

RELIGION

Waiting on the Lord in Peace



BY ETHEL BATES

(Isaiah 40:31) "But those who wait on the Lord will find new strength. They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint."

We live in a hurry up society. We don't like waiting in traffic, at the doctor's office, in the airport or for breakfast. We want instant everything and we want it now!

This frenetic propensity brings up a whole list of concerns about waiting on God. Is God ever late or early? Does Omnipotence not have the power to change our circum-

stances? God has never been late (or early), and He certainly has the power to change our circumstances. That's not the problem. The problem is when we want to move forward. Why is it so hard to wait?

I have struggled at times in my life with waiting. I have learned that the longer He takes to give direction, the more He has to teach me. When things aren't going smoothly, I have to trust His love for me and not complain. Once in the thick of the battle, no matter how dark the clouds, how heavy the fog, how hot the fire, and how fierce the fight, wait on God's instruction.

God will give clear direction, whether it is guidance for making a move or changing a career or choosing a mate. However, much to the distress of many, He seldom does it quickly. We must wait until He is ready to give direction. The world will think we are very foolish. "Take the bull by the horn," they'll say. Or

"What are you waiting for? Looks to me like you're wasting time and just sitting around!" That kind of advice has prompted many well-meaning believers to make rash decisions. Satan uses that tactic to take our eyes off God's direction and cause us to jump ahead of Him.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye" (Ps.32:8).

It takes strength to wait. But God's power and strength never diminish. He is never too tired or too busy to listen. His strength is our source of strength. When you feel all of life is crushing you and you cannot take another step, remember that you can call upon God to renew your strength.

God is full of mercy. He always has a specific reason for telling us to wait. Our responsibility is to trust Him, and that is perhaps the root cause behind our decisions to jump ahead in disobedience. What arro-

gance, to think we can work out things better than God can.

I've had two bouts with cancer in the past few years. I'm waiting for God to restore and replenish my strength. I'm waiting in the confidence that I'm healed. But the point is that for whatever reason God has destined me to wait.

But I just believe that it's not simply waiting for the sake of waiting. I believe that God is holding me still, because He's working something out within me, so that when he releases me I will be better able to serve him more fully.

This waiting is not with a passive attitude. No, I'm actively standing on tip-toe in excited, purposeful anticipation of experiencing the blessings of waiting on Him. This I look forward to.

Ethel Bates is a minister at Allen Temple AME Church in northeast Portland and regular contributor to the Portland Observer.

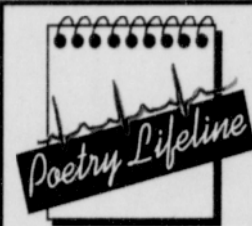
Church Honors Pastor Faulkner

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, 8101 N. Fiske Ave., will celebrate the 30th anniversary of its pastor, Dr. James C. E. Faulkner, with a special service on Friday, April 29 at 7 p.m. Rev. A Wayne Johnson of the Morning Star Baptist Church will serve as guest speaker.

The Pastoral Celebration will conclude with two events at the

church on Sunday, May 1. Rev. Robert Faulkner of the Jerusalem Baptist Church in Milwaukee, Wisc. will preach at 11 a.m. and Rev. Robert C. Jinter of the New Hope Baptist Church will preach at 3:30 p.m.

For more information please contact Deaconess Gwen Peterson at 503-720-6508 or visit www.stpaulbaptistpdx.org.



Poetry Lifeline, Inc.

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5 exciting writing workshops for talented young writers, age 12-17. Under the guidance of professional, published writer-instructors, youth will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in writing workshops designed specifically to optimize the skills and talents of young writers including:

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Attention College Bound Students! Get the competitive edge! Plan to attend You're In!, an intensive academic writing seminar where technical writers and admission officers help rising juniors or seniors develop the admission granting or award winning scholarship essay!

Classes are filling fast! Early Bird registration ends May 1.

For more information or to register for a workshop/seminar, visit the Summer Institute link at the www.poetrylifeline.com web site or email info@poetrylifeline.com for an application.

Gospel Explosion May 7

Gospel Explosion 2005, featuring The Light (Living in God's Holy Trinity) and other local artists will take place Saturday, May 7 at the Miracles Club on Northeast Mason at Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. with the music scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. A \$5 donation will be appreciated to benefit Miracles and the Light.

Church Hosts Job, College Fair

New Song Community Church, 2511 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., wants to give young people more choices by hosting "A Night of Hope," job and college fair on Saturday, on April 30 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The purpose is to help community residents find employment or get into college. Help with re-

sume writing and college planning will be provided.

This event is presented by The Isaiah Project, named after Isaiah Strickland who was a victim of a gun-related incident while leaving a party in northeast Portland.

Organizers said there will be at least 75 job opportunities available at the fair and the list

is getting larger. Companies like Providence Hospital and Timberline Dodge will be present. Lastly, one lucky 18-25 year old high school graduate will win a car.

For more information please contact the Isaiah Project at 971-22-8949 or email at isaiahproject@gmail.com.

Church Hosts Equality Coalition

Forum addresses rights for same-sex couples

The Equality Coalition invites the public to a forum, "Can't Marry? Won't Marry? What Rights Do You Need?" on Saturday, April 30 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Ainsworth United Church of Christ, 2941 N.E. Ainsworth St.

"The assault on the community

by the passage of Amendment 36, and Oregon Supreme Court nullification of same sex marriages has left many people feeling lost," said the Rev. Cecil Charles Prescod, a member of the Equality Coalition's planning committee. "This forum will allow the community to get accurate information about our legal rights, and ways in which we can provide protection for our families."

The presenters at the forum will review the current legal status of

sexual minority Oregonians and what options are available for people who cannot marry.

The Equality Coalition are individuals and representatives from organizations collectively pursuing actions that will lead toward gaining marriage equality as well as securing equal right for all individuals.

For further information, contact Rev. Prescod at cecil@LMFamily.org, 503-228-3892 or 971-275-3032.

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Q: How bad an accident does it take to actually cause whiplash?

A: While most people think of whiplash only as the result of a rear end collision, it can occur as a result of a fall or other sudden jolt. In car collisions, speeds as low as 5 MPH (a brisk walk) have caused whiplash. What's more, major studies show there is virtually no correlation between damage to the car and its occupants.

Q: How can I tell if whiplash has happened to me?

A: Whiplash often exhibits symptoms such as a sore

neck, arm or shoulder, nausea, blurred vision and headaches. If not treated immediately, these problems can lead to other more severe ones. To complicate matters, it sometimes takes years before whiplash symptoms occur.

Q: What should I do if I've had a fall or a car accident?

A: Don't take any chances. Schedule a complete chiro-

practic exam immediately. Our office specializes not only in relieving whiplash symptoms, but also in making sure those problems don't become bigger ones down the road. For diagnosis of possible whiplash, or answers to any questions you might have about your health, please call us at the number listed right below.

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Vernon teacher Jasmine Barcelona helps her students Courvosia Baker (from left) and Tae' Ojhane Henry learn to read. Vernon was recently honored by the state for making significant progress toward closing the achievement gap.

Vernon Celebrates Turnaround

continued from Metro

and there was talk that the school would be reconstituted - its entire staff forced to reapply for jobs.

"There was a time when we used to feel that some kids just weren't salvageable," teacher Michael Malone said. "Now we believe every child has a place here to be successful."

"The school is an inspiring example of what hard-working educators, focused on a shared vision and a rigorous plan to turn around student achievement, can

accomplish in just a few years," said Castillo.

The teachers started to work more collaboratively, applying their unity to a number of tasks - a new behavior policy and changes in teaching math and writing. In the past, test scores served only to discourage the staff. This too changed as teachers started to use data to empower themselves by setting new priorities and shifting resources.

Over the past four years, the percentage of students reaching reading and math benchmarks has increased more than 20 points in

each subject. Vernon has received a "strong" rating on its report Card for the past two years - a feat that may have seemed impossible to many less than a decade ago.

The school that everybody was ready to give up on finally believes in itself and its kids.

"Look where we were," said Kathy Hagerty, a 20-year Vernon teacher. "Look where we are now. We believe anything can happen. We can change lives."

Crystal Weber is an intern to the chief of staff at the Oregon Department of Education.



Political Scientist, Rev. John Pearce

Personal Editorial

Opinion: Politics, Religion & Community

Hear on KKPZ, 1330 AM dial, 7:00 Sunday mornings; and worldwide via WWCR & WINB Radio

Wa: Black Father, The Origin of Man

In 10,000 BC & before Abraham, "I will make mention of Rehab (Egypt) & Babylon to them that know me. Behold Philistia (Palestien); Tyre; with Ethiopia; this man was born there. And of Zion it shall be said, this and that man was born in her: And the highest himself shall establish her (PSALM 87)."

[Black Empire Zion: Jebusite, Canaanite, Hittite Amorite families. (Gen 10:6-20 and II Samuel 5:6)]. All the above nations were people of color. Biblically, the start of Israel's link to Zion came later in 4200 BC: "And thus saith the lord God to Jerusalem, Thy birth and thy nativity is of the land of Canaan; thy Father was an

Amorite, and thy mother was a Hittite. (Ezekial 16:3)" In Africa, I was told that the ancient West African father, Aduduwa, was the son of Ethiopia's Nimrod.

Scholars say, Hamites were Black. Newsweek magazine dated Jan 11, 1988, verify that the human family started with a civilized African Origin (Per DNA studies). Also scientists have long said that the oldest "bone findings" were found in Ethiopia & Palestien. We also know, Satan hates God & the Mind thereof, thus its even clearer now why he hates God's first thought of a civilized man, the "Black Man." Was America doing Satan's bidding when Africans were enslaved?

When a nation policies openly campaigns, "Turn back The clock;" meaning, turning the clock back to Blacks having no

voting rights-"Let My people Go!"

Consistently, that nation unjustly attacks African Americans in high places like the CEO of Sallie Mea-"Let My People Go!" When this suppression by the few of the many declares a never ending War On Drugs, Drugs that are brought over on our major airlines (CNN News)-"Let My People Go!" When this so called war, by law automatically gives a nation war time rights to attack Black youngsters in our streets, discarding civil rights-"Let My People Go!" Is this a ploy of suppression starting with our young, desensitizing the populous via TV media, "COPS" in order to raise a new generation of Blacks without rights? Let My People Go!"