

Church Newsletter Inserts

Voice Mail

Most of us have now learned to live with "voice mail" as a necessary as part of our daily lives. But have you ever wondered what it would be like if God decided to install voice mail?

Imagine praying and hearing the following:

Thank you for calling Heaven.

For English, press 1.

For Spanish, press 2.

For all other languages, press 0.

Please select one of the following options:

Press 1 for Requests.

Press 2 for Thanksgiving.

Press 3 for Complaints.

Press 4 for all other inquiries.

I am sorry; all of our angels and saints are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is important to us, and we will answer it in the order it was received. Please stay on the line.

If you would like to speak to:

God, press 1.

Jesus, press 2.

Holy Spirit, press 3.

If you would like to hear King David sing a Psalm while you are holding, press 4.

To find a loved one that has been assigned to Heaven,

press 5, then enter his or her social security number,

followed by the "pound" sign. If you receive a negative response, please hang up and try area code 666).

For reservations at Heaven, please enter J-O-H-N, followed by the numbers 3-1-6.

For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth, life on other planets, and where Noah's Ark is, please wait until you arrive.

Our computers show that you have already prayed today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow.

The office is now closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday. Please pray again on Monday after 9:30 am. If you are calling after hours and need emergency assistance, please contact your local pastor.



Idiots R Us

IDIOTS IN SERVICE:

This week, all our office phones went dead and I had to contact the telephone repair people. They promised to be out between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. When I asked if they could give me a smaller time window, the pleasant gentleman asked, "Would you like us to call you before we come?" I replied that I didn't see how he would be able to do that, since our phones weren't working. He also requested that we report future outages by e-mail (OUR e-mail works via the telephone line!!).

IDIOTS AT WORK:

I was signing the receipt for my credit card purchase when the clerk noticed I had never signed my name on the back of the credit card. She informed me that she could not complete the transaction unless the card was signed. When I asked why, she explained that it was necessary to compare the signature I had just signed on the receipt. So I signed the credit card in front of her. She carefully compared the signature to the one I had just signed on the receipt. As luck would have it, they matched.

IDIOTS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD:

I live in a semi-rural area. We recently had a new neighbor call the local township administrative office to request the removal of the Deer Crossing sign on our road. The reason: too many deer were being hit by cars, and he didn't want them to cross there anymore.

IDIOTS IN FOOD SERVICE:

My daughter went to a local Taco Bell and ordered a taco. She asked the person behind the counter for "minimal lettuce." He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg lettuce.

IDIOT SIGHTING #1:

I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, "Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?" To which I replied, "If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?" He smiled knowingly and nodded, "That's why we ask."

IDIOT SIGHTING #2:

The stoplight on the corner buzzes when it's safe to cross the street. I was crossing with an intellectually-challenged coworker of mine when she asked if I knew what the buzzer was for. I explained that it signals blind people when the light is red. Appalled, she responded, "What on earth are blind people doing driving?!"

IDIOT SIGHTING #3:

At a goodbye luncheon for an old and dear coworker who was leaving the company due to "down sizing," our manager commented cheerfully, "This is fun. We should do this more often." Not a word was spoken. We all just looked at each other with that deer-in-the-headlights stare.

IDIOT SIGHTING #4:

When I arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up my newly serviced car, I was told the keys had been locked in it. I went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's side door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked. "Hey," I announced to the technician, "it is open!" To which he replied, "I know - I already got that side."

What Would Jesus Drive?

Most people assume WWJD stands for "What would Jesus do?" But the initials really stand for "What would Jesus drive?"

One theory is that Jesus would tool around in an old Plymouth because "the Bible says God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden in a Fury."

But in Psalm 83, the Almighty clearly owns a Pontiac and a Geo. The passage urges the Lord to "pursue your enemies with your Tempest and terrify them with your Storm."

Perhaps God favors Dodge pickup trucks, because Moses' followers are warned not to go up a mountain "until the Ram's horn sounds a long blast."

Some scholars insist that Jesus drove a Honda but didn't like to talk about it. As proof, they cite a verse in St. John's gospel where Christ tells the crowd, "For I did not speak of my own Accord..."

Meanwhile, Moses rode an old British motorcycle, as evidenced by a Bible passage declaring that "the roar of Moses' Triumph is heard in the hills."

Joshua drove a Triumph sports car with a hole in its muffler: "Joshua's Triumph was heard throughout the land."

And, following the Master's lead, the Apostles car pooled in a Honda
....."The Apostles were in one Accord."!!!!

Top Ten Hymns for the over 50 crowd

1. "Just A 'Slower' Walk With Thee"
2. "It Is Well With My Soul", But My Knees Hurt
3. "Nobody Knows The Trouble I 'Have Seeing'"
4. "Precious Lord, Take My Hand", And Help Me Up
5. "Count Your Many 'Birthdays', Count Them One By One"
6. "Go Tell It On A Mountain", But Speak Up
7. "Give Me The Old 'Timers' Religion"
8. "Blessed 'Insurance'"
9. "Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah",
10. "I've Forgotten Where I've Parked The Car"

Top Ten Reasons Why I Don't Bathe

1. I was made to wash as a child.
2. People who bathe are hypocrites; they think they are cleaner than others.
3. There are so many kinds of soap -- I could never decide which one was right.
4. I used to bathe, but it got so boring -- so I stopped.
5. I still bathe on Christmas and Easter.
6. None of my friends bathe.
7. I'm still young. When I'm older and a bit dirtier I might start bathing.
8. I really don't have time.
9. The bathroom is never warm enough (or always too hot).
10. People who make soap are only after your money.

Hey Hun

Outside a small Macedonian village close to the border between Greece and strife-torn Yugoslavia, a lone Catholic nun keeps a quiet watch over a silent convent. She is the last caretaker of the site of significant historical developments spanning more than 2,000 years.

When Sister Maria Cyrilla of the Order of the Perpetual Watch dies, the convent of St. Elias will be closed by the Eastern Orthodox Patriarch of Macedonia.

However, that isn't likely to happen soon, as Sister Maria, 53, enjoys excellent health. By her own estimate, she walks 10 miles daily about the grounds of the convent, which once served as a base for the army of Attila the Hun. In more ancient times, a Greek temple to Eros, the god of love, occupied the hilltop site. Historians say that Attila took over the old temple in 439 A.D. and used it as a base for his marauding army. The Huns are believed to have first collected and then destroyed a large gathering of Greek legal writs at the site.

It is believed that Attila wanted to study the Greek legal system, and had the writs and other documents brought to the temple. Scholars differ on why he had the valuable documents destroyed - either because he was barely literate or couldn't read them, or because they provided evidence of democratic government that did not square with his own notion of rule by an all-powerful tyrant.

When the Greek Church took over the site in the 15th Century and the convent was built, church leaders ordered the pagan statue of Eros destroyed, so another ancient Greek treasure was lost. Today, there is only the lone sister, watching over the old Hun base.

And that's how it ends: No Huns, no writs, no Eros, and nun left on base.

You Know You're In A Texas Prebyterian Church When....

1. The call to worship is, "Ya'll come on in now."
2. People grumble about Noah letting coyotes on the ark.
3. The preacher says, "I'd like to ask Bubba to help take up the offering and 5 guys stand up."
4. The restrooms are outside.
5. Opening day of deer season is recognized as an official church holiday.
6. A member of the church requests to be buried in his 4-wheel-drive truck, because "It ain't never been in a hole it couldn't get out of."
7. When it rains, everyone is smiling.
8. Prayers regarding the weather are standard practice.
9. The choir group is known as the "OK Chorale."
10. The pastor wears boots.
11. Four generations of the same family sit together in worship.
12. There is no such thing as a "secret" sin.
13. Baptism is referred to as "branding."
14. There is a special fund raiser for a new septic tank.
15. Finding and returning lost sheep isn't just a parable.
16. High notes on the organ can set the dogs to howling.
17. People wonder, when Jesus fed 5000 whether the two fish were bass or catfish.
18. People think "rapture" is when you lift something too heavy.
19. Baptism comes from water taken from the creek behind the church.
20. The final words of the benediction are, "Ya'll come back now, ya hear?"

Baptism

TOP 10 SIGNS YOU'RE AT A BAD BAPTISM SERVICE

10. The Coast Guard is involved.
9. The service is held at Splash Mountain Water Parks.
8. Pastor wears scuba gear.
7. As the baptism begins the organist plays the theme from "Jaws."
6. The preacher uses a "Billy the Bass" singing "Take Me to the River" instead of the traditional "Shall We Gather at the River?".
5. You keep hearing the pastor saying, "Oops! Honestly, sister; I didn't know about that drop-off!"
4. The pastor can't get the rather large person being baptized back up out of the water and calls for help.
3. The Deacon Board shows up with fishing gear.
2. Just as the choir starts to sing, Paul Hogan jumps out of the water and wrestles the preacher into submission.

AND THE NO. 1 YOU'RE AT A BAD BAPTISM SERVICE:

1. Two Words: Alka Seltzer.

TOP 10 SIGNS YOU'RE IN FOR A LONG SUNDAY SERMON

10. There's a case of bottled water beside the pulpit in a cooler.
9. The pews have camper hookups.
8. You overhear the pastor telling the sound man to have a few (dozen!) extra tapes on hand to record today's sermon.
7. The preacher has brought a snack to the pulpit.
6. The preacher breaks for an intermission.
5. The bulletins have pizza delivery menus.
4. When the preacher asks the deacon to bring in his notes, he rolls in a filing cabinet.
3. The choir loft is furnished with La-Z-Boys.
2. Instead of taking off his watch and laying it on the pulpit, the preacher turns up a four-foot hour-glass.

AND THE NUMBER ONE SIGN YOU'RE IN FOR A LONG SUNDAY SERMON

1. The minister says, "You'll be out in time to watch the super bowl" but it's only July!



Dead Horse Theorem

The tribal wisdom of the Dakota Indians, passed on from one generation to the next, says that when you discover that you are riding a dead horse, get off, bury the dead horse, and start riding a living horse. However, in modern business (and education, government, and certainly churches), because of heavy investment factors are taken into consideration, other strategies are often tried with dead horses, including the following:

1. Buying a stronger whip.
 2. Changing riders.
 3. Threatening the horse with termination.
 4. Appointing a committee to study the horse.
 5. Arranging a visit to other sites to see how they ride dead horses.
 6. Lowering the standards so the dead horses can be included.
 7. Reclassifying the dead horse as "living-impaired."
 8. Hiring outside contractors to ride the dead horse.
 9. Harnessing several dead horses together to increase speed.
 10. Providing additional funding and/or training to increase the dead horse's performance.
 11. Doing a productivity study to see if lighter riders would improve the dead horse's performance.
 12. Declaring that the dead horse carries lower overhead and therefore contributes more to the bottom line than some other horses.
 13. Rewriting the expected performance requirements for all horses.
 14. Promoting the dead horse to a supervisory position.
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No Excuse Sunday

To make it possible for everyone to attend church on Sunday, we are proposing to have a special 'No Excuse Sunday.'

1. Cots will be placed in the foyer for those who say, 'Sunday is my only day to sleep in.'
2. They will have steel helmets for those who say, "The roof will cave in if I ever came to church."
3. Blankets will be furnished for those who say it is too cold and fan for those who say it is too hot.
4. There will be hearing aids for those who say, "The pastor speaks too softly," and cotton for those who say, "He preaches too loudly."
5. Scorecards will be available for those who wish to list the hypocrites present.
6. Some relatives will be in attendance for those who like to go visiting on Sunday.
7. There will be TV dinners for those who can't go to church and cook dinner too.
8. Golf clubs will be available for practice swings for those who like to golf on Sunday.

TOP 7 Signs Your Pastor Needs a Vacation

7. Her first words to the congregation on Sunday morning are "Alright, listen up you heathens..."
6. She falls asleep during her own sermon.
5. She shows up for Sunday service wearing WNBA Comets shorts and a #10 Top.
4. Every time her pager goes off, she shouts, "Why can't they just leave me alone?!"
3. Announces baptismal services will be at the Grand Canyon.
2. You go to her office for counseling and pour your heart out to her and she says, "Sounds like a personal problem to me."

AND THE NUMBER ONE SIGN YOUR PASTOR NEEDS A VACATION

1. For the past two months she has preached the same sermon every Sunday.

THE NUMBER ONE SIGN THE CONGREGATION NEEDS A VACATION FROM THE PASTOR:

For the past two months, the pastor has preached the same sermon every Sunday -- and nobody has noticed!

(TIPS)The Institute for Pastoral Studies-Theology 101 Final Exam

1. Summarize Thomas Aquinas' Summa Theologiae in three succinct sentences. You may use your Bible.
2. St. Martin of Tours, Pope Clement VII and Karl Barth were not contemporaries. Had they known each other, how might the history of the Reformation turned out differently?
3. Define a moral system that satisfies Liberals, Conservatives, Moderates, and the entire population of Ancient Rome, ca. 3 BCE.
4. Memorize the Bible. Recite it in tongues.
5. Imagine you have the stigmata. Would it affect your productivity at work? Would you still be admitted into fine restaurants? Would it be covered by your medical insurance, or should it constitute a pre-existent condition?
6. What would it mean to be eternal, co-eternal, and non-existent all at once?
7. St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Augustine of Hippo decide to rob a bank. The note to the teller is 1,200 pages long, not counting footnotes, complete with a promise of damnation if the teller does not accept immediate Baptism. In the middle of the heist, they engage in an extended debate as to whether or not the money really exists. Are they committing a real or fake sin?
8. Speculate on what the current status of salvation history might have been if Abraham had just stayed in Ur.

Top Ten Ways You Know You Joined The Wrong Church

10. The church bus has gun racks.
9. The church staff consists of Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor, and Socio-Pastor
8. The Bible they use is the "Dr. Seuss Version."
7. There's an ATM machine in the narthex.
6. Choir wears leather robes.
5. Worship services are B.Y.O.S. - "Bring your own Snake"
4. No cover charge but communion is a two-drink minimum.
3. Pastor regularly attends meetings at Las Vegas.
2. Ushers asks, "Smoking or Non-smoking?"

And the number one reason you know that you joined the wrong church...

1. The Pastor Preaches In His Sleep and You do not care because he looks successful, has a nice wife who stays home to raise his two children and feed the dog.!

Let's Compare!

A church personnel committee asked their pastor to evaluate his ministry in comparison to the ministry of Jesus. Here is his humble response:

**JESUS	**PASTOR
Walks on water.....	Slips on ice
Changes water into wine.....	Changes water into coffee
Welcomes children.....	Has children' sermon
Curses fig tree.....	Kills houseplants
Stills the storm.....	Puts storm windows on sills
Feeds 5,000.....	Buys snacks for youth program
Heals centurion's servant at a distance.....	Can use the TV remote control
Heals paralyzed man.....	Gets children to do chores
Overturns money-changer tables....	Puts away folding tables
Raises the dead.....	Wakes teenagers
Casts out demons.....	Turns on night-light
Cleanses lepers.....	Has changed dirty diapers
Light of the World.....	Turner of light switches
Stands at door and knocks.....	Has church key
Calls disciples.....	E-mails deacons



Top Ten Cat Commandments

1. The Lord may be God, but I am CAT. I shall be fed above all else.
2. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord, or any use of MY name. I shall come when I am good and ready.
3. Before remembering the Sabbath to keep it holy, remember the litter box to keep it clean.
4. Honor your cat, so that your upholstery shall remain whole, and your curtains and drapes un-shredded.
5. You shall not murder the Cat who throws up in bed, turns over the aquarium, or pretends that he/she is one of the flying Wallendas upon your Thanksgiving table, when company you do not know well is in attendance.
6. You shall not own, speak to, or pet a dog. Ever.
7. You shall not pet, scratch, cuddle, or otherwise seek to interact with the cat, unless approached first.

9. You shall own plenty of black, navy and other dark colored clothing, suitably embellished with cat hair, so that all shall know that you are owned by a cat, and, as such, are off limits to all other beings of the human, feline or canine persuasion.

10. You shall admire the cute poses, the dumb things that I occasionally do and then shake off with an "I meant to do that" air and my athletic prowess that I display when I try to catch a fly. After all, I am CAT.

Recall

The Maker of all human beings is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to the serious defect in the primary and central component of the heart. This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype unit's code named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. This defect has been technically termed, "Sub-sequential Internal Non-morality," or more commonly known as SIN, as it is primarily expressed.

Some other symptoms:

- [a] Loss of direction
- [b] Foul vocal emissions
- [c] Amnesia of origin
- [d] Lack of peace and joy
- [e] Selfish or violent behavior
- [f] Depression or confusion in the mental component
- [g] Fearfulness
- [h] Idolatry
- [i] Rebellion

The Manufacturer, Who is neither liable nor at fault for this defect, is providing factory authorized repair and service free of charge to correct this SIN defect. The Repair Technician, Jesus, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs. There is no additional fee required.

The toll free number to call for repair in all areas is: P-R-A-Y-E-R. Once connected, please upload your burden of SIN through the REPENTANCE procedure.

Next, download ATONEMENT from the Repair Technician, Jesus, into the heart component. No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, the Jesus will replace it with:

- [a] Love
- [b] Joy
- [c] Peace
- [d] Patience
- [e] Kindness
- [f] Goodness
- [g] Faithfulness
- [h] Gentleness
- [i] Self-control

Please see the operating manual, HOLY BIBLE, for further details on the use of these fixes. As an added upgrade, the manufacturer has made available to all repaired units a facility enabling direct monitoring and assistance from a resident Maintenance Technician, the Holy Spirit. Repaired units need only make Him welcome and He will take up permanent residence on the premises!

WARNING: Continuing to operate the human being unit without correction voids the Manufacturer's warranty, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded. For free emergency service, call on JESUS.

DANGER: The human being units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped in the furnace. The SIN defect will not be permitted to enter Heaven so as to prevent contamination of that facility.

Hymns of the Lukewarm Church

1. A Comfy Mattress Is Our God
 2. Joyful, Joyful, We Kinda Like Thee
 3. Above Average is Thy Faithfulness
 4. Lord, Keep Us Loosely Connected to Your Word
 5. All Hail the Influence of Jesus' Name
 6. My Hope is Built on Nothing Much
 7. Amazing Grace, How Interesting the Sound
 8. My Faith Looks Around for Thee
 9. Be Thou My Hobby
 10. O God, Our Enabler in Ages Past
 11. Blest Be the Tie That Doesn't Cramp My Style
 12. Oh, for a Couple of Tongues to Sing
 13. He's Quite a Bit to Me
 14. Oh, How I Like Jesus
 15. I Lay My Inappropriate Behaviors on Jesus
 16. Pillow of Ages, Fluffed for Me
 17. I Surrender Some
 18. Praise God from Whom All Affirmations Flow
 19. I'm Fairly Certain That My Redeemer Lives
 20. Self-Esteem to the World! The Lord is Come
 21. Sit Up, Sit Up for Jesus
 22. Special, Special, Special
 23. Spirit of the Living God, Fall Somewhere Near Me
 24. Stick Nearby, It's Getting Dark Outside
 25. Take My Life and Let Me Be
 26. There is Scattered Cloudiness in My Soul Today
 27. There Shall be Sprinkles of Blessings
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28. What an Acquaintance We Have in Jesus
 29. When Peace, Like a Trickle. . .
 30. When the Saints Go Sneaking In
 31. Where He Leads Me, I Will Consider Following
 32. God of Taste, and God of Stories
 33. Lift Every Voice and Intellectualize
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These sentences actually appeared in a church bulletin or were announced in a church service!

1. Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa will be speaking tonight at Calvary Memorial Church in Racine. Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.
2. Announcement in the church bulletin for a National PRAYER & FASTING Conference: "The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals."
3. Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8 PM in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.
4. Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again" giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
5. "Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."
6. Next Sunday is the family hay ride and bonfire at the Fowlers'. Bring your own hot dogs and guns. Friends are welcome! Everyone come for a fun time.
7. The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.
8. The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water" The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus"
9. Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
10. Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Pam's sermons.
11. During the absence of our Pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F. Stubs supplied our pulpit.
12. The Pastor will preach her farewell message after which the choir will sing "Break Forth into Joy."
13. Remember in prayer the many that are sick of our community.
14. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.
15. Don't let worry kill you off --let the Church help.

16. Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
17. A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
18. At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.
19. Eight new choir robes are needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
20. The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.
21. Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
22. The Lutheran men's group will meet at 6 PM. Steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread and dessert will be served for a nominal fee.
23. For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
24. Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person(s) you want remembered.
25. Attend and you will hear an excellent speaker and have a healthy lunch.
26. The church will host an evening of fine dining superb entertainment and gracious hospitality.
27. Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM.-prayer and medication to follow.
28. The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
29. This evening at 7 P.M. there will be a hymn sing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
30. Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.
31. The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.
32. Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.
33. The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The Congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
34. Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

CHRISTIAN PICK-UP LINES

- 1) Nice bible
- 2) I would like to pray with you
- 3) You know Jesus, Me too
- 4) God told me to talk to you
- 5) I know a church where we could go and talk
- 6) How about a hug, sister?
- 7) Do you need help carrying your bible? It looks heavy.
- 8) Christians don't shake hands, Christians gotta hug
- 9) Oh you are cold, Ecclesiastes 4:11
- 10) Did it hurt when you fell from Heaven?
- 11) What are your plans for tonight? Feel like a bible study?
- 12) I am here for you.
- 13) The word says "Give drink to those who are thirsty, and feed the hungry," how about dinner?
- 14) You don't have an accountability partner? Me neither.
- 15) You want to come over and watch the 10 commandments tonight?
- 16) Is it a sin that you stole my heart?
- 17) Would you happen to know a Christian woman that I could love with all my heart and wait on hand and foot?
- 18) Nice bracelet. What would Jesus date? I mean "do"
- 19) Do you believe in Divine appointment?
- 20) Have you ever tried praying at a drive-in movie before?
- 21) Excuse me; I believe one of your ribs belongs to me.
- 22) My friend told me to come and meet you; he said that you are a really nice person. I think you know him. 'Jesus?' yeah that's his name.
- 23) You know they say that you have never really dated, until you have dated a Christian.
- 24) Yeah I predicted David over Goliath.
- 25) What? Friends listen to Amazing Grace in the dark.
- 26) We have to hold hands when we pray so the circle won't be broken.
- 27) God has used you to teach me what true love really is.
- 28) Christians kiss before parting...it's an old Jewish tradition.

Changing Light Bulbs:

1. How many Charismatics does it take to change a light bulb? One to change the bulb and nine to pray against the spirit of darkness.
2. How many Calvinists does it take to change a light bulb? None. God has predestined when the light will be on. Calvinists do not change light bulbs. They simply read the instructions and pray the light bulb will be one that has been chosen to be changed.
3. How many Baptists does it take to change a light bulb? Change???
4. How many neo-orthodox does it take to change a light bulb? No one knows. They can't tell the difference between light and darkness.
5. How many TV evangelists does it take to change a light bulb? One. But for the message of light to continue, send in your donation today.
6. How many independent fundamentalists does it take to change a light bulb? Only one, because any more might result in too much cooperation.

7. How many liberals does it take to change a light bulb? At least ten, as they need to hold a debate on whether or not the light bulb exists. Even if they can agree upon the existence of the light bulb, they still might not change it, to keep from alienating those who might use other forms of light.
8. How many Catholics does it take to change a light bulb? None. They always use candles.
9. How many worship leaders who use guitars does it take to change a light bulb? One. But soon all those around can warm up to its glowing.
10. How many members of an established Bible teaching church that is over 2 years old does it take to change a light bulb. One to actually change the bulb, and nine to say how much they liked the old one.
11. How many [Presbyterians/ ... /church members] does it take to change a light bulb? Change!?! I'll have you know that my mother gave that light bulb to this church and no one is going to change it unless it is over my dead body!
12. How many United Methodists does it take to change a light bulb? This statement was issued: "We choose not to make a statement either in favor of or against the need for a light bulb. However, if in your own journey you have found that a light bulb works for you, that is fine. You are invited to write a poem or compose a modern dance about your personal relationship with your light bulb (or light source, or non-dark resource), and present it next month at our annual light bulb Sunday service, in which we will explore a number of light bulb traditions, including incandescent, fluorescent, three-way, long- life, and tinted- all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence."

What is the correct procedure for a stated clerk to follow to change a light bulb?

by Fred Jenkins dedicated to Marvin Grooten

1. Reply to verbal report that a written notice is required.
2. Receive written notice; check for completeness of description.
3. Report to presbytery that it needs an administrative commission to inquire into an alleged defect and take appropriate action.
4. Prepare mandate for the commission, specifying its powers.
5. Answer questions and mediate disputes about authority to nominate Or appoint members to the administrative commission.
6. When commission has been appointed, schedule meeting to train the members in their duties.
7. Answer questions and mediate disputes over what to do when glass In fixture is broken during replacement of light bulb.
8. Assist moderator of commission with request for additional funding to replace broken glass.
9. Receive final report of Administrative Commission that light bulb has been replaced; docket for next meeting of presbytery.
10. Answer questions, mediate disputes over "the cover-up!" - why does report not mention broken glass and added cost?
11. Advise moderator of the presbytery how to respond to points of order raised during debate on motion to receive the report.

12. Explain to questioner from the floor how a remedial case may be filed.
13. Enter the vote to receive the report that the light bulb has been replaced, rejoicing in a job done decently and in order.
14. Reflect on how much good clerks function like good lawyers

TWENTY-SIX ONE-LINERS

1. Give God what's right -- not what's left.
2. Human's way leads to a hopeless end -- God's way leads to an endless hope.
3. A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.
4. Those that kneel before God can stand before anyone.

5. In the sentence of life, the devil may be a comma -- but never let him be the period.
6. Don't put a question mark where God puts a period.
7. Are you wrinkled with burden? Come to the church for a faith-lift.
8. When praying, don't give God instructions -- just report for duty.
9. Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church.
10. We don't change God's message -- God's message changes us.
11. The church is prayer-conditioned.
12. When God ordains, God sustains.
13. WARNING: Exposure to the Son may prevent burning.
14. Plan ahead -- it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
15. Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position. 16. Suffering from truth decay? Brush up on your Bible.
17. Exercise daily -- walk with the Lord.
18. Never give the devil a ride -- he will always want to drive.
19. Nothing else ruins the truth like stretching it.
20. Compassion is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back. 21. The person who angers you controls you.
22. Worry is the darkroom in which negatives can develop.
23. Give the devil an inch & he'll be a ruler.
24. Be fishers of people -- you catch them & God'll clean them.
25. God doesn't call the qualified, God qualifies the called.
26. Read the Bible -- it'll scare the hell out of you.

How to exegete a STOP sign

Suppose you're traveling to work and you see a stop sign. What do you do? That depends on how you exegete the stop sign.

1. A post modernist deconstructs the sign (knocks it over with his car), ending forever the tyranny of the north-south traffic over the east-west traffic.
2. Similarly, a Marxist sees a stop sign as an instrument of class conflict. He concludes that the bourgeoisie use the north-south road and obstruct the progress of the workers on the east-west road.
3. A serious and educated Catholic believes that he cannot understand the stop sign apart from its interpretive community and their tradition. Observing that the interpretive community doesn't take it too seriously, he doesn't feel obligated to take it too seriously either.

4. An average Catholic (or Orthodox, Coptic, Anglican, Episcopalian, Methodist, Presbyterian or whatever) doesn't bother to read the sign but he'll stop if the car in front of him does.

5. A fundamentalist, taking the text very literally, stops at the stop sign and waits for it to tell him to go.

6. A preacher might look up "STOP" in his lexicons of English and discover that it can mean: 1) something which prevents motion, such as a plug for a drain, or a block of wood that prevents a door from closing; 2) a location where a train or bus lets off passengers. The main point of her sermon the following Sunday on this text is: when you see a stop sign, it is a place where traffic is naturally clogged, so it is a good place to let off passengers from your car.

7. An orthodox Jew does one of two things:

1. Take another route to work that doesn't have a stop sign so that he doesn't run the risk of disobeying the Law.
2. Stop at the stop sign, say "Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who hast given us thy commandment to stop," wait 3 seconds according to his watch, and then proceed.

Incidentally, the Talmud has the following comments on this passage: R[abbi] Meir says: He who does not stop shall not live long. R. Hillel says: Cursed is he who does not count to three before proceeding. R. Simon ben Yudah says: Why three?

Because the Holy One, blessed be He, gave us the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings. R. ben Isaac says: Because of the three patriarchs. R. Yehuda says: Why bless the Lord at a stop sign? Because it says: "Be still, and know that I am God."

R. Hezekiel says: When Jahthah returned from defeating the Ammonites, the Holy One, blessed be He, knew that a donkey would run out of the house and overtake his daughter; but Jephthah did not stop at the stop sign, and the donkey did not have time to come out. For this reason he saw his daughter first and lost her. Thus he was judged for his transgression at the stop sign.

R. Gamaliel says: R. Hillel, when he was a baby, never spoke a word, though his parents tried to teach him by speaking and showing him the words on a scroll. One day his father was driving through town and did not stop at the sign. Young Hillel called out: "Stop, father!" In this way, he began reading and speaking at the same time. Thus it is written: "Out of the mouth of babes." R. ben Jacob says: Where did the stop sign come from? Out of the sky, for it is written: "Forever, O Lord, your word is fixed in the heavens." R. ben Nathan says: When were stop signs created? On the fourth day, for it is written: "let them serve as signs." R. Yeshuah says: ... [continues for three more pages!!!!]

8. A Pharisee does the same thing as an orthodox Jew, except that he waits 10 seconds instead of 3. He also replaces his brake lights with 1000 watt searchlights and connects his horn so that it is activated whenever he touches the brake pedal.

9. A scholar from Jesus seminar concludes that the passage "STOP" undoubtedly was never uttered by Jesus himself, but belongs entirely to stage III of the gospel tradition, when the church was first confronted by traffic in its parking lot.

10. A New Testament scholar notices that there is no stop sign on Mark street but there is one on Matthew and Luke streets, and concludes that the ones on Luke and Matthew streets are both copied from a sign on a completely hypothetical street called "Q". There is an excellent 300 page discussion of speculations on the origin of these stop signs and the differences between the stop signs on Matthew and Luke street in the scholar's commentary on the passage. There is an unfortunately omission in the commentary, however; the author apparently forgot to explain what the text means.

11. An Old Testament scholar points out that there are a number of stylistic differences between the first and second half of the passage "STOP". For example, "ST" contains no enclosed areas and 5 line endings, whereas "OP" contains two enclosed areas and only one line termination. He concludes that the author for the second part is different from the author for the first part and probably lived hundreds of years later. Later scholars determine that the second half is itself actually written by two separate authors because of similar stylistic differences between the "O" and the "P".

12. Another prominent Old Testament scholar notes in her commentary that the stop sign would fit better into the context three streets back. (Unfortunately, she neglected to explain why in her commentary.) Clearly it was moved to its present location by a later redactor. She thus exegetes the intersection as though the stop sign were not there.

13. Because of the difficulties in interpretation, another Old Testament scholar emends the text, changing "T" to "H". "SHOP" is much easier to understand in context than "STOP" because of the multiplicity of stores in the area. The textual corruption probably occurred because "SHOP" is so similar to "STOP" on the sign several streets back that it is a natural mistake for a scribe to make. Thus the sign should be interpreted to announce the existence of a shopping area.

Greeters

Our church assigns people to be greeters at church before worship. According to my mother, this practice is known as "Howdy Duty"

Church Observations

1. Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to get into their pews or their favorite church parking spot.
2. Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisers.
3. It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.
4. We were called to be witnesses, not lawyers.
5. When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.
6. People are funny. They want the front of the bus, middle of the road, and the back of the church.

7. Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your door for years.
8. Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.
9. The phrase that is guaranteed to wake up an audience: "And in conclusion."
10. If the church wants a better pastor, it only needs to pray for the one it has.
11. Not only are the sins of the fathers visited upon the children, but nowadays the sins of the children are visited upon the fathers.
12. God Himself does not propose to judge a man till he is dead. So why should you?
13. To make a long story short, don't tell it.
14. If your left hand doesn't know what your right one is doing, you should consider running for a job in Washington.
15. Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.
16. I don't know why some people change churches. What difference does it make which one you stay home from?
17. A lot of church members are singing "Standing on the Promises" while they are just sitting on the premises.

THOUGHTS

1. Anger is a condition in which the tongue, works faster than the mind.
2. You can't change the past, but you can ruin the present by worrying over the future.
3. Love... and you shall be loved.
4. God always gives His best to those who leave the choice with Him.
5. All people smile in the same language.
6. A hug is a great gift, one size fits all. It can be given for any occasion and it's easy to exchange.
7. Everyone needs to be loved, especially when they do not deserve it.
8. The real measure of a person's wealth is what she or he has invested in eternity.
9. Laughter is God's sunshine.
10. Everything has beauty but not everyone sees it.
11. It's important for parents to live the same things they teach.
12. Thank God for what you have, TRUST GOD for what you need.
13. If you fill your heart with regrets of yesterday and the worries of tomorrow, you have no today to be thankful for.
14. Happy memories never wear out... Relive them as often as you want.
15. Home is the place where we grumble the most, but are often treated the best.
16. A person looks at outward appearance but the Lord looks within.
17. The choice you make today will usually affect tomorrow.
18. Take time to laugh for it is the music of the soul.
19. If anyone speaks badly of you, live so none will believe it.

20. Patience is the ability to idle your motor, when you feel like stripping your gears.
21. Love is strengthened by working through conflicts together.
22. The best thing parents can do for their children, is to love each other.
23. Harsh words break no bones but they do break hearts.
24. To get out of a difficulty, one usually must go through it.
25. We take for granted the things that we should be giving thanks for.
26. Love is the only thing that can be divided, without being diminished.
27. Happiness is enhanced by others but does not depend upon others.
28. You are richer today if you have laughed, given or forgiven.
29. For every minute you are angry with someone, you lose 60 seconds of happiness that you can never get back.
30. Do what you can, for who you can, with what you have, and where you are.
31. The best gifts to give:
 - To your friend, loyalty;
 - To your enemy, forgiveness;
 - To your boss, service;
 - To a child, a good example;
 - To your parents, gratitude and devotion;
 - To your mate, love and faithfulness;
 - To all men and women, charity;
 - and To God, your life.

Are you Biblical?

"Are you a believer?" I asked him.

"Yes," he said excitedly.

I've learned you can't be too careful.

"Virgin birth?" I asked. "I accept it."

"Deity of Jesus?" "No doubt."

"Death of Christ on the cross?" "He died for all people." Could it be that I was face to face with a Biblically based Christ Centered Christian? Perhaps.

Nonetheless, I continued my checklist.

"Status of man." "Sinner in need of grace."

"Definition of grace." "God doing for us what we can't do."

"Return of Christ?" "Imminent."

"Bible?" "Inspired."

"The church?" "The body of Christ."

I started getting excited, "Conservative or liberal?" He was getting interested too. "Conservative." My heart began to beat faster.

"Heritage?" "Southern Congregationalist Holy Son of God Dispensationalist Triune Convention." That was mine!

"Branch?" "Pre-millennial, post-trib, noncharismatic, King James, one-cup communion." My eyes misted. I had only one other question.

"Is your pulpit wooden or plexiglass?" "Plexiglass," he responded.

I withdrew my hand and stiffened my neck.

"Heretic!" I said and walked away.

Pastor Wisdom

An elder pastor, speaking to a young pastor, said; "I know you were reaching out to the young people when you had bucket seats put in to replace the first four pews. It worked. We got the front of the church filled first."

The young pastor nodded, and the old one continued, "And, you told me a little more beat to the music would bring young people back to church, so I supported you when you brought in that rock 'n roll gospel choir."

"So," asked the young pastor, "What's the problem?" "Well," the elder pastor responded, "I think you've gone too far with the drive-through confessional and the flashing neon sign that says, "Toot'n Tell or Go to Hell!"

Called to Pastor

I am called by name

I was called to be about what I know not.
I was asked to be better than I know how.
I came forth from comfort and went towards woe.
I was called to become a child of God.

I am called to become what I am not.
I am asked to be better than I have been.
I came forth from woe and journey into love.
I am called, and am born, a child of God.

I will go to become what I should be.
I will ask to be better than I am.
I will travel through woe and journey in love.
I will answer the call as a child of God.

Written by Roger Victoria

Bible Characters

What if biblical characters could be recruited as high-tech promoters?
Consider the following tech advocates and their ad slogans:
Noah for Match.com: We can find a mate for anything. Why not you?

Moses for the Excedrin Headache Resource Center (Excedrin.com): Take two tablets and call me in the morning.

The dove for UPS.com: Guaranteed delivery in 40 days and 40 nights.

Adam and Eve for Dell: No Apples for us. We've learned the hard way.

Solomon for Microsoft: Don't cut the baby in half.

Joseph for Nikon Coolpix: Only Nikon can capture the 36-bit color of my megapixel dreamcoat.

Methuselah for AARP.org: Life begins at 960.

John the Baptist for DunkinDonuts.com: You'll be head over heels for our new Munchkin platter.

Pharaoh for Symantec: If only we'd had Norton Anti-Plague 2002 in 2002 ... B.C.E.

Job for NASDAQ: 'Nuff said.

The Lesson

Then Jesus took his disciples up the mountain and gathering them around him, he taught them.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the meek,

Blessed are they that mourn,

Blessed are the merciful,

Blessed are they that thirst for justice,

Blessed are you when persecuted,

Blessed are you when you suffer,

Be glad and rejoice for your reward is great in heaven.

Then Simon Peter said,

"Are we supposed to know this?"

And Andrew said,

"Do we have to write this down?"

And James said,

"Will we have a test on this?"

And Phillip said,

"I don't have any paper."

And Bartholomew said,

"Do we have to turn this in?"

And John said,

"The other disciples didn't have to learn this."

And Matthew said,

"May I go to the bathroom?"

And Judas said,

"What does this have to do with real life?"

Then one of the Pharisees who was present asked to Jesus' lesson plan and inquired of Jesus, "Where is your anticipatory set and your objectives in the cognitive domain?"

And Jesus wept.



THE PERFECT PASTOR

The perfect pastor preaches exactly ten minutes -- condemns sin, but never hurts anyone's feelings. The perfect pastor works from 8 a.m. until midnight, and is also the church janitor.

The perfect pastor makes \$40 a week, wears good cloths (but not too good), drives a good car (but not too good), and donates \$30 a week to the church. The perfect pastor is 29 years old with 40 years of experience. The perfect pastor makes 15 house calls a day and is always available at the office.

If your pastor does not measure up, send this letter to six other parishes that are also dissatisfied with their pastor. Then bundle up and ship your pastor to the church at the top of the list. In one week you should receive 1643 pastors -- and one of them should be perfect.

Have faith in this letter. One parish broke the chain and got its old pastor back in three months.

WOMEN

They smile when they want to scream
They sing when they want to cry
They cry when they are happy
And laugh when they are nervous

They fight for what they believe in
They stand up for injustice
They don't take "no" for an answer when
They believe there is a better solution

They go without new shoes
So their children can have them
They go to the doctor with a frightened friend
They love unconditionally

They cry when their children excel
And cheer when their friends get awards
They are happy when they hear about
A birth or a new marriage

Their hearts break when a friend dies
They have sorrow at the loss of a family member, yet
They are strong when they think there is no strength left
They know that a hug and a kiss can heal a broken heart

Women come in all sizes, in all colours and shapes
They'll drive, fly, walk, run or e-mail you
To show how much they care about you

The heart of a woman is what makes the world spin!
Women do more than just give birth
They bring joy and hope

They give compassion and ideals
They give moral support to their family and friends
Women have a lot to say and a lot to give

Quotable Quotes-

"From what we get, we can make a living; what we give, however, makes a life."

Arthur Ashe (1943-93)
American tennis champion, AIDS activist

"May no gift be too small to give, nor too simple to receive, which is wrapped in thoughtfulness, and tied with love."

L. O. Baird

"If you can give your son or daughter only one gift, let it be Enthusiasm."

Bruce Barton (1886-1967)
American writer, congressperson

"Life is going to give you just what you put into it. Put your whole heart in everything you do."

Vivian Baxter

"My friend, if I could give you one thing, I would wish for you the ability to see yourself as others see you. Then you would realize what a truly special person you are."

B. A. Billingsly

"For life is the mirror of king and slave, 'Tis just what we are and do; Then give to the world the best you have, and the best will come back to you."

Madeline Bridges (1844-1920)
Writer, author

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."

Sir Winston Leonard Spenser Churchill (1874-1965)
British statesman, prime minister, author

"In helping others, we shall help ourselves, for whatever good we give out completes the circle and comes back to us."

Flora Edwards

"To laugh often and love much; to win the respect of intelligent persons and the affection of children; to earn the approbation of honest citizens and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to give of one's self; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to have played and laughed with enthusiasm and sung with exultation; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived - this is to have succeeded."

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-82)
American writer, philosopher, poet, essayist

"You get the best out of others when you give the best of yourself."

Harvey Samuel Firestone (1868-1938)
American industrialist, organized Firestone Tire and Rubber Co.

The Cross

The young man was at the end of his rope. Seeing no way out, he dropped to his knees in prayer. "Lord, I can't go on," he said. "I have too heavy a cross to bear."

The Lord replied, "My son, if you can't bear its weight, just place your cross inside this room. Then, open that other door and pick out any cross you wish."

The man was filled with relief. "Thank you, Lord," he sighed, and did as he was told. Upon entering the other door, he saw many crosses, some so large the tops were not visible. Then, he spotted a tiny cross leaning against a far wall. "I'd like that one, Lord," he whispered.

And the Lord replied, "My son, that is the cross you just brought in."

When life's problems seem overwhelming, it helps to look around and see what other people are coping with. You may consider yourself far more fortunate than you imagined.

YOUR CROSS--Whatever your cross, whatever your pain, there will always be sunshine after the rain. Perhaps you may stumble, perhaps even fall, but God's always there to help through it all.

How to Know Whether or Not You Are Ready to Have Children

MESS TEST

Smear peanut butter on the sofa and curtains. Place a fish stick behind the couch and leave it there all summer.

TOY TEST

Obtain a 55 gallon box of Legos (or you may substitute roofing tacks). Have a friend spread them all over the house. Put on a blindfold. Try to walk to the bathroom or kitchen. Do not scream because this would wake a child at night.

GROCERY STORE TEST

Borrow one or two small animals (goats are best) and take them with you as you shop. Always keep them in sight and pay for anything they eat or damage.

DRESSING TEST

Obtain one large, unhappy, live octopus. Stuff into a small net bag making sure that all the arms stay inside.

FEEDING TEST

Obtain a large plastic milk jug. Fill halfway with water. Suspend from the ceiling with a cord. Start the jug swinging. Try to insert spoonfuls of soggy cereal into the mouth of the jug, while pretending to be an airplane. Now dump the contents of the jug on the floor.

NIGHT TEST

Prepare by obtaining a small cloth bag and fill it with 8-12 pounds of sand. Soak it thoroughly in water. At 3:00p.m. begin to waltz and hum with the bag until 9:00p.m. Lay down your bag and set your alarm for 10:00p.m. Get up, pick up your bag, and sing every song you have ever heard. Make up about a dozen more and sing these too until 4:00a.m. Set alarm for 5:00a.m. Get up and make breakfast. Keep this up for 5 years. Look cheerful.

INGENUITY TEST

Take an egg carton. Using a pair of scissors and pot of paint, turn it into an alligator. Now take a toilet paper tube and turn it into an attractive Christmas candle. Use only scotch tape and a piece of foil. Last, take a milk carton, a ping-pong ball, and an empty box of Cocoa Puffs. Make an exact replica of the Eiffel Tower.

AUTOMOBILE TEST

Forget the BMW and buy a station wagon. Buy a chocolate ice cream cone and put it in the glove compartment. Leave it there. Get a dime. Stick it into the cassette player. Take a family size package of chocolate chip cookies. Mash them into the back seat. Run a garden rake along both sides of the car. There, perfect.

PHYSICAL TEST (Women)

Obtain a large bean bag chair and attach it to the front of your clothes. Leave it there for 9 months. Now remove 10 of the beans. And try not to notice your closet full of clothes. You won't be wearing them for a while.

PHYSICAL TEST (Men)

Go to the nearest drug store. Set your wallet on the counter. Ask the clerk to help himself. Now proceed to the nearest food store. Go to the head office and arrange for your paycheck to be directly deposited to the store. Purchase a newspaper. Go home and read it quietly for the last time.

FINAL ASSIGNMENT

Find a couple who already have a small child. Lecture them on how they can improve their discipline, patience, tolerance, toilet training and child's table manners. Suggest many ways they can improve. Emphasize to them that they should never allow their children to run wild. Enjoy this experience. It will be the last time you will have all the answers.

THE ORIGIN OF THE INTERNET

An old, bearded shepherd with a crooked staff walked up to a stone pulpit and said, "And lo, it came to pass that the trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dot.

And Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she had been called Amazon Dot Com. And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why doth thou travel far, from town to town, with thy goods when thou can trade without ever leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, Dear?" And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale and they will reply telling you which hath the best price. And the sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had, at the top price, without ever moving from his tent. But this success did arouse envy.

A man named Maccabia did secret himself inside Abraham's drum and was accused of insider trading. And the young man did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Siderites, or NERDS for short.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums, that no one noticed that the real riches were going to the drum maker, one Brother William of Gates, who bought up every drum company in the land. And indeed did insist on making drums that would work only if you bought Brother Gates' drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others." And as Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or as it came to be known "eBay," he said, "we need a name that reflects what we are," and Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators."

"Whoopee!" said Abraham.

"No, YAHOO!" said Dot Com... and that is how it all began.

A FEW OF LIFE'S UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

- ** Why is it considered necessary to nail down the lid of a coffin?
 - ** Why does the sun lighten our hair, but darken our skin?
 - ** Why can't women put on mascara with their mouth closed?
 - ** Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?
 - ** Why don't you ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?
 - ** Why is "abbreviated" such a long word?
 - ** Why is a boxing ring square?
 - ** Why is it called lipstick if you can still move your lips?
 - ** Why is it that doctors call what they do "practice"?
 - ** Why is it that rain drops but snow falls?
 - ** Why is it that when you're driving and looking for an address, you turn down the volume on the radio?
 - ** Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?
 - ** Why is the person who invests all your money called a broker?
 - ** Why is the third hand on the watch called second hand?
 - ** Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?
 - ** Why is the word dictionary in the dictionary?
 - ** Why isn't there a special name for the tops of your feet?
 - ** Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?
 - ** Why can't they make the whole plane out of the same substance that little indestructible black box is?
 - ** Can fat people go skinny-dipping?
 - ** Why do you need a driver's license to buy liquor when you can't drink and drive?
-

HYMNS

The Dentist's Hymn:.....	Crown Him With Many Crowns
The Weatherman's Hymn.....	There Shall Be Showers of Blessing
The Contractor's Hymn.....	The Church's One Foundation
The Tailor's Hymn.....	Holy, Holy, Holy
The Golfer's Hymn.....	There is A Green Hill Far Away
The Politician's Hymn.....	Standing on the Promises
The Optometrist's Hymn.....	Open My Eyes That I Might See

The IRS Agent's Hymn.....	I Surrender All
The Gossip's Hymn.....	Pass It On
The Electrician's Hymn.....	Send the Light
The Shopper's Hymn.....	Sweet By and By
The Realtor's Hymn.....	I've Got A Mansion Just Over the Hilltop
The Paramedic's Hymn.....	Revive Us Again
The Judge's Hymn.....	Almost Persuaded
The Waiter's Hymn.....	Fill My Cup, Lord
The Lifeguard's Hymn.....	Rescue the Perishing
The Criminal's Hymn.....	Search Me, O God
The Baker's Hymn.....	When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder
The Shoe Repairer's Hymn.....	It Is Well With My Soul
The Travel Agent's Hymn.....	Anywhere With Jesus
The Geologist's Hymn.....	Rock of Ages
The Hematologist's Hymn.....	Are You Washed in the Blood?
The Menswear Clerk's Hymn.....	Blest Be the Tie
The Umpire's Hymn.....	I Need No Other Argument
Driving 45 mph.....	God Will Take Care of You
55 mph.....	Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
65 mph.....	Nearer My God to Thee
75 mph.....	Nearer Still Nearer
85 mph.....	This World Is Not My Home
95 mph.....	Lord, I'm Coming Home
Over 100 mph.....	Precious Memories

Ten Rules of Housekeeping

1. Vacuuming too often weakens the carpet fibers. Say this with a serious face, and shudder delicately whenever anyone mentions Carpet Fresh.
2. Dust bunnies cannot evolve into dust rhinos when disturbed. Rename the area under the couch "The Galapagos Islands" and claim an ecological exemption.
3. Layers of dirty film on windows and screens provide a helpful filter against harmful and aging rays from the sun. Call it an SPF factor of 5 and leave it alone.
4. Cobwebs artfully draped over lampshades reduces the glare from the bulb, thereby creating a romantic atmosphere. If your husband points out that the light fixtures need dusting, simply look affronted and exclaim, "What? And spoil the mood?"
5. In a pinch, you can always claim that the haphazard tower of unread magazines and newspapers next to your chair provides the valuable Feng Shui aspect of a tiger, thereby reducing your vulnerability. Roll your eyes when you say this.
6. Explain the mound of pet hair brushed up against the doorways by claiming you are collecting it there to use for stuffing hand sewn play animals for underprivileged children.
7. If unexpected company is coming, pile everything unsightly into one room and close the door. As you show your guests through your tidy home, rattle the door knob vigorously, fake a growl and say, "I'd love you to see our Den, but Fluffy hates to be disturbed and the shots are SO expensive."

8. If dusting is REALLY out of control, simply place a showy urn on the coffee table and insist that "THIS is where Grandma wanted us to scatter her ashes..."

9. Don't bother repainting. Simply scribble lightly over a dirty wall with an assortment of crayons, and try to muster a glint of tears as you say, "Junior did this the week before that unspeakable accident... I haven't had the heart to clean it..."

10. Mix one-quarter cup pine-scented household cleaner with four cups of water in a spray bottle. Mist the air lightly. Leave dampened rags in conspicuous locations. Develop an exhausted look, throw yourself onto the couch, and sigh, "I clean and I clean and I still don't get anywhere..."

No Pun

1. Two vultures board an airplane, each carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at them and says, "I'm sorry, gentlemen, 1 carrion allowed per passenger."

2. Two boll weevils grew up in South Carolina. One went to Hollywood and became a famous actor. The other stayed behind in the cotton fields and never amounted to much. The second one, naturally, became known as the lesser of two weevils.

3. Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, but when they lit a fire in the craft, it sank proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it, too.

4. A three legged dog walks into a saloon in the Old West. He slides up to the bar and announces: "I'm looking for the man who shot my paw."

5. Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? He wanted to transcend dental medication.

6. A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked, as they moved off. "Because," he said, "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."

7. A woman has twins, and gives them up for adoption. One of them goes to a family in Egypt and is named "Amal." The other goes to a family in Spain; they name him "Juan." Years later, Juan sends a picture of himself to his birth mother. Upon receiving the picture, she tells her husband that she wishes she also had a picture of Amal. Her husband responds, "They're twins! If you've seen Juan, you've seen Amal."

8. These friars were behind on their belfry payments, so they opened up a small florist shop to raise funds. Since everyone liked to buy flowers from the men of God, a rival florist across town thought the competition was unfair. He asked the good fathers to close down, but they would not. He went back and begged the friars to close. They ignored him. So, the rival florist hired Hugh MacTaggart, the roughest and most vicious thug in town to "persuade" them to close. Hugh beat up the friars and trashed their store,

saying he'd be back if they didn't close up shop. Terrified, they did so, thereby proving that: Hugh, and only Hugh, can prevent florist friars.

9. We all know who Gandhi was, right? He was a spiritual man who fasted regularly. Some may not realize that fasting, when practiced regularly and for extended periods, leads not only to weight loss, but can also cause bad breath. No matter, his interests were higher. This great leader hardly ever wore shoes. One might say he was ... a super-calloused fragile mystic plagued with halitosis.

10. And finally, there was the person who sent ten different puns to friends, in the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. Unfortunately, no pun in ten did.

"What You Can Learn From a Young Child"

(Written by an unidentified mother of a young child, published in the Metro-Lutheran--Twin Cities Lutheran Newspaper, Inc.)

1. A king-size waterbed holds enough water to fill a 2000 square foot house four inches deep.
 2. If you spray hair spray on dust bunnies and run over them with roller blades, they can ignite.
 3. A three-year-old voice is louder than 200 adults in a crowded restaurant.
 4. If you hook a dog leash over a ceiling fan, the motor is not strong enough to rotate a 42 pound boy wearing Batman underwear and a superman cape. It is strong enough, however, if tied to a paint can, to spread paint on all four walls of a 20 by 20 foot room.
 5. You should not throw baseballs up when the ceiling fan is on. When using the ceiling fan as a bat, you have to throw the ball up a few times before you get a hit. A ceiling fan can hit a baseball a long way.
 6. The glass in windows (even double pane) doesn't stop a baseball hit by a ceiling fan.
 7. When you hear the toilet flush and the words "Uh-on," it's already too late.
 8. Brake fluid mixed with Clorox makes smoke, and lots of it.
 9. A six-year old can start a fire with a flint rock even though a 36-year-old man says they can only do it in the movies. A magnifying glass can start a fire even on an overcast day.
 10. Certain Lego's will pass through the digestive tract of a four-year old.
 11. "Play Dough" and "microwave" should never be used in the same sentence.
 12. Super glue is forever.
 13. No matter how much Jell-O you put in a swimming pool you still can't walk on water.
 14. Pool filters do not like Jell-O.
 15. VCRs do not eject peanut butter and jelly sandwiches even though TV commercials show them doing it.
 16. Garbage bags do not make good parachutes.
 17. Marbles in gas tanks make lots of noise when driving.
 18. You probably don't want to know what that odor is.
 19. Always look in the oven before you turn it on. Plastic toys do not like ovens.
 20. The fire department in Austin, Texas has a five minute response time.
 21. The spin cycle on the washing machine does not make earth worms dizzy.
 22. It will, however, make cats dizzy.
 23. Cats throw up twice their body weight when dizzy.
-

Girl Growing UP

Age 3: She looks at herself and sees a Queen.

Age 8: She looks at herself and sees Cinderella.

Age 15: She looks at herself and sees an Ugly Sister (Mum, I can't go to school looking like this!)

Age 20: She looks at herself and sees "too fat/too thin, too short/too tall, too straight/too curly" - but decides she's going out anyway.

Age 30: She looks at herself and sees "too fat/too thin, too short/too tall, too straight/too curly" - but decides she doesn't have time to fix it so she's going out anyway.

Age 40: She looks at herself and sees "too fat/too thin, too short/too tall, too straight/too curly" - but says, "At least, I am 'clean" and goes out anyway.

Age 50: She looks at herself and sees "I am" and goes wherever she wants to go.

Age 60: She looks at herself and reminds herself of all the people who can't even see themselves in the mirror anymore. Goes out and conquers the world.

Age 70: She looks at herself and sees wisdom, laughter and ability, goes out and enjoys life.

Age 80: Doesn't bother to look. Just puts on a purple hat and goes out to have fun with the world. Maybe we should all grab that purple hat earlier.

THE BIBLE IN 50 WORDS

God made
Adam bit
Noah arked
Abraham split
Jacob fooled
Joseph ruled
Bush talked
Moses balked
Pharaoh plagued
People walked
Sea divided
Tablets guided
Promise landed
Saul freaked
David peeked
Prophets warned
Jesus born
God walked
Love talked
Anger crucified
Hope died
Love rose
Spirit flamed
Word spread
God remained.

Baseball

Satan wound up and threw the first pitch. Godly Wisdom looked it over and let it pass: Ball one.

Three more pitches and Godly Wisdom walked, because Godly Wisdom never swings at what Satan throws.

The bases were now loaded. The Lord then turned to Freddy and told him He was now going to bring in His star player. Up to the plate stepped Grace. Freddy said, "He sure doesn't look like much!"

Satan's whole team relaxed when they saw Grace. Thinking he had won the game, Satan wound up and fired his first pitch. To the shock of everyone, Grace hit the ball harder than anyone had ever seen. But Satan was not worried; his center fielder let very few get by. He went up for the ball, but it went right through his glove, hit him on the head and sent him crashing on the ground; then it continued over the fence for a home run!

The Lord's team won!

The Lord then asked Freddy if he knew why Love, Faith, and Godly Wisdom could get on base but could not win the game. Freddy answered that he did not know why.

The Lord explained, "If your love, faith, and wisdom had won the game you would think you had done it by yourself. Love, Faith and Wisdom will get you on base but only My Grace can get you Home.

Microsoft God

New Microsoft Product

Microsoft(tm) Corporation today announced its intent to purchase, copyright, and upgrade God Himself. The new product would be named, predictably enough, "Microsoft God," and would be available to consumers sometime in late 1998.

Too many people feel separated from God in today's world," said Dave McCavaugh, director of Microsoft's new Religions division. "Microsoft God will make our Lord more accessible, and will add an easy, intuitive user interface to Him, making Him not only easier to find, but easier to communicate with."

The new Microsoft Religions line will be expanded to include a multitude of add-on products to Microsoft God, including:

Microsoft Crusades: This conversion product will bring all worshiper accounts and prayer files over from previous versions of God, or from competing products like Buddha or Allah.

Microsoft God for the World Wide Web: This product ties Microsoft God with Microsoft Internet Information Server, making our Lord accessible from the World Wide Web using a standard Web browser interface. It introduces several new Web technologies, including Dynamic Salvation and Active Prayer Pages (APP). Donations for the poor can be donated via a Secure Alms Server.

Microsoft Prayers: Using a Windows-based WYSIWYG interface, this product will allow worshipers to construct effective prayers in a minimum of time. A Secure Prayer Channel technology allows guaranteed delivery of the prayer to

Microsoft God servers, and Prayer Wizards enable users to construct new types of prayers with a minimum learning curve.

Microsoft Savior: This product will allow worshipers to transfer their sins to its internal Vice Database. After a preset interval, the product will erase itself from the user's system and establish a clear line of secure communications to the user's Microsoft God server.

Additionally, Microsoft is expected to announce a line of complimentary products for the new Religions line, which will enhance the functionality of the Microsoft God server product by providing a customized user interface. These interfaces will be based on popular religious sects, allowing worshipers to interact with the new God product in much the same way as the previous version. This line is expected to include Microsoft Christianity, Microsoft Catholicism, Microsoft Judaism (incompatible with Microsoft Savior), etc.

Competitor Netscape Communications denies rumors that it is planning to release a competing product, Netscape Satanism, that would attempt to render Microsoft God installations inoperable.