

## March Against Drugs



Rev. Roy L. Tate

"Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Psalm 133: 1

Drugs and Alcohol are major causes of crime, prostitution, gang activity, deaths and other forms of criminal behavior. Neighborhoods are being stolen away from law abiding citizens and the criminal factions are taking over. We support law enforcement as it attempts to eradicate these types of environments, but organizations within the community must also confront the situation and "win our neighborhoods back."

J.A.D.A. (Jesus Against Drugs and Alcohol) is a christian based outreach program of the Christ Memorial Church. Founded by Rev. Roy L. Tate. The purpose of J.A.D.A. is to meet the spiritual and physical needs of abusers and help them overcome their addictions, also to provide an alternative lifestyle for the misdirected and guide people into a self-sufficient and stabilized life.

J.A.D.A. is sponsoring a march on Saturday, August 13, 1988 beginning at 12:00 Noon. We will start at the U.S. Bank on Union Avenue and Killingsworth and march to Alberta Park where we will conclude with a rally and hear remarks from various speakers.

The theme of the march is, "When people use dope, the community has no future or hope." We will be joined by Mayor Bud Clark and other city officials, local businesses, churches, schools, neighborhood associations, local officials, and the J.A.D.A.

We are asking you to join us in the cause. You may walk, ride, run or ride in a bus.

For more information, contact: Christ Memorial Church of God in Christ, 1552 North Killingsworth St., Portland, OR 97217, (503) 286-9624.

## Golden Wedding Anniversary

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Thadus Spencer celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary of their parent's marriage on Saturday, the 16th of July, 1988 at seven p.m. It was held at the Rafters near the Sellwood Bridge, in the South Room, 220 Southeast Spokane Street in Portland, Oregon. Everyone who attended the celebration came, saw and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

When you think of 50 years living with the same person, there is a bond that could never be broken, a oneness of purpose that does not happen in every marriage. For Thaddeus and Marie Spencer, their 50 year odyssey began in 1938 in a town called Holt, Alabama where Mr. Spencer, a native of Akron, Alabama, had come to live with his aunt. There he met his best friend and companion for life, Marie Thompson.

It was not love at first sight but a meeting of the minds. It was in the cards that almost everyday Thaddeus would come walking by, sit down, and have a nice chat with Marie while she sat on the porch of her house. They could also be found down at the local eating place listening to the Rock Cola and dancing the night away.

It was not long after that Thaddeus decided Marie was the girl for him. No, he never asked for her hand. He just sort of took it for granted that it was his anyway. On July 16, 1938 with marriage license in hand, they took off to the local church and said those very famous and important two words: I DO!

Thus began the reason for this story, as Thaddeus and Marie Spencer celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Fifty Years of marriage, 12 children, 32 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren later they are still bonded together by those vows.

During World War II, Sgt. Spencer of the U.S. Army was stationed in Africa and Italy, serving his country by driving supply trucks to the front lines. Then in June, 1943 the family moved to the Pacific Northwest, to Portland, Oregon, to start a new life, and raise their 12 children.

Thaddeus and Marie and church going, God fearing people who did whatever they could to make sure that their kids had what the Good Lord was able to provide, and provide he did, for 50 long and hard but somehow wonderful years.

CONGRATULATIONS! May God continue to bless and keep you.

## Message To The Albina Community

by Margaret J. Isaacs

The Albina Community has been sensitized by suffering and has asked the question, "Why us?" "Why must we suffer increased crime, prostitution, drugs, gangs." "Why does everything hurt so much?" There are no easy answers. We fail when we try to give answers because the pleadings of those in agony are not for answers or understanding, but for relief from anguish. For the Albina Community reality in life is pain. If there is any feeling that all people share, it is pain. If there is anything which begs that we explain it, it is pain. Unless our answers contains something that brings ease from distress, we merely make the pain worse. The problems of the Northeast Area are as old as Sodom and Gomorrah and the pain for some is too great to bear. Murdered relatives, raped daughters, entire families addicted to drugs. Prey for all, within and without the Community. Some cry out as Isaiah the prophet who pleaded most eloquently when he turned to God and said,

*If You would but tear open the heavens and come down,  
So that mountains would quake ... When you did wonders  
we dared not hope for, You came down*

(Isaiah 64: 1, 3; Hebrew 63: 19, 64: 1)

Some hold God responsible for the ills of the Community, but gain little and lose so much when God is blamed for the problems, pressures and pain we allowed and in some instances, condoned with our participation. Albina not only has a pain problem but an identity problem as well. Community thinking must be realigned. Positive images, counsel with knowledge, compassion must be evident if we would change the ugly image of the Community. Pain expresses the idea of "moving convulsively, struggling, twitching, jerking." Albina, like the beautiful butterfly with its multi-colored appearance was first an ugly grub. Now is the time for the transformation of the Albina Community by extreme convulsions, pain and struggle, if we would transform ourselves from ugly grub to beautiful butterfly. Somethings, and perhaps some persons, must die before the transformation from pain to glory occurs. Perhaps some of us will be martyrs, murdered because of our beliefs that change must come, that children must be saved, that criminal elements must be eradicated from our Community; but-death is not the end, it is just the other side. As a widow of a slain missionary in Quito, Ecuador wrote:

*This is not death—it's glory;  
It isn't dark—it's light;  
It isn't stumbling, groping, or even faith—it's sight;  
This isn't grief—it's having my last tear wiped away;  
It is sunrise—the morning of my eternal day;  
This isn't praying—it's speaking face to face, and it's  
glimpsing at all the wonders of his grace;  
This is the end of all pleading for strength to bear  
my pain, not even pain's dark memory will ever live again;  
How did I bear the earth life before I came up higher?  
before I knew this rapture of meeting face to face  
with the one who sought me, saved me, and kept me by His grace?  
This is not death—it's glory!*

We must see the Albina Community as a thing in itself. Sickness in the absence of health. Death in the absence of life. Chaos in the absence of order. Accidents in the absence of proper performance. There is a severe lapse in the way that things ought to be. Evil, pain, cruelty, injustice, hatred, strife, and sickness as well as death exist because of the choices we have made. Therefore, Albina must change our thinking, let the pain we now endure lead us into the knowledge of God and man and how the two interact. Our pain is the occasion for us to look up and see God, letting us know that he does care and that he is willing to enter into our suffering ... letting us know that the suffering we endure will lead up past this vile experience into a safe, God-centered, God-seeking, livable community. Our pain has helped us to focus outside of ourselves, determined to find the solutions to our problems. We cannot choose whether or not we will entirely eradicate the pain, but we can choose whether we will allow problems to defeat us. The God-fearing people of the Albina Community will look within and among themselves for the solution to our community problems. We will change from within the causes of the sickness, which the band-aid solution from without the community has been unable to cure. The Albina Community has been spiritually passive for a time, but will be passive no longer. Strangers to pain we are not; We will cope and we will be victorious.

## 1st Anniversary Celebrated

by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

Sunday, July 24, 1988 marked a statement in the history of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. The Reverend and Mrs. Milton Green's first Anniversary with the church was honored.

The theme of the occasion was, "A Charge to Keep I Have." The scripture was taken from I Timothy 5:17—"... Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine."

The members of the Bethel Church had nothing but good to express about their pastor and friend, Rev. Green. The program continued with songs from the Bethel AME's combined choirs,

## Drill Team Seek Help

by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

The award-winning Stars and Stripes Drill Team, based at the Salvation Army Moore Street Community Center, is asking the help of the community. On August 20th, 1988, the drill team has been invited to compete and participate in the "Pacific National Exhibition" in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. There will be 44 nations competing (including Russia).

The drill team qualified for entry because of their 1st place achievement in Everett, Washington on the 4th of July. They received the highly acclaimed HENRY M. JACKSON'S YOUTH IN ACTION AWARD. Just recently, on the 30th of July, the drill team marched away with the "Grand Marshall's Trophy" in the West Linn Festival.

There will be 25 girls and 4 adults traveling together. They need the sum of \$1,500.00 to cover their expenses of: meals, lodging (for one night) and transportation.

Please send all contributions to the:

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c/o The Stars and Stripes Drill Team  
5335 N. Williams • Portland  
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Rev. James or Gloria Richardson  
(503) 249-0514

Let the girls know that you, the community, are proud of their accomplishments by sending in your contributions, TODAY! The amounts of \$5, \$10, \$20, or even \$100 will be greatly appreciated. The names of the contributors will be published in the PORTLAND OBSERVER each week until the amount has been reached. May God bless your efforts!

songs from the Mount Olivet Baptist Church's Jubilee Singers (who sang before their pastor spoke) "We shall be just like Him—When we see Jesus" which was led by Leneld D. Hammond. The message of the evening was brought by the Rev. Dr. James Martin, pastor of the Mount Olivet Baptist Church.

Commissioner Dick Bogle and his lovely wife, Rev. John H. Jackson and his beautiful spouse and several other guest were recognized.

Since his arrival here in October of 1987, Pastor Green has demonstrated to his members the true meaning of "We must work the work of Him that sent us while it is day, for night cometh and no man can work." (It should be noted that Pastor Green has shown his members that days are not long enough and every man can continue to work at night.)

Under Rev. Green's guidance, the church adopted the theme "Growing in Grace and Knowledge," the emphasis as promised is in the area of Worship and Preaching, Evangelism, Christian Giving and Christian Education. Programs and objectives are being met, the Gospel is being Preached, the sick and shut-ins are being visited, the Holy Spirit is continually filling and moving in the church and its members, souls are being saved and lives are being healed. There is a Prayer Breakfast each month—open to the public, a Membership Training Class, Bible Study each Wednesday at noon and at 6:30 p.m. The Sunday School is growing, Vacation Bible School was held, a Class Leaders Council was organized along with the President's Council and The Sons of Allen. Rev. Green began the Clarion Newsletter, there is a Blood Pressure Clinic, and a local church Economic Development Program have all been established.

Mrs. Essie Green is the chairperson of the Bethel AME Plaza, Inc., Senior Service Program, Advisory Board. Rev. Green, Mrs. Green, and their daughter Karen, we SALUTE you and your undying service in the "field of Faith."

Following the final remarks, everybody was invited to fellowship with Bethel and partake of the delicious buffet that was prepared and waiting in the multi-purpose room area.

The program is over, the food has been eaten; but, Rev. Green's work is not ended. He has to meet the challenges of the months ahead.

May God richly bless Rev. Green. May He Strengthen him and keep him in His care.

## Are You Ready To Love?

Just Love and be Loved. It sounds so simple. So natural. Like breathing, or just being who we are. The need to give and receive Love is basic to our lives. It's the one thing that connects us to one another and to the universe. Like everything else in nature, we are an expression of God's Love.

Are you ready to Love? We miss many opportunities for Love because we don't like "the package." Would you recognize a Love-mate if he were short, fat or poor? The last thing we women want is to be accepted or rejected based on looks or wealth. Do you give others the same consideration you wish for yourself?

We are all attracted to secure, independent people who are focused on their mission. The caring responsive, responsible people we want in our lives are attracted to us when we ourselves become that kind of person, when we develop that relationship with ourselves. When you are Loving and caring for Yourself, you become a powerful magnet attracting the best of everything.

To give and receive Love you must throw open the doors of your heart, create a space for Love by letting go of past anger, by forgiving anyone who has ever hurt you—parents, friends, Lovers. We are the—culmination of our past experiences.

Anchor yourself with Love and be a source of peace wherever you are. Unhappy people bring their unhappiness with them wherever they go, but you take the high road! Love! "That's such an important lesson for us Black folks."

The most powerful political action Black people can take is to work in concert. And being in harmony depends on learning to Love ourselves. "Then we'll understand the nature and power of Love. Then we can begin to Love and cherish one another as men and women, parents and child(ren), sisters and brothers. We've got to Love. "We've got to do it NOW!"

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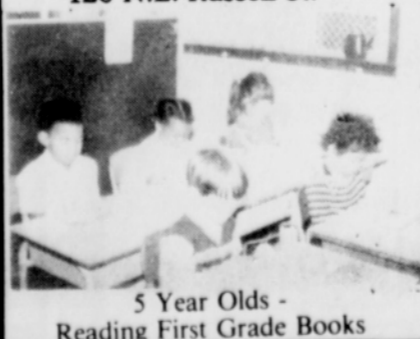
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