

★ McFARLAND: Will speak at Bethlehem Baptist Church

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view. Most recently, in 2006, he was named the third president of Southern Evangelical Seminary and the Veritas Graduate School of Apologetics, located near Charlotte.

As a speaker, writer and advocate for teen apologetics, McFarland has spoken in hundreds of locations throughout the U.S. and abroad. He has preached in more than 1,000 different churches throughout North America and internationally and has been featured at conferences, including The Billy Graham School of Evangelism, Focus On The

Family's Big Dig, Josh McDowell's True Foundations events, and California's Spirit West Coast.

During the 1990s—at a time when it was predicted that the need for apologetics was waning—McFarland pioneered apologetics conference formats designed to equip teens and adults to defend their faith. Attendees of all ages began to attend his Truth for a New Generation and National Conference On Christian Apologetics events, eagerly learning from scholars such as Josh McDowell, Ravi Zacharias, Lee Strobel, and others. McFarland attended the

University of North Carolina at Greensboro and earned a Master's degree in Christian Thought/Apologetics from Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree by Southern Evangelical Seminary in 2006. In 2009, he became a participant in Developing Young Leaders In Higher Education, an invitation only study program at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. In his home state of North Carolina, he was named one of "Forty Leaders Under The Age of Forty" by the Jaycees. During the past decade, McFarland

has hosted two nationally syndicated radio broadcasts, Truth Talk Live and SoundRezn. In 2011, he became co-host of Explore the Word, which is heard daily in more than 150 markets.

As an author, McFarland has written over 150 published articles and is author of 16 books, including the best-selling The 10 Most Common Objections to Christianity—and How to Answer Them (Bethany House). Alex was one of the first Christian authors to write a series of apologetics/worldview books specifically tailored for teen readers. His books have been translated into several languages.

McFarland and his wife, Angie, have been married since 1988 and currently live in North Carolina.

Dr. Wayne Caviness, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church, welcomes the public to attend the services. For more information, call 828.495.7250 or visit www.bethlehembc.org. Bethlehem Baptist Church is located at 7500 NC Hwy 127N, Taylorsville, NC.

Baptist Women's Day set at Antioch Baptist February 18

Mrs. Brenda Hicks from Kernersville will be guest speaker for the Baptist Women's Day worship service on Sunday, February 18, at Antioch Baptist Church at 10:55 a.m. Using scripture from Psalm 143:5-6, she will challenge all to remember the goodness of God in the past and encourage everyone to serve Him even more faithfully in the present and future.

Mrs. Hicks is the widow of the Reverend Richard Hicks, who served as pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Bethlehem for many years. She and Rev. Hicks celebrated

ed 55 years of marriage before his death in 2016. Mrs. Hicks has a Bachelor of Religious Education degree from Covington Theological Seminary. Among many areas of ministry, she has led women conferences in NC, SC, and Italy. She has also served on committees for both Southern Baptist Convention and NC Baptist Convention.

The public is cordially invited to attend this worship service at 580 Antioch Church Rd. For more information, please contact the church at 828-632-2929 or awpalmer@antioch580.org.

IN THE SHADOW OF HOGAN'S MOUNTAIN

By Dr. Warren Hollar, whollar@charter.net

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

One of the greatest pleasures of grandparents is to attend their grandchildren's ball games. It doesn't matter if it is watching recreation sports down at the local park, at a school, or following one of the elite travel team. Grandchildren love it when grandpa or grandma show up at the game. Old people get a great thrill out of that little side wave of acknowledgement from a child when they arrive at the game or activity. Grandparents who can't participate in a lot of physical activity can still provide the most important factor — a support section. With you on the bleachers cheering, your grandchildren will keep trying to sink that basket or kick the ball in the net. The "thumb-up" from grandpa is also a great thrill to the grandchild. Being a spectator also encourages them to build stronger bodies and avoid the couch potato monster. Grandparents should enjoy what grandkids can do and not worry about what they can't do.

Sportsmanship is a key attribute that can be mirrored by both parents and grandparents by how well they can keep their emotions in check during a game. Both want the game to go in favor of their offspring; but, one team will lose as shown on the scoreboard.

The test of adulthood is often the ability to mask displeasure with officials and coaches. Extended family members have the role of providing unconditional encouragement especially when the outcome of the game has been settled in the negative. After the game it is also important for grandparents to find something to praise even if it was something routine in the game. We love the kids win or lose and we must take care to let kids know that this love is not tied to how well they played the game.

Many grandparents and parents remember their days as a player and often live vicariously through their kids.

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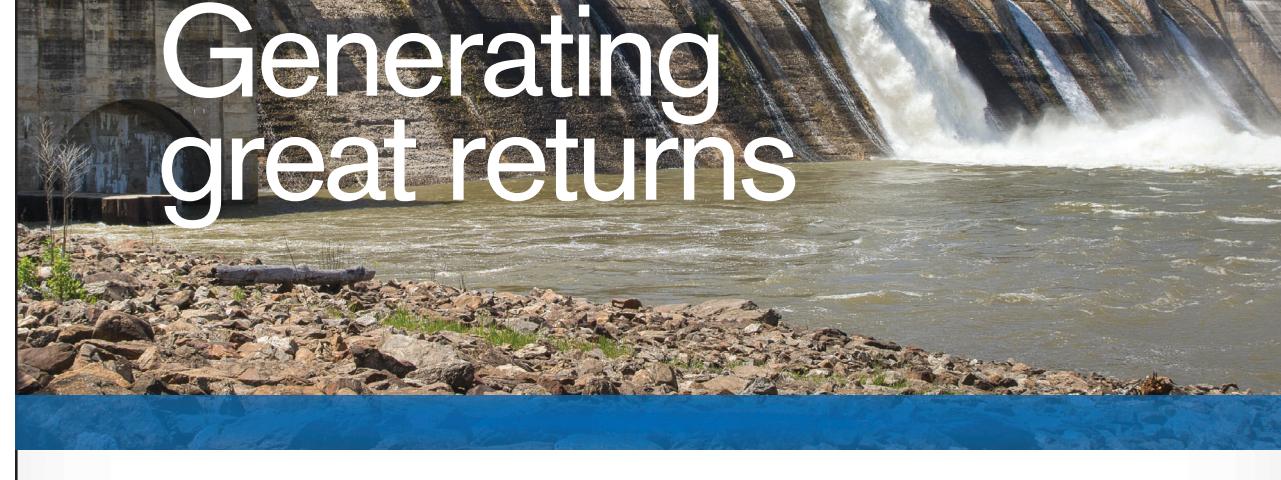
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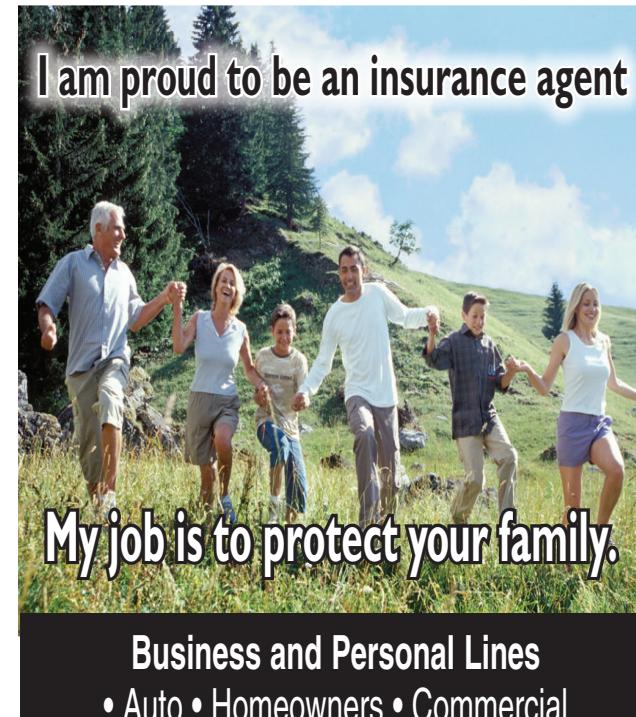
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