

Make this issue a personalized optimistic greeting card. We'll print your message here-See pg. 7

## Good Bites

- For 20 years, the US has provided over \$170 million in food, health care, water sanitation, and shelter to the people of Afghanistan - about two-thirds of the international contribution.

- An estimated 15,000 Muslims serve in the US military and reserves.

- The US will slash its strategic nuclear arsenal more than two thirds from about 7,000 warheads to 2,000 in 10 years. Russia also will cut two thirds of its arsenal of 6,000 warheads.

- CNN founder Ted Turner gave \$25 million to U.N. projects on the environment, population, health, peace, security, and human rights. He lamented the core budget of the U.N. is only \$2 billion a year, far less than the New York City police department.

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# A Wave of Compassion

*"It is the greatest wave of compassion this organization has ever experienced." - The American Red Cross*

The brightest star on the horizon of recent events is the supernova of generosity and volunteerism that grew out of our compassion for the people who died in the attacks of September 11. People with no tangible connection to the World Trade Center or Pentagon were moved to action, giving money, blood or time to relieve others' suffering. Within hours, millions tried to donate blood. Within weeks, the outpouring of aid stunned relief groups. Donations soared to more than a billion dollars.

Musicians and movie stars raised hundreds of millions of dollars with a New York concert for firefighters, and with a national telethon for victims' families -- A Tribute to Heroes -- simulcast on every commercial network, commercial-free. Much more will be raised from holiday sales of the new double disk CD recording of the telethon.

Many corporations donated tens of millions of dollars each to victim funds. Most notably, a foundation of the Tribune Co. helped raise \$16 million, even while the media company posted a loss of \$139 million for the third quarter. Another company losing money that still gave generously was AmTrak. They helped thousands of stranded passengers by honoring airline tickets on trains leaving San Francisco. And the Vermont Teddy Bear Co. created a "Cards of Compassion" campaign to donate 558 teddy bears to families of firefighters, police and rescue workers. The

(Continued on page 5)

## Forgiving the Unforgivable

Why would Peter and Linda Biehl, a wealthy, conservative Newport Beach couple, leave their privileged community for South Africa to work arm in arm with former radical leftists to bring jobs and opportunity to disadvantaged blacks? Because it is the place where their daughter Amy, a 26 year-old blue-eyed blonde valedictorian from Stanford, was stoned and stabbed to death in 1993.

"In all the world this is the one place Amy feels most alive to us," said Linda.

They have taken to heart their daughter's conviction: To get to the root of apartheid's sins, society needs to address the poverty and the hopelessness in people's every day lives.

For the last seven years, the Biehls have committed themselves to building housing, schools, and golf courses for the same community where Amy drew her last breath. With a small group of volunteers they have raised money for scholar-

(Continued on page 3)



Amy Biehl in South Africa

## Good Samaritan

*On September 11, a million Good Samaritans were inspired to generosity, kindness and helpfulness. In turn, we were inspired by them.*

After the attacks, Don Forman, a used car dealer in Las Vegas, heard on the radio the plight of stranded travelers who could not get home to their families. There were no bus or train tickets. No rental cars.

Business was slow at Forman's *United Nissan*, so he decided to help. He rented passenger vans and called the media. He was offering a ride to anyone stranded in airports who needed to get home. For free. By the end of the day, 150 people were back at home in Southern California.

The word spread through hotels, rental car counters and casinos. By the second day Don Forman had to charter buses. He galvanized his 147 employees to shuttle more than 900 stranded souls back home to California.

He spent \$8,000 of his own money but credited his employees for organizing the fleet, and the mayor's office and dozens of businesses for donating food, money and time.

Forman recalled, "The dealership was just like everyone else in the country. We all stood around with our mouths open. We didn't know what to do. When we started doing this, my employees were ecstatic. They really felt a part of something."

After the last piece of baggage was loaded onto each bus -- Forman even schlepped bags -- and after each passenger was given two bottles of water, Forman would climb up and stand next to the driver to bid them farewell and a safe trip home.

"Everybody just applauded," said Irv Hamilton of Alameda, California. "I can imagine this sort of thing in the Midwest, but... you don't think of Las Vegas as being particularly hospitable."

Now, you do. And car dealers too.

*Thanks to E.J. Niles for submitting story tip.*

## from the editor...

Within days of the unforgettable attacks in New York and Washington, it became clear to me that on the heels of the tremendous misery of these events would come a tremendous volume of good. Heroes are *only* born of crisis. Resurrection *only* comes after death. Love shines most gloriously when it comforts the lonely and the suffering. I'm sorry there has to be so much suffering, but I am also grateful for the compassion that has been born. This Thanksgiving -- and Christmas, Hanukkah and Ramadan -- most of us will find much to be thankful for.

The world has united around this event. It was said by a woman in France, "We are all Americans today." The incidence of terrorism around the globe had been steadily declining for a decade. I believe the heightened appreciation for innocent life will strengthen that trend.

Another woman asked why we didn't feel similar feelings of shock and urgency when 100,000 people in Turkey were killed in a recent earthquake. Or why do we not feel the anguish when innocents around the world are bombed? Are American lives more important? Governments are discovering that as we help to feed, clothe, immunize, and educate poor people in Africa and the Middle East, we dry up the well of despair from which terrorism's gardens are watered. And we can be heroes.

I offer to my readers a map leading them to a treasure of positive news that will quench their thirst for hope. If they allow these stories to abide with them -- instead of the fears fed by their imaginary thoughts of 'what if' -- daily life will not simply become normal again, but better.

I am enclosing a gift, a parable I wrote a few days after 9-11 inspired by Joseph Campbell's *Power of Myth*. I do hope you enjoy it.

Feast your hearts on these pages. And be grateful. There will be no room left for fear.

*Geraldine*

~~~~~  
Andreas Schmitz, a German man, received a lottery ticket as a wedding gift. It turned out to be a winner, worth a million marks.

Instead of keeping the money, spending it on a fancy honeymoon, he donated it all to a dance company that was in financial straits. The dancers had performed at his wedding.

The 40-year-old businessman said he was giving the lottery win to the dance troupe -- who had disbanded -- to help reestablish a resident company in Cologne. Mr. Schmitz says he's already been lucky in life and he felt his new fortune came with an obligation. "If I win again, I'll donate that money too."

*Story tip submitted by Amy Grant.*

## Parents Forgive (From page 1)

ships, museums, music training programs, and adult literacy projects. They've opened bakeries, a print shop, and a construction company that vies for large contracts, giving jobs to men and women who live in the squalid townships set aside for blacks during the reign of apartheid.

"The Biehls came just when we needed them most," said a seamstress who for years had to struggle to make a living selling her tapestries until the Biehls helped her with marketing. "Losing their daughter like they did, I cannot imagine what that pain must feel like. But from that one horrible moment, so much light has come into the world, so much good."

But it is the forgiveness the Biehls demonstrate for Amy's killers that is most amazing. Jon Jeter of the Washington Post describes it this way: *Theirs is not a story for cynics. It is about redemption and transformation. To South Africans, the Biehls have offered their help. To Amy's killers, they have offered not just absolution but friendship, taking them to the movies or dinner just as casually as they would an old friend. And from the deepest hurt anyone can know, they have exhumed an unimaginable peace and a stirring sense of purpose.*

Easy Nofomela and Ntobeko Peni, along with two other young men, were convicted of Amy's slaying. They were part of a mob incited by a political rally to kill whites. Four years ago, they asked for amnesty from South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which set international precedent, finding a way to heal a nation bitterly divided by freeing prisoners who demonstrate a political motive for their crimes and who testify fully and truthfully.

The Biehls have become close friends and co-workers with the two.

"I know this sounds strange, but the one place I really feel Amy's spirit is with Easy and Peni."

"We call them mother and father now," Peni said. "I don't know how they found it in their hearts to forgive us, but I can tell you that it has greatly enriched my life. I will never forget what we did that night, but I will also never forget the kindness they have shown me when they had every reason to hate me."

The Biehls often are asked how they could forgive such horrendous acts. "We have seen that to hate, to want revenge, to be angry consumes a tremendous amount of energy, all of it negative, and time, all of it nonproductive. It is completely selfish," reasons Peter. "As Christians -- we've taught high school Sunday school -- we would be heretics if we now did anything other than to forgive. And finally, it is completely liberating. We can forgive, move forward, and we're at peace with ourselves."

*Donate musical instruments, golf clubs (for youth lessons), or money: [www.amybiehl.org](http://www.amybiehl.org) Tel: (760) 771-2044*

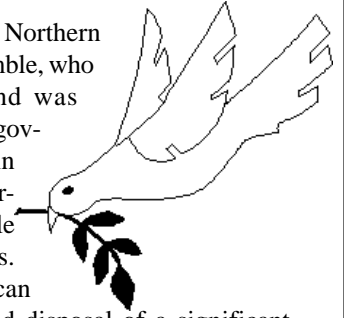
## Irish Peace Breakthrough

The Good Friday Peace process in Northern Ireland was collapsing. David Trimble, who won the Nobel Peace Prize and was elected the first minister of the fragile new government there, resigned in disgust. Britain threatened to pull the plug from the power-sharing experiment that brought home rule to the war-weary Protestants and Catholics. Then, on October 23 the Irish Republican Army (IRA) announced the long-awaited disposal of a significant amount of the paramilitary group's weapons and an independent international disarmament commission confirmed that guns, ammunition, and explosives were extinguished.

Trimble, long beleaguered over the arms impasse, smiled broadly after seeing the proof: "This is the day we were told would never happen."

Within hours of the move, the IRA's opponent reciprocated with its own concessions. The British government will begin the withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland and is demolishing two military observation towers and dismantling two other facilities in the region. Britain called the IRA's move "unprecedented and genuinely historic, taking the peace process to a new level."

Trimble was restored as leader of the majority Protestant government. Catholics, including Sinn Fein, the IRA representative, joined him to continue hammering out a lasting peace within a representative government.



## Good Politics, Good Policy

The U.S. extended free trade status to Jordan, a key Middle East ally. Jordan becomes only the fourth nation -- after Canada, Mexico, and Israel -- to enjoy a tariff-free partnership with the U.S. Significantly, it is the first trade agreement to include worker, environmental and intellectual property rights protection

The witches of Salem MA. finally won their case. Susannah Martin was hanged in 1692 during the Salem witch trials. The Acting Gov. Jane Swift of Massachusetts picked Halloween night to sign a bill exonerating Martin and the witches.

## Toddler is Safe in Mother Bear's Den

October 3 — A mother bear appears to have cared for a missing 16-month-old Iranian toddler, who was found safe and sound three days later in the animal's den.

The child's parents, from a nomadic tribe, returned to their tent after working in the fields to find him missing, a newspaper reported.

Three days later, a search party found the toddler in a den about six miles from home. The search party said the toddler had probably been breast fed by a mother bear. A medical exam showed the toddler in good health. *(from a Reuters report)*

## Rest Stop

"I will always remember how this city rallied around its firefighters," said the Battalion 32 Fire Chief to the *Art of Living Foundation's* NY chairman Noah Hoffeld. "But I will remember most of all the contribution of your group."

Within hours of the World Trade Center attacks, Hoffeld had gathered members to set up public trauma workshops, and make hundreds of Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches, which they stuffed into duffel bags and brought to hungry firefighters that day.

Since 9-12, workshops to alleviate trauma and stress have been offered to New Yorkers free of charge. The four-session *Art of Living* Courses include a variety of powerful tools that can be practiced at home, including breathing techniques to help people feel more centered and calm. Space was donated by the nearby Holiday Inn.

## Gas, Food, and Lodging

When U.S. airspace was closed on 9-11, Delta flight 15 and 52 other airplanes from all over the world were diverted to New Foundland. Under the direction of the Red Cross, the small town of Gander and surrounding communities sent convoys of school buses to ferry 10,500 stranded passengers to high schools, meeting halls, and lodges where they found cots, or mats with sleeping bags and pillows. Families were kept together. The elderly were taken to private homes. Women's-only facilities were made available. High school kids worked to take care of the "plane people".

Stranded passengers were offered phone calls and e-mails once a day. All were offered a choice of excursions to boat on lakes and harbors, or to visit forests. Bakeries baked fresh bread. Food was either delivered, or eateries served it up. Tokens to laundromats were offered. Every need was met. The Red Cross knew where each person was and when to shuttle them back for re-boarding.

A flight attendant recalls, "When passengers reboarded, it was like they had been on a cruise. They were swapping stories, impressing each other with who had the better time. Our flight to Atlanta looked like a party. The passengers had totally bonded and were calling each other by their first names, exchanging phone numbers and addresses. Then, one of our business passengers stood up and stated he would like to do something for the town of Lewisporte. He wanted to set up a trust fund under the name DELTA 15 to provide college scholarships for their high school students. He asked for donations. When the paper came back with names, phone numbers, and addresses, it totaled \$14,500!" The gentleman, who was a Virginia doctor, said he would ask Delta headquarters to donate. He promised to match each donation and start the fund's administration.

# 9-12

## A Road Map and Guide to Good News in an Altered Landscape.

Polls show regard is up sharply since confidence in branch rose to

No  
U  
Turn

for government 9-12. Americans' their executive 51.5%, and Congress to 43.4%; in both cases, almost quadrupling.

Many are rejoicing with new freedom as five years of stifling repression under the Taliban government ended. Happy men are shaving their beards. Kids fly kites while playing music. Women venture out alone looking for work and they feel sunshine on their faces. Four have new jobs at Radio Afghanistan. All of this had been outlawed.



The housing market continues to be a bright spot in the U.S. economy as sales of new and used homes rose again in October.

- Stocks overall in November had their best month since April.
- Lured by zero-interest deals and patriotism -- 8% of people in Los Angeles showrooms said they were there because Mayor Giuliani told them to go out and buy something -- consumers bought a record 1.72 million new cars in October and are on target to post the second best car sales year ever.
- Prices of gasoline and heating oil have plummeted.
- E-Bay's third-quarter profit surged 24%. Profits also rose for Boeing, Coca-Cola, Hershey, and Merck;

## Merge Area

The prospects for international cooperation across a broad range of issues have never been brighter. - Sec. of State, Colin Powell.

- Israel withdrew from West Bank towns and agreed to a Palestinian state.
- Schools are deluged with applications to study abroad.
- In Cuba, Fidel Castro's brother presided over a rally of "solidarity with Americans during the national tragedy they're living through."
- The family has become a national priority. In the ten days after 9-12, 400 Houston couples withdrew divorce documents.

## Roadside Assistance

The U.S. is sending an additional \$320 million in aid to Afghans to help alleviate abysmal conditions there. \$25 million is immediate aid for those seeking refuge in neighboring states. The U.S. also will increase food shipments and refugee assistance.

- The IMF and World Bank pledged extra aid to poor nations like Pakistan hurt by events since 9-12.
- Unicef will donate proceeds of its *Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF* campaign to Afghan children through its 50 year old distribution network in Afghanistan.
- Hate crimes against Arab-Americans appear to have tapered off. In San Francisco, the Global Exchange program organized to protect Arab-Americans from violence. Citizens who signed up were trained to accompany anyone who feels threatened to their schools, stores, jobs, or places of worship.

What really matters now  
is love. I don't mean mush,  
I don't mean sentimentality. I  
mean that condition in the  
human spirit so profound that  
it allows us to rise. -MAYA ANGELOU

Turned away from it all like a blind man  
Sat on a fence, but it don't work  
Why. . . Why. . . Why  
Can't we give ourselves one more chance  
Why can't we give love one more chance  
Why can't we give love, give love, give love  
Cause love's such an old fashioned word  
And love dares you to care for  
The people on the edge of the night  
And love dares you to change our way of  
Caring about ourselves  
This is our last dance  
This is our last chance  
This is ourselves - Under pressure.

-FREDDIE MERCURY & DAVID BOWIE

Being bitten by a shark or struck  
by a meteorite would be extremely  
serious and possibly fatal. Yet given the  
probability, it appears that the greater  
danger for our anxiety-prone society is  
not in the seas or the stars but in  
ourselves. If we are overcome by the  
imagined risk of unlikely death, we may  
miss the elusive chance to live fully.

-REV. WILLIAM J. KEANE

Love is the answer to the crucial  
political and moral questions of  
our time... to overcome oppression and  
violence without resorting to oppres-  
sion and violence. Man must evolve a  
method which rejects revenge, aggres-  
sion and retaliation. The foundation  
of such a method is love.

-MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.  
Nobel Prize acceptance speech, 1964.

Losing touch with the capacity of  
Love is the only thing that can  
destroy our ability to be happy.

-MARTHA BECK

## Compassionate Wave (Continued from page 1)

company collected 150,000 messages of love and hope from people all over the country. Then they printed, and delivered the bounty of messages and bears with the help of Federal Express. An author of one of the cards admits, "When I left my own personal message for someone, I cried as I felt the love and energy that I was sharing would help another in some small way." New Yorkers are recovering with the help of their mayor and their governor who enlisted the highly profitable internet company, E-Bay, in the local aid effort. From now until the year's end, *Auction for America* is offering a free forum -- on E-Bay -- for sellers, participating companies, and celebrities to auction goods and services with full sales price donated to victims. Many U.S. Congressmen have donated themselves -- to act as chef, artist, tour guide or dinner host for winners.



Vermont company sent  
558 bears to families

Carolyn and Gary Brouillard own a restaurant in Maine known for the dollar bills that cover their cathedral ceiling. They decided to take the money down and give it to the family of one of the workers lost in the *Windows of the World* restaurant atop the World Trade center. They found messages on the internet from the wife and sister of 'James', the elevator operator who brought diners to the restaurant. They learned that he had a tattoo and an earring and, "He's so lovable". James' family tried to refuse the money when they received Carolyn's offer over the telephone. But, when they got to know each other --and cried together -- they realized it was meant to be. "James and his wife came to Maine every year, and they loved to eat lobster."

For 11 years restaurant patrons had attached money to the ceiling. It totaled \$12,313. Later, said Carolyn, "An amazing thing started to happen. We went to the post office and opened a letter. A dollar bill was in there from a guy in New York we didn't even know saying it was such a great thing we did, and he wanted to start the fund over. Then another letter, there were two dollars and on them was written, 9-11-01. And then we got more mail yesterday and today. Little bits of it are starting to come back."

Children are experiencing the satisfaction of giving, some for the first time. Students at Borman Elementary in Texas donated pennies saved for seven years to build a new playground -- and they had just reached their goal. Two lemonade stands in Northern Virginia suburbs each amassed donations of over \$600.

Even people who had little to give were moved to action by the light of their own compassion. Residents of Grace House homeless shelter in Savannah, Georgia gathered what they could and proudly sent a check for \$52 to the Red Cross. Prisoners in Louisiana making 40 cents an hour have raised \$11,000 so far. Inmates of California's Institute for Women are sending hand-sewn quilts and thousands in cash. "It makes us feel part of America, too. We've been part of the problem, now we want to be part of the solution."

Volunteer service is infusing shaken Americans with a powerful sense of community. Inquiries by young people to the national service program, AmeriCorps, are up 30% since 9-11. Involvement in charities of all sorts has spiked. Calls to *New York Cares* have doubled. People are helping others through professional groups, as well. New York cab drivers continue to offer free rides to relief workers and volunteers laboring at the disaster site. "We will do it as long as it is needed." Florists have donated flowers for funerals. Thousands of mental health counselors worldwide have signed up to offer free psychological services to families and to workers at disaster sites. The Association of Trial Lawyers has offered free legal representation for families applying to the government for compensation.





## About the Good News Network

The Mission Instead of being balanced, we will offer only one side- the side you rarely get from news today- the positive side. The views of society need uplifting to offset the daily barrage of negative images. The news media needs a reorientation toward news of the Good Samaritan and the Good Congressman to fairly reflect society today. We'll shatter stereotypes, feature solutions, and stand on common ground. If it's glorifying, if it's "Good Deeds", it leads! Visit the Web Site for more news to enthuse...

[www.goodnewsnetwork.org](http://www.goodnewsnetwork.org)

The Movement Feature articles in Whole Life Times, Well Being Journal, American Journalism Review, Newsday, Woman's World, and the Washington Post, and a prominent position in Yahoo!'s Web directory has led to ever-expanding audiences both on the internet and for this newsletter, which is now sent to 17 states and three countries.

Your Contribution YOU are invited to contribute articles, essays, photos and ideas to help us prove there is an eagerness for good news in all of us.

Thank You To Jim Corbley for invaluable editing assistance and creative input.

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Geraldine-

Sun, 16 Sep 2001

"Thank you so much for carrying on! It show enormous strength to keep collecting and sharing the good news right now. It's what we need most and with it we will begin to heal."

Peace to you and yours, Sonya DeMonner

"Thank you for providing this service. My heart and soul need the uplifting that it provides. Although I am generally a CNN and local news addict, they are too overwhelming lately. Thank you."

Regards,

John Brandauer

**Send your 'Letters to the Editor' to:**

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*E-mail from the  
USS Winston Churchill*

# Inspiration Point



**Dear Dad,**

Unknown Author

We are somewhere out to sea, still with little direction as to what our next priority is. We have spent every day since the attacks going back and forth within imaginary boxes drawn in the ocean, standing high-security watches, and trying to make the best of our time. Being isolated as we are, I don't think we appreciate the full scope of what is happening back home, but we are definitely feeling the effects.

About two hours ago we got a call from the LUTJENS (D185), a German warship that was moored ahead of us on the pier in England. While in port, the CHURCHILL and the LUTJENS got together for a sports day/cookout on our fantail, and we made some pretty good friends. Now at sea they called over requesting to pass us close up to say good-bye. The Captain told the crew to come topside to wish them farewell. As they were making their approach, our Conning Officer announced through her binoculars that they were flying an American flag.

As they came even closer, we saw that it was flying at half-mast. They had made a sign to display on the side that read, "We Stand By You". The entire crew of the German ship were manning the rails, saluting, in their dress blues.

More than a few of us fought to retain our composure as they stayed alongside us for a few minutes and we cut our salutes. It was probably the most powerful thing I have seen in my entire life.

The German Navy did an incredible thing for this crew. It's amazing to think that only a half-century ago things were quite different. And to see the unity being demonstrated throughout the world makes us all proud to be out here doing our job.

After the ship pulled away the Officer of the Deck turned to me and said "I'm staying Navy." I'll write more as I know when I'll be home.

**Love you guys...**

*You may be deceived if you trust too much, but you will  
live in torment if you don't trust enough. -Frank Crane*

I have imagined a future  
where every citizen gets a  
dose of positive news  
every day.