

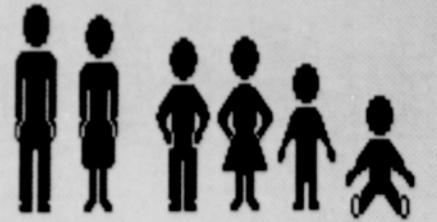


# RELIGION

Strengthen Your Faith Through Prayer And Regular Church Worship

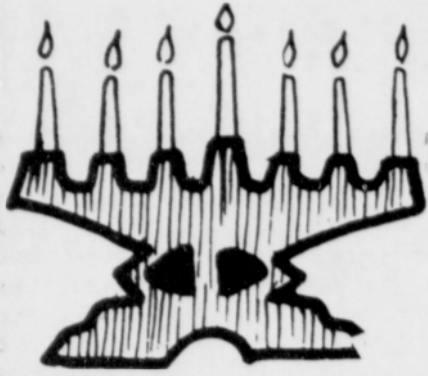
Scripture  
of the Week

St. John: Chapter 1 & 2



## KWANZA: Time To Celebrate African-American Roots

(Continued From Page One)



understanding of man and his universe-- Knowledge that the European has hidden or denied to the spiritual detriment and salvation of us all? Let us examine this treasure trove of wisdom and spirituality that comes forth in a documented wellspring of seminal contribution--the festivals, the sacraments, the consecrations, the ceremonies of rebirth and resurrection. For the following I draw upon the religion section of my library, scores of historical texts, Bibles, and concordances with the original African historicity--purchased here and abroad over a period of thirty years (Diop, Budge, Ramy, Breasted, Smith, Soper, Asimov, Spencer, Butz and many others). It is to be kept in mind that much of the structure and sacrament of the early church was designed by Greek-speaking African church fathers--whose culture without question evolved from

Ethiopian and Egyptian roots (The New Testament was first written in Greek and J.A. Rogers lists three Black Popes from 189 A.D. to 496 A.D.: Victor, Melchiodes and St. Gelasius).

The religious holiday of Pentecost was originally named "The Feast of the First Fruits" (Num. 22:26). Developed many, many thousands of years ago in Ethiopia, Nubia and along the



Upper Nile, the celebration began as a harvest festival (still practiced), and was incorporated into the Christian church by the early Black Popes whom we have mentioned. Now the custom was restated to symbolize God's spiri-

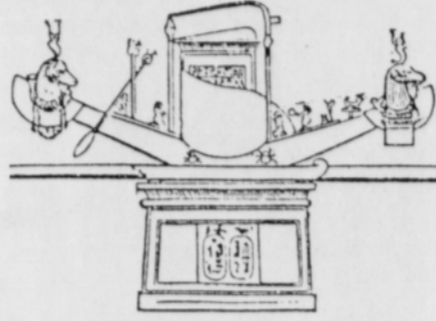
tual harvest of souls. The Jews retained the African agricultural concept; Pentecost is the 50th day from Passover, "The people having at first Passover presented before God the first sheaf of the harvest, departed to their homes to gather it in" (Smith, Dictionary of the Bible, 1865).

Another significant example of African tradition and practice is the holiday of Christmas. The Africans, documented as great astronomers, correctly aligning the Pyramids with the stars, were able to correlate the great annual cycles and precessions of the heavens with the corresponding cycles of vegetation below. They accurately predicted the rise and fall of the great rivers and therefore the proper times for allocating labor for planting and harvest. Beautiful and intricate festivals and ceremonies were developed over thousands of years to reinforce their practices of honoring nature's annual cycle of death and resurrection of her bounty. We stand raped and ashamed that so much of this has been incorporated into European religion and culture without one iota of Black attribution.

Now, Plutarch the renowned ancient historian tells us that "Osiris," the African god of vegetation, was born on the 26th of December, the 361st day of the year (shown here as the Jolly Green Giant; an Anglo Saxon advertising image for food products. But the National Geographic Magazine always shows him as the original African figure which was colored green to represent vegetation). Ancient paintings show Osiris at his annual December 26th birthday festival accompanied by a symbolic tree cut to represent the resurrection of plant life--very similar to our Christmas tree. We note that it was Pope Julius I (fourth century) who fixed December 25th as the birthday of Christ.

The Black Madonnas whose statues are revered and worshipped all over Europe should receive even more attention from contemporary American eyes with the political upheavals in the Eastern Bloc making more cathedrals and African icons available to visitors. "Why is it," Rolland the noted French writer asks, "that the majority of Virgin Mary's honored in the pilgrimages

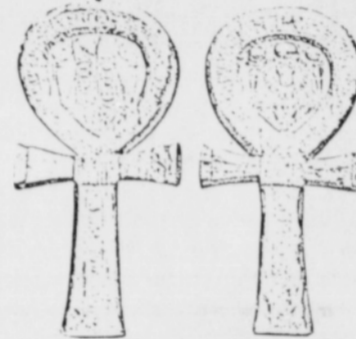
are Black?" In France at Boulogne-sur-mer, at Clermont in Auvergne; in Einsieden, Switzerland where tens of thousands from Barvaria and Alsace, to



Egyptian Ark. (Wilkinson, Anc. Egypt.)

worship; at Montserrat in Catalonia; And at scores of other locations in Italy, German, France, Russia, Bulgaria, Greece, Chekzoslavaki, Romania and elsewhere. This should not be at all surprising since the noted archaeologists of the world have been unearthing statues and paintings in Africa and Asia of a Black Virgin and Child (Isis, the wife of Osiris, mentioned earlier, and her child Horus). This was a standard concept and icon from Europe to China and from India to Arabia.

Equally pervasive in the religions and iconography of the world is the imagery of two black doves a tradition which began in Ethiopia (Isaiah) and spread through Egypt and then to Greece



and Rome. The Greeks claimed that their oracle at Dodona was founded by two Black women from Egypt (portrayed as black doves) who also founded the Temple of Amon in Libya on the islands of Cyprus and Crete, the great Mother Goddess of these people was always attended by two black doves. Herodotus the Greek historian also connected this tradition with the Colchians, a people whom he said were Black and occupied an area by the Caspian Sea, now a part of Russia. It was from the Greek oracular centers that their religions developed and where the African gods were transformed into Apollo, Zeus, Hermes, Atlas, Hercules, Mercury, Aphrodite, Andromeda, etc. America did not expect her slaves to learn these things.



### CHRISTMAS WAS NOT MEANT TO BE

Christmas was not meant to be--  
The cutting down of trees  
Decking them with tinsel, gold  
and lights all in-between  
Christmas was not meant to be--  
With toys and mistletoe,  
Reindeer, elves and Santa  
Saying "Ho, ho, ho!"  
Christmas was not meant to be--  
The way we carry-on;  
Parties mixed with drinking  
All day and all night long.  
Some folk never make it  
from the party to their home.  
See just where we're headed  
and where we're going wrong.

Christmas was not meant to be--  
Giving gifts and such.  
We're giving all the wrong things  
and asking much-too-much.  
We're stacking up our presents  
while poor folk everywhere  
Are naked and they're hungry.  
When will we start to care?  
Christmas is to celebrate  
The Christ Child's virgin birth--  
Sing "Glory Hallelujah!"  
Let there be some peace on earth.  
That's what Christmas means to me!  
by Rev. Clay Drayton  
[permission to reprint  
by CLATAM PRODUCTIONS]



Bonnie Dean Joe  
Born - February 13, 1953  
Died - December 10, 1989

## In Remembrance Of . . .

Bonnie Dean Joe passed on December 10, 1989 in Yakimja, Washington after a short illness. Bonnie was born in Portland, Oregon on February 13, 1953. She attended Boise and Highland Elementary schools before completing her education at Jefferson High in Portland, Oregon.

Bonnie was a true friend to those whom she came to know and she will be truly missed by friends and family.

She leaves behind to mourn her passing, her mother Mrs. Ellen Joe and daughter Yolanda Irving. Brothers Charles Joe of Oakland, CA, James Joe of Los Angeles, CA, Raymond Joe of Oakland. Sisters Bobbie Ridgeway of Willgate, Texas, Dorothy Malone, Mary Lee Stoglin, and Shirley White of Los Angeles, CA, and Annette Sue Parker Judy Kent and Vermetta Williams of Portland, Oregon. Also mourning Bonnie are a host of nieces, nephews and friends throughout Portland and the Northwest.



## Community Calendar of Events

### Desmond Smit To Speak at St. Philip The Deacon

Desmond Smit, an Afrikaaner who was jailed for his involvement with the African National Congress, will address Portlanders at St. Philip The Deacon Episcopal Church on Sunday, Dec. 17th at the 10 a.m. service.

Mr. Smit and his wife and two young children left South Africa after spending a month in a refugee camp in Botswana seeking sponsorship to enter and live in the United States.

If you have any questions or wish to interview Mr. Smit, please feel free to call Vivian Childs at 281-1672. Thank you!



### Behold The King!

The Chancel Choir will present their annual Christmas Cantata on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 6:00 P.M. The Cantata will be narrated by Dr. James E. Martin and his wife Mrs. Lynetta Martin.

Come early to get a seat, due to an NBA game at the coliseum.

Mrs. Geri Ward, president; Mr. Carl Harris, conductor and director; Mr. Walter Scott Harris, organist.

Mt. Olivet Baptist Church  
116 Northeast Schuyler Street  
Portland, OR 97211  
(503) 284-1954

### Drug Ministry at Church Reaches Outside Community to Feed Homeless

The Christ Memorial Church in North-east Portland very active in feeding, clothing and drug outreach; will feed the Homeless on Dec. 16th, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Each year the church uses vans provided by Bryan Rickmore Dodge of Beaverton. Drivers make several trips to the Burnside area transporting people to and from the church located at 1552 N. Killingsworth in North Portland. At the church people are fed, given shoes, clothes and even toys for homeless children. Rev. Tate says "many of our homeless are drug and alcohol offenders. Our ministry to reach out to those as well as other homeless people allows us to minister to two needy groups simultaneously!"

Christ Memorial Church homeless feeding is financially sponsored by the 700 Club and its community outreach program called Operation Blessing.

### Keep Living The Dream

A Martin Luther King, Jr. tribute will be held at the Jefferson High School in 1990.

The rehearsals are scheduled as follows:

SAT., 1/6/90 - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; WED., 1/10/90 - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.; SAT., 1/13/90 - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All persons who are interested in participating in this event should contact the program coordinator -- Ken Berry at (503) 665-3930.

## MARANATHA CHURCH

4222 N.E. 12th Avenue  
Portland Oregon

### Sunday Services

Sunday School  
9:00 A.M.

Morning Workshop  
10:30 A.M.

Maranatha School of Ministry  
6:30 P.M.

Mid-Week Services - Wednesday  
7:30 P.M.



Rev. Wendell H. Wallace  
Senior Pastor

## Jesus Loves You! Allen Temple CME Church

4236 N.E. Eighth Avenue  
(corner of 8th & Skidmore)  
Portland, Oregon 97211  
(503) 287-0261

Phillip S. Nelson, Pastor



"A Teaching Church With A Reaching Ministry."

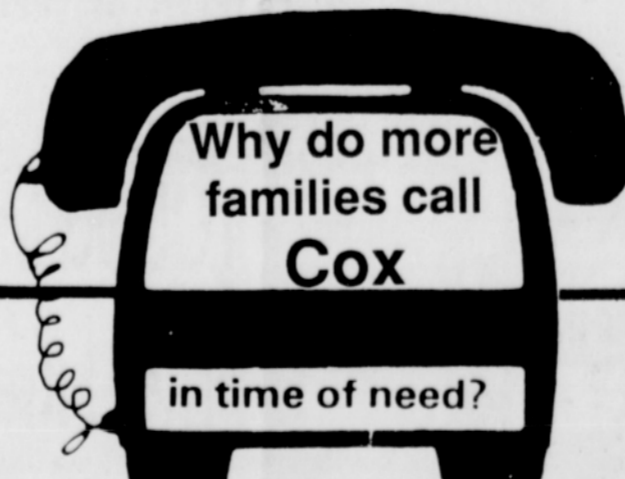
### MT. OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. James E. Martin, Senior Pastor  
116 N.E. Schuyler - (503) 284-1954

7:45 A.M. - WORSHIP SERVICE  
9:30 A.M. - SUNDAY SCHOOL  
10:45 A.M. - WORSHIP SERVICE  
6:30 P.M. - WORSHIP SERVICE

BIBLE STUDY:  
10:30 A.M. - 12 NOON - WEDNESDAY  
6:30 A.M. - 8:00 P.M. - WEDNESDAY

Radio Ministry Each Sunday, 8:00 A.M. - KBMS



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The  
**Albina Church of God**

With A Bold New Vision . . .  
Reaching Out Until He Comes . . .  
Going Back When He Comes . . .

Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.  
Sunday Service - Morning 11:00 A.M.  
Sunday Service - Evening 6:00 P.M.  
Tuesday Teaching - 7:30 P.M.  
Thursday - Moments of Deliverance 7:30 P.M.

"The Friendliest Church In The City"  
Senior Pastor Rev. Samuel M. Irving