

Saints and sinners: A different philosophy of 'winning'

Vince Lombardi was a great football coach. But his philosophy of life had a gaping hole in it. He is known for having said "Winning isn't the most important thing. It is the only thing."

That view has done more to ruin our hopes for happiness than anything else in the world.

What makes it so insidious is that it sounds so right. On the athletic field and elsewhere, we are told, it is the heat of competition that brings out our best qualities. Jim and Ruth Deacoves brought their children up believing in the spirit of competition.

What they found was that games that should have been fun brought out the worst in their children. Every game — whether it was a board game or an athletic competition — ended in a squabble. The older kids always won, which encouraged the younger ones to cheat.

The Deacoves decided to develop games that

fostered cooperation, not rivalry. In one board game called Harvest Time, players work together to plant and harvest gardens. In another game, Beautiful Places, players share ideas on how to eliminate overcrowded cities and pollution.

The idea was so successful — and so much fun — that the Deacoves started a game business called Family Pastimes.

Others are in on the secret. One night, I walked in the house and found my parents playing Scrabble. I noticed that when my mother was stumped for a word, my father would look at her letters to see if he could think of a word for her.

"That's not how to play," I said.

"Oh, other people have told us that, too," replied my father. "But we help each other." And they have fun. They even keep score to see who



george plagenz

• saints & sinners

wins — not that it makes any difference to them.

But the best example of how to play the game of life is in a story by Rabbi Paysach Krohn in "Chicken Soup for the Father's Soul" (HCI, 2001).

A father had taken his learning-disabled son Shaya to a softball game. During the game, the boy asked if he could play.

The father put the request to the members of one of the teams. Since their team was losing

by six runs and it was the eighth inning, they agreed to let the boy play. What harm could it do?

But then Shaya's team rallied. The potential tying run was on base when it was Shaya's first turn to bat.

What happened next was truly wonderful. The opposing pitcher moved in a few steps so he could lob the ball in softly. Shaya swung the bat clumsily and missed.

On the next pitch, he hit a slow ground ball to the pitcher, who could easily have thrown the ball to the first baseman, which would have ended the game.

Instead the pitcher took the ball and threw it over the first baseman's head. By the time the right fielder had retrieved the ball and threw it into the infield, Shaya was heading toward second base.

A good throw to the second baseman would have beaten Shaya to the bag and the game would have been over.

But then another wonderful thing happened. The right fielder, who was now aware of what was happening, threw the ball high over the second baseman's head.

"Shaya, run to third!" the players from both teams yelled.

As he ran, the ball not only sailed over the second baseman's head but over the third baseman's head.

"Shaya, run home!" everybody was now screaming. Shaya ran and stepped on home plate. He had won the game for his team.

The players on the losing team that day had found the hole in Vince Lombardi's philosophy. It is not winning that is "the only thing." It is making someone else's day shine brighter.

American missionaries are competing for souls in Buddhist Mongolia

By Michael Kohn

Associated Press Writer
ULAN BATOR, Mongolia — Shaun Rosemann and Drew Wallace call it their "portafont."

The two young Mormon missionaries took along the plastic baptismal font, the size of a large bathtub, when they went to rural Mongolia looking for souls to save.

The clean-cut, blue-eyed pair are part of an influx of foreign missionaries engaged in a struggle to win believers in this traditionally Buddhist country of 2.4 million people.

For nearly a year, the two missionaries taught English by day and held weekend services in a rented discotheque. They filled the portafont and baptized dozens of new Mongolian Mormons by immersing them in it.

"We had the services in the morning

and when we left, the room became a bar again," said Rosemann, who has moved back to the Mongolian capital of Ulan Bator with Wallace to continue their missionary work.

A decade has passed since the end of 70 years of officially atheist communism, and today visiting preachers find a ready audience as Mongolians search for spiritual meaning amid worsening poverty.

Seventeen U.S. Protestant mission boards have 60 workers in Mongolia, according to the new "Mission Handbook" from the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College in Illinois. No U.S. Roman Catholic missionaries are listed.

More traditional Mongolians complain that foreign missionaries threaten their Buddhist traditions.

"We are worried that Mongolia will become a Christian country," said

Jamynsharviin Ganzorig, one of 800 monks at Gandan Monastery, Mongolia's biggest.

Western churches help the poor in a society where communist-era social services have collapsed.

"The missionaries give money and food to poor people and draw them to their church," Ganzorig charged. "Some missionaries are generous, but most just want to get members. It is hard to tell how many are real Christians, because many just go to church so they can study abroad."

But a native evangelical Protestant pastor, the Rev. Yadamdorjiin Bold of the Crown of Love Church, calls Buddhism a scourge that his homeland should discard.

"Buddhism makes people lose their motivation," said Bold, 26. "Before Buddhism came we were fierce warriors

and ruled many countries."

Many Mongolian Buddhists are disillusioned with a religion that has monks chanting services in Tibetan, a tongue no ordinary believers understand. Christian pastors, by contrast, preach in Mongolian.

Others have lost faith in monks who have a reputation for drinking and ignoring their vows of celibacy.

"They recite scriptures as a business," said Adrian Feldman, an Australian Buddhist monk who is trying to teach Mongolians their forgotten traditional faith.

An exception is Betub Danjai Choinkhorlon Monastery, which maintains strict discipline for its young class of about 35 monks. It was set up by a former Indian ambassador in a two-story traditional building with whitewashed walls and ornately painted wooden eaves.

Prime Minister Nambariin Enkhbayar

has endorsed this and other Buddhist projects, including a planned Buddhist TV station. "In order not to lose our identity we need to keep the Buddhist traditions," he said.

Among the most active foreign workers are Mormons, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This distinct faith, based in Salt Lake City, Utah, is now building a five-story center in Ulan Bator.

"Satan's temptations are everywhere in Mongolia," said recent convert Dolomjaviin Zogselmaa during a visit by Wallace and Rosemann to the canvas tent where she lives in Ulan Bator.

"My family joined the church to avoid smoking, fighting and drinking," she said.

Wallace, 21, from Dallas, and Rosemann, 20, of Salt Lake City, spend their days visiting Mormon converts at home.

Between visits, they chat with taxi drivers and students, urging all to attend services at their downtown tabernacle.

Dressed in neatly pressed black suits and wearing plastic name badges, the missionaries attract curious questions. Mongolian law does not allow them to speak about religion unless first asked.

"The reward is when you see a change in a person. You see a light turn on and you know they found the love of God and Jesus Christ," said Rosemann.

The Mormons hold Sunday services next door to Feldman's Buddhist center. New members are submerged in a blue tile tub each Friday, adding to a congregation that has surpassed 2,000 members.

"Mongolia should become a Mormon country," said Sister Ankhtuya, a former Buddhist nun who converted three years ago after seeing a movie on Jesus' life.

Bible Baptist Church

Pastor: Don Crutcher

Fifth & Broadway

899-7368

Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am

Worship Service: 10 am

Evening Service: 6:30 pm

Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

Calvary Gospel Church

Pastor: Rev. Steve Rains

Fourth & College • 899-3605

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am

Morning Worship: 10:30 am

Evening Worship: 6:30 pm

Wednesday: Family Night: 7 pm

Adult Bible Study and Youth Group

Saturday: Prayer Meeting: 5-7 pm

If you would like to receive a free newsletter, please call the church office.

Church of Christ

401 Caldwell

899-6185

Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am

Worship Service: 10:45 am

Evening Service: 6 pm

Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

Church of the Nazarene

Pastor: Matthew Delp

Third & Caldwell

899-2080 or 899-3797

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am

Worship Service: 10:50 am

Evening Service: 6 pm

Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First Baptist Church

Pastor: Bud Chester

Fifth & Center • 899-3450

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am

Morning Worship: 10:30 am

Evening Worship: 6:30 pm

Tuesday: Mens' Prayer Group: 6:00 am

Thursday: Night Bible Study: 7:00 pm

Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail

Pastor: Bobby Potter • 332-3956

Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am

Worship Service: 11 am



Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Pastor: Loren Strait

Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233

Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am

Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups,

Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups,

Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship

Special Notice: Handicap Accessible, Hearing

Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler

Nurseries Available

First United Methodist Church

1116 Sherman

899-3631

Pastor: Rev. Carol Moore-Ramey

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am

Worship Service: 10:30 am

Sonrise Christian Church

Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398

Minister: Tony Kafka

Youth Minister: Doug Bean

Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am

Sunday School: 10:45 am

Wednesday:

Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm

Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 899-6161

Pastor: Scott Grimshaw

Sunday: Sunday School: 8:45 am

Worship Service: 10 am

Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Kanorado

United Methodist Church

Pastor: Leonard Cox

399-2468

Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am

Worship Service: 10:15 am

Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400

Pastor:

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am

Morning Worship: 11 am

Evening Worship: 6 pm

Wednesday: Call for location

Grace Fellowship Church

104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423

Pastor: Bob Snyder • Residence: 899-0134

Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

Worship Service: 11 am

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

13th & Center

899-2115 or Rectory 899-2114

Priest: Father Charles Schneider

Deacon: Gretchen Talitha

Adult Forum: Sunday: 8:30 am

Morning Prayer: 9:30 am 1st & 5th Sundays

Holy Eucharist: 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays: 9:30

Sr. Warden for emergencies during the week 899-2067

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO • (970) 664-2470

Sacrament Meeting: 9:30 am

Sunday School: 10:45 am

Priesthood/Relief Society: 11:30 am

Word of Life Foursquare Church

223 E. 10th

899-5250

Pastor: John Coumerilh

Sunday: Worship Celebration &

Kids' Church: 10:30 am

United Methodist Church

Brewster:

Pastor:

Worship Service: 10:45 am CST

Sunday School: 9:45 am CST

Winona:

Minister: Rev. Bob Winters

Worship Service: 9 am CST

Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

La Luz Del Mundo

Spanish Speaking Church

Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.

1601 Texas • 899-5275

Daily Prayer: Sunday thru

Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm

Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Pastor: Father Daryl Olmstead

307 W. 13th • 899-7205

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment

Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 6 pm

Sunday: 8 am and 9:30 am

Spanish Mass:

1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

Pleasant Home Church

Serving the rural community for over 100 years

Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70

Pastor: Jim Cross

899-5784

Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am

Sunday School: 10 am

Evening Service: 6 pm

The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:

Good Samaritan Center
208 W. 2nd

Koons Funeral Chapel
North Main

Golden Wheat Ranch
Office 110 E. 11th

Topside Office Products, Inc.
1110 Main

Goodland Daily News
1205 Main