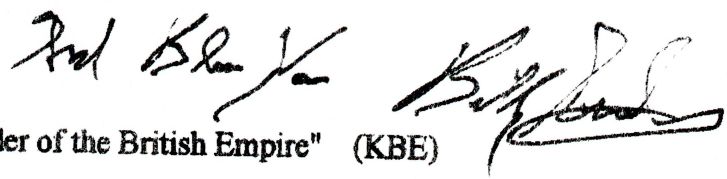


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sent to
Ambassador



Honorary Knighthood: "Knight Commander in the Order of the British Empire" (KBE)
British Embassy, Washington, DC
Thursday, December 6, 2001

British Ambassador & Lady Meyer
(Christopher and Catherine Meyer)

Your Excellency, I want to thank you and Lady Meyer for your great kindness in hosting this occasion this evening.

-- It has been one of the most unforgettable events of my life.

-- Thank you for your thoughtfulness in including my family--it gets harder and harder to get together as a family!

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- I am also delighted that some of my board of directors were invited
- and especially I would like to recognize my longtime friend, Sir David Frost.
- For many years, two of our closest friends were Bill and Allie Marriott, and tonight I am honored that the head of the Marriott Corporation, their son Bill and his wife Donna have honored us by coming.

- I especially want to ask you to convey to Her
Majesty The Queen my deepest gratitude for
the high honor she has so graciously
bestowed upon me this evening.

- I accept it with humility and unworthiness
- and I take it as a symbol of the common
historical ties that have bound our two
nations together over the years.

ILL: I read a quote that appeared in The Daily
News in 1903 about Queen Victoria.

— After hearing the Dean preach a sermon
about Christ's return to earth,

Queen Victoria said:

— "Oh how I wish that the Lord might come
during my lifetime!"

— When the Dean asked her why, she replied:

— "I should so love to lay my crown at His
feet."

- In the same way, I would like to give God the glory for whatever has been accomplished through my life
- and I, too, look forward to the day when I can lay at His feet every honor I have been privileged to receive.
- Naturally, there have been scores of people associated with Ruth and me who deserve this honor as much as I do
- and I would like to share it with them

- especially two of them who are here tonight,
and have been with me for fifty years:
- Cliff Barrows and George Beverly Shea.
- Over the years, we have been in Great Britain
many times
- more than in any other nation except my
own.
- My ancestry is British, of course.

- 1 - Shortly after World War Two, Cliff Barrows and I, and our wives, went to Britain for six months of ministry.
- Ruth and I will never forget the courage and determination of the British people in those difficult years after the War.
- We had gone over there to encourage them
- but instead, they encouraged us
- and taught us more than I will ever be able to express.

ILL: We often had difficulty with accents,
especially when we were in Scotland, or
Yorkshire

- George Beverly Shea was in London for our
meetings in 1954, and he was singing:

- "It took a miracle to put the stars in place"

- But one person misheard the words, and
wrote that it seemed awfully arrogant for that
American Gospel singer to say: "It took
AMERICA to put the stars in place!"

- Over the years, we have returned to Great Britain many times
- and certainly one of the most memorable experiences of those visits has been the privilege of being with Her Majesty on occasion
- and to preach at Windsor and Sandringham at her gracious invitation.

— I am honored to stand beside this Christmas
tree that reminds us all of Jesus Christ and
His love for us.

— He not only loves us in the Western world
— but He loves all people, no matter what
their ethnic or religious background.

— Again, Your Excellency, thank you for this
delightful and memorable occasion.

- Since September 11, we have seen signs all over our nation saying, "God Bless America."
- Your nation, however, also shared in the horror and loss of that tragic day
- and in a special way tonight may my family, my colleagues, and I ask for God's special blessing on Great Britain and its people, especially during these days.

- Tonight, I would like to say, "God bless the
United Kingdom
- and God bless Her Majesty The Queen.