

PORTLAND OBSERVER

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The Eyes and Ears of the community

December 1, 1988

Saluting ...



Ullysses Tucker, Jr.
Public Affairs Director
KATU - Ch. 2



Shawndea Toney
5th Grade
Vernon School

One Church, One Child Program Kickoff

Governor Neil Goldschmidt was one of the keynote speakers at the kickoff event for Oregon's One Church, One Child Black adoption program last Wednesday at the Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church in Portland.

More than 300 people attended the celebration including the program's Chicago founder, Father George Clements, Black community leaders, clergy and officials from Oregon's Children's Services Division.

The basic principle of the One Church, One Child program is to find at least one Black family, per Black Church, to adopt at least one Black child. According to Father Clements, the program has been responsible for more than 8,000 adoptions and can be found in 36 states. There are 90 African-American children awaiting adoption in Oregon.

"There is an urgent need in Oregon to recruit families because the Black population is small, yet there is a significant number of children who need placement," said Dr. Virginia Phillips, Executive Director of the One Church, One Child Program. Dr. Phillips said 26 Black parishes are currently involved with the program. The goal, she said, is to involve all of Portland's African-American churches.

Governor Goldschmidt, recognizing the importance of the One Church, One Child program, pledged his support. "Together we can make a difference in the life of one child at a time," he said. Father Clements, the founder of the One Church, One Child Program in Chicago, praised Governor Goldschmidt for his support. He informed the Governor that church leaders have and are meeting opposition from social service officials in many other states.

It was a glorious celebration filled with positive anticipation, down home gospel singing, spiritual guidance, inspiration and a message: "Black Oregonians, extend yourself and risk loving the children who need you." This message was stated most clearly by Dr. Phillips.

The One Church, One Child Program was started in Chicago by Father Clements. Since its formation, the program has spread to 36 states and has been responsible for more than 8,000 adoptions.

The One Church, One Child program is based in Portland's African-American community and administered by the Albina Ministerial Alliance. Children's Services Division has provided a grant to AMA to make the One Church, One Child program possible.

Thank You!

The 1st Annual James O. Brooks Memorial Scholarship Dinner was a historic success.

Last Saturday night's event was well-attended as the Portland community paid tribute to the former Urban League President, whose philosophy impacted change for the Portland Chapter.

The message, delivered by Dr. Lee P. Brown, Houston, Texas Police Chief, was extremely timely and accurate. The Black community must indeed unite with the Ballot, the Book and the Buck.

The Scholarship recipients, Ms. Gaylene Bickham (Jefferson High School) and Mr. Darwin Eagleton (Mt. Hood Community College) are two tremendous talents and serves this community well as youthful role models.

But what truly made the event successful was the tremendous support extended by those loyal supporters of James Brooks and the Portland Observer.

Special thanks also to the Portland Observer staff who worked so diligently for the success of the event, especially to Ms. Ruby Reuben who

did an outstanding job as the event coordinator and was assisted by Ms. B. J. Edwards.

The Scholarship Fund will be ongoing. Those wishing to contribute may send their tax-free donations to: The James O. Brooks Memorial Scholarship Fund C/O American State Bank, 2737 N. E. Union Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97212.

Once again, many thanks from the James Brooks family and friends and the Portland Observer.



I want to give a most grateful thanks to all of the people who made the James O. Brooks Scholarship possible. The funds that I shall receive shall only be used for one thing and that's success. This success will be not only for me but my community as well. I am a product of you. Once again, I thank you all.



Mrs. Beria K. Brooks (Center) proudly displays plaque honoring her husband, James O'Neil Brooks. Standing with Mrs. Brooks: Houston, Texas Police Chief, Lee P. Brown (L) and Leon Harris (R) General Manager, Portland Observer.



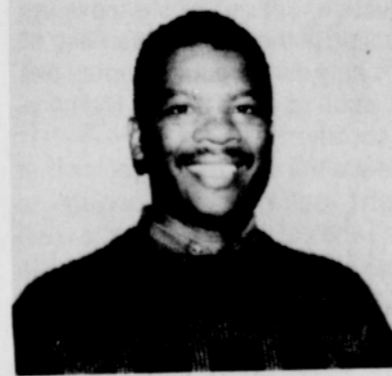
Gaylene Bickham (Left center) and Darwin Eagleton (Right center) pose for pictures after receiving scholarship awards.

Ecclesia: My Visit With The Children

by Jimi Johnson

On Saturday, November 26, I had the opportunity to visit with Roger Wilder, Program Manager in Gibbs Cottage at MacLaren School, and some of the children from the Ecclesia Athletic Association. The twenty boys, ranging in ages from 4-14 have been housed in Gibbs Cottage since the tragic death of eight year old Ecclesia Member Dana Broussard in mid-October. (Most of the girls from Ecclesia Athletic Association are housed at Hillcrest.)

When I arrived on campus, many of the children were preparing to go on an outing to Chuck-E-Cheese as an incentive reward for having an outstanding week in school and on campus. These are weekly outings playing a few games of foosball with which all children seem to enjoy and take part in occasionally. Some of the older boys who elected to stay in



the cottage were watching the "big" football game between Notre Dame and USC, while others played foosball and table tennis.

On this Saturday afternoon the boys seemed to be in "good spirits" and enjoying themselves. After some of the youth, I had a chance to sit and talk with Roger Wilder. Roger Wilder, who is also an assistant with the Minority Youth Concerns Program (a program geared toward counseling minority

African Folk Tales To Be Performed

The fire crackles, the drums pulse, the dancers beckon from behind mysterious masks in two tales magically spun under the African sky. Tears of Joy Theatre presents RUMPLESTILTSKIN and KALULU: Two African Tales performed by the internationally renowned Children's Theatre Company of Minneapolis on Saturday, December 17, 2:30 p.m., at Evergreen High School Field House, 14300 NE 18th St., Vancouver, Washington.

These two parables about greed are of widely different origins: the dance, music and language are distinctly African, yet the stories are universal. The Children's Theatre Company has taken the story of Rumpelstiltskin out of the pages of Western folk lore and tells it through a storyteller in the magical world of Africa.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN is the story of a magical little man who helps to save a young woman's life by spinning straw into gold. Later, the young woman, as a queen, has the love for her child threatened by the evil intentions of the crooked little man. In the end, this leaves Rumpelstiltskin alone and bitter. The King in Rumpelstiltskin learns even ordinary people are extraordinary.

KALULU, unlike its counterpart, is unfamiliar to Western audiences. Originating from the Shona people of Africa, it is a story of a swaggering and boasting rabbit who brags and bullies his way through life. Finally, the rabbit's trickery in his attempt to acquire wealth without any effort nearly costs him all he has -- including his hide. Kalulu discovers that dishonesty is harmful to himself and the people he cares for.

The Children's Theatre Company is North America's largest professional theater for young audiences and families. Eighty-two full-time and three hundred part-time artists and administrators bring the pages of storybooks and literature to life creating theatrical productions that enchant people of all ages. The company performs September through June in a multi-million dollar facility in Minneapolis which was custom designed and built for The Children's Theatre Company in 1974. The Theatre, which looks forward to its 25th Anniversary Season in 1989-90, boasts an annual main-stage audience of 250,000 and a national tour audience of 130,000.

The Children's Theatre Company's national tour of Rumpelstiltskin and Kalulu: Two African Tales is made possible in part by US West Direct, National Endowment for the Arts, Western States Arts



Lead dancer Bruce Thompson has performed in numerous productions at Penumbra Theatre in St. Paul. His work include "Bubbling Brown Sugar," "A Soldier's Play," "Black Nativity" and "Tracers."



KALULU - An African folktale makes its appearance in Vancouver, Washington, December 17, 1988 at 2:30 p.m. It's a must see!

Foundation and Washington State Arts Commission.

Single tickets are \$6 in advance. Tickets at the door are \$6 plus a can of food or \$7. Food and proceeds benefit "People in Need." For information and reservations to Rumpelstiltskin & Kalulu: Two African Tales, scheduled for performances at Evergreen Field House (Evergreen High School) call Tears of Joy (206) 695-3050.

AFRICA

The continent where all life originated.

FAMILY OF THE WEEK



Dr. Rev. James Martin & Family

On December 11, 1988, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church will celebrate and honor Rev. Dr. James Martin & Family. The celebration will recognize Mt. Olivet's first year under the guidance of Dr. Martin.

The celebration, starting at 6 p.m., will take place at the Ramada Inn at the Coliseum. Guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Leon C. Jones of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Baptist Church of Renton, Washington. Music will be provided by Julianne Johnson, Joanne Bliss, Ronald Shoals and Calvin Allmon. Dinner will also be served. Tickets

for the celebration are \$15., and must be purchased no later than December 6, 1988.

Rev. Martin's contribution to Portland African-American community has been honorable, necessary and important. His commitment to the family and to the spiritual growth of this community deserves all of our respect, recognition and honor.

The Portland Observer, along with Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, is proud to salute Dr. Martin and his family as "Family of The Week."

To the Martin family, we say "Thank you!"