

# RELIGION

The Portland Observer

## Visions Of Our Future Home

by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears and Kimberly D. Black

Young, talented, focused and driven are words that can be used to describe Rev. Gary L. Black, I, recently installed pastor of Greater St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church.

Not only is the congregation, of Greater St. Stephen, excited about its new pastor but they are also celebrating the ninth anniversary of the church and they are extra happy about moving to a new and larger building.

Sunday, September 5, 1993, the members and the pastor, his family and many friends joyfully marched into the doors of their new church building, which is located at 3605 NE Mallory, they dedicated and blessed every inch of this new worship center. "Glory be to God For His faithfulness, His mercy and loving kindness!", Rev. Black exclaims.

This building originally housed the congregation of the St. Nicholas Orthodox Jewish Synagogue. The first black church in the building was the New Birth Full Gospel, pastored by Elder F. Warner, followed by the congregation of the Greater Faith Christian Center, Rev. H. Bernard Ings, pastor.

The previous building, of Greater St. Stephen, located at 3707 N. Williams Avenue, sheltered a fledgling and flailing congregation which served under three pastors and an interim pastor before Rev. Gary Black's arrival. [1984-1986 Rev. A. Bernard Devers, the founding pastor; 1987-1988 Rev. A. Bailey; 1988-1989 Rev. Charles Bemby, interim pastor; 1989-1991 Rev. Robert E. Houston, Sr.]

"There have been a lot-o-mistakes made; but, there have been a lot-o-blessings, too. To know not then, was one thing' but, to know not now, would really be a-shame", Rev. Black recounts. "I can just count my blessings."

The current-day Rev. Gary L. Black, I, was one of the original charter members who helped found

Greater St. Stephen. The church was organized on June 5, 1984 in the home of Bro. and Sis. Charles Bemby. Over 25 persons united together for prayer and seeking God's direction and organized the church with the Rev. A. Bernard Devers, as the pastor.

### A Brief Look Backwards

The very first worship service was held on June 10, 1984 at the Allen Temple CM Church where the late Rev. E. J. Edwards was the pastor. Over 85 persons were in attendance. Subsequent services were held at Patton Central United Methodist Church (6/17/84). And for several months, services were held at the New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. Lee Arthur J. Madison, pastor (6/84-8/84). During Greater St. Stephen residency at New Jerusalem, Pastor Devers organized several key, working departments: Deacon and Deaconess Boards, Mission Department, Usher Board, Nurses, Youth and Music Department.

On the nineteenth day of August in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-four, God opened the doors at 3924 North Williams Avenue, Portland, Oregon, for the congregation of Greater St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church.

Several first-events occurred within Greater St. Stephens, such as: first wedding, 9/2/84, Gary L. Black and Kimberly DeLon Kimmons; first licensing, 9/24/84, Rev. Raymon H. Edwards; first revival, 9/24-28/84, evangelist, Dr. W. Jerome Fisher, Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Compton, California and choir.

### "Preacher Dude"

#### Is Now A Shepherd

Gary Black, the youngest of thirteen, grew up in the Victory Temple Church of God in Christ in Salinas, California where his mother, Mrs. Ora E. Brown and the late Bishop S.R. Martin trained him in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord [Prov. 22:6 & Ehp. 6:4] Young Gary accepted the Lord Jesus Christ in

January of 1970. He recalls, that at the age of seven, he would preach to his mother's mop and broom, his brothers and sisters, his nieces and nephews and the neighborhood children, a sermon entitled "Hold The Light". He was given the nickname "Preacher Dude" not knowing that truly one day, God would call him into the ministry to pastor a church. "It has always been my dream to be a pastor; for as long as I can remember", Rev. Black recalls. "You just don't know how much I thank God for using me. I praise God because he chose me to be one of His instruments."

Rev. Black has spent all of his thirty-two years in the church. However, his personal accomplishments cannot go unmentioned. He was the class president at Seaside High School in Seaside, California in 1978; graduated from North Texas State University, 7/80, with a BA degree in business Administration. Following college graduation, he enlisted in the US Army. During which time, he received "The Outstanding Young Man of America" award in 1983. He married in 1984. To this union, three children were born: Kimisha Jonayzetta (3/4/85), Gary Lonell, Jr. (4/30/86) and Lonisha Del'Ora (9/6/89). And Staff Sergeant Black was honorably discharged in June of 1985. He was chosen from among over two thousand employees, in the city of Oakland, California, as "The City Employee of the Year - 1991" where he was employed as the Administrative Assistant to the Park Director for the City of Oakland.

Many accomplishments, awards and honors have been purported; however, none shall ever out-weigh his position as pastor of the Greater St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church.

In November of 1987, Gary L. Black was licensed to preach the gospel by Rev. Johnny Pack, IV, at the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church Portland, Oregon. On October 8, 1989, he was solemnly and publicly set apart and ordained by Rev. Robert



Rev. Gary L. Black; his wife Kimberly D. Black; and children Kimisha Jonayzetta, Gary Lonell, Jr. and Lonisha Del'Ora.

L. Jeffrey, senior pastor of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Seattle, Washington (where he was a member because of his job transferring him to the Seattle area). In 1990, Rev. Black and his family relocated to California where his ministry continued to bloom and flourish at the Progressive Missionary Baptist church in Modesto, California.

Now--like a carefully woven basket being meticulously completed or like an artist's masterpiece before his signature, God has intricately, with

forms of trials and tribulations; it comes to make us strong, and to bless and to beautify us; and to give us the mind to press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus [Phil. 3:14]

With these thoughts on the congregation's mind, Rev. Black challenged the Greater St. Stephen family to look back and trust God; look up and expect God; look around and serve God; and, look ahead and praise God.

Each Sunday, in the month of September, Greater St. Stephen will hold special worship services of Dedication & Jubilee which will allow the community and the city a chance to join them as they celebrate God's wonderful blessings. A dinner will be held, to close out the month of celebration, on September 26, 1993 immediately following the special three o'clock worship service.

Everyone is truly invited to come, worship, praise and fellowship.

"I am honored that God has chosen me and has given me the task to lead his people", says Rev. Black. "I feel like I am a tool in God's tool box. The more God uses a tool; the more God will find-out how easy it is to use that instrument; and the more he will use it. But more than all that has been said, I want to live the life that I preach."

Special prayers of thanks to the remnant who hung in there, held down the fort and believed God when He said, "I will give you the desires of your heart." If you find yourself without a church home, make your way over to the new Greater St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church, 3605 NE Mallory, Portland, OR, or call (503) 281-8117.

### Motto:

A Growing Church Of Love  
Where Everybody is  
Somebody  
And Deeply rooted In  
God's Word.

### Good Leadership

The Center For Creative Leadership conducted a study on effective leadership, and lists the following potential problems to watch for when trying to improve leadership skills:

- \* Choosing the wrong person for a job. Delegating to the wrong person spells disaster every time.
- \* Assuming airs of superiority. Leaders who aren't accessible lose touch with those they are leading.
- \* Lacking sensitivity to the needs of others. Keeping workers happy

keeps the office running smoothly.

- \* Ignoring the need to have others trust them. Trust is the basis for all effective leadership.
- \* Thinking only in the here and now. Great leaders have a sense of what they are leading people toward.
- \* Keeping too much control over workers. Effective leaders know when to let people manage themselves.
- \* Being flexible to change to job may demand.

### "The Lord Told Us To Go"

The North Portland Association of Christian Educators is sponsoring a seminar, "The Lord Told Us To Go," on Friday, September 17, 1993 at 6:30pm and Saturday, September 18, 1993 from 8am to 2:45pm at Morning Star Baptist Church, 106 NE Ivy Street, Portland, OR 97211.

We are inviting all youth leaders, parents, and all community concerned people to join us. For further information contact Earnestine Cestelle at 285-2365 or Beth Nance at 288-2919.

## 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



## 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

## 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 Lore, **do it now.**

I Peter iv.11.

## The Little Chapel of the Chimes

Bryon C. Nudd  
Funeral Director

Funeral Home • Cemetery • Memorial Garden

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

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

## Christ Memorial C.O.G.I.C. Church Rummage Sale

1552 N. Killingsworth  
September 17&18, 9am - Till

Call Ruth At: 286-9624/249-0649

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5211 N. Williams Portland, OR 97217

## 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