



by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

RELIGION

Scripture of the Week

Scripture of the Week Micah 6:8

The New Wave of Ministry

By Billy Don Moore

The world of religion has been wracked by scandal of late, Jim Baker and the fall of PTL, Jimmy Swaggart and his motel affair, and Oral Roberts asking his followers to give him X amount of dollars or God was going to take him home. We that live in a world with so many religions may be a little

confused as to which way is up. Lucky for us we may just have the eye of the storm. God has been good to us by giving us Denise Bell. What a refreshing change from the scandal ridden headlines that have rocked the world of religions. A new minister from a new era will be ushered in with the installation of Reverend Denise Bell. The installation was held April 27, 1991. Denise Bell brings a refreshing new approach to the ministry while still getting the Word of God across to her congregation.

The role of minister is a complex and challenging job for Denise Bell. It wasn't the path she intended to take. Oh, she wanted to be close to God but at times she has struggled with her faith in her walk with Jesus. Denise Bell did not come from a strong church background. She attended Clifford High School in East Orange, New Jersey, and like most girls her age, she was a little on the shy side. Unsure of what life had in store, she began to get involved at an early age with social issues, issues that concern her people.

At the age of 15, Denise began doing volunteer work for Operation Push with the help of her mentor and longtime friend, Buster Soares, an

International speaker/lecturer and minister. Denise's parents were not devout Christians though they did believe in Christ. The Lord entered her life with the help of Reverend Soares. When Denise talks about Buster a certain joy comes over her and you are aware that he will always be close to her heart. She goes on to say that it was Buster who was there for her when her father passed away. "Buster helped me thru the transition of losing a father I loved very much. It was a difficult time in my life and I don't think I would have made it without the Lord and Buster."

It was Buster who made Denise even more aware of the movement for it was Buster, Denise explained, who taught me the only true movement is that of

Jesus Christ, Father, the Lord God. "Buster made me realize I had a personal responsibility to make a difference in the lives of others." Denise goes on to say, "When my father died, I became a Christian because I needed a Father who wouldn't leave me. Jesus was the vehicle that led me to God. I had always considered myself a Christian although at that point I had no personal investment in Christianity. Then God came into my life in 1980 and while attending Bible Study one night in 1982, I realized how much I had changed my life, from a fun-loving college student to serious about my God. While attending Kean College in Union, New Jersey, my major was Public Administration which makes you a liaison between the people and the system. It was not right for me. God's presence in my life was forever calling me to be a spokesperson for His Word. Yes, I

would still be in public administration, however, now my role would be the liaison between God and the people. I knew then God had changed my life totally."

However, Denise still did not understand the mission the Lord planned for her. She says, "I did become a really good Christian and was deeply involved and committed to the church, but in 1984 my faith in God was put to the test. The burden of the church and all the people depending on me became too much. I was burned out and came to the realization that I was serving the church and not God." That was disappointing to a young Christian trying to maintain the Faith. Denise goes on to quote Matthew 11:28. "Come upon me all who are heavy laden," she continued, "Something was wrong with me and the only way to work this out was thru the Lord. My problem was my perception of Christians. All I wanted to do was serve the Lord and live a life filled with God. It became very taxing on my young mind to maintain faith without question. After a two week mental overhaul about my faith, the Lord in all His Infinite wisdom was able to restore my love for God for it was He that I serve and no one else. I took inventory during that time and realized how much I enjoyed helping people, feeling, listening and healing them thru the love of God. The problem was I saw myself as a sacrificial lamb but thru faith in God I came to understand that if you have a gift and don't exercise it, the gift cannot become a talent."

Denise felt there were too many distractions at home and that in order to better serve her God, she would have to relocate. She moved to Denver, Colorado and enrolled in Denver Seminary School to enhance her knowledge of Christ. The issue of faith kept coming up and Denise felt that she was still not in touch with the person the Lord was calling her to be. Over the next two months,

with the help of the Lord, things began to fall into place. Her plan was to go back to New Jersey after finishing school and opening a Christian Counseling Center and to this day people back home are waiting for her to come back. Says Denise, "I am very comfortable in Portland and so very happy to have my own Church, Mallory Avenue Church. I want to make my calling as untraditional as possible, not to speak against the traditional church, just to add to it."

Denise believes that given the problems we are having today the traditional ways of the church are not as influential as in generations past. She goes on to say at the beginning of the 70's people were starting to leave the church, the church was losing its hold on the younger generations. She says, "I think that with the end of the 80's we have seen yet another change in that people are starting to see that you just can't make it without the Lord. We as human beings really cannot make it on our own. We need all the help we can get and the balance is on the ministry."

One of the things Denise brings to the church is the concept that people should feel free, and that God accepts us the way we are but challenges us to grow. "I put God in charge to get us thru. A pastor in charge does not know it all. The answers are in God's hands. He will respond to all our needs as long as we have the faith to trust in Him." Denise says people have to understand that God's presence is real. His promises are true and His power is great for all of us through Christ.

Denise Bell's Sunday service is a refreshing change because the focus is on the Church and not the minister. She believes that God and the teachings of Christ make the service. She is there just to administer His Word. With all the problems that have rocked the world of religion, Denise is just what God wanted for a new beginning in an ever changing world.



Denise Bell

Public Service Announcement

WHAT: CHURCH RENEWAL - HOMECOMING CELEBRATION
PROGRAM DATES: May 4 - 8, 1991
For more information: Call Mattie Neal in Vancouver at (206) 573-9637 or Mallory Church of Christ in Portland at (503) 288-1092

Governor Roberts to Speak
Saturday, May 4 to the Portland Organizing Project, at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1624 NE Hancock.

ADVERTISE
in the
PORTLAND OBSERVER

The North Portland Branch Library will be CLOSED for recarpeting May 12 - 20

The bookdrop will be closed May 12 - 16 so that work may proceed. Fines will be adjusted or you may return your books to:
St. Johns Branch Library
7510 N. Charleston
221-7716 Open
Tuesday - Thursday, 12:30-8:30 p.m.
Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
or Albina Branch Library
3605 N.E. 15th
221-7701 Open
Tuesday and Thursday, 1 - 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday and Friday, 1 - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

St. Mark Baptist Church

103 N.E. Morris Street
Portland, Oregon 97212
Church Phone: 287-7457



Rev. Dr. Joe S. Hardie, Pastor

Sunday School 9:30 AM.
Sunday Worship 11:00 AM.
Bible Study, Wednesday 5:30 PM.
Prayer Service, Wednesday 6:00 PM.

He That Loveth Not, Knoweth Not God;
For God Is love I John 4:8

Jesus Loves You! Allen Temple CME Church



Psalm 34:3

4236 NE Eighth Avenue
(corner of 8th & Skidmore)
Portland, Oregon 97211
(503) 287-0261
Phillip S. Nelson, Pastor

Why Paint?
When you don't have to any more.
Why Pay High Fuel Bills?
When you can lower'em
Why Move
When there's no reason to
Cover Your Home With Insulated Vinyl Siding
Buy Direct & Save Money
100% Financing
NO MONEY DOWN
Call Carefree Vinyl Homes 283-0348
For Free Estimate & Consultation
(No Obligation to Buy Anything)

Miracle-Ear
Don't Trust Your Hearing to Anything Less than Miracle-Ear
Are you or someone you know troubled by hearing loss? Then Miracle-Ear wants you to know that all hearing aid companies are not the same!
Only at Miracle-Ear Centers will you find the peace-of-mind and satisfaction that comes with our "Total Hearing System."
We invite you to compare Miracle-Ear to other hearing aid companies. You'll discover that Miracle-Ear stands above the rest!
Call Today for a FREE Hearing Test.
Call the Miracle-Ear Center nearest you for a FREE hearing test and consultation. We'll explain the results of your test and give you a copy for your medical records. You can even take a "test listen" on our Master Hearing Aid, so you'll know how well a Miracle-Ear system may help you hear again.

Benefit to You	Miracle-Ear	Other Companies
Exclusive Sharp™ Gold Circuit, for outstanding sound clarity and extra-long battery life?	YES	
Exclusive Optisound™ custom-fitting system, for improved comfort and sound quality?	YES	
Free service and cleaning for the lifetime of your instrument?	YES	
Nationwide service and repairs at more than 2,000 locations?	YES	
More than 40 years in the industry?	YES	

*See your Miracle-Ear consultant for complete conditions and details of the 2-year "Hearing Protection Plan."

Genuine Miracle-Ear hearing systems are found only at Miracle-Ear Centers. Accept no substitutes.

1420 Lloyd Center
Inside Newberry's
287-8787

Miracle-Ear
America's Better Hearing Centers™ ©1991 Dahlberg, Inc.

Maranatha Church

4222 N.E. 12th Avenue, Portland, Oregon

Sunday Services

sunday School
9:00 A.M.
Morning Worship
10:30 A.M.
Evening Worship
6:00 P.M.
Midweek Service - Wednesday
7:00 P.M.
Saturday - BASIC Youth Service
7:00 P.M.



Rev. Wendall H. Wallace
Senior Pastor

"Maranatha Live" Radio Program/Talk Show KPDQ 93.7 FM 800 AM
11:00 P.M. to 12:00 midnight (Each Sunday)

For Best Results Advertise in the Observer



MT OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH

WE ARE MOVING
SUNDAY SERVICES
TO

Stone Tower Church,
N.E. Sandy Blvd. & 30th
Worship Services 8:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.
Church School 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.
Bible Study, Wednesdays, 116 N.E. Schuyler
10:30 A.M. and 6:30 P.M.

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

A Teaching Church With A Reaching Ministry
Dr. James E. Martin, Senior Pastor

Church Office 116 N.E. Schuyler,