

RELIGION

Alternatives: Wisdom

BY M. ISAACS

Observances of our "Leaders" today, brings to mind a few of my Father's comments on wisdom. These gems were usually dropped while the family conversed at the dinner table. My Father, a farmer, was and is the wisest man in my life. I probably do not mean "wisdom" as most humans perceive wisdom; but I do mean wise in the "OLD TESTAMENT WISDOM"; wise in the much needed wisdom for life today. The wisdom of being patient, merciful, truthful, honest, faithful, charitable, and example and etc., was taught to his children, nieces, nephews and others on a daily basis, wherever the occasion arose. His constant references to the Biblical Text, the basis of all his beliefs, remain with me today and I find myself passing on these gems of wisdom as circumstances and occasions arise.

Insight and good judgement today are measured in the light of human values and goals; not so as we were reared and taught. Wisdom (as Father taught) is the fruit of a tradition originally rooted in family or tribe or community, usually old as society itself. "RIGHT WAS THE WAY OF WISDOM, WRONG THE WAY OF FOLLY" "Such a thing is not done in Israel", "Do not commit this folly", (2 Sam 13:12) protestations of a girl threatened with rape. When Father said something it just was not done in his family---he voiced the wisdom of that family as handed down from generation to generation. Most of our Leaders, Parents, Preachers, Teachers and etc., do not have a foundation of wisdom, therefore, good judgement and insight are not to be expected of them, nor can they teach, lead, preach, rear in something of which they have no grasp. They are neither hot nor cold, but change as a leaf in the wind from place to place, from belief to non-belief, as dictated by society, peers, or desire for personal gain. Our concept of wise men/women is based on their worldly knowledge, or special skills; the man who can teach others because he seems to have superior understanding about how life should be lived and what it means. In America we have lost the tradition of wisdom. So profound is our loss that we do not recognize the wisdom of our American Constitution, therefore, we change it or mis-interpret it to fit our revolving standards.

In the bible the Wise Man or

Elder is named along with the Priest and the Prophet as one of three sources of authoritative guidance possessed by the community. (Jeremiah 18:18 and Ezekiel 7:26). "The Priest's instruction must not cease, nor the Wise Man's counsel, nor the Prophet's message". Our spokesmen today spout their pro-beliefs on euthanasia; their eternal love offering to youth; their concern with men as individuals; concern with man in his individuality and social relationships and his private thoughts and private life styles. Their counsel is all about how to act in the workaday world; the 'good' life, the American dream. They have no moral experience, only trained intelligence. Their method is counsel and instruction, persuasion and debate. Never do they proclaim the fundamental beliefs on which this country is founded, nor instruct in the consequent obligations of the people of God.

We discard Senior Citizens as useless, annoying tares; forgetting that experience is a sure teacher of the "right way". We discard capable God-fearing men/women, honest and incorruptible men/women and cling to the 'elite' class of educated men, usually associated with wealth. It seems the goal of this country is to quickly forget that "Reverence of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction". In the beginning, America's wisdom was rooted in religion and knowledge and wisdom were synonymous. Our trust was in the Lord to show us what was right and true.

The fool is headstrong, passionate, malicious, quarrelsome, with debased morals. The wise man, on the other hand, is diligent, prudent, trustworthy, patient, generous, modest, peaceable and self-controlled. He is fully aware of the limitations to human autonomy under God's guidance and overruling providence. Take a good look, using these guidelines, at those who ran for election in the political arena; those in charge of our pulpits and God's flock; those teaching our children; those exalted Counselors and emotional specialists; those in charge of all phases of our government. Do they measure up when the plumbline of God is set against them? Are they wise people or fools? We are judged by other people and countries by what and who we allow to lead in the im-

portant areas of our lives. Are we so easily led into distrust of the Power of God to protect his people?

Wisdom dictates "Better is bread when the heart is happy, than riches with sorrow". Election has passed, and if we were wise, we voted for those who stand upright under the guidelines of wisdom. If we do not change the godless master we can only strain at the bit, as the whip cuts deep avenues into our backs, too late remembering, "One thing are the words which men say, another is that which "the god" does."

The Sincere Prayer Of God's People, With All Diligence, Must Be, That We Did Not Send Fools Out On Large Matter.

To The Community:

Our beloved Sister Mattie Ann Callier-Spears has been every ill and she needs our payers and our blessing to get through this.

Your prayers are needed, she needs to know the community she's given so much too through her church and community activities, and many charities will be there for her. On the onset of this Holiday Season say a prayer, tell your friends and family to say a prayer, she will be oh so grateful.

**Thank you,
Portland Observer Staff.**

If you would like to send cards, gifts or money to Mattie Ann, they can be sent to the Portland Observer Newspaper c/o Mattie Ann Callier Spears, 4747 N. E. MLK Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97211.

Immaculate Heart Youth Group HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Unique hand crafted items
Baked Goods, Jams and Jellies
and much more! -- please come!

Vendor's Welcome
\$25.00 Per Table

Dates: • Saturday November 26, 1994

Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
• Saturday December 3, 1994
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
• Sunday December 11, 1994
2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Place: IMMACULATE HEART PARISH HALL
2926 N. Williams - Enter Hall on Stanton Street
For more information call 287-3724

You are cordially invited to attend the First Annual Community Unity Banquet

In honor of
Mr. Ron Herndon

Friday, November 18, 1994
5:00 p.m.

Red Lion Columbia River
1401 N. Hayden Island Drive

Keynote Speaker, Rev. Herbert Daughtry
National Presiding Minister
House of the Lord Church
Brooklyn, New York

For tickets or more information call 282-7973

"Musical Extravaganza"

You are cordially invited to attend a "Musical Extravaganza" sponsored by Beitel AME Church Senior Usher Board on December 10, 1994. The program begins at 5:00pm and will feature local choirs and soloists celebrating the holiday season in song. There will also be complimentary hors d'oeuvres and exhibits. Chicken, Gumbo and Chitterlings dinners are available at \$3.50 each. Bethel AME Church is located at 5828 NE 8th, corner of NE 8th and Jarrett in Portland, Oregon.

ADVERTISE IN
The Portland Observer
call (503) 288-0033

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, Re. 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



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
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Dr. James E. Martin, Senior Pastor
Church Office 116 NE Schuyler St. • (503) 284-1954

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 Women of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. Will Be Hosting A Social/Gathering On December 3, 1994 At 3:00 p.m.

ZΦB is an organization which encourages the highest standards of scholarship through scientific, literary, cultural and educational programs; promote services projects on college campuses and in the community; foster sisterhood; and exemplify the ideal of finer womanhood.

For Further Details Please Call 281-8565
(Leave Message If No Answer)

Hope to see you there.

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