

Saints and sinners: When hope came from a radio speaker

Maybe it's too early to tell, but it seems to me that the television coverage of the war against terrorism has not produced any correspondents with the star quality of Edward R. Murrow, H.V. Kaltenborn, Eric Sevareid, Raymond Gram Swing, Elmer Davis, Lowell Thomas or Gabriel Heatter, who were among the newsmen who kept our ears glued to the radio set every night during World War II.

Gabriel Heatter was my favorite. He was the father of the human-interest story, which is now a staple of television's war coverage.

Born in New York City in 1890, Heatter died in Miami in 1972 at the age of 82.

In his autobiography, Heatter recalls a night in 1939 when the Nazis were attacking Poland. In the background, as the Polish radio was broadcasting the bombardment, listeners could

hear the music of Chopin being played.

Heatter saw that as a symbol of mankind's unconquerable spirit in the face of the worst the enemy could do. He would try to bring that spirit into his broadcasts.

There were stories of valor and sacrifice on the battlefields, stories of someone going out of his way to fight for justice for another.

"Something simple in these stories brought relief from the burdens of war," wrote Heatter. "People would tell me they went to bed feeling better after my broadcasts."

But Heatter is remembered most for the way he delivered the news. "The accent was on the better hope for tomorrow," he writes in his book. "Even if tomorrow turned out to be worse than today, when that day was done, there was still hope the next day would be better."



George Plagenz

● saints & sinners

Heatter would open many of his broadcasts with the line for which he became famous: "Ah, there's good news tonight."

He first used the line during a period in the war when everything was going badly for us in both Europe and the Pacific.

Then U.S. forces sank a Japanese destroyer. It was the first positive development for the Allies.

That night, Heatter opened his broadcast with the line that became his signature: "Ah, there's good news tonight."

The response was immediate. Something about the words "good news" caught on with the public in those dark days.

On each broadcast thereafter, Heatter would try to find a patch of blue on which to hang real hope.

As he did, he began to hear from mothers and fathers with sons in the service, thanking him for his optimism.

He also received mail from men in uniform thanking him for helping keep morale up for the folks back home.

What Heatter's listeners didn't know was that in his off-the-air life, he was prey to many phobias that kept him on the brink of one nervous

breakdown after another all his life.

"Out of my struggle with these demons," he says in his autobiography, "I developed an awesome respect for such words as love, mercy, compassion and charity."

"If a story had been used about a human being in trouble, and publicizing the name would hurt members of the family, I would not use the name. Someone would say to me, "'But it's the news. You can't talk about birds and bees all the time.' But I managed for 25 years."

Today, the broadcast media has no such respect for people. It saturates us with stories of child abuse, scandals and murders.

This, even more than the news itself, is largely responsible for our downcast mood.

Gabriel Heatter, the world hath need of thee now.

Utah's Roman Catholics find unity in being a statewide minority

By C.G. Wallace

Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — When people talk about "The Church" in Utah, they're not talking about the Roman Catholic Church.

Catholicism is America's largest denomination, but its No. 2 in Utah and represents only about 9 percent of the state's residents, or roughly 200,000 people. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints claims 70 percent of Utah's residents — around 1.5 million people.

The sheer dominance of Mormonism in Utah — where it's not just a religion, but a culture — pushes Catholics together and has created a tightly knit minority.

"I'm amazed at the distances people travel to attend Mass in rural areas," said Dee Rowland, the Salt Lake diocese's government liaison. "I'm overwhelmed

by the sacrifices parents make financially and in transportation complications to send their children to Catholic schools."

Salt Lake Bishop George Niederauer, the Church's top official in Utah, says being immersed in the Mormon culture causes people to look closely at their own faith.

"I think the atmosphere here encourages people to take religion seriously," he said. "When people ask you what (Mormon) ward you belong to, that gets you thinking."

The Mormon influence in Utah, where the Winter Olympics will be held next month, runs deep. The state was founded by the faith's pioneers in 1847, who had fled from persecution in the East. Today, it is the home of the Mormon church's world headquarters.

Salt Lake City is a place where a resident can come home, switch on the

Mormon church-owned NBC affiliate and see commercials for the Mormon church-owned Deseret Books, which has a branch conveniently located downtown in the Mormon church-owned ZCMI mall across the street from the Mormon church-owned newspaper, the Deseret News.

This also is a place where drinking a cup of coffee in the morning or having a beer after work makes a clear statement about religious affiliation. The Mormon church prohibits members in good standing from smoking or drinking alcohol and hot caffeinated beverages.

Apoll conducted last fall for The Salt Lake Tribune, the state's largest newspaper, found more than two-thirds of Utah's residents perceive a social, cultural or political divide between those who are Mormon and those who are not.

In short: The rift can be obvious and divisive, even as leaders of different

faiths push for tolerance.

"There's a tremendous challenge to being in the majority or the minority graciously," Niederauer said. "We have to be careful about Mormon bashing. It can become a blood sport."

Mormon church President Gordon B. Hinckley has made it a priority to build better relations between Mormons and non-Mormons, said spokesman Dale Bills. It's a message Hinckley himself has reiterated many times.

"We are greatly misunderstood, and I fear much of it is of our own making. We can be more tolerant, more neighborly, more friendly, more of an example than we have been in the past," Hinckley said during the faith's semiannual General Conference in April 2000.

Leticia Medina, a Catholic and director of the State Office of Hispanic Affairs, has navigated the state's religious divide in her 20 years as a Utah resident.

When she first moved here from Los Angeles "it was very difficult to even say I was Catholic because I was looked down upon," she said.

The mother of four daughters, Medina said she struggled with raising her girls. One dropped out of school at age 16, saying, "'I'm not the right color. I'm not the right religion.' It was too much pressure for her to deal with," Medina said.

Greg Schirf, a Catholic and owner of Wasatch Brewery, moved to Park City from Milwaukee in 1974. Utah's culture took some getting used to.

"I think what allowed me to survive is living in Park City," he said, describing the upscale ski town as a Catholic enclave.

To live in any other part of Utah "would have been too overwhelming. The reason I did stay is the recreational and business opportunities. But there were some lonely times."

There have been efforts made to bridge the religious divide.

Medina said her parish has made a point of working on social causes with churches of other faiths. The bishop sits on the newly created Alliance for Unity to promote more tolerance in the state, along with Mormon church leader Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Mormon leaders continue to implore the faithful to be more accepting of others.

At this fall's semiannual General Conference, Ballard told church members to practice tolerance and inclusion. He made a special point of addressing Mormons who live where they are the majority. If neighbors disagree with the Mormon church or the church's stance on an issue, "Please don't suggest to them — even in a humorous way — they should consider moving someplace else," Ballard said.



Goodland Bible 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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Office 110 E. 11th

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