



by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

# RELIGION

Scripture of the Week

Psalms 23

## Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow



BY MATTIE ANN CALLIER-SPEARS

On Friday, November 16, 1990, US Marine Pfc. Eric D. Spears arrived in Portland, on very short notice to his family and his fiancée, DaShawn LaVette Templeton. Eric and DaShawn had planned an elaborate wedding, that was to take place, on January 12, 1991; but, President Bush pulled everything to the curb really fast.

Eric received orders to go home for 10 days and then report to North Carolina's Camp LeJeune; after which, he is to be sent to Saudi Arabia. Eric was all prepared to go through training and then begin school; not so. His wedding plans had to be altered.

After shocking his fiancée, her parents and his family with his untimely arrival, time and events were sped-up drastically. He arrived home, Friday the 16th; he was married, Wednesday the 21st; he honeymooned on Wednesday night to Sunday, November 25th; he left for Camp LeJeune on Monday the 26th, at 10:05 pm via U.S. air. Vup! Vam! Boom!!

Is this a tragedy? Eric and 'Shawn thought not. "We did not want to be so long apart and not be united in holy matrimony." When asked what had they planned to do about their previous wedding plans? Their response was, "We are going to postpone the big wedding and reception until after Eric returns. We shall continue to pray that we remain in God's plans and not just in our own."

The private, yet very meaningful, wedding was held at the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, 116 NE Schuyler, and the ceremony was performed by Dr. James E. Martin. Eric and 'Shawn are both members of Mt. Olivet. The ceremony was followed by a very small reception at the

Spears' home. Close and immediate family members were present at the wedding and the reception. Their planned wedding colors of red, black and white were aptly represented in attire, floral and reception decor. Derick, Eric's twin brother, sang at his wedding. Eric's mother and his auntie, MaryEtta Callier-Wells, also provided musical selections.

'Shawn's mother, Mrs. Addie Faye Templeton, had her hands full. While one daughter was being married in Portland, Oregon, the other daughter was giving birth to her first child in California. This sounds like the beginning of a novel: "A Tale Between Two States". I don't envy the Templetons. Edward and Addie Templeton are the proud parents of four daughters. Daddy stayed in Portland with the two younger daughters (Amber, 10 and Ebony, 12), took pictures at the wedding and reception and cooked Thanksgiving dinner the following day. Addie paced the floor of the hospital, in California, and periodically relayed messages of her daughter's progress. Everyone awaited the good news with baited breath. "It's a boy! DiJon Rodney Akard is his name. He weighed in at seven pounds and one ounce."

The new mother, the new baby, the new grandparents and the newlyweds are all doing fine. And now-just as quickly as Eric arrived, his departure will be as swift. 'Shawn, a new bride separated from her new husband--so soon. Five blissful days...! "God has not shown me that Eric and I will be apart for a long time" says 'Shawn. "I know that God will protect Eric and return him to me safely."

Eric's older brother, Olf Hansson and Eric's twin brother, Derick, stood as his best men. Ms. Julie Fehr stood as the bride's maid of honor.

## Celebrate Christmas At the Grotto's Holiday Party

The Grotto, located at N.E. 85th and Sandy Boulevard, presents the Third Annual Festival of Lights beginning December 13th and continuing nightly (except Christmas night) through December 30th. Joyous holiday music, spectacular lighting displays, puppet shows featuring the story of "The Littlest Angel", and a live animal petting zoo highlight this ecumenical, family celebration's theme of hope, peace and love. In addition, over 400 versions of The Lord's Prayer, beautifully lettered and handsomely illustrated in languages from around the world, will be on display in The Grotto's calligraphy Art Gallery during the Festival of Lights.

The Festival will be open weeknights from 5 until 10 p.m. and weekends from 4 until 10 p.m. Admission is \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children 6 to 12 years old. Children 5 and under are free. Visitors are asked to bring a canned food donation benefiting SNOW-CAP Emergency Food Ministry, a community action program serving 45,000 less fortunate families and needy individuals each year in the east county.

### The Festival of Lights features holiday music, spectacular lighting displays, puppet shows, and an animal petting zoo

Over 50 school and church choirs, brass and string ensembles, classical performers and gospel singers will perform during the 17 evening run of the Festival of Lights, which is expected to attract 30,000 visitors. Strolling carolers and traditional Christmas lighting displays help provide special moments during this season of thanks giving and family togetherness.

Public response has been heartwarming as children of all ages enjoy the sights and sounds of Christmas in The Grotto's 62-acre parkland setting during this ecumenical entertainment event. Warm beverages and pastries will be available and add to the seasonal charm of the Third Annual Festival of Lights.

Opening night ceremonies and final entertainment schedules will be forwarded as soon as they are completed. For more information, please contact Peter Mott at 254-7371.

## From the Pulpit to The Pews

BY MATTIE ANN CALLIER-SPEARS

(taken from 1 Timothy chapter 3 & 4)

*It is a true saying that if a man wants to be a pastor he has a good ambition. For a pastor must be a good man whose life cannot be spoken against. He must have only one wife, and he must be hard working and thoughtful, orderly, and full of good deeds. He must enjoy having guests in his home, and must be a good Bible teacher. He must not be a drinker or quarrelsome, but he must be gentle and kind, and not be one who loves money.*

*He must have a well-behaved family, with children who obey quickly and quietly. For if a man can't make his own little family behave, how can he help the whole church?*

*The pastor must not be a new Christian, because he might be proud of being chosen so soon, and pride comes before a fall--Satan's downfall is an example. Also, he must be well spoken of by people outside the church--those who aren't Christians--so that Satan can't trap him with many accusations, and leave him without freedom to lead his flock.*

*The deacons must be the same sort of good, steady men as the pastors. They must not be heavy drinkers and must not be greedy for money. They must be earnest, wholehearted followers of Christ who is the hidden source of their faith.*

*Before they are asked to be deacons, they should be given other jobs in the church as a test of their character and ability, and if they do well, then they may be chosen as deacons.*

*Their wives must be thoughtful, not heavy drinkers, not gossipers, but faith-*

*ful in everything they do. Deacons should have only one wife and they should have happy, obedient families. Those who do well as deacons will be well rewarded both by respect from others and also by developing their own confidence and bold trust in the Lord.*

This letter was written by Paul near the end of his life, and he addressed it to his associate Timothy, whom he had left in Ephesus to correct some problems in the church. By this time, problems had arisen concerning doctrine, church practice, church government, and various aspects of Christian living. He wrote these things to Timothy so that he would know what kind of men he should choose as officers for the church of the living God, which contains and holds high the truth of God.

It is quite true that the way to live a godly life is not an easy matter. But the answer lies in Christ, who came to earth as a man, was proven spotless and pure in his Spirit, was served by angels, was preached among the nations, was accepted by men everywhere and was received up again to his glory in heaven.

But the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some in the church will turn away from Christ and become eager followers of teachers with devil-inspired ideas. These teachers will tell lies with straight faces and do it so often that their consciences won't even bother them. They will say it is wrong to be married and wrong to eat meat, even though God gave these things to well-taught Christians to enjoy and be thankful for. For everything God made is good, and we may eat it gladly if we are thankful for it, and if we ask God to bless it, for it is made good by the Word of God and

prayer. Paul told Timothy if he would explain these things to the others, he would be doing his duty as a worthy pastor who is fed by faith and by the true teachings he has followed.

Don't waste time arguing over foolish ideas and silly myths and legends. Spend your time and energy in the exercise of keeping spiritually fit. Bodily exercise is all right, but spiritual exercise is much more important and is a tonic for all you do. So exercise yourself spiritually and practice being a better Christian, because that will help you not only now in this life, but in the next life, too. This is the truth and everyone should accept it. We work hard and suffer much in order that people will believe it, for our hope is in the living God who died for all, and particularly for those who have accepted his salvation.

To all the Christian family members, you are being admonished to teach these things and make sure everyone learns them well. Don't let anyone think little of you because you are young. Be their ideal; let them follow the way you teach and live; be a pattern for them in your love, your faith, and your clean thoughts. Do these things as Paul told Timothy, in his letter. Read and explain the Scriptures to the church; preach God's Word.

Be sure to use the abilities God has given you through his prophets when the elders of the church laid their hands upon your head. Put these abilities to work; throw yourself into your tasks so that everyone may notice your improvement and progress. Keep a close watch on all you do and think. Stay true to what is right and God will bless you and use you to help others.

## Soldier Objects to Bearing Arms

Up to now, Army Sgt. George Morris looked forward to honorable discharge in December, and a quiet holiday with his wife, Andrea, and their 3-year-old daughter.

On Nov. 25, however, the United Methodist layman risked a prison sentence in defying a military order earlier this month cancelling his discharge and ordering him to the Persian Gulf.

Sgt. Morris, 25, a member of Grayling Michelson United Methodist Church, cited religious and moral reasons for refusing to ship out with his unit, after seven years and two hitchhikes in the Army.

"I never killed anybody. I never wanted to be in a situation where I would have to kill anybody," he told the Detroit Free Press.

According to his pastor, the Rev. Dennis Paulson, Sgt. Morris strongly opposes the current U.S. presence in the Middle East as a "morally unjustifiable cause," and denounced the hard line held against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, while "Israel is in the Gaza Strip and

other places it has no right to be."

Mr. Paulson counseled with Sgt. Morris and family, and says he supports the soldier's decision to object. He hailed his parishioner as a man of conscience, one who had "served his country admirably" in Germany and other locations.

The United Methodist Church supports "all persons who make decisions of conscience in regard to military service" (1988 Book of Resolutions), both those who choose to serve in the military and those who choose not to serve.

For an enlisted officer to apply for conscientious objector status will be extremely difficult, Pentagon spokesperson Lt. Col Joseph Allred reportedly told the Free Press. The two qualifications are total objection to any activity related to war or a more limited objection to bearing arms, Lt. Col. Allred said.

Military leaders tend to view a change of heart such of that of Sgt. Morris with skepticism, he said. "Nobody goes into the military wanting to go to war, but everybody recognizes that is part of the military mission," he added.

## Fiesta Resistance

Saturday, December 1: Fiesta Resistance, music by Blackfish (hot cajun zydeco!), Mothers of God; clown entertainment by Angel Ocasio; crafts, peace fair, fun for kids! It will be held from 5-11 p.m., at St. Andrew's Community Center, 806 NE Alberta, Portland. The cost is \$5 cover, \$3 for children under 12, \$6 extra for cajun crawfish and gumbo feast. Childcare will be provided. This is a benefit for Portland Central America Solidarity Committee. Call 236-7916 for more information.

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