

Saints and sinners: Transcending above the hate

As the war on terrorism continues with no sign of ending, what should our mood be? One of anger? Hatred? Fear? A call for retaliation? During the Civil War, Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, in a letter to his wife, said, "People who talk of further retaliation and punishment either do not conceive of the suffering endured already or they are heartless and unfeeling."

The little story that follows tells of another kind of response. A former colleague of mine in the newsroom whose name was Sam relayed the following account.

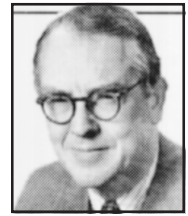
Sam had a history teacher at Hiram College in Ohio who was a Quaker. The professor had a small son, Steve, who was the apple of his father's eye and, as proud fathers do, he frequently spoke of him. Sam admired his teacher and they kept in

touch after Sam graduated from Hiram. So it was in 1978, that Sam learned the professor's son had been mutilated and killed by the Vietcong during the Tet Offensive while he was a civilian serving in the pacification forces.

Sam wrote to his old teacher to express his sorrow and condolences and received a response soon after. What surprised Sam was that nothing in the reply reflected rage or anger against the Vietcong. Instead, the father wrote warmly about his memories of his son. One line at the end of the letter remained with Sam.

"I like to think," the professor wrote, "of what he might have been."

In subsequent years, their paths - Sam's and the professor's - crossed a few more times. "And whenever we talked of his children," said Sam, "he would recall Steve. 'You remember Steve,



george plagenz

● saints & sinners

don't you, Sam?" he would ask. He would smile, his eyes would water and he would use those same words he had used in his letter to me in 1978: "Oh, Sam, what he might have been." These words were never spoken through clenched teeth; there were never words of anger, only a wistful smile of regret.

"I have never known how he could do it," Sam would say to me, "to live without hate or anger

when all that had happened to him would seem to call for hate or anger as a response."

There are those who will tell us that when we are victims of injustice or cruelty or brutality, hatred and anger are the only proper responses. Unless we keep history's inhumanity alive in memory, it will repeat itself, we are warned.

This is not true. It is not forgetting past hurts or present injustices that gives occasion to new hurts and new injustices. It is bitterness and anger over the past that do this.

Some few people refuse to look back in anger. They are the unforgettable people, perhaps because they are so rare.

Rev. Martin Luther King Sr., who lost a wife and a son to assassins' bullets, said, "I am not bitter. I carry no ill will in my heart toward any man. I refuse to stoop low enough to hate any-

body."

After his wife was slain as she played the Lord's Prayer on the organ in the church where he was a pastor, King said, "You know it hurts, when you live with a woman 48 years, a partner, to have her taken away from you in a minute like that. You know it hurts. But I'm just not going to hate. You want to debate that? You do that. I ain't got the time. I am going on with my job, being every man's brother."

You know it hurts to have your son mutilated in a brutal killing, but Sam's old history teacher knew more than that. He knew that anger and remembrance of the horror only make it worse.

So he turned his thoughts to what could have been in a world "where all hatreds cease" and there is only love and brotherhood. It is in such dreams that a new world is born.

Plagiarism charges in the pulpit — citing sources an issue for some clergy

By David Runk

Associated Press Writer
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, Mich. — Plagiarism charges have caused trouble lately for historians and college students, and even clergy are being questioned about whether they should cite more sources from the pulpit.

Thousands of sermons have been collected online, making it easy for religious leaders to peruse the words of others for inspiration. And the point where research becomes plagiarism is murky for ministers and rabbis, who have many demands on them beyond composing a weekly sermon.

But by borrowing too much, some say preachers risk bruising their credibility.

"Preparation doesn't mean clicking 'print' or ripping it out of the magazine and carrying it to the pulpit with you," said Steve May, who edits a sermon-

sharing Web site, www.sermonnotes.com. "The real problem with that (is it) indicates the guy isn't spending time in the Word himself."

The plagiarism question has gained attention in this Detroit suburb at Christ Church Cranbrook, where parishioners are waiting to see whether the Rev. Edward Mullins will return to his post as rector.

The Detroit Free Press reported this month that Mullins was given a 90-day suspension Feb. 1 while the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan investigated complaints by parishioners of plagiarism in his sermons and church bulletins.

Officials with the diocese and church where Mullins has served since 1996, as well as Mullins' lawyer, declined to discuss the investigation. At the church, parishioners have mostly shied away from talking about Mullins' suspension, though some have indicated the dispute

has more to do with conflicts within the congregation than outrage at alleged plagiarism.

"We do feel that this is a family matter within the church family," said Ann Davis, junior warden on the vestry. "Many members of the parish are in support of Father Ed, and we are trying to deal with it within the church."

Generally, reading and listening to other preachers is recognized as a natural part of crafting a sermon. As with any kind of public speaking, it helps to know what else is being said.

Sharing sermon ideas has also been encouraged to varying degrees by denominations — from helpful speaking tips to specific edicts about what should be said from the pulpit.

Episcopal Church USA, which incorporates the Michigan diocese and Christ Church Cranbrook, even publishes weekly sermons that it encourages pas-

tors to use. And preachers following liturgical calendars generally address similar topics as others in their denomination.

Clay Morris, liturgical officer with Episcopal Church USA, said his faith's policies don't explicitly address how to cite sources for sermons. But finding a way to acknowledge the source would be akin to the church's policy with music.

"We're very clear in the Episcopal Church that if you're going to copy a piece of copyrighted music into a leaflet you must do what you must to cite a source," Morris said.

The problem for preachers lies in failing to give credit — or not putting in the time to make a sermon original.

"These resources can be a shortcut for a busy pastor, but the downside is that a sermon for a general audience cannot address the needs of a local congregation as well as the local pastor can," said

Clayton Schmit at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif.

Plagiarism accusations are more often aimed at authors, not religious leaders, although the Rev. W. Barnwell Heyward Jr. at a Presbyterian church in Clayton, Mo., resigned in October after admitting he plagiarized sermons.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin admitted this year she borrowed from other works without attribution in her 1987 book "The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys." At least six books by popular historian Stephen Ambrose have been questioned for failing to properly credit source material.

And 38 students have left the University of Virginia since a professor developed a computer program to find duplicated phrases in students' work.

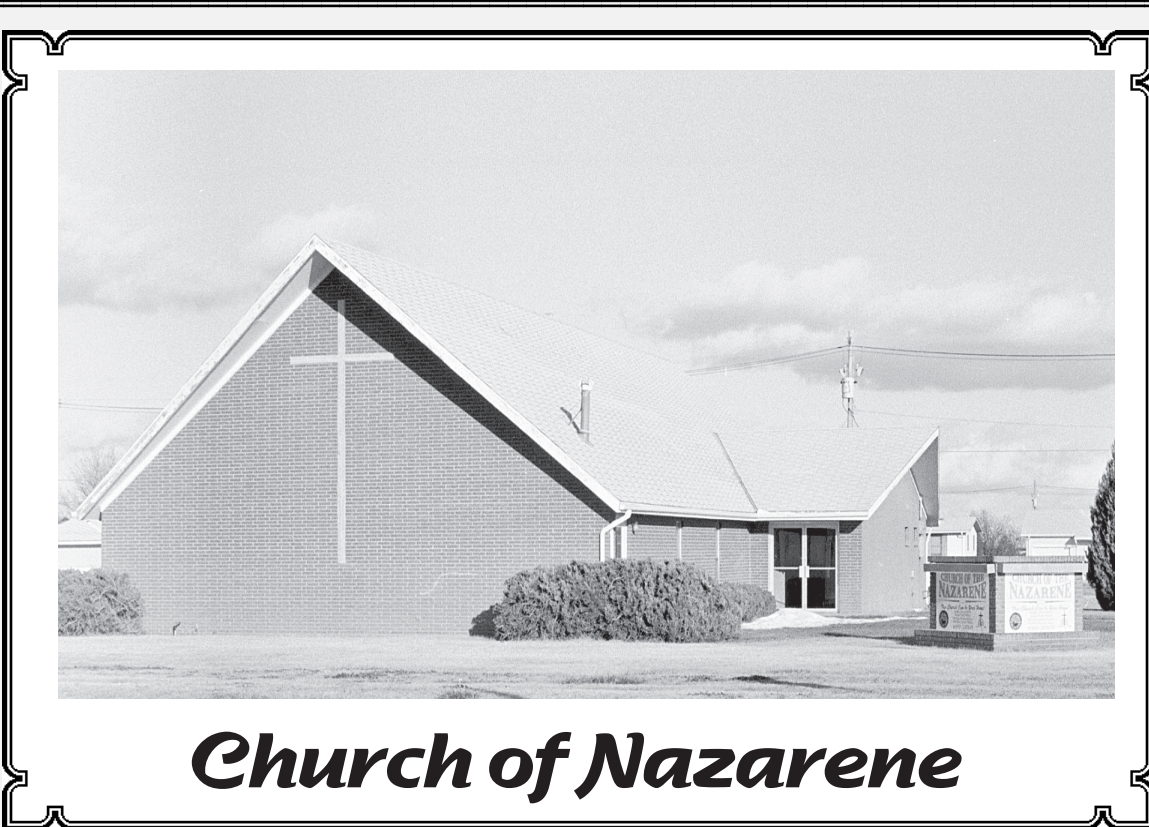
Some think it's unfair to judge a sermon or a church newsletter by the same plagiarism standards as an academic

paper or book. Others question whether preaching should be copyrighted at all.

"I think the main responsibility of a congregation pastor or rabbi is to offer comfort or care to those who need it, and to speak or present the good news of God with conviction, clarity and emotion," said David Blewett, executive director of the Ecumenical Institute for Jewish-Christian Studies in Southfield.

May said most people use his Web site for research when developing sermons. And though May doesn't mind if preachers use some stories word-for-word, he requests users don't republish the material.

"I don't believe plagiarism in a sermon exists in the same sense that other people might," he said. "The only thing I think is unethical — plagiarism in preaching — is if you tell a story that happened to someone else as if it happened to you."



Church of Nazarene

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
Wednesday 6:30 pm
"Building on Firm Foundations"

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:

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

Short & Son Trucking
Hwy. 24