



# STEEPLE NEWS

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Steeple News  
Volume 2: Issue 6  
August 2006

## REMEMBRANCES OF GEORGE LINDSAY Compiled By Pastor Dan Stern

Marj knew from the start that George was a gentleman. And being a gentleman made him different than others at Linfield College who showed interest in her! George treated Marj with respect!

While working during his college years at Lassen National Park in Northern California, George was assigned to be a 'gopher' for one of his literary heroes, Bertrand Russel. Russel was taking a writing sabbatical in an isolated cabin in the park. Once while replacing a disfunctional heater, George asked Russel about his ethics, and was told that 'he HAD no ethics.' Of course, that was enough to set off a long, animated discussion with the famous writer.

At the conclusion of George's service as a staff sergeant in a MASH unit in the Pacific during WW II, George saw their first born, Bruce, for the very first time, being held in his mother's arms. Marj had managed to make a surprise journey to meet George when his ship came into Portland. Marj remembers George immediately pulling the cap off his baby boy's head to see if he was as beautiful and blond as his mother was.

George and Marj's daughter Kit remembers her father as one who was, in all things, well-organized. George had a carefully thought-out itinerary for their numerous family camping and hiking trips. Son Ron remembers reminding him once at Harrison Hot Springs that the family was on vacation, that he could throw the schedule out and just let it be. This sounds like the George I knew too. For years in weekly church book study groups, when it was George's turn to lead the discussion, he would always hand out copies of a carefully-crafted outline.

George loved to read books and was a life-long learner. He continued to take university-level classes throughout the bulk of his retirement years, ranging in subject from Latin and biology to photography, papermaking and pottery. Among his literary habits - poetry-writing and letter-writing with an old-fashioned type-writer.

Rev. George who served congregations in California and British Columbia during his ministerial career, had the gift we in the biz call a 'pastor's heart'. He was passionate about his Christian faith and all related commitments to justice and

peace. Many great stories could be told about how faithfully George cared for persons on the bottom rungs of society. For years, he was a tutor and pastoral counselor at King County Jail. He spent 10 years as a sponsor for a group of Pacific Islander prisoners. Once George asked me to go with him to help a man move who would otherwise have been evicted. For me, it was a blessed opportunity to become acquainted with one of the least of these, a brother who George and Marj consistently cared for over many, many years - one who likely would never have made it in life without them.

George was active in all aspects of leadership in the life of his faith community. During my nearly 7-year tenure at Broadview Community UCC, George regularly volunteered to lead worship; would preach whenever asked; would lend a hand at work parties; visited the sick, called on newcomers, and often invited members to share meals in their home. It scared some of us to see how hard George worked and how faithfully he was present, even during his later years of diminishing health. He was stubborn about wanting to always get to church and to make each of his other commitments, often refusing others' offers to give him a ride, preferring to do for himself as much or more than he could.

One of my own most powerful memories of George was being with him, Marj, and other members of Broadview Church along Greenwood Avenue as we vigiled in opposition to the then-pending war in Iraq. George's sign said "Veterans for Peace". I listened as he quietly spoke with some who wanted to argue with us. It was obvious that he knew from direct experience what war really looked and felt like. Though conscientiously opposed to all war, George was the only one of three brothers who actually saw combat.

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I know that it would be one of George's greatest hopes that we who live on amid our grief would take up the life assignment he gave himself: to walk in love here amid the living. That's one thing George and Marj literally did do. They took after-meal walks nearly every day for most of their 63 years of marriage. George walked in love with Marj, and Marj walked in love with George. We have been given the assignment to walk in love too - with one another, with Marj, with all who grieve, with all who suffer disadvantage.

## **MEMORIES OF GEORGE LINDSAY**

**Charles:** George was a great Christian, loved by all, an inspiration to all. He was a vital member of our spirituality class, bringing a great depth of meaning to the Bible, with clarity in his expressions, mixed with a marvelous sense of humor. The church, the individual members and all who knew him—grieve his parting; he will live in our memories forever.

**Rev. Gail Crouch:** I was so impressed during my short time at Broadview with George's involvement in the Sunday morning book group. He always had the question that engendered good discussion and he was not afraid to express disagreement with the book or other participants, but in his gentle caring way. He was quite a remarkable man. Ed also expresses his great regard for George who continued to visit weekly one of the residents in the Ida Culver nursing wing, even though she often did not know George (or anyone else) because of dementia. He was faithful and persistent until her death in May. What a blessing to many!

**Christy:** George and Marj took me out to lunch after church and invited me to eat at their home several times. They were both so interested in me and my activities and those of Sara as well. Always asked me about Sara and how she was doing in college, etc. The concern and care he showed to others is the first thing that comes to my mind when thinking of George, and also his scholarship and knowledge of the Bible and theology. His quest for knowledge and growth that never ended. His love for his wife and his care for her well-being over his own were evident as well.

**Tracy:** The one thing that I always appreciated about George was his talking about the collection, saying that if all you had was a penny or a button, to put it in the plate. It might be nice to ask everyone to bring a button to put into the offering plate, and then give them to Marj as a Memorial to George.

**Jeff:** I will remember his passion for the odd, even awkwardly swallowed, truth that would deepen, even if rather painfully, one's faith.

**Alma:** He was such a great person!

**Jerry:** I got to thinking about first coming to church and seeing George and thinking how similar he looked to my Father. As I was around more hearing him speak and pray, he really reminded me of my Father. I felt so at ease and at home when I heard him pray. As I looked at his obituary, I noticed something interesting...George was born July 3, 1918, my dad was born July 7, 1918...4 days apart.

**Gail Williams:** I will always be grateful for the way George and Marj took me under their wing when I was new at Broadview, even inviting me to dinner and visits when they lived at Ida Culver. They helped me feel at home.

**Last words exchanged between Thea and George:** each said to the other: "You are an inspiration to me!"

## **SARA QUALIN'S TRAVEL ADVENTURES**

### **Submitted By Christy Qualin**

Sara Qualin left Seattle on June 13 to attend an intensive Russian language school in Tver, Russia. Here is an excerpt from her first e-mail home:

"subject: back in the ussr"

Obligatory lame subject line. Sorry.

Russia! Hurray! Aeroflot left my bag somewhere so I had to go back to Moscow from Tver this weekend to get it. Trip to Moscow meant a couple of hours in a nice U.S Embassy car that was bringing another student down to the airport, and about three hours on a hot bus back. Classes begin Monday, June 19."

Shortly after classes began, Sara contracted strep throat and missed a trip to St. Petersburg with the other students. It was her first (and so far, only) episode of homesickness. While in Tver, Sara lived with a Russian family who treated her royally. They even made spaghetti using egg noodles, ketchup for sauce and hot dogs for meat! Sara has downloaded hundreds of photos of Russia on yahoo.com. You can access them by going to her album [saraqualin@sbcglobalnet.com](mailto:saraqualin@sbcglobalnet.com) photos.

Currently Sara is in London and having the time of her life. She will travel to Dublin for a few days and then go to Aix-en-Provence, France where she will be a student until May, 2007. If you wish to write to her in France, she would love to hear from you, although she may not write back! Her address after August 27<sup>th</sup> will be:

Sara Qualin  
c/o Mme. Emery  
12, rue de la Poudriere  
13100 Aix-en-Provence, France

**FOOLISH WISDOM** – from a recent sermon by Pastor Dan

“If anyone wants to sue you and take your outer garments, give your undergarments as well.”

-Matthew 5:41

“God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom.” -1

Corinthians 1:31a

Not so very long ago the Rev. James C. Dobson of the American Family Association took the initiative to go on the attack of cartoon character SpongeBob Squarepants for the sin of communicating, presumably in code, the ‘shocking’ message that homosexuals might actually be people we should tolerate in civil society! With Dobson at the lead, much of the Christian right put a whole host of cartoon characters – Barney, Bigbird, Tinky-Winky, and Clifford the Big Red Dog among them – on notice for (and I quote) ‘insidiously crossing a moral line’. All SpngeBob Squarepants actually did wrong was to sing the song ‘We Are Family’ while holding hands with a Starfish!

But according to Dobson, subtle messages are getting sent to children through cartoon characters, using the code words ‘tolerance’ and ‘diversity’, to excuse the immorality of liberal-thinkers. Apparently cartoons don’t even have to be intentionally political to draw the humorless wrath of the self-righteous.

Thankfully, our wise and rather clever UCC President John Thomas was on the ball, and quick to say publicly that yes indeed, our denomination’s extravagant welcome DOES extend to the likes of SpngeBob Squarepants and his cartoon friends! It would extend to James Dobson too – if only he were willing to respectfully commune with OTHER crazy characters we welcome here!

Thompson really came through on that one. But let’s face it: the church as a whole has too-often been woefully humorless. And the state? Not any better. Even the economy’s been quite hard on pundits and cartoonists of late. Political cartoonists as we once knew them are an endangered species. In the early 1900’s an estimated 2,000 cartoonists found work with American newspapers. Twenty years ago, 200 or so were still thus employed. Today, the number is fewer than 80. (Association of American Editorial Cartoonists) And yet I’ve noticed over the years that the cartoons of Pulitzer-Prize-winner Dave Horsey in the PI can get more-frequent reactions and outraged commentary than do all the written articles and editorials combined. I think of the horrific violent reaction in much of the Muslim world recently over one Danish cartoon. James Squires former editor of the *Chicago Tribune*, once wrote that a single cartoon by Jeff MacNelly could cause him more trouble and time than all the words written by Tribune reporters that same year. It would seem that cartons are no laughing matter.

Cartoons, Squires admitted, “represent the most incisive and effective form of commentary known to man and one as vital

to the exercise of free speech and open debate as any words that ever appeared on (newsprint).” (from article by Jack Lule of Media Ethics) And former chief justice William Rehnquist, in a ruling in favor of free speech, said this: “Despite their sometimes caustic nature, graphic depictions and satirical cartoons have played a prominent role in public and political debate. . . . From the viewpoint of history, it is clear that our political discourse would have been considerable poorer without them.”

Today’s grim state of world affairs screams out for comic relief. As Lewis Black put it, “Every headline over the past year seems (itself) to be a punch line.” Building and using bombs is said to not be about killing, but rather about – and here comes the punch line – ‘spreading democracy’! Which may go far to explain the popular resurgence of somewhat cutting new comedians like Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert, Margaret Cho, Bill Maher, Molly Ivins, Al Franken, And Stephanie Miller, the latter who’s morning motto on Air America Radio is something like, “you’d cry yourself to sleep every night if you didn’t laugh about it each morning”.

Tough topical comedy is on the upswing. In April of this year, Stephen Colbert was invited to speak at the annual White House Correspondents’ Association dinner. There, he stood in front of President Bush and the Washington press corps and delivered a searing satiric critique of their cozy relationship and the administrations’ failed policies. Press coverage OF the event was almost nil until video of the stunt flooded the Internet. Then, on cue, established columnists lambasted Colbert for being rude and failing to amuse. But by then, millions of non-journalists had already viewed the Colbert routine and judged it for themselves as not only pointed humor, but also a remarkably funny event. “A sharp political satirist had succeeded in puncturing the elite bubble that normally insulates the White House from direct criticism.” (David Schimike commentary)

On an earlier occasion, Jon Stewart did something similar. In a moment of clarity reminiscent of the child who informed the emperor that he had no clothes on, Stewart put on the mantle of plain speaker, gutsy hero, and serious saint; he became both court jester AND prophet in one fell swoop. Stewart and Colbert are good examples of ‘fools’ who, like the prophets of old, speak truth to power, utilizing foolish wisdom on behalf of us all. Their comedic look at the news of the day employs humor not as an escape, but at the service of sanity and tolerance.

The Church could use more satirists of its own. God, in fact, requires of us the kind of foolish wisdom that both critiques wider society AND pokes fun at our own selves. Jesus was himself being a very clever satirist when he instructed people to offer their underwear as well as their outerwear to those who wanted to take their outerwear from them. This was something that actually happened in his day – indebted people

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would get sued for the very clothes on their backs. Jesus did NOT mean that people should collaborate with or in any way give in to such oppression! Just the opposite! At the very moment of its taking place, he meant to confront, expose, and confound the oppressor by doing the entirely unexpected, often-humorous thing.

The best literal modern-day example I can think of this took place last winter at an Israeli check point on the border with the West Bank. A Palestinian youth had been forced to strip down to his skivvies in public, and to wait in the cold; he was left standing, shivering, with no shirt or shoes while officials proceeded to interrogate others. My radical Christian friend Art Gish was present that day, part of a Christian Peacemaker Team that had been working on the West Bank. (Note: These CPT folks are so courageous; they go unarmed to warring places in the world such as Baghdad and Bogota and Bethlehem to witness for peace. Another Christian Peacemaker Team recently made headlines, having gotten kidnapped in Baghdad.) My friend Art Gish looks like a funny little Amish farmer with the firm carriage and piercing eyes of a firebrand preacher. He noticed the condition of the Palestinian youth at the check point, and became increasingly outraged by the officials' seemingly-international humiliation and disregard. Gish walking up to the Israeli officers and told them that this was not right. They told him to mind his own business. So he walked over beside the shirtless boy, spoke briefly to him, and the next thing you know, took off HIS coat, and gave it to the Palestinian youth. It wasn't enough to get the attention of the Israeli Boarder officials. So Gish took off his shirt as well. Then, his shoes and socks. Finally, he stripped down to his skivvies, his arms defiantly crossed across his chest. I've SEEN Art Gish in his skivvies before. He's probably been re-wearing the same old pairs of underwear for decades. But in the end, it wasn't Art Gish in his tattered skivvies standing in solidarity with a Palestinian youth who looked silly and embarrassed. It was the well-dressed, well-armed, and bewildered Israeli guards.

Art Gish would call standing with the disenfranchised our Christian duty. But even better: he knows how to do this in a way that actually is funny!

Nonviolent alternatives to war have more to do with comedy than with tragedy. Through saintly foolishness like that exhibited by Gish, through satire and parody, cartoons and clowns, we CAN approach the things that matter in life far more wisely and powerfully – certainly more pleasantly – than we can by force and violence.

So thanks be to God that some very good humorists, though driven from newspaper pages, are finding new life on the Web. And thanks be to God also for funny little people in tattered underwear who challenge us to be who we claim to be as Christian peacemakers! God's foolish wisdom is made obvious by those who nonviolently dare to show and tell its truth. So to

paraphrase Alfred E. Neuman: 'What we worry?' So what if we are fools for Christ! "The foolishness of God is wiser... And will ultimately get the last laugh.

### SAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER Submitted by Christy Qualin

- Our Father Who Art In Heaven.
- Yes?
- Don't interrupt me. I'm praying.
- But -- you called ME!
- Called you? No, I didn't call you. I'm praying. Our Father who art in Heaven.
- There -- you did it again!
- Did what?
- Called ME.
- You said, "Our Father who art in Heaven" Well, here I am. What's on your mind?
- But I didn't mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day. I always say the Lord's Prayer. It makes me feel good, kind of like fulfilling a duty.
- Well, all right. Go on.
- Okay, Hallowed be thy name . . .
- Hold it right there. What do you mean by that?
- By what?
- By "Hallowed be thy name".
- It means, it means . . . good grief, I don't know what it means. How in the world should I know. It's just a part of the prayer. By the way, what does it mean?
- It means honored, holy, wonderful.
- Hey, that makes sense. I never thought about what 'hallowed' meant before. Thanks. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.
- Do you really mean that?
- Sure, why not?
- What are you doing about it?
- Doing? Why, nothing, I guess. I just think it would be kind of neat if you got control of down here like you have up there. We're kinda in a mess down here you know.
- Yes, I know; but, have I got control of you?
- Well, I go to church.
- That isn't what I asked you. What about your bad temper? You've really got a problem there, you know. And then there's the way you spend your money – all on yourself. And what about the kind of books you read?
- Now hold on just a minute! Stop picking on me! I'm just as good as some of the rest of those people at church!
- Excuse ME. I thought you were praying for my will to be done. If that is to happen, it will have to start with the ones who are praying for it. Like you -- for example.
- Oh, all right. I guess I do have some hang-ups. Now that you mention it, I could probably name some others.
- So could I.
- I haven't thought about it very much until now, but I really would like to cut out some of those things. I would like to,

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- you know, be really free.
- Good. Now we're getting somewhere. We'll work together – You and ME. I'm proud of You.
- Look, Lord, if you don't mind, I need to finish up here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does. Give us this day, our daily bread.
- You need to cut out the bread. You're overweight as it is.
- Hey, wait a minute! What is this? Here I was doing my religious duty, and all of a sudden you break in and remind me of all my hang-ups.
- Praying is a dangerous thing. You just might get what you ask for. Remember, you called ME -- and here I am. It's too late to stop now. Keep praying. ( . pause . . ) Well, go on.
- I'm scared to.
- Scared? Of what? I know what you'll say. Try ME.
- Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
- What about Ann?
- See? I knew it! I knew you would bring her up! Why, Lord, she's told lies about me, spread stories. She never paid back the money she owes me. I've sworn to get even with her!
- But -- your prayer --What about your prayer?
- I didn't -- mean it.
- Well, at least you're honest. But, it's quite a load carrying around all that bitterness and resentment isn't it?
- Yes, but I'll feel better as soon as I get even with her. Boy, have I got some plans for her. She'll wish she had never been born.
- No, you won't feel any better. You'll feel worse. Revenge isn't sweet. You know how unhappy you are --Well, I can change that.
- You can? How?
- Forgive Ann. Then, I'll forgive you; And the hate and the sin, will be Ann's problem -- not yours. You will have settled the problem as far as you are concerned.
- Oh, you know, you're right. You always are. And more than I want revenge, I want to be right with You... (sigh). All right all right. I forgive her. There now!
- Wonderful! How do you feel?
- Hmmmm. Well, not bad. Not bad at all! In fact, I feel pretty great! You know, I don't think I'll go to bed uptight tonight. I haven't been getting much rest, you know.
- Yeah, I know. But, you're not through with your prayer are you? Go on.
- Oh, all right. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
- Good! Good! I'll do that. Just don't put yourself in a place where you can be tempted.
- What do you mean by that ?
- You know what I mean.
- Yeah. I know. Okay.
- Go ahead. Finish your prayer.
- For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.
- Do you know what would bring me glory --What would

really make me happy?

- No, but I'd like to know. I want to please you now. I've really made a mess of things. I want to truly follow you. I can see now how great that would be. So, tell me . . . How do I make you happy?
- YOU just did.

**READINGS FOR SUNDAY**

**August 27, 2006**

With the Holy  
1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43; Ps 84  
Eph 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

**September 3, 2006**

Faith Revealed  
Song 2:8-13; Ps 45:1-2, 6-9  
Jas 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**September 10, 2006**

Voicing Justice  
Prov 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Ps 125  
Jas 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

**September 17, 2006**

Risky Wisdom  
Prov 1:20-33; Ps 19  
Jas 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

**September 24, 2006**

Who Is Great?  
Prov 31:10-31; Ps 1  
Jas 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

**BIRTHDAY LIST**

**September**

Patti Kujac	9/2
Mary Lundt	9/6
David Herald	9/13
Joan Henjum	9/16
Dennis Hylander	9/17
Gary Law	9/22
Peter Bloch-Garcia	9/23
Lisa Denny	9/25

**October**

Noah Witmer	10/5
Jane (Ostby) Sorenson	10/7
Maisie Chen	10/8
Sara Qualin	10/16
Suzanne Cressey	10/17
Ross Cavanaugh	10/18
Mo Pomietto	10/20
Niki Athis	10/22
Dorothy Long	10/31

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**SHAREHOUSE NEEDS  
SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER**

September – Disposable diapers  
October – Shampoo and conditioner

**VACATION ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mary Mackenzie will be on vacation in Chicago, visiting her sister, from **Wednesday September 6 through Wednesday September 13**. She will be back in the office **Thursday September 14**. If you have any problems during this time please contact Pastor Dan Stern directly.

**LITTLE FARMS BUILDING PROJECT TALK**

When the history of Hurricane Katrina is written, says Bonnie Ringdahl of New Orleans, "It will be all about the volunteers. It will be about groups like [UCC], because they're helping people make new memories. Make sure everyone knows how much hope they're bringing."

Each of us has a chance to be part of that hope this October (22nd--29th) when our UCC Conference sends 40 to 50 people to Little Farms, Louisiana to help re-build a house. Our own **Lizzie Baker, 21yo daughter of Joan Henjum**, will be going on the trip.

**Ed Philyaw of St Paul's will speak at Broadview about his experience repairing homes in Little Farms on SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, after Sunday worship.** Come hear the good word! Taste the good food! Contribute whatever you can to Liz' travel fund. You'll enjoy a little zydeco music to boot!

