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## $\Xi \bot (G (0))$ The Portland Observer

## CORRIDOR

## By Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

Five rapid gunshots, followed by the speeding sound of an escaping automobile, rang out in the silence of a quiet Sunday morning. Sleeping eyes were startled open in a fixed gaze. Thoughts hurriedly ran through the minds of those, supposedly, safely tucked away in their houses. "Why can't the police control this violence? What are our tax dollars doing ...? We can't have a safe night's sleep void of worrying about whether or not a stray bullet will come flying through our walls."

Neighbors who've lived on the same block, of the same street, in the same city, for over 30 or 40 years are having their property value depreciated because of all the negative press on the violence in the North-Northeast areas. However, every time you listen to the news, trouble seems to be everywhere; not only in the N-NE.

Older homeowners get sick and die, the property goes up for sale, a corporation or an out-of-state individual buys the property, places it on Section-8 with the Housing Authority or rents it out and the bank manages the property.

The good neighbors are gone.

People are always coming around with questionnaires and polls. Why don't they bother to ask the remaining homeowners whether or not they approve of the new intended tenants? The bank is a neutral party. Their main concern is to make a buck. The longer the property is vacant--the more money is being lost. Whatever happened to screening candidates for rentals: checking their payment history, checking-out the condition of the last rental and at least two others prior to that one, checking on the raporte' between the potential renter and their previous neighbors, what was their reason for moving. All these elements are vital in making a good mixture. But--so far, it has been a mixture of gourmet soup, sponge cake and motor oil. Together -- this equals a major mess

Every time a house is vacant and a new occupant moves in--someone in the family is either gang related or the head of the household's main income source is from the sale of drugs. So -- you have all these strange looking people walking through your yard, ringing on your doorbell looking for soup kitchens (drug houses) or offering to do your lawn for five or ten

dollars (the price of a rock).

Now -- the climate has changed. You can't run across the lawn and borrow sugar or you can't bring over a cake or plant or you can't just go over to say "Hello!. All these things are considered being nosey. Everybody has a big secret and if you get too close, too familiar -- you are considered a threat to their operation.

Here you are -- trying to be neighborly and you are met with mean faces and foul language from the adults and the kids.

I had decorative white rocks placed around my lawn for my daughter's wedding. These rocks have turned me into a witch (according to the children). Why? Because -- the new neighbors' kids are products of their environment. They are little children four through nine years old. They come in bunches. They remove hands full of rocks from my yard. They throw them at each other or just cart them off and pile them up in their vard. I have picked up white rocks up and down my street for several blocks and around the corner -- and even on Killingsworth.

One day -- I caught the children red-handed. I thought to speak to kids in the past. Wrong! I found that these small children are of a different mentality. As I spoke to them, I told them that these were special rocks and that I bought them to make my yard look pretty. I did not spend money so they could come and destroy my property. "I will have to tell your parents", I said, "and they will have to pay me back for the damage that you have done." One little boy told me? He said, "Our parents not going to pay you no money and you can't make-um do nothing! They not going to pay you for no rocks." At such a young age, he was cocky, arrogant, very confident and not afraid. These could all be positive attributes when in the proper developmental arena. Nevertheless, this child was displaying violence at an early age. A product of his environment.

Someone has to stop the cancer of violence. It is eating away at the very-foundation of our communities and our entire city structure. The children have more fire-power than the police who are paid and have sworn to protect, uphold and keep the peace. I sat back and thought. "I

mere mortal man?" just because our -and renew a right spirit within me. them as I had done to the neighbortax dollars are paying the salaries of these men and women, we assume that they will eradicate and just stamp out crime and violence like some big monster who has come up out of the

VIOLENCE

If Portland could be seen as a "house" (a single house), it would be ragged and in shambles. Because --"A house divided against itself cannot stand." [Luke 11:17] It is not the lack or the misuse of tax dollars. It's the lack of God -- period.

Twenty, thirty, forty years ago, people came flocking to the Northwest because, "This is God's country." This is how they described it. The tall, Green trees. The majestic mountains. The clean, pure water; and the clean air. The friendly inhabitants. But now ...! Portland can be described as anything else but God's country. The name of Jesus has been made fun of; his name has been mocked, trampled on, spat upon and ignored. It's no wonder Portland is in the condition that it is presently.

Collectively -- the City of Portland should hold a prayer meeting. "Jesus -- please be the center of my wonder if we are asking too much of joy. Create in me a clean heart-Lord-

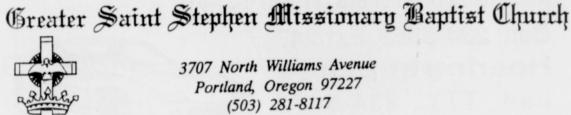
And Lord -- prepare me to be a sanctuary that is pure, holy, tried and true; then, I will be able to go out and do Thy will, Heavenly Father. Make me worthy of Thy daily blessings. In the Holy and precious name of Jesus the Christ, the Son of the Living God, be all glory, majesty, dominion and power -- forever and ever. Amen!"

Jesus is not 'the man upstairs' or 'the higher power' or 'one of the prophets' or 'the arch angel, Michael'. He is God!

Stop holding rocks in your hands and worshipping the physical rocks. Pray to The Rock, Jesus. Stop praying to the rising and setting sun. Instead, pray to the one who flung the moon and the stars and the sun in space ... God Almighty.

We are so confused; and the great confusion maker is Satan.

Portland! We have in our possession a way to rid our city, and even the world, of violence; but, doubt and fear and supposition are standing as barriers. Prayer and Faith is a two-headed axe that standing as barriers. Prayer and Faith is a two-headed axe that will chop down the opposition. Don't be afraid to use it! Praise the Lord!



Rev. G.L. Black I

We the members and faithful

supporters of the Greater St. Stephen

Missionary Baptist Church are a

"Pushing" church family. We Pray

Until Something Happens. One of

the blessings that came from this

operation P.U.S.H. was that God heard

and answered our prayers asking for

our own church home. We cordially

Pastor

3707 North Williams Avenue Portland, Oregon 97227 (503) 281-8117

We Are Moving!!

N.E. Mallory on Sunday August 29, 1993 at 2:30pm.

We extend the same heartfelt invitation to everyone to come and praise the Lord with us every Sunday in September at 3pm for our jubilee and church dedication services. Celebrating with us will be Emmanuel Temple, FGPC; Fellowship, M.B.C.; New Jerusalem, M.B.C.; Morning

and Morning, Star M.B.C. accompanied by Sis. Pat Wright and The Total Experience Gospel choir from Seattle, Washington.

For dates and more information you may contact our Pastor, Rev. G.L. Black I, at 281-8117. Please come and join us as we look back and praise God, look up and trust God, look around and serve God, look ahead

NEW AZUSA CHRISTIAN CENTER St Michael's 44 N. E. MORRIS AVENUE PORTLAND, OREGON 97211 Lutheran PHONE: (503) 335-3718 WENDELL H. WALLACE, SENIOR PASTOR **Pre-School** SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR AUGUST, 1993: SUNDAYS 10:00 A.M. TEACHING & TRAINING SESSION 10:45 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE **NE** Christian Pre-School SUBJECTS TO BE TAUGHT & PREACHED - AUGUST, 1993: Has Openings For AUGUST 29 Youngsters 3 and 4 10:00 A.M. "EQUIPPING EVERY BELIEVER AS PARTNERS IN years old MINISTRY" Speaker: Isham Harris, Associate Pastor/Evangelist 9 to 11:30 AM 10:45 A.M. "WHAT CAN A 20TH CENTURY CHRISTIAN LIKE ME NE 29th and Dekum LEARN FROM A FIRST CENTURY CHRISTIANLIKE PAUL? PART 4." Speaker: Ulf Spears, Executive Pastor

**R**EACHING THE UNREACHED **EQUIPPING CHRISTIANS FOR MINISTRY ASSIMILATING NEW MEMBERS INTO THE FAMILY C**ELEBRATING CHRIST BY OUR LIPS AND BY OUR LIFE **HEALING FOR ALL OF LIFE'S HURTS** 

The Little Chapel of the Chimes

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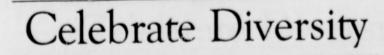
Lombard Chapel 3018 N. Lombard Portland, Oregon 97217 (503) 283-0525

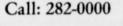


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"Come to me all you who are

weary and heavy laden and

11:00am Morning Worship

Inter-racial Congregation

turned from a week in Cuba. They

Friendshipment, sponsored by Pas-

tors for Peace, that not only brought

humanitarian aid to Cuba, but suc-

cessfully challenged the United States

embargo of Cuba. The goal of Pastors

for Peace is ultimately to end the

embargo. The Portlanders will dis-

cuss their experiences, via presenta-

Sunday School

Tuesday Bilble

Study and Prayer

10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

I will give you rest."

9:45am

7:30pm

invite all our friends to come join us

