

# RELIGION

## ALTERNATIVES

### The Church, A Body Of Believers

BY M. ISAACS

The very first Truth the followers of Christ must believe is that, "Christ is the Head of the Church". Unto no other has this title and this authority been given. Not unto any Preacher has the seat of authority over the Church been given; not to Deacons or Elders or Bishops or Priests or "Mighty Men"; nor to any other who would set himself up as "head of the Church". Those who are called are called to a specific job and are members of the body of Christ, which is the Church. It is an affront to God himself, to have His people called by the name of any man, who stained with sin; prone to the lusts of the flesh; doomed to die, rot and decay; in whom there is no power to save, to renew or to sanctify.

Believers must know and proclaim that only Christ is the Head of the Church and that it is He, Jesus,

the Christ, who will come again to this earth to claim the Church as his bride. The gifts of the Holy Spirit do not entitle us to claim Lordship over God's Church; but gives us expertise only in the areas of our spiritual gifts, and the ability to develop our talents. Not many people know why the Ministry of the Gospel exists. They really don't know why they gather together to perform their rituals of worship. Some say---"We're here to be fed". Some say---"We're here to be informed". Some say---"We've come together to hear 'good preaching'". We must hasten to remember that we believers are the Body Of Christ. We are a family, and as such, we show our love of Christ in many, many more ways than just by going to a religious edifice on Friday, or Saturday or Sunday, where we sing praise songs, do devotions, give offerings, pray, open the doors of the Church

and go home; never to be involved until the next 'come together day'.

It seems that these many bodies of believers, called by men, Churches, have forgotten how to Stick together, regardless of where they worship or under which, man given name, the group happens to be assembled. These segregated cell groups have forgotten how to allow room for its members to express true feelings--- joy, grief, anger, elation, doubt, disappointment, pleasures, pain, loss, disagreement and anticipation; although these emotions were dealt with on a daily basis by Jesus Christ, when he walked this earth. These are things within a family that makes it a family. God's family must be a place where members are encouraged to grow; to learn; to exercise; to find rest, refreshment and stability for facing life's realities. God's family must realize, again, that we are fel-

low strugglers, who meet together and relate openly, honestly and freely; never bound or gagged by what one fleshly man thinks, or dictates or preaches. We (all of us) are to exhort each other; study the Word of God; seek spiritual revelation from the Holy spirit; be accountable to God and responsible for each other in Christ. This we must do, whether we be, named by men as, Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, and so on---if we would be members of the Body of Christ.

The Church (in the hearts of the people) is a training base; a place where compassion and forgiveness and grace are dispensed readily and regularly. A place that follows God's Words and becomes involved in righteous instruction; A place where truth is linked with love; a place where God's Word is never added to nor detracted from; nor used as a 'foot' to

trod down others, whether they be saint or sinner. Nor is the Word of God used to elevate any man above another, whether he be called to preach or to wash the feet of other travelers of The Way.

The Church to day must remember that people respond much better to personal models than to verbal demands. People are motivated much more by the Joshua method of leadership ("as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord") than by listening to what a man has done or to where he has been, or to what he has said regarding himself, in the name of the Lord. A man that sees himself as great and brags about his accomplishments in his service to God, has his reward already; that reward being the awe of men, and the elevation of himself above God's people.

The Church (in the hearts of believers) must remember that its

obedience is owed to God and not to man. God Has Done All There Is To Do For Mankind!

The factor that will make or brake us all is our freedom to choose. Will you continue to follow other gods; human gods, alien spirits, fads, cult forms of worship, hatreds, denominations, ritual performances, etc.? Or will you serve the one and only God, Jehovah, and the Son of God, Jesus Christ? "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen for yourselves the Lord, to serve him". Josh 24:22.

Shun anyone who sets himself up as Head Of The Church, Head Of Your Heart.

Chose to fear the Lord; Chose to serve the Lord; Chose to obey His voice; for choice has a direct bearing on behavior. The church (the heart) cannot be rightly related to others until it is rightly related to God.

## Religious Diversity Celebrated

The public is invited to an interfaith meeting to honor family values and religious diversity on Sunday at the Portland Rizwan Mosque in southwest Portland.

Speakers will be Rabbi Joshua Stampfer, a well known Jewish leader, Mr. David Strait, teacher of religion at Oregon Episcopal School and Mr. Rashed Latif, a Muslim scholar from Los Angeles.

Teachings of their respective faiths regarding the family will be the

topic of conversation. They will also explain that adherence to these teachings is not only important for the family, but also crucial to the preservation and the prosperity of the society.

The Ahmadiyya Movement, a dynamic missionary sect of Islam, was founded by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, India in March 1989. The Ahmadiyya Muslim community has built mosques and missions

throughout the world and is actively engaged in educational and welfare activities.

The Religions Founders Day is

an annual event celebrated by the movement in order to develop understanding, enhance tolerance and promote mutual coexistence.

## Portland First Church of the Nazarene

presents:

Max McLean

IN A "ONE-MAN SHOW"  
OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Sunday, November 19  
6:00 PM

First Church of the Nazarene  
6100 SW Raab Rd.  
Portland  
Hwy. 26 at the Sulvan Exit,

297-6100

## "Musical Extravaganza"

You are cordially invited to attend a "Musical Extravaganza" sponsored by Bethel AME Church Senior Usher Board on December 2-3, 1995. The program begins at 12:00pm Saturday, December 2, 1995 with selling dinners and local businesses will be exhibiting their products, services and/or job opportunities. There will also be dinners sold at \$3.50 each. On December 3, 1995 beginning at 4:00pm we will feature local choirs and soloists celebrating the holiday season in song. Bethel AME Church is located at 5828 NE 8th, corner of NE 8th and Jarrett in Portland, Oregon.

## 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



## St. Andrew's Present Free Thanksgiving Dinner

St. Andrew's Church will offer its annual free Thanksgiving dinner at St. Andrew's Community Center, 4940 N.E. Eighth Avenue, from 12 noon to 3 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 23.

According to Matt Jenkins, St. Andre's Emergency Services, this is the eighth consecutive year that St. Andrew's parishioners and volunteers will present the free dinner.

"We're planning to offer

Thanksgiving Dinner to about 300 to 400 people."

Jenkins said donations of any traditional Thanksgiving food items, from cooked turkeys to pies, will be welcomed for the dinner. The contributions will be accepted Wednesday, Nov. 22 and Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23 at St. Andrew's Community Center.

For more information contact Jenkins at 281-1005.

## Ahmadiyya Movement In Islam

looks forward to the pleasure of your presence at its annual

## RELIGIONS' FOUNDERS DAY

Sunday, November 19, 1995

Please join us as Jewish, Christian, and Muslim speakers present the teachings of their respective faiths relevant to Family Values.

These teachings are not only important for the family but also crucial to the preservation and prosperity of the society.

Program: 12:00 noon  
Lunch: 1:30pm

R.S.V.P.  
Portland Rizwan Mosque  
9925 S.W. 35th Avenue, Portland  
645-4772, 245.9041  
Message : (503) 246-0813

## Obituary

John Ed Louis

Oct. 7, 1909 - Nov. 3, 1995

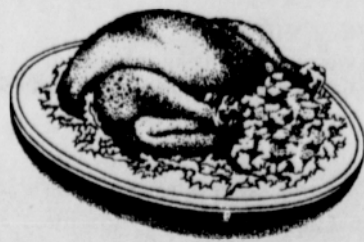
Cause of Death: Cancer

Services were held Nov. 9, 1995 at Killingsworth Little Chapel of the Chimes.

John Ed Louis came to Portland in 1944. He worked for Portland Traction Co. as an assistant Foreman for 42 years. He retired Jan. 01, 1975. He was a former member of Bethel A.M.E. Church.

John Louis married in January of 1945 to Mattie D. Louis.

Survivors: Mattie D. Louis, Wife of Portland, OR;  
Josephine Bellard, Daughter of Berkeley, Cal.  
James Wilson, Nephew of Portland, OR.  
Allen J. Massey, Nephew of Portland, OR.



Happy  
Thanksgiving  
From  
The  
Portland  
Observer

## Cox Funeral Home Inc.

(503) 281-4891



Jerome G. Tanner  
A. Funeral Director

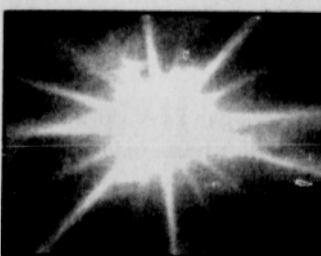
A.A. COX, SR.  
Mortician & Funeral Director

CHARLENE COX TANNER  
Manager

JEROME G. TANNER  
A. Funeral Director

*The Loss of a loved one is always a traumatic experience. But it can be made easier if you contact a facility that has your interest at heart.*

## Do you know who you really are?



Where is SIRIUS and what part does it play in the times to come?

Do you know what MELANIN is and why it's called the gift from the gods?  
you are invited to join  
Delbert Blair, D.D., Ph. D.



A HISTORIAN, MINISTER, POET, WRITER, AND METEOROLOGIST TO EXPLORE THESE SUBJECTS, AND HOW THE GOVERNMENT RELATES.

Dr. Blair represents over 40 years of study and research in the paranormal/metaphysical field, and will offer the benefits of his enlightenment in a lecture that will be given on December 8th, 1995 7pm to 10pm at:

Mallory Avenue Christian Church, 126 N.E. Alberta, Portland OR.

Advance tickets \$13.00 / \$15.00 at the door. For advance tickets and more information call: Rasheed Shareef 289-3490

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