

# RELIGION

Scripture of the Week

Matthew 13:3

## VANN & VANN FUNERAL DIRECTORS



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### United Way Recipients to Report Campaign Progress

Area residents helped by United Way of the Columbia-Willamette funded programs will give updates on this year's United Way campaign at a report luncheon, Friday, Oct. 4, noon, at the Portland Marriott.

The service recipients will provide campaign progress reports as well as tell how agencies such as Boys and Girls Club of Portland and International Refugee Center of Oregon have made positive differences in their lives.

Campaign Chairman Robert L. Ridgley, president/CEO, Northwest Natural Gas Company, will announce the total amount raised so far toward this year's goal of \$20.5 million.

Jim Little of KATU will emcee the event, which also will feature live music and a final report on the Pacesetter campaign (the early company fund drives that provide a financial base for the main campaign in the fall).

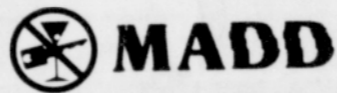
Tickets for the luncheon are \$13 and are available by contacting Susan Mitchell at 226-9326.

### Health Check-Ups For Women Offered

A health check-up for women will be given from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, October 26, 1991 at Western States Chiropractic College Clinic, 2900 NE 132nd Avenue in Portland.

The \$15 examination fee will cover the cost of a pap smear, breast exam, spinal examination, and urinary lab test. The check-ups are administered by fourth-year interns under the supervision of chiropractic physicians. Appointments are necessary and may be made by calling 255-6771.

Western State Chiropractic College Clinic is a nonprofit organization.



Mothers Against Drunk Driving

## Discrimination In The Church!

BY MICHAEL LINDSEY  
DEAN OF NORTH  
PORTLAND BIBLE COLLEGE  
The text for the Sunday School lesson (International Series) for the next Sunday is Acts 15:1-12.

In this age of rapid travel and instantaneous communication, of jumbo jets, satellite links and CNN, we have a tremendous opportunity to learn about people of various cultures and beliefs. Even in the church of Jesus Christ, the possibilities to learn from each other are tremendous.

Four years ago, the well-known evangelist Billy Graham hosted (and financed) a conference for over 2,000 evangelists in Amsterdam. The participants came from all over the world, including crusade speakers like Graham, lesser known itinerant speakers, and pioneer evangelists from India, Southeast Asia and Africa—men and women who live at subsistence levels and travel on foot or bicycle to villages where the gospel has never been preached. All are involved in the same great task—the evangelistic enterprise pioneered by Paul and Barnabas over 1900 years ago. And these ministers of Jesus found they could learn much about themselves and the task of world evangelization through interacting as equals in this conference.

Now as the message of Christ penetrates new tribal and urban people groups, the missionaries will encounter traditions, beliefs and religions that are often quite different from the ones they know at home. This may simply represent the wonderful variety of God's creation within the human race. It may also represent the sinful nature of mankind, acted out in such degrading forms as child exposure (leaving unwanted babies, usually girls, exposed to die), ritual torture, and slavery.

We must not fall into the humanitarian trap, of attempting to justify all cultural mores as equally "good." The gospel of Christ -- indeed, all the Scriptures -- confronts every culture in its sinful patterns, and issues a call from God himself, to repent and be transformed into the image of Christ. No

culture is exempt, including our own.

Even though America has had a long history of Christianity, this does not mean America is a Christian nation. Alongside our Christian heritage has also been a shameful history of slaveholding, exploitation of Native Americans, reckless corporate greed, and public display of lust and immorality. And no community in this culture can excuse its sins by comparing it to other segments of the whole culture.

Unfortunately, our churches often equate certain cultural patterns with the essentials of Christian faith. This week's Bible lesson shows us that this is not a new problem. In this case, some representatives of the Jerusalem church came north to Antioch to find out more about the evident growth of that city's church, and perhaps also about the fruits of Paul and Barnabas' missionary efforts (15:1, 24).

But on their arrival, these Jewish Christians immediately took issue with the status of the Gentiles (non-Jews) who had received the gospel of Jesus. They could not believe that God would be willing to save anyone who had not received circumcision, and submitted to the law of Moses (15:1, 5). In their minds, the Law was essential, for it had been given by the Lord. Furthermore, it would be impossible for Jewish Christians to keep the Law (especially their laws on ceremonial cleanness) if they freely fellowshiped with Gentile "pagans." So some kind of separation among the believers would have become inevitable. I believe this was the same time period Paul describes, when Peter, and even Barnabas, began to discriminate against Gentile Christians (Gal 2:11-14).

Luke shows us that the real issue at stake was the conflict between outward cultural form (like circumcision) and inward reality (like the new life in Christ and the filling of the Spirit). Circumcision doesn't divide Christians in our country; but other matters do, such as certain spiritual gifts (or lack of them), certain baptismal forms or formulas or even particular practices of worship. And like the Judaizers in Acts 15, many

Christians believe they can point to a Scripture to prove that they are right -- and they can then justify separating from the less "spiritual" believers.

Many times believers choose their views on these things by their own cultural experience, not by mandate of Scripture, and don't even realize they're doing it. Thankfully, we don't always go to the extreme these Judaizers did, denying someone is even saved if they didn't accept circumcision (15:1). But we often do separate ourselves from other believers because of cultural differences.

Paul saw this kind of discrimination in Antioch, and knew "that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel" (Gal 2:14, NIV). The inward reality -- that all believers are one in Christ (John 17:20-21) and that love for one another will authenticate our message (John 13:34-35) -- is more important than the outward form.

And the evident blessing of the Lord helped prove the propriety of the mission to the Gentiles. Peter gave testimony from his experience with Cornelius (Acts 15:7-9; 10:24-11:18), while Paul and Barnabas took every opportunity to tell of the wonderful works of God among the Gentiles (14:27; 15:3,12). When we see sinners receiving the Lord, living holy lives and displaying love for one another, we ought to praise the Lord! But often our pride gets in the way, and we start looking for reasons to criticize another church of denomination for their growth. And often the differences we might pick are really just different cultural practices.

Hold fast to the Word of God, and to your convictions based on the Word. James did that, as he spoke in favor of the Gentile mission (15:13-19). And he was most concerned for the salvation of every group of people: "we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God" (15:19). If this is our heart's desire, we will find ways to respect and accept other believers, without compromising our convictions, and yet without condemning our brothers and sisters.

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Matthew 11:28

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11:00am Morning Worship  
7:30pm Tuesday Bible  
Study and Prayer



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### New Worship Service

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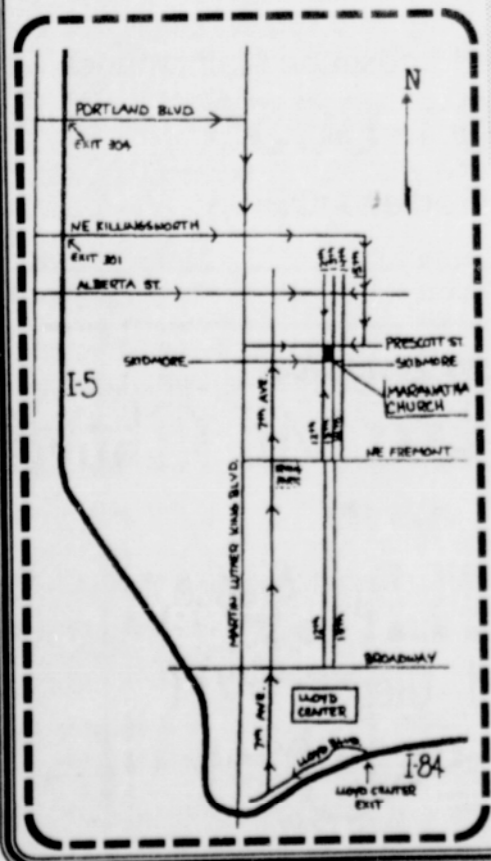
Early Sunday Morning Worship at 8:00 AM (New)  
Sunday School at 9:30 AM  
Regular Sunday Morning Service at 10:45 AM  
Sunday Evening Service at 6:00 PM  
Wednesday Evening Service at 7:00 PM  
Sunday, "Maranatha Live": KPDQ 93.7 FM at 11:00 PM  
Sunday, September 8, 1991 at 8:00 AM & 10:45 AM  
"HOW TO HANDLE LIFE'S DEEPEST HURTS & TOUGHEST PROBLEMS"

Sunday, September 8, 1991 at 6:00 PM  
"RESTORING PURPOSE IN OUR GENERATION"



Wednesday, September  
11, 1991 at 7:00 PM  
"MARANATHA'S VISION"

Prayer for healing every Service  
4222 N.E. 12th Avenue Portland, Oregon  
97211  
(503) 288-7241



### City Commissioner To Appear On Live Call-In-Program

Portland City Commissioner Mike Lindberg will be the guest for the LIVE CALL-IN edition of Black Community Television's "NE Spectrum," Wednesday, October 2, at 7:00 p.m. The program will appear on Channel 30 on both Paragon and TCI systems. The program will also be available on Paragon Cable Channel 38.

Commissioner Lindberg will talk about his assigned bureaus (Water, Energy, Parks, Arts) and overall significant City issues such as public safety and neighborhood revitalization. Calls are encouraged.

### CHANGE OUR SCHOOLS!

Community Forum on Special Task Force Proposal commissioned by Portland School Board

School Board members, Stephen Kafoury and Roby Roberts; Black community activists Richard Brown and Joyce Harris; and educators Jeff Edmundsen and Bill Resnick will debate a major school reform proposal commissioned by the Portland Public Schools. The Special Task Force proposal calls for more power in the hands of teams of parents and teachers at individual schools. The proposal is endorsed by the Black United Front, leader of last February's school boycott for a similar reform proposal. The community forum is Tuesday, October 8, 7 PM at the King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 NE 7th, sponsored by the Rainbow Coalition.



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Bible Study, Wednesdays, 116 N.E. Schuyler  
10:30 A.M. and 6:30 P.M.

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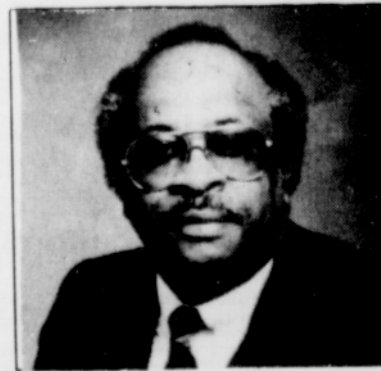
## St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church

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 4:11

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