



by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

RELIGION

Scripture of the Week

Psalms 23

Children Services Determines Grace Collins Center Meeting Standards

Grace Collins Memorial Center meets "the minimum standards," said David Fuks, Children Services Metro Region Administrator, for operation as a day care facility, on November 9, in recommending that a temporary certificate be issued. A temporary certificate has been issued to Grace Collins for 6 months with the full expectation of "regular certification at that time," said Fuks.

State Representative Margaret Carter (D-18) commended CSD Metro Administrator David Fuks and the Grace Collins Board of Directors. "Grace Collins has been a community resource for more than a generation. Grace Collins was there when there were few services available to working people. Thousands have benefited from the Center's accessibility and programs."

"I am very pleased at the remarkable progress that has been made in recent months. Mr. Fuks is to be commended for a new spirit of cooperation between the Board and CSD. The Board has worked very hard to bring the Center into meeting state standards for operation," Carter said.

"I would encourage community

service groups, church organizations, businesses, our local unions, and community papers to review how they might be able to assist the Center, in particular, over the next six months. The Center needs toys for the babies and toddlers. Educational materials are needed for the older children. Simple things such as 'big blocks' would help," said Carter.

"Volunteers could help with new staff training and curriculum development," Carter said. "As we move towards the Holiday Season, Thanksgiving and Christmas, service organizations looking for a project might consider Grace Collins."

The Grace Collins Memorial Center is located at 128 N.E. Russell, Portland 97212. Interested persons might also contact Mr. Ralph Davis, Chairman of the Board (287-8544) or LeVerne E. Davis. LeVerne Davis is Principal at Martin Luther King Jr. School.

For more information, please contact:

Jon Christenson, Staff Office of State Rep. Margaret Carter 280-6003 (Portland)

Studies Reveal Hundreds of Oregon Children Dying Needlessly

Hundreds of Oregon children die each year from causes and circumstances that are preventable, according to two reports released by the Oregon Department of Human Resources. Kevin Concannon, Director of the department, said he had ordered the studies as step one in making Oregonians aware of the "tragedy of lost potential from the unnecessary deaths of children."

"When we consider the 84 children who died of abuse and neglect in this state from 1985 to 1989," said Concannon, "we all clearly recognize the tragedy." The majority of the 3,269 children who died from all causes between 1984 to 1988 are an unknown tragedy, he added. "A great many of those deaths need not have happened and that fact must force us to action."

The Health Division report points out that the rate of death for Oregon's children is higher than the U.S. rate. In one category, from 28 days to one year of age, Oregon's mortality rate is now a third higher than the U.S. rate. Twenty years ago Oregon's rate was the same as

the national rate.

According to the report, an international comparison shows Oregon's infant death rate is worse than that of 17 other countries-countries without the economic advantages of America. At current rates, of the approximately 41,000 children born each year in Oregon, 700 will not live to celebrate their eighteenth birthday. Listed in the report as significant contributors to the deaths are poverty and substance abuse.

"The experts cannot tell us exactly how many children's deaths are preventable," noted Concannon, "but they do agree that substantial numbers die unnecessarily." Release of the reports, added the DHR director, is step one in a campaign of public awareness that Concannon hopes will lead to direct action.

Both reports will be taken by Concannon to community meetings around Oregon in December. "We're looking for ideas and recommendations on saving the lives that constitute our future," he added.

Lights! Cameras! Christmas!

The seventh annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony at Pioneer Courthouse Square will bring together 8,000 lights, an 80-foot Douglas fir and KGW's television cameras-as well as celebrity hosts, Mayor Bud Clark, Santa Claus, many of the city's favorite musicians and 12,000 appreciative spectators.

The November 23 ceremony will be televised live at 7 PM by KGW-TV, and hosted by KGW anchor Tracy Barry and KINK-RM 102 Radio's Rebecca Webb and Les Sarnoff.

The program is again sponsored by the Square's neighbor, Pacific First Bank; the ceremony's media sponsor is KINK-FM 102 radio. The cost of erecting and decorating the 80-foot tree is underwritten by the Association for Portland Progress to promote the low-cost Portland Public Parking garages.

This year's stage show will include performances by jazz musicians David Frishberg and Nancy King; the rhythm and blues band Pin & the Hornists; rappers The U-Krew; the western swing group, The Wagon-Maestros; gospel musicians Rosetta Robertson and Johnny Garlington; members of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Choir; and the Concord Choir.

The actual lighting of the tree will be done by Weltha Wilson, 97, and Gladys Woodle, 95. The two sisters are longtime residents of Corbett, which, with the Columbia Gorge Ranger District, have presented the tree to Portland. Mrs. Woodle was among the 13 students who attended Corbett High School in its

opening year. (Mrs. Wilson had already graduated from Portland's Washington High School.)

They cite as one of their fondest memories the community Christmas celebrations of their childhood, when Corbett's families would gather at the community hall to open presents. Each child was allowed to light one of the candles decorating the tree. This year, on behalf of Corbett and the Northeast Multnomah County Community Association, the two sisters will light Pioneer Square's Christmas tree.

The tree-lighting celebration will conclude with the audience and performers combining to sing favorite Christmas carols. Songbooks containing the carols, as well as the evening's program and a calendar of holiday events, are provided by The Oregonian.

Nestled at the foot of the tree this year will be a new decorative barricade depicting a 19th century village. The 8-foot-tall structure was a joint public service project of carpenter apprentices at the Willamette Carpenter Training Center and painter apprentices provided by painters' District #55.

Many of the tree's 8,000 lights will become glowing memorials to friends and loved ones as part of the "Light Up A Life" charitable campaign. For a \$10 contribution to the Oregon Hospice Association, donors may memorialize one person with a light on the tree. The names of all those so remembered will be read during a public ceremony in front of the tree on December 26th.

Albina Announces Transfer of Emergency Services Program

Albina Ministerial Alliance (AMA) Board of Directors announced the arrival of the Emergency Services Program for the North and Northeast Portland area, effective date was November 1, 1990.

AMA Emergency Services Program is designed to assist in meeting the needs of homeless families and predominantly low income persons residing in the service area of I-5 to NE 82nd, and Columbia Blvd. to E. Burnside. Helping to provide for basic life needs: rent, transportation, energy assistance, community resources and/or referral, and dental services, will be the primary focus of this program.

The press conference took place on Wednesday, November 21, at the main office of AMA, 1425 NE Dekum. Speakers for the event included Mr. Darryl Tukufu, President and CEO of the Urban League of Portland; Rev. Dr. Joe Hardie, President and Chair of Albina Ministerial Alliance; and Commissioner Gladys McCoy, County Chair.

Louise Burton, who has been the LIEAP Coordinator/Community Services Coordinator with Urban League since 1980, is now the Director of AMA Emergency Services Program.

The Director of AMA Emergency Services Program reports directly to Cornetta Smith, Chief Executive Director of AMA. Ms. Burton along with two case managers began their new jobs on November 1, 1990.

For more information on this or other Albina Ministerial Alliance Programs, contact Ken Ives at (503) 285-0493 or write to 1425 Northeast Dekum Street, Portland, Oregon 97211.

The President of AMA is Dr. Joe S. Hardie and can be reached at St. Mark Baptist Church in Portland.

Brunch Honors Local Families

Within the last two years Peggy Collins has been homeless, a victim of substance abuse, and separated from her children. Today she and her family have bounced back. Collins is recovering from her substance problems and is back with her children.

Metropolitan Family Service will honor the efforts of the Collins family, along with two other Portland area families who have overcome similar problems, this Sunday during a special awards program held in conjunction with na-

tional Family Week. The awards program will take place noon, November 18, at the downtown Red Lion Hotel, 310 SW Lincoln.

Nominations for this honor were received from social service agencies from throughout the Portland area, who were asked to submit names and information on families who have exemplified the philosophy that "families still count." A panel of community members then chose the Carol Ranney family, the Ray and Sally Dillon family, and the Peggy Collins family.



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pastor of The New Testament Church

Service will be held at Highland United Church of Christ 4635 N.E. 9th (corner of 9th and Going St.) Rev. C. Prescol Host Pastor November 22-25, 1990 7:30 p.m. nightly Sunday Service 3:30 p.m.

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Church Office 116 N.E. Schuyler,

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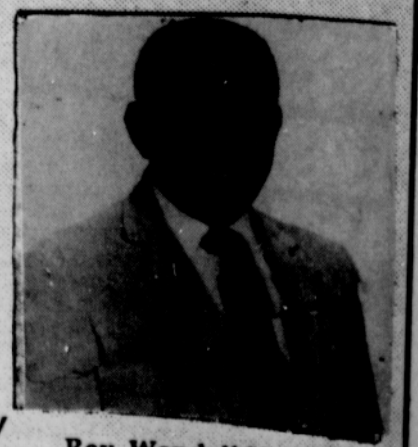
Sunday Services

Sunday School 9:00 A.M.

Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.

Maranatha School of Ministry 6:30 P.M.

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