

# RELIGION

## ALTERNATIVES A Black Single Mother's Reflections

BY M. ISAACS

It is my 64th birthday and I expected to hear from both my daughters today. I did hear from my second daughter, calling to wish me a happy birthday. This is the daughter who has always given more love than she received from any of our family members. Not that she was and is not loved, but having such an outgoing personality and such a great capacity to love, placed her in a position of being expected to show her love, whether or not we, her family, showed our love for and to her. I want her to know today that I love her and will always love her... and I do realize that many others in my family have received my attention simply because they always seem to need it the most, while I seem to neglect her emotionally, but never physically.

There are only two ways to climb in this world, up or down! The rungs of the ladder leading up are always in place and there is always help along this wayfaring journey, if we ask God for it; but when we start down the ladder we find rungs missing and it is easier to fall; and there are always those struggling to climb up that will do anything to push anyone

out of the way. A battle rages, in heavenly places, for victory for those who climb up. I would like for both my daughters to remember that we cannot help those who climb behind us; who tug at our heels, trying to forge a place on a ladder that is too narrow to hold more than one, in one place. We can only assist those who climb their personal ladders beside us. If they miss a rung, we can place their hand again on the ladder, but those who are behind reaching up for an assist can only hinder us and possibly pull us from the ladder, if we look back and lose our focus taking our eyes off our goals.

My own struggles to assist my daughters through phases and stages of their lives were overcome not with the help of friends, or acquaintances, or family, but by faith and prayer and a set goal, from which I never wavered; whether or not I was understood by those named above, or whether or not I traveled alone. I never took my eyes off my goal to rear Christ-like children, educated children, disciplined children who loved God and man despite any circumstances that they might face, brought about by friend and/or foe.

My second daughter has fulfilled

all my expectations. There is a spirit of love, trust, faith and desire to help others, a desire to serve God evident in her that shines forth through her smile, her beautiful voice and her acceptance of children of all creeds and colors. This child has taken on the whole armor of God and fights spiritual battles with her Godly attitudes, beliefs, concerns for others and the Word the Holy Spirit has given her. She is indeed blessed of and by God.

Both of my daughters are adults now and despite serious health problems, my first daughter is still alive and slowly climbing the upward ladder; teaching her children; bringing them up in the fear and admonition of the Lord. My second daughter, though frequently faced with satanic attacks, keeps her focus on God and faces evil, clothed in his armor. I have no better birthday than this one in which I have so very much to be thankful. My love for God and family will never cease and his great love for us and all mankind is always there, apparent and undeserved. I thank Almighty God for my children and grandchildren, for this life and the life to come, with him, in the hereafter.



Famous personalities such as Tony Bennett, left, Lauren Hutton, and Edward James Olmos, right, are speaking out for the King holiday.

## Celebrities Rally Support For King Holiday Volunteerism

(NU) - Celebrities are lining up behind the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday Commission in its efforts to turn the January 16 King holiday into a fully observed national "day on" — a day of people helping one another.

Tony Bennett, Yoko Ono, Lauren Hutton, and Edward James Olmos are among those who have lent their talents and time to the project. In a series of television public service announcements, the stars encourage viewers to observe the holiday by performing community service.

The commission recently renewed its efforts to mobilize Americans around the theme: "On the King Holiday, Help Somebody," based on Dr. King's saying, "Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve."

In a speech in September, Chairperson Coretta Scott King said, "It must be the purpose of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission and the supporters of the King holiday to respond to the crisis of conscience that threatens to

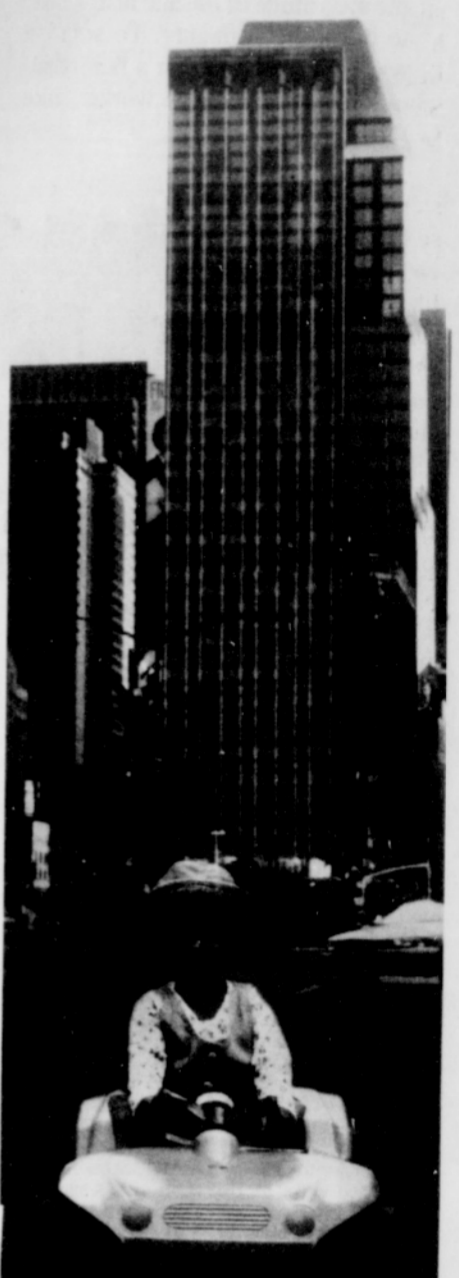
unravel the fabric of our society.

"It is time for us to decide what we will do for others: will we allow our progress to perish in a firestorm of bullets, bloodshed and hatred? Or will we come together to continue the quest that was born of the nobility and courage of the human spirit?"

Executive Director Lloyd Davis, says the commission is working to establish a lasting tradition for the newest federal holiday, one that goes beyond African Americans to embrace all Americans.

"Imagine if people use the holiday to restore our parks, tutor our children in nonviolence, rebuild our schools, improve the environment, house the homeless, help the elderly, assist those with AIDS and other diseases, or help the Special Olympics," said Davis. "And what a difference it will make if we do continue such acts all year."

"Service, interracial cooperation, nonviolence — This is what the King Holiday is all about," Mrs. King said.



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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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*Evelyn Lavern Waters*

Funeral services were scheduled Wednesday, Nov. 23, 1994 at Rivergate Community Church for Evelyn Lavern Waters, 42, Portland, who died Nov. 15.

She was born Nov. 23, 1951 in Jacksonville, Texas, and lived in Los Angeles for several years prior to moving to Portland 17 years ago.

## LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF MUHAMMAD STUDIED

The public is invited to a free seminar on the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet of Islam, Muhammad. The participants will learn about the extraordinary personality of the person who established a religion dedicated to one God, revolutionized the life of millions, raised the status of women and preached general social justice.

Today, fourteen centuries after his death, his influence is still powerful and persuasive.

Speakers will focus on the relevance of this teachings to the current social issues. Many of these issues were the subject of heating

debate during the recent elections. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions.

The event will take place at the Portland Rizwan Mosque on Saturday at noon.

The Ahmadiyya movement, a dynamic missionary sect in Islam, was founded by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, India in March 1889. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has built Mosques and missions throughout the world and is actively engaged in educational and welfare activities. The Ahmadiyya movement in Islam is now established in 145 countries of the world.



Your support could help bring about a healthier, more peaceful world for this and future generations.

**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.

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"Serving The Lord With Gladness" Psalm 100:2

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**St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church**

8101 N. Fiske Avenue • Portland Oregon 97203  
Church Phone: 289-0147 • Study Phone: 289-1911

Sunday Service 10:45  
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Bible Study 6:00  
Evening Service 7:00pm

Pastor, Re. James C.E. Faulkner

**Lighthouse Church of God In Christ**

8138 N. Hudson, Portland, OR 97203  
(503) 283-3558 \*Church (503) 283-0169 \*Home  
Elder Tom Moore, Pastor

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YPWW 6:30 P.M.  
Sunday Evening Worship 7:30 P.M.  
Tuesday Prayer/Bible Band 7:30 P.M.  
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"Come Unto Me All Ye That Labor And Are Heavy Laden, And I will Give You Rest. Take My Yoke Upon You And Learn Of Me." Matt. 11:28-29

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