

Synagogue suspect pleads not guilty as funerals continue

By Maryclaire Dale

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The anti-Semitic truck driver accused of gunning down 11 people at a Pittsburgh synagogue pleaded not guilty Thursday to federal charges that could put him on death row, as funerals for the victims of the deadliest anti-Semitic attack in American history continued for a third day.

Robert Bowers, 46, was arraigned one day after a grand jury issued a 44-count indictment charging him with murder, hate crimes, obstruct-

ing the practice of religion and other crimes. It was his second brief appearance in a federal courtroom since the weekend massacre at Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood.

"Yes!" Bowers said in a loud voice when asked if he understood the charges.

Authorities say Bowers raged against Jews during and after the massacre. He remains jailed without bail.

Bowers, who was shot and wounded during a gun battle that injured four police officers, walked into court under

his own power, his left arm heavily bandaged. He was in a wheelchair at his first court appearance Monday.

Bowers, who is stocky and square-faced with salt-and-pepper, closely cropped hair, frowned as the charges were read but did not appear to have a reaction as a federal prosecutor announced he could face a death sentence. He told a prosecutor he had read the indictment.

One of his federal public defenders, Michael Novara, said Bowers pleaded not guilty, "as is typical at this stage of the

proceedings."

Bowers had been set for a preliminary hearing on the evidence, but federal prosecutors instead took the case to a grand jury.

The panel issued the indictment as funerals continued for the victims, including a husband and wife married at Tree of Life 62 years ago.

Marc Simon, the son of Bernice and Sylvan Simon, recalled his parents as a "beacon of light" whose example can help "eliminate the hate that led to their untimely deaths."

Hundreds of mourners turned out for the funeral, according to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Family members recalled the Simons as warm and welcoming, and dedicated to their faith and one another.

Their daughter, Michelle Simon Weis, said she enjoyed going with her mother to Costco, where Bernice, 84, make sure to try the food samples. Weis said she dreamed her father, 86, could now drive a sports car as fast as he wanted without "Mom telling him to slow down."

The day's other funeral was being held for Dr. Richard Gottfried, a dentist who worked part-time at a clinic treating refugees and immigrants. The oldest victim, 97-year-old Rose Mallinger, will be honored at the last service Friday. Her daughter was injured in the attack.

Tree of Life remained a crime scene. Rabbis and other volunteers have been cleaning the temple to remove all bodily traces from the 11 victims, following Jewish law regarding death and burial.

Green pastures and still waters

■ When we think about living on purpose, it can mean different things to different people.

Personally, one of the first aspects that comes to my mind is the desire not only to love God and be thankful for who he is but to also love my life and appreciate who I am. This is not to be confused with being arrogant or satisfied about where I am in my journey, but rather it has everything to do with having peace and contentment in our soul as we allow God to change us into his image. It's true that being honest and willing to embrace the anxiety and the unfairness within our everyday life is painful, but it's also the only way we can truly become the person God wants us to be.

The difficult part of being transformed into this way of thinking is learning how to embrace not just the pleasant events, but also the difficult circumstances. This is a very important part of our spiritual development and a great way to learn how to listen carefully, wait patiently, keep our eyes focused on him and trust him completely. Alexander MacLaren is quoted, "Only he who can say the Lord is the strength of my life can also declare, of whom shall I be afraid?"

We realize that many of our problems and failures are self-inflicted but there are also times when things happen to us that are not our fault. When we find ourselves in a difficult place, we must believe this season of



LIVING ON PURPOSE
DR. BILLY HOLLAND

agony will not last forever. We can know that if we keep walking forward with complete faith in God that eventually our situation will change for the better. As we realize the whole world is not a scorching, relentless desert, but also contains lush jungles, beautiful lakes and rivers, majestic mountains, forest and fields, likewise, if you are walking through a dry and desolate experience, I encourage you to stop and consider that your oasis is possibly right over the next hill. I do not know how or when you will walk out of your desert, but the Lord is our shepherd and it's only a matter of time before he leads you into his green pastures and still waters. An amazing truth is that God wants the best for all of us and of all the promises we can write upon the tables of our heart, we can stand with confidence on the spiritual reality of his endless love.

It's no secret we all have a certain amount of independence that wants to do things our way. We are always trying to fix our own problems but we can look around and see this does not work out very well. I believe that being honest with God and ourselves is a great place to begin when we are trying to figure out

how to deal with our troubles.

Psalm 94:18-19 gives us this insight, "I cried out, I am slipping, but your unfailing love O Lord, supported me. When doubts filled my mind, your comfort gave me renewed hope and cheer." The idea here is that it's all right to cry out to God and tell him exactly how we feel. If we are sad, depressed, tempted, angry, or whatever, we can just pour out our feelings to him anytime. He listens to us, he sees our tears, and knows exactly what we are going through.

Actually, God is the only one who can help us when it comes to healing and deliverance. Others can pray and help comfort us, pat us on the back and maybe offer a tissue, but another person cannot catch us when we are falling into a state of discouragement or rescue us when we are drowning in misery. When we have lost all hope, God not only has the power and authority to forgive us and redeem our soul but he is also waiting to open our eyes, give us courage, and keep us safe until the storm passes. "He that dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty" (Psalm 91:1). It gives us hope and comfort to know if we should ever collapse under the weight of our burdens, his love and mercy will always carry us to safety. Remember, he who created us is more than able to take care of us.

Was it just a coincidence? A timely phone call revealed the answer

By Lucy Luginbill
Tri-City Herald

Was it a surprising coincidence or a "small miracle" — a mystifying moment in time when it seems two lives have been brushed with heaven's touch?

It happened to me on a typically cold January morning almost a decade ago when an unexpected call jingled my cell phone — one that would ordinarily have been silent in the awakening gray.

This slower approach to each day was now the "new normal" because of my breast cancer journey. I had chosen a more holistic lifestyle, stepping away from my demanding television career. Early hours were reserved for a steamy mug of coffee, quiet time and a relaxed newspaper read.

But while perusing the headlines, a strong thought began to nudge about turning on my phone prematurely, a gentle whisper vibrating in my heart. As if in answer, I reluctantly moved from the comfy couch to retrieve my cell, leaving the warm, woven throw behind.

As the screen brightened in the dimly lit bedroom, I couldn't help but note the huge numbers announcing the hour. Much too early for a woman not ready for telephone calls about the upcoming television show I was producing.

"Why am I turning on my cellphone so early?" I grumbled to myself as I returned to the printed page. "I'm not even finished reading the newspaper yet."

Not to mention a second cup of coffee.

Settling back into my morning routine, I put my phone within arms

reach.

What happened next wasn't particularly exceptional. Someone rang my cell at 8 o'clock. But what was extraordinary was that I had it on and nearby.

The voice at the other end was filled with emotion, offering first an apology for calling early. But within moments of our hello, Kristi Privette's story poured out in a river of grief, revealing she had been diagnosed with breast cancer ... again. Her words sank into the depth of my being — a cold fear I so intimately understood.

We cried. We shared. I listened.

And then as she was about to hang up, she told me how much more at peace she felt, adding another apology for calling earlier than she thought she should.

"No worries!" I said, reassuringly. "I usually don't have my cellphone on until much later, but I turned it on at 7:25 this morning."

She gasped. Excitedly, she went on to tell me that when she had been in prayer that morning, she had told God how terribly overwhelmed she felt. And that's when a quiet thought had brushed across her heart.

"Call Lucy." "I glanced at my watch," Kristi told me, her voice racing with joy, "but it was 7:25 and too early to call. And even though the thought kept nudging me, I waited until 8 o'clock."

But at 7:25 that morning, I was ready to answer ... and that was a "small miracle."

Isaiah 65:24 says, "I will answer them before they can even call to me. While they are still talking about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers."



Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches



Services This Week

<p>IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH 440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201 www.imblerchristianchurch.org</p> <p>Sunday Services 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service</p>	<p>First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 901 Penn Avenue 963-2623 lgdisciples@gmail.com</p> <p>Worship 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>~Join us at The Lord's Table~</p>	<p>SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH A Vision for You</p> <p>Sunday Services: Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 9:45 AM Children's Church & Worship Service 11:00 AM Family Worship Service 6:00 PM</p> <p>Wednesday: Prayer Mtg, Children's Bible Club, Youth Group 7:00 PM</p> <p>A church for your whole family Visit us at summervillebaptistchurch.org</p>	<p>Amazing Grace Fellowship 1316 T St., La Grande, OR 541-568-4567 Sunday 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>2 Cor 12:9 My Grace is sufficient for you.</p> <p>IS 40:31</p>	<p>GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMC 667 N. Main in Union "We are called to Serve" Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am Sunday Worship 10:00 am Pastor Carl Seelhoff Phone: 541-786-0447 grace.lutherancove@gmail.com</p>
<p>COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1708 Jasper St., Cove, OR</p> <p>NORTH POWDER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 390 E. St., North Powder, OR</p> <p>JOIN US... <i>Catch the Spirit!</i> Worship: 9:00 a.m. Cove Worship: 10:00 a.m. N. Powder</p>	<p>ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES La Grande - Our Lady of the Valley 1002 L Avenue Saturday 5:30 pm Mass Sunday 10:00 am Mass Weekdays 8:00 am Mass Union - Sacred Heart 340 South 10th Avenue Sunday 8:00 am Mass No Weekdays Elgin - Saint Mary's 12th and Alder Sunday 12:30 pm Mass No Weekdays</p>	<p>VALLEY FELLOWSHIP 963-0340 507 Palmer Ave (just east of city pool) Sunday Worship 10:02 am Come and share in a time of worship, prayer and the study of God's word with us. Worship includes communion on Sunday. www.valleyfellowship.church Email: vfchurch2@gmail.com</p>	<p>LaGrande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 109 18th Street • 963-3402 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH "OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS" 1612 4th Street - 963-2498 Pastor Al Trachsel lgumc@conl.com www.lgumchurch.org Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9am-Noon Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Coffee Hour 11:00 am Nursery provided</p>
<p>La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church A Place where hope is found in Jesus Join us in Fellowship & Worship Every Saturday 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study / Fellowship 10:45 a.m. - Worship Service 2702 Adams Avenue, La Grande • 963-4018 Pastor: Mike Armayor www.lagrande22adventistchurchconnect.org Learning for Today and Eternity Little Friends Christian Preschool/Childcare 963-6390 La Grande Adventist Christian School Christian Education K-8th Grade 963-6203</p>	<p>FIRST LANDMARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH 1812 1st St. La Grande Pastor Dave Tierce • 541-605-0215 We use the King James Version Bible Sunday School - 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Sunday Evening Bible Study - 3:00 pm (Effective June 10) Wednesday Evening - 6:30 pm "Where you can find TRUTH according to the scriptures" www.flmbclagrande.com</p>	<p>Zion Lutheran Church (an ELCA church) 902 Fourth Street, La Grande, OR (541) 963-5998</p> <p>9:30 am - Worship 10:30 am - Fellowship & Refreshments 11:00 am - Classes Pastor: Rev. Colleen Nelson www.zionlagrande.org</p>	<p>Union Baptist Church 1531 S. Main St., Union 541-562-5531 www.unionbaptistoregon.org Sunday School 9:45 am Morning Worship 11:00 am Sunday Night 6:30 pm Thursday AWANA 6:30 pm Knowing, Loving and Proclaiming Jesus Christ</p>	<p>First Baptist Church SIXTH & SPRING, LA GRANDE 541-963-3911 Sun. 8:45 AM - Bible Classes Sun. 10:00 AM - Worship Wed. 6:15 PM - AWANA</p>