

# RELIGION

Scripture of the Week

2 Timothy 1:3-4

## Attention... Attention... Special Announcement...

All alumnus of the Albina Sports Program, Albina Roadrunners, ASP All-Comers' Summer Track Meets or ASP Golden Ball Programs, from 1961 to 1991, are hereby requested to call 284-8828 or 280-5100 (ask for: Leon McKenzie) or call 284-0418 (ask for: Jon "Hammer" Richardson) or write Albina Youth Inc., P.O. Box 55483, Portland, OR 97238. A special event is being planned to honor Mr. Phillip Walden. We need to hear from as many persons as possible by the 15th of January 1992. Please call or write as soon as possible concerning this very important upcoming event. Call today!

Portland Observer encourages our readers to write letters to the editor in response to any articles we publish.

## An Antidote For 'Church Tasting'

BY MICHAEL LINDSEY  
Dean Of North Portland Bible College

The text for the Sunday School lesson (International Series) for next Sunday is Psalm 84. Start the New Year right, by taking yourself and your whole family to Sunday School and Worship this week. A family with a foundation in the Bible will be much better prepared for the pressures of daily life today.

How beautiful is your church building? Some of us belong to churches with spacious sanctuaries, padded pews and stained glass windows. Others worship in small storefronts, with marginal heating systems and folding chairs. I used to pastor a congregation in the Albina area, in a building with the latter description.

It is often pointed out that people can worship God any place, even out in the woods or along the river bank. I have to question how many Sunday fishermen really do take time to pray and sing praises while they await the big catch--and how many look to the word of God, the Bible, for instruction in their daily lives. But truly a child of God can pray in solitude, and he should (Matt 6:6), as well as reading his Bible, and singing hymns and spiritual songs (Eph 5:19).

But that is not enough for the true follower of the Lord God. The Psalmist in Psalm 84 reflects in his age, the attitude we should all have about our own place of worship, whether it is a cathedral or a storefront or a private house. The Psalmist, with most of the faithful children of Israel, was far removed from Jerusalem, the city on which the Lord had set his Name (Deut 12:5), and the Temple, the only proper place of worship of Yahweh God. He had to travel long miles, on special occasions, to participate in worship with the great pilgrim throngs. Even for those in the nearby hills, the journey was a sacrifice of time and labor, to join with the worshippers in the Holy City.

Nevertheless, the true worshipper was eager to go and "appear before the

Lord" three times a year (Exod 34:23-24), for these were times of great celebration, fellowship, and (most of all) exalting the great Name of Yahweh (the LORD) among the surrounding nations. Look at the emotional description of the worshipper: his "soul longeth, yea, even fainteth," his "flesh crieth out" (Ps 84:2), he envies the small birds which can dwell in the Temple court all year (84:3). The "tabernacles" (84:1) may refer to earlier times, when Israel worshipped the Lord around a portable tent of meeting. But clearly the later verses refer to the permanent Temple, with courts and a "house," or building.

Why this place of worship? Because the Lord was there--he had specifically commanded his people to worship him there and only there. His presence was seen, and felt, and experienced there. And his people came together there, and united in heart to worship him there.

Often it wasn't an easy journey; some came through wilderness areas, or risked robbers and swindlers along the LORD God of hosts, the God of Jacob (Israel), and saw his protection and salvation at work. Some whose hearts were not so dedicated to the Lord would not make the trip; they would stay home and worship God in their own way, even using pagan ritual. And they would miss the joy of truly knowing the Lord.

The Psalmist had his priorities straight: "A day in thy courts is better than a thousand [somewhere else]. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the hobuse of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness" (84:10). Given the choice, he knew he was better off worshipping the Lord than doing anything else. We would call it a strategic investment of one's life. The Psalmist knew he was better off in the lowliest place of service, serving the true God, than living in relative ease, serving himself. The Bible repeatedly promises that the person who gives himself to the Lord without reserve, will receive all the best

things life has to offer: here the Psalmist proclaims, "no good thing will be [the Lord] withhold from them that walk uprightly" (84:11; see also Ps 37:4; Matt 5:6; 16:24-27).

What does all this mean for the believers of Jesus Christ? We have an obligation put upon us, like the saints of ancient Israel, to seek out the times of worship and to be consistent in that worship. It is commanded to us, as well as them (Heb 10:25). We don't have physical temples for worship, where the Lord has put his Name. But we ourselves are now the temple of the Holy Spirit of God, in both our individual bodies (1 Cor 6:19) and our local gatherings (3:16). When we take up the "whole armor of God" (Eph 6:11-18), we are taking it up together, not individually. An individual Christian, standing apart from the congregations of God, cannot obey his commands for corporate worship.

We also have an obligation to find a church body--a family of believers--and commit ourselves to that group. Unfortunately, some professing Christians today have a habit of visiting around to many churches, tasting a Baptist sermon, a Pentecostal testimony service, special revival meetings everywhere. And they don't seek God's leading for the church he wants them to attach themselves to. Such Christians are easy targets for the spiritual Enemy of our souls, for few other believers will know when they are under attack, and they are accountable to no-one.

Is that where you are today? Church tasting makes for very shallow saints. Find a church where the Bible is being taught, and where the fellowship is warm and genuine. The size of the building, and even the size of the congregation, is not all that important. Then find a place of service for the Lord Jesus through that church, in keeping with your gifts, talents and interests. You'll find the reality of Christian life, and the joy of growing in grace and the knowledge of our lovely Savior, Jesus Christ.

JANUARY CLEARANCE

## Wigland

One of the Northwest's Largest Wig Displays  
Wigs and Hairpieces For all Nationalities



Synthetic & Human Hair  
For Braiding & Weaving

Monday - Friday  
10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Saturday  
10:00 am - 5:30 pm

EVA GABOR

NAOMI SIMS

RENEE OF PARIS

282-1664 • 1105 NE Broadway

## MALLORY

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

3908 NE MALLORY AVENUE



Minister Gregory Fobbs

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

Bible Study  
9:30 am.

Morning Worship  
10:45 am.

Men's Training Leadership  
Women's Bible Class  
5:00 pm.

Evening Worship  
6:00 pm.

Attended nursery for all  
services

Wednesday prayer meeting  
and bible study  
7:30 pm.

Radio Ministry Each Sunday, 11:00 AM - KBMS

## 288-1092

RESTORING  
NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY

### Volunteers Needed

Interested in Community Development in Northeast Portland? The Northeast Genesis Project needs your help!

We need volunteers interested in:

1. Community Service	2. Fundraising
3. Community News Letter	5. Board Participation

Please call Rose Marie Davis @ 281-8976 any time.

## VANN & VANN

### FUNERAL DIRECTORS



Cleodus Vann


Family Owned and Operated  
Since 1954

Serving the City of Portland  
for over 37 years

In your hour of need  
Vann & Vann are there to serve

## 503/281-2836

5211 N. Williams Portland, Or. 97217

The Prudential 

**Jim Werner**

District Agent, 19 Years Service

11300 N.E. Halsey, Suite 100  
Portland, OR 97220

Residence: 503-771-6113

*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*

## St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church

8101 N. Fiske Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97203

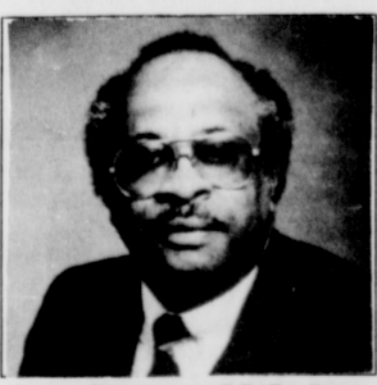
Church Phone: 289-0147      Study Phone: 289-1911

**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

## Mallory Avenue Christian Church

Disciples of Christ


God's Presence promises  
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

Inter-racial Congregation

126 N.E. Alberta † Portland, OR 97211 † (503) 288-5173



Denise A. Bell, Pastor



## 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,

**For Best Results  
Advertise in the Observer**