

# RELIGION

Scripture of the Week

Matthew, Chapter 7

## Building A Memorial to Black Patriots of the Revolutionary War

by Maurice A. Barboza

African Americans have much to celebrate this 216th year of Independence, despite the miles we still have to travel to reach economic equality with many of our fellow citizens.

We are among the oldest of Americans. Our ancestors were founding fathers and mothers, more dedicated to the principles of the Declaration of Independence than the authors themselves.

The Declaration, it could be argued, trumpeted what black Americans had been advocating for generations.

Today's African American is both a beneficiary of those patriots' dreams and their living instrument for achieving a just society.

By making our ancestors' vision a reality, we vindicate their noble aspirations and make ourselves patriots in the still-continuing Revolution.

The Black Revolutionary War Patriots Foundation plans to resurrect the memory of the 5,000 black soldiers and tens of thousands of freedom seekers of the American Revolution with a one-of-a-kind memorial.

Proudly, they will assume a poetic presence on the Washington, D.C., Mall between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.

The more than five million tourists who visit this area each year will soon see the first evidence there of black contributions to the nation's birth.

An approved conceptual design, consisting of multiple figures emerging from a 90 foot long, gently-rising, curved bronze wall will speak volumes about how attitudes toward blacks were shaped by stereotypical information.

Finally, the truth will be written in the landscape through a



Maurice A. Barboza

rendering of the deeds of patriots like Paul Cuffe, who protested taxation without representation; Elizabeth Freeman, whose law suit ended slavery in Massachusetts; Richard Allen, who founded a church; and Prince Hall, a soldier and organization builder.

They struggled side by side with their white compatriots in the hopes of becoming full citizens.

Ed Dwight, a talented black sculptor, is capable of bringing those figures to life -- almost to the point of a heartbeat.

By showing that this common history makes us "One Nation," the memorial will challenge stereotypes, improve race relations, and add a potent message to the Mall.

The goodwill that this effort has already tapped could replace feelings of distrust and hostility between blacks and whites -- as evidenced by the racial tensions in our cities.

This will truly be a national memorial where Americans and foreign visitors may go to answer the question, "Who is an American?"

Those black patriots' courage, sacrifice and belief in brotherhood and equality should define our national identity -- and make us one people.

America's long-overdue embrace of their ancestors will be a sign to blacks that they too are welcome into the nation's family in a way that their forefathers could never be: as equals.

For whites, the memorial is an opportunity to affirm a commitment to the nation's founding principles -- more noble than their ancestors'.

Already, there has been progress. Organizations, from the Daughters of the American Revolution to the NAACP, view this as a bold new approach to raising the self-esteem of black youth and unlocking the minds of whites.

Chiefly associated with crime, violence and welfare, African Americans will be able to recapture the high road of the civil rights movement through this memorial.

The "One Nation Campaign" to raise construction funds is being spearheaded by the General Motors Corporation.

Many living black patriots, too, have inspired the project, such as actor Morgan Freeman, an honorary co-chairman, and General Colin L. Powell, a recipient of the "One Nation Award."

If the \$6 million cost can be raised by October 1993, citizens will get their first opportunity to witness how "black history" is actually American history at its best.

You could help by sending a contribution to The Black Revolutionary War Patriots Memorial, 1612 K Street, N.W., Suite 1104, Washington, DC 20006 (202) 452-1776.

Mr. Barboza is the founder and president of The Patriots Foundation

## Children's Program Opens New Regional Office

The national headquarters of Child Protection Program Foundation announces the opening of a new regional office at 12709 SE Stark in Portland, Oregon on June 5, 1992.

Child Protection Program Foundation is a charitable, nonprofit organization, based in Dallas, Texas, whose purpose is to help prevent the criminal neglect and physical, emotional and sexual abuse of children.

The new office provides many of the same services as the national office, including distribution of educational materials, public awareness campaigns (telephone advocacy, conference attendance, seminars, public service announcements via radio and television), telephone referral service. Special projects of the Foundation include Kids Against Drugs, which distributes drug awareness educational materials and produces public service announcements which illustrate the relationships that exist between substance abuse and child abuse. Toys Not Tears, an annual Christmas project, organizes and networks with other non-profit organizations nationally to bring Christmas to children who would otherwise go without.

Child Protection Program Foundation is not affiliated with Child Protective Services or any other governmental agency, and is funded exclusively through public contributions. The Foundation feels that to receive government funding would only hamper its ability to speak out against the deficiencies of those government agencies designed to defend and protect children.

Persons interested in receiving information regarding services or volunteerism are urged to contact Bill Kepler, Regional Advocacy Coordinator, at (503) 256-8617.

Call 284-4282 for Takeout and Information



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Psalm 34:3

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Portland, Oregon 97211

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Phillip S. Nelson Pastor



## MT OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH

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Church School 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.  
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## Mallory Avenue Church Of Christ Announcement

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Where?

Mallory Avenue Church of Christ  
3908 NE Mallory Ave.  
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For further information contact:

Pat Gamble  
(503) 288-1092

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8101 N. Fiske Avenue  
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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