

RELIGION

SEEING JESUS

BY MATTIE ANN CALLIER-SPEARS

Did you see Jesus as you walked along the street? Did you see Jesus in the dirty face squatting on the ground? Did you see Jesus as you opened the door to the sanctuary? Did you see Jesus in the song of a little canary?

As we live our lives from day to day, we take for granted how we came to be where we are; how old we are; how healthy we are. Yes! We take for granted our everyday staples. We take for granted the shelter covering us, the clothes on our backs, our vehicles, our jobs, the shoes on our feet; and we even take our five senses for granted.

As I was driving back from the prison last night, I was so tired, because of the day's activities, but I couldn't help thinking about how much people take their everyday existence for granted. For some reason, we have conditioned ourselves to just look-over things and people who have been there before. We just assume that it will always be like that--again and again. This has become the overwhelming mentality of the occupants of our institutions and many people on the outside, as the residents of the institutions refer to it.

A long time ago, the old ones referred to this condition as, "They can't see past their own noses." The words from that same time period says it all, "I'm so glad that trouble won't last always. O' my lawd! O' my lawd! What shall I do?"

Well--I know what I shall do. I will look to Jesus for He is my everything. Jesus is my water when I am thirsty. He is my bread when I am hungry. He is the Great Comforter

when I am tired or hurt or lonely. He is my provider--not the grocery store. Jesus is the Great Healer--not the doctors, as man think. You see...its' God working through the physicians. It is God who gave them the skills, in the first place.

We assume and we take so much for granted. When we fall down, oft times, we assume that we should get comfortable in the depths of our situations. And we assume that there is no way out. But--did you consult Jesus? He is the Great Emancipator for all who seek his face.

During times of slavery and oppression, Jesus was the "Great Emancipator". Even though the history books give a different story, Jesus Christ was the one who really set the captives free.

As I sat researching and attempting to understand the meaning behind the words of the old spirituals, the words of the slaves, which were chanted in the master's house or out in the fields or even on the gallows, were chock-full with expressions of seeing Jesus; of how Jesus would set them free; of how they didn't like the pain--but--just knowing Jesus would be there waiting for them on the other side. Death became a welcomed vehicle.

To the slaves, Jesus could be seen: swinging down in a beautiful chariot, being driven by spirited white horses or waiting for them with outstretched arms as they crossed over the River Jordan or in the lightening and rolling thunder.

Although many of these songs

were songs of sorrow, there was joy just in knowing that, one day, Jesus would set them free and that they could finally see him and say, "Tank you Mastuah! Ah sho' iz glad to see yah face. I'z free at las'!"

In this present-day time period, we are witnessing another "Exodus"--of sorts. In the air, cries can be heard, "Let mu people go! Let my people go!"

The lamentations can be heard from around the globe. So many nations are beginning to seek the face of the Lord because, they have discovered that slavery is not just limited to one race or one kind of people. Slavery comes in so many shapes and forms. There is slavery of the mind and slavery of the heart and slavery of the thoughts and slavery of the emotions and slavery of the sexes and finances.

Some would not care to address these issues because they claim that these kinds of slavery are not visible to the naked eye. Well! I disagree.

Have you ever seen a man or woman, on the streets, suffering from damaged and gripping emotions? I have. When you speak to them, they talk about wanting to be "Free"; and, wanting to commit suicide so that they can be with Jesus.

"I can't stand it any longer on this earth", I head a female inmate cry. "Why does it have to be like this? Why can't God just come and get us NOW?"

This plight was not black against white or native African against hispanic or jews against gentiles or skin-heads against bloods. This was a

conflict--within.

Wanting to see Jesus has become a final plea for many a desperate souls. But--while we walk this earth, we must learn to see Jesus in others and in everything that we do. I've found out that if you can't see Him in whatever it is that you are pursuing, you better stop. Backup. Turn around. You are going in the wrong directions.

Recently a drug addict shared, "Miss Spears! I really felt that when I was really high, I could see Jesus. The drug made me feel like I was more spiritual. But--when I came down, it was ugly and it never was the same. I could never reach that same high level; so, I took more and more drugs."

If mankind would just wake up and realize that he is responsible for what happens in this life, because of his ability to make choices, he would certainly order form a different menu.

Accountability and responsibility should be the first order of one's day; however, this is not true across the board-of-life. No one wants to own-up to his/her mistake, wrong turns, errors, boo-boos, or accidents; so we give them other names and descriptions. And we blame someone else or a situation.

Still we want to see Jesus' face.

"When we see Jesus face to face. We will see Him who saved us by grace. It will be glorious and victorious. When we see Him--we shall be just like Him."

Praise The Lord!

Obituary

Willie Lee Hill was born October 13, 1918 in Montgomery, Alabama. The daughter of Nellie Butler and Elliott Eason, she was the eldest of two children. She left to be with the Lord on February 13, 1994 in Portland, Oregon.



During the mid 1940's she moved to Portland to join her husband, a shipyard worker and railroad man. Her profession was that of mother, housewife, and benevolent giver.

She gave birth to seven children. She gave love, inspiration and her strength to the five who survived and their children.

Willie Lee is survived by a loving family: her husband, James C. Hill; sister, Laura L. Bellamy of Rochester, New York; sons, James E. Hill of Washington D.C., Orenton B. Hill, Sr., and Clarence W. Hill of Portland, Micheal L. Hill of Wetumpka, Alabama; a daughter Sandra Olia of Los Angeles, California; 19 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, two nieces, a nephew, and a host relatives and friends.

Mallory Avenue Christian Church

"Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest."



Denise Bell

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

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.

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

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

THE BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH CATHEDRAL CHOIR IS CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH A SPECIAL NIGHT OF "NEGRO SPIRITUALS"

Please join us on Sunday, February 27, 1994, at 5:00 pm for "Once upon a time...When we were colored."

Bethel A.M.E. Church is located at 5828 NE 8th Avenue, three blocks east of Martin Luther King Blvd., on Jarrett Street. Please contact Deborah Hall, Program Chairperson at (503) 285-4608 for additional information.

Cox Funeral Home Inc.



Jerome G. Tanner
Apprentice Funeral Director

FUNERAL DIRECTORS
2736 NE RODNEY

281-4891

ANNOUNCING OUR
NEWEST STAFF
MEMBER

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

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

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

The Mt. Zion Church of God in Christ cordially invites you to the Installation Service of Elder Mark Anthony Wells as Pastor on Sunday, the twenty-seventh of February Nineteen hundred and ninety-four at three o'clock in the afternoon The Mt. Zion Church of God in Christ 6800 Northeast Durham Street Portland, Oregon

Annual Spring Musical

Saturday, February 26, 1994
6 - 8 p.m.

Bethel A.M.E. Church
5828 NE 8th Avenue

THEME:

"Let the Children Come"

Children's Choir

Participants will include:

Youth and/or Children's Choirs from Emmanuel Temple, Berean Baptist Church with Tamara Barnett, soloist, Allen Temple, Vancouver Ave. 1st Baptist, Bethel A.M.E. Church and others!

TO BENEFIT:

North Portland Bible College Building Fund
For information, call NPBC, 288-2919
PO Box, 11437, Portland, OR 97211

VANN & VANN FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Family Owned and Operated Since 1954 Serving 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