

RELIGION

Alternatives

BY M. ISAACS

During the previous six months, I have visited worship services, special events, weddings, baptisms and etc., at several churches in and around my neighborhood. Most of these happenings (except weddings) have included an invitation to join the congregation of that Church.

"Make a decision to follow God", is a statement frequently heard from Pastors, Ministers and Laypersons in charge of specific Church Services. The question that arises in my mind is, "How can a person who has never been exposed to Biblical teachings or the Word of God make an enlightened decision to follow that of which he has no knowledge? A decision to follow God today can easily be

changed to follow Satan tomorrow, since according to the Word of God, man is born in sin.

There is a process of preparation, according to Biblical instructions, to which one must adhere in order to become part of the True Church of God. 1) One must relinquish all decision making facilities one possesses unto God. One must acknowledge that he is "nothing", "salt without savor", unclean, unredeemed, without hope, without God. 2) One must accept and acknowledge that except for Jesus' perfect sacrifice, there is no hope of eternal life. 3) One must believe without reservation that Jesus Christ was that, (a) perfect sacrifice, (b) that Lamb without blemish, (c) that son of the Living God, (d) that Godman who come to wash away the sins of the world

by the shedding of his blood on calvary. (e) that Godman who went down into hades to conquer death that all might have everlasting life. (f) that arose from the grave, victorious over the penalty for sin. (g) that ascended to heaven. (h) that sent the Holy Spirit to teach all things spiritual to all who believed. (i) that now prepares a place (for all believers) in heaven that where he is we may be also. (j) that sits at the right hand of God awaiting the sound of the trumpet that will herald his return to claim his bride, the Church. 4) One must hear the Word of God. 5) One must believe the Word of God. 6) One must confess that Jesus is God, the Savior and 7) One must repent (be sorry) of ones sins and 8) One must accept the cleansing through the blood of Christ.

Through these steps of preparation one is convicted of sin and converted through the power of the Holy Spirit and becomes a new creature in the Lord, Jesus Christ. This is the process of rebirth or second birth. If one step is omitted or disbelieved one does not become a true believer and thereby misses his inheritance of the Kingdom of God. There are many decisions one must make throughout life, but the greatest, most effective and most important is ones decision to really HEAR the Word of God. The WORD convicts and one believes; therefore, if a person is never exposed to the Word, he/she can never be redeemed.

God said "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel as a witness to all nations, and then shall the end come", Matt. 24:14; Therefore, all shall HEAR the Word, but at the beginning of sorrow, when man

shall come in God's name saying "I am the Christ", many shall be deceived, but he that endures unto the end, the same shall be saved.

THEREFORE, PREPARE! Believe on the Lord, Jesus Christ; he is the only-begotten of the Living God; It is He who made us and not we ourselves; He, The Christ, was the final sacrifice made for our sins, a Lamb without blemish, whose blood washes away the sins of the world. And when he shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him (Matt 25ch.), then shall He sit upon the throne of his glory. All nations shall gather before him and he shall separate them one from another, as goats are separated from sheep. The sheep, he will set at his right hand and the goats on the left. Then shall the KING say to them on his right "Come ye, blessed of my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation

of the world"; Then shall he say unto them on his left hand "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels". Matt. 25:46. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal.

The decisions you make to change are subject to change themselves, altered by circumstances. The decision for change that God makes in you is supported by the Holy Spirit, and stands on faith, hope, love and trust in God Almighty and in His son, thereby, pleasing God, which trieth our hearts. Thess 2:4.

Now unto HIM that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of this glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God, our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. Jude 1:24-25.

Compassion For The Dying Celebrated

A day of prayer for the sanctity of human life was declared last Sunday by Archbishop William J. Levada, archdiocese of Portland and Bishop Thomas J. Connolly, diocese of Baker. The day included the celebration of a special "Mass of Compassionate Care for the Dying." This special day was proclaimed as part of an effort to promote awareness of the moral and medical issues raised by ballot measure 16, the physician-assisted suicide initiative.

The Catholic bishops want to educate Catholics about the moral implications, related to the dignity of life raised by the measure. The church is calling the proposed authorization of euthanasia, by physician-assisted suicide, a grave moral concern and contrary to God's law. The ballot measure would authorize physicians to prescribe a lethal dose of drugs for adults who are terminally ill. The bishops are encouraging Catholics to actively work toward the defeat of the initiative.

A Moderate's Call To Action

To provide an opportunity for the north/northeast community of Portland to learn more about key ballot measures affecting the areas of community safety, basic rights, and financing public services, a community forum titled, "A Moderate's to Action" will be held at 6 p.m., Sunday, September 25, in the Fellowship Hall at Fremont United Methodist Church, 2620 N.E. Fremont, in Portland.

A panel of candidates and elected representatives will be moderated by Ellen Lowe, Director of Legislative Ministries of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. Small group breakout sessions will be led by resource leaders, with a wrap-up presented by State Representative Frank Shields.

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"To often we in the mainline church believe that because we are moderate, we need to remain dispassionate. I believe that this misguided confusion about the separation of church and state has made us a silent partner in the destruction of many significant values in our society," states Shields.

The planning task force includes clergy and interested citizens from north/northeast Portland. For further information, contact Joyce Adams at EMO's Drug Education Program, 221-1054.

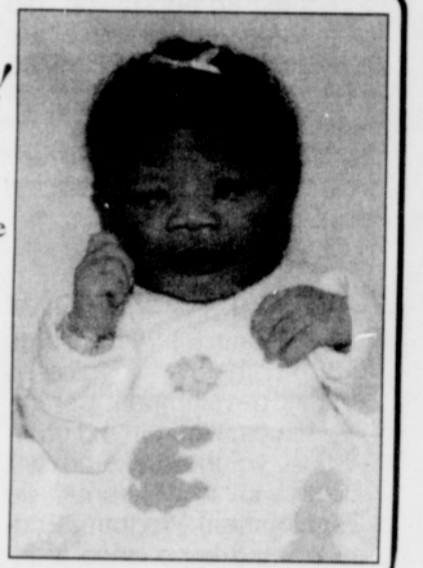
Oregon to Host New International President

The Oregon State Association of Ministers Wives & Widows, will host the thirteenth Annual Pacific Regional Conference of the International Association of Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows, Inc. October 6-8, 1994 at the Red Lion Hotel, Jantzen Beach, Portland, Oregon. The Rose City Ministers Wives Council will be our local hosts. The Pacific Region consists of five states: Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska and Hawaii.

Oregon will also host the newly elected President of the International Association of Ministers Wives and Widows, Inc. Dr. Celest Johnson, of Connecticut.

Congratulations! Birth Announcement

Baby's Name: Imani Denicea Payne
Born at: Miami Valley Hospital
Date of Birth: August 30, 1994
Time: 9:50 a.m.
Weight: 7 lbs. 7 oz.
Length: 21 inches
Parents: Dennis and Carolyn Payne



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Making Disciples by
Going Baptizing and
Teaching (Matt. 28
16:20)

Morning Service, 10:35
a.m. Sunday, Sept. 25
Evening Services, 7
p.m. Monday-Friday,
Sept. 26-30

Guest Speaker: Rev.
E.E. Stafford, Pastor of
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each night.

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Amzie Bailey, Pastor



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- 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
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287-7457

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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

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FRIDAY
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PASTORS: Bishop Robert Simpson, Jr. • Dr. Ida M. Simpson