## **Reflections of a chaplain: War and peace**

by Reverend T.L. Strayhand

Many Americans watched with mixed emotions the signing of a cease fire agreement in Vietnam. It was our hope that all American Servicemen would be able to return home safely from Vietnam. Prayers were said throughout the country for a lasting peace. I could not help but think

about the time I had spent in Vietnam and other war torn areas. I personally thank God for the cessation of heart breaking, blood shedding, familiy wreaking, economy draining, miserable shooting and treacherous hostilities in a long war. We cannot help but pray that the Vietnamese people will have an opportunity to enjoy the blessings of an era of peace.

In 1965 and 1966 I felt the sorrows of the Vietnam conflict in a very personal way. As a military chaplain at Fort Benning, Georgia, I worked with the men and their families of the 1st Air Cavalry Division as they prepared for and went to Vietnam. After the men left for Vietnam, many of their families stayed on or near the military post awaiting their return. Many of them came to the chapel where I conducted services because they had gone there when the men were preparing to go overseas. It was in what was called

the Iron Triangle and around Pleiku, Vietnam where many of the men were felled by the enemy. All Chaplains at Fort Benning were put on 24 hour duty rosters to go with the notification officers to notify the next of kin when husbands or relatives were missing or killed in action. No one was notified by phone, it was a personal message to each one. The ordeal of that experience cannot be explained in detail for lack of words and space. Some samples may help to understand what the acations and reactions were as a result of the war. It was a common experience to go two and three times a day to notify someone that the worst had happened. There was no color distinction. The notification officers were thoroughly briefed and had in writing what they were supposed to say. It was after he had

expressed regrets and told

the person the sad news that he often looked to the chaplain to find the appropriate words of comfort for himself and the family. Many young officers were so shaken that they could hardly say the words. Some families would see you coming toward the house in an army staff car with chauffer and begin screaming because they felt that they knew what the message would be. Some would not let you in the house

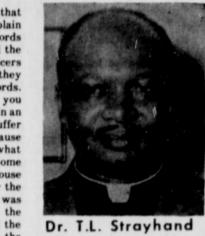
but ask you not to deliver the message fearing that it was bad. On one occasion the person sat still and heard the news, then bolted from the chair and ran out of the back door down a steep embank ment. The delivery of a death message to one very close friend of my family caught all of us by suprise when the lady fainted at our feet. It was then that I thanked God that the military had started allowing a lady to go along with us and that one was there at the time. The situation became so acute until we stopped using now?" military vehicles and used our I am so glad I never used personal automobiles. It was

not unusual to have a neighbor come over and help console a neighbor and then you go back in the afternoon to inform that neighbor who helped to console in the morning that her husband had suffered the same fate. This was war with its heartaches and heartbreaks. A problem with which so many people had to deal from day to day. In 1966 I too received

orders to go to Vietnam. During my one year stay in Vietnam as chaplain, I logged many air miles by different types of planes because many times it was too dangerous to drive to where the troops had to serve. Land mines on the mission. road, snipers and enemy ambushes made you appreciate different modes of travel. I saw the end results of war in a land where it was being waged. The Vietnamese peo-

ple were examples of what war can do for or to you. Fear gripped many people who did not know what the next day nor next hour would bring. There were American

and Vietnamese casualties of the war. In hospitals they were there with physical and psychological effects of the mines, shells, grenades and



Korea after the cease fire agreement had been signed. other weapons of war. Many There we experienced a few questions were in their eyes incidents where it seemed when you stopped at their that some people had not got the word that they were bedside. There were no easy supposed to stop shooting. I answers when a youth with a found myself in Germany twisted face would ask, 'Chaplain, how do I look?" Or during tense moments when it was difficult to get in and out a 19 year old who would never of Berlin. They say we had a be able to walk again with his period of Cold War while legs would ask, "Chaplain, do you think I will ever be able to people rebuilt and reclaimed lost possessins and veterans get married," or "What kind tried to make a new life for of future do you think I have themselves before involvement in Vietnam.

War is as bad as they say

up all my prayers. I always had more to say. I prayed it is no matter who says it. As often with and for the men in a retired Military Chaplain I and out of battle. I must admit am glad there is a positive that on one occasion I prayed movement for peace. Let all of us pray and work together extra for my commanding that man will learn to settle officer. The intelligence officer told us in a briefing that disutes another way and fighting will become obsolete. an enemy sniper unit was in the town where we were If we could now spend as stationed. They blew up an much time, energy, money and mobilize as many forces ammunition dump and the report said that they were and work together as hard for there to assassinate officers of peace as we have done for war our unit by rank beginning at I am sure we can have peace. the top. I happened to be the We can have peace a long third ranking officer in the time. In the segregated military, the late President Johnunit, there was the Commanding officer, the executive son was wise and brave officer and the chaplain in that enough to help us start living. order. Thanks be to God they eating, working and riding together on the homefront by never accomplished their

his persuasion and help of a When I returned to the strong congress. Will we now build a lasting peace? We U.S. in 1967, I was stationed at Oakland Army Base in have learned that when one California. There men were person or nation thinks he is processed daily to go to better than another and tries Vietnam. Counseling men and to treat him as less than worthy of respect, rights and their families became my heaviest duty in those two equalities, and tries to take years. This was a relief to my away from him that which is rightfully his, we have always family who had spent the year when I was in Vietnam on the had war. Let's try something military post at Fort Benning different for peace. I would not give anything for my with other waiting families, not knowing what kind of experiences at home and abroad but I would give news would come to them.

everything to keep future We hope there will be young people from having to peace again in the world. In go through the same thing. War is Hell, Peace is Hea-

venly."



The two participants show from "A Time For Reason", an ecumenical youth talk show broadcast Sundays at 9:30 a.m. by KCW-TV (Channel 8), include: (left to right) Jan E. Davis, Senior at Adams High School and member of Mallory Avenue Christian Church, and Paul Andrew Marshall, Junior at John Adams High School. The series is presented by KGW-TV in cooperation with the Youth Concerns Commission of The Greater Portland Council of Churches. (Photo by Gary M. Chambers)

## Ecumenical show features students

Eighteen youths of the

Portland a rea are partici-

pating in the ecumenical talk

show now being viewed on

Sundays, at 9:30 a.m. on

KGW-TV (Channel 8). Now in

its eleventh year, "A Time

For Reason" television series

is co-sponsored by KGW-TV

Public Service Department

and the Youth Concerns Com-

mission of the Greater Port-

land Council of Churches.

Bringing together senior high

youth and adult moderators.

the thrust of this five month

series is toward highlighting

ethical and moral judgments

that young people face con-

stantly today. Begun initially

toward local church class dis-

cussion stimulus, its effec-

tiveness has broadened to

include individuals and groups

of the non-churched and

churched of all ages in the

By consideration of some

self chosen weekly topics, new

edges of understanding are

reached by panelists and

viewers alike. Sample sub-

jects of future shows include:

The Decline and Fall of

Superman", "National Priori-

ties: What Comes First?" and

Joining weekly with alter-

nating three panel groups is

one of these Moderators:

"What Is Education?".

station's viewing band.

Donald J. Barrett, Mallory terian Church; Robert H. Avenue Christian Church and Jackson, KGW-TV Public Dean of Freshmen and Soph-Service Director; and Jeff omore students at Jefferson Edwards, Promotion coordinator, junior at Clackamas High School; Sister Judith M. Iwen, St. Thomas Moore High School and member of Parish and teacher of religion Lynchwood Christian Church. Audience participation and and French at St. Mary's Academy; and Dr. Paul S. evaluation is encouraged and appreciated. Address your Wright, First Presbyterian comments to the Youth Con-Church. Production direction is given by the 1973 program cerns Commission of the chairman, Casey Crookham, Greater Portland Council of Churches or the Public Ser-Grant High School Senior from Rose City Park Presbyvice Department of KGW-TV.



5828 N.E. 8th A. Lee Henderson, Minister

Morning Worshi

Sector Sector Sector	Ellis	Casson,	Associate	Ministe
Church School				9:45 am

***************************************	9:45 am	
ip	11:00 am	
The Hour of Power	12:00 noon	

288-5429

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Zest of Life Carnegie 'Happy' Pullen

numbers. But they cannot

escape the ultimate evils that

come upon them because of

Peter wrote: "We have a

more sure word of prophecy.

whereunto ye do well that ye

take heed, as unto a light that

shineth in a dark place, until

the day dawn, and the Day

"And in all matters of

Tanta and a line

Star arise in your hearts."

wisdom and understanding.

that the king inquired of

them" (Daniel and his friends)

"he found them ten times

better than all the magicians

and astrologers that were in

The Prophet Isaiah wrote:

"Let now the astrologers, the

stargazers, the monthly prog-

nosticators stand up and save

thee from these things that

"Behold, they shall be as

shall come upon thee.

the realm." (Daniel 1:20).

their disobedience.

(II Pe. 1:19)

Many Christians are like the little boy who was playing on top of the roof of his house. He suddenly slipped, lost his footing and began sliding down the steep roof. He instantly shouted out, "O God. save me, save me - never mind, God, I caught on a nail," he added.

So many Christians do not recognize the great and small incidents; the good things of their lives, if they are responsive to the leading of God's Spirit; and the evil things of their lives if they are contrary and disobedient of Christ's commands and instructions; and the hands of God working in their lives to chastise, to instruct, and to save. Many blunder through life and never learn the lessons that were meant for

Why the sudden world wide stubble; the fire shall burn interest in astrology? So them; they shall not deliver many famous persons, movie themselves from the power of stars, industrialists, as well as the flame." (Isaiah 47:13-14). members of the Liberated Generation are deeply devoted and engrossed in the various aspects of Astrology. Why?

Astrology has become so popular among both Christians and non-Christians alike because so few are willing to obey Christ's whole instruction that they might have God's unmeasured blessings and miracles of absolute divine protection. They choose to disobey God and then put

their trust in signs, stars and

WELCOME TO ST. MARK'S BAPTIST CHURCH 119 N. F. Morris Sunday Service 9:15/11:00 a.m. Evening Service 7:30 p.m. Reverend Edward Wilder



Vancouver Ave. First	Baptist Church
3138 N. Vancou	
Phone 282	
Sunday School	9:00 A.M.
Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.

Dr. O. B. Williams, Pastor e charch with a neart-tell welcome

# Smile - God loves you

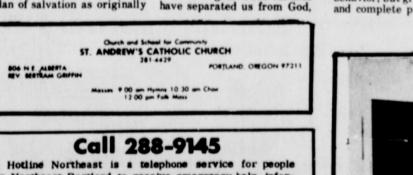
#### by Reverend V. Brown

God loves us and has a wonderful plan for each life. To find God, the Bible teaches these simple steps. Believe that God is. Realize that God that God is. Realize that God loves you. Understand that God's love found expression in the giving of his son Jesus Christ, to die for mankind. Therefore "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forming up our sing and to

are wholly of grace. sans, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unright-cousness" (John 1:19). For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of your-selves: It is the gift of God. Therefore those that are saved are saved by the grace of God and not by their own

of God and not by the grace of God and not by their own works, but they are saved in order to do good works. Thus the riches of God's grace will be manifest for all times through His radio are and to make on the cross. through His redeemed church, "His workmanship". Paul's emphasis is that salva-tion is of God, both in its plan-Our greatest privilege is to come to god. Thus our sins

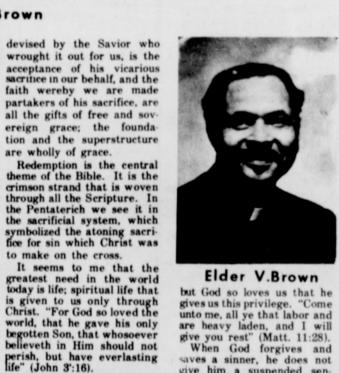
and its accomplishment, and it is to His glory. Salvation is altogether of grace from first to last. The plan of salvation as originally



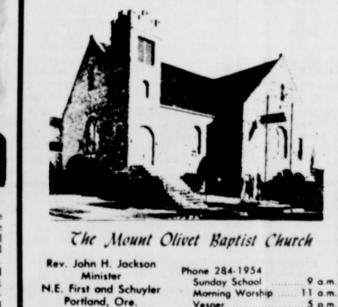
in Northeast Portland to receive emergency help, information, and personal counseling. The hotline is open during hours when most city agencies are closed. We answer calls during the following hours:

Monday - Thursday	5 p.m 9 p.m.
Friday	5 p.m 1 a.m.
Saturday	9 p.m 1 a.m.
Sunday	4 p.m 11 a.m.
	Harting Manhart In a

Call 288-9145 for help. Hotline Northeast is actively seeking community people to train and serve as volun-teers for the hotline. Contact Joyce Pedersen, volunteer coordinator for further information.



saves a sinner, he does not give him a suspended sentence or parole him on good behavior, but grants him a full and complete pardon.



ALLEN TEMPLE CME CHURCH

(Second and Fourth Sundays)

Reverend Thomas L. Strayhand, Minister

Christian Youth Fellowship 6:00 p.m.

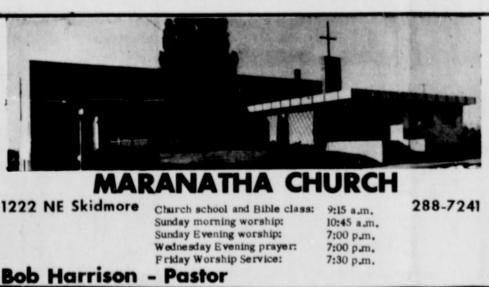
Corner of 8th and Skidmore

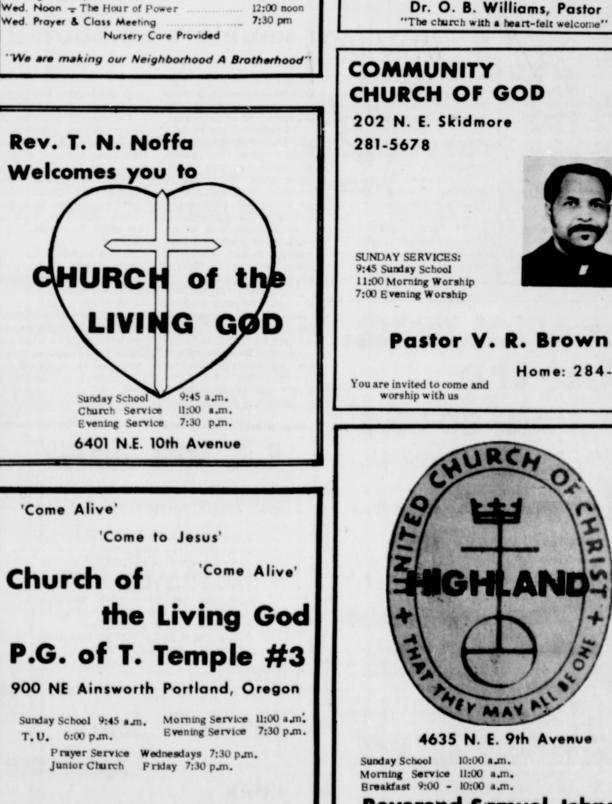
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Let us enter to worship and depart to serve.

5 p.m.





Pastor Rev. S. Green 111

4635 N. E. 9th Avenue 10:00 a.m.

Home: 284-5559

**Reverend Samuel Johnson** Telephone: Evenings 287-5341

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