

# RELIGION

## Seven Ways To Help Heal The Patient's Soul

Several years ago my own surgery taught me a few things about how to visit a friend in the hospital.

These visits can be made for a lot of reasons: duty, friendship, repayment of a favor.

But a call that truly helps aims for the healing of the patient's soul. Here are some suggestions you may want to try the next time you want to comfort a friend.

1. Try to determine the patient's need. Major-surgery patients encounter at least three basic emotional periods. During these periods you can expect to find certain basic moods.

Fear is the predominate mood of the night before and the early hours of the surgery day. The appropriate

response is assurance-facing the reality of the situation but approaching it with confidence.

Aloneness is common during the first few days after surgery, when life signs are low and the patient is likely under sedation or taking pain-killing drugs. Many times the best you can do is simply to be there. At this point, the patient may be ready for some sensitive cheer.

2. Call on the patient the day before or in the early hours before surgery. Like a joke or a kiss, timing is everything here. Six visits the following week will not recover the lost opportunity of those hours before the unknown.

As a professor, I was grateful for

those students who recognized this during my last class before I headed to the hospital. They insisted that we pause and pray just prior to my walking out the front door, alone.

3. Be there for the patient's family in the waiting room during surgery. That is the significant time for loved ones-when questions and fears arise. My wife was grateful for two friends who had experienced the terror of their own surgery. They remembered and came and stayed.

It was also a comfort to me to know that friends would be there for her.

4. Your presence is more important than your words. This is especially true during the mood of

aloneness. On Saturday night a friend came to see me. I was three days without a shave. A tube was stuck down my nose, and I was only half conscious from drugs. It was more than he could handle.

He paced the floor and said, "Oh, I've made a mistake. I had no idea. I had no idea." I think he thought I was about gone.

So after three minutes he mumbled something and left.

In one sense, he did about everything wrong. But as he walked out the door, I smiled. Why? Because he came, and I knew it. He broke my isolation; he was there.

5. Don't hesitate to take the patient's hand firmly. That touch com-

municates empathy, strength, companionship. Every patient needs those three things. And often a touch will give them.

6. The seriousness of surgery has little relationship to the seriousness with which a patient views the surgery.

Your assignment is the patient's mood, not the doctor's report. Don't take the patient lightly, but don't be morbid. You must accept his mood and respond with gentle encouragement.

7. When you want to read Scripture, concentrate on select portions of the Psalms. No other portion of the Bible strikes the note of the openness of the soul-that directness with God-

quite like the Psalms.

My friend, Ray Buker Sr. is my model here.

He came to see me, and before he left he had that little pocket Testament with the Psalms out and was reading: "God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble."

So we will not be afraid, even if the earth is shaken and the mountains fall into the ocean depths; even if the seas roar and rage and the hills are shaken by the violence the Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge!"

You will never improve upon that, the Word of God for the cure of souls.

## Gambling Costs You More Than Money

Targeting Families, The "Games" Glitter But Weaken Communities

When gambling broke out of the glitter ghettos of Las Vegas and Atlantic City in the late 1970s, it began a long and successful march into nearly every state, racking up surprising victories and overrunning its opponents.

The proliferation and acceptance of gambling has been explosive. The amount Americans wager each year has grown from \$17.3 billion in 1976 to \$329.9 billion in 1992, according to the National Council on Problem Gambling.

Organized gambling has crossed over into "family-oriented" entertainment. Las Vegas has been in the forefront, hoping to gain new customers as it loses its dominance in gambling. At the MGM Grand, billed as the world's largest "hotel, casino, and theme park," parents and children can visit 33 acres of rides, shows,

theme streets, restaurants, shops, and casinos.

The race to conquer new markets for gambling is shifting into high gear. Through much of 1994, as many as two casinos were opening each month in Mississippi.

Gaming Entertainment Television, a Pittsburgh-based cable television network, offers viewers a broad range of gambling activities. The network hopes to have nearly 3 million subscribers by the year 2000.

Many Christians are working together to rebuff the invasion of gambling into their communities—seen as part of the deterioration of the culture.

"That's the terrifying part of it for me," says Eugene Winkler, senior pastor of downtown Chicago's First United Methodist Church/Chicago Temple. "When you trace the

history of just the Methodist part of this, we have stood against all of these immoral forms throughout our history. But over and over, we have eventually yielded. I think this is kind of the last moral crusade for us."

The current struggle between gambling entrepreneurs and religious leaders parallels a similar struggle over gambling and lotteries in the nineteenth century.

Marvin Olasky, professor of journalism at the University of Texas and a senior fellow at the Capital Research Center in Washington, D.C., notes that the Boston Recorder did more than just run sermons against gambling in the nineteenth century: "It covered particular people who had gambled and lost everything. They gave a face to the issue." Politicians of early America also tried to dissuade gamblers.

"Now, probably the opposite is the case," Olasky says, "because we have our government leaders promoting state lotteries, and you have journalists very often winking at it."

Though churches may have fairly broad agreement that gambling is harmful to individuals and to society, few place it at the top of their church's crowded agendas. Nonetheless, Olasky suggests that people from different denominations who represent different theologies can work together against gambling without compromising doctrinal stands.

Winkler agrees. "The church cannot keep yielding moral ground and expect to be any force for good in society."

In the long run, he believes the pendulum will swing back toward outlawing gambling when its negative effects become too large to ignore.

## Food Collected For Needy

"From Our House To Your House," a neighborhood campaign to solicit donations of non-perishable food and household items will kick-off at noon on Saturday.

The drive is sponsored by the Portland House Of Umoja. Volunteers will gather at noon Interstate Fred Meyer, North Interstate and Lom-

bard. Donation sites will include the Portland House Of Umoja, 1626 N.E. Alberta; and E & M Community Market, 909 N. Killingsworth

Youth from The Portland House Of Umoja and The Boy Scouts will be canvassing the north-northeast community to solicit donations of household items.

## Vacation Bible School Opens

It's time for Bethel A.M.E. Church's Vacation Bible School! Come and share the Good News that Jesus is the Power to Live, Grow and Overcome! Vacation Bible School will

be held Monday through Sept. 1. from 6:00 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Bethel A.M.E. Church, 5828 N.E. 8th Ave.. Transportation is available. For information call 288-5429.

## Youth Outreach At Irvington Park

African American Clergies and the Youth Gangs Outreach Program will supervise games at Irvington Park, from 10 a.m. to

3:30 p.m., on Saturday. There will be free food, trophies and ribbons for game participants.

## Thank you

The Family Of Henri Johns Wish To Express Our Sincere Appreciation To The Many Friends Who Supported Us During Our Bereavement.

**Growing Church**  
With Growing Choir  
Seeks Ambitious Christian  
Organist/Musician  
Call 284-5171 or 254-5863  
Leave Message

**"World of Adventure"**  
a Multi-Cultural, Music and arts Day Camp  
at First Presbyterian Church  
12th & Alder SW  
July 10 - August 18; 9 - 4pm w/ext. hrs  
\$80 - 90/week  
call 228-7331



**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  
(503) 240-PRAY



**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

**GREATER ST. STEPHENS**  
Piano/Organist  
Needed for area church  
Please call  
287-3608 / 281-6575  
Carrie or Helen

**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

**WELCOME TO THE NEWLY REMODELED!**  
**ALBINA CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER**  
LOCATED AT  
5522 N. ALBINA AVENUE  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97217  
PH. 283-1635  
BISHOP SAMUEL M. IRVING, PASTOR  
**SERVICES**  
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES  
9:45 A.M.  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION!  
11:00 A.M.  
SUNDAY EVENING HOUR OF POWER!  
6:00 P.M.  
WEDNESDAY EVENING:  
WORSHIP & PRAISE!  
FAMILY TRAINING HOUR  
7:00 P.M.  
Everybody is saying:  
"IT'S LIVE!"

**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