

# RELIGION

## ALTERNATIVES

### *Excellence And Humility, Where Are They?*

BY M. ISAACS

Visiting edifices erected to house those who profess a belief in God, sometimes leaves a sour taste in one's mouth. When you hear warring voices in the choir; singers attempting to out-sing each other; inappropriate music being sung in order to showcase certain choir members; directors who cannot direct, but are allowed to wave arms in front of choir groups, because no one as courage enough to state an obvious fact; that this person's gift is in another area. It is also obvious to people in the congregation that some choir members are not committed to practice or even to attending Church gatherings, unless they are out front, showcased and applauded. Choirs are mentioned first because they usually are the first voices you hear after Devotional period is over.

Speaking of Devotion; it is hard to maintain a reverent non-critical demeanor, when the Scriptures are not read properly and with meaning; when it sounds as if the person reading the Scripture has never heard or seen the words at any time throughout their lives. When Praise Songs are sung as if they are a chore to sing; when songs led by a member of the congregation are frowned upon and when spontaneity is a definite no, no.

Taking a hard look at some of the things one can hear, beginning with Sunday School or Church School, through general Services, leaves one wondering if man knows God at all. One hears the introduction to the Sunday School lesson being read word for word, rather than hearing an enlightened discussion of the Scriptures as inspired by the Holy spirit. One can also find the Scriptures by-

passed in preference for contemporary discussions on today's social problems; or one finds Church School turned into prayer meetings or confessionals or gripe sessions. Sunday School Teacher's Meetings are turned into planning sessions for social gatherings and the faults of other members are aired openly and with malice.

One hears the bragging on accomplishments; such as where they've been and where they say God has sent them and how well their name is known in far places, and tacked on the end of the "brag" is the phrase "God has blessed us". Listening to all this self praise, one knows why there is no evidence of the blessings of God.

One waits and waits for evidence of spontaneous devotion. Waits breathlessly for an old hymn to be

sung; but finally realizes that viable Worship is stifled by the rigid application of a form of Worship created by a man or men, for the express purpose of exalting a certain man or men. There is visible evidence that the gifts of believers are refused expression, that is unless they form a platform for the exaltation of the self proclaimed leaders.

It is an abomination to God, when a "pecking order" is established in the Church Membership, in the name of one man's idea of order, under the guise of "being on one accord". The Bible says in Matt. 23. 12, "And whosoever exalts himself shall be abased; and he that humbles himself shall be exalted". Proud self-important behavior has no place in God's House, whether it be evident in the Pulpit or in the Pews. One feels offended by these forms of Worship and definite-

ly feels compelled to look further for a more spiritual congregation.

To say that these types of gatherings, that profess to Worship in God's Name, do not exist is to cover one's eyes and ears and bury one's head in the sand. To say that there is no hope for such gatherings is to deny the power of God. For we know that the Law of God is spiritual; but we are carnal, sold under sin. It is necessary for men to know the Law before he is converted; to know God's Will and approve the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the Law.

The cure for non-excellence in Worship is in thus saith the Lord: "Incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice to understanding; If thou seekest her as sil-

ver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. "Prov. 2:2-5, Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy". Luke 12:1, "Where is boasting then? It is Excluded. By what Law? of Works? Nay, but by the Law of faith". Rom. 3:37, "For by Grace are we saved through faith; and that not of ourselves; it is a gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast. "Eph 2:8, The Church is divinely established, and is built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus himself being the chief cornerstone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an Holy Temple in the Lord; In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit". Eph 2:20:22.

### *Changes To St. Mary's Cathedral Enhance Its Liturgy And Beauty*

The restoration of St. Mary's Cathedral in Portland involved structurally strengthening several parts of the Building and bell tower, and at the same time making change to enhance Catholic worship and the beauty of the building. Heating, air conditioning and mechanical systems were replaced, new lighting installed and electrical systems upgraded and a new sound system installed. The choir loft was rebuilt and balconies, deemed no longer safe, were removed from the transept areas. The removal of the balconies will allow, for the first time, a complete view of the historical stained glass windows in the transepts.

The architect for the renovation project was Thomas Hacker and Associates. Jocelyn Helgerson served as project manager. The architect for the renovation project as Thomas Hacker and Associates. Jocelyn Helgerson served as project manager. The general contractor was A.C.

Schommer & Sons, with Ralph Miller serving as job superintendent.

The Cathedra is the chair of the bishop of the diocese, placed in the principal church of the diocese, signifying his authority and responsibility. The term cathedral derives its name from this. The Cathedra in St. Mary's was originally used by Archbishop William H. Gross, CSSR, in the previous Cathedral at Third and Stark streets, built in 1885. It has been in use by Archbishops ever since that time. After being stolen in 1992, and recovered three months later, the Cathedra was reupholstered and refurbished. The Cathedra is placed in the center of the apse.

The historical stained glass windows in the transepts were from the earlier Cathedral built in 1885, and removed when that building was demolished after the great flood in 1894. Having served in the current St. Mary's for nearly seventy years, the stained glass windows, which may

date back to an even older building from the 1870's, were sent to North Adams, MA, for restoration. Six artisans from Cummings Studios worked to carefully clean the grime and soot from each window section as well as replacing most of the leading used to hold the windows together. The windows were dirty after years of exposure to dust, smoke from candles and incense and even condensation from people breathing. These historical windows have returned to the transepts.

The renovation plans call for eight new stained glass windows in the nave. English artist and design maker Deborah Coombs is working on the design of the new windows. The new windows will depict some of the saints and blessed of North and South America. While the new windows will not be installed by February 14, it is hoped that the designs for the windows will be completed by then. The new windows will be construct-

ed by Commings Studios. The restored Cathedral will include two Reconciliation rooms, replacing the old confessionals. They are placed in the south corner of each transept. Where one of the old confessionals was placed, there will be a new shrine in honor of Mary as Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The new art work is being developed by Brother Claude Lane, OSB, of Mount Angel Abbey. It will replace an historical icon, which was stolen from the Cathedral and destroyed in 1992. Another old confessional will be replaced by an ambry to hold the Holy Oils blessed each year in the Cathedral. The children of Cathedral School are donating the ambry. The school parents are donating one of the new stained glass windows, which will be placed over the ambry area.

A new baptistery was built at the entrance to the nave, and serves as reminder of one's sacramental entrance into the Church family. The

baptistery is of octagon shape with the gates being from the old altar railing. The baptistery includes a marble font and an immersion pool with ancient symbols of Baptism inside. The new altar was moved to the crossing of the transept and the nave. It was placed on a raised platform to enable better visibility and participation in the Mass. The marble used in the altar, baptistery, ambo and Eucharistic chapel is the marble from the Cathedral's old communion rail. The baptistery and altar are connected by the main aisle walkway composed of new Carrara Italian marble. The 1926 linoleum under the pews was replaced by hardwood floor. New lighting has been specially designed throughout the building.

The Cathedral, which has been closed for over a year, will be open for a public tour on Tuesday, February 13, at 2:30 p.m. A Vespers prayer

service will be held Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m., February 13. Bishop Kenneth Steiner, Auxiliary Bishop and Archdiocesan Administrator, will lead the prayer service. A second public tour will be conducted after the Vespers service.

The Mass for the Dedication of a Church will be held on Wednesday, February 14, beginning at 4:00 p.m. Archbishop William J. Levada, Archbishop of San Francisco and former Archbishop of Portland, will be the principal celebrant. Cardinal Roger Mahony, Archbishop of Los Angeles, will be the homilist. They will be joined by Bishop Kenneth Steiner, Archbishop Cornelius M. Power, retired Archbishop of Portland, bishops and abbots from the Pacific Northwest, Father Joseph Jacobberger, Pastor of St. Mary's Cathedral Parish, and by the priests of the Archdiocese of Portland.

### *Crouch To Headline Jubilee*

Four-time Grammy Award winner Andrea Crouch has been confirmed as one of the major performers in the Daytona Beach area's newest event, Gospel Jubilee. The event, to be held April 12-14, 1996, is a cooperative effort between the Daytona Beach Area Convention and Visitor and the School Street Church of God in Christ.

Pastor Andrea Crouch, who currently leads one of the largest congregations in the Los Angeles, California area, will give one of his award-winning performances on Friday evening, April 12 beginning at 7 p.m. Events and entertainment during the three-day Gospel Jubilee weekend will be held in the Daytona Beach Oceanfront Bandshell, overlooking the "World's Most Famous Beach." The weekend will include an amateur competition for gospel groups and individuals, and will conclude at noon on Sunday, April 14 with a religious service and presentation.

### *Picking Up Post-Holiday Blues*

Now that the rush of the Holiday season is over, so is the rush for contributions of food for the homeless.

The Church of Scientology donated 75 pounds of pinto beans, cases of ramen, packages of cold cuts and several cans of fruits and vegetables to Salvation Army's Harbor Light Food Program.

"I think we tend to forget that people are going hungry all year long", says Rev. Scherer of the Church of Scientology of Portland, "And it's hard for these homeless to try to pick themselves up by the bootstraps when they're hungry."

\*\*\*

The greatest compensation of old age is its freedom of spirit. Another compensation is that it liberates you from envy, hatred, and malice.

—W. Somerset Maugham

**To Advertise  
Call 288-0033**

A cook from the Harbor Light's kitchen says that while their food supplies greatly increases over the Holidays, the number of homeless that eat at the facilities increases as well.

The Harbor Light's Meal Program feeds 25 to 100 homeless people per day, and up to around 140 per day in the winter months.

Harbor Light reports that the majority they feed and house are white males and approximately 10 per cent are African-American. There has also been a slight increase of women using the facilities. Locally funded, the Salvation Army has 13 different pro-

grams in the Portland area that are dedicated to improving the quality of life for those in need.

Rev. Scherer states, "In our teachings, we believe that society is composed of individuals...it's not just some massive group. Society cannot improve unless each and every individual takes responsibility for his own condition and his environment around him. Our church supports those groups who honestly make an effort to help people help themselves."

To find out how your church can help, contact the Salvation Army Divisional Headquarters on 1785 NE Sandy Blvd. at 234-0825.

**JOURNEY** CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
Searching? So Are We.  
COME AND SEE!  
SUNDAY 6 P.M.  
St. Stephen's - Corner S. W. 13th & Clay - Portland, OR

### *Grace Covenant Fellowship*

1021 NE Grand  
6th Floor, Ballroom 4

Sundays at 11:30 AM  
(503) 282-3780



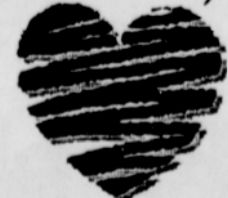
"Where the Best is Yet to Be!"

BISHOP GRACE C. OSBORNE, PASTOR

### **ALPHA CHI PI OMEGA SORORITY & FRATERNITY ALPHA MU BETA CHAPTER**

presents

*Valentine's Gospel*



*Extravaganza & Hat Show*

**Sunday, February 11, 1996  
3:00-6:00pm  
Holiday Inn Airport**

Adults \$7.00 Children 12 & Under \$3.00

Great Gospel Music  
Hats From All Over The Northwest

Lonnie: 281-9223 Arice: 281-2540 Geneva: 285-1159

### **Cox Funeral Home Inc.**

(503) 281-4891



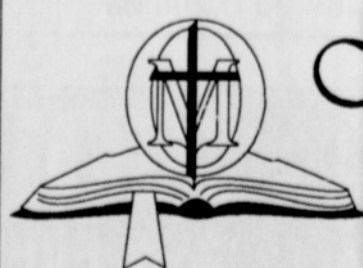
Jerome G. Tanner  
A. Funeral Director

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.*



### *Mt. Olivet Baptist Church*

*Building Strong Families  
Based On  
Biblical Principles*

8501 N. Chautauqua Boulevard  
Portland, Oregon 97217  
(503) 240-PRAY

Worship Services: Sundays; 8:00 AM, 11:00 AM & 6:30 PM

Church School: Sundays; 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Bible Study: Wednesdays; 10:30 AM & 7:00 PM

Radio Ministry: Sundays; 8:00 AM on KBMS

Rev. James E. Martin, Ph.D.  
Senior Pastor

Rev. Jeffery W. Jackson  
Assistant Pastor