



**Scripture
of the Week:**
Psalms, Chapter 88

RELIGION



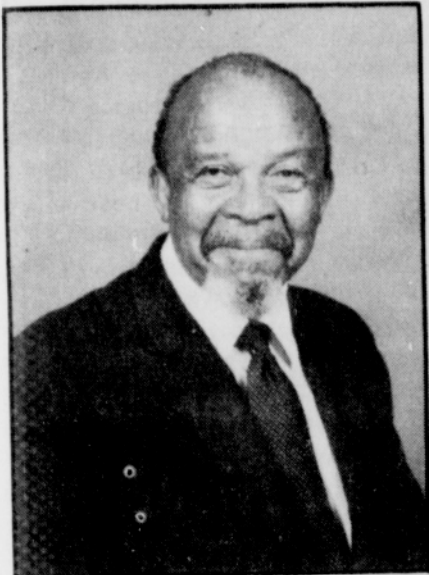
Send notice of your church
activities and events to:
Religion Editor, Portland Observer
P.O. Box 3137
Portland OR 97208

Portland Extension Sponsors "An Institute Week"

The United Theological Seminary, Portland Extension sponsored "An Institute Week", October 26th through October 30th at the O.B. Williams Convention Center. The center is located at 220 NE Beech Street.

Bible classes were held for one hour each night followed by full-gospel worship services which included churches' pastors and their choirs from the NE Portland Community.

The United Theological Seminary was founded in 1949 in Monroe, Louisiana.

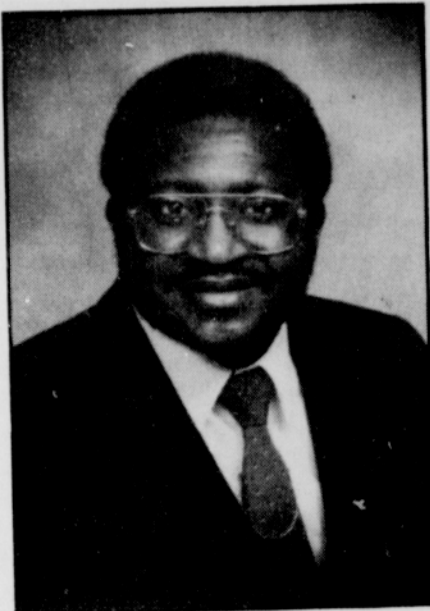


Rev. Dr. Benjamin Martin

The President of the Seminary, the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Franklin Martin, was the principle speaker during the first annual Institute Week Celebration for the Portland Extension.

Currently there are twenty-five extensions operating in the United States: Louisiana—19, Washing-

ton—1, Colorado—1, Illinois—1, Michigan—1, Texas—1, and Oregon—1.



Rev. Joe S. Hardie

During the beginning months of 1986, Rev. Joe S. Hardie, Pastor of the St. Mark Baptist Church (under the direction of the Holy Spirit), brought to the pastors and ministers the dream of a seminary in the Portland area. A school that would meet the need of those persons who were not able to attend bible seminary or college elsewhere because of work schedules or finances. To bring his dream into reality, Rev. Hardie continued to work towards his goal despite many obstacles and disappointments; until finally, his perseverance was rewarded.

With the cooperation of Dr. Robert Houston, Director of the Seattle, Washington extension, Dr. B.F. Martin, President and Director of

United Theological Seminary headquarters in Monroe, Louisiana, preparations were completed. Letters were sent to churches in the Portland area and vicinity informing them of the school and its advantages. Responses were received from several churches, registration was scheduled and classes were held in the Fellowship Hall of the St. Mark Baptist Church.

The first class was held on January 8, 1987, with fifteen students. Classes were offered in English, Christian Doctrine and Old Testament Survey. During the infant time of the school, the Lord has blessed it.

United Theological Seminary, Portland, Oregon Extension is an accredited school with the following degrees offered: Theology (diploma) Bachelor of Theology Degree, Bachelor of Religious Education, Masters of Administration, Doctorate of Divinity and Doctorate of Ministry.

All of the above degrees can and may be obtained by enrolling in classes which are now in session on a weekly basis.

The Portland Extension classes are held Thursdays and Fridays, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at St. Mark Baptist Church, 103 N.E. Morrison, Portland, OR 97212. You may call them for information at (503) 287-7457. The Rev. Joe S. Hardie is the Director.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly handling the work of truth." — II Timothy 2:15.

UCC Agency Counters Reagan Administration South African Sanctions Report

Tighter economic sanctions, not the lifting of the partial ban, are needed if the U.S. is to be effective in pressuring South Africa to abolish apartheid, according to a United Church of Christ agency's response to the Reagan Administration's sanctions progress report.

The Reagan Administration was required by law to issue the report to Congress one year after the U.S. imposed limited sanctions against South Africa. In his Oct. 1987 report, President Reagan, who vetoed the sanctions, says the measure has failed and recommends a "period of creative diplomacy" rather than additional sanctions. A bill proposing more stringent sanctions has been introduced into Congress, however, and a vote is expected in early 1988.

The counter-report, issued by the Office for Church of Society of the 1.7 million member United Church of Christ, says that sanctions have had some effect, most notably that U.S. imports from South Africa in early 1987 were at about half their level in 1986. However, the church agency charges, because of "major loopholes" in the sanctions law, South Africa is able to use U.S. short-term credits to finance trade — and 70% of its trade is financed by short-term credits.

"The present law allows corporations operating in South Africa to reinvest their profits anywhere in South Africa and to bring in new money to 'operate in an economically sound manner,'" contends the counter-report. "This effectively nullifies the ban on new in-

vestment just as the ban on extensions of credit is nullified by allowing short-term credits and agricultural credit programs like that subsidizing South Africa's purchase of U.S. grain with U.S. tax dollars!"

The counter-report argues that the law's complexity has enabled the Administration to "undermine the intent of Congressional sanctions by the way it writes the regulations which implement the law." For example, it points out, although the law bans the importation of uranium ore and oxide, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission grants licenses that allow companies to continue importing uranium to the U.S., enrich it and then export it back to South Africa. South Africa does not have the capacity to enrich its raw ore, which is necessary for uranium to be used for nuclear power or weapons, the report explains.

The church's response advocates the adoption of comprehensive economic sanctions against South Africa to avoid these kinds of "pitfalls". They believe "no investment is much easier to monitor and police than no new investment."

In taking this position, the counter-report relies heavily on South African voices calling for comprehensive economic sanctions, including the denomination's partner church, the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa; the National Union of Mineworkers, and the Council of South African Trade Unions — all groups composed of people who, some argue, would be hurt most by full sanctions.

The United Church of Christ is a 1957 union of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches. Its Office for Church in Society is charged with relating biblical teachings to current social issues, providing information on such issues, carrying out public policy advocacy to government, developing constituencies within the denomination to effect social change and working with United Church and ecumenical bodies on social and human resource problems.

UCC Commission for Racial Justice Urges Action on Poverty

Commissioners of the United Church of Christ's Commission for Racial Justice have called on the church and the Reagan Administration to take action around the nation's growing problems of homelessness and children in poverty, a disproportionate number of whom are racial and ethnic minorities.

Meeting last month in Miami, the commissioners also voted support for the Arias Central American peace plan and opposition to aid to the Nicaraguan contras. They reiterated their call for comprehensive economic sanctions against South Africa.

The Commission, which has organized several programs for children in New York City's "welfare hotels," challenged the Reagan Administration and Congress to enact emergency legislation to provide adequate housing for the estimated 3 million-plus homeless people in the U.S. It expressed concern that more than \$23 billion has been cut from Government funds for the construction and renovation of low-income housing and that the Office of Management and Budget has stated "the homeless are not a Federal responsibility."

The agency urged the 1.7 million member United Church of Christ's churches and agencies to "actively engage in emergency outreach projects . . . to help alleviate the suffering of the homeless" and called on denominational president, the Rev. Dr. Avery D. Post, to request President Reagan to convene an emergency conference on the homelessness crisis. "There is no greater national emergency today than the plight of homeless children who are forced to exist on the brutal streets of this nation," asserted the Rev. Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., the Commission's executive director.

Regarding children in poverty, the Commission called on the Reagan Administration to shift its focus from increased military spending to increased support of services for poor children. The agency recommended that the Government use the research and models developed by the Children's Defense Fund in creating programs to benefit poor children.

A Spiritual Experience

by Mattie Ann Collier-Spears

Last Sunday evening, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the Maranatha Church, the spirit was soaring high.

This was a very special concert. It was well-attended and enjoyed by all who came to hear, sing, shout, clap and PRAISE THE LORD.

The service was a TRIBUTE to Dennis and Rorie Furguson.

Dennis Furguson has been attending Maranatha Church for quite some time. During his time in ser-

vice at Maranatha, Mr. Furguson experienced a spiritual high. He wanted to share his experience with other members of his family and his friends from the community where he lives. He knew in his heart that they had probably never experienced anything like he had experienced. So, he sent out invitations. They all came . . . and praised the Lord — They did!

The SW hills and NE Portland had been united.

The choir sang: "Praying Spirit," "Don't Wait Til the Battle Is Over" and more. The Rev. Henry Greenidge, pastor of Irvington Covenant Church, and his family lent their voices and instrumental talents to this spiritual experience. Also, the "New Beginnings" with six vocalists and five musicians drew "Ah-mens" and "Hallelujahs" with their renditions.

The offering lifted from this service was divided between the Maranatha Youth Department and the Greenhouse Project (a downtown Portland project that houses homeless youth).

Tall In God's Love

A stately oak tree
So lofty and staunch
Stood with its head toward God;

It once was a seed,
A tiny acorn,
Placed in the heart of the sod.

Through shower and storm
Still upward it grew,
An out-branching, sheltering tree;

May we, like this oak,
Grow tall in God's love,
Undaunted by adversity.

by Loise Pinkerton Fritz

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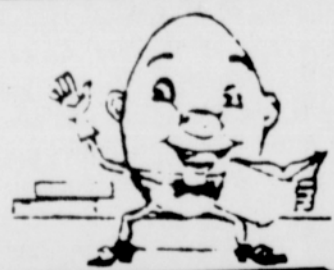
Children 6 wks.
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- Snacks

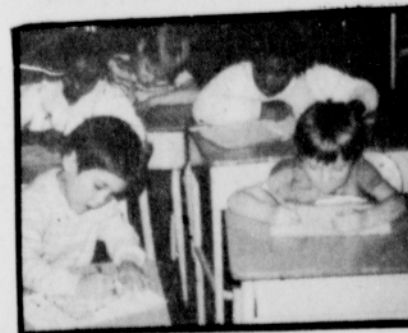
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Follow peace with
all men & holiness
without which no
man shall see the
Lord

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Thursday Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.
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.
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Phillip S. Nelson (Pastor)

AN ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAMILY DINNER

by Mattie Ann Collier-Spears

A Christmas Family Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 13th at 4:30 p.m. The dinner is being sponsored by the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver at the St. Andrews Catholic Church.

Food baskets will be delivered to needy families. Senior citizens have been especially invited to dine with them on this occasion.

Presiding over the festivities will be the Grand Knight, Mr. Sherman Williams; and the Grand Lady, Mrs. Elizabeth Council.

This dinner is held every year in honor of Saint Peter Claver.

Peter Claver was a priest who would always meet the slave ships in Catalan Village, Verdier, Northern

Spain, carrying bread, fruit, tobacco and medicine to the slaves aboard the vessels.

He fulfilled the needs of their bodies, and taught the gospel to the sick, the well and the dying. He cared for them all in a most unselfish manner.

He was considered a saint by the town's people because of the things he had done.

It was his custom to make the frightened, sick and thirsty slaves as physically comfortable as possible before he began work on their souls.

Peter Claver was a man who knew how to love and was an apostle of the slaves.



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