The Portland Observer

Diverse Business Move

with the authorities back home, and that if he returned, "I would be

continued A from Metro

slaughtered." Egyptian authorities offered him the chance to emigrate to one of three countries that would accept him: Australia, Canada or the United States. He selected the U.S., he says, because there were more black people here.

Reflecting that heritage, Yousuf describes the Horn of Africa's food as "very different from any other restaurant."

You can enjoy a variety of menu items for lunch from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or for dinner from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. any day of the week.



RELIGION

This Joy that I have BY ETHEL J. BATES FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A few days ago I ran into an acquaintance and when he saw me he broke into a big smile and exclaimed as we embraced, "You're happy!" This was completely unexpected, so for a moment I was lost for words, but as I regained my composure, I said, "Well yes, I am happy," and the Holy Spirit gave witness of that joy through this person as he entered my space!

What is the basis for this joy? When we humble ourselves by offering praises to God we will experience that "inexpressible joy" that (1Pet. 1:8) speaks of. This joy is the direct result of offering praises to God through the storms, valleys, and hard places, broken relationships and life changing experiences. This joy that I have, the world didn't give to me and the world can't take it away! As the secular saying goes, "You can't touch this!" God the Holy Spirit knows that I boast not of myself, but my boast is in the Lord (Ps. 34:2).

God knew that there was a great storm on the horizon and in 1996 gave me this wonderful song of praise that still overflows my soul. By setting up my praise account, in the time of trouble, when I needed some heavyduty artillery, the Holy Spirit activated the prophecy and released the promise and "By His strips I am healed (Isa. 53:5)!

Consequently, this is the season of "inexpressible" joy for me. On Sept. 15, 1998, I underwent extensive surgery for a rare stomach cancer and was given six months to live. After the surgery, I was told that my surgeon had had the same operation. He too was given six months to live, yet, at that time was a five-year survivor. Also, had any other doctor been in charge, he would have terminated the procedure based on the findings, but this doctor kept cutting, nipping and stitching aggressively. Not only that, of the two doctors of choice, this doctor would not be in town for two weeks, delaying the surgery, but the Holy Spirit said wait. Monday, Sept. 15, 2003 marked the fifth

anniversary of my surgery. It looks like a miracle to me. That's a reason for joy!

When we offer sacrificial praises to God and line up our lifestyles with His will for us, He will do things in our circumstances and situations that will leave us exhausted and defeated in our quest to explain it! When man had done all that He could do, the master surgeon stepped in and praise God, I made it!

Man makes plans and God laughs at him. I learned just a few months ago, that although I was still being given chemo and radiation therapy, my files were already in the "dead" draw! I have learned that the awesomeness of God goes beyond human understanding. How, a man asked, can she survive the loss of 85 percent of her stomach, having it rebuilt with the intestine hooked to what's left of her esophagus so she can swallow? Today, I am on no medications. It is by Him, with Him, to Him, and for Him, that I tenaciously render praises. He is the reason for my joy!

EtheLJ. Bates is a minister for the Allen Temple CME Church in Portland.

'Operation Overcoat' Kicks Off

Union Gospel Mission kicks off its annual clothing drive, Operation Overcoat, collecting winter clothing for men, women and children. Donations of coats, sweaters, shirts, pants and winter clothing of all kinds are needed. Clothing drop-off donation barrels are at six Portland-area Christian Supply stores including the Lloyd Center Mall at 908 Lloyd Center.

On Saturday, Sept. 27, Northwest Third Avenue in front of the mission will be closed to make room for a massive distribution of clothing to Portland's homeless and needy. The event will include a barbeque meal; music and Christian outreach and Northwest Medical Teams mobile dental van will also be at the event to provide free dental services. More than 2,000 people were served at last year's "Operation Overcoat."

Schools, businesses, churches or civic groups willing to collect clothing can contact Union Gospel Mission at 503-274-4483.

