

# RELIGION

## Totally Committed, God Can't Use Complacent Christians

BY MATTIE ANN CALLIER-SPEARS

When I was a very little girl, growing up in the south, I can remember some of my grandmother Mary's unselfish actions, in the once small community of Gonzales, Louisiana. I can remember a time when we had gone to stay for the summer; as we did on a year basis.

My granny and Papa John loved us dearly. When we would arrive via a big black train called the "owl," our Papa John would flag down the train by standing on the tracks and waving a kerosene lantern, late in the evening, or by waving a large piece of cloth, in the day lit hours. The big train would slow down and the conductor would gather us up and hand us down, singularly, to our grandpa who was standing at the door with outstretched arms. I do believe that we had the biggest grandpa in the whole world; but, that's an entirely different story.

After Papa John had extracted us from the train, we would be transported in a big horse drawn wagon or, later on, in a big black automobile that was so big and spacious that our feet couldn't touch the floor.

When we would arrive, Papa John would blow the horn to announce our arrival. Then, as we pulled up to the big, wide gate, to the outer yard, Papa John would get out and open the big gate. We, my sisters and brothers and me, would try to peer over the big seats in the car to see what Papa John was

doing. He would yell, "You chullen, sit down in dey!" We would scurry back to our seats and wait for Papa John to drive the car into the yard.

Papa John removed us one by one from the car. He would instruct the taller ones to open the gate to the inner yard while he got the luggage out. Our Grandma Mary would be waiting in the doorway with a dress on that had yards and yards of material. When we would hug her, we would all hug at once like little piglets crowding around a mama sow at meal time.

After kissing every child, she would ask, "Are you Hungry?" Our Granny would have so much food prepared just for us. She knew what each child liked -- so, she would have something for each appetite. The big middle room, heated by a giant wood stove, had a table laden with goodies. The smells that just lingered in the air were unmatched by anything anyone would ever smell in their whole, entire lifetime. "Hum-hum good!"

One year, as we were awakened in the morning, Granny came into our room and told us that she would not be at home because she had to go to Miss So and So's (can't remember her name) house because she was ill. We saw Grandma Mary take a satchel, put on her coat and leave the house. We lay there, in our beds, and quizzically wondered what we were going to do with Granny out of the house. Papa John had already gone out into the field to do his

morning plowing.

Before Grandma Mary left the house she reminded us each to be good children. She also gave each child instructions for the day. Plus -- Papa John was still about. Granny was gone for nearly a week. She would come home in the evenings, prepare dinner and adequate food for the next day. With a hug and a kiss, she would be off again.

We knew that our Grandma Mary loved us -- but, her love for us did not detract her duties as a strong Christian woman. As she sat in her big rocker with one of us nestled on her wide, soft lap, she would explain why she had to go off like she did. She said that, as Christians, we are obligated to take care of one another. Miss "So and So" had no children. She had no one to take care of her. So Grandma Mary felt that it was her Christian duty to care for her until she was able to get about on her own. She said that God would be pleased with what she did even if people did not think well of what she did. She oft times said, "We have to do what pleases God."

My Grandma Mary was a totally committed Christian woman. She took care of her home and she made time to care for others in the community. She made it her business to know what was happening in the community so that -- if there was anything that she could do to assist, she would be right there in the thick of things or she would walk over

to someone's house and solicit their assistance. She said that we had to help one another.

I can remember my Grandma Mary organizing a sewing circle to make quilts or pillow cases and sheets or clothing for those less fortunate. She would cook extra at dinner time so she could send some food over to someone's house. She would stand on the bayou bank and pray for the sick. My sisters and brothers and I would stand inside the fence and watch her as she would lift her arms into the air as she prayed.

She had unshakable faith. My little brother, Ronald, had asthma real bad. Mommie and Daddy had taken Ronald to many doctors without any results. Grandma Mary told Mommie to send Ronald to her. Mommie sent Butte' (Ronald) to Granny. She knew that prayer would bring about change.

Grandma Mary took Ronald down to the bayou. This time she took her fishing pole with them. It was just she, Butte', the fishing pole and the Lord. As she prayed, she baited her hook, flung it into the bayou. She continued to pray. She caught a large fish with a big, mouth. She held this fish in her hands and instructed Butte' to breathe into the fish's mouth, while she hurled it back into the water. She believed that God would let the asthma go into the fish and away from Butte'. She believed. She stayed on that bayou bank and thanked the Lord for blessing her grandchild. Ronald has not had asthma

since that day.

Don't be afraid if you appear different to everyone. As a Christian, you are different. The scripture tells me that we are a peculiar people. [Deut. 14:2 & Titus 2:14] The dictionary defines peculiar as "uncommon, unusual, distinguished in nature or character from others (others being transgressors or sinners).

Don't worry about it if people talk about your not being like the others. You don't want to be like the others any way. People are going to hell in a hand basket. That's right! All bunched up together. They are wanting so badly to be like the others not taking into account where the others are leading them. Have you ever tried to turn around in a crowd and go the other way? You can't do it. The crowd's continued movement and occasional pauses affords you no way out until you have reached the destination.

Many times you find that you have arrived some place and it wasn't your intentions to go that far.

Think about it! Pray about it! Ask yourself this question.

Is this what God wants me to do? Stay on the path of "righteousness." Matthew 7:13 reads -- "Heaven can be entered only through the narrow gate! The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide enough for all the multitudes who chose its easy way. But the Gateway to Life is small, and the road is narrow, and only a few ever find it."

[TLB] These words were spoken by Jesus Christ to the multitude in his Sermon on the Mount.

Big is not always better! Be totally committed! Dare to be different for the Lord! I remember a statement that Rev. John H. Jackson made during one of his many sermons, he said, "Don't worry if people are talking about you. When you should worry, is when they stop talking." If no one is complaining about your Christian walk -- then, maybe you noticed. "Oooo - ooo - oooo!" Now, that's real bad when you can't tell the Christians from the sinners.

Stop sitting by watching things happen, sticking your head in a hole like the ostrich and let the world go to hell on a greased slide.

Christians! Wake up! Stand up and be counted! Do the work of Him who sent you. Christ said in Matthew 7:24-26, "All who listen to my instructions, and follow them are wise, like a man who builds his house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents, and the floods rise and the storm winds beat against his house, it won't collapse, for it is built on rock. But those who hear my instructions and ignore them are foolish, like a man who builds his house on sand. For when the rains and floods come, and storm winds beat against his house, it will fall with a mighty crash."

# News Around Town

## For you And The Community

### Plant Tag Printers

Portland Parks and Recreation is looking for several volunteers with steady hands to block print rose identification signs. About 200 signs needed by May, materials are provided. The signs may be printed at home or on site at Washington park, Peninsula Park or Ladd's Addition Park.

### Teachers' Assistants

Classroom assistants help teachers at Portland Center for Hearing & Speech in Southwest Portland by reading, singing, playing and talking with young, pre-school children who are speech and language delayed. One-half day per week during the school year is asked. Minimum age = 21.

### Youth Committee Members

Committees serve a vital role in an agency's ability to anticipate and respond to the needs of the community. Youth members offer a valued perspective and develop many new skills. Current openings for youth include:

**Portland Impact's Youth and Family Services** - The Neighborhood Accountability Board assigns consequences to first-time juvenile offenders. Minimum age = 16.

The Citizen Advisory Board advises on community needs, implementation of actions and serves as liaison to the community.

### Minimum age = 14.

**Washington County Special Olympics** - Several committees work to organize local athletic tournaments,

recruit participants and volunteers. Minimum age = 16.

### Outdoor Special Event

**Friends of Tryon Creek State Park** - Offers many possibilities for volunteers in a beautiful Southwest Portland setting. March signals the start of an active season when volunteers stroll the trails to help visitors, spend a Saturday morning maintaining the trails, or assist with the annual spring Trillium Festival on April 4th and 5th. The kick-off for hosts and trail maintainers is March 21st. Groups are welcome.

Minimum age = 18 unless accompanied by an adult.

### Signers

If you are skilled in sign language and have a few hours to spare several agencies would like to hear from you.

**The Salvation Army's Rose Center** - in Northeast Portland is seeking someone to sign for deaf senior adults who meet two mornings each month and someone to teach a beginning sign language class could be held any weekday. Minimum age - 55.

**Vision Resources For Independent Living** - In Northeast Portland needs on-call interpreters to assist blind-deaf clients who come to the center for classes. Minimum age = 21.

**Washington County Community Action** - is looking for an interpreter to serve as liaison between a teacher and deaf parents of a child with limited speech. Minimum age = 16.

## Emanuel Scholarship Announced

Emanuel Hospital and Health Center announces that it will award four \$100 college scholarships for high school students intending to study for a career in a health-related field. The scholarship is available to students who reside in North/Northeast Portland and who have a high school GPA of 2.75.

The scholarship is renewable and may be used for tuition and other college fees for up to four years of college. The student should intend to pursue a career in an accredited medical program on a full-time basis and the area of study should be a healthcare career that is represented at Emanuel. Minorities are encouraged to apply.

Application deadline is April 10, 1992. Applications are available in the Portland high school counseling offices. For more information, call Jan Shea in Emanuel Community Relations, 280-4630.

## The Jefferson Dancers In Concert

What: The Jefferson Dancers in Concert Six shows: Two different programs

Where: Portland Center for Performing Arts Intermediate Theatre Portland, Oregon

When: April 28, 29, 30, May 1, 2, 3, 1992 8:00 p.m. each night

Program: Jefferson Dancers' 1992 repertoire is a multicultural blend of choreographic gems, including another powerful, lively African number by Portland's own Bruce Smith and an exciting Brazilian martial arts/modern piece, Roda Da Noite, by Gretchen Kneir. Other pieces include Crayola, a colorful ballet by Dennis Spaight; two pieces by the infamous Donald McKayle, Rainbow Round My Shoulder and Games; a tap-jazz collaboration by Julane Stites and Terry Brock called Take 8-7-6-Five; and another modern piece by Gretchen Kneir, Beneath the Gathering Cloud. In addition, Julane Stites' perennial favorite, Looking Glass, is sure to please.

Tickets: All seats reserved: \$6, \$10, \$12.50. Available at the PCPA Box Office: 248-4496 and at all Fred Meyer Fastix outlets: 224-8499. (Prices include user and convenience fees. Mail and phone orders subject to additional handling charge.)

## Free Health Screening Offered

The hospitals and health care organizations of LEGACY HEALTH SYSTEM invite area seniors (age 55+) to attend a REE HEALTH SCREENING. The screening provides numerous important health tests and services, including: blood test (cholesterol, blood sugar, and others), general physical assessment by nurses, blood pressure, dental and oral cancer check, vision and glaucoma check, hearing test, lung health check, nutrition counselling, breast cancer self-examination instructions, colorectal cancer screening, and others.

For those desiring the full blood test, it is suggested you arrive in a fasting state - no food or drink (except water and medications) for the previous 12 hours. Known diabetics should follow their regular eating schedule.

Screenings are conducted weekly at different locations throughout the Portland Metropolitan area. Please call Winetta Soderlund, R.N. at 241-3478 to obtain a schedule of screening dates and locations.

## Senior Princess Selections Start Monday, March 16; Queen's Coronation Moves To New Date

It's a sure sign that the Portland Rose Festival is just around the corner. The countdown to see who will be the 1992 Queen of Rosaria begins Monday, March 16 when the first Rose Festival senior princess will be selected.

Parkrose High School will announce its princess during an assembly at 2:10 p.m. at the school. Twelve other princesses will be crowned in individual ceremonies at their respective Portland-area high schools continuing through Monday, April 13.

## Monthly Meeting For The Gray Panthers

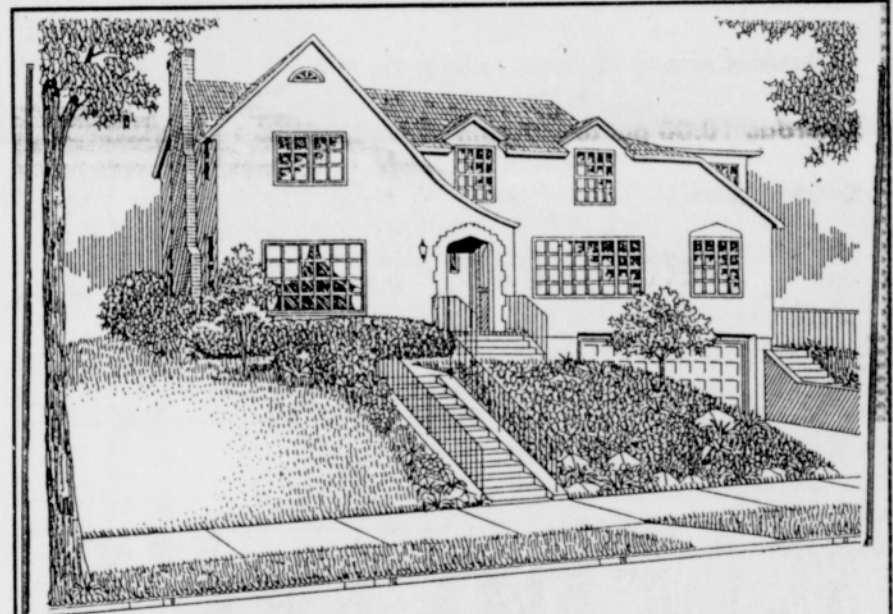
Gray Panthers monthly meeting, Saturday, March 21 at 1819 Everett St., 10 a.m. to noon. Agenda includes panel discussion on IMPACT OF THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

Panelists are: Terry Rogers, attorney, director of Multnomah County Legal Aid and co-founder of Human Services Coalition of Oregon; Sharon Gary Smith, director of Portland Black Women's Health Project and Mariah Taylor, RN, PN director of North Portland Nurse Practitioner Community Health Clinic. Monthly meetings open to all--AGE AND YOUTH IN ACTION!

## Catholic Charities of Western Oregon Conference

Catholic Charities of Western Oregon will host a conference on Saturday March 14, 1992 to be held at the University of Portland, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Fr. Thomas J. Harvey, President of Catholic Charities USA, will speak on the future social needs in the United States. Oregon Department of Human Resources Director, Kevin W. Concannon, will discuss human service needs in Oregon. Several workshops sessions will be offered. For Registration information, contact the Catholic Charities office 233-8362.

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## Chemotherapy Seminar

Cancer patients and their families can achieve a better understanding of chemotherapy during a free morning seminar sponsored by Legacy Health system.

"Chemotherapy and you: Self-Help During Treatment for Patients and Families" will be held Saturday, March 21, from 10 a.m. - noon at Good Samaritan's Neurological Sciences Center Auditorium, 1040 N.W. 22nd Ave.

Speakers will be: Ralph Weinstein, M.D., medical oncologist; Mary Ann Jenck, Pharm.D.; and Stacey Agee, R.N., oncology nurse. They will discuss how chemotherapy works, why certain drugs are used for particular cancers, and how to handle common side effects.

## Barnstormers Return To OMSI

OMSI will be buzzing with radio controlled models at the 12th Annual Barnstormer R/C Static Show March 21 and 22. Visitors will become judges and spectators of a variety of hand-crafted model airplanes!

Also slated for the show will be films about modeling, workshops and ongoing model building instruction. Models may be registered on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., entry fee is \$5.00 per model, which does not include museum admission. For more information on becoming a participant, call Steve Tischler at (503) 639-0798.

FREE HEALTH SCREENING FOR OLDER ADULTS

635-3758.