



Rev. Weekley

Pleasant Grove Plans Revival

The Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Cove Road, Rutherfordton, will have their annual revival July 11 - 18 at 7:45 each evening with Rev. Gordon Weekley, pastor of Providence Baptist Church, Charlotte, doing the preaching.

Mrs. J. F. Alewine, minister of music at First Methodist Church, Rutherfordton, will direct the music.

Rev. Weeks is a native of Atlanta, Ga., received his formal education from Public Schools in Atlanta; graduate of Furman University and Southern Baptist Seminary.

He has been president of Furman Alumni Association, is serving on Board of Trustees, Wingate College and has served on Board of Trustees, Gardner Webb College.

Weekley became pastor of Providence on Jan. 1, 1955, going from First Baptist Church, Kings Mountain. Under his leadership the church has grown from 88 charter members to 1,049 and 1,146 enrolled in Sunday School, weekly budget of \$2,8055.

He has traveled extensively having toured Ireland, England, Germany, Switzerland, Nigeria, West Africa, Southern Rhodesia, Tanganyika, Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa, Egypt, Jerusalem, Italy and Spain.

Courier Times
Rutherfordton: Rutherford Co. News
Scotland Neck Commonwealth
Selma: Johnstonian-Sun
Shallotte: Brunswick Beacon
Shelby: Cleveland Times
Siler City: Chatham News
Smithfield Herald
Snow Hill: Greene Co. Ledger
Southern Pines Pilot
Southport: State Port Pilot

B.F.

[Signature]
JUL 7 1965



Rev. Gordon Weekley
... Resigns

Providence Baptist Pastor Quits

Rev. Gordon Weekley, who has served as pastor of Providence Baptist Church since Jan. 1, 1955, resigned Sunday.

Weekley's letter of resignation was read by Herman Kissiah, chairman of the board of deacons, and was accepted "with regret" by the members, Kissiah said.

Weekley is the only pastor the church — founded in the fall of 1954 — has ever had, Kissiah said.

He came to Charlotte from Kings Mountain.

Weekley announced no immediate plans.

Church members noted that during Weekley's ministry:

—The church grew to its present total of 1,132 members.

—Two building programs valued at a total of more than \$425,000 were completed. One building is a temporary sanctuary.

—A total of \$1,485,000 was given for a variety of causes.

—Assistance from members and gifts from the congregation helped to organize Carmel Baptist Church.

~~Burlington Times-News~~

Charlotte News

Charlotte Observer

Concord Tribune

Dunn Record

Durham Herald

Durham Sun

Elizabeth City Advance

Fayetteville Observer

Gastonia Gazette

Goldsboro News-Argus

Greensboro Daily News

Greensboro Record

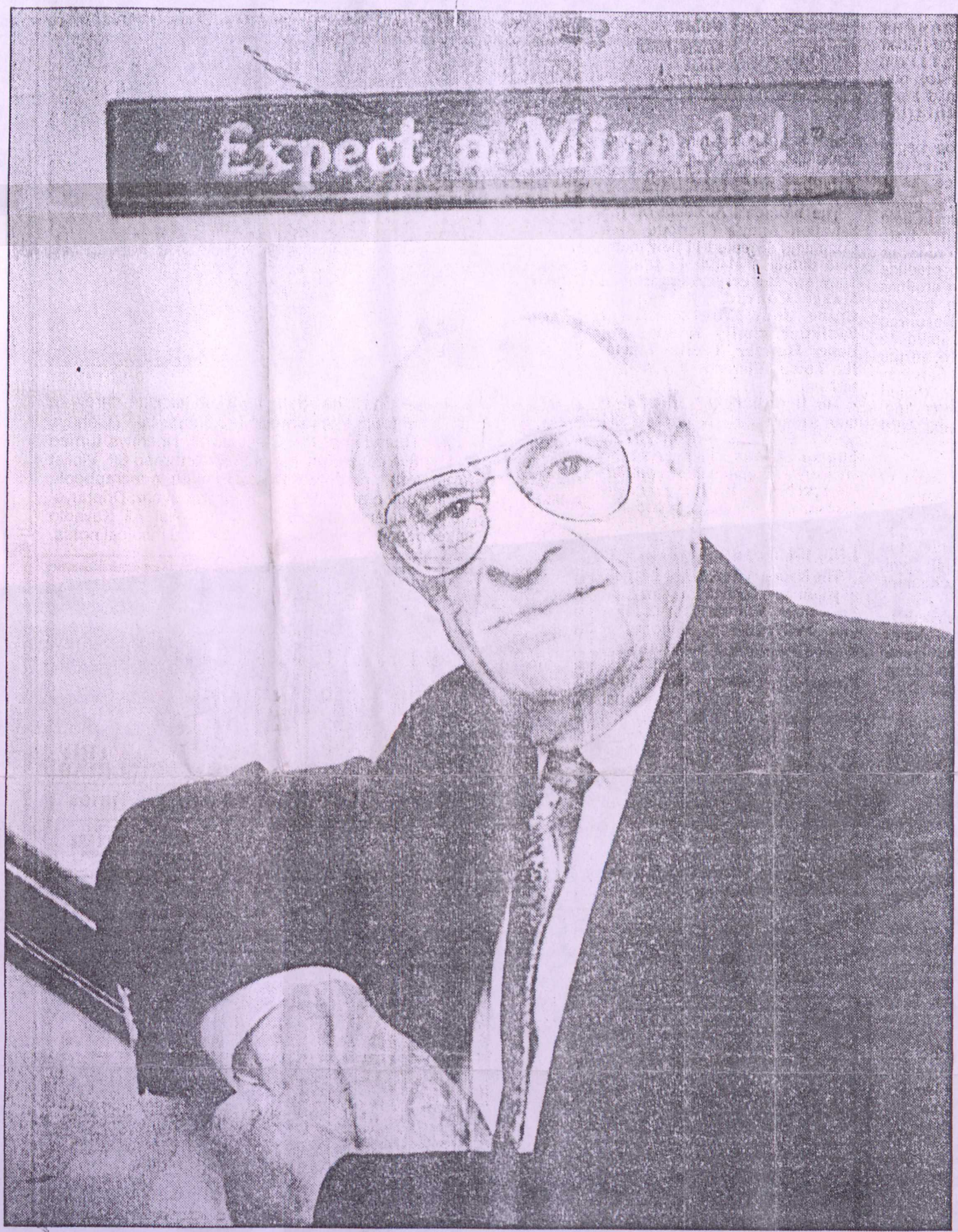
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Rev. Gordon Weekley
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TOM FRANKLIN/Staff

Spreading the word: "My life is a ministry of talking about this experience," says the Rev. Gordon Weekley, subject of a new book about his drug addiction. "Maybe somebody reading this will quit denial and go for help."

By **DANNYE ROMINE**
Book Editor

Even today, the Rev. Gordon Weekley refers to the night of Sept. 4, 1976, as That Night.

Capital T, he says. Capital N. That night, Weekley, the first pastor of Charlotte's Providence Baptist Church, finally surrendered his addiction to the prescription drugs Doriden and Dexamyl.

Drugs Gordon Weekley, now 70, once referred to his as "little friends" — one for sleep, one for energy.

Drugs he finagled from doctors all over the Carolinas. ("Doctor, I'm a minister away from home. I've forgotten my shaving kit with medications in it. If you could just write me a prescription . . .")

Pills that had held him in their euphoric but tortuous grip for 18 years — through 12 years in the pulpit, then through treatment centers, halfway houses, Broughton Psychiatric Hospital in Morganton and \$5-a-night flophouses in uptown Charlotte.

Weekley's long, dramatic journey through that addiction — and his eventual recovery — is chronicled in a new book by Charlotte advertiser Don Jeffries, a teenager and Providence Baptist member in the 1960s when Weekley headed the church on Randolph Road.

The book, "There Is No Balm in Gilead: A Baptist Minister's Personal Journey Through Drug Addiction" (August House, \$19.95), is already creating a stir.

■ Reader's Digest bought rights to the book for its June Condensed Book section.

■ The Rev. Grady Faulk of Pineville's Stough Memorial Baptist Church told his congregation — Weekley and his four sons were visiting the church that Sunday — he read the book with a box of Kleenex at hand. He called Weekley's story "the prodigal story in reverse" — sons welcom-

From pills to peace

A new book chronicles a Charlotte minister's journey through addiction

ing an errant father back into the fold.

■ Billy Graham, in a blurb on the book's jacket, called it an "unforgettable testimony."

'Raised to make it'

Gordon Weekley was born to excel. An only child until age 10, he was the center of a devout Atlanta Baptist family — mother, father, paternal grandparents. He wasn't allowed to dance or to play cards.

As he studied late into the night, his grandmother would often come into his room.

"Study hard," she'd say. "Be like your daddy. Graduate at the top of your class."

Weekley not only graduated at the top of his class at Boys High. He won the prestigious H.O. Smith scholarship, given

to a boy who demonstrated a "deep and abiding" search for knowledge and who lived an exemplary life.

He went on to graduate with honors from Furman University in Greenville, S.C., and from Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville.

"I was raised to make it," says Weekley today. "To be pleasing. To be successful. To be right."

A world changes

His pastorates took him to Masonboro, Kings Mountain and, finally, on Jan. 2, 1955, to the fledgling Providence Baptist, its members meeting at Eastover Elementary.

Over the next few years — with a wife and four sons and eventually a house and

16 acres on Country Lane — he took Providence's handful to 500. By spring, 1958, the congregation broke ground for a \$402,000 sanctuary.

Weekley was a minister, according to Jeffries, "who led by serving," on-call night and day for those who needed him.

No wonder he began to feel "jittery." No wonder he had trouble sleeping.

In August, 1958, Weekley told his friend and family physician, "Dr. John Doe," about his problems. "Dr. Doe" wrote Weekley a prescription for Doriden, a new "wonder drug," which he called "safe and nonaddictive."

It not only worked, it filled Gordon Weekley with euphoria.

"My whole world changed that first night I took that first Doriden," says Weekley today.

When the euphoria began to wane, he upped his dosage.

A year and a half later, he was countering the effects of Doriden with Dexamyl.

"Energy tinged with euphoria in the day," Jeffries writes. "Drowsiness tinged with euphoria in the evening. The circle was complete."

The pills were controlling Weekley, but Weekley deluded himself into believing he was controlling the pills.

At the bottom

After a few years on the pills, Gordon Weekley lost weight and concentration. He also lost his wife, his family, his friends and, in November, 1967, he was forced to resign his pastorate.

Still, he couldn't give up his beloved pills.

Not until That Night.

After being kicked out of treatment,

Please see **Minister**/page 12C



TOM FRANKLIN/Staff

"The addict is the last one to know it," the Rev. Gordon Weekley says. "When I said, 'I don't have a problem. I can lick it if I want to,' I meant it. I was fooled. Everybody knew it before I did."

Book chronicles journey from addiction to peace

Minister

Continued from page 9C

kicked out of the YMCA, kicked out of life, Weekley went to live at the Christian Rehabilitation Center near downtown Charlotte. He was still addicted to drugs — hiding his "little friends" in his room. But because of his experience in the pulpit, he'd been given the job of chaplain and counselor at the center.

Weekley began to cut down on his pills, and he was doing well enough to fall in love and marry. But he was still addicted, and he hid the pills from his wife.

One day, he was assisting the center's director, Bill Kauffman, with a funeral in Gastonia.

Weekley was so hung over on Doriden he slurred the closing prayer.

The next morning, Kauffman fired Weekley.

That night, Weekley fell on his knees in prayer.

"God," he said, "I can't handle it any more. I just can't handle it anymore. . . . Do with me what you will."

Then, without a pill, he crawled into bed — "exhausted, broken, humbled" — and fell immediately to sleep.

The next morning, Weekley knocked on Kauffman's door.

"I gave it over to God last night . . . the burden . . . admitted, finally, that I couldn't handle it. And when I woke up this morning, everything had changed."

Kauffman gave him another chance.

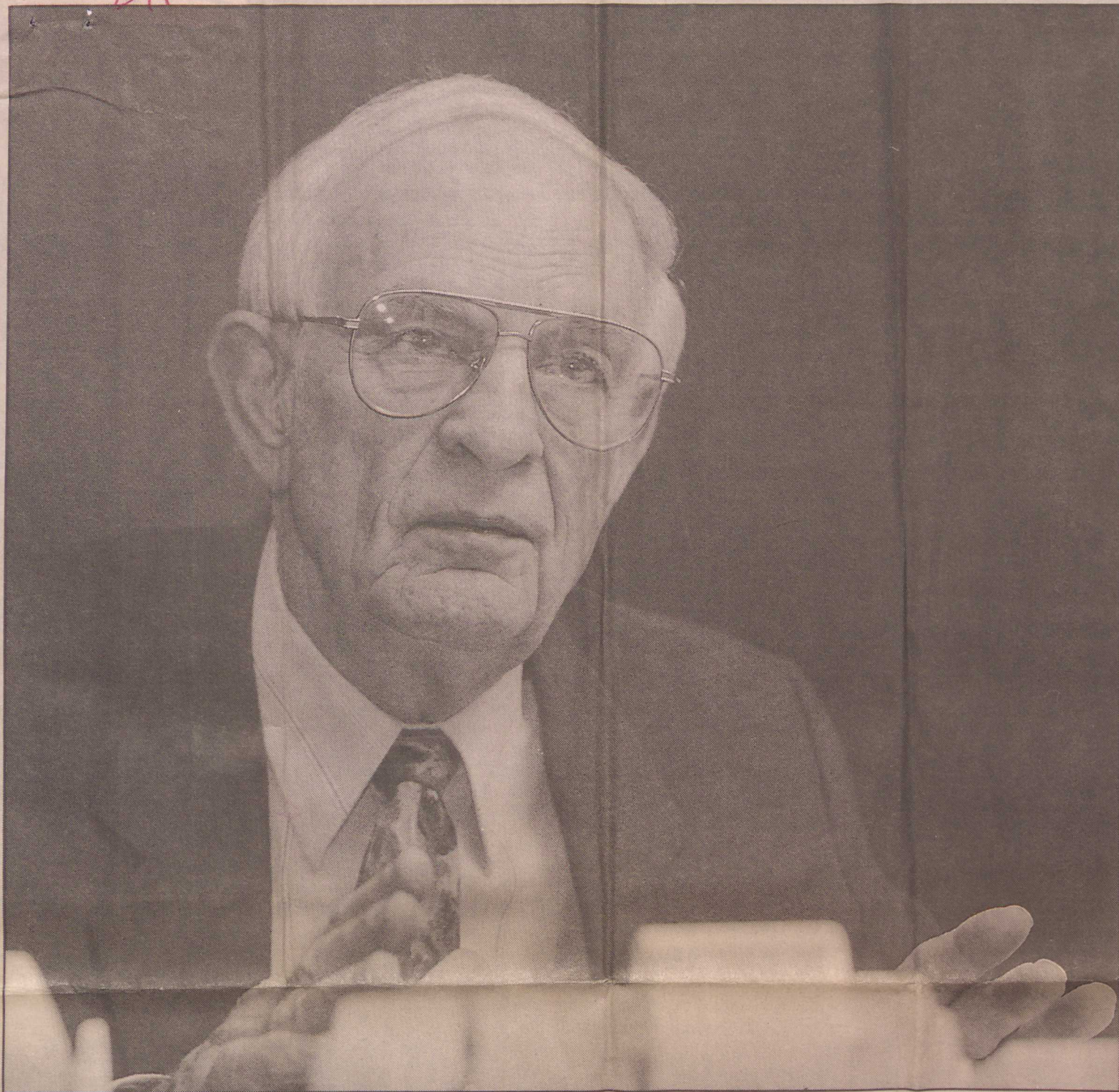
"In its own way," writes Jeffries, "addiction is a god, too, and delusion and denial the angels that guard its throne."

"After 18 years, Gordon Weekley got past the guards, confronted his adversary, and then did the one thing all addicts must do in the battle with addiction; he admitted he was powerless over it."

Within a year, a clean and sober Gordon Weekley became executive director of the center, later renamed Rebound, still a residential care and recovery program for the addicted and hurting.

"This is not my story," says Gordon Weekley today. "If it were my story, I'd be in the cemetery at Sharon Amity and Monroe Road. This is God's story."

JUN 20 92



John Clark/The Gazette

Gordon Weekley, who led Kings Mountain First Baptist Church from 1952-55.

A phoenix from the ashes

By Andrea Beam
Gazette Lifestyle Reporter

Gordon Weekley — make that the Rev. Gordon Weekley — had become quite an accomplished liar.

Not to the burgeoning Providence Baptist Church congregation, or to his wife and four sons, but to himself.

Gordon Weekley was an addict, although he'd never admit it. Every day was the same: He took a barbiturate to bring him down; an amphetamine to get him up.

It was OK, he told himself. After all, they were *prescription* drugs. And they were helping him do God's work.

This was the late 1950s and Weekley — now 70 years old — was a busy man. He had taken a scant congregation, nurtured it, worked with it, transformed it into one of Charlotte's largest. It added an extra Sunday morning service to handle a growing congregation that loved its preacher.

His wife and small sons didn't see him much. Church functions clamored for his time and then, his nerves.

So he asked a close friend, a doctor, what he could do to calm his "jitteriness." That first prescription, for a tranquilizer called Doriden, put Weekley on a rollercoaster ride to hell.

'Necessary' haze

Four years later, Doriden was an every day part of Weekley's life. The euphoria the drug produced was irresistibly necessary, he thought. But it was fuel for the

"I never gave up on surviving. I knew that someday I would return to life, but I just never thought that I would preach again."

The Rev. Gordon Weekley
Reverend who recovered from drug addiction

fire. By 1960, he and the church were so well-known that the Rev. Billy Graham invited him on a crusade to Africa.

On an overnight drive to Mt. Kilimanjaro, Weekley worried that he would not be able to stay awake. A missionary friend had the solution — another drug, called Dexamyl — an amphetamine used for weight control which would keep him alert.

If Doriden were the salve, then Dexamyl was the wound. Weekley took to its mood-elevating effects like a duck to water. He had something to fuel his work during the day and something to put him to bed at night.

Back in the States, he requested the drug from his doctor friend.

It wasn't long before the doctor friend was calling him. A nurse noticed how many prescriptions had been approved for Weekley.

Weekley, now skin and bones, went to the hospital. For months, he had refused

to eat, slurping only black coffee tinged with sugar. He feared food would hinder the Doriden's numbing bliss.

He went through minor withdrawal, gained some weight and was released. Providence Baptist Church welcomed its troubled preacher back to the pulpit.

A few months later, he was popping Dexamyl and Doriden for what he called "a reward."

It was the beginning of the end.

A weak spot

Nearly 20 years later, Weekley, a tall, lanky man, sits in a corner office of Rebound, a Charlotte drug rehabilitation center for men. It's not a dingy boarding room, but the executive director's office. And it's *his* office.

He flips through the June edition of Reader's Digest magazine, deep-set eyes darting between the lines. This year, Don Jeffries, a former parishioner, published his account of Weekley's story in "Balm in Gilead: A Baptist Minister's Personal Journey Through Drug Addiction."

Jeffries transcribed hours and hours of tape Weekley recorded, recounting the struggle with prescription drugs.

Reader's Digest condensed the book in its June edition.

"Any addict has a weak spot," says Weekley, whose soft voice is as smooth and gentle as silk. "The trouble is, well, is that they don't know it. And I didn't think

Please see PHOENIX/7B

PHOENIX

FROM 6B

I had a problem.

"It was like the two angels that guarded the trial — delusion and denial. I did have a problem, but I could quit anytime I wanted to. It was not like I had this massive dual life that I hid from others. I denied that my personality was even different, or that I wasn't functioning that well."

The insatiable need for the "high" turned a preacher into a liar, even a smuggler, he admits.

On a second Billy Graham crusade to South America two years after the first one, Weekley found Doriden sold over-the-counter. Delighted, he scooped up his secret booty — every bottle on the counter — purchased them, went back to his hotel room, fashioned a tube from his belt and later, "smuggled" his find back to the United States.

As his addiction deepened, there were desperate stops and starts — a merry-go-round life that took him through the 1960s. Early on, the congregation and deacons couldn't overlook his deteriorating health.

"I just shrugged it off," he says. "Hard work," I would tell them, and that was the end of it."

His wife later left him, taking their four sons with her. Then, after 13 years building Providence Baptist, he lost the church, succumbing to deacons' pressure. Weekley resigned voluntarily. He calls it "Black Friday" — a day in 1967 when he finally saw the gaunt, hollow man he had become in the mirror.

Eventually, he received treatment twice from Appalachian Hall in Asheville. He was committed by his sons three times to Broughton Mental Hospital. He collapsed in a halfway house in New Orleans.

The withdrawals were painful, but every time he was released the drugs lured him again.

He knew how to get them, too.

"It was quite easy," he says, explaining how he dodged the doctors who "cut him off." "You just get in your car and you were

always 'passing through town.' I'd find me a doctor's office in some outlying town.

"I am Reverend Weekley from Charlotte," he'd say to the unsuspecting doctor. "And I am traveling out of town on business. I just happened to leave my shaving kit at home, and well, I don't have my medications with me. Well, let me see here, I have some in my pocket, I am not quite sure what they are ... but this is what they look like."

"Why I know what they were — I could have spelled them backwards and upside down, spelled them in my sleep, but I was cunning, you see," he says. "I would take whole days off from work just to get prescriptions. I would go to Gastonia, Concord, Hickory as not to run out. I had it well figured out. I had to. I would go into a panic if I would see less than two pills left in my bottle."

A friend got him a job selling furniture in Charlotte, and Weekley — a man who once lived in one of the most affluent Charlotte neighborhoods — took a room at the YMCA. The job was short-lived, and for a while, the Rev. Weekley turned to the bottle.

His sons put him back in Broughton. When he was released, he returned to Charlotte to live in a run-down hotel room.

By 1973, the one-time president of the N.C. Baptist Pastors Conference was wandering Charlotte streets and popping pills.

A slip-up

In 1973, a man from his Billy Graham days urged Weekley to check into Rebound, a rehab center, spearheaded by Billy Graham's father, Frank. The center offered him counseling, room and board, a menial job in the laundry room and a salvage store.

Encouraged by the program's director, Weekley threw himself into the mission, working 16 hour days again. He felt good — until he slipped and popped a Doriden before a sermon.

Weekley's speech slurred; the

director fired him.

Cook and simmer

"I never gave up on surviving," Weekley said, pondering why he never gave up after so many stops and starts. "I knew that someday I would return to life, but I just never thought — after that — that I would preach again. My greatest error was underestimating God. It seems that after he had let me cook and simmer enough, he decided to take care of me."

The night after he was fired from Rebound, a member of the board of directors called him.

"Why don't you give your problem and yourself over to God?" he asked Gordon, who protested that he had prayed many times.

"Recommit," the man told him.

And so, the broken man, now in his fifties, collapsed to his bed and asked for God's help.

"The Jews have an expression, 'That Night,' which refers to the night of the Passover," he says. "Well, I had me a 'That Night' on Sept. 5, 1976. It had to be a divine encounter, because nothing in the world before then had ever worked."

"I have never been a man who goes around talking about miracles and glaring lights, but something happened. I told the Lord I could not go one step further. I could not handle it any longer."

Then, for the first time without a pill, Weekley slept soundly.

"I know now that I should have had all kinds of withdrawal that night," he says. "But the next day, when my body should have been screaming for this stuff, I was fine."

Doctors who later heard his story were surprised Weekley was even alive, much less escaping withdrawal. Weekley had been taking nearly eight Doridens a day — a lethal dose by physicians' accounts.

The next morning he went to the medicine cabinet by habit, but caught himself. He didn't want a pill and says he hasn't wanted one in 18 years. There were never any symptoms of withdrawal, either.

Clean, he was reinstated as Re-

bound's assistant chaplain.

Bounding back

Rebound is housed in what used to be the headquarters for Standard Oil, a dank brick building that sprawls across two blocks of a blighted area of Charlotte.

Supported through donations and proceeds from its store, Rebound gives other men — like Weekley — support to turn things around. At present the center is at capacity — 118 — with a waiting list almost as large.

In February, a similar home was opened for women, called "Dove's Nest," in Charlotte's Dilworth neighborhood.

"I believe God had a plan for me," says Weekley. "He knew when I got through with all my searchings and wanderings, I would come home to him. I don't think it would have happened any earlier than it did. I wasn't ready."

Now he counsels men like himself — men he had preached to years before — and men he did not understand at the time.

"I counsel my men one-on-one," Weekley says.

First, he baffles them a bit. He tells them he's boss, the big honcho, the director.

"Then I tell them I came here in shreds, just like them. I took bed number 38 in the basement, I cooked in the kitchen, I worked as a clerk in the bargain store. And what I mean to say by this is that Rebound works. The gospel works."

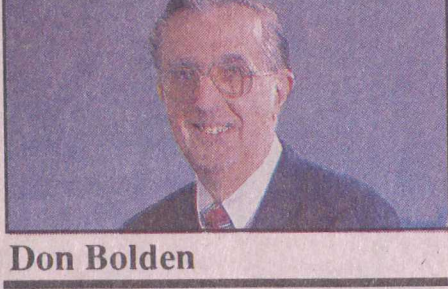
Gordon Weekley has found the "balm." It's a fitting name for his biography: the clergyman's cliché that springs from Jeremiah. "Is there no Balm in Gilead?" the chapter reads. "Is there no physician there?"

Weekley asks, "Was there no doctor somewhere who could help Gordon Weekley?"

"There was," he answers. "And it was God. After all, He is the greatest physician of all."

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Balm in Gilead: A Baptist Minister's Personal Journey Through Drug Addiction," by Don Jeffries, is published through August House Publishers and retails for \$19.95.



Don Bolden

Reverend battled his way back

He is tall, silver-haired and every bit the picture of a Baptist minister. Even in his later years, he still has the polished look of a man who once traveled with Billy Graham, who once pastored a major church in Charlotte, who lived in a huge house on 16 acres of land and who had a beautiful family.

What he doesn't look like is a drug addict who lost all those things and plunged into reclusiveness, into psychiatric hospitals, to halfway houses, into the streets and gutters of major cities across this country.

The Rev. Gordon Weekly is both those people. He indeed pastored a strong Baptist church that sent its own missionaries to foreign lands and grew at an astounding rate, becoming a major religious force in North Carolina's largest city. He was well known in the state Baptist convention. And he indeed became one of the most lost because of drugs.

No, he did not do cocaine or crack or any of the other things which today destroy so many lives. He did nothing illegal. He became addicted to prescription drugs — uppers, downers, "stuff" that was prescribed for his nervousness and insomnia.

Dexamyl, doriden . . . they were drugs to relieve problems, instead they destroyed Gordon Weekly's world.

His use of drugs started simply enough, but quickly he found he could not exist without them, and they finally took control of his life in very possible way. His problems became evident to everyone around him, but his family and his church stood with him in the hope that things could be turned around.

Finally in 1964, it became evident that was not going to happen. His wife left him, and he resigned his pastorate. And from that point, everything was down hill. He wandered the streets as a drug addict.

Weekly stood Thursday night before a meeting of the men of the Burlington District of the United Church of Christ, meeting at Elon College Community Church Parish House. He told of that fall from his lofty place in life, the loss of his church, his wife, his four sons.

And he told of that night in 1974 when he realized that all the shock treatments, all the therapy, all the hospital stays would never do the job. He needed something more. He sat on a bench in a Charlotte cemetery that night and prayed a two-word prayer — "God, help!"

He checked himself in at the Charlotte Rehabilitation Center in Charlotte and began the long road back. He had been under the control of drugs for 18 years, but now he was under the control of God.

Eventually, the director of the mission left for other work. About that time, the recovered Weekly had been offered the pastorate of a successful Baptist church. But he was offered the mission directorship as well, and he took that job, renaming the facility the Rebound Christian Rehabilitation Center.

The center is now the core of his life and the base of his operations as he goes about the country telling his story. That story is now a book — "Balm in Gilead" written by Don Jeffries, the son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. John Schmidt of Elon College. The book was printed in condensed form in the June issue of Readers Digest. Jeffries introduced Weekly on Thursday night.

Weekly says he has been reunited with his four sons, and he has remarried. His life now is spent in work for the center and in preaching all over the country, telling the story of his return from that cemetery in Charlotte 19 years ago to a useful, productive life.

How does he explain that return?

"Nothing but the grace of a providential God did this."

Don Bolden is executive editor of the Times-News. His column appears Sundays.

Weekley Will Tell Of Early Life, Drug Addiction, Recovery In Talk

Rev. H. Gordon Weekley will be speaking during the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Nov. 21, at Diamond Hill Baptist Church, 803 Sowers St.

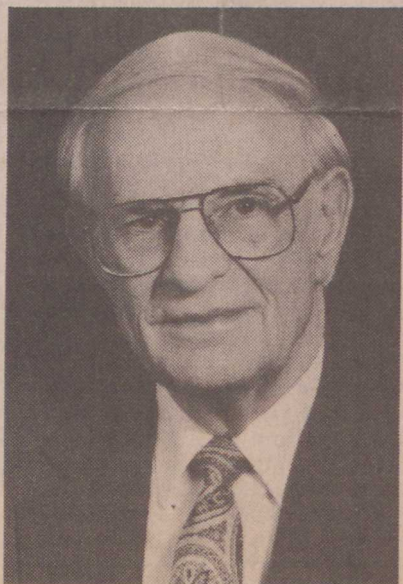
He is a native of Atlanta, Ga. With the aid of the H.O. Smith Scholarship, he attended Atlanta's Boys' High. He is a graduate of Furman University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree.

Mr. Weekley became principal of Simpsonville, S.C., High School and went on to five pastorates before becoming the first pastor of Providence Baptist Church in southeast Charlotte. He led Providence Baptist from 26 members to over 1,500. During his ministry he went on crusades with Billy Graham, was the president of the North Carolina Baptist Pastor's Conference, and a father to four sons.

Along the way, he became addicted to prescription drugs. During the 20-year addiction, he lost his wife, sons, church, and was in and out of hospitals, mental institutions and half-way houses. In 1973, he came to Christian Rehabilitation Center,

Inc., as a fallen minister addicted to prescription drugs.

Today, Mr. Weekley is the executive director of Christian Rehabilitation Center, Inc., a non-demoninational drug and alcohol recovery center. In 1937, Christian Rehabilitation, Inc., was founded as the Charlotte



REV. H. GORDON WEEKLEY

Rescue Mission by Christian laymen. Billy Graham's father, Frank Graham, was among those laymen. Over the years, the mission has been home to thousands of men that were alcoholics and addicts.

As a client at the mission, Gordon "experienced God" and the 20-year desire for drugs was erased. He became the assistant chaplain, chaplain, and, in 1977, the executive director. Under his leadership, the mission became known as Rebound and implemented a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program for 118 men. The free 90-day program led by a team of professionals include six-hours-a-day classroom curriculum; intense group therapy sessions; chapel worship; recreation. The success rate of 40 per cent completion compared to 18 per cent nationally may be due to clients being required to work on their GED while at Rebound.

In 1992, a women's center, named Dove's Nest, opened with a facility for 12 women. Christian Rehabilitation Center, Inc., is totally supported by individuals, businesses, churches and foun-

dations. It receives no state, federal or United Way funds.

Mr. Weekley is known throughout the Carolinas for his work with addicts. He is a

sought-after speaker. In 1992, a book was written by Don Jeffries about Mr. Weekley's journey. "Balm In Gilead" was then picked up by Reader' Digest in

June 1992. As a result of the condensed story in Readers' Digest, Rebound is getting clients from all over the United States and Canada.

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Aug. 19, at 12 noon at the Senior

²⁹¹
Rev. Weekley gets honorary degree from GWU

Rev. H. Gordon Weekley, a former pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist Church, received the honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs Saturday.

Weekley, who once sought treatment from the Rebound Christian Rehabilitation Center he now directs in Charlotte, delivered the summer commencement address to 200 graduates at the Baptist institution.

482-3488.

A former pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte, Weekley personally battled a 20-year drug addiction that is the subject of the 1992 book, "Balm In Gilead." A condensed version of the book, which appeared in Reader's Digest later that year, led a large number of substance abusers from across the United States and Canada to Rebound seeking spiritual and physical rehabilitation.

Special speaker to attend annual Baptist Men's Day

H. Gordon Weekley, renowned Charlotte area minister and former executive director of the Christian Rehabilitation Center in Charlotte, will speak at the 11 a.m. worship service Sunday, Jan. 26 at Badin Baptist Church, Badin, in observance of annual Baptist Men's Day.

Men of the church, approximately 20 voices strong, will comprise the church choir for the service. Kaye Wilder will be the organist.

Dr. Weekley earned his BA at Furman University and his Master of Divinity at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He served as pastor in California, Wilmington and Kings Mountain before coming to Charlotte in 1954 when Providence Baptist Church consisted only of 26 determined people, eight acres of empty land and a dream. During his 13 years there, the building program was completed, the church staff grew to 12 and membership increased to over 1,100.

His honors include Doctor of Humanities from Gardner Webb; Pastor Emeritus at Providence Baptist Church; Clergyman of the Community from the Religious Heritage Foundation of America and former president of the North Carolina Baptist Pastor's Conference.



H. Gordon Weekley

Four members of Badin Baptist Church, Joe and Belle Fesperman and Al and Louise Hill, were members of Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte while Dr. Weekley was pastor. The Fespermans are coordinating his visit here.

Dr. Weekley retired in 1995, but remains active in pastoral work and in substance abuse cause.

Rev. Sammy McLamb, pastor, cordially invites the public to participate in this service.

H. GORDON WEEKLEY, JR.,

of Atlanta, Georgia

Educated: Southern Baptist Seminary

Married: (1) Norma Lou Atkinson;

(2) "Misty" _____.

Left Masonboro to go to First Baptist, Kings Mountain, N. C.

Served Masonboro (1949) 3 years

MASONBORO BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY

BY: Croquette W. Hewlett

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