



Leon Thomas Johnson, community activist who died of cancer last year, was honored this week in a memorial service at Mt. Calvary Church of God in Christ. Standing by the plaque hung over the church's drinking fountain are his widow, Phyllis Johnson and his sister Barbara. The inscription reads, "Leon Thomas Johnson. He was one who loved the youth. His life was dedicated to helping others. To know him was to love him as a friend, for no one he met was a stranger. He was a man who loved people." (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Red Cross gains officer

David Rawlinson, volunteer chairman, has announced the appointment of Daniel P. Fako to the position of Manager and Chief Executive Officer of the Oregon Trail Chapter of the American Red Cross. The search for a new manager has been in progress since July, and comes after a seven-member selection committee screened over 200 applicants for the job.

Fako was previously chief administrative officer and comptroller with the Bi-State Chapter and Missouri/Illinois Regional Blood Service in St. Louis, Missouri, a position he held since 1979. Prior to that, he was the Blood Services Administrator with Tidewater Regional Blood Services in Norfolk, Virginia. He began his 10-year career with the Red Cross at the Midwestern Field Office in St. Louis during an internship associated with his master's degree program in social work at Washington University.

According to Rawlinson, "One of the key factors in the selection of Dan Fako was the fact that he has participated in the planning and building of two major Chapter and Blood Services facilities in St. Louis and Norfolk. This particular experience, along with his other qualifications, will be a tremendous benefit



DANIEL P. FAKO

to the Oregon Trail Chapter as we look to breaking ground for our new building next June."

In his position as manager, Fako will have responsibility for the administration of Red Cross services in the five-county Oregon Trail Chapter area, as well as for the Pacific Northwest Regional Blood Services which covers a 32-county area in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Forum on the Black Church scheduled

"The Black Church is still the major institution in the Black community," according to Calvin Henry, Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs president. Its independence has not always been used to enhance the Black community. Black people have always turned to religion as they confronted the oppressive conditions of their past.

"And, it has been in the Black Church where leadership within the Black community got its early experience," Henry added. In the past, the white power structure has always used the Black Church to control the outcomes of the Black community. Its ministers have often been seen as the only legitimate voices for the Black community. This is no less true in the state of Oregon.

The topic of the OABA Saturday Morning Forum, which will be held on December 17th, (10 a.m.-noon, Immaculate Heart School, 2926 N. Williams, in Portland), is "The Black Church and its ministers' assistance in developing the political

awareness of the Black community."

A panel of Black ministers and lay persons will discuss this topic. They are: Rev. A. Bernard Devers I, pastor, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Portland; Sister Debra Cook, student minister, Nation of Islam and staff advisor, Clergy & Laity Concerned, Eugene; William A. Denton, Sr., lay minister and retired scientist, Portland; Vesia Loving, community leader, Portland; Ronald E. Sykes, Jr., investment broker, Portland; Rev. W.E. Hunter, Pastor, Piedmont Church of Christ, Portland; Rev. John Garlington, pastor, Maranatha Church and president, Albina Ministerial Alliance, Portland; Cal R. Williams, home economist, OSU Extension Service, Multnomah County; and Rev. Austin Ray, Ebbert Memorial United Methodist Church, Springfield.

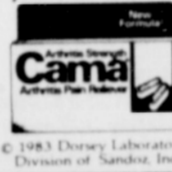
These leaders are asked to share their definitions of the traditional roles of the Black Church and its ministers, and whether these roles

are valid, today and in Oregon? How ministers can address the political needs as well as spiritual needs of the Black community, and who should define the current roles of the Black Church and its ministers in developing political awareness in the Black community?

1984 is an election year and this forum is part of the series that the Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs (OABA) is holding through the general election. They are designed to bring components of Oregon's Black community together, to develop a sense of community and greater political awareness, and to assist in getting more Blacks elected to public offices.

The December 17, 1983 forum will be held at the Immaculate Heart School, 2926 N. Williams, Portland. It is open, and free; the public is invited. For more information, call 745-5570 (Salem).

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Something To Think About
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Community Directory and profiles
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