
**“1” + “Mind, Goal, Purpose and Heart.”—Etched in Charles Woodson’s Packer Super Bowl Ring.**

**“I very much appreciate having [your Spirit of America] as part of my library.”—From David McCullough’s Apr. 02 note to DvJM.**

**“In (many) years to come, people will be able to look back on your SoA volumes and learn a lot about C20/C21 life.”—Jon Tarrant, teacher.**

**“Faith doesn’t get you around trouble. It gets you through it.”—God’s 411 via Angela Zitzner Karwoski.**

**“Your work demonstrates the ways all of our lives are interconnected.”—R. Kyte re: DvJM’s words & photos.**

*Returning from poor family’s farm, rich city dad & son chat: (Dad)”So what did you learn from the trip?” (Son)”I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them.” The boy’s dad was speechless. Then son added, “It showed me just how poor we really are.”—From FB post by Larry New.**

**“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.”—Marilyn Stafford, photographer.**

SA56 is WI’s most-prolific living author David Joseph Marcou’s 141st book, incl. Korea2050; Spirit of LaX; All Best; Cockney Eye; James Cameron’s World; Manhattan Moments; Vital Wash.; Amer. Women; Street Photos; Black Diversity; All Creatures Great & Small; Badger Homecomings & Miracles; Evolving Happiness (poems); Rebirths (plays); Gratitude.

Grad Aquinas HS’ 68, not ’82 as in 1 AHS class note), UW-Mdso (’73), ULa’ (’78), & UM-Clblia (’84), DvJM’s works have -- been nominated for Pulitzer’s & POYi’s, won Sept. 12th & Gov’s awards, been displayed at SI, etc. He’s freelanced for nytimes.com, theguardian.com, Milw. Journ. Sent., RPS Journ., BPs, Bsns. Korea, LaX Trib, Cath. Life, Mo. Life, Smithsonian, Etc. Ancestors incl. Louis Joliet, farmers, teachers, shop-owners, meat-cutters, record-keepers. DvJM has a very productive son, Matthew.

Photos & Words by David Joseph Marcou (DvJM).
Preface: True to Self & Dream, by DvJM.

For several decades I’ve worked hard publicly to be a very humanly humane journalist and documentarian. From meeting and photographing Bert Hardy in Nov. 1981 Surrey and St. Mother Teresa in Jan. 1985 South Korea, to reporting on/photographing US Presidents and Presidential hopefuls, an Archbishop of Canterbury and a Cardinal I respect very much, plus Jewish and Muslim leaders of note, none of my celebrity-coverages and bios about them would have been possible unless I learned early from my grandparents, parents (exceedingly hard-working people, Mom, a superb writer when she had a little time to write her many letters, and Dad, who loved journalism just-enough to do his only reading in the family bathroom -- the La Crosse Tribune sports section), siblings, teachers, students, and peers that we are all God’s children -- all creatures great and small. People who work every day, famous or not, are worthy of my/all documentarians’ attention.

Prof. John Ullmann, quoted by Louisa Reynolds on worldpressinstitute.org, asked young journalists -- with your grandchild on your lap someday, “[w]hat will you tell him or her about your days as a journalist? Which stories are you most proud of and which ones really made a difference? Stay true to yourself and never lose sight of what’s really important.” Knowing there is a benevolent God and staying true to self and dream helps people like me find God’s Spirit in people via words and photos. When I was trying very hard to find an eighth or was it ninth story subject in the Missouri-London Reporting Program directed by John H. Whale in November 1981, suspecting I’d not be able raise my grade enough anyway to earn my MA degree, because 12 stories were required and the semester was almost over, I began thinking about what was really important. It was that final semester-story, a story I sensed would be my most important work from England.

Prem Olsen, my black-and-white printer in London, said what positively motivated me on my search: “I know a photographer who took very good photos, and has very good stories to tell about them…. His name is Bert Hardy.” My final semester-story didn’t materialize until I’d left London, and wasn’t published in the (student-paper) Weekly Missourian until Spring 1984. But after interviewing Bert and his stellar Korean War writer-mate, James Cameron, I continued writing about them, extensively. It’s helped I still retain three photos from many I’d taken at the Hardy farmstead; my then-second wife wouldn’t be able to pilfer or secretly hide all my prize-negatives in 1987 after a disagreement. One of my photo-portrait prints, of Bert with his dogs Lizzie and Kim, is still in the Photographs Collection of the British National Portrait Gallery (NPGx126230); it’s been there since 2003 when I donated it. Bert Hardy Darkroom’s Charles Keeble printed it for me & delivered it to NPG too. I didn’t photograph Mr. Cameron, because his agent said my camera wouldn’t be allowed in for our interview.

Also, if it wouldn’t have been for Bert and Sheila Hardy, and James and Moni Cameron, I’d never have traveled to Seoul to live and work as a journalist (1984-87); met/photographed St. Mother Teresa, who’d later write me 18 letters of hope and inspiration; met the mother of my son; have written/photographed milestone Valentine Wedding Anniversaries of my parents; have photographed my son’s Magna Cum Laude graduation at Drexel U. in 2017; and had grandchildren (though I’m still awaiting word on the latter, Jan. 2018).

One tougher lesson John Ullmann taught students – it helps to research your subjects whenever you can, before you interview and/or photograph them. Post-event research also helps, which is how I’d overcome a big disadvantage in not knowing much about Hardy and Cameron before meeting them, due to lack of ready info in libraries then. Despite a nervous breakdown in Missouri soon after I met those two Brits, I was able to right myself decently-enough in future to overcome my difficult disability and write about them accurately, and about a large numbers of other written and photo subjects too.

Fellow documentarian Drake Hokanson says, “photography makes the world real”, which is partly true; at its best, photography can reveal what is most real and truly worthwhile in life, i.e., reconciliation and peace. Finally, as Journey sings it, “Don’t Stop Believing”.—DvJM, Jan. 2018.