

RELIGION

ALTERNATIVES

"Servant Or Serpent?"

BY MARGARET ISAACS

It is a time of year when we should take stock of our lives. Where we were; Where we are and where we are going; and also what the end will be. If we get bogged down in one of these areas...then, it is time to reverse our steps until we find the fork in the road; that fork where we made a wrong turn in our pilgrim's journey.

Christ (the anointed) was called to be a servant of Jehovah God; doing only that which God instructed him to do. Christ, the perfect servant spoken of in Isaiah 42 ch. is set forth as an example to floundering men.

In this world, since the birth of Christ, we are either servants or serpents. There are only two choices in this life, and our actions and attitudes determine the choice we make. In recent days gone by, I felt full of joy because I've come in contact with more servants than serpents; but the works of the serpents are more apparent because they are never expected; they are devious, secret, underhanded and destructive and the far-reaching effect is more quickly

felt. Man must choose to serve other men, if he would cancel the negative effects of the works of the serpents of this world.

In the years to come, God's people must realize that they are called as Christ was called; servants upheld by God; servants anointed by God and spirit filled...so that...we will not fail in our duty to our God, to our families, nor in our duty to serve the human creations that know not our God. By our service will men know that we are a people set apart; not foolish or proud, but confirmed in our belief that if we cannot serve the people who are in need; the people who appear physically like unto us, then, we cannot serve God, whom we have not seen. If we are not servants of God, then, we are serpents, slithering about in darkness, in the realms of satan, nipping at the heels of God's peculiar people. Isaiah 42: 1-9.

When the serpents strike, the servants of God must not become discouraged; but remember that the "Perfect Servant" is our protector; he who opens blind eyes and sets prisoners free; he who gives gifts; He

who empowers his servants and fully equips for the service he has called us to perform.

We are not to publicize our good works; making loud noises and demanding thanks, to be seen in public places for the praise of men. Matt 6:2. We must not imitate the serpents, lest we become as they are; thus losing the blessings of God. We must learn and practice the art of meeting the temporal and spiritual needs of the elderly.

We must meet the needs of the abuse, of the poor, of the lost and afraid, of the young and brokenhearted and fearful members of our society. Those who are at the mercy of the serpents of our land have none to assist them but the servants of God. They are like bruised and crushed reeds; a wick without oil; who are caught in the maelstrom of this life. Isa. 42:3, Matt. 9:20, John 5:7.

We, as servants of Christ, are assured of a successful mission of service. We are called in righteousness and God himself will hold our hands; he will direct our paths and light our way. He will declare all new things;

Before they spring forth, he will tell us of them. We are the servants of Christ; and Christ is the perfect servant of Jehovah God; thus, all things given unto the Son are also given unto us through him, who now sits at the right hand of God, the father.

We enjoy a covenant with God and are "called" or selected to do a great work here in this world. A work assured of success because God's omnipotent power has made us, and will continue to make us victorious over the serpents, the adversaries...even death itself. I Cor. 15:54-57.

Past prophecies have been fulfilled; testifying to the grace, wisdom, power and kingship of Jesus Christ. He is eternal, seeing the beginning and the end. We are the chosen tools of universal outreach through the Servants Commission (Isa. 42:7); Acts 26:18; Col 1:13.

In this new year will you touch and change men as a servant or as a serpent? The prayers of the Saints be with all servants for a blessed new year!

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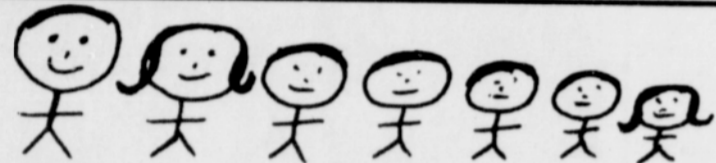
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Allen Temple Revival

A revival sponsored by the Youth and Young Adults of Allen Temple CME Church will be held on Monday, January 29th through Friday, February 2nd. The guest speaker will be Rev. Sylvester Williams, Pastor of the Southside CME Church of Birmingham, Alabama. Services will be held nightly at the Allen temple Church located at 4236 N. E. 8th Ave, Portland.

For more information contact the church office at 503-287-0261.



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Christian Family Health Centers "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

(Mathew 1:23)

Without your continued prayers and financial support, none of this would be possible. We invite you to

attend our Tchula '96 African-American Medical Missions Conference, June 27-30, 1996, in Yazoo City, Mississippi. We also invite you to attend the Juneteenth '96 Conference, January 24-28, 1996, in New Orleans, LA. I will be performing a Music for Medicine, Delta AID Benefit Jazz Concert and coordinating an HIV/AIDS education workshop

with the AIDS Advocacy in African-American Churches outreach at the conference.

In Christ, your African-American Medical Missionary Family, "The Myers" (Ron, Sylvia, Eric, Vinnie, Michael, Joshua and Neoma)

"And let us not be weary in well doing."

Galatians 6:9

Ministry Certificate Classes Scheduled

The Archdiocesan Office of Ministry Formation has announced the 1996 Spring Semester schedule of classes for the Ministry Certificate Program. Classes are scheduled to be held in Portland and Medford. Portland classes will be held on Saturdays and Tuesdays at the Pastoral Center, and classes in Medford will be held at Sacred Heart Grade School

on Saturdays.

The Medford sessions begin on Saturday, February 17 with "Christology" being offered from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The "Sacraments of Initiation" will be offered from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Father Michael Maslowsky, STD Archdiocesan Director of the Pastoral Services Department, will be the instructor for both of these courses. The "Christology" being offered from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the "Sacraments of Initiation" will be the instructor for both of these courses. The "Christology" course will look at the articulation of the Catholic faith in Jesus Christ, true God and true man. An examination of the history and theology of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist will be the focus of the second course.

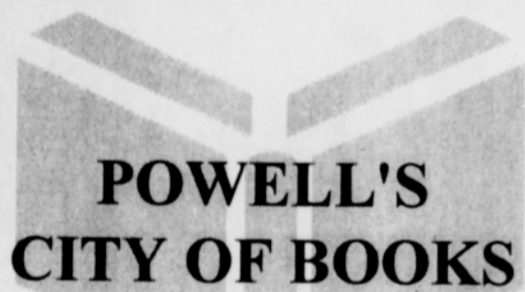
There will be three options offered in Portland with sessions offered Saturday mornings, Saturday afternoons and Tuesday mornings. The first track will offer "Liturgy and Sacraments," a review of the liturgical and sacramental dimensions of the Church. It will be presented by Tom Carawan. This course will begin on Saturday, February 24 and

continue on March 2, 9, 16 from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. The second half of the semester will be the "Christology" course taught by Father Michael Maslowsky, beginning Saturday April 13 and continuing April 20, May 4 May 11 from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

The Saturday afternoon courses will be "Catechetical Content and Methodology" taught by Brother Robert Rodrigues, OFM. Brother Robert is the Archdiocesan Director of Religious Education. His course will look at the various approaches to Catholic Religious Education curriculum and literature with a critical evaluation of religious education models and materials. The course will run from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. Saturdays February 24, March 2, 9, and 16. John Brehaney, and instructor of moral theology at Mt. Angel Seminary, will present a course "Teaching Christian Morality." His course will present the foundational principles of Catholic moral teaching. It will run Saturdays April 13, 20, 27, and May 4 from 12:30 until 4:00 p.m.

The third track in Portland will include Don Ciffone, Archdiocesan Director of Youth Ministry.

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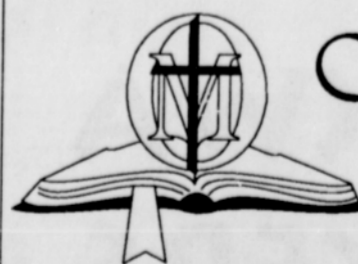
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