



# Metro/Religion

## New Respect, Due the Black Woman

BY C. MCGHEE LIVERS  
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The spelling of the word *unique* is as unusual as its meaning. To be *unique* is to be without a like or equal; very rare or uncommon; to be the "one," or "only." The Black woman is, without controversy, unequal or parallel to any other race of women that God the Creator has made. Her intrinsically acquired strength, endurance, tolerance, faith and love are unmatched.

The perils of slavery and prejudice, which she has endured over the past few hundred years has only magnified her strength, endurance, faith, and uncanny ability to give love. For several centuries, she has spent countless hours shielding husbands and sons from emotional catastrophe and annihilation.

Who is this Black Woman? How was she able to prevail in such adversity? Over the past decades, a silent cry has echoed from her soul. Tears of sadness have filled her heart, as she witnesses oppressing sights, such as: a) Hundreds of young Black men imprisoned, b) Black men rejecting the Black woman and marrying Caucasians or Asians, and c) Black men practicing homosexuality.

The Black woman is the glory of the Black man, even as the Caucasian woman is the glory of the white man, and the Asian woman of the Asian man, etc. Yet there is a sense of sadness and abandonment among some Black women. At a time when she should be shielded, protected, and cherished, she is many times rejected for others. The offspring of the very men who her great grandmother shielded from precarious death is now prospering financially and marrying Caucasian and Asian women. Leaving the Black woman feeling rejected and alone. Yet she continues to stand with strength and dignity.

The strength and dignity she possesses is an inherent strength given to her by God Himself. According to the Hebrew

manuscripts from which our English Bibles are translated, she is the *first-born* (daughter) and *Mother of all Living*. The English translations of our Bibles proclaim, "Then God said, Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness, let them have dominion..." (Genesis 1:26). The plural pronoun "Us" refers back to God. Why is God referring to Himself in the plural? And how will He make man(kind) in the image and likeness of His plurality? These questions can be answered by examining four words in the Hebrew manuscripts of the Old Testament, which refer to God. These words are: Yahweh, Elohim, Adonai, and El Shaddai.

First, the word Yahweh is the very Name of God. In most English bibles, this word is usually translated "LORD" with all capital letters. Secondly, the word 'Elohim' means God, indicating his title. In most English Bibles this word is translated as "God." The word "Elohim" has no singular form, only plural, depicting God as a plural, depicting God as a plural entity, and denotes the fullness of His plurality.

Thirdly, the word Adonai means Lord. In most English Bibles the first letter is capitalized and the remaining letters are lower case. The word Adonai encompasses the following attributes: sir, judge, the one in charge. God formed the male part of man(kind) in the image and likeness of his Adonai measure, which is His masculine expression. The male was made as a sir, judge, and the one in charge.

Finally, the word El Shaddai, means Almighty Breasted One. This word is translated as "Almighty God" in most Bibles. The word El Shaddai is a compound word, but only "El" (Almighty God) has been translated. The adjacent word "Shaddai" has been left untranslated. Shaddai means "the One with Breast." Therefore a better translation of El Shaddai is "Almighty Breasted One." The word encompasses the following attributes: multiplier of seed,

comforter, blessing, impregnable, and all powerful. El Shaddai speaks of God's feminine expression and these are attributes of the female. God built the female part of man(kind) in the image and likeness of His El Shaddai measure, which is His feminine expression. God has given her inner strength, which is described in the Hebrew as "powerful or warrior." She intrinsically knows how to fight a battle, endure hardship, and yet remain standing.

How do we know that the Black woman is the first-born (daughter) of God and the Mother of all living? According to Genesis 2:7, the Bible states, "The LORD God formed man(kind) of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils..." The word 'dust' is translated from the Hebrew word *aphar*. The word *aphar* is a Hebrew word that means more than "dust." It means "dust, clay, mould."

The word dust informs us that man(kind) was formed from the topsoil or surface soil. Whereas, clay indicates the soil was not a sandy soil, but a soil that could be formed and shaped. Finally, 'mould' is a soil that is rich in humus. Soil that is rich in humus is always black or very dark brown in color. Therefore, a better translation would be, "God made man(kind) from the black clay dust of the ground." The Bible also states that, "God made man(kind) from the black clay dust of the ground." The Bible also states that, "God made man(kind) in His own image and likeness, and out of one (Black mankind) came every race upon the face of the earth" (Genesis 1:26, Acts 17:26). It was God who inspired the prophets to write these truths as He breathed upon them (II Timothy 3:16).

The ethnicity of the first male and female is clearly stated in Genesis 2:7. Man(kind) was made from black soil, which means they were a Black couple made in the image and likeness of God (Adonai and El Shaddai). God blessed this couple and commanded them to multiply and have dominion.

## Mothers keep unconditional love alive

BY REV. DIANA ADAMS, M.A.  
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Love is such a precious gift. I am speaking of a love that does not ask for performance, achievement, fame, glory or even good behavior, to exist. This is mother love — unconditional love. When you watch a mother bird beset by three, four or more young hatchlings to regurgitate her food to feed them, this is the sacrifice of mother love. Love without conditions is a sacrifice. What is sacrificed is self-interest... the attitude, all too prevalent in America, of "what's in it for me." Mothers today are breadwinners as well as home keepers. They work harder today than women did 100 years ago. It is time our society recognized their great sacrifice and contribution to the whole. When I was divorced twenty years ago, I worked two jobs, went to school at night, raised two children and kept up a house and yard. I do not call it a "home" because I was never there. The price, in personal sacrifice was enormous. There were no day care centers then and only my network of women friends (also raising children alone) saved my sanity. There were four of us in a two-block radius. It was our shared experience of being divorced, parenting and also trying to earn a living that brought us together.

At the 1996 Conference on Women in Beijing, China, there were several roles identified that our world needs the most today.

These roles consisted of teaching, mentoring, feeding, care-giving, counseling and restoring the environment... all qualities of unconditional love and caring — beyond self-interest. Our society has been over-focused on the external (getting things, looking good, and having money) while giving little value to internal qualities (being kind, compassionate, truthful, and trustworthy).

These qualities come about because of the constancy of unconditional love, patience, caring and believing

in the intrinsic worth of human beings. But, how do we convince a world based on domination and control that unconditional love will be its salvation?

Jesus taught and practiced unconditional love for all people. In doing so, he called his followers to a higher standard than that of "sinners" who loved only those who did good to them. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13 that this love is patient and kind... is not arrogant or rude... does not insist on its own way... endures all things. This is the love that leads to a life of non-violence. Unconditional love is the one who has "love for enemies." Not that we become victims to tyranny. But the only way to put an end to tyranny is to reach for a higher standard and demonstrate love. It challenges the norms of a "macho" society that is in love with exaggerated memories of its "Wild West." But, what would the world be like without the love of mothers? Understanding and practicing unconditional love would go a long way toward reducing violence, crime and unlove seen everywhere. Mother love is the example. Christ had many female disciples, yet most of them go unmentioned in the gospels because in a highly sexist society women are invisible. Their good works are taken for granted as the natural biological imperative. Perhaps women are socialized to sacrifice for men and children, but in this process, women have learned the greatest lesson human beings have to learn — how to love. Unconditional love is not some weak and ineffective power. Jean Houston of Renaissance women says, "It is the power that will save us from ourselves." To be able to transcend self-centered consciousness, we must look to our mothers for examples. Notice all the times that they willingly and carefully serve their children and the world.

To remove the veils of self-deception we must recognize the value and power of loving. Help to make the unconditional love of mothers visible, not just on Mother's Day, but for all time. It calls each one of us to a higher standard.

## Mother's Day concert with "Dor Sheni"

CONTRIBUTED STORY  
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

DOR SHENI, a singing group made up of children of families who immigrated to Israel in the fifties from Morocco, Tunisia and other Mediterranean countries, will perform on Sunday, May 14, 2000, 4pm., at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center,

6651 SW Capitol Highway, Portland. DOR SHENI in Hebrew means second generation.

This group of teens, who are the second generation of Israelis, whose parents immigrated to Israel, have become a symbol of integration and assimilation among Israeli youth. They sing their personal stories in Hebrew, English and even Yiddish.

DOR SHENI is known in Israel through their participation on Israeli TV and many tours. It is their first time performing in Portland.

This special Mother's Day concert costs \$7/adults, \$3/children. There is no charge for mothers if accompanied by their children. It is co-sponsored by the MJCC and the Jewish Federation of Portland.

## Dianetics discovery: 50-year anniversary of prenatal stress

CONTRIBUTED STORY  
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

May 9th marked the 50th anniversary of the book *Dianetics* by L. Ron Hubbard, and the 51-year anniversary of the first published article on Dianetics, "Terra Incognita: The Mind," which appeared in the *Explorers Club Journal*. But what the date really heralds is a quiet, half-century revolution in thought. The subject? Prenatal Influence.

Lest it be forgotten, before the landmark self-help classic was published, the "everybody knows" used to be — not, as the recent *USA Today* headline proclaimed, "The Womb is No Haven," but rather, the womb was a wonderful place to curl up and wait. The viewpoint that prevailed until the early 1950s was that the unborn child was a vegetable

— it saw, heard and felt nothing. Now, the virtually universal end-of-the-century idea is that mothers should take care to avoid harmful stimuli and practices such as smoking and alcohol, because the fetus is a sentient being — not only aware of everything but subject to all manner of dangerous prenatal influences. But what brought about the cultural reversal? As Dianetics rose to the top of the *New York Times* bestseller list in the summer of 1950, it provided conclusive proof that any individual could go back into the past, to conception itself, and recount who was there, what was said and what went on.

And thousands of individuals reading and using the book found themselves curled up in fetal positions while they practiced Dianetics techniques.

The book spawned all manner of scientific studies. In 1969, Dr. L. W. Sontag informed the American Association for the Advancement of Science that experiments with sound had proved that "the fetus is not in a womb by itself."

In the 1980s, Dr. Thomas Verny published *The Secret Life of the Unborn Child*, wherein he declared a child's personality to be quite significantly shaped by prenatal and birthing experiences — all of which became the standard of the natural childbirth movement through the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Come forward now to the late 1990's — where after five decades the scientific and medical communities have finally begun to seriously catch up with the discoveries of Mr. Hubbard.

Just in recent pages of *USA Today*

alone, for example, five scientific studies are quoted that purport to show the relationship between stress in the womb and later adult illness and behavior.

The latest government study published by the National Center for Health Statistics, "Health, United States, 1998," reported that death from our leading killer — heart disease — continued its decline, down 12% from 1990 to 1996.

Given the clinical correlations between stressed mothers, higher fetal heart rates and concomitantly higher risks of heart disease, and the growing emphasis on pregnancies and childbirth free of toxicants and disruptive anxieties and noise, it may be no coincidence that US adults are living longer. Or that nearly 18 million people have read L. Ron Hubbard's classic — *Dianetics*.

## "His Banner Over Us Is Love"

CONTRIBUTED STORY  
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Members of the Oregon and southwest Washington Chapters of the non-denominational Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International have combined efforts to sponsor the 37th Annual Pacific Northwest Regional Convention to be held May 11 through May 13, 2000. The three day event, which is open to the public, will be held at the Airport Holiday Inn located at 8439 NE Columbia Blvd in Portland near I-205.

This year's theme is "Putting on the Whole Armor of God" taken from the Bible Scripture Ephesians 6:10-17. The convention will include testimonies, teachings, ministry, music, praise and prayer.

The featured speaker is internationally known evangelist and book publisher, Charles Capps. He has authored twenty one books with

over six million copies in print along with the production of numerous teaching tapes. Charles will share first hand experiences of how Christians can apply a working knowledge of the world of God to the circumstances in their lives.

Another speaker, Bill Swad, Sr. From Columbus, Ohio is a very successful car dealer and author of four books including "How I Got Millionaire Mentality". He has many exciting stories to tell.

A special luncheon speaker, Mickey Brown, one of Kirby (Vacuum Cleaner) Company's top distributors will explain how it has always been "easy come, easy go".

The Convention starts Thursday night at 7 pm. and concludes with a Victory Banquet Saturday evening. The convention is non-denominational and open to the public. There are no costs excepting the meal charges. For additional information or a brochure, contact

Co-chair, Peter Reding at 503/292-2161.

## Obituary

### In loving memory Melody Terrell McLemore

Sunrise June 28, 1967  
Sunset May 2, 2000

Melody McLemore was born in San Francisco, California in 1967 and lived in the Portland area since 1972. At the age of 32, Melody died from Sickle Cell Anemia. Melody was a member of Fellowship MBC. She leaves to cherish her memory: Daughters, Qialeah Strickland and Marnesha Strickland, Mother Carol Battle, Father James McLemore, Sister Cynthia Smith, Brother John Stafford, and Fiancé Kevin Henry. Melody's viewing was held at KLCC-M. Neal on May 6 at 1 pm.



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