

RELIGION

The Portland Observer

CORRIDOR OF VIOLENCE

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 rapporte' 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 nosy. 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 yard. 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

them as I had done to the neighbor-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 wonder if we are asking too much of

mere mortal man?" just because our tax 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 sea.

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 joy. Create in me a clean heart--Lord-

--and renew a right spirit within me. 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!

NEW AZUSA CHRISTIAN CENTER

44 N. E. MORRIS AVENUE
PORTLAND, OREGON 97211
PHONE: (503) 335-3718

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 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 4."
Speaker: Ulf Spears, Executive Pastor

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Greater Saint Stephen Missionary Baptist Church



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

Rev. G.L. Black I
Pastor

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 invite all our friends to come join us as we march from 3707 N. Williams Avenue to our new sanctuary at 3605

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 Star, M.B.C.; New Hope, M.B.C. and Rev. Derrick Bosley and the Bright

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 and expect God. See you there for a hallelujah good time!!

The Little Chapel of the Chimes

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Killingsworth Chapel
430 N. Killingsworth
Portland, Oregon 97217
(503) 283-1976

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

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

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



Denise Bell



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

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

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

Portlanders Speak About Experiences In Cuba

Four Portlanders recently returned from a week in Cuba. They took part in the US-Cuba Friendshipment, sponsored by Pastors for Peace, that not only brought humanitarian aid to Cuba, but successfully challenged the United States embargo of Cuba. The goal of Pastors for Peace is ultimately to end the embargo. The Portlanders will discuss their experiences, via presenta-

tions, slide show, and video.

The Friendshipment caravan included 95 vehicles and 300 volunteers from the United States and Canada. Aid, which included prescription medicines, computers, and bicycles, was collected in 120 cities, shipped to Cuba from Tampico, Mexico, and received and distributed by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Center in Havana.

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

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.

I Peter iv.11.

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