

# RELIGION

## Building On A Solid Foundation

BY MATTIE ANN CALLIER-SPEARS

In the book of St. John, in the eleventh chapter and the fortieth verse, Jesus asks the question, "Didn't I tell you, that if you would believe, you would see the glory of the God?" Many are wandering around, still groping in the dark, wondering, "What must I do to be saved: I accepted the Lord but I'm still not sure..." and the list goes on.

This city of Portland has been under spiritual construction for about ten years now. It will be awhile before the last brick will be put into place. Across the city and across the denominations, there has been change. The time for change is...NOW!

This construction, that's under way, has employed new construction foremen. Each foreman comes to us equipped with a different skills; but, every last one-of-them is working on the same project. Toiling until its completion. The foremen have come in from places like: California, West Virginia, Ohio, Missouri, Texas and other states—in this our United state of America. United!... Words such as these ring in our ears from the verify fabric of our national. Togetherness, unity weaving patterns, brotherly love and kindness are words pouring from the pulpits throughout the city.

However, the construction foremen are not all located in the pulpits/

There are many strong Christian laymen and women laboring out on the streets, down in the trenches and working under tremendous obstacles. They are reaching those reluctant workers who have chosen to take alternate paths. And—they are reaching the ones who have fallen through the cracks in the sanctuaries on Sunday mornings because of the folk, waggin tongues of those pious blue collar, upper-class Christian workers.

Disasters surround us, yet...we stand.

I sat and thought about all the dangers seen and unseen that could have ravaged our city until the last living being was eradicated—but, for some reason, God stayed his hand. Unlike so many port towns, Portland is underscored and surrounded by solid rock. A solid foundation. Then—the words to an age-old song sprang forth in my mind: "On Christ a solid rock I stand. All other ground is sinking sand."

I was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana, a port town. It is a built-up or filled-in city which has a lot of water under its foundation. When a bad storm comes, you have water above and below the foundation. The chances are slim so you learn how to swim.

California's coastal and port cities are picturesque and lofty. But—the He had to stay on top of the weather sand and soil is being washed away, reports because that information blown away and cracked away.

For some reason, Portlanders, at the time. And it would also dictate God has given us not one chance but what crews would be needed and what many opportunities to straighten-up phase of the work could be done at and fly right.

We have been praying for just this kind of a favor. I can remember a time when my father, now deceased, worked as the foreman of a construction crew which was responsible for the erection of all the First Interstate Bank Buildings from Seattle, Washington through Eugene, Oregon. It was his job to instruct, guide and reprimand all those workers employed under him.

"Do the job right or go home", he would shout with a stout voice! "Do the job right the first time; and, we can finish and feel good about what we've done. Do it wrong and you answer to me. Do it wrong and you bring harm to yourself and to others."

I can remember Daddy saying that the kind of materials, its weight and its consistency were very important to the quality, longevity and safety of that building. He would get so angry when a company would send substandard concrete or cheaper steel beams or the wrong size rivets. Everything was on a list. He expected only what was on this list and he would not accept any substitutes because he did not want to be responsible for the construction for an inferior product.

At this particular time, the weather was very inclement. There

Being a foreman was serious business, the job description required you to not only know what you were talking about but, it required you to be responsible for the lives of each person under you and the quality of the product produced.

"Oh my goodness!" The construction crews got busy. First on foundation; then, another five foundations were being poured in five different locations simulta-

neously. Dad would drive from site to site inspecting the work and he would entrust the responsibility of assistant to someone he handpicked. Some one who he felt thought and felt about the project as he did to supervise in his absence; until he returned.

Well—the work was on schedule and the buildings were going up. Pouring the foundation wasn't the only problem or the most important. I found out that if you did not allow the foundation to settle properly, you would have irreparable damage. At two of the sites, Dad found dangerous cracks in the foundation. He went back over the materials and the time spent before putting on the structures. There was the mistake. Someone had jumped the gun and started the construction

of the actual structure before the foundation had been allowed to settle. Needless-to-day, there were some very disgruntled workmen. Why? They had to tear down all those beams, glass, walls, flooring, tile, ceilings and everything.

"Tear it all down! Now", he shouted! Those men hated my dad because he was such a stickler for perfection.

"If you are going to work under me, you got to do it by the book. If you can't follow instructions, leave", he bellowed.

Portland is under spiritual construction but the foundation has to be carefully laid. Be careful not to go too

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## The Return Of Pastors

Drs. Otis F. and Johnnie M. Brown are returning to the great northwest to make their retirement home here in Portland. Dr. Otis F. Brown came here in 1942 to attend Warner Pacific College, then named Pacific Bible College. In 1943 he married Johnnie Mae Hawkins from Birmingham, Alabama. They decided to make their home here in the city of Portland.

They are the founders of the Maranatha Church, which was then under the auspices of the Church of God, Anderson Indiana branch, which was the first established Church of God among blacks in the states of Oregon and Washington. They pastored nine years here in Portland,



Drs. Otis F. and Johnnie M. Brown

fourteen years in Seattle, Washington and the last eighteen years in Detroit, Michigan.

The Browns have now retired from the pastoral ministry, but will continue in other avenues of the ministry, in the areas of writing, workshops, seminars, revivals, as campmeeting and convention speakers, and facilitating various confer-

ences.

The Johnnie M. Brown Evangelistic Association, Inc., will continue its' outreach ministries under the leadership of its' founder, Dr. Johnnie M. Brown, while Dr. Otis F. Brown will be doing research on black presence in the Bible and in biblical history. Dr. O. Brown will join others in developing improved Sunday School materials that relate to assisting minorities in developing a healthier self-image.

Dr. O. Brown has been preaching for 53 years, and Dr. J. Brown for 40 years. Along with this longevity, they have been married (to each other) for 50 years.

A time of reflection and fellowship will be held at the Maranatha Church, located at NE 13th and Skidmore, on February 12 at 7pm. Come and participate in welcoming the Dr. Browns back to the northwest. Everyone is welcome.

### A Dedication To Allen LaShawn Cunningham

January 2, 1977-December 21, 1993  
A Gangster's Prayer

Heavenly Father, please hear me tonight, I Need so much guidance to live my life right. Sometimes the pressure is so hard to bear, I often wonder if anyone cares. How can I wake-up and face each day, knowing I have to live my life this crazy way?

Heavenly Father, forgive all my sins. I want to change but where do I begin? Give me the strength to resist the wild life I desire. Help me get away from the nightly gunfire.

Please, God, bless my family whose eyes silently plead, for me not to go as they watch me leave. And God, bless my Mother, who cries every night, worrying if I'll be killed in yet another gang fight.

Heavenly Father, please answer my prayer. Let me know You're listening up there. When will it end? What is it all for? To prove to my Homies, "Yea, I'm down, I'm hard core". Sometimes I even wonder how I will die. By a bullet wound or a knife in my side.

Heavenly Father, please hear me tonight. Give me courage and strength to live may life right. Show me the light. Help me give my heart peace, So I don't have to fight.

Thank you for your forgiveness, Lord. And for still being there... Most of all, Thank You, for listening to this sinner's prayer.

Amen  
Kisa

### Greater St. Stephen M.B. Church Building Fund Committee

Will Be Sponsoring A Musical "Sing Unto The Lord"

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1994  
7 O'CLOCK P.M.

COME JOIN US FOR SOME TOE TAPPING, HAND CLAPPING, SOUL REVIVING GOSPEL MUSIC! AT 3605 NE MALLORY AVENUE

If you, your choir or group would like to minister thru song please contact our chairman at 281-8117.

"SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS"  
DEC. R. JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN  
REV. G.L. BLACK I, PASTOR

### 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



Dr. Joe S. Hardie, Pastor

Church Phone Number 287-7457

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



Denise Bell

Inter-racial Congregation

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

### 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

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### 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
- Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 7pm
- Rev. G.L. Black I Pastor
- 3605 N.E. Mallory Ave. (503) 281-8117 Portland, OR 97212



Rev. and Mrs. G.L. Black I



### 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

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