

# Saints and sinners: Looking at religious intolerance

It didn't help relations between Muslims and Christians when two evangelical clergymen — the Rev. Pat Robertson and the Rev. Jerry Falwell — recently categorized Islam as a violent religion.

Back on Oct. 6, 2002, in a "60 Minutes" segment, Falwell called Muhammad, the founder of Islam, a "terrorist" and a "violent man, a man of war." About two weeks after he made the remark, amid public condemnation, Falwell retracted it.

Then, on Dec. 1, Robertson appeared on "This Week" with host George Stephanopoulos, and defended his own position that Muhammad was first and foremost a "warrior." Stephanopoulos countered that, speaking of violence, the Bible was full of bloodthirsty references of its own. He was right, of course.

Even the Book of Psalms, probably the most treasured book in the Bible (if not in

all of devotional literature), breathes slaughter and hatred in many of its verses. When we speak of psalms, what comes to mind are the 23rd psalm ("The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want ..."), the 90th ("Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations ...") and the 91st ("He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High ...").

We forget that tucked in among these words of consolation and comfort is the 139th psalm: "Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God. I hate them with a perfect hatred."

Or, even worse, the 109th: "Let his days be few ... Let his children be fatherless and his wife a widow. ... Let there be no man to pity him nor to have compassion upon his fatherless children. Let his posterity be destroyed ..."

A friend of mine once told me she was having trouble falling asleep at night. I sug-



george plagenz

• saints & sinners

gested she read the psalms before going to bed. The words of these ancient songs, I told her, can have a wonderful quieting effect on the restless mind. I wasn't thinking of those psalms that keep you awake rather than put you to sleep.

Take the 137th psalm. In the beginning verses, this psalm is one of the most beautiful and poignant in the Psalter: "By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept when we remembered thee, O Zion."

But it ends on one of the most bone-chilling notes in literature. It pronounces a bless-

ing on anyone who will grab a baby of the Israelites' Babylonian captors and throw the infant on the pavement: "Blessed shall he be that taketh the children and throweth them against the stones."

Revolted by the brutality of these more gruesome psalms, my friend was now having more trouble than ever getting to sleep at night. I suggested that she read the psalms allegorically and look for the expression of truths by means of symbolic figures. If interpreted rather than taken at face value, that upsetting passage about dashing Babylonian babies against stones can teach us this:

The enemies in our life often come to us in the guise of "infants" — small, winsome, attractive and utterly harmless, they seem unable to hurt us. One little act of marital infidelity — what damage can it do? A little cheating, a little skirting of the law, little sins

like indulging in resentments now and then — what's so dangerous about such things?

What's so dangerous is that these "little things" grow and get bigger. And, as they get bigger, they become more alarming.

The reason the Psalmist wanted the babies killed was so they wouldn't grow up into adults who would be as evil as their fathers had been and commit horrible acts against the Israelite nation. They had to be destroyed while they were still small, before they could become ruthless despoilers. The lesson for us, therefore, is that we must deal with the little sins in our lives in the same way.

If we can learn to read more troublesome Bible passages in this fashion, and likewise, be able to accept that other religions can have just as many of their own interpretations as the Bible does, we may all be able to sleep better.

# Priests forum leaders want clergy to speak out against abuse

By Jay Lindsay

Associated Press Writer

BOSTON — To the Rev. Robert Bullock, the lesson of the clerical sex abuse crisis that began in his own Boston Archdiocese is simple — priests cannot risk remaining silent and subservient.

"Crimes were committed in our parishes by our brother priests," says Bullock, a co-founder of the Boston Priests Forum. "What made us so passive, so supine, so unwilling to take risks?"

"We can't be that way again," he says. "Those things are going to happen again. We can't be complicit."

Already credited by some with playing a role in the resignation of Cardinal Bernard Law as Boston archbishop, Bullock and others in the group hope the forum grows to combat the secrecy at the heart of the sex abuse problem among the clergy.

Some priests see the mere existence of a group of priests independent of the archdiocese as divisive. The Rev. Joseph Hennessey said the forum can best serve the archdiocese "by disbanding."

A forum leader, the Rev. John McGinty, compares the group's future to the development of a precious stone.

"The pressure either makes it or breaks it," he said.

The forum's start was innocuous enough — three priests meeting for dinner in September 2001 to hash out everyday concerns such as loneliness and overwork. But the hunger for fellowship was sharp, and the group grew to around 50 by the end of that year, just before the sex abuse scandal broke.

Law became the lightning rod of dissent among parishioners and alleged victims for shifting priests accused of molesting children from parish to parish.

Priests were demoralized by their colleagues' misconduct and the hierarchy's mishandling of the cases. But they worried about false accusations, and the forum spoke out when Law seemed cool to their concerns.

Some labeled them rebels after 58 priests, including members of the forum, signed a letter calling for Law to step down days before he tendered his resignation to the pope Dec. 13.

Priests take a vow of obedience to their bishop, and disputes between clergymen and prelates are usually settled privately. The priests' public effort to oust the cardinal was unprecedented.

Even with Law's resignation, the archdiocese still faces more than 400 lawsuits filed by alleged victims of abuse, which the archdiocese has pledged to settle, and the release of more documents on problem priests.

In the past couple of months alone, more than 11,000 pages of archdiocese personnel files on more than 80 priests were released, detailing a range of allegations, from a priest who beat up his housekeeper to another who seduced young girls studying to become nuns by telling them he was the "second coming of Christ."

McGinty said fulfilling pastoral duties in the midst of crisis remains priests' chief concern, leaving little time for them to reflect on what their new voice now means.

Forum leaders have expressed a willingness to work with Bishop Richard Lennon, the archdiocese's interim leader, though no meeting has been set. A spokeswoman for the archdiocese declined to comment.

The forum adopted a constitution in November, establishing a registered membership and an executive board, which will be elected sometime early this year.

Stephen Pope, chairman of the theology department at Boston College, said the forum must include a broader range of ages, theologies and geographic areas to combat the perception that it is liberal or controlled by a few prominent priests. At the same time, it must work to keep a broad base unified.

"The last thing you want to do is create more splinter groups," he said. Hennessey, a priest at St. Joseph

Church in Kingston, contends that the Boston Priests Forum doesn't represent the majority of archdiocesan priests, either numerically or in what he said is a liberal theological bent.

The forum estimates it has 250 of the archdiocese's 550 active priests as members.

Hennessey said the group duplicates the work of the Presbyteral

Council, an elected body of priests within the archdiocese which can voice concerns, and has set up an "us vs. them" mentality by establishing itself independently.

"The church is like a family," he said. "Families settle things ... face to face. The church is not Ward 16 politics. The church is not the union hall."

## Worship warms the heart

**Calvary Gospel Church**  
**Pastor:** Rev. Steve Rains  
Fourth & College • 899-3605  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:15 am  
Morning Service: 10:30 am  
Evening Service: 6:00 pm  
**Wednesday:** Adult Prayer and Worship: 7:00 p.m.  
Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.  
Helping you focus upward in worship, inward in commitment and outward in evangelism

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help**  
**Pastor:** Father Norbert Dlabal  
307 W. 13th • 899-7205  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**  
4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment  
**Mass Schedule:**  
**Saturday:** 6 pm, **Sunday:** 10:30 am  
**Spanish Mass:**  
1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

**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

**Word of Life Foursquare Church**  
223 E. 10th  
899-5250  
**Pastor:** John Coumerilh  
**Weekend services**  
**Sunday:** Worship Celebration  
and Kids' Church: 10:30 am

**Pleasant Home Church**  
Serving the rural community  
for over 100 years  
Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70  
**Pastor:** Charlie Busch  
694-2242  
**Sunday:** Worship Service: 9 am  
Sunday School: 10 am  
Evening Service: 6 pm

**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

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**  
1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO • (719) 346-7984  
**Sacrament Meeting:** 9:30 am  
**Sunday School:** 10:45 am  
**Priesthood/Relief Society:** 11:30 am

**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

**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

**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

**Kanorado United Methodist Church**  
**Pastor:** Leonard Cox  
399-2468  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 am  
Worship Service: 10:15 am

**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 United Methodist Church**  
1116 Sherman  
899-3631  
**Pastor:** Rev. Janet Hernandez  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:15 am  
Worship Service: 10:30 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

**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

**Grace Fellowship Church**  
104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423  
**Pastor:** Bob Snyder •  
Residence: 899-0134  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 10 am  
Worship Service: 11 am  
Youth Group at Gattshall's at 5:30 pm  
Adult Bible Study 6 pm

**Seventh Day Adventist Church**  
1160 Cattletrail  
**Pastor:** Arlin Cochran • 785-332-2888  
**Saturday:** Sabbath School: 9:30 am  
Worship Service: 11 am

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church**  
13th & Sherman • 899-6161  
**Pastor:** Scott Grimshaw  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 8:45 am  
Worship Service: 10 am  
**Wednesday:** Confirmation: 6 pm

**Church of Christ**  
401 Caldwell  
899-6185  
**Sunday:** Bible Study: 9:45 am  
Worship Service: 10:45 am  
**Wednesday:** Bible Study: 7 pm

## The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:

**Short & Son Trucking**  
Hwy. 24

**Koons Funeral Chapel**  
North Main

**Good Samaritan Center**  
208 W. 2nd

**Goodland Daily News**  
1205 Main

Public notice			
CITY OF GOODLAND TREASURER'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT GOODLAND, KANSAS			
For the period from October 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002			
FUNDS	PREVIOUS BALANCE	RECEIPT DISBURSEMENT	CURRENT BALANCE
Special Highway	65,309.35	33,646.04	0.00
Self Insurance	860,508.44	80,118.49	94,631.53
Airport Fund	227,421.89	117,090.96	28,821.96
General Operating	1,557,279.84	400,950.81	407,850.13
Bond & Interest	151,184.39	4,319.27	0.00
Library	0.00	2,070.91	207.98
Sales Tax	7.72	33,054.89	28,948.17
Electric Utility	1,596,128.73	1,181,167.21	945,234.02
Municipal Court Diversion Fees	8,108.57	1,034.37	0.00
Law Enforcement	19,186.48	341.16	0.00
Electric Meter Deposit	111,839.00	7,750.00	8,415.00
Water Utility	596,374.50	175,768.09	234,118.06
Water Service Deposit	49,038.00	5,300.00	4,875.00
Sewer Utility	66,874.82	66,641.66	78,601.04
Special Park & Rec.	43,508.82	1,736.90	5,184.40
Vehicle Inspections(VIN)	13,786.14	1,744.39	3,042.11
Grant Imp Reserve Fund	-85.00	0.00	0.00
Steever Park Project	0.00	2,478.94	0.00
Solid Waste	127,018.10	129,813.30	105,514.01
Fire Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00
Airport Improvement	0.00	0.00	0.00
Water Imp. (CDBG)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capital Imp. Reserve	2,743,723.22	163,480.57	2,897,203.79
Insurance Proceeds	0.00	0.00	0.00
Employee Benefit	300,093.42	9,945.00	145,891.57
Library Emp. Benefit	2.61	168.10	0.00
State Water Fund	8,207.20	3,398.67	6,283.69
Cemetery-Perp. Care	82,500.00	0.00	82,500.00
Cemetery Endowment	47,300.79	1,600.00	0.00
Cemetery Improvement	78,235.27	2,575.37	0.00
Replacement Tree	1,887.65	8.25	0.00
Electric Reserve	1,087,356.94	4,813.62	0.00
Water Reserve	723,499.58	28,038.20	0.00
Water System Improvement Proj.	0.00	2,855.54	2,855.54
CDBG Housing Grant	0.00	4,600.00	0.00
Sewer Reserve	421,414.47	1,727.65	6,500.00
M.E.R.F.	1,527,014.67	126,792.88	0.00
Total	12,515,725.42	2,585,920.74	2,106,772.21
			12,994,873.95
LIABILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS			
AVAILABLE CASH	PREVIOUS BALANCE	CURRENT BALANCE	
Cashier's Change	2,000.00	2,000.00	
Checking Accounts:			
BANKWEST	512,530.40	923,180.83	
Investments	12,001,195.02	12,069,693.02	
Total Available Cash	12,515,725.42	12,994,873.95	
ST OF KS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY LOAN			
			2,195,368.81
STEEVER PARK PROJECT LEASE PURCHASE			1,813,876.43
OLD IGA BLDG LEASE PURCHASE			82,853.67
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 1996-1			515,000.00
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 1996-2			395,000.00
TOTAL			4,981,795.81
I, Janell Dilling, do hereby certify that the above statement is correct.			
Janell Dilling			City Treasurer
Signature			Title