



RELIGION

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK: PETER Chapter 3

We've Struggled in Many Storms Finale

by J Reynolds & M.A. Callier-Spears

In 1945, the war was over but Communism continued to gain momentum. It became overwhelming necessary for the Nances to return to the United States. Their supporters felt that their safety was in grave jeopardy. So return home, they did.

On the journey home, every day for weeks, Ancil was seasick, just as he had been in 1939, going to China. The children were excitedly happy during a stop in Okinawa, over the beautiful seashells.

It was January, 1950, when they arrived in San Francisco.

The first year back, they lived in Vancouver, Washington directly across the street from Clark Junior College, where Beth enrolled immediately.

In 1951 the Nances rented a SW Portland cottage and Beth transferred to Lewis & Clark College where she received her bachelor of education degree.

Years passed, Beth had held several positions in the school system, which included: student teaching at Edwin Markam, teaching at James John Elementary, teaching at Boise Elementary and librarian. During this time the Nances purchased a home on N. Kerby Avenue. They lived there for 13 years. That area is now the parking lot for Pcc Cascade.

Ancil retired in 1968, but he went on working, pruning, and gardening. He sent part of his earnings to missions and preachers—just as he does now. One time when Beth needed flowers one Easter for a stage scene (before religious themes were banned), Ancil filled the entire school stage with pink puffy Japanese cherry blossom branches. Another time when at James John she needed an organ for the Alcott family's Christmas scene, Ancil went out and got an organ, and that organ sits in the Nances' home today. A very compatible feature of their marriage is that Ancil

prefers cold meals to warm ones and likes to eat when he is hungry, and only then. This has worked out well for Beth's schedule.

She has often said of her marriage, "I can only do as much as my husband allows me to do, so I am grateful to him for the freedom he gives me to accomplish what I have." The sorrow they have mutually borne has been a bond rather than a blade in their lives. They lost son Jonathan in a canoe accident on the Clackamas River the day after Christmas, 1961, and their daughter Winifred Plummer died with husband and children on Veterans Day, 1968 when their plane sunk to the bottom of Lake Superior. Despite these and other setbacks they have experienced together, the Nances faithfully commit themselves to serving others instead of recoiling into selfpity. They let God be God unconditionally in their lives, instead of expecting only nice days rich with only good experiences, as some Christians are falsely led to expect. When asked to take time to at least record her biography Beth said, "If I took time to do that, who would do all the jobs I have to do? We're not just playing around here (on earth), you know." She was referring to being in a spiritual battle and fighting the good fight the Bible speaks of. She's serious. She has a way of making any other activity other than the church's look so frivolous, fruitless and futile.

In any one of those years she taught in the public school, Beth would have qualified as Teacher of the Year because she entered a student's personal life with her values, challenging each to do his very best work. Vice-Principal Beverly Johnson of Boise-Elliott spoke at the Nances' golden anniversary about the Fifties, recalling how she was lucky to have Beth for fifth as well as sixth grade, and that it was in those years that Beverly decided to become a teacher one day.

After seeing Boise students entering her class year after year with low reading skills, Beth not only decided she would be the school's librarian, but returned to Portland State University to take library science courses in the summer. Now those Boise

students are in their thirties and forties, but they still can remember going down to the Plummer House at the beach where Beth took them on nature walks, hikes in the woods, Fort Clatsop trips, Neahkahnie Mt. climbs, collecting rocks, shells and driftwood to make into something in the evening. Her students trick-or-treated for UNICEF followed by a Halloween party at Beth's home; her plays became multi-cultural extravaganzas, and the incentive programs for reading coupled with her creative bulletin boards, curriculum, and newspaper publication accelerated interest in reading at Boise, just as she planned.

When Portland Observer editor Mr. Al Henderson saw the little mimeographed newspaper Beth's class produced, he commented that it was good enough material to be typeset, and he offered his publishing facilities to Beth and the page editors to use for pasting-up and headline-writing, and the school district's special fund for deprived students paid for the typesetting and printing of Boise Speaks. Beth contributed to the quality of learning by these hours beyond classroom time.

It might be assumed that Beth put her feet up when weekends came, but over the last 39 years she has also been heavily involved directing Christian education and promoting foreign missions in four Portland churches, most recently at Maranatha Church. In 1972 Beth received the Human Relations Award from the Oregon Education Association and B'Nai B'rith. In 1976 she wrote a reference book, Great Issues in American History, published by the Oregon ASCD, primarily for teachers to use as a companion volume in teaching an unbiased version of American history showing minorities as a valid part of the total American scene (usual textbooks did not even recognize, for instance, that there were black cowboys as well as white cowboys, and the tomahawk use for scalping began with the Dutch, not native-American Indians).

It was in view of Beth's work with students on her own time in journalism efforts, transporting them to ball games, having them to her beach house, and putting their education first by writing a more meaningful

history reference book and conducting multi-cultural in-service workshops for teachers, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority named her their Woman of Excellence in Humanitarian Service. The same year Western Baptist Theological Seminary presented her their annual Christian Service Award on the occasion of her receiving a Master of Divinity Degree. She had jointly founded North Portland Bible College in 1981 with hopes that Portland's North/Northeast community would welcome examining seminary subjects without paying seminary prices or finishing college first (as Western requires). Western didn't eye Beth's efforts with a competitive eye, but emptied their bookshelves to equip her and awarded her nearly one-man job as she operates voluntarily as its librarian, publicist, secretary, instructor and prayer warrior.

The funniest occurrence of the year was in 1986 when Beth was chosen Lay Person of the Year by the Greater Portland Association of Evangelicals because she is not a layperson; she is a minister, but she received the plaque, anyway, and had her ordainment reconfirmed by another minister that year. She is just not comfortable about having "The Reverend" before her name on everything.

Beth's mother was a schoolteacher before she was married, and teachers abound in her family; Beth's daughter Winnie was a school teacher and her son Ancil was a high school teacher 8 years; Beth's granddaughter O.J. (Ordella Reynolds) follows in her steps in more ways than one. She, too, read every book around her while growing up, and after leaving her high school years behind her as Cleveland's Rose Festival Queen, she trained at PSU and is presently a fourth grade teacher at Martin Luther King Elementary. The Nances have six living grandchildren.

Ancil and Beth still consume knowledge through books like ladybugs consume aphids, working long days, then rewarding themselves with private reading time. Their joy at the news of Kunming's recently-opened Bible School is understandable.

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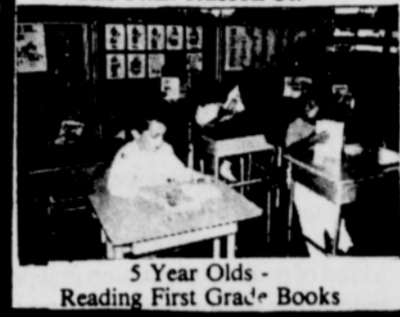
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A TIME OF CELEBRATION, A TIME OF GREAT JOY!

by Cora E. Williams

At 4:00 p.m., on Sunday, June 18, 1989, Father's Day, NPBC will be holding its 7th Annual Celebration of Achievement. First AME ZION, AT 109 N. Skidmore (at Vancouver Ave.) is the host church for this year's Celebration. So, what is a "Celebration of Achievement?" Well, you could compare it with a graduation or commencement exercise, and be safe in so doing. Actually, though, it's an opportunity to acknowledge the diligence and commitment of Bible Students who have "stayed the course" and have studied themselves approved as "rightful workers" for God's Kingdom. The majority of students at NPBC work full-time jobs, most have families, and all have responsibilities. The effort put forth by these good folks should not go without recognition from NPBC, families, church families, and friends. This opportunity to recognize hard work makes the Celebration of Achievement an occasion to bless and be blessed.

While we're speaking of blessed, we are blessed to have as our Featured Speaker this year a very anointed and inspiring individual, Evangelist Ida Simpson-Daniels. Evangelist Simpson-Daniels is the helpmeet of COGIC Bishop H.B. Daniels, Sr., Senior Pastor of Greater Mt. Calvary COGIC.

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