# RELIGION

### Families Share Holiday Concert In Memory of My Father



The gospel group HeavenGift will perform Sunday. Dec. 28 at 6:30 p.m. during a free holiday concert at Maranatha Church, 4222 N.E. 12th Ave.

celebration of family gospel con- Ave. cert featuring HeavenGift of Phoe-Family of Portland. The free holi-

The West Family of Portland is nix, Ariz, and members of the West led by Vernell and Wanda West originality. and their talented children, Evan, day performance will take place Antava and Darien. HeavenGift, tion goes back to the early 70s in through the West brother's chil-

Area residents are invited to a Maranatha Church, 4222 N.E. 12th an all girls' band that carries on sought out Raymond Hunt to teach the rich tradition of the gospel sound with a unique blend of

The West family gospel tradi-Sunday, Dec. 28 at 6:30 p.m. at with the exception of father "T" is Salem, when mother Versie West dren.

her boys to sing. Brother Hunt and the West brothers formed a quartet known as the Kings of Harmony. This rich family tradition continues

### **Biblical Epic Earns Praise from Papal Seat**

(AP) - Pope John Paul II has seen "The Passion," Mel Gibson's Biblical epic on the crucifixion of Christ, and said the film "shows how it was," a Church official said Thursday.

The official said the film's co-producer reported that the pope told his secretary the film was an accurate portrayal of Christ's death. "It shows how it was," the pontiff was quoted as saving.

The pope's apparent approval of "The Passion" follows similar praise from several top Vatican officials, who have rejected complaints by some Jewish leaders who say the film suggests Jews were responsible for Christ's death.

The church official, who spoke on condition he not be identified, said two screenings were recently held so the ailing, 83-year-old pontiff didn't have to sit through one long production.

Gibson plans to open the film in the United States on Feb. 25 — Ash Wednesday on the Roman Catholic calendar.

# Highland UCC

#### THE RIGHT PLACE!



Pastor W.G. and Ali Hardy

MUSIC, MIME, DANCERS AND THE WORD OF GOD

Please Join us in this New Year's Gospel Explosion

Date: New Year's Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 31

Time: 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Place: Northeast 18th Avenue and Alberta Street Theme: The Crossing

We will be celebrating what God did in 2003 and will do in 2004. All are welcome. For more information, call 503-287-9567

Rev. Bendix Mennieweather

Daddy (Rev. Bendix Mennieweather) was born Sept. 9, 1917 in MerRouge, La., the third of 13 children in a very close family.

After he decided to make the Northwest his home, he would Mennieweather make trips every sumwith his daughter mer back to the South Queenie Samuel. to bring his sisters and

cessful in work, family and their contributions to the community.

ministered to countless souls ter" Queenie Lee Samuel.

on Mississippi Avenue, providing emotional, economical and spiritual support.

One of his greatest joys was working on his "building" there on Mississippi. He believed strongly in his church motto, which was, "For every house is built by some man. He who builds all things is God.

'Heb. 3:4. Daddy finished brother here for better work oppor- working on his "building" on Nov. tunities. They have all been suc- 29, 2003. He was laid to rest Dec.

We will miss you daddy - Keep Daddy was ordained a minis- the door open, because we all ter in the Church of God in Christ want to come in. You've fought on June 8, 1974. He was the the good fight and been a great pastor of his own church "New leader. Now it is our turn to carry Jerusalem C.O.G.I.C." for over the torch. Submitted by, as he 30 years. During that time he would say, "my only est daugh-

### Mom to Many Remembered

**Ruby Reinette Denson** 

A memorial service was held Friday, Dec. 19 at Irvington Covenant Church for Ruby Reinette Denson who died at the age of 79.

She was born in New Orleans, La., the daughter of Courtney Viola and Wade Hampton Turner. She and her husband of

land in 1987.

She leaves behind 5 children. Excell, James, Phillip, Felecia and Ruby Rebecca and five grandchildren, Rachael, Courtney, Jessica, Abigail, Rayne and Royce. She also leaves many who call her their adopted mom.

The family suggests contribu-41 years, Calvin W. Denson tions to North Portland Nurse moved from California to Port- Practioners Clinic.



Lady Roy G. Maxie

ABBEY

Pastor and First

Church of the Living God

Christian workers for fellowship

6401 N.E. 10th Avenue Portland, Oregon 97211

Services

Sunday School 9:45 A.M. Morning Worship 11:30 A.M. 7:00 P.M. **Evening Worship** 7:00 P.M. Weds Bible Study

CATERING AVAILABLE

MONTHLY

DISPLAYS

**Harold Strong** 

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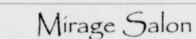
Everyone's Welcome ....

MUSIC EVENTS

**Every Saturday** 

4:30pm-6:30pm

## BUSINESS directory



"Where a reflection of you, is a reflection of me"

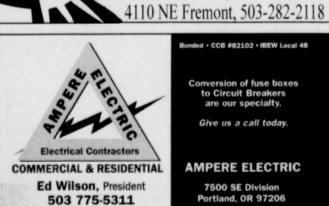
**EXPERT STYLISTS:** 

Santina Washington • Angela Carter

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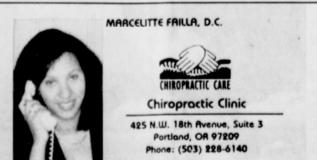
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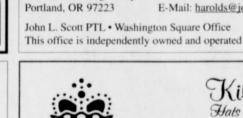






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