

RELIGION

Everybody Is Full Of Something

By Mattie Ann Callier-Spears
This Thanksgiving Day's preparations actually began the week before the glorious day even came about. The gathering of food stuffs, preparing the menu, assembling a list of prospective guests, calling each person on the list and confirming what delicacy they would arrive with in hand, in pot, in dish, in bag or whatever. This took time.

The blessed day leaped in with aromas and succulent odors all through the house. Even while we slept, we could smell in our subconscious state. Visions of sweet potato pies, tender and juicy turkey, mouth-watering roast beef, giblet gravy with fresh mushrooms and that big pot of succotash with shrimp and sausage and ham and okra and big lima beans and...and...and...it makes you hungry all over again just thinking about it.

All of the food was finished. The house was presentable. Everyone arose and made haste for the church where they would give thanks for all that good food awaiting them at home? No! Not just for the food but for the many, many blessings that God has poured out upon us each and every day of the year. We had a joyous time

in praise and worship, giving testimonies, sharing prayers and crying tears of joy.

We arrived at home all primed and ready to eat.

Dinner-time came and the table groaned beneath the weight of all the delights which graced its surface.

How proudly every bearer entered with dish in hand. "Wait until you sink your teeth into this", one of the guest exclaimed. "And wait until you taste my slamming dressing." The table was full. Our bellies were more than full. We were stuffed with more stuff than the turkey had. The table held the representations of nine different households. And -- you know that you had to at least taste some of what Everybody had prepared or they would feel like they had been slighted or that their dish did not measure-up to what so-and-so brought.

"Aren't you going to have some of mine?"

"Why sure!", was the overall response. "Just wait until I finish eating this. I've got to make room for something else. There is so much to choose from."

I thought seriously about all that was taking place in my home. The different families. All of the food. The

happy sounds. The children scampering about. The games. The laughter and squeals. The music. My children and their spouses and my offsprings. [I hope you have noticed the wording of this particular sentence.] The prayers and blessings which passed throughout the day and from person to person and from heart to heart. It was totally wonderful.

Yes! We were physically full but we were spiritually full, too.

First of all -- we don't need to wait until the last Thursday in the month of November to be thankful. Give praise and thanksgiving, to the Lord, at all time with a joyful heart!

The Psalmist puts it so aptly for us in the one hundredth chapter, "...Worship the Lord with joy; come before him with happy songs! Never forget that the Lord is God. He made us, and we belong to Him; we are His people, we are His flock.

The Lord is good; His love is eternal and His faithfulness lasts forever." [GNB]

Oh, Praise the Lord!
God is good! Not just on Thanksgiving Day but all year long. Praise His name!

No doubt, we were very full from what we had eaten. But...! God wants

to be filled with His Holy Spirit. That food we ate will only last for a short time and then it will pass through its proper channels and, then, it will be released from the body.

As Christian Believers, we must be full of the Holy Spirit at all times. This is the only way that we can ward-off the evil one. You see... When a vessel is full, you cannot put anything else into it. Nothing else can creep, crawl or pour itself into it.

Have you ever filled a container and found that as you continued to place more into it, the overflowing fell off and onto the floor or the table? This is how it should be with us. Our vessels are the temples of the Holy Ghost. If we should choose to only put a little in, then you still have room for something else to come in and fill your vessel.

"Be careful!"

Satan is standing there with his dump truck ready to unload.

Sure! You will be full; but, with what.

God gives, to us, over and over again. Even when we don't deserve it. For He is a God of mercy and grace. God has pity for us. He loves us greatly and He wants only what is good an perfect for us.

So -- why should we want to have anything else occupy the vessel that God has made?

"The houses will be full of good things which you did not put in them, and there will be wells that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive orchards that you did not plant. When the Lord brings you into this land and you have all you want to eat, make certain that you do not forget the Lord who rescued you..." "Have reverence for the Lord your God, worship only him, and make your promises in his name alone. Do not worship other gods, any of the gods of the peoples around you. If you do worship other gods, the Lord's anger will come against you like fire and will destroy you completely, because the Lord your God, who is present with you, tolerates no rivals." [Deut. 6:11-15 GNB]

God has given us food to sustain our physical bodies and He also gave us the Holy Spirit to sustain our spiritual body which is our soul.

Ask yourself today, "What am I full-of? Am I filled with the Holy Spirit or am I filled with the pleasures of the world?"

If you should want to be filled by the Holy Spirit, you must first allow yourself to be emptied.

"Do not tell yourselves that these peoples outnumber you and that you cannot drive them out. Do not be afraid of them; remember what the Lord your God did to the king of Egypt and to all his people.

Little by little God will drive out these nations as you advance. You will not be able to destroy them all at once, for, if you did, the number of wild animals would increase and be a threat to you. The Lord will put your enemies in your power and make them panic until they are destroyed." [Deut. 7: 17-18, 22-23]

Blessings will be yours but first you must be obedient.

If we are filled with righteousness instead of unrighteousness, God will keep his covenant with you and will show you His constant love; however, if you should continue to desire to be filled with lust, envy, hate, murder, jealousy, obscene language, covetousness, fear, doubt (just to name a few), God will take his hands off you and turn you over to a mind of corruption because you have refused to be obedient; you have refused to let go and let God handle it. [Read: Romans 1:18-32]

Be full of God's goodness! Hallelujah!

Obituary

Mrs. Frances M. Blair

October 20, 1920 to November 11, 1993

Memorial Services for Frances Marian Blair was held November 20, 1993 at Berean Baptist Church. Mrs. Blair passed away November 11 of kidney failure and other complications.



Mrs. Blair was born October, 1920 in Haynes, Oklahoma. She was married to the late Clarence D. Blair and was the mother of one son, Clarence, Jr., who preceded her in death as an infant.

Mrs. Blair came to Portland from Wichita, Kansas in the early 1960's. Against all obstacles, she established and operated her own business from 1963 to 1969. Her cafe was known as Frances Corner Coffee Shop, at 3622 N. Vancouver Ave.

She later worked for United Good Neighbors in the Family Counseling Service Division as a Homemaker until her retirement in 1972, due to failing health. Mrs. Blair was a member of Berean Baptist Church.

Mrs. Blair's survivors include her informally "adopted" children: Rachel Corbin of Seattle, WA, Mary McCaleb, Betty Jones and Ron Moore all of Portland; Aunt Nellie McConnel of Muskogee, OK; and other relatives from out of state; her dear pastor, Rev. Nathan Barnett and his family; her beloved Berean Church family and many, many friends.

Contributions and remembrances may be made to Nursing Home Ministries C/O Berean Baptist Church, 4822 N. Vancouver, Portland OR 97217.

SAVIOURS' DAY 1993

THE X PERIS HAVE SPOKEN NOW!

MINISTER LOUIS

FARRAKHAN SPEAKS

SUBJECT:

THE HONORABLE ELIJAH MUHAMMAD

AND

MALCOLM X

28 YEARS LATER:

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?
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FOR INFORMATION CALL (503) 281-1802

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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8725 N. Chautauqua Blvd.,
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Worship Services 8:00am & 11:00am,
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Bible Study, Wednesdays, 116 NE Schuyler, 10:30am & 7:00pm
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Evening Worship 6:00 pm
Wednesday prayer meeting and Bible study 7:00 pm

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Lutheran Inner-City Ministries Community Center has a supply of clothes for low income families. Call 281-7036 for an appointment.

The center's new building is under construction on the corner of MLK Blvd. and N.E. Skidmore. The temporary center is located on the same site at 4206 N.E. Garfield.

The center also offers free food as it becomes available, boy and girl

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7:30pm Tuesday Bible Study and Prayer

Inter-racial Congregation

126 NE Alberta Portland, OR 97211 (503) 288-5173



Denise Bell

St. Mark Baptist Church

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- Sunday School Teacher's Meeting Tuesday - 6:30 pm
- Bible Study Wednesday - 6:00 pm
- Prayer Meeting Wednesday - 7:00 pm

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