

McInnis says people rule at his church

From the Pastor's Desk

By MARGERY WRIGHT
Herald Special Writer



THE REV. TERRY McINNIS
...Cumnock Baptist Church pastor

Guadalupe in the French West Indies with Garner. They helped build a house for a missionary.

After his return from Guadalupe, McInnis was called for several preaching engagements. He took a job with Williams and Works last summer, and in the fall he started at Campbell College while still keeping active in his own church at East Sanford Baptist. Then one night he had a phone call asking him to preach at Cumnock where a Sunday School met.

It was through his preaching at Cumnock that a group of the people wanted McInnis for their pastor and agreed to be a part of the Southern Baptist Convention.

McInnis believes that a Southern Baptist church "is the most independent Baptist church there is, as far as the people rule — the pastor does not rule. The people rule; and that's the way I like it."

The Cumnock Baptist Church was organized with 13 people the third week in March of this year. McInnis expressed appreciation to Harvey Kennedy. "He's at St. Luke United Methodist Church. He owned some property out there and a building, and he said that he wanted to help us all he could. He just wanted to serve the Lord. So he let us use his building."

The Rev. Terry McInnis is the pastor of a new church in the Cumnock community, Cumnock Baptist Church.

McInnis' wife, Ronda, is a teacher's aide at McIver School. He said that she does chalk art for children's programs at church. They have two children, Candice, 6, and Kyle, 5.

"I accepted Christ when I was 22," McInnis said, "and at that time Ronda and I started working with the young people at East Sanford Baptist Church. At times when they didn't have a youth director, we'd fill in for them. We enjoyed that, and we had quite an active group."

"Then," he said, "I decided I wanted to try farming." He was also employed at the Department of Transportation.

"I don't know how I thought the Lord could use me in farming, but I wanted to farm. So, I prayed about it, sold everything I had and went into farming. I stayed in farming three years and lost every dime we had. Every piece of property we had — we lost it!"

McInnis said that his wife kept telling him that God was calling him into the ministry "because she said I had a special talent with the young people and to be a preacher. And she said that she felt like I could preach. So we prayed about it, and we talked about it. I said 'There's no way I can go into the ministry; I've lost everything I had, and there's no way I can even pay the people back.' That was in the fall of 1977."

He said that they continued to pray about it, and he talked to several people, such as Agnes Phillips and the Rev. Pardue, who was at East Sanford Baptist at that time. McInnis said he found that they felt the same way as his wife did about his going into the ministry.

He prayed some more and made the decision to wait one year. If he still felt the same at that time, he would go into the ministry.

He continued working at the Department of Transportation, where he had been for 10 years.

He related, "In May of 1978, we were coming home from church, and we had a car accident. This provided us with enough money to pay off some more things and get us a little more financially secure so that we could maybe venture into an education for me." That was when Ronda went to work as a teacher's aide.

That summer, McInnis gave a two-month notice at his job. "I told my resident engineer of my plans. He and I talked about it some more — Ken Funderburk. We talked about it in depth."

"That fall," McInnis continued, "I started at C.C.T.C. and took one year there because they offer a good education and at a good price. Hubert Garner, the dean, helped me tremendously. He's a wonderful person."

"The next spring, around May 23, I had the chance to work on the mission field." He went to

McInnis is very pleased with the progress that has been made at the church. "People said that this would never be done and said we couldn't do it. And they're right!" he declared. "But Jesus Christ can do whatever He wants to do, and He has done. He has blessed us greatly."

McInnis said, "We just love the Lord, and I preach the Bible. I believe it word for word. Our main purpose is to save souls; it's to introduce people to Jesus Christ and lead them into a life of Christian fellowship with us."

McInnis said that their morning service includes a children's sermon. "They all gather together around the front."

McInnis praised the people of his church for their support and help in preparing the building for services. "We needed a piano, and Mrs. Worth Mason Sr. donated money to buy a piano," he said.

"The Lord is in the church too much for it to fail," McInnis declared. "But we need a piece of property to build on. We need pews. We're needing other things, and right now we're needing financial help."

"We're supporting ourselves," he added, "but we really need all we can get. We need music. We're borrowing some from East Sanford Baptist."

Another person whom McInnis mentioned as being a "great help" to them is the Rev. Ernest Davis, their associational missionary. "He's helped us form this thing. Of course, the Rev. James McGee from East Sanford Baptist helped me get some materials out, helped me get our constitution written up and different things. He's been a wonderful help."

He also expressed appreciation for the Rev. Thomas Barnes at Lemon Springs Baptist Church for his help. And, proudly, he thanked his father, H. A. McInnis of Sanford, who was and is a great help to him. "He is tremendous and supportive as a father," he said.

McInnis said that the biggest thing that he is trying to lead his people into is mission work and the cooperative program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Our ministry is family-wide." He is also concerned that his family be a part of his ministry. "I don't leave them out. They're a part of this ministry. The people at Cumnock have been very gracious to us."

"We're expecting great things to happen. We believe they will."

The McInnises reside at 405 N. Vance St. with Mrs. McInnis' mother, Grace Mason.

Services at Cumnock Baptist Church are as follows: Sunday School — 10 a.m.; Worship — 11 a.m.; Evening — 7 p.m. The Youth meet Mondays at 6:30-8:30 p.m. for Bible study, recreation, and music. Visitation is held Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

TERRY McINNIS is one of our own having been born in Sanford in 1948 and later marrying a Sanford girl, Ronda Mason. This couple has two children. After accepting Christ at East Sanford Baptist Church, he worked with the youth for about eight years. Rev. McInnis left his work with the N. C. Department of Transportation on surrendering his life to full-time pastoral ministry at age thirty. At present he is a junior at Campbell University and a full time pastor at the newly formed Cumnock Baptist Church. Terry enjoys playing both the harmonica and guitar, but finds little time for both.

SANDY CREEK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION MINUTES, 1981

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A10

Pastors named

McCotter Boulevard Baptist Church of Havelock will commission the ministries of two new pastors in a special installation service Sunday. The Rev. Terry McInnis was called to be the new senior pastor, and the Rev. Pil Song Yi, the associate pastor of McCotter Boulevard Church and pastor of the Havelock Korean Baptist Church, a mission church of McCotter Boulevard Church which meets in its facility.

The Rev. McInnis, of Sanford, is 47 and has been in the pastoral ministry since 1980. He began his ministry by helping to found and becoming the first pastor of Cumnock Baptist Church near his hometown. He served there until 1989, when he was called to pastor the Atlantic Missionary Baptist Church. He has served in Carteret County for the past seven years.

He and his wife, Ronda, and their son, Jon, are moving to Havelock. Their daughter, Candace, was married last year and lives at Cedar Island.

The Rev. Pil Song Yi, a 38-year-old native of South Korea, comes from Honolulu, Hawaii. He was ordained as a minister in 1989 and has served in several position is in Hawaii since. Most recently, he served as the pastor of the Maui First Korean Baptist Church. He and his wife, Sunny, and their children, Daniel and Samuel, are moving to Havelock.

Both pastors will be honored at a special bilingual service involving both congregations, beginning at 11 a.m. Sunday at the church. Also taking part in the service will be the Rev. Keith Hamilton, director of

missions for the Atlantic Baptist Association, and the Rev. Sei Hun Kim, of the Language Ministries Department of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

After the service, guests are invited to take part in a covered-dish dinner on the grounds.

Carolina

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A10

Two new pastors to be installed Sun. at McCotter Baptist

On Sunday, March 10, McCotter Boulevard Baptist Church will commission the ministries of two new pastors of the church in a special installation service.

Rev. Terry McInnis was called to be the new Senior Pastor of McCotter Blvd. Baptist Church.

Rev. Pil Song Yi was called to be Associate Pastor of McCotter Blvd. Baptist Church as well as Pastor of Havelock Korean Baptist Church, a mission church of McCotter Blvd. that meets in their facility.

Rev. Terry McInnis of Sanford, N.C. is 47 years old and has been in the pastoral ministry since 1980.

He began his ministry by helping to found and becoming the first Pastor of Cumnock Baptist Church near his home town.

He served there until 1989 when he was called to be the Pastor of the Atlantic Missionary Baptist Church in Carteret County. He has served there for the past seven years.

Reverend McInnis comes to Havelock with his wife Ronda and their son, Jon. His daughter, Candace was married last

year and resides on Cedar Island.

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Both pastors will be honored in a special, bi-lingual service involving both congregations, beginning at 11 a.m., Sunday, March 10, at McCotter Blvd. Baptist Church located at 103 McCotter Blvd. across from Hancock Housing.

Also involved in the installation service will be Rev. Keith Hamilton, Director of Mission, Atlantic Baptist Association; and Rev. Sei Hun Kim, of the Language Ministries Department of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Following the service the church is having a potluck dinner on the grounds.

The entire community is invited to this special celebration.