

# RELIGION

## Alternatives

### A Healing Service

M. ISAACS

The Colored, Negro, Black or Afro-American family, (whatever term you wish to use), especially those families who migrated westward and eastward during the depression era and during World War II, were steeped in hands-on religion. They took literally the teachings of Jesus, (ie) chastise your children, honor your father and mother, honor of father as head of the family, taking care of family, demand obedience of your children, work without ceasing for family improvement, study of the Bible, taking family to Church and pray, pray, pray.

Now it seems most Black families have assimilated themselves so intensely into other Anglo-Protestant cultures that these concepts, attitudes and behaviors must be sought as alternatives to most of the life styles of today's Black families and Black reliance in effective prayer ceased when grandma and grandpa died.

A great number of Black children have never been to Church and those placed in "White" homes by "White" agencies will

never experience Black Culture, not to mention the intense, sincere, open, unreserved, unheard love, trust and worship of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Most of these children will never experience the powerful prayers prayed by men/women (of meager education); Yet so powerful are these prayers, they move nations, changed bigoted attitudes, and bring tears to the eyes of the believer and non-believer alike. Most of these Afro-American children will never be fully aware of what they are lacking, but will be seeking always to fill the unexplained void in their hearts. These little ones will be hindered from effective prayer because the Black Cultural focus is missing from their lives.

We cannot have effective prayer unless we are aware of the things that hinder prayer. Prayerlessness, wrong motives, lack of faith, rebellion and sin, not abiding in God, all hinder prayer, especially effective prayer. Such is the fate of numbers of Black families today; no faith, rebellion against parental guidance, law, government and God; not abiding in God

because they do not now know the God of our ancestors; the same God who brought "Coloreds" out of slavery, through effective prayers of those who could neither read nor write. Black families appear to have forgotten how to ask God. We do not have because we do not ask! Jesus told the woman at the well, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give me a Drink' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water" John 4:10.

The numerous times Jesus used the word "ask" in His teachings are proof of the divine will to give. What would a waiting father think if we refused to ask? The only possible conclusion is that we are not interested in spiritual progress or else that we intend to spurn the very Word of God. It is indeed true that we are not to test God (Deut. 6:16), but neither are we to spurn Him. Get rid of pretentious pious attitudes and "ask God"! We Black adults must remember never to assume a superficially pious attitude toward family members who have taken a wrong path. "Is it to slight a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well?" Isa. 7:12-13.

God's promises like His commands are not optional. Our refusal to pray is an affront to a faithful God, who has invited us to ask, seek, and knock. "God is spirit" John 4:14, and it is He who has determined how His world will function. There is a spiritual hand which never goes wrong; A spiritual Mind which always functions back of the functioning of this world. If we believe that God is in control of this world, then our effective prayers would secure a "tranquil and quiet life in all Godliness and dignity" 1 Tim. 2:2.

There is only one kind of spiritual greatness that qualifies as greatness indeed. A life filled with The Spirit cannot be empty of prayer. Prayerlessness is sin. "Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you" 1 Sam. 12:23. The Apostle Paul was not guilty of this sin: Note how he prayed for the Churches: "unceasingly" (Rom. 1:19), "Always" (Phil. 1:4), and "Night and Day" (1 Thess. 3:10). Jesus' life was so prayerful the Disciples were moved to ask Him to teach them to pray (Luke 11:1). Prayerlessness is never encountered in any of the great men/women of the Bible. If the Black in our communities cannot pray individually & collectively for the preservation of our families and the advancement of God's Kingdom, we cannot expect our efforts to be effective in rescuing that family who uses drugs, steals, practices illicit sexual acts, murders rapes and commits other atrocities against us and other Black Families. If we will not bring ourselves back to our roots and pray we will never be effective in drawing men, family members, children, brothers/sisters nearer to God and salvation.

Ask God, through effective prayer which is the only alternative available for the survival of the Afro-American family unit and is the only alternative which enemies cannot subdue. Against prayer, those who would destroy us, have no weapons. It is imperative that all of us (Black, Colored, Afro-American, Negro) remember that prayerlessness is deadly.

On Sunday, January 9, 1993 at 5:00 P.M. Trinity Episcopal Cathedral will offer a celebration of Evensong and Service of Healing for those living with HIV disease, their partners, spouses, families, friends, caregivers, ministers, social service providers, the bereaved and any others who wish to participate. Trinity Parish, the Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon, is joined at these services by the Diocesan HIV/Aids Commission. The homilist for January 9th will be The Rt. Rev. William Spofford, retired Bishop of Oregon.

We want to emphasize that all are welcome to attend regardless of their church affiliation. The services will continue on the second Sunday of each month.

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral is located on the corner of N.W. 19th and Everett Streets (The church with the red doors) and is served by several bus lines. The church is completely accessible to the physically challenged.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

THE

8TH ANNUAL TRIBUTE TO

Dr.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

AND

REVEREND JOHN W. GARLINGTON, JR.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 1994

3:00 P.M.

MARANATHA CHURCH  
4222 NE 12TH AVENUE  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97211  
REV. EMMETT WHEATFALL, PASTOR

MUSIC

SPEAKERS

DRAMA

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT REV. JOHN PARKER AT (503) 284-7563 OR MARANATHA CHURCH (503) 288-7241

### We Welcome You to The Greater Saint Stephen Missionary Baptist Church

"Serving The Lord With Gladness"

Psalm 100:2

Sunday School 10am  
Morning Worship 11:05  
Mid Week:  
Prayer & Bible Study 7pm  
Rev. G.L. Black I Pastor  
3703 N. Williams Ave.  
(503) 281-8117 Portland, OR 97227



Rev. and Mrs. G.L. Black I

### In Memory of Nona S. Burton

Born: March 3, 1920  
Paris, Texas  
Passed Away: December 27, 1993  
Portland, Oregon

Nona S. Burton was born on March 3, 1920 in Paris, Texas. She departed this world on December 27, 1993, in Portland Oregon. She attended Gibbon High School, and became a Nutritionist there, she also worked at the Oregon Shipyard. When she first came to Portland, she was a member of Morning Star Baptist Church. Mrs. Nona S. Burton was married to Edgar Ross Burton for 34 years. He preceded her in death in 1978. She leaves to mourn daughter, Helen Joyce Burton; Buford L. Burton; daughter, Audrey Fae Burton; son, Edgar R. Burton, Jr.; son, Eddie Frank Burton; daughter, Griseldia Maria Burton; sister, Lillian Thomas; brother, John Edwards; 13 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

#### NONA'S FAVORITE PASSAGES

"I'll tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to the mountain, Move from here to there and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." - Matthew 17:20



I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the Kingdom of heaven. - Matthew 18:3  
The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen His glory. The glory of the one and only who came from the Father full of Grace and truth. - John 1:14

### St. Mark Baptist Church

103 NE Morris St., Portland, OR 97212

- Sunday School - 9:30am
- Sunday Morning Worship Service - 11:00am
- Sunday School Teacher's Meeting Tues - 6:30pm
- Bible Study Wednesday - 6:00pm
- Prayer Meeting Wednesday - 7:00pm

Church Phone Number 287-7457



Dr. Joe S. Hardie, Pastor

We Invite You To Come And Worship With Us. The Church Where Everybody is Somebody And Christ is All.

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



Denise Bell

### VANN & VANN FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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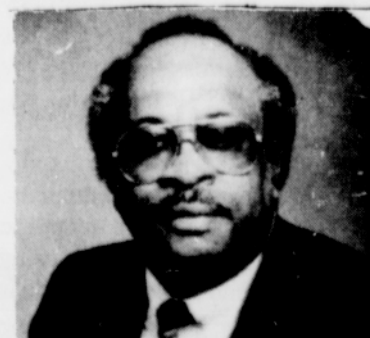
503/281-2836

5211 N. Williams Portland, OR 97217

### St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church

8101 N. Fiske Avenue • Portland Oregon 97203  
Church Phone: 289-0147 Study Phone: 281-9111

- Sunday Service 10:45
- Sunday School 9:30
- Bible Study 6:00
- Evening Service 7:00pm



Pastor, Rev. James C. E. Faulkner

### DIABETIC FOOT STUDY

Portland Diabetes & Endocrine Associates are accepting diabetic patients with foot ulcers for participation in a Phase III clinical study of an investigational wound-healing drug.

If you are eligible to be in the study, you will receive study-related treatment at no charge. You must have diabetes and an ulcer on the bottom of your foot.

For more information, call (503) 274-4818



### MT. OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH

Has moved Sunday services to

Family Life Center,  
8725 N. Chautauqua Blvd.,  
at Willis Blvd.

Worship Services 8:00am & 11:00am,  
Church School 9:30 to 10:30 am,  
Bible Study, Wednesdays, 116 NE Schuyler, 10:30am & 7:00pm  
Radio Ministry each Sunday, 8:00am on KBMS

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

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

### CHURCH OF CHRIST 3908 NE MALLORY AVENUE

#### Mallory

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  
Wednesday prayer meeting and Bible study 7:00 pm

288-1092

Restoring New Testament Christianity