Church and School for Community
ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
281-4429
Reverend Bertram Griffin Masses: 9:00 a.m. Hymns
806 N.E. Alberta 10:30 a.m. Choir
Portland, Oregon 97211 12:00 p.m. Folk Mass

ALLEN TEMPLE CME CHURCH
Corner of 8th and Skidmore
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.
Christian Youth Fellowship 6:00 p.m.
(Second and Fourth Sundays)
Reverend Thomas L. Strayhand, Minister

LIBBY PFAFF and TODD PRICE

Musicians spread word

Special guests this Sunday afternoon at New Hope Baptist Church are Todd Price and Libby Pfaff. Miss Pfaff, a vocalist, and Price, her accompianist, will present a concert of gospel songs.

Price, who is a Caucasian, feels a special mission to appear in Black churches to spread the idea of Brotherhood and to let Black people know that there are whites who want to share religious experiences with them. Price is not an ordained minister, but considers himself a minister to people as he sets about on his mission. He shuns affiliation with any denomination as he feels this is restrictive and that church labels are not important.

Miss Pfaff and Price have appeared at a number of churches in the Albina area during the past two years.

The service at New Hope Baptist Church, 3725 N. Gantenbein, will be held at 3:00 p.m.

Church celebrates year

Reverend Webster Turner, pastor of Irving Park Christian Church, announced the celebration of the church's first anniversary on March 3rd. Speaker for the 11:00 a.m. service will be Reverend Al Tiffin, Director of the North Willamette Evangelical Christian Association. The speaker at the afternoon service, held at the church, 831 N.E. Fremont Street, at 3:00 p.m. is Reverend Peterson, pastor of Berean Baptist Church. Special music will be provided by choirs from churches in the community.

A dinner will be provided from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., together with an open house. The public is invited to all of the anniversary activities.

A Miracle To Hold In Your Hand

The Living Bible Concordance is a miracle that the common man can hold in his hand.

This particular miracle weighs approximately five pounds, has more than 1200 pages and more than 734,000 entries to encourage both the most casual and the most concentrated study.

Because every word from *The Living Bible* is shown in context with corresponding book, chapter and verse references. Every footnote of alternate translations is included, and there are two special appendixes to complete the work.

And it was completed—not by a list of scholars with more degrees than a thermometer—but by a small group of dedicated members of Poolesville (Md.) Presbyterian Church. Poolesville is about 20 miles from Washington, D.C.

It began after a long-awaited baby was born, three months early, to Jack and Judy Speer, a computer programmer and his wife. The couple was visiting relatives in Cincinnati. The doctors assured the anguished parents that everything possible would be done to save their son's life, but realistically gave odds as 300 to 1. They said they had never seen a baby so small survive.

"We called our pastor, Rev. Filbert Moore at Poolesville, and asked for prayer." Jack Speer recalls. "He organized a prayer chain with everyone praying every hour on the hour. The baby's weight had dropped to two pounds, but he hung on." And the church continued to pray.

Jack Speer returned to his job in Washington while his wife stayed in Cincinnati where their son was born and remained in an incubator at Children's Hospital.

"We saw a lot of other babies die," Jack Speer told his pastor. Back in Maryland he found it difficult to concentrate on his job. One day he left the office to spend the rest of the day in a book store looking for a Bible that he could read easily.

The Living Bible, the popular paraphrase by Dr. Kenneth N. Taylor, was his choice.

"I still didn't know whether the baby would live or die, but I decided that it would be an act of faith to name him, and give him a special name," Speer said. "I was told at the bookstore that the fastest way to find such a name was by using a concordance."

Speer's problem was compounded when he learned that the only complete concordance was for the King James English Bible, written in 1611.

"I dediced that compiling a concordance for *The Living Bible* would be a good project for the church. That night, when I had dinner with the pastor, we talked about it," Speer said. "We felt it would be an opportunity to make a significant contribution to a greater understanding of the Bible, and to enable our church to to financially continue its mission work for the Lord in the rural Poolesville area."

At first glance, the church seems ill-suited for such an enormous undertaking. A country church, it had grown from 26 members to a mere 58 in six years and still lacked the financial resources to carry on its mission work. Its existence depended on an annual contribution of more than $10,000 from other Presbyterian churches.

Then Martin Fuller Speer arrived and his birth triggered his dad's need for a concordance.

"We wanted to produce a written tool, as big as the Bible itself, that the ordinary layman could use as a key to get inside the Bible," said Speer.

Moore telephoned some religious publishers he knew. They told him such a project would cost at least $50,000—a staggering sum.

"But the odds against the baby living had been 300 to 1 and he was alive," said Moore. "We decided this was what the Lord wanted us to do and that it would be an act of faith to attempt it."

Representatives of the church flew to Wheaton, Ill., to meet with Dr. Taylor, president of Tyndale House, who had paraphrased *The Living Bible*.

Dr. Taylor not only endorsed the project, he also supplied the potential miracle workers with the computer tape from which *The Living Bible* pages were composed, paring countless hours of the computer work needed to prepare the new book.

That was the beginning of the miracles. Some may call them coincidences, but not in Poolesville, Md.

The computer tapes which analyzed and indexed every word and footnote in *The Living Bible* were turned over to a computer center—managed by one of the new church members. He had made arrangements with his employers for donated computer time.

Computer programs written especially for this job were needed. Jack Speer and other new members of the congregation were experienced programmers. But special expertise was necessary for additional programming and paying for it posed a real problem—until the programmer who accepted the task elected not to cash his paycheck until the finished concordance paid for itself.

Another sophisticated machine, seemingly unavailable, was needed for additional work. One day a new member of the congregation called his pastor to report, "Our company's been waiting for one of these machines for six months. It arrived this week."

The concordance was to be readied for the printer by a process called photocomposition. A member of the congregation had a photocomposition business. Printing costs loomed large. Then the printer, like the programmer, decided he wouldn't collect his money until the concordance's sales reached the break-even point.

The small congregation hoped to get the project on its financial feet with an initial, deluxe edition aimed at libraries. This required special paper with a life of 200 years. The printer didn't know where to get such paper. Moore stumbled across a source.

"When the first edition came off the presses, members had contributed more than $6,000 of their personal funds, hoping only to get their money back from the sales," said Moore. "It was agreed that any profit would go to church missions."

"Their faith was phenomenal," said Speer. "One woman, a divorcee with five children, put in $800—her life savings. We told her, 'We accept it with gratitude, but we'll spend your $800 last.'"

But it seems that the congregation will get its money back, plus a profit that will keep its mission endeavors alive. Because the 2,000 numbered first edition *Living Bible Concordances* are well on their way to being sold and the church has selected Tyndale House to print other, abridged editions.

The Living Bible Concordance was a natural thing for Tyndale House to be interested in, according to a spokesman for the publishing company, and the church will be paid royalties for each of the Concordances published and sold by Tyndale House.

"To begin, the concordance is as different from other concordances as *The Living Bible* is different from other versions of the Scripture. *The Living Bible* has translated difficult-to-understand terms in today's language. *The Living Bible Concordance* does the same thing."

He explained, "The widow's mite in most translations is defined in *The Living Bible* as two pennies. *The Living Bible Concordance* lists the illustration that Jesus used under pennies, widow, and mite—and that's for starters.

"If someone can remember only one word of a scripture he can look in this concordance and find that scripture."

The King James Concordance that Speer first encountered lists Biblical cities by their ancient names. *The Living Bible* and *The Living Bible Concordance* lists the names of cities presently on those sites.

For instance, the ancient city of Smyrna is now Izmir, in Turkey. *The Living Bible Cordance* listing is as unique as *The Living Bible*.

And it all started with a premature baby, answered prayer and faith. That's a miracle any way you pronounce it.

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