

RELIGION

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK
PROVERBS: Chapter 31

97th Session Puget Sound Conference Report

by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

During the week of August 11-14, 1988, the Bethel AME Church became host church to the 97th Session Puget Sound Conference.

There was singing, preaching (2 to 3 times a day), eating, praying, workshops, eating, board meetings, and just plain old fellowshiping with one another.

There was a banquet held on Wednesday at the Red Lion Lloyd Center to open the four day event. Dignitaries from the city and state government offices came to welcome the new Bishop and his wife and the delegates to the city of Portland and the state of Oregon. It was a night of sopranos: Mrs. Ernestine Dillard, Mrs. Dorothy Butler and Mrs. MAC Spears. Mr. David Flannigan, Mr. Edgar Mitchell and Mrs. Lorene Wilder also performed. The speaker of the evening was Bishop Anderson.

There was a special Luncheon held on Wednesday for the crowning of "Miss Puget Sound".

Thank You!

God in His glorious wisdom, has supplied me with so many good friends, well-wishers and praying saints. In a very short space, I merely want to say "Thank You so very, very much for all the calls, flowers, visits, and cards; but, most important of all — your prayers."

A very special thanks to the "Uhuru Sa Sa Organization" in the Oregon State Prison. I shall never forget your offerings. I shall cherish your card with all your names. My family members, my Portland Observer family, and my mission sisters.

God has blessed me with a speedy recovery; but, I still have to take it easy and have physical therapy until I regain total usage of my left arm and leg.

To all my readers and everyone mentioned above, again, "Thank You and May God Bless you all."

Yours in Christ Jesus' Name,
Mattie Ann Callier-Spears
Religion Editor
Portland Observer

This is a financial contest. There were 6 contestants from the 9 participating churches. Ms. Barbara Mitchell arose the victor with \$3,200.00 and Bethel's contestant came in 2nd place with \$775.00. Miss Puget Sound received a crown, red roses (which were donated by Commissioner Dick Bogle), and other gifts which were furnished by Mrs. Rochelle McElroy. Each contestant was escorted by Elder Jewell Dewitty. Excerpts from "Colored Girls" & original works were presented by a one woman show, Beverly Anderson.

On Thursday morning, the Rev. James Oxley gave the Annual Sermon. He opened by saying "Your soul — be on thy guard, because something is out there after you." He was announced by the Bishop Anderson who admonished the congregation to "Wait on the Lord! I greet you in the name of our risen, living Lord.

The world expects us to make a change in the place where we are. We have hope because of the God we serve. It is humbling to know God has sent me as an overseer of the flock. My job is to help lift you up.

We have a story to tell. We should know what that story is all about. Sometimes up and sometimes down but we have a story to tell. While on the battlefield, sometimes scared and sometimes happy we have a story to tell.

The story teller of the hour was Rev. James Henry Oxley, pastor of the 1st AME Church in Seattle, Washington. His message was taken from the book of Numbers, the 13th Chapter and the 31st Verse: The Refusal to Possess

A Prayer for Strength

Lord, help me live my life for thee;
To think of others instead of me,
And help me give my very best
Without regard for need of rest,
Until I've run the race you've set
And every righteous goal is met.
Then will I pause to give thee praise
For all the grace that blessed my days.
Then lovingly will I lay down
A life of work, to thee a crown,
Unworthy token though it be
To you who gave so much for me.
Glenda Fulton Davis

your Possessions". Here are excerpts from Rev. Oxley's Annual Sermon. "We have a whole lot of spirit but a lot of weak hearts. God had led the people to the Promised Land. God left them there on their own. God said, 'You go and possess the land'. God had trained a leader called 'Moses'. Unless God trains you — You will have difficulty leading His people. Moses could not lead until he had passed through the fire of the experiences of life.

Instead of going at once, a committee was appointed. The majority and a minority committee reports were submitted to God. A young man submitted his own report, named Joshua. Joshua's report was tabled by the vast majority.

It is a tragedy when we fail to possess what belongs to us.

The people of the land saw the difficulties instead of the opportunities to serve. It is a tragedy!

All the folk settin' up in church is not a Christian. Just because you're settin' in a chicken house — it doesn't make you a chicken.

Because you haven't received anything, is your own fault; because you hesitate to claim that which is your own, is your own fault.

God had already given the people the and they wouldn't take it. They had no faith. They failed because they had a keener sense of the difficulties instead of the ever present power of God. Ask

God to give you a little more courage and a little more faith. I've never known a mighty man without a mighty dream.

The lack of a wholesome self respect only means that there is no self esteem. If you don't think anything of yourself, what do expect others to think about you.

The church needs a new BAPTISM of self respect. Jesus said, in spite of great opposition, 'I will build my church'."

Bishop Vinton Anderson said, "Everytime you hear the Word preached it frees up your soul". Then Bishop Anderson led the congregation in a most appropriate song "I feel good, good, good down in my soul. Everytime I think about Jesus — I feel good". PRAISE THE LORD!

CHURCHES IN CONFERENCE

There are 12 churches that make up the Puget Sound Conference and they are: Wayman AME, Billings, Montana, Rev. Robert Freeman, pastor; Walker Chapel AME, Seattle, Washington, Rev. C. Dennis Williams, pastor; Union Bethel AME, Great Falls, Montana, Rev. William Jackson, pastor; Primm Tabernacle AME, Seattle, Washington, Rev. Cornelius N. Austin Jr., pastor; Ebenezer AME, Bremerton, Washington, Rev. William Elliott, pastor; First AME, Seattle, Washington, Rev. James Henry Oxley, pastor; First AME, Fairbanks, Alaska, Rev. Lennel Cleaver, pastor; Allen AME, Tacoma, Washington, Rev. Vernon Burroughs, pastor; Bailey

AME, Everett, Washington, Rev. Martha Redfield, pastor; Bethel AME, Portland, Oregon, Rev. Milton Green, pastor; Bethel AME, Spokane, Washington, Rev. Alvin Smith, pastor; Bethel AME, Yakima, Washington, Rev. Clarence Henderson, pastor.

Thursday night was **Evangelistic Service Night**. The choir sang "Heal the Land from sea to shining sea" and it was led by Mrs. Lorene Wilder.

Two Ministers who Portland has not seen for a number of years were, Rev. Ellis Casson — now pastoring Bethel AME in San Diego, California and Rev. L. Fisher Hines — now pastoring Ebenezer AME in Kansas City, Missouri. They both look well and I was happy to see them both.

Rev. Lennel Cleaver of Fairbanks, Alaska chose as his topic, "The Great Invitation". He admonished the congregation to "Lift up the name of Jesus Christ and He will draw all men unto Him. For God said, 'Behold I am the living water. Stoop down, drink and live. You don't have to bring any credit cards or your check book or your wallet — because salvation is free.'" He also said, "Evangelism begins at home — down in your soul. If you're not whole, how can you

talk to anyone else about wholeness?"

On Friday night the Young People had a gala event at the Flamingo Inn, on Saturday there was a picnic with the most delicious Bar-B-Que and Sunday the Bishop spoke liken unto the Voices of many Angels descending upon the people.

Choir In Concert

by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

The Cathedral Choir of Beth Eden Baptist Church, director/organist Mr. Jerry White of Oakland, California, will be presented in concert at 4:00 p.m. at the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church — 116 Northeast Schuyler Street in Portland, Oregon.

The choir will also sing at the First Baptist Church on 909 Southwest 11th Ave. in downtown Portland the morning of Aug. 28, 1988.

There will be no admission cost. A Love Offering will be lifted during the service.

This is the first time the Beth Eden Cathedral Choir has ever been to the Northwest.

Come! Enjoy! Join in and sing the songs of Praises with the Beth Eden Cathedral Choir.

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Psalm 34:3

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the Bible says ...

Follow peace with all men & holiness without which no man shall see the Lord
HEBREWS 12:14

Tuesday:	7:30 p.m.
Bible Band	
Thursday:	7:00 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal	
Sunday:	9:15 a.m.
Sunday School	11:15 a.m.
Morning Worship	6:30 p.m.
Y.P.W.W.	
Evangelistic	8:00 p.m.
Worship	
Tuesday - Friday	
Noon Day Prayer	
Friday	
"The Pastor Speaks"	7:30 p.m.
Saturday	
Morning Prayer	9:00 a.m.
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Steven Bailey - Naturpathy/Writer

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