

RELIGION

Scripture of the Week

Matthew 13:3

I Know I Can Do It!

BY MATTIE ANN CALLIER-SPEARS

Gladys and Avelton Harris arrived in Portland in 1945 with their two children, Arthur and Glenda, from Warren, Arkansas. The children attended school at Vanport Elementary. "And it all got washed out," Arthur said. Glenda grew and excelled in her school subjects. She, later on, went to college, found a husband and got married. However--big brother, Arthur, about whom this story is being written, did not do as well. Arthur was the victim of an injury sustained at birth. It left him with a diminished capacity to learn and inaudible speech.

The year is now 1991. Glenda is now Mrs. Sam Benefield. Arthur and Glenda's parents are both deceased. All that they have is each other--and Sam. Arthur is 60 years old and is still handicapped.

Since 1945, Arthur has been in and out of one program after another. He has attended Vocational Rehab for the handicapped and has struggled through numerous other programs. "Arthur was in Fairview for a long, long time," says Glenda. "I had moved to California for 12 years after graduating from high school. Then I moved back to Portland in 1952." When Glenda returned, she went to Fairview and got her brother, brought him home and has cared for him since.

When I arrived to do the interview, Arthur greeted me with a big smile and motioned for me to have a seat until his sister came into the room.

Arthur resides with his sister and her husband, Sam, in a very clean, orderly and modest, Christian home. A home where God is the point of attention.

"I am just tired of waiting and I want something done -- now!"

Glenda has struggled and struggled to make things better for her brother. She was so happy when she found out about a program at Sylvania College entitled ARC, Association for Retarded Citizens. It took her eight months before she even got a chance to reach someone. She called the case manager with the Multnomah Developmental Disabilities and was placed on an eight year waiting list. Nothing was happening. She was told that there weren't enough case managers to go around. But--one person finally came out to the house. It was Randal Sherwood. Glenda told the interviewer, "I am just tired of waiting and I want something done--now!" Glenda got an interview and Arthur got into the program. All total, it took about nine months. Arthur entered the program two to three months after speaking to Sherwood. Arthur was going to school.

Reed College has developed a food service program with the Professional Food-Service Management, Inc. Arthur received his training at the PCC Sylvania campus under the tutelage of Chef Paul from England. Arthur received instruction real great. He began in the dishroom and was then taken through all phases of restaurant training. "Arthur was well liked by everyone," says Glenda.

Arthur excelled. He got excellent grades. "Don't ask me how it happened," Glenda spouted. "It was nothing but the good Lord. People try to give me credit, but it was God."

Arthur went to school everyday; all by himself; on the city bus. His exams were oral exams. He has an excellent understanding of the spoken language. He can remember what is explained to him. He can comprehend spoken directions and he is able to do

things well with his hands. He cannot read or write.

Arthur has held small jobs. He worked for Goodwill for 12 years on a sorting belt. But--it paid so little.

Vocational Rehab tests to see what individuals can do. Sometimes it does more harm than good. One place at a lab the handicapped persons are assembling packets. "It pleases them to be able to accomplish something," says Glenda. "I am so glad for the ARC Program. After a student completes the program, they can find gainful employment. Glenda said that a counselor comes out, on the job site, and checks up on the student's progress.

Arthur showed me his grades. They were all A's and B's. He even does homework, with help from his sister. "He did much better than I imagined he could," Glenda shared. The course taught him how to manage on his own, attitudes, living on his own in an apartment. When he graduates, the program will provide help in finding a job according to his abilities. Some of the instructors were skeptical because they thought that the employer might not be able to understand what Arthur is saying. When Arthur entered the program he could not read or write. Now he can write much better. He can also identify kitchen tools and equipment and he knows how to prepare food. Everyone is not fortunate enough to have a relative to help them, But Arthur does.

In this program, each student is taught that "failure is not a part of success." They can set goals. Arthur's goal is to do a good job at what he is doing. His job is to cut up all the ingredients. He has a utility belt that is just awesome. It has over 20 different tools in it and Arthur can identify each one and can tell you what it's used for.



Left, Arthur and other members of ARC - Top Right, Glenda Benefield - Bottom Right, Arthur T. Harris



Arthur is pictured here with other members of the ARC Program. This particular picture is used on brochures and envelopes. They hold conventions each year. One year it was at the Red Lion at the Lloyd Center. Other times it was held in Eugene, Salem, Springfield and Corvallis. They also made a video in which Arthur participated.

Following one year of intense study and guidance, Arthur received his Certificate of Completion as a Culinary Assistant in a graduation ceremony that

his sister, nor he, shall ever forget.

Glenda says that people with retarded relatives should look into the different programs for the handicapped. Look to see which one is best and just who will benefit most from the program's concepts. You have to pursue all angles and just stay on top of things. "Sometimes you get your feelings hurt but keep on going. Whatever it takes, never give up," Glenda concludes.

Mr. and Mrs. Benefield and Mr. Harris are members of Allen Temple

CME Church. Arthur works with Children's Church. His responsibility is to serve the snacks. He is a member of the Arkansas Club of Oregon and has held the position of Sgt. of Arms.

The staff members of the Portland Observer and the entire Portland community wish to offer its warm-hearted congratulations to Mr. Arthur Thomas Harris for a job well done. May God continue to bless and keep you all your days.



Minister Gregory Fobbs Bible school 9:30 am. Morning Worship 10:45 am. Evening Bible Class 5:00 pm. Evening Worship at 6:00 pm. Attended nurse for all services Wed. prayer meeting and bible study 7:30 pm. Advacating NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY

Mallory Ave Church Of Christ Invites you to open house\ visitors welcome Aug. 25, 1991. Bible Study 9:30 am worship 10:45 am. This invitation is extended to guest and friends to meet our new Pulpit Minister and his family. Following services, will be a Potluck Fellowship! Please join us in Christian Fellowship.

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church

8101 N. Fiske Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97203

Church Phone: 289-0147

Study Phone: 289-1911

Sunday Service

10:45

Sunday School

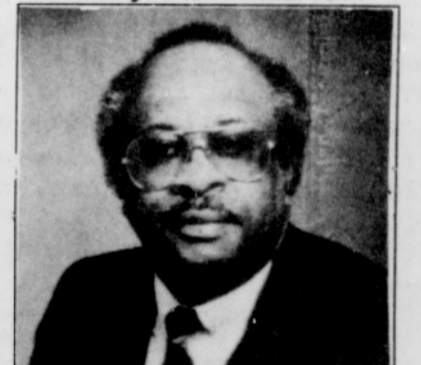
9:30

Bible Study

6:00

Evening Service

7:00 P.M.



Pastor, Rev. James C.E. Faulkner

Theme: Whatever you're going to do for the Lord, do it now.

I Peter iv.11

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 KPQD 93.7 FM 800 AM
11:00 P.M. to 12:00 midnight (Each Sunday)



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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.

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Dr. James E. Martin, Senior Pastor

Church Office 116 N.E. Schuyler,

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Power through Jesus Christ in
Good Times and Bad Times
Matthew 11:28

"Come to me all you who are
weary and heavy laden and I
will give you rest."

9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Morning Worship
7:30pm Tuesday Bible
Study and Prayer



Denise A. Bell Pastor

126 N.E. Alberta
Portland, OR 97211 (503) 288-5173
Inter-racial Congregation

Jesus Loves You! Allen Temple CME Church



Psalm 34:3

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AUGUST 16TH - FRIDAY 12:00 NOON WORKSHOP
AUGUST 17TH - SATURDAY 10:00 AM WORKSHOP
AUGUST 17TH - SATURDAY 7:30 PM EVENING WORSHIP
AUGUST 18TH - SUNDAY 3:30 PM WORSHIP SERVICE
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