

RELIGION

The Portland Observer

Miracle Or Magic?

Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

Can you remember watching a magic show as the magician chanted some words and waved his hands and a magic wand over an object, said the words, "Now you see it and now you don't!"—then—you were led to believe in the illusion?

Wizardry has entertained and overwhelmed the world since the beginning of time—from Merlin to Houdini; from the Magic to the Great Kreskin.

When Moses was chosen by God to deliver warning after warning, Pharaoh commanded his sorcerers to duplicate the wondrous acts of Moses and disprove God's miracles as simple acts of magic—which any accomplished sorcerer could perform. However, Pharaoh soon after conceded when he has pursued God too far.

You know that commercial that says, "It's not nice to fool Mother Nature!" Well—it's not nice to even try to fool God!

It was just too bad that Pharaoh had to be forcibly coerced (just like some of us). Time after time, God presented himself to Pharaoh through his messenger, Moses. Each time Pharaoh would not believe. read Exodus eleventh through thirteenth chapters.

I have come to realize that we (mankind) are a sorry bunch.

God created us to appease his loneliness. He would have been better off if he had just stopped with the beasts of the field and of the air and of the sea. [Gen. 1:24-25] The twenty-fifth verse ends with, "...And God saw that it was good." God should have left well-enough alone.

Now—man and woman are on the scene.

God created them and blessed them. And—after giving to them and giving to them, some more, the scripture says that God saw everything that he had made, "...and behold, it was very good."

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have you ever stopped to notice how the Biblical language evolves as man increased in number? First—we see God's power, His instructions and—then—His anger (wrath). Second—we see His mercy, power, selections, instructions and wrath. Third—David floods the pages, of the Psalms, with adjectives, such as: Most high, blessed, deliverer, righteousness, peacemaker, refuge, counselor, a shield, judge, faithful, a rock, a strong and safe fortress, the comfort and guidance of a kind and watchful shepherd and forever and forevermore.

Then—enters Jesus the Christ. From that point on, the Holy Scripture boast of love and grace overflowing, mercy, faith, justice and a loving Saviour.

It wasn't by any act of magic that Jesus suffered, bled, died, was buried and rose from the grave for our sins; even though the Scribes and Pharisees made a frail attempt to make the people believe that it was by magic that these wonders had taken place.

However, it wasn't through any act of magic that the angels rolled the stone away. Nor was it by magic when the women found the tomb empty.

Oddly enough—God chose to have someone present at each miracle as a kind of documentation. Mankind is riddled-full with doubters saying, "Prove it!" And God has proven himself over and over again. So—what is causing all the problems? Why can't mankind simply believe in The God of gods who is also the King of all kings and The Lord of all lords? Just look around! Everything that was made was made by God; not by some magic act but by divine power.

Vanessa Williams (a gospel vocalist) sings a song which asks, "If we are children of light, why is there so much darkness in the world?"

When God said, "Let there be Light!", he didn't wave a magic wand. When a person receives Christ, unto their life, that person also receives that light. Collectively—we (Christian Believers) should appear as a blinding presence to this world of darkness; however, getting us together and operating on one accord is a

shameful problem.

Many believers place more credence in "hocus pocus" than they place in "Praise the Lord!"

I can remember a talk show, hosted by Phil Donahue. On this particular program, there was a woman who practiced black magic—but—she claimed that she was a Christian; and, her Christianity assisted her in making successful portions and spells for her paying clients. Well—I am here to tell you, the readers, that all the candle lighting and kissed crosses in the world cannot help this woman. And if you know of anyone who fosters a belief in palm reading, horoscopes, tea leaves, killing chickens and hanging them on their doors, saving one's own blood or hair or toe nails because someone may put a hex on them—and they are going to church every Sunday claiming the power of the Holy Ghost, tell them that God refuses to be mocked by their foolishness. They must make a choice between God and magic. The scripture [I John 1 and 5] clearly states that darkness and Light cannot co-exist. A person must love one and hate the other. Light will never help darkness in its sinful practices. So—why would a person even try anything as silly as that? Ignorance and the presence of evil.

Every Sunday, pastors preach the Word from the pulpits; people changed. This is not done by magic but by the divine power of the Holy Spirit who is alive and dwells in all who believe.

Regarding the Holy Trinity—God has to give himself to us in three different doses (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit) and at three different time periods. And we are not well yet. Mankind's resistance prevents him from being healed. But—the last dose will be the judgement. Man will be all out of choices.

Now is the time to make the right choice because this world's clock is winding down fast. Look around you.

Celebrate Diversity

NE Portland Church Leaders Respond To AMA Head Start Tragedy

The murder of Christina Clegg and the wounding of Tenicea Amos at the Albina Ministerial Alliance's Head Start Program in NE Portland, has both deeply saddened and outraged church leaders in NE Portland. But this senseless violence has also renewed their desire and determination to deepen cross-cultural community commitment to on-going transformation of the social and economic dynamics that foster such acts of violence.

"The murder of Christina Clegg was a tragedy, not just for those who know and loved her but for all of us," said Christine Chakoian, Associate Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian

Church, which is a member of the Northeast Cluster of Churches.

"It is terribly ironic that she of all people was killed: through her work at Head Start she was giving children in the community a chance to break out of the trap of deprivation and the lure of violence.

"This violence is not just a problem for North Portland. It is a call for the whole community to wake up. Together we must find the creativity and resources for change. Churches, government, schools, businesses, residents: all of us must work together to stop the violence at its source. May God give us new vision and fresh courage for change. It is our only hope

in redeeming Christina Clegg's meaningless death."

Jack Kennedy, Coordinator of Ecumenical Clusters for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, said that this experience stirs him to never accept the levels of violence in this city. "We need to commit ourselves to feeling our anger and grief because of this pattern of tragic violence until we, together, do something more about it. Vibrant people's lives are being treated as waste, and our culture goes on tolerating the intolerable."

Mr. Kennedy said that Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon expresses solidarity with all those who are suffering because of this tragedy.

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 7:00pm



Pastor, Rev. James C.E. Faulkner

Theme: Whatever your going to do for the Lord, **do it now.**
I Peter iv.11



MT. OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH

Has moved 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 to 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study, Wednesdays, 116 N.E. Schuyler 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Radio Ministry each Sunday, 8:00 a.m. on KBMS

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Dr. James E. Martin, Senior Pastor

Church Office 116 N.E. Schuyler St. • (503) 284-1954

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WENDELL H. WALLACE, SENIOR PASTOR

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR AUGUST, 1993

SUNDAYS 10:00 A.M. TEACHING & TRAINING SESSION
10:45 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

SUBJECTS TO BE TAUGHT & PREACHED - AUGUST, 1993

AUGUST 15	10:00 A.M.	"WHY EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN H.O.M.E. MINISTRY" Speaker: Booker Wells, Associate Pastor
	10:45 A.M.	MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE Speaker: Ulf Spears, Executive Pastor
AUGUST 22	10:00 A.M.	"EQUIPPING EVERY BELIEVER AS PARTNERS IN MINISTRY" Speaker: Isham Harris, Associate Pastor/Evangelist
	10:45 A.M.	"WHAT CAN A 20TH CENTURY CHRISTIAN LIKE ME LEARN FROM A FIRST CENTURY CHRISTIAN LIKE PAUL? PART 3" Speaker: Wendell H. Wallace, Senior Pastor
	3:00 P.M.	"CHURCH IN THE PARK" - AT DAWSON PARK (With the "New Azusa Gospel Funk Band" and "New Azusa Singers")
AUGUST 29	10:00 A.M.	"HOW TO DEVELOP AN EFFECTIVE MEN'S MINISTRY" Speaker: Ocie Webster, Director of Men's Ministries
	10:45 A.M.	"WHAT CAN A 20TH CENTURY CHRISTIAN LIKE ME LEARN FROM A FIRST CENTURY CHRISTIAN LIKE PAUL? PART 4"

OUR VISION:

REACHING THE UNREACHED
EQUIPPING CHRISTIANS FOR MINISTRY
ASSIMILATING NEW MEMBERS INTO THE FAMILY
CELEBRATING CHRIST BY OUR LIPS AND BY OUR LIFE
HEALING FOR ALL OF LIFE'S HURTS

Dianne Danowski Smith To Cover As Spokesperson For Legacy Portland Hospitals While Sue Klein On Maternity Leave

Dianne Danowski Smith will cover as Legacy Portland Hospitals spokesperson while Sue Klein is on maternity leave, August 6 - November 1, 1993. Legacy Portland Hospitals includes Emanuel Hospital & Health Center, Good Samaritan Hospital & Medical Center and Holladay Park Medical Center.

Danowski Smith can be reached at the 280-4005 number during this time. Jan Cook, 280-3399, will continue to answer patient condition inquiries and provide general public relation support.

Danowski Smith had previously provided public relations support to the Devers Eye Institute at Good Samaritan. As part of ongoing efforts to utilize centrally provided services within Legacy Health System, public relations support for the ophthalmology program will now be covered through Legacy Portland Hospitals' Public Relation Department.

Office hours are 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Monday - Friday. After hours (7 p.m. - 7 a.m.) and weekends call 280-3200 for Emanuel, 229-7711 for Good Samaritan, or 233-4567 for Holladay Park and ask for the administrative coordinator.



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3217 N. Williams Avenue

Mallory Avenue Christian Church

"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



Denise Bell

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

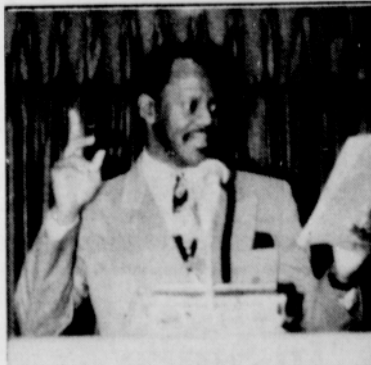
The Lords Prayer: Our Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come; They will be done on earth as it is in heaven, give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as, we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and glory, forever. Amen! Amen!

Mallory

CHURCH OF CHRIST

3908 NE MALLORY AVENUE



Evangelist 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 7:00 pm

288-1092

Restoring New Testament Christianity