

# Saints and sinners: Love most those who deserve it least

The tale of two prisoners ...

Canada Blackie was a murderer serving a life sentence in New York's Auburn Prison when Thomas Mott Osborne became warden.

Osborn, fired with his dream of rehabilitating prisoners, was determined to make Canada Blackie the cornerstone of his experiment. "At first," says Willard Sperry in recounting the story, "Blackie was stubborn and uncooperative. But the warden refused to give up on him. In the end, he melted Blackie's hardened heart and the lifer became the chief advocate of Osborne's program."

When, finally, Canada Blackie lay dying of tuberculosis in the warden's house, he said, "There are some people who have helped me.

They are not the preaching and praying kind. But there have been some people who have treated me better than I deserved with the result that they made me better than I wanted to be or than I naturally would have been."

The other story is told by a night prison corrections officer writing in Guideposts magazine.

He tells of an inmate who was put into solitary confinement after attempting to kill a fellow prisoner.

Whenever the officer would pass by his cell in the middle of the night, the inmate would leap from his cot, shake the bars and shout obscenities at him.

He had vowed to kill the first officer who tried



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to come into his cell. But one night the officer opened the cell door quietly and went in.

"You know," said the officer, "there is a much simpler way to insult me, and it would save you a lot of energy. Why don't you print what you want to call me on a poster and hang it on your cell door before you go to bed? Then you

wouldn't have to wait up for me every night."

The prisoner was bitter and abusive over the intrusion, but later, after he had calmed down, he confided to the officer that, while the idea might be a good one, he couldn't write.

The officer agreed to teach him. Each night from then on, he found the prisoner's profane greeting displayed on a poster on the cell door.

A few weeks later, the officer told the prisoner that he would teach him additional words so that he could learn to read. It was agreed, and there were lessons each day.

But every night, as the officer made his rounds, there was the obscene sign that the prisoner never failed to hang up.

Then one night, after a weekend off duty, the

officer passed the cell and was pleasantly surprised. The old sign was down. In its place, the prisoner had hung a different sign that read "GOD BLESS YOU SARGENT. GLAD YOU'RE BACK."

The moral of these two little stories really has nothing to do with prisoners. It has to do with us.

If the approach used by the warden and the guard would work with hardened criminals, why wouldn't it work with the difficult people we encounter in our everyday lives?

Not only do "they need love most who deserve it least" but "one loving heart kindling another" is probably the most effective way there is to change lives.

## On a new continent, congregation to rebuild synagogue burned by Nazis

**By Margie Mason**  
*Associated Press Writer*

BERKELEY, Calif. — A gem of Jewish architecture that was lost in the Holocaust could soon rise again — half a world away from where it originally stood.

The synagogue in Przedborz, Poland, was built in 1636 near the banks of the Pilica River. From the outside, it looked like a simple barn, but inside the massive front doors was a spectacular sight — a 40-foot vaulted ceiling carved with Biblical scenes, an elaborate pulpit and timbers adorned with jewels.

"It was the most beautiful place, so beautiful I don't think I paid any attention to the prayers but to the walls and to the ceiling," said Gina Nirenberg Kimelman, who was just 7 years old when she went there with her grandmother. "I came home and I would draw some of these things."

This is the time that Kimelman prefers to remember — the last moments before the Nazis arrived in 1942, burned down the synagogue and killed off the town's Jewish citizens.

Now Kimelman, 78, may soon have another chance to sit in that synagogue again, thanks in part to her memories. The Congregation Beth Israel in Berkeley is planning to rebuild the synagogue to scale, realizing an ambition members first had 20 years ago as they discussed replacing their existing house of worship.

Wooden synagogues once dotted the landscape of Eastern Europe but only about 10 are left and none are good repair — they are used as barns or sheds.

The Przedborz synagogue was a Polish treasure. Napoleon is said to have visited it in the early 19th century. Tours stopped there in the 1920s and '30s. Photographs and architectural drawings of it were hidden during World War

II, then later preserved in the archives in Warsaw.

Members of Berkeley's Wooden Synagogue Committee unearthed the photographs and drawings of the original building, which was remodeled in 1760. They noted that a large wooden Star of David dominated the outside wall facing the town's center, an unusual feature that showed just how accepted Jews were in Przedborz, which was 60 percent Jewish.

Kimelman, one of only four people known in the United States who remember details of the synagogue, told the committee about the rainbow of vibrant colors inside the building that the archive photos fail to capture.

"This is the first time a wooden synagogue is (being) rebuilt to house a living, breathing, growing, organic congregation, which is what makes it so special," said Rabbi S. Yair Silverman of the Berkeley congregation.

Architects from two firms have used the original drawings to replicate the original design and add features for modern use.

"The building burnt in a fire, and we've been hired to rebuild it," said David Finn, one of the architects. "It happens to be 60 years later, and it happens to be in a different place."

Artists from China, Italy, the Czech Republic and Jerusalem will complete wood carvings and other ornamental work that models the original structure.

The new structure will replace a modest Orthodox synagogue on its site now and will face the same direction as the original, Polish synagogue.

Beth Israel's congregants have contributed about \$2 million for the project, and the synagogue committee has submitted grant requests to some 200 organizations seeking the additional \$3.5 million necessary to build the temple.

Silverman hopes to break ground next fall and complete construction in another year. People of all religions and cultures will be encouraged to visit, with educational tours linked to a nearby Jewish museum.

Barbara Budnitz, a member of the congregation, recently visited Przedborz. All that remains of the original synagogue is three stairs that lead down to the river and an old water pump, she said.

"I almost feel like those people are with us and pushing us forward," she said.

Kimelman remembers much about Przedborz, but never returned there because the memories were too painful.

She grew up with her parents in Lodz, but had a large family in Przedborz, about 40 miles south. The Nazis rounded up her grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins and forced them to dig their own graves. Others in the town were driven to the death camp in Treblinka.

"Can you imagine? Somebody would come and have something against such a beautiful thing," Kimelman said of the synagogue. "So old and so beautiful."

Kimelman was herself taken from the Lodz ghetto to Auschwitz in 1944. She was freed a year later when the war ended.

Seeing the synagogue again "will be like something coming back from the ashes," Kimelman said through tears at her San Mateo home. "Every time I will go there, I will see my family there. Me and my grandma just sitting there."

On the Net: <http://www.wooden-synagogue.org/>

**Internet tonight!**  
**899-2338**

**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 United Methodist Church**

**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  
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1116 Sherman  
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**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

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**Sacrament Meeting:** 9:30 am  
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**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.  
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**Sunday:** Sunday School: 10 am

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**Pastor:** Father Daryl Olmstead  
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**Mass Schedule:**  
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Sunday: 8 am and 10:30 am  
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