

Saints and sinners: The power of remembrance

In Maeterlinck's lovely fantasy, "The Blue Bird," (Olympic Marketing Corp., 1988) two little children, Mytyl and Tytyl, are transported by the fairy into the Land of Memory where they once again meet their grandmother and grandfather.

The children are surprised their grandparents are not dead. When Mytyl mentions this to her grandmother, Granny Tyl tells her, "As long as you remember me, I am alive."

This is the universal Easter message. It is the message to those who believe that Christ rose physically from the dead as well as to those who have their doubts about that, but

believe in the resurrection just the same — they believe Christ is alive today as surely as he was when he walked the dusty roads of Galilee with his disciples.

But to believe — or even to know — that Christ is alive today is not enough. He is truly alive only if we remember him.

We all know people who are walking the earth today, but whom we never think of from one end of the year to the next. They are as good as dead to us.

We also know people who have departed this life, but whom we remember almost every day.



george plagenz

● saints & sinners

As long as we remember them, they are alive to us. Remembering them cheers our lives and provides companionship to us in our loneliness.

All the scholarly arguments in the world,

proving or disproving that these loved ones are alive somewhere today, make no difference to us one way or the other.

To us they are alive and we feel their undying presence. And nothing can disprove what to us is so obviously true.

So it is with Jesus in our lives.

He is more truly alive to those who remember him and love him — no matter what they believe happened on that first Easter morning or even if they believe nothing happened — than he is to those who unquestioningly accept the Easter miracle but who seldom think of Jesus or remember him as they would

a dear and loving friend.

The most touching words of parting are these: "Don't forget me."

This is what Jesus was saying to his disciples just before he took leave of them on Thursday evening of the first Holy Week.

"Remember me," he said, "remember me."

If we remember Jesus, he will live forever. If we don't remember him — if we remember only a miraculous event which took place "as it began to dawn" on Easter day — we will miss the most marvelous miracle of all — the miracle Jesus was — and is. "As long as you remember me, I am alive."

Rev. Land leads Southern Baptist Convention as preacher, lobbyist

By Amy Green

Associated Press Writer
LEBANON, Tenn. — The Rev. Richard Land's forehead shimmers with sweat as he barks his grim interpretation of the Bible's apocalyptic book, Revelation.

"Seize grace while you can lest you fall into the hands of God — who will judge," he says in a recent sermon at the Immanuel Baptist Church in Lebanon.

When he travels to Washington, he shows another side. Land shakes hands with White House aides and congressmen as he promotes the conservative agenda of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Land's ability to mix preaching and politics has pushed him to the forefront of the nation's largest Protestant denomination, and of the religious right.

As president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, the Southern Baptist public policy arm, Land spends up to seven days a month in Washington representing the denomination on Capitol Hill.

In September, President Bush made Land the first evangelical on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, an independent panel established by Congress to monitor religious liberty worldwide.

Land lobbies federal lawmakers on issues including abortion, stem cell research and gay rights — on those three, he makes his denomination's opposition known.

"For me, it became very clear that my calling was a ministry calling with a public policy component," he said.

David Key, director of Baptist studies at Emory University's Candler School of Theology, said Land has a quieter, contemplative approach that some in politics find more appealing than the fiery style of the Rev. Jerry Falwell or Pat Robertson.

"He's not flashy," Key said. "He uses his educational background to project a very thoughtful perspective on his agenda."

Land, 55, said he was called to the ministry when he was 16 and growing

up in Houston. The first in his family to attend college, he earned a full scholarship to Princeton University, where he studied history, psychology and religion.

After graduation he enrolled at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, then went on to earn a doctorate in theology from Oxford University. He returned to Texas, as a professor and later administrator at The Criswell College, a small Southern Baptist college in Dallas.

During this time, Land earned a reputation as a leader among abortion opponents and in 1987 became an administrative assistant to then-Texas Gov. Bill Clements, to help enact laws regulating the procedure.

Later, he was elected president of what is now the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Land has expanded his influence as the host of three syndicated Southern Baptist radio programs, which he said draw an average 1.5 million listeners a week.

As Land's prominence has grown, so

has the criticism from moderate Southern Baptists, including the Rev. Bill Sherman, who believes Land and other conservative leaders have ruined the denomination.

Sherman accused them of using selective Bible verses to support what he feels are unacceptable ideas. The Baptists approved a doctrinal statement in 2000 that wives must "submit graciously" to their husbands. Sherman also was angered by the denomination's boycott of the Walt Disney Co. over providing employee health benefits for same-sex couples.

"I don't think that's where God's coming from," said Sherman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Fairview.

Land makes no apologies. Southern Baptists have maintained their membership because of their reluctance to stray from the Bible's teachings toward a less demanding version of Christianity, he said.

"Christianity is not a popularity contest," Land said. "We have found that many, many people are attracted to a

denomination that is going to put itself under the authority of Scripture."

The conservative shift has caused a split, with Baptists in some states leaving the 15.9-million member denomination. Former President Jimmy Carter renounced membership in his lifelong denomination in 2000 due to what he

called its "increasingly rigid" theology.

Land's response? "Good riddance." "It's very clear that the Southern Baptist Convention is a conservative denomination and it's going to continue to be a conservative denomination. And when voices of opposition are raised, they're seldom successful," he said.

Unusual ads try to reach young men

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. (AP) — Churches in southeastern Virginia are using ads on matchbooks, movie screens and — coming to a men's room near you — partitions that separate urinals.

From bars to gentlemen's clubs, convenience stores to professional wrestling programs, churches are targeting males aged 18 to 34.

Pastor John Redmon of Open Door Community Church in Newport News said, "Most people live in an R-rated culture. Movies. Music. We want to reach out to people where they're at."

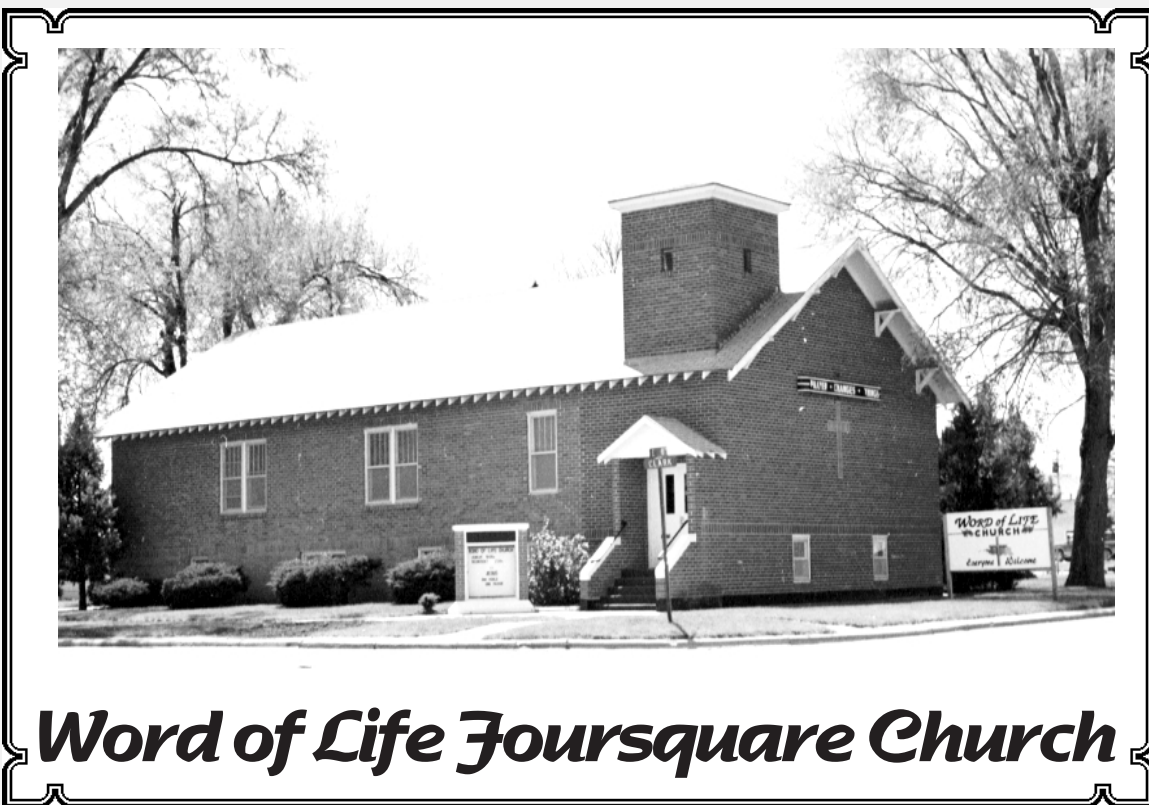
For the nose-ring set, Open Door runs commercials on wrestling telecasts, lik-

ening body piercing to the crucifixion of Jesus. It buys onscreen ads before movies, regardless of their ratings.

Open Door's membership has grown in the past five months from 26 to 150; Redmon said the median age is 34.

Hope Community, plans advertising on cable TV sports and ordered 2,500 matchbooks to tout its new "Night Service" in bars, restaurants, convenience stores and gentlemen's clubs.

Ken Tombley borrowed the idea from Vineyard Community Church in Cincinnati, which used everything from car washes to urinal partition ads as membership grew from 37 to 6,000.



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
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