

# Heroes and Heroines Gone But Not Forgotten

Last week we ran an article on Rev. John Garlington Jr. A typographical error inadvertently confused Rev. Garlington with his father who was also a minister. This week we have printed the corrected version. We apologize for any inconvenience to our readers.



John Garlington, Jr.  
BY D. BELL

The late John Garlington, Jr., former pastor at Maranatha Church, was himself from an interesting family. Rev. Garlington, Jr. was born in 1937 in Buffalo, New York, the son of a successful barber. At the age of 40 John Garlington Sr. had a born-again experience and became saved. By the time he was 40 he owned two barber shops, one in Buffalo and one in Detroit, Michigan.

Within a few years of his becoming saved, John Garlington, Sr. met a young woman named Valdesse Peeler whom he married.

At this point in time they became involved with the denomination of The Church of God and Holiness, in which John Garlington, Sr. became a minister. Rev. Garlington Sr. subsequently experienced a religious revelation, and severed his ties with that church, and with his congregation founded the Church of

God and True Holiness. At the time of his death, Bishop Garlington, Sr. headed a group of 16 churches. The Church of God and True Holiness is still in existence today on the east coast of the United States.

His father died when he was only eight years old, leaving his mother to raise her family as a single parent, which she did by doing domestic work.

John Jr. attended elementary and high school in Buffalo and left home at the age of 16 for Cleveland, Ohio. After three years there he enrolled in the Cleveland Baptist School of the Bible. Upon completion of his studies, he pursued a ministerial career in the church his father had started, the Church of God and True Holiness. When not working in ministerial related duties, Rev. Garlington Jr. supported himself and family by working as a postman and barber.

At the age of 29, Rev. Garlington Jr. was approached by his father's church to be a bishop, the youngest person to date to be approached for this position. Upon accepting the office of Bishop, Rev. Garlington moved back to Buffalo, New York.

In his new position, Rev. Garlington began receiving national recognition and exposure. He began to travel extensively. It was during his travels that he began to experience different points of view, and came to see his church as rooted in old inflexible pentecostal traditions resistant to change. Consequently, he relinquished his responsibilities as Bishop in the Church of God and True Holiness, and with his congregation he left the church and became non-denominational.

Rev. Garlington still traveled extensively; however, it was during one of his speaking engagements at the People's Church in Tacoma, Washington in 1975 that it was brought to his attention that the Maranatha Church in Portland, Oregon was looking for a pastor.

He applied for the position. After one interview and an extended month long visit to the "City of Roses," Rev. Garlington, Jr. accepted the open position for Pastor.

When Rev. Garlington, Jr. arrived in Portland there was a bussing controversy surrounding the Portland Public Schools system and except for Rev. John Jackson, few clergy were visibly involved in social issues such as bussing, the possum incident where police officers threw dead possums on the door step of a black-owned cafe, and the police audit committee. To these incidents, Rev. Garlington, Jr. brought with him the ability to mediate tense situations and the ability to find some common ground for compromise.

On January 16, 1986 at the age of 48, Rev. Garlington, Jr. was on a working vacation in Florida after making an evangelical stop in Jamaica. While driving on his way to church where he was to appear, Rev. Garlington, Jr. and his wife were both killed in a tragic car accident. The driver of the other vehicle, had he been in Oregon, would have been considered legally drunk.

At the time of his death, Rev. Garlington, Jr. was the president of the Albina Ministerial Alliance. He had earned the well deserved reputation as a bridge builder in the cause of social issues.

Rev. Garlington Jr. leaves a cherished memory of one gone but not forgotten.

# Northwest African American Writers Workshop Host Two-Day Conference

Continued from page 2

notes, came a myriad of spell-binding information which took us from the state of Mississippi, where he was born, to the steps of the Ohio State Union Merchant Institute where he met a person named Dr. Richard Snyder and together they worked on "world peace." World Peace has always been a major concern of Dr. Prophet's. He has joined every "Peace" group imaginable.

Dr. Prophet is deeply entrenched in the discovery of the "whys" and the "how comes" being the education of our young people and what are the causes of conflict. He told the audience, of approximately 150 persons, that he came to Portland purposely and one of the concepts he attempted to introduce into the school system was that of "World Peace."

"If we could just find the right formula that would cause other people to respect the rights of others," he said.

Dr. Prophet said that the textbooks approval is controlled largely by what transpires in the state of Texas. In attempting to find answers, Dr. Prophet has gone through great periods of great frustration. He was not seeking to find an answer for just one geographical location but a solution that would eventually bring about change throughout the entire nation. He and a team of colleagues had gotten so close to bringing about a change that would have impacted school systems across the United States. But -- the two million dollar grant to rewrite the social studies text, that was ap-

proved, was put on hold. It was to go before congress...and -- then it happened. Election was coming. It was November, 1980. Then the dark days came -- "Reagan." Everything came to a screeching halt.

Dr. Prophet said that he worked in the military in the Defense Department. During a vacation period, he had the opportunity to go to England to see their Multi Ethnic Educational Curriculum Program, which was initiated through the military. This was all well and good but he couldn't go public with the program as long as it was under the auspices of the military. There was much transitionalizing; then, he heard about an opening in Portland. He had also heard that Portland was attempting a similar program, though imperfect, he still came.

When Dr. Prophet reached Portland, he discovered that Portland's teaching staff was below even at the marginal levels as far as Multi-Ethnic staff was concerned. In 1985, Joseph Franklin was the first non-white teacher to be recruited outside of the state of Oregon. This was to be their method of supplanting the already existing system's hiring procedure. This proved to be a successful method; but of course it didn't fly without a fracas from within the existing ranks. People came from everywhere.

One night at a board meeting, Dr. Prophet got views from one thousand directions. He was at his wits-end but the concept was good and he said, "It will be published but it is not intended to represent wrong truths but fact."

The Baseline Essay is not an answer to the Multi Cultural problem that the school district is facing but a positive method to assist in its implementation and resolution. "If I were to judge and rate Portland Public Schools about their Baseline Essay" says Prophet, "I would give the elementary level an 'A', the intermediate level a 'B' and the high school level a 'C'."

Prophet had heard about reforms all over the place. "I have 59 reforms with very little movement. Missing -- is the affective domain. How do kids feel about themselves?" Dr. Prophet expounds. Prophet says that a comparator permits you to list. But -- you can choose between:

- \*Self worth
- [which is the most important?
- \*Learning to respect others
- \*Cognition

These three elements are the most important areas we should develop in our lives and the lives of our children.

Margaret Carter followed his flat-footed, unrehearsed, moving, coherent speech with "If I Could Help Somebody." The song moved everyone to tears.

Homer Kearns, Superintendent of the Salem/Keizer Public Schools, who was present, said, "Prophet must have a Baptist preacher somewhere in his roots because of the manner in which he developed a few notes on the back of a program and turned them into such an overwhelmingly powerful speech. I was truly impressed. Salem will have to host this event next year."



## Portland Public Schools

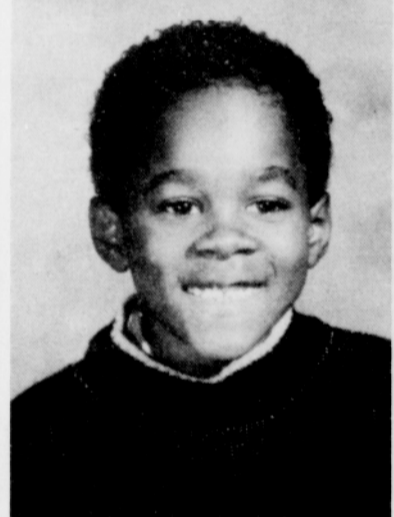
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