September 19, 2007

### The Portland Observer

## RELIGION. **Metro Assembly Celebrates Diversity**

#### Has long history serving many cultures

You've heard the old saying about Sunday mornings being the most segregated time of the week in America. There may be more truth to that than many people would like to admit.

But in the heart of Portland, there's a church that has attracted members of many backgrounds and colors and has been embracing its diversity for years.

"I guess we take that for granted," said John Marvin, pastor of Portland Metro Assembly of God, which meets at 5004 N.E. Sixth Ave. "We don't tend to see the color. We tend to see people. It is not that we are colorblind but we celebrate diversity in our congregation."

Marvin said the mix of people from such heritages as Jamaican, styles to reflect the tastes and back-African, Caucasian and African American "just adds richness ... a certain flavor you don't usually and more are part of Sunday mornfind in many churches. I think di- ing worship services.



Rev. John and Sarah Marvin of the Portland Metro Assembly of God church.

versity helps you to learn more about the Kingdom of God since all think we are culturally together," Once we get to know one another cultures are needed to reflect the image of God."

The church blends music of many grounds of the congregation. Con- dom.' temporary music, Gospel songs

said Marvin. "We're family; we then the walls of division tend to are brothers and sisters. There is come down." a culture that transcends all cultures, the culture of the King-

He attributes the dividedness at many churches on people fearing "things we don't know, and we go or call him at 503-287-4825.

"We are racially diverse, but I where we are more comfortable.

For information about Portland Metro Assembly of God, visit the web at portlandmetrochurch.org or e-mail Pastor John Marvin at pastor@portlandmetro church.org.

### In Loving Memory

#### Nelson Zapata

Nelson Eduardo Zapata, 60, died Sept. 13, 2007, in San Antonio, Texas, after a brief illness.

He was preceded in death by his father, Eli Zapata Inostroza. Survivors include his

wife, Lisa Elizabeth Zapata; children, Debbie Eurich, David, Danny and Derek Zapata; six grandchildren; mother, Guillermina Quinones de Zapata; sisters and brother, Elizabeth Koll, David Zapata and Susan Zapata.

A service was held Saturday, Sept. 15 at Porter Loring Mortuary North Chapel in San Antonio. Interment followed in Hill Country Memorial Gardens, New Braunfels, Texas. Memorial contributions may be made in Nelson's name to

## **Nebraska Senator Sues God**

(AP) -- The defendant in a Nebraska state senator's lawsuit is accused of causing untold death and horror and threatening to cause more still. He can be sued, the legislator claims, because He's everywhere. State Sen. Ernie Chambers, an-

gered by another lawsuit he considers frivolous, says he's trying to make the point that anybody can file a lawsuit against anybody.

Chambers says in his lawsuit that God has made terroristic threats against the senator and his constituents, inspired fear and caused "widespread death, destruction and terrorization "victim" from a sexual assault trial.

#### Law Enforcement Sunday

### Ernie Chambers

#### of millions upon millions of the Earth's inhabitants."

The Omaha senator, who skips morning prayers during the legislative session and often criticizes Christians, also says God has caused "fearsome floods ... horrendous hurricanes, terrifying tornadoes."

He's seeking a permanent injunction against the Almighty. Chambers said the lawsuit was triggered by a federal suit filed against a judge who recently barred words such as "rape" and

service on Sept. 23 at 10 a.m. at Maranatha Church, 4222 N.E. 12th Ave. Law enforcement and criminal A local chapter of the National Organization of justice officials are asked to wear their uniforms or

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# Families Make Lents Home

#### continued A from Metro

barbeque a couple days before. Jeffery Wood was one of the residents solidifying his own ideas about the nature of lowincome housing at the event, as he reminisced on the negative impression he had previously had.

The area had been nicknamed "Felony Flats," but, as they ate grilled food in their new courtyard, they challenged anyone in the city to see a real felony in the shortage of responsibly managed, low-income apartments.

"The neighborhood barbeque is really going to encourage people from the neighborhood to come in and see that these are who their neighbors are, not an idea that they have in their head of who they think that they are going to be," says much work with low-income people in a community where impression of who that community is, it is important to encour-

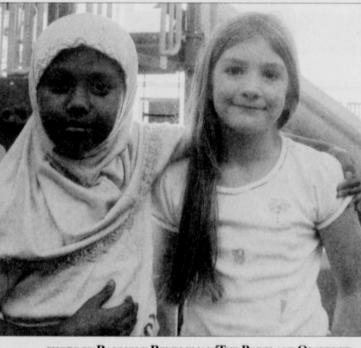


PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER Their parents haven't yet met, but Fatuma Kabiri and Elizabeth Wood quickly become friends on the new Leander Court play-

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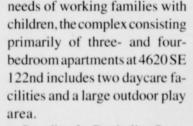
Michael E Harper Agent

Fax 503-227-8757

age everyone on both sides to Mackendree Thompson, a meet each other and to under-ROSE coordinator. "In an orga- stand that really what we're nization such as this that does so talking about are people, some of them single mothers, and all of them, especially in this compeople tend to have a negative plex, are families who need a place to live."

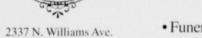
ground in Lents.

Designed expressly for the



Standing for Revitalize Outer South East, the 15-year-old organization strives to build and acquire affordable homes and rental units for those who would otherwise not be able to afford their own home.

"We're making the entire neighborhood better by providing them a home that's safe and secure," Thomson says. "Providing a home for somebody is a first step towards helping them become a more constructive member of society."



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