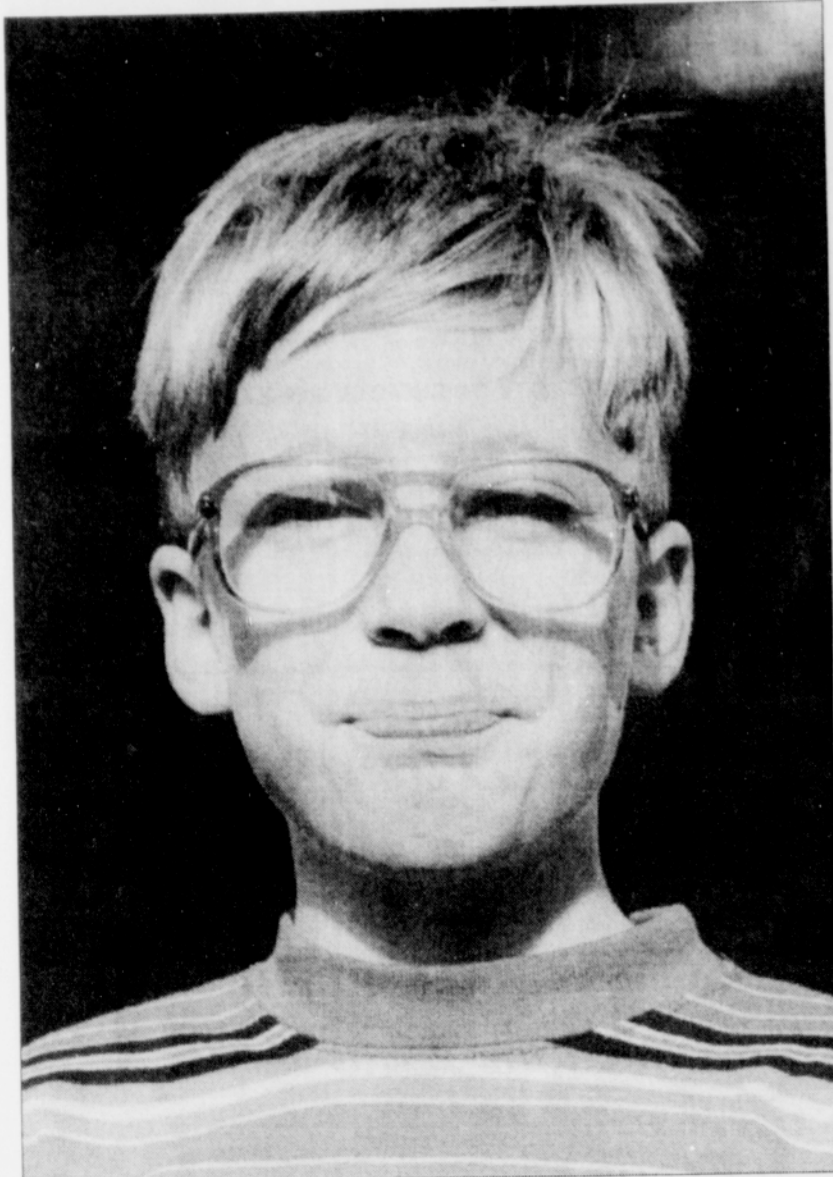


RELIGION

Hundreds Of Children Wait To Be Adopted



Norman

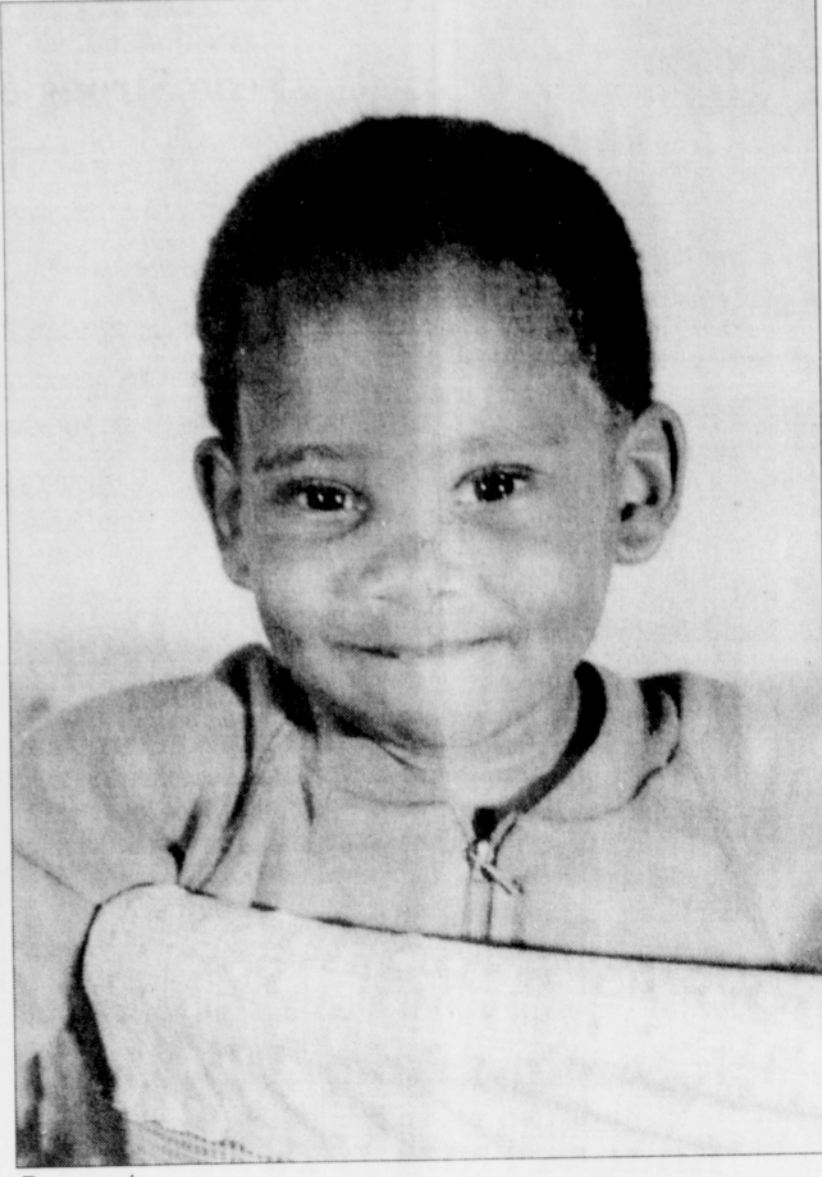
During November, families, parent groups, agencies and other child advocates across the U.S. and Canada celebrate National Adoption Awareness Month and work to educate the public about children who wait.

In Oregon, approximately 3,500 children live in some type of foster care setting. Many have lived most of their lives in this "temporary" situation, and have moved within the child welfare system more times than they care to remember. Two hundred are

currently awaiting for adoption.

These waiting children come from a variety of backgrounds. Some have physical or mental disabilities; some are part of a sibling group; many are older. Advocates from organizations such as the Special Needs Adoption Coalition are working hard to prove that "there is no such thing as an unadoptable child."

"These statistics represent very real children who desperately need families of their own," says Coali-



Raymond

tion adoption trainer Nancy Simpson. "Because the public is so often unaware of these kids and their needs, we would like to draw special attention to the plight of waiting children during Adoption Awareness Month in the hopes that we can unite many of these boys and girls with permanent, adoptive parents."

Those who might be interested in adopting should know that, according to Simpson, adoption has changed significantly over the last thirty years. "You

don't have to be married, childless, rich, or own a house to adopt," she says. "You do have to provide a stable, loving home, and be able to help your adoptive child work through issues raised by his/her past."

The Coalition provides specific information about waiting children and the adoption process in Oregon. To learn more, call the Special Needs Adoption Coalition at 222-9661. Outside Portland call toll-free 1-800-342-6688.

National Adoption Awareness Month

November is "National Adoption Awareness Month" and One Church One Child of Oregon (OCOC) will present weekly adoption information sessions throughout the Portland Metropolitan Area for minority families of African-American, Asian, Hispanic and Native American descent who want to adopt minority children who are waiting in the Children Services Division (CSD) system.

OCOC works with CSD in a cooperative effort to facilitate minority adoptions. In essence, OCOC provides the families and CSD provides the children. This partnership provides minority families with access to the adoption process and with adoption specialists who are designated to work with minority families who inquire through OCOC.

OCOC is one of several community service programs under the umbrella of Albina Ministerial Alliance (AMA). OCOC is a minority recruitment program which seeks to place minority children in minority adoptive homes. The national program began in 1980 and came to Oregon in 1988 with the full endorsement of then, Governor Neil Goldschmidt.

The Friends of OCOC - a group of 40 members of the churches who make up AMA. These friends do most of the recruiting through their respective churches.

"Adoption Awareness Month" was kicked off November 6, 1994 at Faith Temple Church located at 4224 S.E. 62nd Ave. (between Powell & Foster) Portland, Oregon (503) 774-5470 by Pastor Dr. Ida M. Simpson. Beginning with Sunday School 9:30 a.m. and Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m. During the morning worship, a presentation and a call to action was made and fourteen families volunteered to hear the adoption orientation.

After lunch was served ten African-American families stayed for the adoption information session. Nathaniel Hartley, Executive Director of OCOC gave the history of the program and talked about the need for adoptive families. Harvey Rice, Family Services Coordinator of OCOC presented the adoption orientation including a brief overview of the Children Services Division, description of children available for adoption, roles, responsibilities and rewards for adoptive families, and discussion of the adoption process. Rev. Joshua Phillips, President Board of Directors, for OCOC gave a summary and the next step saying that if we don't adopt the Black "Children who wait" white families will and some of the children will lose their heritage.

To learn more about adoption program, contact the OCOC office 5806 N. Albina, Portland at 285-7634.

Dorothy Flegal Donates Chinese Jacket



Alfred and Rosemary Daniels of Portland attended the 20th Century Jacket donation by Dorothy Flegal, November 11, at Willamette University Art's Department.

Dorothy Flegal was the Vice Principal at Jefferson High School when the Daniels attended high school.

The Daniels remember the love that Flegal had for them. Rosemary worked three years as student secretary to Flegal. She remembers the firm but caring words of advice "you can do anything - all things are possible".

Rosemary has been principle of the Portland Public schools for 15 years and Alfred is a retired Engineer from Bonville Power Administration.

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



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