



Religion

Mercy Corps Aid in Afghanistan

Portland charity hopes to distribute 16,300 humanitarian kits

(AP) — Portland-based Mercy Corps said Friday its staff in Afghanistan has received the first shipment of humanitarian aid kits to arrive there since early October and is helping distribute wheat in southern Kandahar province.

The aid kits include tents, blankets, plastic containers, cooking sets, soap and stoves. Mercy Corps officials say they hope to distribute a total of 16,300 kits by the end of January.

The Portland-based relief agency said it also is dispatching a team of engi-

neers from its office in the city of Kandahar to begin a cash-for-work program. The effort is designed to boost the economy by providing income while vital infrastructure is repaired.

In addition, Mercy Corps is distributing 260 metric tons of World Food Program wheat grain to nearly 10,000 people in remote areas.

Mercy Corps officials say their relief agency was the first international non-governmental agency to re-establish its operation in Kandahar.

"I am delighted that we are going to be able to get these

relief kits and wheat out quickly," said Alex Jones, Mercy Corps director in Afghanistan.

Mercy Corps officials say the group has worked in Afghanistan and Pakistan for more than 15 years to operate a variety of programs, including health services, food aid, agricultural programs, veterinary care for livestock, engineering and drilling wells, drought relief and rehabilitation services, and sanitation projects.

The agency employs more than 300 people in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

'Soulmates' Helps Singles Find Love



Karen Unger helps singles find the love of their lives.

A Portland mental health and education expert is helping singles find the love of their lives in a new business called 'Soulmates'.

Karen Unger helps people write personal ads for publication or works with them to prepare an on-line profile for using

the Internet to find a partner. "I wanted to do something new and upbeat," says the former associate research professor and university instructor.

Unger helps her clients by developing dating goals and strategies. On-going coaching and personal support, in-

cluding small groups are the keys to her clients' success. She works with them to stay focused and enthusiastic until they find their partner.

Unger moved to Portland from Boston six years ago.

She can be contacted at 503-916-0200.

Epiphany Choir Fest Sunday

Five church choirs and the Portland area Children and Youth Choir will perform Sunday, Jan. 6 at 2 p.m. at the Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 11560 S.E. Market.

The choirs will be singing Advent/Christmas music and will close with the joint choirs singing the Hallelujah Chorus.

Refreshments will be served.

Proceeds from a free will

offering will fund the continuation of the Metro East Portland Interfaith Hospitality Network, a successful shelter and counseling program for families that are temporarily homeless in East Portland and Gresham.

In the last two years, 27 churches and service organizations and over 1,000 volunteers have assisted in serving 50 families by providing

meals, overnight accommodations and more. Many families have found jobs, received training and secured permanent housing all while experiencing the love and acceptance of a community that wants to help make a difference in their lives.

For directions or more information, call Karen Burger-Kimber at 503-491-0578 or Vi Spielman at 503-659-8653.

Red Cross Blood Supplies Run Low

(AP) — Just months after a post-Sept. 11 surge of blood donations, the American Red Cross is warning that supplies are running low.

Most of the Red Cross' 36 regional blood centers have half their normal supply of blood platelets for this time of year, officials said last week. Blood platelets, which are used to help stop bleeding in cancer patients, spoil after five days.

Blood and platelet supplies are typically low during the holiday season, with Americans on vacation or busy shopping.

But platelet levels were unusu-

ally low, with 32 regions having only about a half-day supply, said Susan Kluesner, a spokeswoman for the St. Paul, Minn.-based North Central Blood Services of the American Red Cross.

As baby boomers age and organ transplants and other demanding procedures become more routine, the need for blood continues to rise.

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks prompted a blood-giving rush so big that some places ran out of storage capacity and blood spoiled. In the end, little blood was needed because there were relatively few injured survivors in the attacks.

Still, the rush of donations had Red Cross officials trying to figure out how to convert the donors into regulars.

In western Pennsylvania, workers began faxing radio stations, sending postcards to people with Type O negative blood and calling the 12,000 people on a "donor rapid response team" list compiled after Sept. 11.

Most Red Cross regions have a two-day supply of Type O negative, which is about average during the holidays, Kluesner said. Type O negative is often used to help trauma victims because it mixes with blood of any type.

PGE Employee Donations

Portland General Electric staff and retirees made record donations to charities in 2001.

Total pledges, including the PGE corporate match, reached \$706,000, up \$49,000 from last year.

"Saying I'm extremely proud to be associated with PGE's family would be an understatement," said CEO and President Peggy Fowler. "These are very difficult times for PGE employees, but they still opened their hearts to the community and the Sept. 11 funds."

Employees and retirees could designate the United Way, the Oregon Burn Center, Black United Fund of Oregon, Earth Share of Oregon, and Community 101 as five local charitable funds to re-

ceive their donations with a company match. Employees could also give to local organizations of their choice and two Sept. 11 funds.

A homegrown campaign supporting the Oregon Burn Center accounted for much of the increased giving.

A new wing of the center at north Portland's Legacy Emanuel Hospital will be named after Blaine Degerness, a PGE lineman who was severely burned while repairing a power line in 1997.


The special burn center fund was established in 2000 due to the efforts of PGE senior technician Doug Shaffer, a 12-year PGE employee and treasurer of IBEW Local 125.

Heaven's Archive Opens in Kenton


Heaven's Archive, a store specializing in collectable glass, lamps, and Christian books opens Friday, Jan. 11 at 2017 N. Kilpatrick off Denver in the Kenton neighborhood.

The merchandise spans from the turn of the century to the modern day.

For more information, call Elbert at 503-286-2590.



Worship with us at the:
Albina Christian Life Center Church of God (Cleveland Tennessee)
5522 N. Albina Portland, Oregon 97217
*** 503 283-1635**
Please call for information or counseling.



Sr. Pastor
Bishop Samuel M. Irving

Annual New Year Revival
January 1-4
2002
7:00 PM
Nightly

o b i t u a r i e s

Milton Beck

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2001, in Rose City Funeral Home for Milton Beck, who died Dec. 11 at age 79. Mr. Beck was born April 10, 1922, in Tyler, Texas. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific. He moved in the late 1940s to Portland. He was a pattern-maker for Columbia Steel for about 20 years and then was a part-time security guard at Edgewater Country Club and Portland International Airport in the early 1990s. He was a 40-year member Allen Temple CME in Portland. In 1968, he married Marceline Beatrice Burger. Survivors include his wife; stepdaughters, Dianne Kutzke and Nancy Spears; sisters, Ernestine Sessions, Nathell Miller and Govie Beck; and four grandchildren.

May Oler Davis

Funeral services were held Dec. 6 at Emmanuel Temple Full Gospel Church for May Oler Davis who died Nov. 29, 2001, at age 67. Mrs. Davis was born May Oler Martin on Feb. 8, 1934, in Alto, Texas. She moved in the 1970s to Portland. She was a certified nurse's assistant for about seven years. She married Arthur Davis; he died in 1982. Survivors include her daughter, May Frances Davis; sons, Hubert Evans, Andrew Eason and Johnny Bailey; brother, Benny Ross; sister, Juanita Clark; 17 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Her sons, Ernest Evans and Arthur Davis Jr., died earlier. Funeral arrangements were by Killingsworth Chapel of the Chimes.

Church Celebrates With Jazz, Gospel

Augustana Lutheran Church, 2710 N.E. 14th Ave., will hold its citywide Martin Luther King Jr. Jazz and Gospel Celebration on Sunday, Jan. 13 at 6 p.m. at the church.

This annual event will include readings, songs and poetry honoring the life of Dr. King.

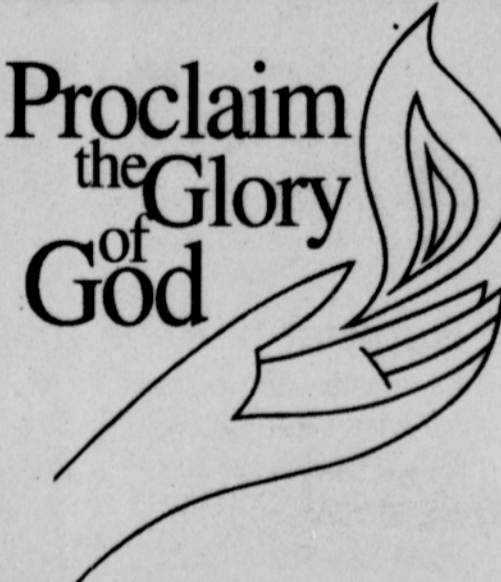
Participants will include jazz greats Marilyn Keller, Ron Steen, George Mitchell, Kevin Deitz, the 10-voice Gospel group The Disciples in Song directed by Christor Lewis, and other special guests.


Augustana is a growing multicultural congregation that is committed to justice and peace work while welcoming every person.

For more information, contact Rev. Mark Knutson at 503-288-6174 or 503-781-7793.


Maranatha Church

Building Divine Unity in the Community





T. Allen & Daphne Bethel



All services at:
Maranatha Church
4222 NE 12th Avenue (12th & Skidmore)
503-288-7241

Dr. T. Allen Bethel, Senior Pastor
Rev. Cynthia Brathwaite, Associate Pastor

Service Times

Sunday Morning ~ 10:30am
Sunday Evening ~ 6:00pm
(except 4th & 5th Sunday and Holidays)

Wednesday Night ~ 7:00pm
(Activities for the whole family)