



RELIGION

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Religion Editor, Portland Observer
P.O. Box 3137
Portland OR 97208

Though Misunderstood, Cremation Gains Popularity in Oregon

The trend in the funeral industry toward cremation as a more popular means of disposition after death has been clear for more than a decade. But in Oregon, the increase in the number of cremations has been nothing short of startling.

"Nationally, cremation accounts for about 12% of all dispositions," says Worth Caldwell, Jr., president of Caldwell's Colonial Mortuary and Pearson-Allen-Caldwell Funeral Home in Portland. "Here in Oregon, though, it accounts for about 27% of all dispositions. In some areas, Jackson and Coos Counties for example, the figure is over 40%."

The number of cremations in the U.S. has doubled since 1970 and is expected to double again by the turn of the century. This despite the fact that few people really know what cremation is.

"Most people think of cremation as a process in which a body is literally burned in a large fire of some kind," says Caldwell. "It's actually a process of heat and evaporation that reduces the body to its basic elements."

"You're not left with ashes, but rather bone fragments that have neither the appearance nor chemical properties of ashes."

Caldwell believes cremation has become more popular in Oregon than it has elsewhere for two basic reasons.

"First, Oregonians have a certain consciousness about the land that many others don't," he says, "and that consciousness dictates that burying a body is not the best use of a precious resource."

"Second, cremation is less expensive than burial, although the other costs of a memorial service or funeral are the same."

Cremated remains are often placed in urns which can be kept by family members or stored in above-ground columbariums. The scattering of cremains is sometimes requested in respect of the deceased's wishes, but it's not a common occurrence.

"For a lot of people, dispersing the cremains of someone they have known and loved can be a very traumatic experience," says Caldwell. "Recognizing this, many cemeteries now provide scattering gardens where families can scatter the cremains while simultaneously establishing a memorial to the deceased."

Along with the increase in cremations has come an increase in the number of memorial services. These services tend to be simpler than traditional funerals and to be more personalized to the wishes of the family or the deceased.

Regardless of what someone's wishes might be, Caldwell says it's a good idea for people to discuss their funeral wishes with their families and write those wishes down.

"It spares the survivors the trauma of having to make some very difficult decisions during a time of extreme emotional duress," he notes.

Ambulance Service Providers Respond to Fire Bureau

PORTLAND — A spokesman for a coalition of private ambulance service providers said Thursday that a Fire Bureau proposal on ambulance service could lower the quality of emergency medical care in Multnomah County.

Bob Denbo, representing AA, Buck and Care Ambulance Services, said that the private providers oppose the Bureau's proposal for public safety, policy, and fiscal reasons.

The Bureau proposed taking responsibility for all advanced life support ambulance services (paramedic care and transport of seriously ill or injured patients). Currently, these services are provided by private companies.

Speaking at a press conference Thursday morning, Denbo said that all interested parties agree that the existing emergency service and transport system works very well. The medical community is highly satisfied with the quality of care now offered to the community.

"However," Denbo said, "the Bureau wants to interfere with a system that works well and provides high quality care, and to substitute a system with no track record. If the Bureau's system were put in place, there would be too few trained technicians and ambulances to serve the community's emergency needs, and the Bureau's new personnel would lack the crucial experience that makes a good paramedic."

Denbo said, "The Bureau's responsibility in the past has been to fight fires — not to transport patients. We cannot expect a large agency to change its area of expertise in a short period of time without a significant gap in service to patients."

Denbo said that the trend nationally has been to move emergency services back to the private sector, and that the Fire Bureau's proposal suggests an out-of-date attitude toward provision of public services.

"This proposal would drive at least two, perhaps all three, private ambulance providers out of business, with a loss of jobs for at least 92 highly trained employees. This is not the type of proposal that will be consistent with our economic development goals, nor will it increase small business' faith in local government. It will send a very negative message to businesses inside and outside the community."

"Plus, the loss of these businesses means the loss of a variety of tax revenues to our community," Denbo said.

With Denbo was Michael Henderson, of the national accounting firm, Deloitte, Haskins and Sells, which had analyzed the Bureau's proposal. The accounting firm determined that, if the Bureau's recommendations were adopted, it would cost the city more than \$24 million during the first five years of operation.

The accounting firm study states that the private providers are able to provide transport at less cost than the Bureau would incur under its proposal.



RELIGION UPDATE

by Dee Armstrong

Religion Update

by Dee Armstrong

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" Shall Madalyn Murry O'Hair! "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus Our Lord." Romans 8:35,37-39.

Madalyn Murry O'Hair, an atheist, whose efforts successfully eliminated the use of Bible reading and prayer from all public schools fifteen years ago, has been granted a Federal hearing in Washington, D.C. on the Subject (F. C. C.) THE PETITION, (R. M. 2493) would ultimately pave the way to stop the reading of the Gospel on the airways of America. She took her petition with 27,000 signatures to back her stand.

If her attempt is successful, all Sunday worship services being broadcast either by radio or television will stop. Many elderly people and shut-ins as well as those recuperating from hospitalization or illness, depend on radio and television to fulfill their worship needs every week.

Madalyn is also campaigning to remove all CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS AND CHRISTMAS SONGS AND CAROLS FROM PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

YOU can help this time. We need 1,000,000 (one million) signed letters. This should defeat Mrs. O'Hair and show that there are still many Christians ALIVE AND WELL AND CONCERNED in our country. This Petition is No. 2493. Sign, cut out, and mail the form below. Please DO NOT SIGN Mr. & Mrs. - let each adult sign one separately and mail it in. BE SURE TO PUT THE PETITION NUMBER ON THE LOWER LEFT HAND OUTSIDE CORNER OF THE ENVELOPE WHEN MAILING YOUR LETTER. No. 2493

(Please have this letter and petition photocopied and send it to ten friends.)

Cut along dotted line and mail to the address below

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 "M" Street
Washington, D.C. 20054

Date _____
Re: Petition No. 2493

Gentlemen:

I am an American and proud of my heritage. I am also very much aware of the place religious faith has played in the freedom we, as Americans, now enjoy. Therefore, I protest any human effort to remove from radio or television any programs designed to show faith in God or a Supreme Being.

Sincerely,

Street _____

City _____

Tourism Officers Slated

Thirty delegates from the Pacific Northwest Conference of Convention and Visitors Bureaus representing Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska will gather at the Greenwood Inn April 13-15.

The convention, which will include representatives from the Washington County Visitors Association (WCVA) will be discussing Expo '86, membership development and marketing strategies for tourism bureaus.

The regional conference selected Washington County based on an invitation from the WCVA.

For more information call the WCVA at (503) 684-5555.

How to Comfort Those Who Grieve

Most of us feel powerless in the face of news that a friend or relative has suffered the loss of a loved one. We want to respond, but are often afraid of doing or saying the wrong thing.

The next time you find yourself searching for a way to comfort someone in grief, follow these five suggestions.

- Be there. Nothing is more powerful than one human being reaching out to another in time of need. A heartfelt hug or just showing up at the funeral means a lot.
- Listen. Grieving people need to talk about the sudden vacuum in their lives. Encourage them by simply asking, "Would you like to talk?" Above all, avoid comments that discourage replies, such as "It's better now because he is at peace"; "You'll get over this," or "Don't question God's purpose."
- Send a note. Notes are a good way to share memories of the person who died. Knowing how much a loved one meant to others helps ease the misery of the bereaved. Sometimes simple notes that just say "I'm thinking of you during these painful days" or "I

Free Immunization Clinics

In response to the community's need for immunization up-dates, we are featuring FREE immunization clinics for all children ages birth-21 years. The only requirement to receive this service is to bring the child's current immunization or shot record to the appointment. We are accepting appointment and walk-ins between 9-12 and 1-5 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturday 9-1 p.m. Special clinics will be held on the following Saturdays, (9-5:00 p.m.) April 12, 1986 9:00-5:00 p.m. April 26, 1986 9:00-5:00 p.m.

Remember: Each child must have his or her SHOT RECORDS in order to receive FREE immunizations. Please call 284-5239 for appointments

am praying for you during this time" can help a great deal.

- Give a gift. Books, especially those that explain how to deal with grief, make excellent gifts. Some recommended titles include, *Those Who Wait for Morning*; *Thoughts on Being a Widow*, by Helen Thames Raley; *Tracks of a Fellow Struggler* by John Claypool; *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, by Rabbi Harold Kushner; and *Don't Take My Grief Away*, by Doug Manning.
- Extend an invitation. Think of an activity the grieving person likes to do — eat out, go to a play or take a drive. An invitation gives that person something to look forward to instead of looking back on the source of pain and suffering. Bear in mind that the bereaved often decline invitations — or accept only to cancel at the last minute. They might be afraid of losing control of their emotions in front of others or that it is not right to have a good time yet. It is up to you to encourage them, to let them know that they can begin enjoying life again.

"Keep The Pot Boiling" To Open at Historial Society

The Salvation Army will be the subject of a new exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society opening on April 7. The exhibit, called "Keep The Pot Boiling", traces the Salvation Army's hundred years in the city of Portland. Items to be featured in the exhibit include an antique drum, flag, song books, Bibles, violin, bugles, and bonnets.

The exhibit will be set up in the Broadway Lobby at the Oregon Historical Society, 1230 SW Broadway. A reception, held 4:30-7:00 p.m. on April 7 will open the exhibit, which runs

through October 11.

"It's very exciting to see how far we've come in the last one hundred years," said Lt. Col. David Riley, commander of The Salvation Army's Cascade Division. "And we plan to be here for another hundred."

Riley noted that October 3, 1886 was the date of the first Salvation Army open-air meeting in Portland. On October 3 this year that meeting will be re-enacted with descendants of the original officers present. The re-enactment will be held at the U.S. Bancorp Plaza, site of the first service.

A Public Service of the Portland Observer



Albina Ministerial Alliance

284-6023

Community on Apartheid

A Community Forum on Apartheid will be held Sunday, April 13, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Woodlawn United Methodist Church, 1425 N.E. Dekum. Entitled "What Happens to a Dream Deferred...?", the program will feature the film "Last Grave at Dimbaza" and a talk by Samuel Duplessis, a student from South Africa.

All are welcome and refreshments will be served following the program. For more information: Call 286-0059 or 288-5173.

Community Fair

A Community Services Fair will be held Saturday, April 12 at Patton Central United Methodist Church on the corner of N. Michigan and Alberta. Beginning at Noon, representatives of several community service organizations will be present until 4:00 p.m.

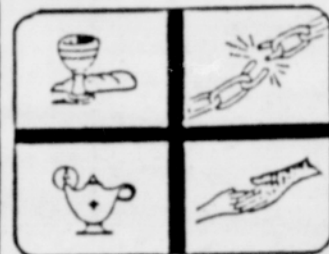
Refreshments will be served by the church and all are invited. For more information call: 286-0059 or 288-5173.

Rummage and Antique Auction

Volunteers of America will hold a Rummage Sale and Antique Auction on Friday, April 25th and Saturday, April 26th at 537 S.E. Alder (at the East end of the Morrison Bridge). Sale hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday.

Proceeds of the sale will support 11 different programs operated by Volunteers of America serving children, teens, families and seniors in our community.

In memory of Volunteer's of America's award winning thrift stores, the sale will include many serviceable items and unexpected treasures at reasonable prices. A silent auction of special collectables will be held with bids to be opened at 3 p.m. on Saturday the 26th. An oral auction of antiques and other valuable items, with guest auctioneer Rambling Rod Anders, will be held at 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 26th.



Woodlawn United Methodist Church

The Ecumenical Parish
of North & Northeast Portland
1425 N.E. Dekum St.

"DREAMS FOR JUSTICE, PEACE AND HOPE"

Sunday, April 13

9:45 Church School
11:00 Worship — Theme: "Visions of Justice"
6:00 APARTHEID: A COMMUNITY FORUM
"What Happens to a Dream Deferred...?"
Samuel Duplessis from South Africa,
Guest Speaker
Refreshments will be served.

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Christian Youth Fellowship 6:00 p.m.
(second and fourth Sundays)

Phillip S. Nelson (Pastor)



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John H. Jackson, Minister, M.Ed., M.D.
9:30 A.M. Church School
11:00 A.M. Congregational Worship
5:00 P.M. Vesper Service
10:00 A.M. Baptism Fourth Sunday
11:00 Communion Each First Sunday

The American Baptist Convention, American Baptist Churches of Oregon: Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention: National, Oregon, Portland Ecumenical Ministries, American Bible Society, M.&M. Board.

Piedmont Church of Christ

"Where the Scriptures are studied"

Bible Study 9:45 a.m.

Lord's Day Worship 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

5338 North Borthwick

Portland, OR 97211

W.E. Hunter, EVANGELIST

285-2956

COMMUNITY CHURCH of GOD

202 N.E. Skidmore

281-5678

284-5559

Services:

9:45 a.m., Sunday School
11:00 a.m., Morning Worship
7:00 p.m., Evening Worship

7:00 p.m. Wednesday, Prayer Meeting

Victor R. Brown, B. Theology, Pastor

Dr. Hazel L. Brown Sr., D.D., Assistant Pastor

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"A warm spirit of fellowship always"



the Bible says...
Follow peace with
all men & holiness
without which no
man shall see the
Lord

Tuesday: Bible Band 7:30 p.m.
Thursday: Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.
Sunday: Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:15 a.m.
Y.P.W.W. 6:30 p.m.
Evangelistic Worship 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday: Noon Day Prayer
Friday: "The Pastor Speaks" 7:30 p.m.
Saturday: Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.
"Showers of Blessings," broadcast Sunday morning, 10:00 A.M. Station KAAR 1480AM Dial

INTERESTING FACTS



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Put flour and seasonings in a salt shaker when flouring meats, poultry or fish.

The record for non-stop talking, held by Kapila Kumarasinghe in Sri Lanka, and set June 18 to 24, 1981, is 159 hours.

The Temple of Karnak on the Nile in central Egypt, built in 1300 B.C. has the largest columned hall ever built.



We do not do business with South Africa.

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