

RELIGION

Families Share Holiday Concert



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.

Area residents are invited to a celebration of family gospel concert featuring HeavenGift of Phoenix, Ariz. and members of the West Family of Portland. The free holiday performance will take place Sunday, Dec. 28 at 6:30 p.m. at Maranatha Church, 4222 N.E. 12th Ave.

The West Family of Portland is led by Vernell and Wanda West and their talented children, Evan, Antava and Darien. HeavenGift, with the exception of father "T" is an all girls' band that carries on the rich tradition of the gospel sound with a unique blend of originality. The West family gospel tradition goes back to the early 70s in Salem, when mother Versie West sought out Raymond Hunt to teach her boys to sing. Brother Hunt and the West brothers formed a quartet known as the Kings of Harmony. This rich family tradition continues through the West brother's children.

In Memory of My Father

Rev. Bendix Mennieweather

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

After he decided to make the Northwest his home, he would make trips every summer back to the South to bring his sisters and brother here for better work opportunities. They have all been successful in work, family and their contributions to the community.

Daddy was ordained a minister in the Church of God in Christ on June 8, 1974. He was the pastor of his own church "New Jerusalem C.O.G.I.C." for over 30 years. During that time he ministered to countless souls



Rev. Bendix Mennieweather with his daughter Queenie 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 working on his "building" on Nov. 29, 2003. He was laid to rest Dec. 4, 2003.

We will miss you daddy - Keep the door open, because we all want to come in. You've fought the good fight and been a great leader. Now it is our turn to carry the torch. Submitted by, as he would say, "my only'est daughter" Queenie Lee Samuel.

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 41 years, Calvin W. Denson moved from California to Port-

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 contributions to North Portland Nurse Practitioners Clinic.

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 saying.

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.

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

Place: Northeast 18th Avenue and Alberta Street

Theme: The Crossing



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