

RELIGIO

Send notice of your church activities and events to: Religion Editor, Portland Observer P.O. Box 3137 Portland OR 97208



RELIGION UPDATE

"Crown Him Lord of Prime Time." TV is the single most powerful medium of communication. Though some of it is quality programming, much of it simply promotes moral decay: adultery, abortions, homosexuality, lies, lust and

violence are a daily fare. A recent study showed that there are over "50 million born-again Christians" viewing network-provided programming, according to the latest Gallup figures, and Chuck Colson, a born-again Christian, had this to say about TV

viewing: I was at a dinner, seated next to the president of the three major networks. A tremendous opportunity, I thought. I told how millions of Christians were offended by the kind of programming the networks provided.

Knowing TV executives are keenly interested in profit and loss statements, I suggested it would be good business to air wholesome family entertainment. "After all," I said, "there are 50 million born-again Christians out there."

He looked at me quizzically. I assured him that was Gallup's latest figure. "What you're sugesting, is that we run more programs like, say, 'Chariots of Fire'?"

"Yes!" I exclaimed, "That's a great movie with a marvelous Christian message."

"Well," he said, "CBS ran it as a prime-time movie just a few months ago. Are you aware of the ratings?" All at once I knew I was in trouble.

He then explained: "That night NBC showed 'On Golden Pond'; it was No. 1 with 25.2 percent of all TV sets in America tuned in. Close behind was 'My Mother's Secret Life,' a show about a mother hiding her past as a prostitute. It was No. 2 with 25.1 percent.

"And a distant third — a big money loser — was CBS with 'Chariots of Fire' - 11.8 percent. In fact, of the 65 shows rated that week, 'Dallas' was No. 1, 'Chariots of Fire,' No. 57.

"So," my companion concluded, "where are your 50 million born-again Christians?"

Good question: Where are we? If even half of Gallup's 50 million born-again Christians had watched the show with the Christian message, 'Chariots of Fire' would have topped the ratings. But the disturbing truth, as studies by the secular networks as well as the Christian Broadcasting Network show, is that the TV viewing habits of Christians are not different than those of non-Christians!

So what does the Lordship of Christ mean in the TV age? First, we need to examine ourselves. If we aren't being offended by much of TV (not just the sex and violence but the intelligence-insulting banality), we need to question whether we are really being "transformed by the renewing of (our) minds.

Our discernment as Christians should cause us to turn off offensive programming. It should also make us question whether we are being good stewards of our time. Aftger all, there are some good alternatives to TV: We can read the Bible, explore good Christian writings, spend time with our children, parents, and friends.

Christ must be Lord of all, yes, even of prime time. (Reprinted by permission from Jubilee, a monthly newsletter of Prison Fellowship, P. O. Box 17500, Washington, D.C. 20041.)

Pastor's Workshop Seminar & Lunch provided without charge Thursday, May 2, 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Topic, "Conflict Resolution," concerning conflict in the local church, resolving marital conflict, and Conflict is not a Dirty Word. Register by phone, (503)297-2242.

For Parents with Rebellious Kids - Are you a hurting parent with a rebelling child? Several Christian parents with the same problem want to encourage each other, pray and support, and care for your special needs. Phone (503)

Merrill Womach Benefit Concert - To aid street youth, April 26, in Portland. The event is open to the public with a free-will offering to benefit street youth. For information, phone (503)283-1800.

Rose City Minister Wives' Mother and Daughter Luncheon, May 4, 11;00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Matterhorn Restaurant, 3 N.E. 82nd at Burnside. Tickets \$7.00. For further information, call 289-6810 or 288-1381.

Women's Aglow Spring Retreat - Friday, May 3, 4, and 5th at Canby Grove Conference Center, Canby, Oregon. Spring Workshop topics are: Beauty Out of Ashes (divorce; Live and Let Live (relationships); Giving Yourself Away (commitment). Guest speaker, Shirley Shea of Klamath Falls, Oregon. For registration and more information, call 667-3831 or 223-5086.

This week's UPDATE with food for thought: "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. -Ro. 12:2.

Lloyd Stevenson Fund

Mail your tax deductible contributions for Lloyd D. Stevenson children to Fellowship Church of God, 5138 N.E. 23rd Ave., Portland, OR 97211. Please make your checks or money orders payable to: Fellowship Church of God (for Stevenson children), and may the gift you send bring comfort and help in some small way to strengthen the Stevenson children with faith and hope until a brighter day.

Ethiopian relief

The Baha'i' students of PSU in conjunction with the Association of African Students is presenting an Ethiopian-relief guitar performance in Parkway Commons (Smith Center-PSU) on Saturday, May 11, beginnin at 7:30 p.m.

Nhi Doan, professional guitar virtuoso, will perform classical, jazz, and folk music from many cultures, in a variety of languages. He is Vietnamese by birth, and has also lived, studied and performed in Paris, Denmark and across the U.S. He will be performing with Jolie Haug.

Donations requested for the performance are \$5.00 for adults, and \$2.00 for children under 12



Vision of the Lloyd Stevenson funera. (Photo: Richard J. Brown) (Painting courtesy of Henry Frison)

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Morning

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Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

7:30 p.m

7:00 p.n

11:15 a.m

7:30 p.m

Sunday morning, 10:00 A.M. Station KAAR 1480AM Disa

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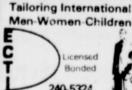
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