

Evangelists with CLOUT



PHOTO PROVIDED

A karate class instructed by the Rev. Kenneth Balliet of this city, goes through its paces in Okinawa.

Balliets use karate as a mission in Okinawa

By ANNA TELATOVIICH
Sun-Gazette staff

According to the Rev. Kenneth Balliet, he and his wife's profession is not an ordinary one.

"We have been tent-makers forever and ever," Balliet said in a recent interview in his Williamsport home. A term taken from the Apostle Paul's model of missionary finance, a tentmaker was historically "someone that earned their living doing some other job so you can do mission work," he said.

The Balliets have performed multiple jobs and right now, they are "evangelists more than anything," they said.

"We do mission work when we can" and that can occur at anytime in any place, Balliet said.

The pair have taken trips to Mexico, Japan, Israel and many other countries to spread the word of the Lord. "We take them something they don't have," he said.

"And as members of Lake Ministry, it's divine healing."

Accountability

"One of the big things people look for is accountability," Balliet said. To validate their mission work, the Balliets are state representatives for John G. Lake Ministries based out of Dallas and are accredited by ZOE International Ministries and Rod Parsley's World Harvest.

Balliet said they are involved with those organizations so they can be guided and "corrected" if necessary in their work.

Being separate from any unique denomination means the pair "have the freedom" to travel where they want, distribute the materials they wish and stay for as long as they choose.

Lake Ministries follows the slogan "Equipping Christians to do the works of Christ." According to their Web site www.jglm.org, the group believes "any hindrance to the healing of any Christian is not of God," "sickness or disease can be overcome by a Christian if the Christian will exercise faith and power" and "all sickness and disease can be directly or indirectly traced back to satan and should be defeated whenever and wherever they are encountered."

The goal of ZOE Ministries is raising awareness "of modern Christian world missions and stirring up a passion to reach our world for Christ," according to its site www.gozoe.org. An evangelistic "invasion team" penetrates a city through evangelistic and miracle crusades, street evangelism, the use of the arts and mass Bible literature distribution.

A secular ministry team reaches out to the business, educational and government communities by joining those sectors. "We do this by providing services that are of interest to them while giving us the opportunity to share the gospel," the site said.

Rod Parsley's World Harvest Church began in 1977 and "has continually experienced amazing growth" and is focused on the needs of families, according to its Web site, www.rodparsley.com. The ministries include a Latin and metropolitan outreach, children and youth, special needs and music.

Going to the people.

Balliet, a highly-decorated Karate master, said he and his wife "go to where the people are. Whether it's a park, a school, a karate school, to talk to the people and bring them something."

Okinawa has been the destination for much of the couple's ministry. Whether it's serving as referee or competing, Balliet has made his faith known. On the back of his white jacket used for Karate — his gi — "Jesus is Lord" is emblazoned in large black letters.

The country near Japan has few Christians, Balliet said. Still, "they absolutely live the Bible, but they are 99 percent non-Christians."

Balliet said Okinawans live by the proverbial "Golden Rule" and treat others as they would want. "I don't know what you would do to get an Okinawan upset ... You can't help but love them."

He said the country is full of modest, proper "not snotty" individuals. Balliet proclaims his faith on his back, while his wife the Rev. Margaret Balliet witnesses to the mothers and children who gather at karate events.

Many karate dojos, or schools of instruction, stick to the ancient Asian traditions which include an altar to pagan gods and prayer to them. "Ninety-five percent of most martial artists have never been outside the United States," Balliet said, and having seen the altars in the media, have replicated them in their own environments.

"They don't think that they're bowing down to a false god," Balliet said. When people find out the historic symbolism of bowing at the altar, they are often shocked and appalled with their own behavior, Balliet said.

He uses his fame in the martial arts circuit to evangelize. "I ask the about the altar, and then I educate them," he said.

The past filled of unholy worship means that "a lot of ministries are adamantly against the martial arts," Balliet said. He called the martial arts world "the place where nobody else goes" in terms of ministry, comparing a karate school to a local bar.

For Balliet, karate came into his life before God. His father

(See BALLEIETS, Page D-2)



PHOTO PROVIDED

Shuri Castle left, is one of Okinawa's landmarks. Above, a parade with participants dressed in traditional garb marches down the main street in Naha, the capital city in Okinawa

Chicken Soup for the Soul . . .

A mother senses danger for her daughter

By GLYNIS M. BELEC

An orange-herbet sunrise heralded the day as I reached for my morning tea. Glancing at the clock, I knew Amanda would soon be on her way home, tired from her night shift at the coffee shop in the city.

I went about my usual morning routine, and thought how determined my daughter was to earn enough money to help put herself through college. It was a challenge for her to juggle two jobs, but she managed.

As I drifted from dishes to dusting, I felt an unusual surge of concern for my now late-arriving daughter. I tried to keep busy, but I found myself watching out the window and listening for the familiar sound of Amanda's car pulling into the driveway.

A wave of nausea washed over me, and my heart raced for a moment. I closed my eyes and prayed for her safety, then chastised myself for being a paranoid mother.

Amanda often jokingly reminded me about my smothering-mother tendencies. I countered with the until you have children of your own" lecture. Was this one of those moments? I called Amanda's cell phone. No answer.

Something was terribly wrong. I felt

an urge to jump in my car and look for her. First, though, I called out to God for direction. I cannot say I heard an audible voice — it was more like a gentle nudge, but I truly felt God wanted me to leave the house.

My heart raced as I followed the likely route Amanda would take home. I kept pushing the redial button on my cell phone, but Amanda was not answering. I felt a sudden grip of fear and pulled over to the side of the road, wondering what to do. I remembered the countless times I had told Amanda to pray — how it was the most important step to take when fear crouched on the doorstep. So I prayed. I prayed that God would send His angels to protect my daughter.

My fear, thankfully, did not turn into panic, as I still felt compelled to drive. I drove for 40 minutes, but there was no sign of Amanda. Then my cell phone rang. My heart jumped to my throat. It was a female voice. The connection was so poor that I could hardly make it out:

"... accident ... Bethel Sideroad ... I thought it was Amanda's voice, but I couldn't be sure. I was about 15 minutes away from the Bethel Sideroad, so I did my best to keep my composure and drove, praying without ceasing.

A sickening sight awaited me. An ambulance and two police cars blocked the

path of oncoming traffic. I saw Amanda's little gray car wrapped around a broken hydro pole. The whole car was crushed. I gaped in horror and knew Amanda had surely perished in such a wreck. Feeling faint, I jammed on my brakes. A policeman approached me, and I walked in agony. I jumped out of my car, frantically screaming for Amanda. Just then, she stepped out of the ambulance. "Mom!" she called. I raced to her and clung to her with my arms and heart.

How had she survived? The paramedics kept saying it was nothing less than a miracle. The police officers, after they had calmed me down, told me they had expected to pull a body out of the car. In their estimation, no one should have survived such a horrendous accident.

Amanda apparently had fallen asleep at the wheel, and as she hit the side of the road, her car had flipped twice and hit the hydro pole. The entire car was crushed — except for the driver's seat. She was taken to the hospital for observation, but other than a few scratches and bruises, she was fine.

I still marvel at the power of prayer and the sense of urgency that flooded my mind and heart that morning. The Almighty Protector shielded my Amanda — and sent His angels to protect her, just as I had prayed.

Institutional Services

The following institutional services for Sunday are reported by United Churches of Lycoming County, or the institution:

County Prison, 1:45 and 3:15 p.m., The Rev. Earline Chapman, Ebenezer Baptist Church.

HCR - Manor Care North, 2 p.m., the Rev. James Behrens, Trinity United Methodist Church.

HCR - Manor Care South, 2 p.m., Thursday, Pastor Danesta Whaley/Vonnie Hawley, Citychurch/Bethany Lutheran Church.

Pre-Release Center, 3:30 p.m., Yokefellow (men and women).

Valley View Nursing Home, 2 p.m., Kelly Ehrhard, Loysock-Wallis Run United Methodist Church.

Williamsport Home, 3 p.m., Pastor Danesta Whaley/Vonnie Hawley, Citychurch/Bethany Lutheran Church.

Assisted Living Centers

None scheduled.

Services during the week include:

Rose View Center, 2:30 p.m. Thursday, the Rev. Gwen N. Bernstein, executive director. United Churches of Lycoming County.

Presbyterian Home, 11 a.m. Thursday, Pastor Marian Anderson, Mill Hall United Methodist Church.

Sycamore Manor, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Nan Porter, Messiah Lutheran Church, South Williamsport.

William Heppburn Apartments, 11 a.m. Tuesday, All Saints Episcopal Church.

Williamsport Housing for the Elderly, 11 a.m. Wednesday, Covenant-Central Presbyterian Church.

Radio Services

9 a.m. (Saturday) — Jersey Shore Assembly of God, WJSA 1600 AM/96.3 FM.

9:20 a.m. — Community Baptist Church, Montoursville, WJSA 1600 AM/96.3 FM.

10 a.m. — New Covenant United Church of Christ, WRAK 1400 AM-94.9 FM/WRKK 1200 AM.

10:50 a.m. — Pine Street United Methodist Church, WPPA 1340 AM.

11 a.m. — Covenant-Central Presbyterian Church, WRAK 1400 AM-94.9 FM/WRKK 1200 AM.

Ecumenical Luncheon

Stacy Nolte, English Language Civics Instructor, and Ruth Love-Schoele, Family Literacy Coordinator at The Learning Center will speak on "Changing Lives Every Day" at Wednesday's noon ecumenical luncheon at Pine Street United Methodist Church, 441 Pine St.

The cost of lunch is \$4; parking is free in the Pine Street lots from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Balliets, local residents, use karate as a useful tool in ministry abroad

(From Page D-1)

brought martial arts into his life more than 50 years ago.

"I believe I was born again as a Christian at age 7," he said. He recalled listening to "I believe" by Nat King Cole and reading the book of Revelations and committing his life to Christ at that time.

"In the beginning, my father didn't separate martial arts and religion, Balliet said.

After becoming further entrenched in karate, he began to see how he could incorporate ministry. "At 16 years old I started to do that," he said.

Planting seeds

Lake Ministries began when Lake himself turned

WILLIAMSPORT ASSEMBLY OF GOD
 Corner of Chestnut & State Sts., Fairport
 (570) 323-4300 Rev. Joseph T. Beadle, Pastor

SUNDAY SERVICES
 Coffee Hour 9 a.m. Morning Worship 10 a.m.
 Evening Worship 6 p.m.
 Wed. Christian Education 7 p.m.

Sunday, October 12th, 2008

"God's Presence"

Psalm 139

Worship.....10:30 am
 Sunday School.....9:30 am

MUNCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 Corner of Penn Street and So. Washington, Muncy, PA 17756
 546-5205

ATTENTION FAMILIES

Olympian FASCAR Rally

October 12, 2008
 1:00 to 5:00 pm

This family event is being sponsored for all children 4 years old to 6th grade. We will have racing, hotdogs, sodas, and prizes. During one pit-stop, one of the greatest prizes, Jesus Christ, could be received by everyone! Everyone gets the chance to race at least 3 times with your own Hot Wheels or Matchbox car and don't worry if you don't have one, we will have available. Teens and adults can race too!

OUR OWN CHASE FOR THE CUP!

Parents, be sure to come and try to win a 20 mile driving experience, at Pocono raceway, in a real Sprint Cup style stock car! Any adult with a valid driver's license, who brings a child to race, can enter the drawing to win.

Event held at Lycoming Valley Baptist Church
 4980 Lycoming Mall Drive
 Montoursville, PA 17754
 570-368-3262
 (Across from Fairfield Ford)

from studying medicine and began studying healing in a scientific way, the Margaret said.

"He was no one special," she said of the healing he reported. "It was something that all Christians should be doing."

It is through authority from Jesus Christ, not individual power, that prayer heals people, the Balliets said.

The couple serve as pathways of healing. "We provide healing, we don't heal. Only Jesus Christ can heal," Balliet said.

"The idea is to command, in the authority of the name of Jesus, the sickness to leave ... Cancer is a name and it must bow its knee to the name of Jesus Christ," he said.

The pair has seen "many, many miracles" and are preparing to hold Divine Healing Technician trainings in their home.

"Every Christian has the authority in the name of Jesus Christ to heal, as long as they have the faith," Balliet said.

Rummage sale set at Northway church

Northway Presbyterian Church on Northway Road in Loysock Township will continue its fall rummage sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. today, organizers have announced.

Jersey Shore church sets chicken barbecue

JERSEY SHORE — Jersey Shore Presbyterian Church, 235 S. Main St., will host a chicken barbecue from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. today.

A meal may be purchased for \$7.50 the day of the event, organizers said.

Heshbon church sets chicken and biscuits

A chicken and biscuit supper will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. today at Heshbon Park United Methodist Church, 2898 Heshbon Road.

The menu also will include mashed potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, beverage and dessert.

The cost will be \$8 for adults and \$4 for children. Youngsters under 6 eat free. Takeouts will be available. For more information, call 494-0241.

Rummage sale planned at St. Mark's Lutheran

The Women of St. Mark's Lutheran Church will hold their annual fall rummage sale and bazaar from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. today in the Fellowship Hall of the church, 142 Market St. The location will be accessible via the Mulberry Street entrance.

Household items, small appliances, children's goods and seasonal decorations will be among the articles offered for sale, and lunch will be available, planners said.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

West Fourth and Elmira Streets

*A Growing Heart and a Welcoming Spirit for All
 Persons of All Great Creations*

9:15 a.m. Growth Hour
 10:30 a.m. Worship

Pastors
 Rev. Larry K. Waltz
 Rev. Gwen N. Bernstine

Grover church to host concert this evening

GROVER — St. John's United Methodist Church, Grover, will present "Kay Lynn and God's Country" in concert at 7 this evening.

Kay Lynn and God's Country are from Hughesville and have been presenting concerts around the area, including many nursing facilities and churches in the region.

A free will offering will be taken. Refreshment will be offered following the concert.

Fairfield church plans basement sale

Fairfield United Methodist Church, 833 Fairfield Church Road, Montoursville, will hold a basement sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday and from 8 a.m. to noon next Saturday.

Avis church sells items, plans turkey dinner

AVIS — Avis United Methodist Church, Park and Prospect streets, will be taking orders for various nuts and candies.

Orders will be accepted until Oct. 19. Delivery will be in early November. Call 398-1172 for forms.

In addition, the church will hold a turkey dinner from 4:30 until 6 p.m. Oct. 18. Tickets will be \$7.50 for adults, \$4 children age 4 to 12, and those under 4 eat free. Takeouts will be available. Call the church office at 753-8137 for tickets.

Valley Methodist to hold soup sale

MUNCY VALLEY — Valley United Methodist Church, Route 220 between here and Sonestown, will hold a soup sale this Wednesday.

Chili, ham and bean, chicken corn and vegetable beef will be available for sale by the quart at a cost of \$4.

Central Baptist Church

601 7th Avenue
 Williamsport
 322-3562

9:00 AM
 Sunday School
 10:15 AM
 Worship
 Pastor Chris Coakley

Orders are requested prior to the sale date by calling 482-2476 or 482-2394. Orders may be picked up between 12:30 and 2:30 p.m., or patrons may "eat in" at noon.

Also, the church Supper Club will meet at 5 p.m. Thursday. Reservations may be made by calling the above numbers.

Doughnut, soup sale set in Jersey Shore

JERSEY SHORE — Trinity United Methodist Church, 1407 Allegheny St., will hold its first of the season doughnut and soup sale, along with sandwiches (ham, turkey, or roast beef) on Thursday.

Soups available will be chicken corn and filled pepper. Place soup and doughnut orders at least three days before the scheduled date, and the sandwiches need to be ordered by Sunday, planners said.

Chicken and biscuits to be served at church

South Williamsport United Methodist Church, 409 S. Main St., will host a chicken and biscuit dinner from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. today.

The menu will include chicken and biscuits, cole slaw, applesauce, string beans, corn, dessert and drinks. The price will be \$7.50 for adults and \$4 for children 6 to 12. Youngsters 5 and under eat free. Call 326-0302 for takeouts.

Hughesville-area church to sell soup

HUGHESVILLE — Kedron United Methodist Church, Route 220 north of here, will hold a soup sale next Saturday. Soups available will be vegetable, ham and bean and chicken noodle. A small bake sale also will take place.

Takeouts will be available

LYCOMING UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

We believe in freedom of religious expression.

Sunday, Oct. 12- 10:45 AM
 Fundamentally Atheist

Ye Old Church
 corner of
 Maynard & W. Third Streets
 Williamsport • 326-2116

by the quart only, and the price will be \$4 per quart, planners said.

Strawberry Ridge offers chicken, waffles

WASHINGTONVILLE — Strawberry Ridge United Church of Christ will serve chicken and waffles next Saturday.

Serving will begin at 1 p.m. and takeouts will be available.

Redeemer Lutheran to serve spaghetti

A spaghetti supper will take place from 4 to 7 p.m. today at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1101 Washington Blvd.

The cost will be \$6 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under. Youngsters under 5 eat free. Takeouts will be available. Musical entertainment will be provided by the American Folk Musicians Association District 8 country band.

Mill Creek Methodist sets pork, sauerkraut

Mill Creek United Methodist Church, 2255 Warrensville Road, will serve a pork and sauerkraut supper from 4 to 6:30 p.m. today.

The cost will be \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children ages 6 to 12. Youngsters under 6 eat free.

Craft items made by the Ladies Circle to help with their mission projects will be available for sale as well.

Chicken and biscuits to be offered in Oriole

ORIOLE — The Oriole United Methodist Church Women will hold a chicken and biscuit dinner from 4 to 6:30 p.m. today at the church, 39 Main Road, Jersey Shore.

Cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children. Takeouts will be available. (See AREA, Page D-3)

AMERICAN RESCUE WORKERS CHURCH

Corner of Ross & Packer Sts., Williamsport

Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
 Sunday Morning Worship.....10:55 a.m.
 Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Evening.....6:00 p.m.

YOU ARE INVITED TO WORSHIP WITH US!

Col. Sam Astin,
 Pastor/Cooperating Officer

LYCOMING CENTRE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Billy Younger, Pastor

Traditional Worship Service* - 8:30 AM
 Sunday School for All Ages - 9:45 AM
 Blended Worship Service* - 11:00 AM
 *Nursery provided (Plus Children's Church at 11:00 Service)

"Growing Up"

656 West Creek Road, Cogan Station, Pa. (570) 494-0474
 www.lycomingcentre.org

Developing a passion for God and compassion for people

TRINITY ASSEMBLY OF GOD

332 North Loysock Avenue, Montoursville • Phone: 366-1026

SUN: SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 A.M.
 MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00 A.M.
 King's Kids Children's Church
 Communion Service

EVENING RALLY.....6:00 P.M.
 WEB: BIBLE STUDY.....6:30 P.M.
 Pastor Jonathan W. Baker
 Pastors: Phone 368-8841