

from our viewpoint...

## We cannot allow terrorists to win

What kind of people attack a school and slaughter children? Freedom fighters? Hardly. Animals. Savages. The world needs to band together to stop this barbarism.

The time is past for temporizing. Action is required. A subway in Spain. A street in Israel. A school in Russia. A synagogue in Tunisia. A bomb in Baghdad. Airliners in Russia. Buildings in downtown New York. An embassy somewhere in Africa. Terrorism is pure evil, and it will not go away. Terrorists do what they do because, when the world shows weakness, it works.

Terrorism changed a government in Spain. Terrorism has Americans wishing we'd never gotten into Iraq. Terrorists must not be allowed to win. The stakes are nothing short of the fall of civilization and the end of western society as we know it. Not tomorrow, not next year, but eventually. Imagine a world where people like the gang who seized the school in North Ossetia rule. Imagine living under their thumb.

We must recognize, first, that this is a clash of cultures, and only one culture can survive.

It must be the culture of love, peace, freedom and the sanctity of human rights and human life.

We must recognize, second, that this is not a Christian-Muslim clash.

Far too much blood has been shed in the name of God, Jehovah or Allah. Children in Northern Ireland, women in Kosovo, shoppers in Israel. Muslims do not have a corner on violence.

This is a clash between the forces of peace, law and order, and the forces of evil, of Satan.

Peaceable leaders of all three faiths deplore senseless violence. As one Arab leader put it, "We are all children of Abraham."

All people of the Book. And however we believe in the One True God, he does not want us killing each other in His name.

Nor does he want terrorists and thugs, people who kill children, to rule the world.

This is not the time to waffle or waiver. We need to proceed on two fronts, the front of peace, yes, and the front of steel.

Any terrorist who persists against a united world must perish.

And as this senseless slaughter proceeds, perhaps the world will unite, as we must. — *Steve Haynes*

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## I finally have my new computer

I don't know about you, but my computer story is still not finished.

To my great surprise, after purchasing the "package deal" on a Tuesday and bringing home only one of the four components, I patiently wait for Saturday when I am to pick up the two ordered to arrive at the store. Saturday wasn't convenient, so I decided to wait until Monday to drive the 30 miles into the city.

Monday morning some PR man calls to see if I'm enjoying my computer. I said, "Well, not really. I don't have it yet."

"Oh, I thought you bought it last week."

"I did, but the computer, carrying case and extra memory all had to be ordered."

"Well, I guess then, I'm calling to tell you the components are in."

He guesses??

Surprise of surprises, my computer arrives by FedEx in the early afternoon — as I'm getting ready to go get the other components. Thank you, God; now I won't have to make an extra trip. I can get the memory installed today — assuming of course that it has arrived at the store. So I set out with high spirits. Finally, something seems to be working right.

I go into the store to the Courtesy Clerk and



**lorna  
gt**

• commentary

give her the handful of paperwork I received last week. She has to call a computer teen to get the components; they're not sitting there with my name on them. All the computer teens are busy. So I wait. The clerk calls again. I wait. Finally, a computer person comes over and takes all my paperwork. I silently pray that I'll see it again.

Trustingly, I tell the clerk that I'll go to my car and get the computer so the extra memory can be installed. Then as I get to my car, I think: I probably should have waited to make sure the components are here. Hope I don't just have to carry this back out here.

The computer teen is gone for quite awhile, but eventually returns with the 2 components. The clerk looks at the paperwork and says, "Nothing here says there will be no charge for the installation." I take the original ad from the paper and point out the small print that says

## House plants more than stems and leaves

A friend was talking about her house plants and how each was as much a memory as a plant.

I know exactly what she means.

As I look around the house, I see not just stems and leaves, but parts of my life.

In one corner is our oldest plant, a mother-in-law's tongue. I'm not sure how old it is, but I remember it sitting on a radiator in our home in Kansas City.

We had a lot of plants in Kansas City. House plants were in vogue, and I had them everywhere. However, most of them died when we moved to Colorado.

We moved in November and had to spend two nights on the road. All the plants were loaded into the back end of Steve's old Blazer.

Two-thirds of them didn't make the trip. Most of the rest died during the month we lived in a one-bedroom cabin with three small children. The mother-in-law's tongue lost a lot of leaves, but was meaner than either the cold or the children.

This hardy plant is sitting in the kitchen waiting to return to its permanent home in the dining room. The dining room has been in the middle of



**cynthia  
haynes**

• open season

renovation for about six months and the mother-in-law's tongue has been pushed against a kitchen wall. It just keeps growing.

Across the kitchen is the plant I brought home from my father's funeral. That was almost a dozen years ago. I don't know what it is. It has a narrow stem and lots of yellow-spotted green leaves, which it sheds all over the floor. When I see that plant, I think about my father. He wasn't a big house plant lover, but he enjoyed outdoor gardening and had a wonderful grapefruit tree growing in Texas behind the trailer he and my mother called home in the winter.

In the living room, there is a Norfolk pine that my brother-in-law Kenny's coworkers sent to my mother-in-law's funeral.

## where to write

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