

Lifestyles of the



Rich and Religious

© 2007 WITTENBURG DOOR, PIONEERS IN INVESTIGATIVE CARTOONING

TEXT BY JOE BOB BRIGGS, ART BY JIM SIERGEY, RESEARCH BY PETE EVANS

THIS MONTH:

KENNETH COPELAND!



PASTOR KEN PRESIDES OVER THE EAGLE MOUNTAIN INTERNATIONAL CHURCH ON MORRIS DIDO ROAD.

TO MEET PASTOR KEN, WE'LL BE TRAVELLING TO THE CHARMING ... ER... CUTE... UH ... TO THE TOWN OF NEWARK, TEXAS, POPULATION 887.

THERE ARE 11 NEWARKS IN THE U.S. NEWARK, TEXAS IS 334 TIMES SMALLER THAN NEWARK, DELAWARE, 52 TIMES SMALLER THAN NEWARK, OHIO AND 308 TIMES SMALLER THAN NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, WHICH NEWARK, TEXAS WAS NAMED AFTER WHEN THE ROCK ISLAND RAILROAD TOOK IT OVER. BEFORE THAT IT WAS CALLED CADDO VILLAGE, ODESSA, HUFF VALLEY, SUEVILLE AND RAGTOWN, ALL OF WHICH ARE BETTER NAMES THAN NEWARK.



NEWARK IS ALSO THE HOME OF COWBOYS FOR CHRIST. A COWBOYS FOR CHRIST GOLD-PLATED RODEO-STYLE BELT BUCKLE COSTS \$50.50.



TURN RIGHT AT THE OIL WELL AND GO 1.3 MILES... **THERE IT IS!**



KEN AND HIS FAMILY WILL RECEIVE \$100 MILLION IN OILFIELD ROYALTIES OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS. KEN BELIEVES THIS MONEY WAS PROMISED BY 2 CORINTHIANS 8:9: "YET FOR YOUR SAKES HE BECAME POOR, THAT YOU BY HIS POVERTY MIGHT BECOME RICH."

EAGLE MOUNTAIN* IS NOT MUCH OF A MOUNTAIN.
*ELEVATION: 150 feet



YOU CAN PARK YOUR CAR AT THE CHURCH AND WALK A FEW HUNDRED YARDS SOUTH TO KEN'S TV STUDIO!



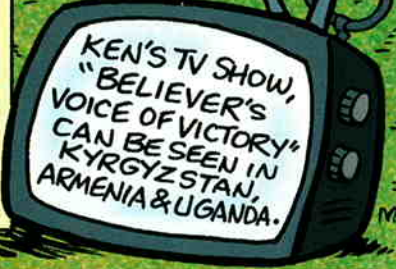
WE'RE NOT SURE WHY IT'S CALLED AN "INTERNATIONAL" CHURCH. WE DIDN'T SEE ANY PEOPLE FROM FIJI OR ANYTHING. WE ALSO DIDN'T SEE ANY CADDO INDIANS BECAUSE THEY WERE ALL KILLED BY THE ORIGINAL SETTLERS OF NEWARK. THIS IS WHERE KEN PREACHES ABOUT WORD FAITH.

WORD FAITH IS A BRANCH OF PENTECOSTALISM INVENTED BY E.W. KENYON (1867-1948) WHO IS FAMOUS FOR SNAPPY SAYINGS LIKE "WHAT I CONFESS, I POSSESS." KEN IS CONSIDERED THE WORD FAITH HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION OF THE WORLD, THANKS TO HIS MENTOR, THE LATE KENNETH E. "PAPA" HAGIN OF RHEMA BIBLE COLLEGE IN BROKEN ARROW, OKLAHOMA, WHO HELD THE TITLE BEFORE KEN. KEN WENT TO RHEMA BIBLE COLLEGE TO LEARN WHAT IS PROPERLY CALLED THE "PROSPERITY GOSPEL." THERE ARE AT LEAST TEN BOOKS EXPLAINING WHY WORD FAITH IS A HERESY, BUT THERE ARE TEN TIMES THAT MANY EXPLAINING WHY IT'S OK.

THIS IS WHERE IT ALL HAPPENS!

KEN HAS OFFICES IN AFRICA, AUSTRALIA, CANADA, EUROPE AND UKRAINE, SPREADING WORD FAITH ALL OVER THE PLANET. TWENTY MEMBERS OF KEN'S FAMILY WORK FOR THE MINISTRY, BUT THEY DON'T MAKE AS MUCH AS KEN DOES.

IN 1996 KEN MADE \$364,577 IN SALARY BUT GLORIA ONLY GOT \$292,593 AND THEIR SON JOHN BARELY BROKE INTO SIX FIGURES AT \$111,293. WE HOPE THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS SINCE THEN, SINCE THE WHOLE FAMILY, INCLUDING NIECES AND NEPHEWS, BARELY SCRAPPED BY THAT YEAR ON ABOUT \$2 MILLION.



IF YOU WANT TO KEEP WALKING DOWN THE CUTE LITTLE COUNTRY ROAD, WATCH OUT FOR MR. SECURITY MAN! HE'S MEAN! GO THRU THE WOODS AND YOU'LL FIND ANOTHER BUILDING.



KEN'S DAILY COMMUTE TO THE OFFICE IS .8 MILES. SOMETIMES IT'S TOUGH CHOOSING WHICH OF HIS 21 VEHICLES TO USE. MOST OF US WOULD TAKE THE \$100,000 2007 MERCEDES BENZ S550, BUT KEN IS EXTREMELY FOND OF HIS MOTORCYCLES. HE HAS SEVEN, BUT HIS FAVORITE IS HIS 2002 HARLEY-DAVIDSON ULTRA CLASSIC ELECTRA GLIDE, VALUED AT ABOUT \$25,000.



IT'S PASTOR KEN'S HOUSE!

ONE OF THE ADVANTAGES OF LIVING IN NEWARK IS THE LOW COST OF LIVING. NORMALLY YOU WOULD PAY ABOUT \$12 MILLION FOR A HOUSE LIKE THIS, BUT OUT HERE IN THE COUNTRY IT ONLY COSTS \$4.1 MILLION. GOD APPRECIATES THAT KIND OF STEWARDSHIP.



IF KEN AND GLORIA EVER WANTED TO MOVE INTO DOWNTOWN NEWARK, THEY COULD GET THIS URBAN TOWNHOME FOR \$39,900.

KEN'S BACK LAWN LOOKS OUT ON EAGLE MOUNTAIN LAKE. KEN HAS A RACING CIGARETTE BOAT, THE KIND THAT SOMETIMES FLIPS END OVER END ON ESPN. UNFORTUNATELY, THE FISHERMEN ON EAGLE MOUNTAIN LAKE DON'T LIKE SPEED BOATS. THEY'RE MEAN!



EAGLE MOUNTAIN LAKE WAS CREATED IN 1932 WHEN THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS DAMMED UP THE WEST FORK OF THE TRINITY RIVER TO MAKE A PARADISE FOR BASS, CRAPPIE AND ESPECIALLY CATFISH, INCLUDING BLUE CATFISH, CHANNEL CATFISH, FLATHEAD CATFISH AND THE RARE TROPHY BLUE CATFISH. ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2000, A FISHERMAN CAUGHT A 3 POUND RED-BELLIED PACU, BUT NOBODY ATE HIM BECAUSE IT'S A SOUTH AMERICAN FISH NORMALLY FOUND ONLY IN AQUARIUMS.

IF YOU WALK ACROSS KEN'S FRONT YARD, YOU COME TO KEN'S AIRPORT!

HERE'S KEN'S CESSNA CITATION X AIRPLANE. IT COST \$20 MILLION. IT'S CERTIFIED TO FLY AT 51,000 FEET, CAN REACH SPEEDS OF MACH .92, CAN TRAVEL 3,430 MILES WITHOUT REFUELING, AND CAN COMFORTABLY SEAT EIGHT PEOPLE. WOW, KEN!



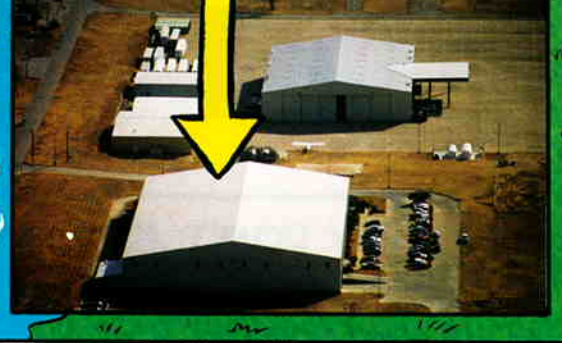
THE BUSIEST DAY FOR THE AIRPORT WAS JANUARY 15, 2007, WHEN 15 JETS SHOWED UP, CARRYING THREE DOZEN MINISTERS WHO GAVE KEN \$2.1 MILLION FOR HIS 70TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION! KEN WAS HAPPY!



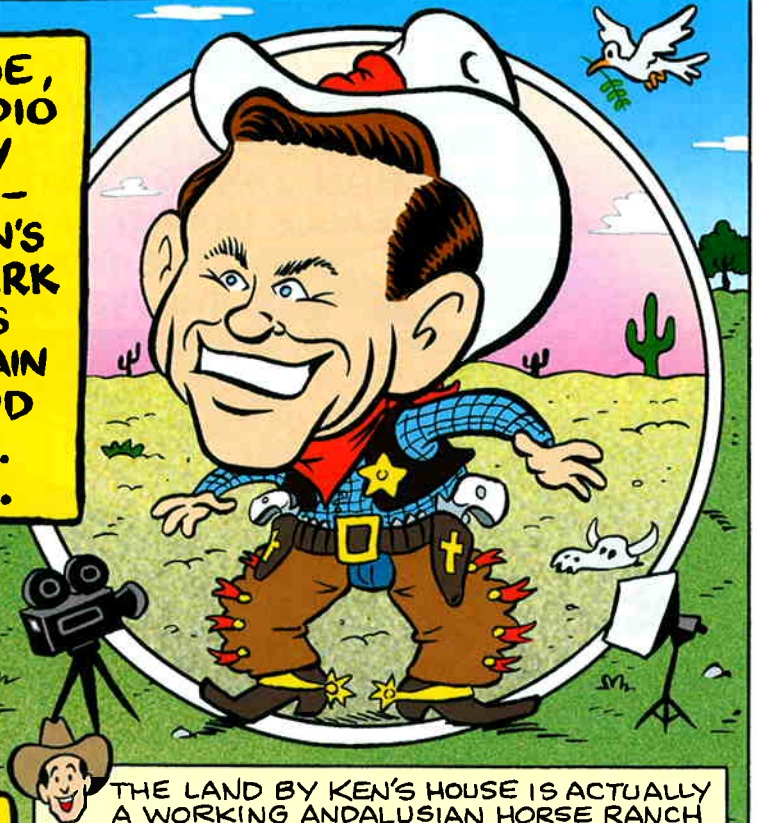
KEN STARTED OUT IN THE '60s AS A PILOT FOR ORAL ROBERTS. NOW HE HAS EIGHT AIRCRAFT OF HIS OWN. SOMETIMES HE FLIES TO COOLANGATTA, AUSTRALIA, WHERE YOU CAN CUDDLE A KOALA BEAR AT THE DREAMWORLD AMUSEMENT PARK.



NEXT TO KEN'S AIRPORT IS HIS MYSTERY BUILDING!



WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE, BUT MAYBE IT'S KEN'S MOVIE STUDIO WHERE KEN PUTS ON A COWBOY OUTFIT AND PORTRAYS A SATAN-FIGHTING SHERIFF. ONE OF KEN'S FAVORITE BIBLE VERSES IS MARK 11:22-24, IN WHICH JESUS SAYS A BELIEVER CAN CAST A MOUNTAIN INTO THE SEA IF HE SPEAKS IT AND BELIEVES IT WITHOUT DOUBTING. THIS IS HOW KEN KILLS SATAN.



WE WOULD LIKE TO STAY IN KENLAND FOREVER, BUT THERE ARE OTHER THINGS TO SEE IN NEWARK. GO ABOUT A MILE FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD, PAST THE GRAZING CATTLE AND HORSES, AND MEET KEN'S NEIGHBOR...

THE LAND BY KEN'S HOUSE IS ACTUALLY A WORKING ANDALUSIAN HORSE RANCH CALLED EL RANCHO FEY ("THE RANCH OF FAITH"). KEN WILL SELL YOU AN ANDALUSIAN MARE FOR \$15,000. HE TAKES VISA AND AMERICAN EXPRESS.

LOOKS LIKE KEN'S NEIGHBOR NEVER READ 2 CORINTHIANS 8:9!



THERE ARE ALSO SEVERAL OTHER HOUSES OF WORSHIP IN NEWARK...



WHAT A FUN PLACE!
BYE, KEN!



BUT THEY DON'T HAVE ANY KYRGYZSTANI FANS WATCHING THEIR SERVICES.