

## **Hypocritical Everret and the C of C**

As a sometimes reader of Everett's "On My Mind" in the Opinion column in the Examiner I have noted that he is frequently "outraged" by local opinions and attitudes about the relationship between the Palestinians and Israel's policies. He usually expresses an unpopular viewpoint, but champions those whom he judges are being bullied, attacked or exploited.

I have a suspicion that he is full of righteous indignation only when the issues are far away, and beyond any personal power to influence. He can safely argue his points and not have to worry about anyone putting him to the test. In defense of his unpopular opinions he recently wrote:

"I am also unrepentant when it comes to fighting against bigotry wherever it raises its ugly head regardless of whether it originates with fundamentalist, Muslims, Christians or any other ism, individual or group."

There is a local issue that deserves his typical commentary. I have been waiting for his outrage to be expressed against the Community of Christ church. This local issue may be too close for comfort, since his typical targets are usually beyond the reach of his readership, but there does not seem to be any justification for the Community of Christ to attack a tiny local congregation of believers because they claim to be a continuation of the old RLDS church.

Where is his outrage at bullying tactics, exploitation, and bigotry that provoked the unwarranted attacks on these poor and innocent individuals?

The Community of Christ attacked by lawsuit the Devon Park Branch of about 30 members, most of whom are carried on the Community of Christ membership rolls. They have run up a bill of nearly a half million dollars in legal fees, and then demanded that the Devon Park Branch pay all their legal expenses. They insist that the Devon pastor, an unpaid volunteer minister, be held personally liable for all these legal fees. By the way, he is the father of nine children and has only a modest income from his job. Of course that will not get any money for the Community of Christ but could force the pastor's family into bankruptcy, a fact that they obviously know, but don't care about.

The bigotry of the Community of Christ is revealed by their insistence that only they can represent the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and their bigotry is compounded by their hypocritical disdain for the use of the name.

Imagine! Right here in Independence, there is a wealthy (by contrast) church attacking a small little congregation through a lawsuit. The bullying Community of Christ never made any attempt to discuss these issues with the pastor of the Devon Park congregation or work out an agreement. In fact, the Devon Park congregation made attempts to settle the legal issues, but cannot get the Community of Christ into any discussion to resolve the issues. The Church whose Temple says "Peace and Justice,"

practices unjust warfare on the defenseless and the poor. Is that hypocrisy of the first water? Where is your outrage Mr. Everett? You used to work for the Community of Christ, and maybe that is why you are silent. Wouldn't due to offend friends would it? But keeping silent is hypocritical too.

Neil Simmons