

Saints and sinners: Finding confidence and hope

When we were children, we used to say a bedtime prayer that began “Now I lay me down to sleep.” The third line contained the rather frightening thought “If I should die before I wake ...”

Most of us, however, skipped quickly over that part. We went to sleep in the happy confidence that we would indeed wake up in the morning.

Nowadays, we aren’t so confident. The most we are prepared to say is we hope we will. It is that hope which will have to sustain most of us the rest of our lives. All because of something that went terribly wrong over the skies of New York City on Sept. 11, 2001.

But never underestimate the power of hope. Not all the things we hope for do we get, but some we do. That is because, as hopeful people, our eyes are open to hopeful possibilities all

around us.

But it is more than that. There is an old saying, “Where there is life, there is hope.” The converse of that is equally true: “Where there is hope, there is life.”

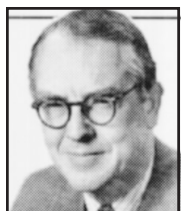
Alexis Carrel, the scientist-philosopher who wrote “Man, the Unknown,” said “Hope generates action, even within the cells of the body.”

Hope is, therefore, good for our health, and staying healthy will be one of our major responsibilities if we are to emerge victors in the strife.

All of us would say that we have hopes. But often they are just wishes.

You can tell a hopeful person by the way he says, “I hope so.” It has a rising inflection. Some people can say “I hope so” in the most despairing way.

Hopeful people act as though there is a good chance that their hopes will be realized. Hope



george plagenz

• saints & sinners

is being 100 years old and taking out a two-year subscription to a magazine.

Sometimes when our hopes are too long deferred, it is because we need a new set of hopes.

A wise old lady in my parish in Boston had a saying: “When everything is against you, just quit.” She didn’t mean that we should give up. She meant that we should go on to something else—something that offers more hope of success.

When one set of hopes fails, we can remember the line of Pococurante in Voltaire’s “Candide”: “I shall have another garden laid out tomorrow upon a nobler plan.” Another garden of hopes.

E.B. White, the essayist, once wrote a letter to a friend who was in the throes of despair. He wrote, “Hope is the thing that is left to us in a bad time. I shall go to bed tonight and wind the clock as a contribution to order and steadfastness.”

“As long as there is one upright man, as long as there is one compassionate woman, the contagion may spread and the scene is not desolate.

“Sailors have an expression about the weather. They say, ‘The weather is a great bluffer.’ I guess the same is true of our human society.

Things can look dark, then a break shows in

the clouds and all is changed — sometimes rather suddenly.

“Hang on to your hat. Hang on to your hope. And wind the clock, for tomorrow is another day.”

That’s good advice for all of us. Let’s hang on to our hats and hang on to our hopes — and wind the alarm clock each night as a symbol of our hope that, whatever the uncertain future brings, we shall be awake for all of it.

Who knows?

Martin Luther may have been on to something when he wrote the words of his great hymn: “And though this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us, we will not fear for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.”

That’s something that can put us to sleep without fear of what the morning will bring.

Man living in rowhouse in Philadelphia recognized as ‘canocical hermit’

By Tina Moore

Associated Press Writer
PHILADELPHIA—He isn’t part of a religious order, and his hermitage isn’t on top of a mountain.

But recently Richard Withers became the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia’s first “canonical hermit.” A convert from Judaism, Withers lives in a small rowhouse in a Philadelphia neighborhood plagued by abandoned houses and drug trade.

“My vocation is no longer my own,” the 46-year-old Withers said. “It’s now being incorporated into the whole church.”

His acceptance was made possible by a 1983 change in the church’s canon law, allowing bishops to accept hermits within their diocese. Withers is not alone in choosing a life of solitude and prayer, but Catholic officials don’t

know how many hermits exist today.

The formal status won’t change Withers’ life much. He has been living alone since 1984 under private vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. For the past 10 years, he has inhabited the small house in north Philadelphia, which he purchased for \$1 and rehabilitated with his own handiwork.

He spends 4 1/2 hours each day in prayer and works one day a week to support himself at a company that makes scientific instruments. He makes \$5,500 a year, doesn’t have a television and depends upon conversation to get the news.

“It has a normal rhythm,” he said. “It’s nothing extraordinary, like I’m not hanging from my toes anywhere or anything.”

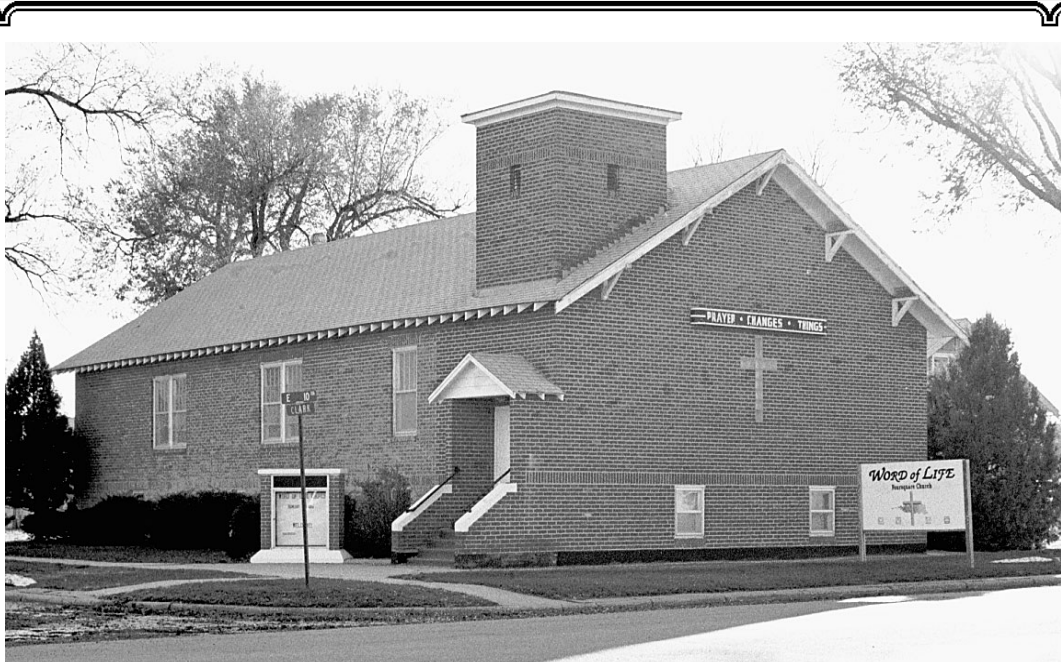
Raised with seven brothers and sisters in a family that considered itself culturally Jewish, Withers wasn’t in-

structed in prayer. But the signs that his life would take a spiritual course appeared early, he said.

As a 6-year-old, Withers had a recurring dream that he was living on a cliff and that people would come to visit him. During adolescence, he fantasized frequently about building a cabin in the woods and “just living there,” he said.

But Withers said his conversion, and the journey to his current vocation, didn’t follow a straight path. “I wasn’t really looking,” he said. “It wasn’t like I was in angst searching for answers. It’s just the way the story unfolded.”

Withers had been planning to go into photography, and was living in a house in Camden, N.J., taking a year off from college when he began working as a bicycle repairman. He began attending church with others who were living in the house — a commune of sorts.



Word of Life Foursquare Church

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: Arlin Cochran • 785-332-2888
Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 11 am

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)
Pastor: Loren Strait
Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233
Sunday: Worship Service: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
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 10:30 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 Cress
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:

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208 W. 2nd

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North Main

Golden Wheat Ranch
Office 110 E. 11th

Topside Office Products, Inc.
1110 Main

Goodland Daily News
1205 Main

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