

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK
PSALMS: CH. 26

RELIGION

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



Maiden Voyage Sails on Calm Waters

by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

Sickness, healing; defeat, success; sorrow, joy; loneliness, peace; searching, surrender — all these words are synonymous in the life of the person I'm about to reveal. She was married for 16 beautiful years to a most wonderful husband, Robert, who God had certainly sent to her. Her husband died in 1982. There was a void in her life. A feeling of emptiness that she just could not explain.

Now — she had to face the responsibility of completing the task of raising their three children — Victoria, Marjorie, Robert Keith — and one foster son — David Stewart — alone.

Her life seemed bleak, but God had plans.

"God has a plan for all of us, but first we have to obey the will of the Lord. We must put God first in our lives. Whether we're rejoicing, praising or in sorrow — we must put Him first."

Helen Bowden is a courageous, sensitive and caring person. She has been attending and serving at the Bethel AME Church for many years. In January of 1987, she approached Rev. Watley about her entering the ministry. Rev. Watley told her that he could not make the appointment himself, but that she had to wait until the church conference before she could be assigned. Well, Rev. Watley died before she had a chance to reach the church conference.

In the meantime, she continued to study.

Bethel AME Church was without a pastor for several months. Then, in September of 1987, came the Rev. Milton Green.

Helen had never lost hope. She



knew she had to answer God's call for her to enter the ministry. There was something that she had to do — somethings she had to do — before her time ran out. She expressed her desire to enter the ministry. She was so excited.

Just before New Year's Eve, everything began to come together.

Rev. Green went to the last quarterly conference and had Elder DeWitty, Presiding Elder, to sign her license.

"Rev. Green has been so helpful and supportive. I know that God sent him. I would not have been able to be successful in my quest if it had not been for the guidance of Rev. Matthew A. Watley and the

prayers and assistance of Rev. Green," says Helen.

She is now the new Licentiate of Bethel AME Church, on local assignment because of her children. Her maiden sermon was given on the fifth Sunday of January, 1988. The title of her sermon was "Love Will Conquer All" (I John 3:17-24).

"I felt compelled to speak on that particular subject. You find people who have attained fame and fortune going to the world to find love and peace, but only God's love is unconditional love. Unconditional love is the key that so many people seek, but they are always going to the wrong places to find it. We must not be jealous of one another or critical. You see, love begins with God."

"I have been teaching in the Portland Public Schools for many years. The public schools is a good missionary field. There is so much work to be done. We must be properly prepared and trained to teach anyone about anything. We must be armed with the Word to lead someone to Christ."

God has made special provisions for Helen. He has dramatically transformed her life. Her yielding and submissive spirit will surely win favor with God.

Helen's future hopes include attending the Claremont School of Theology in Claremont, California.

Helen says, "We must learn to listen to the voice of God. He is speaking to us all the time." She is thankful to God for praying grandparents and parents who kept her in church.

To all the young people in the community, she says, "Stay in church and stay in the Word."

A Night in the Word

by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

On Sunday, February 21st, at the Greater St. Stephen Baptist Church on 3954 N. Williams Ave., the United Theological Seminary, Portland Extension, will host "A Night in the Word".

Students from the Homiletics class — Rev. Henry Crain, Rev. E.N. Warren, Mrs. Dora McCrae, Rev. R.E. Houston, Sr., Rev. A. Bailey, Rev. Charles Bemby and Rev. Arthur G. May — will be speaking on various topics.

There will be choirs from the community providing music for evening worship program.

The public is cordially invited. Everything begins at 7:00 p.m. Come early so you can get a good seat.

Rev. Joe S. Hardie, M.R.E., Director and Rev. A. Bailey, Pastor, Greater St. Stephen Baptist Church.

My Strength is My Lord

So restful is the evening time
When my busy day is done
I think about the years gone by
And those that are to come

My precious Lord will guide me
Tho the years sometimes seem long
I'll never falter from His path
He will keep me from all wrong

Until the day that's sure to come
When I'm standing at His side
My faith will keep me going
For I know I'll never die.

by Albert N. Theel

Sixth Annual Gospel Concert

by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

On Saturday, February 27th, the Black United Front will present its 6th Annual Gospel Concert.

This year the theme will be "Honoring Our Youth". Local youth choirs from the community will be participating.

Come support our young people. Come support the BUF's efforts

to present our future generation in concert.

The concert will be held at the Mount Olivet Baptist Church, located at 116 N.E. Schuyler Street, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The admission is free.

For further information, call: (503) 284-1954.



Albina Ministerial Alliance

285-0493

A Public Service of the Portland Observer

CALENDAR

Black Women's Support Group

Informal group will discuss day-to-day problems facing the single female. Limit: 10 Black females. Call 282-0003 for time and place.

Women's Leadership Conference

Saturday, Feb. 20, PCC, Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth, Student Activities Center. 10-4. Theme: "Abiding in Jesus Christ". Free.

Dannibelle Hall in Concert

Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m., Maranatha Church, 1222 N.E. Skidmore. Free will offering. Call 288-7241.

Art Exhibit and Reception

Sun., Feb. 21, 2-5 p.m., NE YWCA, 5630 N.E. Union Ave. The exhibit will run until the end of February. "Northwest African-American Art Exhibit." Call 282-0003.

Benefit Musical

Feb. 21, 3:30 p.m., Grace Bible Church, 1431 SW 12th Avenue, Portland. Free will offering for the Prison Ministry. Call 284-7563.

Workshop on Housing & Community Development

Mon., Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m., Sabin School Auditorium, 4013 N.E. 18th, info on home and business rehab and remodeling. Contact Harold Miller, 248-4575.

PCC Celebrates Black History Month

Mon, Wed, Fri, Feb. 22, 24, 26, movie, "Eyes on the Prize", 11-1, Auditorium. In 6 parts, 2 parts per day.

Thurs., Feb. 25, 7 p.m., Keynote speaker — The Honorable Sidney J. Barthelemy, Mayor of New Orleans. Cascade Hall Auditorium, 705 N. Killingsworth.

PPS Board of Ed. Meeting Special Education

Tues., Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m., Board Auditorium of Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon St.

Police Internal Investigations Auditing Committee Meeting

Feb. 25, 1:15 p.m., City Hall, 1220 S.W. Fifth Ave., City Council Chambers.

"Nuisances" Info Session

Thurs., Feb. 25, 6:45 p.m., Portland Building, Room C, 1120 SW 5th. How to get action on abandoned houses, cars, garbage & vacant lots. Call 248-4519.

IFCC Theatre Announces Auditions for "Tea"

The IFCC Theatre announces open auditions for the play "Tea" by Velina Hasu Houston which will be performed in Portland April 22 through May 22.

"Tea" will be the final production of the IFCC 1987-88 Theatre Season. "Tea" was originally produced by the Asian American Theater Company in San Francisco and is the third play in a trilogy by Velina Hasu Houston that focuses upon the experiences of Japanese war brides. In this comedy-drama set in Kansas, five stories unfold, each revealing the individuality of their personal lives, marriages and experiences in America. Married to a Puerto Rican, a Mexican American, a Black American, a Japanese American and a Caucasian (Texan), these women's characters distinctly

counter the cultural stereotypes of Japanese women, while facing racism in their own families.

Five actresses are needed for the IFCC production of "Tea". Auditions will be held between February 22nd and March 12th. Please call the IFCC Theatre, (503) 243-7930, for more specific information on dates and times, and to schedule an audition appointment.

Rehearsals for "Tea" will begin in mid-March, and the play is scheduled to open on Friday, April 22nd. It will run on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. through May 22nd. The IFCC Theatre is located at 5340 N. Interstate Avenue in Portland, Oregon. All acting positions will be paid, and the IFCC is an equal opportunity employer.

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