



Metro / Religion

92nd International Holy Convocation begins

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The General Officers of the Church of God in Christ join with their Presiding Bishop, The Most Reverend Chandler David Owens, in announcing the 92nd Session of the International Holy Convocation. The meeting will be held in Memphis, Tennessee at the Historic Mason Temple Church of God in Christ and the Cook Convention Center, now thru November 16, 1999. More than 40,000 delegates are expected to attend from the fifty states of the United States and many of the fifty-six countries in which the church has established ministries. Classes, seminars, workshops and Worship Celebrations are open to the public. Presiding Bishop Owens will deliver his annual address Sunday, November 14, 1999 at 10:00 AM in the Memphis Cook Convention Center. The closing Worship Celebration is the Holy Communion Worship Service which includes the ceremony for the consecration of newly appointed bishops. For more information: (901) 947-9338 or 947-9339, Elder A.Z. Hall, Jr., Chief Operating Officer.



The Most Reverend Chandler David Owens

NAACP mourns death of Daisy Bates

Civil rights pioneer leaves legacy of courage behind

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Kweisi Mfume, President & CEO, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), said Daisy Bates, who died last week, "was a true American hero. She was a model for all of us then and now." Bates, who was formerly president of the Little Rock NAACP branch and president of the Arkansas State

Conference of the NAACP branches, is famous for coordinating the successful efforts to integrate Little Rock's public schools after the Supreme Court outlawed segregated schools in 1954. She led the first nine African American students, the "Little Rock Nine," who were admitted to Little Rock's Central High School for the 1957-58 school year. "In the face of great physical danger to herself and to her family, Daisy Bates remained steady as a rock and the student's leading advocate as they braved mobs daily just to get an education to which they were entitled the NAACP extends its sorrow to her family and friends," said Mfume. Julian Bond, Chairman of the NAACP Board of Trustees said "Daisy Bates

was a heroine. She was a surrogate mother and protector of the Little Rock Nine. She went face to face with a governor and a president, and she backed them down. She showed a generation that civil rights work was women's work too." With assistance from the NAACP national headquarters, Bates began taking African American children to be enrolled in all white schools in 1955. When the children were denied admission, each incident was recorded and reported in the local newspapers. Under increasing pressure from black parents and the NAACP, the superintendent of schools announced a plan to desegregate Central High School in 1957.

National Christian Jazz performs free concert

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Mt. Olivet Baptist Church will host a Christian concert this month featuring

renowned Christian jazz artist Ben Tankard. Admission is free. The concert is scheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13 at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, located at 8501 N.

Chautauqua Blvd. Arrive early. Seating is limited. Although the concert is free, attendees are asked to please consider an offering.

Spirituality is at the heart of recovery

Obituaries

In loving memory of

Alicia Strong

Sunrise February 1, 1962 Sunset October 27, 1999

Alicia Strong passed away on October 27, 1999 of cancer. She was 37. A memorial service was held November 6, 1999. Ms Strong was born February 1, 1962, in Portland, Or. She attended Chief Sealth High School in Seattle and Lincoln High School in Portland. She also attended Linn-Benton Community College in Albany. Among her jobs, she worked for the State of Washington in the early 1980s arranging interpreters for welfare recipients who didn't speak English; most recently she worked for Multnomah County Aging and Disability Services from mid-1996 until the spring of 1999 as a receptionist. She was a member of Bethel A.M.E. Church. Surviving her: her son Dewey Taylor III; daughter Ebony Strong; brothers Charles and Earl; sister Patricia; mother Eleanor Gregory; grandchildren Zhaelchel, Sterlasha, Adrianna. Disposition was by cremation. Remains are interred at Lincoln Memorial Cemetery.

The Hazelden Foundation provides treatment for chemically dependent people, using the spiritual program of Alcoholics Anonymous as its core and building a multidisciplinary program around it. Spirituality is at the heart of what Hazelden does, but what is spirituality?

"Spirituality consists of the quality of our relationships in three dimensions: with a Higher Power or God, with ourselves, and with other people," said John Mac Dougall, supervisor of Spiritual Care at Hazelden in Center City. "These three sets of relationships are interrelated. It is not possible to love God, be at peace with ourselves, and treat everybody else badly. Any improvement in one set of relationships lifts the others, and any deterioration in one set pulls the others down."

For example, if we go home and have an ugly argument with someone we usually love and dig deep for every nasty thing to say that we can think of, by the end of the day our relationship with that person is damaged. However, we are probably not in conscious contact with our Higher Power either, because of embarrassment over our tacky behavior



"It is not possible to love God, be at peace with ourselves, and treat everybody else badly. Any improvement in one set of relationships lifts the others, and any deterioration in one set pulls the others down."

—John Mac Dougall, Hazelden Center City

and because we are not feeling very good about ourselves. Our relationships with our Higher Power, ourselves and others are damaged, even though we are fighting only with others.

"If, more positively, we would like to improve our spirituality right away, all we need to do is treat every single human being we meet as if they were a beloved child of God or their Higher Power," said Mac Dougall. "We don't have to personally love them. In some cases, that might be a bit of a stretch. Just imagine that they have a Higher Power, that it isn't us, and that their Higher Power loves them. If we can reimagine them in this way, then we will begin to treat them with the dignity and respect that belongs to children of God. Our relationships with them will improve, our self-respect will improve, and we will grow closer to our Higher Power."

The spirituality of recovery allows for a variety of religious experiences and beliefs, Mac Dougall adds. "We choose a name and image of our Higher Power that is the best for inviting us into loving and caring relationships. AA comes to us and proposes to share experience, strength and hope in order to solve common problems, and much of this is our shared spiritual experience. There is no insistence in any particular religious doctrine in AA or in

Hazelden's programs, but we do believe that a spiritual awakening is essential to recovery."

This spirituality of recovery is a different way of life, characterized by letting go of control and accepting the guidance of a Higher Power, peers in recovery, and Twelve Step Programs. These programs offer a process of spiritual growth that goes far beyond the mere cessation of drinking and drug use.

"In this new way of life," said Mac Dougall, "we learn honesty, openness, willingness, trust, community, respect, serenity, courage and wisdom. In recovery, we do much more than 'dry out.' We come back to life."

Alive & Free is a chemical health column provided by Hazelden, a nonprofit agency that offers a wide range of information and services relating to addiction and recovery. Address questions to Alive & Free Editor, BC 10, P.O. Box 11, Center City, MN 55012-0011. For more resources on substance abuse, call Hazelden at 1-800-328-9000 (ask for Hazel) or check its web site at www.hazelden.org.

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Get ready for Hanukkah at The Festival of Lights Hanukkah Fair

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The 1999 Festival of Lights Hanukkah Fair will be held on Sunday, November 21 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. The fair offers buyers and browsers gifts, books, fine art, jewelry, gourmet foods, toys, children's clothing, specialty items, Hanukkah supplies and more. Over 40 vendors will be represented. Children can do their won shopping in the beginner shopper area where all gifts are \$5 and under. Hadassah volunteers will help the kids shop and wrap their purchases for free. All proceeds from the fair will benefit Hadassah projects.

With over 300,000 members, Hadassah is the largest women's organization in the United States. Five main threads run through Hadassah's many programs and projects: health, Jewish growth and continuity, partnerships with Israel, social action and advocacy, and life skills. Some of the projects that Hadassah fund raising makes possible are: The Hadassah Medical Complexes in Israel, job counseling and technical training for new immigrants to Israel, the rescue of children from war-torn countries with the Youth Aliyah program, breast cancer awareness projects, and much more. The Mittleman Jewish Community Center is located at 56651 SW Capitol Hwy. In Portland, Call 244-0111 or 244-6389 for more information.

Parent Mentor program receives \$10,000

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The Hoover Family Foundation has awarded Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Parent Mentor Program a \$10,000 grant. The funding, along with support from the The Collins Foundation, will enable the program to continue matching mentors with mothers who graduate from the Letty Owings Center for drug and alcohol treatment, and to respond to a growing need for mentors locally and statewide. Now in its third year, the Parent Mentor Program has provided mentors to about 85 women with responsibility for approximately 165 children. Parent Mentor Program Manager Sylvia Hart-Landsberg is currently developing a process for matching her program's mentors with women assisted by other Portland-area drug recovery programs and women's shelters. One mentor has already been successfully matched with former resident of Raphael House, a shelter for women struggling with domestic abuse. Plans are underway to match mentors with women served by the Salvation Army's White Shield Center, helping teen parents, and the De Paul Treatment Centers for low-income women. In addition, the program has provided technical assistance

to Harney Helping Organization for Personal Emergencies in Burns, Oregon, so a mentor program can be established there. After completing treatment for substance abuse or after leaving a shelter, a mother usually sets up a new household independent from family members who might not promote a safe environment for her children. During the transition, a mentor can offer practical advice and a sympathetic ear, and can model helpful parenting skills. Practical help may include helping a mother organize a cupboard or a calendar, shopping with her to find career clothes in a resale shop, or taking the kids to the Children's Museum. Mentoring also allows a mother, who may not have been given nurturing and support as a child, an opportunity to develop a relationship with a caring adult. "A relationship with a mentor increases the probability that a woman can learn to nurture herself and her children," said Hart-Landsberg. The Parent Mentor Program, located at 2545 NE Flanders, is one of EMO's community ministry programs dedicated to meeting basic human needs. EMO is an association of 15 Christian denominations including Protestant, Orthodox and Roman Catholic religious bodies that work together to respond as a people of faith to the needs of Oregonians. For more information about the Parent Mentor Program, contact Sylvia Hart-Landsberg at (503) 231-3571.

"I found a great Christian website with all the coolest music and stuff that I'm interested in. And their forums and online Bible studies have really strengthened my faith."

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