

# RELIGION

## The Pain Of One Mother

We, as parents, never expect to have to make funeral arrangements for our children. We all expect that one day they will grow up, leave the nest, and have to come back to care for and bury us. No matter how close we are to God of how strong a faith we have, death is a most devastating pain especially when it is your child.

The Bible refers to death as an enemy. I found out how much of an enemy it really is when my son Rahshann Stone was murdered in February. If he were in prison I could write him, talk to him on the phone, visit him.

In death I cannot do these things. There is an impenetrable wall between the living and dead and I cannot cross over that wall. Days went past I wanted to share something with him; I wanted to hear his voice again say, "Ma, I love you!" as he always did. Weeks went by; I began to wonder where he was; it had not yet sunk in.

Easter came-silence-Mother's Day and Father's Day came; they were not complete because one child was missing. I've read in the Bible that the streets of heaven are paved with gold and jewels with a river that runs through it. Yet, I just cannot imagine



Rahshann being there without me being there first to greet him.

After all, hadn't I always led the way from teaching him to walk, to potty training, everything!

Months go past; there is pain and emptiness in my heart that will not go away. Emptiness and silence has fallen upon a house that once was a home. No more sounds of loud music or laughter. A lonely play station he loved so much sits silently gathering dust, a son he loved dearly too young to yet fully

understand, wonders where his father is.

There are memories and pain-even going to the grocery store is a painful reminder of a young man's huge appetite and love of food. It torments me to pass the aisles of his favorite foods knowing he no longer exists except in memory and in hearts.

The body, mind, and emotions go through dramatic changes as you struggle to accept what has happened and that your child is never coming home again. It's

not like when he was young at camp or in jail-he is in God's care now; you hurt; you are helpless for there is nothing you can do but pray and hope for justice and closure, knowing anyway it goes there will never be closure for he'll not be back.

There are days when there is no comfort, no sleep, no joy. It took one senseless act, the instant of the pull of a trigger, to change our lives forever, and my son's future is forever gone.

It is my belief in God that has taken me this far. The scripture that comforts me is in Jeremiah 31:15,16; it says: This said the Lord, a voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping, Rachael weeping over her sons refusing to be comforted for they are no more. The Lord said, "Hold back your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears for here exists a reward for you activity and they will certainly return from the land of the enemy (death)." That is God's promise that one day we will see our loved ones again.

Meanwhile, let us strive for peace and work together to stop the violence.

Dedicated to the memory of Rahshann Stone and others. Love and kisses from earth to heaven. All Honor To God. Peace.

**St. MARK**  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
103 NE Morris Street  
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Portland, OR 97211  
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## OBITUARIES

### In Loving Memory of Donna Sue Ceasar

Miss Ceasar was born January 21, 1967, in New Orleans. She moved to Portland in 1970 and graduated from ST. Mary's Academy and Chemka Community College. She was a computer programmer for the Oregon Driver and Motor Vehicle Services and a member of Salem Christian and Missionary Alliance Church. In 1993, she moved to Salem. On June 19, 1998, at the age of 31, Donna Sue died of cancer.

Survivors include her sons, Ja-Ray T. and Kenyon D., and Daughter, Melissa, all of Salem; parents, William and Betty, and brothers, Roland Brumfield, David Newman, Madison and Whardel, all of Portland; and sisters, Eva Watts of Fairview, Debra Osterud of Salem and Joyce McCallum, Brenda, Betty J. and Denise, all of Portland.

The family suggests remembrances to the American Cancer Society or Kaiser Hospice.

### Robert James Walker

Robert James Walker was born April 30, 1932 in Little Rock, Arkansas, he had lived in Portland since 1956 where he worked as a trainer at the Portland Habilitation Center. He married Frances in January of 1964. Robert loved fishing and sports. On June 30, 1998 Robert lost his battle with cancer. His survivors include:

Frances Walker, Wife  
Kymberly Burell, Daughter  
Angelia Washington, Daughter  
Robert J. Walker, Jr., Son all of Portland, Oregon  
Jasper Walker, Brother; Fordyce, Arkansas

### LaChelle Renea Banks

LaChelle Renea Banks-Brown was born September 2, 1970 in Los Angeles, California. In 1980, her family moved to Portland; where she attended Ockley Green Grade School and Jefferson High School. She married Arnell W. Brown in July of 1992. She loved music and dancing. On June 6, 1998 LaChelle was shot by another person and died at the age of 27. The following people will carry her in their hearts-

Arnell W. Brown, Husband

## Promise Keepers Returns To Eugene

'Promise Keepers' Live a Legacy Men's Conference. Friday & Saturday, July 31 and August 1, 1998 at Autzen Stadium

For the first time, in 1998 there is no fee, but registration is strongly recommended to ensure seating. Bill McCartney, Promise Keepers Founder and CEO, announced the elimination of admission fees at Stand in the Gap, a Sacred Assembly of Men held on the Washington, DC Mall last October 4. "We want guys to be able to bring their friends to the men's conferences," said McCartney. "We're excited about sharing ways men can impact their world, their church, and their families. In 1998, no man should

miss out."

Registration for the events can be done by calling 800-888-7596, for Spanish 800-203-1564 and for TYY 800-769-6855. Men are asked to register in order to ensure seating at conference sites, and to assist the ministry in planning. During the registration process, meals and worship tapes will be offered for sale.


Promise Keepers is an international men's ministry that is dedicated to uniting men in vital relationships to become godly influences in their world.

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And you're still smoking?

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