelby Rd.

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



Featured Church of the Week: Love Valley Baptist Church

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

Sunrise Baptist Church
208 Mail Road
704-692-3007

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

The Favor Center Church
602 Slater Street

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

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

First Apostolic Church of Blacksburg
205 E. Cherokee St.
Blacksburg, SC704-937-7390864-839-1873

WACO
New Testament Missionary Baptist Church

Notice: In order to accommodate the number of churches in our communities, we will print two alternating lists of churches each week. You don't see the church you're looking for, be sure to check next weeks paper.

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