

RELIGION

The Portland Observer

Not In My House

by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

Today--we live in a world full of immoral behavior and doctrines. We see all kinds of filth coming over the air-waves; coming into our homes; coming into our children's eyes, ears, hearts and then out of their mouths. Is it any wonder that our community, our city, our state, our nation, the world is in such a turmoil?

I am a single mother--because of divorce. I had to raise four small, very impressionable children almost singlehanded. But--that other hand was God's hand. I could not have done it without Him.

Oh, if it hadn't been for the Lord, Oh where would I be, Oh where would I be without my Lord.

Several times I was scolded by friends and even some family members for being so narrow-minded. "All you do is go to church! Every time we look for you and the kids, you're at the church or involved in some church activity." These were words that I heard more often than I care to remember. But, my stand was firm and relentless because I knew that God had made me responsible for the guidance and nurturing of these four children. And if anything were to happen, I would be held accountable. You see, these children were following my di-

rections.

Many times my children's so-called friends would say, "Man, your mom is mean." Because I wouldn't allow my children to participate in activities that I felt would compromise their Christian principles. I didn't care about what others thought. I cared about what God thought.

I didn't allow any and everything to go on in my house. My home was to be a blessing to whomever entered into it.

If I allowed myself to become involved in compromising activities, I wouldn't be who I said I was...A Christian. In the words of this old song, it says, "I'll let nothing separate me from the love of God. I'll let nothing keep me from trusting His word..."

Children are what they see and hear. A product of their environments.

Have you ever had the chance to watch your little boys and girls play house? You should watch with a careful eye because you will be watching yourselves. You will hear your words. You will see your mannerisms and actions. You will see your temper. And if you are prone to use abusive language you will hear that too.

Our children are our mirrors. What images do you see? Are they

images that will meet your approval and the approval of God? Or are they images that need correction?

In the scripture, the Biblical Law (The Ten Commandments) admonishes children to "...Obey your father and mother, so that you may have a long time in the land that I (God) am giving you", [Exodus 20:12 GNB]. If you were to sit on the outside of your home and there was a secret glass that you could look through and see what was taking place, would you approve of what was going on in that family? Would you approve of how the children were being influenced by the parents?

I wonder what would the percentage be if we should establish a poll that asked the question--"Do you, as a parent, teach your children the importance of Exodus 20:12?" or "Are Christian values taught in your home?" I dare think of the responses. Right now--all one needs to do is to look at the children and listen to what is coming out of their mouths. It is very scary!

I can remember times when my children and I couldn't afford to do many things, but I would create games for the children to play or drive out to Delta Park and watch the model planes or go to Sauvie Island, open the doors of the car and just let the children run, sit in the grass, watch the cows, make fishing poles out to string and sticks and the list goes on.

It does not take much to make a child happy but we (adults) violate our privileges as adults.

My heart is burdened for the little children of today. There are so many

violent crimes against little unsuspecting children. Children who depend upon the adults for protection. Depend upon them for food and shelter. Depend upon adults for love and warmth. But, the world has soiled the spirits of some adults and these little children's lives are no more than a thin piece of paper blowing about in a strong wind.

I think about all the negative opportunities which were offered to me on a platter. Both men and women, from all walks of life (even church), approached me to join their compromised lifestyles. I refused. My refusal made some of them angry. I was told that there would never be another opportunity like that ever again in life. So what! If this opportunity made me feel guilty or question any of the principles which the Bible had taught, it was not worth it. The answer stood. No!

And then, I thought of how it would have effected the lives of my children; just the thought of its results on their little lives cut me at the quick.

Little children are like tape recorders without an erase key.

The only time, in scripture, that I found suicide or murder offered by God as an alternative can be found in this passage of scripture: Luke 17:1-3 GNB, "Jesus said to his disciples, 'Things that make people fall into sin are bound to happen, but how terrible for the one who makes them happen! It would be better for him if a large millstone were tied around his neck and he were thrown in to the sea than for him to cause one of these little ones (children) to sin. So watch what

you do!'"

Parents and adults must be constantly mindful of the examples they set before little children. God loves little children so much that he uses the character of a child as an example for men to follow.

"How can I get to heaven Lord?", the question was raised. In the eighteenth chapter of Luke, Christ is about and some parents are bringing their babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. The disciples saw these parents and told them to "Get away!" But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Remember this! Whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it."

These are the most powerful words ever to be uttered in the scripture today because they let you know exactly where you stand in the eyes of God. If you are guilty and your lifestyle is polluting the life (or lives) of a child (or children), you are in big trouble; not with me, but with God. It doesn't take much to make a child happy. I can recall how the wrapping paper and string were found to be more appealing than the gift itself, on Christmas.

How we influence the lives of our little children is so very important. There are so many corrupt concepts floating out in the world soliciting your support. Don't believe it! The world wants you only to destroy you. If you need instruction, seek Godly instruction. And where do you find them? In the Bible.

I could have gotten all caught-up in the world and I could have gotten

involved with worldly people and could have made a lot of money. We would be rich by now. But, that kind of wealth does not pay eternal-in-heaven dividends. In the end, I would have not only destroyed myself, but, I would have destroyed the lives of my four children. I can remember the words of my mother, "How can you stand in front of people, singing and telling them about God and then be seen out drinking or carousing or dancing with men in public places? You can't live a double life like that. But, in the end, it won't be what men think, but what God thinks." Praise the Lord!" Remember only what you do for Christ will last. Only what you do for Him will be counted in the end. Only what you do for Christ will last!"

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Presenting In Concert

The Gospel Choir Of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church

Sunday, August 29, 1993

6:30 PM

Stone Tower Seventh Day Adventist Church NE 30th and Sandy Portland, Oregon

This 75 voice choir is under the direction of the very talented Terry Davis, Director of Music at Mt. Olivet. The choir will present an evening of praise and worship that will send you home humming, toe-tapping and filled with the inspired words of the Holy scripture.

As the inscribed words on the Statue of Liberty requests:

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breath free, the retched refuge of the teeming shores-- Send these the homeless masses tossed..."

Come by bus-load or car-load. Come by foot or by cab. No matter what mode of transforation you decide on using... Come! and be blessed.

Dr. James E. Martin, Senior Pastor

For more information, Call: (503) 284-1954 from 9am to 5pm Monday through Friday.

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MT. OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH

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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.

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A Teaching Church With A Reaching Ministry Dr. James E. Martin, Senior Pastor

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"Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest."

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11:00am Morning Worship
7:30pm Tuesday Bible Study and Prayer

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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

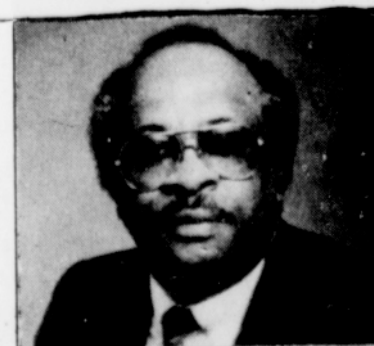
9:30

Bible Study

6:00

Evening Service

7:00pm



Pastor, Re. James C.E. Faulkner

Theme: Whatever your going to do for the Lore, do it now. | Peter lv.11

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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 22

10:00 A.M.	"CHURCH IN THE PARK" - AT DAWSON PARK (With the "New Azusa Gospel Funk Band" and "New Azusa Singers")
10:45 A.M.	"HOW TO DEVELOP AN EFFECTIVE MEN'S MINISTRY" Speaker: Ocie Webster, Director of Men's Ministries
3:00 P.M.	"WHAT CAN A 20TH CENTURY CHRISTIAN LIKE ME LEARN FROM A FIRST CENTURY CHRISTIAN LIKE PAUL? PART 4 Speaker: Ulf Spears, Executive Pastor

AUGUST 29

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

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