

A MAN ON HORSEBACK

Every Sunday evening, many of us look forward to an interlude of Christian Fellowship with Carol Blair. Carol fits the mold of a Christian whose knowledge of the bible, teaching prowess, and ability to communicate love and commitment is an art form. Recently she took us on a trip with Moses and his plight, leadership, travail in leading the Jews from Egyptian bondage to the Promised Land: a message of perseverance, faith and belief. So prescient today some of us thought. We seem to 'fiddle' with Christian love and hope the religious zealots will change as time marches on. Shades of false idols, lusting for new horizons, change and dominance like Hitler and Stalin. Is this to be our destiny as we rationalize militant Islam that some call 'Islamofascism'? Is there a Moses among us to inspire in the guise of Jesus and his prophesy of a perfect world of spiritual love without war and pestilence?

Men on horseback come and go in history's trek and lest we forget Joan of Arc believed, inspired and led. Franklin Roosevelt rose from a distinguished look and presence attempting to emulate his cousin, Teddy falling far short, until the moment of truth, polio, and a desire to live, lead and make a difference. He did and led us in WWII along with another stalwart, Churchill, whose trials and tribulations seem to end any potential for significant leadership until his time of destiny. Ronald Reagan, a movie actor with a communicative gift reminded, as a private citizen in 1964, 'to preserve for our children the last hope of mankind, or take the first step into a thousand years of darkness'-in the ideological battle with Soviet Communism....leading to his moment later....and like voices in the wilderness, John Hagee and Newt Gingrich extolled Americans (in a tribute to Israel and the Jews) to stop rationalizing the Islam threat, quit sitting on your hands in quasi-gratification in Babylonian splendor and acceptance -to take back the America that opened doors for all, but called on God in time of growth and need. To be Americans first, last and always without losing cultural threads.

Hagee with a chanting audience, 'not on my watch' reminding Israel and America of their destiny and to remind when the 'going gets tough, the tough get going' and to take on and cut-off the tentacles of uncompromising Islam. Gingrich in historical flourish put the audience in the campfires of Washington when all seemed lost, the civilian soldiers were outnumbered, many going home and the professional British military a heritage of a

thousand battles and experience lurking, moving and seemingly a force to overwhelm this rag-tag group of insurrectionists. We know the answer to this one.

America should watch the PBS series: "The War" (an intimate history, 1941-5) when the fabled 'City on the Hill' of first arrivals, often in shadow, shone so brightly. 400,000 died for this cause honored in granite and marble in Washington DC, a testament to grit, gamble and grace of American heritage and example. As one who remembers this proud heritage, I have thanked Ken Burns in letter and verse. There were many men and women 'on the proverbial horseback' in that war.

And yet it is so easy to forget, to bathe in our new society with the good, the bad and the ugly in sinful embrace. We need the Carol Blairs to remind of our legacy and the path of righteousness personified in Jesus-and rekindle faith and belief.