

Religion in the News



Youth plan sunrise service

The Youth Concerns Commission of the Greater Portland Council of Churches is sponsoring its annual Easter Sunrise Service at Laurelhurst Park, 3554 S.E. Ankeny Street, Sunday, April 2, at 6:00 a.m. Planned and led by Youth of the Greater Portland community, the public of all ages is invited to attend.

The Rev. Paul W. Eriks, Lutheran Campus Pastor at Portland State University, will address the congregation. His sermon is entitled, "He Lives... We Live Too!", and focuses on the Easter story as recorded in St. Luke 24: verses 13-36. Mr. Eriks, whose home is in the Pacific Northwest, was born in Seattle and received his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California. Serving his first call to the pastorate in Seattle, he—after three years—moved to the University of Washington where he was Lutheran Campus Pastor and completed his Master's degree in Counseling.

Special music will be contributed by "The Folk Group" composed of six guitarists from the Vancouver area. Vocal solo and song leading will be done by Don Robertson of Portland. "The Folk Group" includes: Shelley Alder, Jeff Hill, Terry Knopp, Michelle Lang, Jay Sawanson and Ken Volter.

Chairman of this year's community worship service is Miss Linda Kluge, Youth Concerns Commission Secretary and Maranatha Evangelistic Center participant. Miss Kluge emphasizes that the outdoor service will be held rain or shine and is always a beautiful experience. She encourages warm clothing and assures those attending that the benediction will be pronounced in sufficient time to



Pictured are left—Miss Linda Kluge; seated—The Reverend Paul W. Eriks. (Photo by Roy W. Chambers)

allow worshippers to attend Easter breakfasts, other worship services or family reunions.

Co-Moderators of the sponsoring Youth Concerns Commission are Miss Jean Immel, a member of Sacred Heart Parish and Mrs. Paul S. Wright, of First Presbyterian Church.

"Son-Rise" service scheduled

Speaker for this year's Easter "Son-Rise" Service beginning at 6:45 a.m., April 2nd, at the Memorial Coliseum is Tom Skinner.

Wherever he goes, Chicago, New York, Los Angeles... on the campus of a black college, at a businessmen's luncheon or at the U.S. Congress on Evangelism, the message remains the same: "An improved society is possible only through Jesus Christ."

Tom Skinner was born in Harlem in 1942. The undisputed leader of a street gang known as the Harlem Lords, he was confronted with the claims of history's most revolutionary man, Jesus Christ. Tom Skinner's life was changed, making him a different kind of radical.

Tom Skinner is the author of Black and Free, Words of Revolution, and How Black is the Gospel? He serves on the Board of Directors at Barrington College, the Institute of Black Ministries and the National Negro Association of Evangelicals.

Skinner will also speak at Portland State University, Portland Community College, Lewis and Clark and Linfield College.



TOM SKINNER

Obituaries

Joel Russell

Funeral services for Joel Russell were held Tuesday, March 28, 1972 at Highland United Church of Christ, Reverend Samuel Johnson officiated. Survivors include the widow Mrs. Patsy Russell, and children, Julia of San Francisco, Jodie Starr, Stacie McGuire, and Cordie Shannon of Portland, and his sister, Mrs. Marian Russell Blodgett of Oakland, California. Interment was at Rose City Cemetery. Mr. Russell was a musician and a social worker. Because of his prowess on the trumpet he was known to his friends as "tootie."

Florida Woods

Funeral service for Mrs. Florida Mae Woods was held at 10:30 a.m. at Vann's Mortuary, Tuesday, March 28, 1972. Mrs. Woods died March 24, 1972 in Multnomah Hospital. She was born November 20th, 1927 in Lula, Mississippi. She had been a resident of Portland for twenty two years. She is survived by her mother, Mrs. Pirtie Poston. Interment was in Riverview Cemetery.

Annetta Brown

Funeral services for Mrs. Annetta T. Brown were held Wednesday, March 29, 1972 at the First Congregational Church. Rev. Lincoln Reed was the officiating minister. Mrs. Brown was the wife of Dr. Samuel J. Brown, Jr. She was the mother of Cheryl and Samuel J. Brown III. She was a member of the First Congregational Church, The Urban League, and The Links. Vault interment was at Willamette National Cemetery. Mrs. Brown was born in East Chicago, Indiana, September 6, 1919. She was a resident of Portland for 17 years. A brother Otis Turner of Washington also survives.

Cross still glows in Los Angeles

Last fall thousands of curiosity seekers visited a small Baptist Church in South Los Angeles to see a cross illuminated in a window. They called it "the miracle of the cross". The "miracle" was an awe-inspiring cross that was reflected in the rear window of Chapel of Faith Baptist Church.

The cross was first seen on August 23 when a young member of the choir suddenly became aware of it and called her choir leader. The choir director had that same evening become discouraged about organizing the choir, but this incident gave her strength to

continue. A long-needed pianist and organist were found to work with the choir.

Word spread rapidly and thousands of people visited the church. Six months later, the crowds are gone, but the pastor still receives numerous calls asking his explanation of the "miracle".

Reverend Roy E. Williams refuses to use the image to produce a scare effect. He also refuses to interpret what he feels the image means, to the dissatisfaction of many who believe it is a definite message from God. He is determined not to allow the use of sensationalism. "We don't believe in sensationalism. We'd rather do what we should as Christians."

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Dr. O.B. Williams, Pastor
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"We are making our Neighborhood A Brotherhood"

Zest of Life

By Carnegie "Happy" Pullen

Christians, one and all, it appears, have failed to learn the great lesson of Christ's crucifixion.

Christ willingly put off His divine immunity and went up to Jerusalem, instead of turning aside into another country, and permitted the power of evil, though self-righteous, men to arrest Him on false charges, submit Him to a farce of a trial, which the judge, Pilate declared produced no evidence worthy of death and wanted to set Him free. But paid agitators shouted "Crucify Him," so He was subjected to a dramatic public execution by torture, to demonstrate to men that He could lay down His life, and because of His total obedience to the words and will of the Father, He could take up His body again and walk away from the tomb fully alive. He promised those who would be wholly faithful and totally obedient, as He was perfect divine protection to avoid death; or the power to overcome death and take up the dead body again and live.

He promised, "Because I live, ye shall live also." (John 14:19) He also promised those who would be totally obedient, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth in me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall ye do; because I go unto my Father... If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it." (John 14:12, 14) "Every one that is perfect shall be as his Master." (Luke 6:40)

Before His voluntary death Jesus said, "As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep..."

"Therefore doth the Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father." (John 10:15, 17-18) Jesus explained further:

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

"Ye are my friends, IF YE DO WHATSOEVER I COMMAND YOU." (John 15:13-14)

At another place Jesus said to His disciples: "And why call ye me, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46)

Matthew 5:17-20, and Matthew 7:13-27, and the Great Commission Matthew 28:19-20 further elucidate this imperative to obey Christ's whole instruction if one is to receive His astonishing promises and Divine protection upon earth as promised in Luke 10:19.

According to these explicit words if even a devout Christian does not obey Christ's whole instruction he is not a friend of Christ and Christ is not his Lord.

Christians who do not obey Christ's whole instruction fully; but disregard His sayings and commandments, are still in the same category as Adam and his descendants before the coming of Christ.

Christians have not studied carefully Christ's words in the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. They seem not to pay attention to other words of Christ as follows: "No man hath ascended up to Heaven," (John 3:13) and "Whither I go, ye cannot come." (John 13:33)

Christ's task is to reveal and prepare men for the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth. "Go preach, saying, The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." (Matt. 10:7) "Heal the sick... raise the dead." If the dead were in Heaven why bring them back? "And seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:33)

Have Christians really learned the lesson of the Crucifixion? At the Last Supper Jesus gave to men the sacrament of the Holy Communion. At the same time He gave them one of the most distinct commandments which He spoke, namely to Wash one another's feet.

"Ye call me Master and Lord; and ye say well; for so I am."

"If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet."

"For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done unto you... happy are ye if ye do them." (John 13:15, 17)

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