

# Saints and sinners: Sometimes just being there's enough

He was there every day. Sometimes all day. He would sit in the front pew with his eyes looking up at the crucifix above the altar.

One day the priest of the parish church in the small French village said to the devout peasant, "What do you say all day to our Lord, my friend?"

And the old soul replied, "I say just nothing at all. I only look at him and he looks at me."

That is not our idea of a fruitful exchange. We want to talk. Talk is the disease of our times.

It doesn't matter who you are, wise or simple. Talk to us. We'll listen. Television is one drawn-out Oprah Winfrey show. So is modern life. Yada, yada, yada.

Words can be important, of course. We cling to the words of Jesus. But he was a man of few words.

The secret of his appeal isn't so much what

he said as who he is. The disciples often didn't understand what he said. But their hearts were captured and won by the radiance of his face. They felt better when he was around.

The strong, silent types seem to diffuse their own strength to those around them. We feel stronger when we are with them. Our fears subside. The lords of babble rarely have that effect on us.

A reformed alcoholic once said this of the man who helped him most in his hours of deepest despair: "He never counseled or criticized me. He just stood by me, a silent, affectionate reminder of better things."

The garrulous participants on television's "The View" wouldn't understand. But the French peasant in our story was privy to the secret.

Our prayer life consists mostly of words,



george  
plagenz

- saints & sinners

which may be why it doesn't go better.

All of us can think of people we would like to have around us in times of need. They may be friends, or the doctor, or family members. But most of us don't want somebody who will chew our ear off.

I myself would not pick Billy Graham or Robert Schuller. I wouldn't want a talker around.

I would like somebody who fits Father Henri

Nouwen's description of a caring person. "To care," said Nouwen, "is to be present to those who suffer and to stay present even when nothing can be done to change the situation."

What about God? Do his ears get as tired as ours from all the talk he has to listen to?

Instead of being worshipped so much (which must be pretty hard to take some of the time), I sometimes think it would please God more if we dropped him a simple compliment from time to time.

I imagine he was pleased with the remark of Ruthie quoted in "Children's Letters to God" (Workman, 1991), compiled by Stuart Hample and Eric Marshall.

She told God, "I think the stapler is one of your best inventions."

And I imagine God liked the time he spent with Harry Golden's mother, who often scolded

him as though he were an errant child.

"My mother talked with God all the time in Yiddish — actual conversations," says Golden, the Southern newspaper editor whose essay, "My Mother and God," is reprinted in "Pundits, Poets and Wits" (Oxford Press, 1990).

"She would send you off on an errand," says Golden, "and as you were ready to dart off into the crowded, dangerous streets, she would turn her face upward and say, 'Now see that he's all right.'"

"Then, she would add, 'In the home that boy is my obligation, but once he is out on the street that is your department, and be sure to see to it.'"

Oh, another thing to remember in your relationship with God (from "101 Ways to Talk to God" (Sourcebooks, 2001), by Dandi MacKall), "When you climb into bed at night, don't forget to tell God good-night."

## American Jews wrestle with old question: Reconcile with Germany?

**By David Minthorn**  
*Associated Press Writer*

NEW YORK — The question still roils the Jewish community: Is reconciliation with Germany possible or desirable after the slaughter of 6 million?

Some believe relations were poisoned forever by the Nazi's campaign to wipe out Europe's Jews. To them, "Never forget" means refusing to buy German products, travel to Germany or having anything to do with Germans.

But more than five decades after the war, political realities are challenging unbending attitudes. Modern Germany bears no resemblance to Hitler's era, the government has made restitution to many victims and Germany has become a stalwart ally of Israel, as well as the United States.

Harriet Mandel of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York,

a coordinating body for 60 groups, favors reconciliation, but other Jews in the United States do not.

"Sentiment to continue boycotting Germany is quite deeply imbedded," Mandel said. "Second- and third-generation American-born Jews are the most reluctant to move on."

An estimated 250,000 children of Holocaust survivors live in the U.S., researchers say, some banding together to discuss childhoods colored by their parents' efforts to deal psychologically with the death camps, losses of family members and guilt about their own survival.

Even American Jews not directly touched by the Holocaust say they are expressing a tribal solidarity with the victims and their offspring by refusing to buy German or visit the country.

Former U.S. Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal, a German-Jewish

Holocaust refugee, believes Jewish sentiment for shunning Germany has declined over the last 20 years as German democracy has strengthened.

"The German generation in power today is trying very hard to make amends," said Blumenthal, who heads the new national Jewish Museum in Berlin. "They recognize the worst thing that could happen is to forget."

Still, he said views on Germany are influenced less by political developments than by whether close family members were victims of the Nazis.

Inge Oppenheimer, who spent her childhood in the German city of Kassel and was deported to a concentration camp in Czechoslovakia, visited Germany and recalled seeing her parents' name on a plaque for Holocaust victims.

"I got hysterical at the realization of what happened," she said.

She discussed her experiences at the Jewish Heritage Museum of New York in a recent symposium on Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass, the Nov. 9, 1938, attack by Nazi followers on synagogues and Jewish businesses across Germany.

Oppenheimer sensed the Germans she met on her visit felt uncomfortable around Jews, which she saw as a legacy of the Holocaust. Still, she said, "Today Germans are different. I must admit it."

Roman Weingarten, originally from Krakow, Poland, and a survivor of the Dachau concentration camp, agreed. "Today to put them all in one bushel, I don't associate with that," he said.

The Jewish population in Germany now numbers more than 100,000, the largest community in Western Europe, with most coming from Russia and elsewhere in Eastern Europe over the

last 10 years. It is a remarkable rebirth, considering the's prewar Jewish population of 500,000 was almost wiped out.

Blumenthal addressed several hundred people in October at Temple Emanu-El in New York, tracing Jewish evolution from ghettos to assimilation in Germany, as typified by his own ancestors dating back to the 17th century.

In his position at the Jewish Museum, Blumenthal often meets Germans forced to confront the history of the Third Reich for the first time.

As a 12-year-old in Berlin, Blumenthal saw his merchant father dragged away to Buchenwald concentration camp on Kristallnacht. When his father was released, the family fled Germany for Shanghai, China, where they spent World War II, then emigrated to the United States in 1947.

In speaking to younger Germans,



Calvary Gospel 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  
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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

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