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# RELIGION

## A Biblical Perspective on Health, Hope and Healing

### Exploring the use of the word 'wine' in the Bible

By DR. RICK LEE  
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Almost as old as the alcohol problem itself is the question, "What does the Bible say on this matter?" The opinions of Biblical scholars and eminent dividers are divided on almost every important subject; therefore, different interpretations of the word 'wine' are to be expected.

In my Bible study and research, I always rely upon the bible of the "Textus Receptus" meaning the "Received Text." That bible is the King James Bible. It is the bible of your parents and grandparents, the bible of the "Protestant Reformation" and the Old Testament bible that Ezra copied and circulated to the people.

In my searching for what the Bible says about drinks, I found 637 references to drink and drinking, some with warnings and others with

commendations. This seems confusing but clears up when one learns that in the original languages there are 13 different words that are translated to mean 'wine.'

In the Old Testament three Hebrew words are used 214 times for 'wine.' The first word, 'Yain,' is pronounced like the English word

thing to be eaten or gathered - evidently vine-fruit-that is to be served fresh or preserved.

The third word, 'Shekar,' is used 42 times and is always from sources other than grapes. The word is connected with woes, sorrows and warnings. It is condemned, prohibited, and warned against.

Hasting's Bible Dictionary and others references by English authors hold there was no unfermented, non-intoxicating 'wines' because the ancients knew no process by which to prevent fermentation.

However, the authors named below write of personal experiences with oriental customs and quote recipes and comments from ancient writers Josephus, Aristo, Cato, Horace, Herodotus, Plinty, Plutarch and Xenophon.

They cite at least five processes by which fruits were preserved and fruit juices were kept unfermented — cold, heat, boiling, straining, chemical sulfur and mention wines "that do not make the head heavy."

These historians show that unfermented drinks were in common use and were designated "the best wines." These drinks made the heart glad, the face to shine and were counted of great value.

Dr. Lee is a practicing traditional naturopath in the Portland area. He can be contacted by e-mail him at [rlleeohwc@juno.com](mailto:rlleeohwc@juno.com).

*A point of difference in opinion is the nature of the 'wine' - is it fermented or unfermented.*



'wine' and is used 140 times. It means to squeeze or press and is a term for juice beverages used as a general word like our 'drink.'

The second word is 'Tirosh.' It is used 32 times and is associated with wheat, corn, oil flocks. It is a blessing always to be commended. It signifies not liquid but some-

In the New Testament, the Greek word 'Oions' is derived from the Hebrew word 'Yain' and the Latin word 'Vinum.' It is used for both 'Yain' and 'Tirosh,' but not for 'Shekar.'

A point of difference in opinion is the nature of the 'wine' - is it fermented or unfermented?

## Church Leader Placed on Leave After Arrest

### Wesleyan administrator accused of sex plans with a minor

(AP) — Officials with the Wesleyan Church have placed one of their leaders on leave after his arrest by the FBI on charges that he planned to cross state lines to have sex with a minor.

The Rev. Thomas David James, 45, of Vancouver, has been superintendent of the church's North-

west District for the past 21/2 years, overseeing 28 small, evangelical Protestant churches in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and British Columbia.

James allegedly contacted an FBI agent, a man posing on the Internet as a girl, through an America Online chat room and asked her for sex. He was arrested May 13 in the parking lot of a northeast Portland convenience store, where he had arranged to meet the girl, according to a criminal complaint.

James pleaded innocent in fed-



Thomas James

eral court on Wednesday. He has no criminal record.

An arraignment has been set for June 5, pending a federal grand jury's review of the charges.

On Thursday, FBI agents served a search warrant on a church representative in Vancouver and seized James' laptop computer, which he allegedly used to communicate with the agent.

The roots of the Wesleyan Church are with John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. The denomination split from other Methodists in the late 1840s, mainly over Wesleyans' strong opposition to

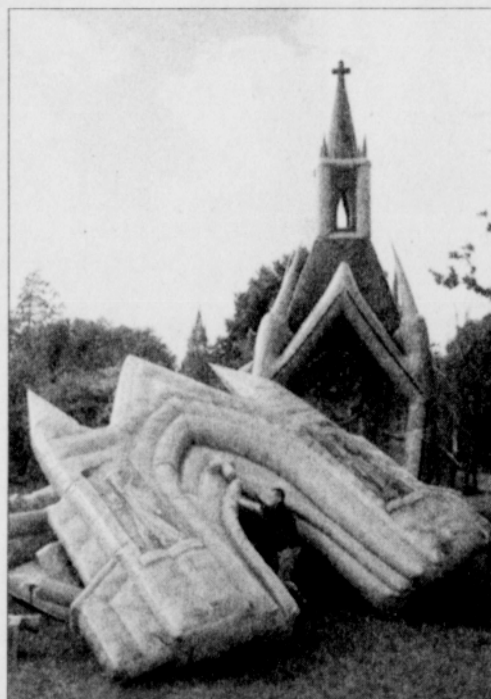
slavery and their desire to emphasize Wesley's position on the doctrine of personal holiness, said Larry Shelton, a professor at George Fox Evangelical Seminary who specializes in Wesleyan theology.

"Wesleyans would see themselves as being middle-of-the-road evangelicals," he said.

And Shelton said that as district superintendent, James would, "have responsibility for supervising the moral character of his pastors. It's not just an administrative role; it's an ordained role."

The Wesleyan Church claims 300,000 members in 4,000 churches worldwide.

## FIRST INFLATABLE CHURCH OPENS



The world's first inflatable church has opened with an air-filled altar, blow-up organ, a poly-vinyl pulpit and fake stained glass windows.

The church is the brainchild of British entrepreneur Michael Gill, who says it could breathe new life into Christianity by letting preachers bring the accommodations of a church directly to communities.

Gill's church can be inflated in about three hours and can house around 60 people.

Gill says he has already had expressions of interest from more than 20 countries and he also says he has been asked to design inflatable mosques and synagogues.

## Church Calendar

### 'Come Together and Worship Tour'

Multi-platinum, multi-Grammy award winning and reigning Gospel Music Association Artist of the Year, Michael W. Smith, will perform with Third Day and special guest speaker Max Lucado when the 'Come Together and Worship Tour' makes a stop in Portland at the Rose Garden Arena on Thursday, May 22 at 7 p.m. Tickets are on sale at all Ticketmaster locations for \$25 and \$30.

### Mass for Deceased Church Leaders

Archbishop John G. Vlazny will celebrate deceased Portland-area catholic leaders on Thursday, May 22 at St. Mary Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Northwest 18th and Couch at noon. The mass will particularly remember those priests and deacons who have died in the past year, including fathers William Karath, John Engel, Maurice Grammond, Pio Ridi, Joe Bkacl and Deacon Ron Bentz.

### Mount Hood String Ensemble at The Old Church

The Old Church in downtown Portland, 1422 SW 11th Ave., will be filled with music on Tuesday, May 27 as the Mt. Hood String Ensemble presents its annual Alumni Benefit Concert. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. and tickets can be purchased at the door for \$5. For more information, call 503-491-7213.

### Ainsworth Church Sets Fun Weekend

On Friday, May 30, the Ainsworth United Church of Christ will sponsor a dinner at Shenanigan's Restaurant, 4575 N. Channel. The dinner will be followed by a silent auction and dancing to the music of DJ Michael Vance of B Jaminic. Cost is \$75 for a couple and \$45 for single attendees. On Saturday, May 31 a three-mile community walk to explore the historic Concordia neighborhood will begin at 10 a.m. at the church, 2941 NE Ainsworth. Following the walk there will be a Family Fun Festival with a bounce house, plant and jewelry sale, face-painting food, beverages, fun and games. On Sunday, June 1, a birthday celebration worship will take place with guest preacher Ron Buford. For more information, call 503-287-2854.

### Support Group for Priest Abuse Victims

The Archdiocese of Portland is sponsoring a free 10-week support group for people who were sexually abused as minors by a Catholic priest. The sessions will begin on Sept. 10 and will be led by Dr. Jonathon Beamer, a board certified psychiatrist in private practice, who has extensive experience in both post-traumatic stress disorder and working with people who have been abused.

## Obituary

### Floyd O. Patterson

Floyd O. Patterson, a native of Fort Lee, Va., died on May 11 at the age of 45. After spending his early years on Hopewell, Va., Patterson moved to Portland where he graduated from Grant High School.

He worked for six years at Safeway on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard before working at Coca-Cola and Portland Public Schools. For the past 10 years, Patterson has been a full-time dad for his three sons, Floyd Jr., Delon and Elijah, and daughter Tynisha.

Survivors include his wife Anita Patterson; his children; his mother, Anita Patterson; sisters, Juanita, Patricia and Jackie Patterson; brothers, Tyrone and Larry Patterson and Donald Bradford; and one grandchild.

Remembrances may be made to the Floyd Patterson Children's Fund by calling the Rose City Cemetery and Funeral Home.