

RELIGION

Religion Today

"There's not only food for the body, but food for the soul"

By PAT LEISNER

Paul Gonzalez eats a pita sandwich in an unlikely setting. Nearby hangs a huge cross with a crown of thorns protruding from the stained pine.

"There's not only food for the body, but food for the soul here. And I'm not a religious person personally," says Gonzalez over lunch at St. Francis Cafe.

Diners break bread amid statues of Jesus and the Virgin Mary, a collection of religious artwork and spiritual music. But that's not all that sets this restaurant apart.

There is no bill.

Customers receive an envelope for a donation.

Owners Lisa and Bruce Sizemore have been in business for 20 months, sometimes accepting a few coins - or less - for their homemade soups, salads and sandwiches and full dinners. It's been, they say, a struggle.

"I've seen miracles here - just the fact that we're open," says Sizemore. "Every time we get to the bottom of the barrel, something has happened."

Now developers plan a multiscreen theater on the site in Ybor City, a trendy area of nightclubs that borders one of the city's poorest neighborhoods. The cafe must close in September.

The couple have put their life savings into the cafe and their trust in God. They hope to relocate to a site nearby.

"I thought it was going to be a cafe-slash-ministry, but it turned out to be a ministry-slash-cafe," Sizemore says.

A former sheet metal worker, Sizemore has no prior experience with restaurants. "I was hoodwinked and shanghaied," the 43-year-old says with a laugh.

Mrs. Sizemore, 41, abandoned nursing to work as the chef. While he

talks, she peels potatoes in the tiny kitchen.

The menu changes as the spirit moves them: soups "prayerfully prepared" and hearty salads, including "render unto Caesar, Caesar salad" and the "Greek Orthodox salad." And consider the "converts": Any salad can become a sandwich on pita.

Sandwiches are fat; desserts indulging, homemade cheese cake and baklava. Dinners vary daily from coq au vin; poached salmon in a wine, butter and lemon sauce; perhaps shrimp with Portobello mushrooms and peppers over pasta.

Success, says Sizemore, comes on two levels. "On a spiritual level, we have received many blessings and been able to help people. Financially, we have failed miserably."

Sometimes people pay more than their share; other times the envelope is empty. More often, patrons come up with a modest amount. Recently,

a group of workers came in, ate well and left 50 cents total. Later in the day, one man came back to pay, saying he felt guilty.

The restaurant also feeds the needy, regardless of their ability to pay. After lunch on certain days, the homeless and penniless are welcomed.

Business at the 70-seat eatery is mostly by word of mouth. Many customers are regulars. They talk of gourmet fare, friendly proprietors, soothing atmosphere.

"This isn't like a restaurant, it's like a church," says supermarket clerk Jason Brown.

"I love this place," says Gonzalez, host of a nationally syndicated radio talk show. "I'm uplifted every time I come in. I've brought people here from all over, and everybody leaves feeling rich."

College student David Gunter is touched by the sincerity and love.

DB to Pay \$125,000 in Religion Discrimination Suit, Church Says

Deutsche Bank AG agreed to pay about \$125,000 to settle a religious discrimination suit brought against the company by a former administrative assistant who claims she was fired for being a member of the Church of Scientology, the church said.

The agreement closes a 10-month-old suit brought by Josie Romero against Germany's largest bank, seeking to recover punitive, compensatory and emotional damages.

A Deutsche Bank spokeswoman de-

clined to comment on the suit. Romero claimed she was fired six months after joining the company in New York, after telling a supervisor she was a member of the Church of Scientology.

Deutsche Bank spokesman Klaus Thoma said last year it wasn't bank policy to hire people or open accounts for people it knows to be Scientologists. The stance echoes that of the German government, which doesn't recognize Scientology as a religion, but rather as a potentially dangerous sect.

Community Youth Crusade
'Jammin' For Jesus'

In response to the Great Commission and Mayor Katz's request for the clergy's involvement in curtailing youth violence in inner Northeast Portland, several groups have come together to sponsor a youth crusade. Ministers of Inner North/Northeast Portland, North Portland Bible College, We Hear We Care, and Trynergy International, are sponsoring Community Youth Crusade on August 20th, 21st, and 22nd at Jefferson Stadium. The main speaker for the Youth Crusade is Pastor Phillip Scott Nelson, former pastor and civic leader at Allen Temple CME Church in Northeast Portland. Pastor Nelsons currently resides in Charlotte, North Carolina.

In addition to Pastor Nelson, local ministers will speak as well. Also, there will be a barbecue on Saturday 22nd as well as performances by local choirs and youth recording groups. Performing at the Crusade will be: Isaiah, True Warriors, Emmanuel Temple Youth Choir, Allen Temple Youth Choir, New Beginning's 24-7 Posse and soloist Maxine Irving. The public is invited and all events are free admission. Join us! and please bring a friend! For more information, please call Beth Nance at North Portland Bible College at (503) 288-2919.

In Loving Memory of
Leamon George
May 30, 1931 - August 2, 1998

Leamon George, Sr. was born on May 30, 1931 in Birmingham, Alabama, the son of Burdeshaw and Eveleena George. In time he met and married Ora Lee Thomas. They moved to Detroit, MI, where they had seven beautiful children. In 1972 he moved to Portland, Oregon, where he met and married Barbara J. Copelyn.

Leamon retired from Esco Corp. as a spot welder. His favorite past time was playing golf and he was very supportive of family members that participated in sports. He was also a Master Mason A&ASM, a member of Greater Solid Rock Church of God In Christ and a member of the Leisure Hour Golf Club.

On August, 1998, God decided it was time for him to come home. Leamon leaves to mourn him, his wife, Barbara J. George; his children, Leamon, Jr. and Reginald of Detroit, Linda of Atlanta, Theresa, Brenda, and Alethia of Detroit, Quinetta of Louisiana, Olita, Delores, Gregory, Jeffrey and Stanley of Portland, Martha Jean and Lorraine of Alabama; two sisters, Lona LaGrone and Blanche Weeks; brother-in-law, Willie LaGrone of Portland, and four sons-in-law, Spencer of Detroit, MI, Geoffrey of Louisiana, James of Atlanta, GA and Rodney of Portland, OR. His sister, Wilma George preceded him in death. Leamon has twenty-three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

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