

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK **Proverbs: Chapter 22** 

## **Greater St. Stephens Gets New Pastor**

## by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

January was the first month of the new year and it was the month that marked a new chapter and a new beginning in the life of Robert E. Houston, Sr.

Robert Earl Houston, Sr. was born and raised in Portland, Oregon twentyeight years ago. He is the son of Rev. Phene Houston, associate pastor of the Greater Faith Baptist Church and Naomi Jackson Houston.

In 1978, Robert graduated from Jefferson High School. He is now employed as a P.C.O. (Physician Care **Organization**) Patient Representative at the very hospital in which he was born. Emanuel.

On January 11, 1989, Rev. Robert E. Houston, Sr. was voted in by the congregation of the Greater St. Stephens Missionary Baptist Church, with Rev. Dr. O.B. Williams, presiding. Then, on January 15th, he stood (officially) in the pulpit of Greater St. Stephen as the pastor of that church. On that Sunday, the church was increased by six new members and thirteen more new members came up the following Sunday. "I truly am full with praise--for God has truly blessed me" exclaimed Rev. Houston. "My personal belief" he continued "is that the Holy Spirit assigned me to the Greater St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church with specific duties. Mainly to bring to the city a church where love abounds and the bible is our daily living textbook. By textbook, I mean, regardless of personal circumstance,s the bible has the answer.'

The church's motto is: A CHURCH OF LOVE ON THE GROW. The pastor's personal motto is: IF YOU HAVE THE FAITH ... GOD HAS THE POWER!

Rev. Houston grew up in the Morning Star Baptist Church under the late

Dr. Sylvester McCullumn and received Christ through baptism on Easter Sunday in 1972. He united with New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in 1976. He began preaching on April 30, 1978 under the leadership of Rev. Bernard Devers. In 1987, he united with the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Johnny Pack, IV.

"The experience and the training that I received at Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church will always remain close to my heart," Rev. Houston recalls. As he continued to reminisce, "I shall always have and hold a deep respect for Pastor Pack and his staff. Of course, my early foundation I received at New Hope under Rev. Devers and at Morning Star under Rev. McCullumn, will forever serve as stepping stones to my future victories."

While preparing for the ministry, Rev. Houston has studied at the Multnomah School of the Bible, the American Baptist Seminary of the West. The Golden Gate Theological Seminary and the United Theological Seminary Portland Extension.

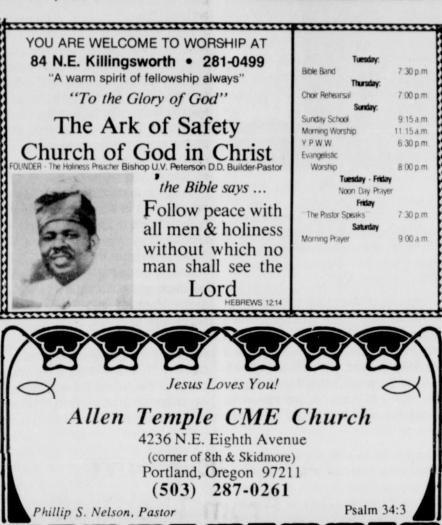
His involvement in the church and church related organizations, include: secretary of the Evangelical board of the General Baptist Convention of NW and the assistant Recording Secretary of the same organization, instructor of the music department for the Portland District Congress, Missionary for the Union District Baptist Association, and a 32nd degree mason with the Logan Lodge #5.

Rev. Houston's advice to the youth of Portland, is: "Without God in your life, in these times, youth will find the intensity of peer pressure, drug involvement, and gang activity much more difficult to deal with.

Future plans for Greater St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church include several new programs: a family min-

istry, a strong Evangelical ministry program, a youth and children's ministry, outreach program, and radio ministry.

Rev. Houston's two sisters Norma Jean Houston and Phyllis Green, both of Portland, along with many wellwishers will be in attendance at the installation ceremony, to be held on the 16th day of April, 1989. The celebration will begin on April 12th at 7:00 p.m. and will continue each night throughout the week with guest choirs and their pastors.



CONGRATULATIONS! Rev. Houston may God always be your focal point.



## In Appreciation

We Thank You For The **Beauty Of The Memorial** Service For Our Beloved Stanley William Cage Sr.

So Many Were So Thoughtful And So Committed To Visiting And **Assisting Him During His** Long Illness In Spite Of His Pain He Felt Joy And Pleasure And Was Never Lonely. A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM THE FAMILY OF STANLEY WILLIAM CAGE SR.

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Wendell Wallace, the former pastor of the Maranatha church will be the featured speaker Come and hear this dynamic Gospel Preacher of the Word!

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