

RELIGION



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Following Past Leader's Footsteps

Mrs. LucyEllen Edwards is recognized for her dedication as National President of Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows of the National Baptist Convention of America. Edwards was joined by her husband Dr. R. H. Edwards for the awards presentation at Morning Star Baptist Church, 106 N.E. Ivy St. Mrs. Edwards gave credit to Mrs. O.B. Williams of Portland, the church group's past president, for being her role model and mentor. Mrs. Williams was also honored during the Nov. 14 ceremony.

Obituaries

Valedictorian, Loving Father Remembered

Paul A. Marshall

A homecoming service was held Saturday, Nov. 15, 2003 at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, 8725 Chautauqua Blvd., for Paul A. Marshall who died Nov. 7 at the age of 47.



He was born in Portland on Dec. 5, 1955, the fourth son of Dr. John D. and Viola Marshall. He was the 1974 valedictorian graduate of John Adams High School in northeast Portland and received his Bachelor of Science degree in biology and black studies from Portland State University.

He worked for IBM for over 17 years and was a member of Emmanuel Temple Church where he served faithfully for 23 years.

A loving husband and dedicated father, Paul was committed family man; he enjoyed spending most of his time with his wife and four children. Being a very knowledgeable individual, Paul enjoyed studying history and was avid reader. A member of the Albina Rotary, he served on the Board of Directors of Albina Community Bank, St. Mary's Academy and the Oregon Developmental Disabilities Council.

He believed in serving his church and community. He was the managing director of the Renaissance Market, associate director of the Black United Fund and Chairman Emeritus of Emmanuel Community Services.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother-in-law Charles Stewart of New York.

He leaves to cherish his memories, his wife of 22 years, Arlene; daughters, Stacey Marie, Charlotte Anne and Lindsay Imani and son Paul Andrew Jr., all of Portland; brothers, John and Robert of Portland, Steven and wife Margaret of Scappoose, and Michael and wife Laura of Salem; sister Marjorie of Portland; mother-in-law Mrs. Cleo Stewart of Atlanta, Ga.; brothers-in-law, Joseph and wife Betty Stewart, Johnny and wife Ezella Stewart and Marion and wife Mae Stewart, all of Savannah, Ga.; sisters-in-law, Dorothy Brown and husband Robert and Gloria Kimble, also of Savannah, and Lillie Stewart of New York. He is also survived by nieces, nephews and a host family and friends.

In Loving Memory

Sunrise: July 26, 1936; Sunset, Nov. 22, 2003



A homecoming service will be held at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church for Sister Barbara A. Blinec who died Saturday, Nov. 22, 2003 at the age of 67. She was a mother, sister and church usher.

For more information, contact Lauri Chambers at 503-756-3553.

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Everyone's Welcome.....

Faith-Based Coalition Puts Focus on Men

National organizations, faith-based entities, and community and individuals across the country, met in Washington, D.C. to discuss, analyze and develop solutions regarding the State of African-American Males.

Congressman Danny K. Davis, in collaboration with the Hon. Minister Louis Farrakhan, Nation of Islam, Kweisi Mfume, President, NAACP, Rev. Dr. Leonard N. Smith, and Attorney Thomas Todd, attended the Nov. 14-15 summit.

"This conference was called because in almost every instance the Black Male is either first or last," Davis said. "First to drop out of school, last to get a job or become employed. First to get arrested, last to find a lawyer, first to die, last to see a doctor, first to be homeless, last to get a house. We know why the blues singer said, trouble-trouble, trouble always, seem like trouble will follow me all of my

days. "And so we come tonight and tomorrow knowing that questions come easy and answers hard. We come knowing that there is no panacea; but we come with open and made up minds ready and willing to work cooperatively together knowing that in the end we shall indeed, overcome."

"There are approximately 16.7 million African-American men and boys in the United States. Almost 22 percent have no high school diploma. According to the U. S. Department of Justice, nearly 1 in 3 African-American males born in 2001 will go to prison during his lifetime.

In addition, there are 4.4 million African-American males not in the labor force and just over 818,000 incarcerated in the United States.

An ecumenical prayer for the state of the African-American male was presented at the summit.

Ecumenical Prayer for the State of the African-American Male

Heavenly Creator,
We stand in unity with millions across this country, seeking Your blessings and Your grace for the activities taken on behalf of the African American Male.

- We pray for the arrested.
- We pray for the addicted.
- We pray for the ill and weak.
- We pray for the unemployed.
- We pray for the struggling.
- We pray for the disenfranchised
- And we pray that those to whom much is given, will give much back in return.
- Today we commit to conduct ourselves in a manner that best reflects Your Power, Presence and Grace. We seek to do what promotes respect and dignity toward the African American Male. Today and everyday I will find ways to:
- See myself and others in the best light.
- To love myself and others.
- To forgive, so we may start anew and grow.
- To seek help when needed, and provide help when asked.
- To commit my life to excellence, honesty and integrity.
- To stay positive, confident of a victorious outcome.
- To respect and uplift all women, especially the mothers of our children.
- To love and protect all children and honor my family and my obligations.
- To celebrate self-discipline.
- To contribute to the health and well-being of myself and my community.
- To promote healing in all areas of life
- To understand that political participation is essential to living in a democracy.
- We confess our love for You with all of our hearts, all of our minds and all of our strength. We seek Your guidance and follow Your will. Show us in every moment how to mirror Your magnificence in our thoughts, our feelings, our words, our actions and our reactions. We keep our minds and our hearts centered in Your love, and fortified in Your Wisdom and Strength. We rejoice in every successful outcome and demonstration that prospers and advances the State of the African American Male.
- And so it is.
- Amen.

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