

THE FORGOTTEN CABLE

By John F. Hall

There is an age-old question as to whether or not Christ intervenes in the affairs of man? This true story provides one answer to that question. In March of 2021, I was faced with a difficult decision. I could abandon a home telephone line, that I have used for the past 43 years, and avoid the wrath of an arrogant telephone executive's fraud, attempted fraud, and hundreds upon hundreds of harassing telephone calls, or I could fight back. At the age of 76 plus, I admit, that the fearless, fighting spirit of my younger days, was gone. Even the best legal firm in Paducah, Kentucky, would not accept the challenge, to go up against a telephone executive that earns \$22 million dollars a year. To this telephone executive, I was just a washed out, feeble, Vietnam War Veteran, with a trace of PTSD that he could use to his advantage. I remember well the words found in Psalms 116:6: "The Lord watches over the simple; I was brought low, and He saved me."



Since, as William Shakespeare once said, "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players..." He saw life as a drama, and the men and women "have their exits and entrances..." So I begin this true story with the introduction of the main character, the protagonist, John T. Stankey. He is the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T) Incorporated. His office is located in a tall office building in Dallas, Texas. His legal counsel is Cheryl R. Winn. She is a tough, former criminal prosecutor. Her office is located in the Waters Law Group in Louisville, Kentucky. The Senior Judge assigned to this case is Thomas B. Russell. His office is located in the Federal Building in Paducah, Kentucky. The Clerk of Court is James J. Vilt, Jr. His office is also located in the Federal Building. My office, so to speak, is located on the second floor of my Antebellum home, five miles west of Cadiz, Kentucky.

The stage where this drama may be played out is in the Federal Court room. Stankey's attorney is doing her dishonest best to keep her client from having to leave his "ivory tower" to travel to Paducah to appear before a jury. I assume that Mr. Stankey just considers me to be an annoyance, like a fly that he would like to flatten with a fly swatter. Judge Russell has a difficult constitutional decision to make. I've made a demand for a jury trial under the Seven Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides that a jury trial is "preserved to the parties inviolate." He knows that if he dismisses my complaint without a jury trial, that I will appeal to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati, Ohio and claim a violation of my constitutional rights.

I'm not going to get down in the weeds with legal jargon that Jade, Skyler, and Lexie, as smart as they are, would appreciate. To be honest, I did not know how I was going to bring Mr. Stankey to justice in Kentucky. He is like the man in the Wizard of Oz movie. He is pulling all the strings and does not want anyone to pay any attention to him. I began by thanking Jesus Christ for helping me. How was I going to make a complaint against a

man in Texas? As I have gone to the “grace well” many times in the past, I prayed to Christ to help me. One day, after church, I came home and took a nap.

During that nap, I had a dream and three words came into my mind: interstate, harass, and disclosure. I woke up not knowing what those words meant. As time went on, I did some research. I retired from law enforcement 30 years ago and most of my training involved criminal law. But I found a federal law: 47 U.S. Code 223 (1) (c) that contained those three words. It is true that God helps those that help themselves. I called the Clerks Office and said I wanted to represent myself (Pro se) and make a claim against a person living in Texas. The Deputy Clerk gave me instruction to download the Pro se forms. The local rules require that I hand write the complaint, the claims and all the Motions. I had to fill out a Civil Cover Sheet. I checked the block that the Basis of Jurisdiction was Diversity as the citizenship of Mr. Stankey is Texas. I was told that I could serve the complaint and civil summons on Mr. Stankey by certified mail.

After I served the summons, the telephone harassment tripled. I was making Motion after Motion and not hearing any decisions being made by Judge Russell. I felt that I was losing the Basis of Jurisdiction battle and that Judge Russell would dismiss the complaint. Then one night, I woke up from a dream with Jesus Christ giving me just two words: “utility easement.” Only AT&T Inc, and not AT&T Kentucky and AT&T Intellectual Properties has underground utility easement, by deed, on my three small lots. Mr. Stankey set up those holding companies to avoid accountability and responsibility for the strings he was pulling and dictating to those holding companies. My bad foot and my bad back keep me from kneeling, but I go down on my knees and thanked Christ for those two words. I may not see this drama played out in the Federal Court room in Paducah. But I can continue to thank Jesus Christ for the grace upon grace upon grace that He has given me to write this true story.

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