

# RELIGION

## Catholic Social Action

### Community Reinvestment

**American State Bank Promotes Stability in North-Northeast Portland, Helps A Pastor Secure a Church Building**

Lamont Tellis was called into the ministry at the age of 16. He began his Pastorate in 1986, two years before he retired from the Oregon Air National Guard after a 25-year career in the United States Air National Guard.

Having his own church to reach out to and serve some of the 56,000 residents of North-Northeast Portland has been a long-time dream of Reverend Tellis. The dream—to provide a place of worship, to strengthen families, to develop innovative approaches to attack low employment, to provide entry-level job training and community day care—come perilously close to disintegration.

Reverend Tellis' dreams provide a foundation from which will emerge the reality of a stronger community. His is one more respected voice emphasizing moral and ethical principles, which will speed the cure of our nation's inner-city afflictions: teenage pregnancies, drug abuse, gangs, ever increasing violent crimes, family dissolution, high school drop outs.

As the oldest, most influential community controlled institution, the Black Church, through Pastors like Reverend Tellis, will energize the Black institution best able to motivate our community to address the inner-strengthening needs of its residents: pride, self-worth, self-respect, hope, and determination.

Reverend Tellis pursues a quest to build an environment where people can motivate themselves. His church will become another building block that helps to foster community-controlled solutions to community problems.

Reverend Tellis visited numerous lenders, discovering that they wanted to lend only to asset-heavy churches with long-established banking relationships. With less than three months remaining on his

lease-purchase option, Reverend Tellis had received no encouragement from any lenders. The owners of the facility were also growing uncertain, feeling that maybe they should maintain ownership.

A Friend urged Reverend Tellis to meet with Venerable F. Booker, Chairman of Portland's only African American-owned bank, American State Bank. Mr. Booker's willingness to work with Reverend Tellis to find ways to put together a financial package that made sense for Reverend Tellis, the community, and American State Bank, is at the heart of what community reinvestment should be.

Today, because an American State Bank loan backed its faith in Reverend Tellis vision, Reverend Tellis has a church building. The former McKinney Temple Church of God in Christ located on N.E. 17th and Alberta has become a place of worship for the Good Samaritan Church of God, a branch of Church of God based in Cleveland, Tennessee.

What American State Bank did with Reverend Tellis is what bigger banks should do with inner city minority-owned banks across America. Form teams to expand credit opportunity, to strengthen inner-city institutions and communities.

Large, outside-the-community banks should team up with smaller minority-owned banks, which have spent a generation or more serving an area most other businesses ignored. Minority-owned banks know inner-city communities. They know the marketplace. Creative risk-sharing alliances between community-rooted minority-owned banks and big non-community banks will bring solid progress to inner cities.

Alliances like this across our country could mean in inner-urban areas not only more churches, more family-oriented credit, but more jobs and more opportunities, and stronger community-based financial institutions. That will bring stronger nation.

"Sharing Stories of Catholic Social Action: A Legacy of Hope" will be the theme for this year's social action celebration. Held in honor of the late Monsignor Thomas J. Tobin, this annual event provides opportunity for reflection on Catholic social teaching. This year's theme looks at the men and women who shaped the legacy of Catholic social justice here in western Oregon. The Tobin event will be held at All Saints Catholic Church, Parish Hall, 3847 N.E. Glisan, Portland on Thursday November 17 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Father Bernard Sander, OSB will be the host for this year's event. Father Bernard is a monk of Mount

Angel Abbey. He has been a priest for 50 years, and has served as Vice-Rector and Rector of Mount Angel Seminary and Guest Master at the Mount Angel Abbey Retreat House. He is a long time advocate of encouraging participation in social action programs.

Kay Reid will explain and give a brief overview of the "Legacy Hope" project. It is an oral history project reflecting on the challenges and successes of socially just structures in western Oregon. Kay has been involved in justice and peace projects for several years. She is also the Awards and Fellowships coordinator for Literary Arts, Inc., a nonprofit organization that helps support Ore-

gon writers.

Personal reflections on social justice issues in western Oregon will be provided by Ivo Bauman and Mary K. Anderson. Bauman received a Master of Arts in History degree from Catholic University of America in 1942, served as an officer in the U.S. Navy, and served as General Manager of the Mt. Angel Telephone Company. In addition to several professional memberships associated with the telephone industry, Mr. Bauman has been active in several social justice projects including Habitat for Humanity. Mary Anderson has been involved in the Catholic Family Movement, the Catholic Interracial Council, FISH, Inter-Cul-

tural Dialogue Group, and currently is a member of the National Coalition Building Institute and People of Faith Against Bigotry and its Catholic committee.

A panel discussion with a question and answer period will close the evening, and will be facilitated by Mary C. Labarre, Director of Pastoral Studies at the University of Portland.

The Tobin events is sponsored by the Office of Justice and Peace, Archdiocese of Portland. There is no admission for the event. A suggested voluntary donation is \$5.00 to help cover costs. More information may be obtained by calling the Office of Justice and Peace, (503) 233-8361.

### Suffer The Little Children

BY BERNICE POWELL JACKSON

**Every single day 2,400 babies are born poor in America. Every single night 100,000 children in America have no beds of their own to be tucked into. And those numbers are getting worse.**

The U.S. Census Bureau, in a report just released, tells us that there are more poor Americans today than there were last year and the gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen. They tell us that one out of every five children in America is poor and one out of every three single mothers lives below the poverty line. They tell us that one-third of all African Americans are poor and nearly one third of all Hispanics.

The Census Bureau statistics show that today 39.3 million Americans are poor. They also show that our nation's rich have never been richer, while the poor have never been poorer. Indeed, the top fifth of America earns 48.2 percent, nearly half, of the nation's income, while the bottom fifth earned less than 4 percent. And those numbers only consider income and don't take into

account capital. When you consider houses, cars and other capital holdings, the disparity between rich and poor Americans is even greater.

These frightening numbers do no bode well for our country. "America is in danger of splitting into a two-tired society," says Robert Reich, Secretary of Labor. "This is not anyone's idea of progress," he added.

These are frightening numbers, but they are not really surprising. For those of us who live in the cities of this nation and daily watch the numbers of homeless, or jobless, or the hungry grow, the numbers in this report are not surprising. Rev. Imogene Stewart is one of those who sees the pain of the poor everyday. She began the House of Imogene in Washington, D.C. as her answer to the desperate need for a shelter for the homeless and the domestic violence victims. "When you see the women carry their children from shelter to shelter and from school to school, it just breaks your heart," she says. The numbers, from her experience, have grown over the past two years, with increasing numbers of middle-class African American families falling into poverty. "I'm seeing the break-up of families as the wom-

en and children are forced to go to one shelter, while the men go to another," Rev. Stewart explained. It's hard for many of these folks to come to a shelter and to ask for help," she added.

The reality is that underneath the fabric of our social order and of our political and economic system is great pain and growing anger. It is pain which is caused by pervasive poverty and anger which is caused by four centuries of racism and the dissonance between the values which we espouse as Americans and the lives which many of us live. It is this pain and all of these accompanying facets which ultimately will threaten our democracy if we don't take some action.

Rev. Jesse Jackson has often been quoted as saying that American will be judged by how it treats "the least of these" - the children, the elderly, the poor. That is why those statistics must serve as a wake-up call and a call to action for us all. Because behind those numbers are people, people whose stories we all too often choose to block out.

The poverty line, according to the government, was \$14,763 for a family of four in 1993. But how can

a family of four live on less than \$15,000 a year? How can their children have enough to eat? How can they have clothes to wear or toys at Christmas?

In a society which exalts conspicuous consumption above all, how do parents teach their children any sense of self-esteem? In a society which does not seek to create jobs for the jobless or opportunities for all, how do the poor have any hope for the future? In a society which denies so many children so much, how do they not turn to violence?

"How dare we, as mere humans, name a group of people the permanent underclass," said Dr. James Forbes, senior minister of Riverside Church in New York City, in a sermon given at Chautauqua Institution this summer. Indeed, the "hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil" philosophy of not dealing with the growth of the poor in America will no longer work. Or as Secretary Reich said, "We cannot have prosperous or stable society if these trends continue."

Our children are suffering. Let us read the numbers and hear their cries. So that our living will not have been in vain.

### Brianna Lanique Williams

Brianna Lanique Williams, 6 pounds, 8 ounces, the daughter of Latwana Chocolate and Kenneth Williams, was born Oct. 13, 1994 at Emanuel Hospital in Portland. Her grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt Williams of Portland, and Patricia Hall of Portland. The great grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John Kelly of Montgomery, Ala., and Mrs. and Mrs. Lee Percy Chocolate I of Rolling Fork, Miss.

### Norman Lee Dyer

Funeral services were scheduled Wednesday at the Killingsworth Little Chapel of the Chimes for Norman Lee Dyer, 36, of Portland, who died Thursday, Oct. 20, 1994.

Dyer was born Feb. 18, 1958. He was a lifetime resident of Portland and was self-employed in the marketing field. He was a member of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Portland. Survivors include his mother, Mattie A. Dyer of Portland and four sisters, Barbara Thompson, Anita Jenkins, Genora Dyer and Jeane-te Richardson, all of Portland.

### 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



### Mt Olivet Baptist Church

8501 N. Chautauqua Blvd., at Willis Blvd.

Worship Services 8:00am & 11:00am,  
 Church School 9:30 to 10:30am,  
 Bible Study, Wednesdays, 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

### FAITH TEMPLE CHURCH

4224 S.E. 62nd Avenue  
 (between Powell & Foster)  
 Portland, Oregon 97206

#### SUNDAY

Sunday School 9:30am  
 Morning Worship 10:45am  
 Evangelistic Service 7:30pm  
 Tuesday Pastoral Teaching 7:00pm

#### FRIDAY

Evangelistic Service 7:00pm

#### DAILY

Prayer 12:00pm & 6:00pm

(503) 774-5470

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



Just days before being restored to power as the democratically-elected president of Haiti, The Rev. Jean-Bertrand Aristide (left), and Senior Pastor Rev. William H. Gray, II, senior advisor to President Clinton on Haiti, address an enthusiastic crowd of supporters at a Philadelphia church. Gray is the highest ranking African American in Congress and serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the United Negro College Fund.

### 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

We Invite You To Come And Worship With Us.  
 The Church Where Everybody is Somebody And Christ Is All.  
**Dr. Joe S. Hardie, Pastor**

### 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

### Fashion Statement By Elsie

Hats One of a Kind & Accessories  
 Afro-American Cards & Books

Afro-American Heritage Bible

#### Open

Wednesday - Friday

1:00-7:00pm

& Saturday

10:00am-6:00pm



2808 NE Martin Luther King Blvd.  
 Elsie & Murray Jackson (503) 288-5246