

RELIGION

Alternatives

BY M. ISAACS

I have spent sometime during my daily working life reflecting on my happy, fulfilling work and also on my days of sad, dry, non-spiritual work efforts that left me very dissatisfied.

Strangely, we Christians are more likely to have work problems than non-Christians. We have experienced communion with God and the joys of being under God, in love with God and obedient to God. The non-Christian has never known this achievement or satisfaction. His worth is measured by the size of his paycheck, his social status, and the college his children will attend. For Christians, stamped with the divine nature of God, the environment of secular work tends to burst our spiritual bubble of peace and joy. But...we have to work and so we suffer.

The Christian has a spiritual nervous system designed to inform us of the pleasures of serving God and to warn us of spiritual danger. God tells us through our spiritual nervous system to "do this" or "don't do that". When our spiritual nervous system sounds an alarm it is God tapping us on the shoulder. Christians are very adept at making excuses to ignore these alarms. We say, "well, we can't live on the mountain top all the time".....or "God wants me to bear this". My Bible tells me that these attitudes are not scriptural. Jesus says we should have "abundant life", "Peace like a river", "joy that is full".

1) The Bible instructs mankind to

establish a vital relationship with God. 2) It instructs us to form relationships with each other. 3) In Ephesians 5 & 6, we find a list of those relationships with instructions for each. These scriptures show us what our priorities should be.

The instructions on employment...the "servant-master" relationship has everything to do with our "abundant life", and the enjoyment of our secular work. God has a plan for the whole system of secular employment. He wants us, his followers, to be victorious at our workplace and over our workplace, because he wants to draw the non-Christian employee into His Kingdom. There are millions of people without knowledge of God and millions of people who have the knowledge of God. Those millions of lost people go to work daily with those millions of Christians, but none-the-less, the workers in God's Kingdom are few and the harvest is plentiful. We Christians are laborers in our workplace. Laborers for God's Kingdom. We are in the world, but not of the world. We are now exposed in one day to more people than a Christian a hundred years ago could meet in a year. To be a light shining in the darkness of pressurized work conditions is a hard task; yet this is a part of God's plan. Be kind and patient with fellow workers. It is only when mean bosses, lying, lazy, incompetent co-workers, subordinates and flaring tempers surface that the differences between Christians and

non-Christians can clearly emerge. That's why we have more trouble with people at work than we will have at home, in the community and in our Churches.

Never before have lives been so empty; never before has depression been so rampant. The harvest is ripe. God is right on schedule. And the Christian Working Employee is the key to His Plan of harvesting. God wants us at the workplace. He wants us to associate with non-Christians. Ungodly people are the single worst irritant Christians face at work. They don't like to talk about God, they tell dirty jokes. They plot and scheme behind the boss's back, they keep things stirred up all the time; Yet, we must form good relationships with these people. Jesus associated with people who were not believers. He went out of his way to eat with tax collectors, common fishermen and even ate with the man he knew would betray him.

Circumstances will arise, unpleasant and unwanted; but the attitude we form regarding these circumstances determine our action or response. Understanding the cycle of attitude-action-circumstance is crucial to our Christian lives. We must understand that it is the attitude that creates the problems at work, at home, in neighborhoods and Churches.

It is not the actions or circumstances that are the culprits, but our attitudes toward the circumstances and our actions brought on by our

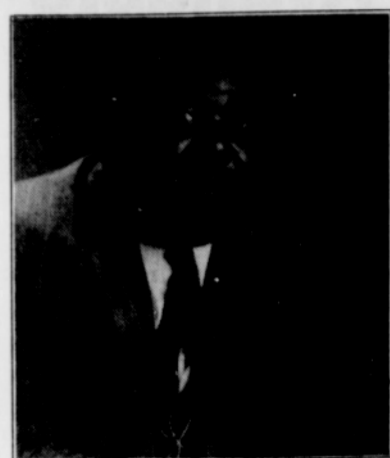
attitudes. Our bad moods set up chain reactions that have a vast and destructive effect on many lives. We can't damage our salvation, but we can put a major dent in our joy. Break the cycle. Remember, we are on the job for God's purpose, not just to earn a living. Souls for Jesus are much more important than righteous anger at other employees and bosses. Follow God's Purpose, gather the harvest and our joy and life will be complete.

"These things have I spoken unto you, that ye might have peace. In the world ye have tribulations; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world". John 16:33. As he faced the cross, Jesus said, "I have conquered. I have overcome". The world gives peace through agreeable circumstances. Jesus' peace has nothing to do with outward circumstances. It is the kind of peace "that no man taketh from you". John 16:22. The Peace of God allows us to rejoice in the face of physical and mental abuse initiated by fellow workers and employers.

Remember, actions are born in attitudes and attitudes are formed by circumstance. God does not change our circumstances, but changes us so as to render our circumstances of no effect. God changes our attitudes. When we reach the point that our attitudes are molded by God, our attitudes will produce Godly results. We will be Christ-like and have the mind of Christ. We will have life and have it more abundantly.

Presenting The Founder Of Eighty Eight Keys

Elbert Mondaine' Jr. the Pastor and Founder of Celebration Tabernacle where he has very successfully pastored for five years also founded 'An Evening Of Eighty Eight Keys' an annual event created to motivate, encourage and honor local gospel musicians for much hard work and talent exhibited that much too often go without recognition or reward.



Elbert Mondaine' Jr.

Pastor Mondaine, being a veteran Gospel artist and musician for twenty years understands the frustrations felt by most gospel artist partially because gospel musicians traditionally are not compensated as well as secular musicians thus almost literally forcing gospel musicians into the secular arena. Pastor Mondaine' is quite saddened that such great talent designed to glorify our Father God is often stolen by the spirit of the world lured by it's glamour. Past recipients of this prestigious award are:

Terry Davis - Minister of Music Mt Olivet Baptist Church
Mattie Ann Callier Spears - Veteran gospel singer and drama
Willia Dorsey - World renown gospel stylist.

Katy Gifford - Teacher and choral director Martin Luther King, Jr. Elem.

Marla Gibbs - Minister of Music Bethlehem Baptist Church, Tacoma, WA.

John Gainer - Choral Director University of Oregon/ Founder and Director Inspirational Sounds.

Gerutha Favrell - Local Gospel artist
Lonnie Hosley - Founder/Director Heaven Bound Choir.
There are four different categories/ Eighty Eight Globe Trotter Award designed for veteran performers.

Gospel Education Award: for educators in the areas of music with an emphases on Sacred and gospel music.

Eighty Eight Key Award: For Gospel music excellence.
Eighty Eight Key Scholarship awards: For aspiring gospel musicians and students.

This years event will be held at Celebration Tabernacle 1505 N. Bryant at interstate at 7:00 P.M. Friday 18th 1994.
Special guest this year will be:

Daryle Coley
The Inspirational Sounds
Celebration Singers
Tacoma Washington Workshop Choir
Martin Luther King Jr. kids choir
Willia Dorsey and many more.

The Little Chapel Of The Chimes

Funeral Home

Cemetery - Memorial Garden

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

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

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

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. Marfin, 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

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

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The Church Where Everybody is Somebody And Christ Is All.

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the City of Portland for over 37 years In your
hour of need Vann & Vann are there to serve.



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: 281-3-1911

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



Pastor, Rev. James C. E. Faulkner

We Welcome You to The Greater Saint Stephen Missionary Baptist Church

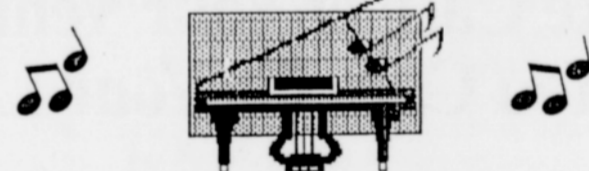
"Serving The Lord
With Gladness"
Psalm 100:2

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

ST. PAUL CHOIR PRESENTS SPECIAL MUSIC



ST. PAUL & FRIENDS

THEME: "WALK IN THE LIGHT"



FEATURING
THE ROBERT LYONS SINGERS
OF OAKLAND CALIFORNIA
ALBINA CHURCH OF GOD CHOIR

DATE: MARCH 12, 1994

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: ST. PAUL C.O.G.I.C.
2859 N.E. RODNEY

BISHOP J. C. FOSTER, PASTOR