

RELIGION



Beverly Crawford

A Chorus of Family

Gospel singer Beverly Crawford has a huge family. She's toured with her siblings and parents, giving gospel performances since she was five-years-old. She considers her fans her family, as well.

Her newest album, "Family and Friends LIVE!" is a rockin' and soothing mix of gospel dexterity featuring her father, daughter and six siblings.

Crawford perfected her musical skills through the first half of the 90s as the lead singer for the gospel artist and impresario Jones' group Bobby Jones and New Life. She amassed a fervent following for her live performances before ever entering a recording studio as a solo artist.

The album, released by EMI Gospel Records, is available now.



Rev. Charles Mc Cloud, Pastor Johnny Pack and members of the Fellowship Ministry Baptist Church. PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

More to Life

Standing on the corner, gang-banging life away holds no future. The stark reality of street life was the message of organizers at the fourth annual Youth Anti-Gang Outreach at Fellowship Ministry Baptist Church on Sunday, Dec. 14.

Rev. Charles Mc Cloud is director of the program and Bishop Johnny Pack IV is the pastor of the north Portland church.

McCloud says faith in God can keep at-risk kids away from a life of crime and violence.

"Just because they've made some mistakes doesn't mean you have to throw them to the wolves. Jesus loves them. So do I," he said.

The gang outreach's theme, Standing for Children, embodied the philosophy of the day, which drew attention

with skits and music and may soon hit the road to spread the anti-gang message, nationally.

Under Mc Cloud's direction, youth from many churches and schools throughout the city are giving testimonials, organizing musical performances and much more as an alternative to gang activity.

To make a donation to the anti-gang efforts, call 503-234-4452.

Mission Collects for Christmas Meal

Union Gospel Mission is asking for donations of food and clothing for its annual Christmas celebration with Portland's homeless and needy.

Last Christmas, the downtown mission served 644 dinners of ham, mashed potatoes, yams, vegetables, rolls, coffee and pies. But demand for meals has increased throughout the year and 1,305 meals were served at

the mission on Thanksgiving. Hams top the list as the most needed donation item for the Dec. 25 meal, mission officials said.

Hats, scarves, gloves and other warm clothing will be given as gifts at the event. Large sized coats are an item especially in demand.

Food and clothing donations can be dropped off at the Union Gospel Mission located at 15 NW Third Ave.

World Chaos and Religion Provoke Discussion

Portland Baha'i members will discuss the link between science, chaos and religion at a talk and presentation on Friday, Dec. 19 at the Portland Baha'i Center.

Electrical Engineer Norm Peterson will lead the talk to focus on how natural phenomenon parallel social and

spiritual reality.

The free program begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Portland Baha'i Center, 8720 N. Ivanhoe. Discussions are held at the center on the third Friday of every month. For more information, call 503-235-6060 or visit www.pdx-bahai.org.

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