

One bright, beautiful Sunday morning, everyone in tiny Jonestown wakes up early and goes to church. Before the service starts, suddenly, at the altar, Satan appears! Everyone starts screaming and running for the entrance, trampling each other in their efforts to get away from Evil Incarnate. Soon, everyone is gone except one man, who sits calmly in his pew, seemingly oblivious.

This confuses Satan and he walks up to the man: "Don't you know who I am?"

The man says, "Yep, sure do."

Satan says, "Well, aren't you afraid of me?"

The man says, "Nope, sure ain't."

Satan, perturbed, says, "And why aren't you?"

"Well, I figure you're family. I've been married to your sister for 25 years."

A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss the use of the car.

His father took him to his study: "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut and we'll talk about it."

After about a month the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss use of the car. They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Son, I've been real proud of you. You've brought your grades up, you've studied your Bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!"

The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. You know, Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair...."

To which his father replied, "Yes, and they walked everywhere they went!"

Father O'Grady was saying his goodbyes to the parishioners after his Sunday morning Mass as he always does, when Mary Clancy came up to him in tears.

"What's bothering you so, dear?" inquired Father O'Grady.

"Oh, father, I've got terrible news." Replied Mary.

"Well what is it, Mary?"

"Well, my husband, passed away last night, Father."

"Oh, Mary, that's terrible. Tell me Mary, did he have any last requests?"

"Well, yes he did father," replied Mary.

"What did he ask, Mary?"

Mary replied, "He said, 'Please, Mary, put down that gun...'"

### **Does your church practice Football Christianity?**

THE QUARTERBACK SNEAK: leave Mass early without a really good reason.

DRAFT CHOICE: choose a seat near the back door.

DRAW PLAY: what many children (and not a few adults) do with their bulletins during Mass, especially the homily.

BENCH WARMER: those whose only participation is attendance at Sunday Mass.

BACKFIELD IN MOTION: making 2 or 3 trips outside the Church during Mass.

STAY IN THE POCKET: what happens to money that ought to go to the Church.

SUDDEN DEATH: penalty to the priest who preaches more than 20 minutes.

THE BLITZ: mad stampede for the doors after the final blessing.

HALFTIME: period between Sunday School & worship when many choose to leave.

2-MINUTE WARNING: point at which you realize the sermon's almost over & you

begin to gather up your children & belongings.

INSTANT REPLAY: preacher loses his notes & falls back on last week's stuff.

OVERTIME: preacher gives extra long sermon.

TRAP: you're called on to pray & are asleep.

AND RUN: getting out of church quick without speaking to the minister.

FLEX DEFENSE: ability to allow nothing from the sermon to affect their life.

HALFBACK OPTION: decision of 50% of the congregation not to return for evening service.

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A pastor, apparently disgusted with the excuses parishioners offered as to why they didn't attend worship services, in response included "Twenty Reasons Why I Never Wash" in the Sunday bulletin:

1. I was forced to as a child.
2. People who wash are hypocrites - they think they're cleaner than everyone else, and only wash so other people will notice.
3. There are so many different kinds of soap, I can't decide which one is best.
4. I used to wash, but I got bored and stopped.
5. I wash only on special occasions, like Christmas and Easter.
6. None of my friends wash.
7. I'll start washing when I get older and dirtier.
8. I can't spare the time.
9. The bathroom isn't warm enough in the winter or cool enough in summer.
10. People who make soap are only after your money.
11. I watch other people washing on TV.
12. There are lots of clean people who never wash.
13. We've just moved here six years ago and haven't had a chance.
14. I bought a bad bar of soap once, so I swore I would never wash again!
15. I feel as close to washing on the golf course as I do in the bathroom.
16. I never wash when I have company.
17. Washday is the only day I have to sleep in.
18. My wife washes enough for the whole family
19. I know people who wash but don't act very clean.
20. Washing is the opiate of the masses.

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A minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17."

The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only 16 chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

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Adam asked God one day if He was too busy to answer a few questions. Well God, Adam said, I'm very confused. How so asked God? Well, God when you created Eve you gave her soft skin and a curvy body, not like mine - how come?

Adam, God said, I did that so you would love her. Oh replied Adam, but God, when you created Eve you gave her long silky flowing hair, not like mine – why?

Adam, God said, I did that so you would love her. Oh replied Adam, but God, when you created Eve you made her stupid! You surely couldn't have done that so I would love her. No Adam, God said, I did that so she would love you.

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What did Jesus say to the highway department road crew?  
"Don't do anything until I get back."  
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### 10 Ways To Know You're in A Bad Church

10. Gun rack in the church van
9. Church staff consists of Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor, and Socio-Pastor
8. The Bible they use is the Dr. Suess version
7. ATM in the lobby
6. Choir wears leather robes
5. Services are BYOS: Bring Your Own Snake!
4. No cover charge, but communion is a two drink mimimum.
3. Karaoke worship time
2. Ushers ask, smoking or non-smoking
1. The only song the organist knows is 'Inna-gadda-da-vida.

### CHILDREN'S LETTERS TO GOD

Dear GOD, Are you really invisible or is that just a trick? -Lucy

Dear GOD, Is it true my father won't get in Heaven if he uses his bowling words in the house? -Anita

Dear GOD, Did you mean for the giraffe to look like that or was it an accident? -Norma

Dear GOD, Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones, why don't You just keep the ones You have now? -Jane

Dear GOD, I went to this wedding and they kissed right in church. Is that okay? -Neil

Dear GOD, Did you really mean "do unto others as they do unto you"? Because if you did, then I'm going to fix my brother! -Darla

Dear GOD, Thank you for the baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy. -Joyce

Dear GOD, It rained for our whole vacation and is my father mad! He said some things about You that people are not supposed to say, but I hope You will not hurt him anyway.

Your friend (But I am not going to tell you who I am)

Dear GOD, Please send me a pony. I never asked for anything before, You can look it up. -Bruce

Dear GOD, My brother is a rat. You should give him a tail. Ha Ha. -Danny

Dear GOD, Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they had their own rooms. It works with my brother. -Larry

Dear GOD, What does it mean *You are a Jealous God?* I thought You had everything. -Jane

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A man who smelled like a distillery flopped on a subway seat next to a priest. The man's tie was stained, his face was plastered with red lipstick and a half-empty bottle of gin was sticking out of his torn coat pocket. He opened a newspaper and began reading. After a few minutes, the disheveled man turns to the priest and asks, "Say, Father, what causes arthritis?"

"Mister", replied the priest, "it's caused by loose living, being with cheap wicked women, too much alcohol and contempt for your fellow man."

"Well, I'll be damned," the drunk muttered, returning to his paper.

The priest, thinking about what he said, nudges the man and apologized. "I'm very sorry, I didn't mean to come on so strong. How long have you had arthritis?"

"I don't have it father. I was just reading that the Pope does!"

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### HOW TO SURVIVE EVEN THE DULLEST SERMON

1. Pass a note to the organist/pianist asking whether he or she plays requests.
2. See if a yawn really is contagious.
3. Slap your neighbor. See if they turn the other cheek. If not, raise your hand and tell the pastor.
4. Devise ways of changing the sanctuary light bulbs without using a ladder.
5. Sit in the back row and roll a handful of marbles under the pews ahead of you. After the service, credit yourself with 10 points for every marble that made it to the front, 15 if you tripped an usher & 30 if you tripped the preacher.
6. By unobtrusively drawing your arms up into your sleeves, turn your shirt around backwards.
7. Start from the back of the church and try to crawl all the way to the front under the pews without being noticed.
8. Try to raise one eyebrow.
9. Get the preacher's attention and try motioning that he or she has something between his or her teeth.
10. Using church bulletins or prayer cards for raw materials, practice your origami.

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A 16 year old was approaching his birthday and was trying to talk his dad into buying him a Lexus. It wasn't working. So he went to a Franciscan and asked "Father would you say a novena so my dad will get me a Lexus. He can afford it." The Franciscan asked, "What is a Lexus?" The young man explained it was a luxury car. "I'm sorry but I can't pray for that."

Next he went to a Dominican and asked: "Father would you say a novena so my dad will get me a Lexus. He can afford it." The Dominican asked, "What is a Lexus?" The young man explained it was a luxury car. "I'm sorry but I can't pray for that."

Finally he went to a Jesuit and asked: "Father would you say a novena so my dad will get me a Lexus. He can afford it." The Jesuit asked, "What's a novena?"

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It has been said that Adam and Eve had the perfect marriage - because he didn't have to hear about all the men she could have married and she didn't have to hear about the way his mother cooked!

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A woman, 60ish, was walking in the woods when a booming voice from above said, 'You are going to live to 100.' Stunned, she looked about but could see no one. Again, the voice said, 'You are going to live to 100.'

'This must be God speaking,' she thought. Immediately, she plans for a facelift and all the nips and tucks that go along with that, simply because she was going to live another 40 years, and she wanted to be as attractive as possible.

So she goes to a plastic surgeon who does an excellent job. As she was leaving the hospital, after a few days recuperation, she crosses the street, is hit by a bus, and dies.

When she comes face to face with God, she says, "You told me I was going to live to be 100, so I got myself ready to live another 40 years, but I get hit by a bus, and here I am. Why?"

"I didn't recognize you," replies God.

### **YOU VISITED THE WRONG CHURCH ON SUMMER VACATION...**

- 10 The sanctuary has only entrances, no "exits"!
- 9 The offering plate is passed 3 times and the sermon hasn't even begun yet.
- 8 The ushers look mysteriously like "Men in Black"!
- 7 The people in the pew next to you brought a sack lunch.
- 6 The bulletin had advertisements for THE GUNS AND GUTS TAVERN with the the Sunday ROAD KILL Buffet!
- 5 The acolyte is the youngest member of the congregation, and she is 78.
- 4 The pastor's sermon begins: "Let me tell you about my book."
- 3 The pastor announces that the liturgy will be sung to the tune of either:  
"Wagner's Etude in F sharp minor and raises his baton" OR "Jesus is a friend just like my pickup and hound dog"
- 2 The pastor announces that the sanctuary's too warm for robes and removes hers, and she is wearing a halter top and hot pants.
- 1 When the choir sings the dogs outside begin to howl, and they sound better!

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A preacher was telling his congregation that anything they could think of, old or new, was discussed somewhere in the Bible and that the entirety of the human experience could be found there.

Afterwards, a woman said: "Preacher, I don't believe PMS is mentioned."

The preacher said he was sure it was in there somewhere - he'd look for it.

The following week, the preacher called the woman aside and showed her the passage: "And Mary rode Joseph's ass all the way to Bethlehem."

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A Jewish lady named Mrs. Rosenberg many years ago was stranded late one night at a fashionable resort - one that did not admit Jews. The desk clerk looked at his book and said, "Sorry, no rooms. The hotel's full." The Jewish lady said, "But your sign says you have vacancies." The desk clerk stammered and then said curtly, "You know we don't admit Jews. Now if you will try the other side of town..."

Mrs. Rosenberg stiffened noticeably and said, "I'll have you know I converted to your religion." The desk clerk said, "Oh, yeah, let me give you a little test. How was Jesus born?"

Mrs. Rosenberg replied, "He was born to a virgin named Mary in a little town called Bethlehem." "Very good," replied the hotel clerk. "Tell me more." Mrs. Rosenberg replied, "He was born in a manger."

"That's right," said the hotel clerk. "And why was he born in a manger?" Mrs. Rosenberg said loudly, "Because a jerk like you in the hotel wouldn't give a Jewish lady a room for the night!"

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### **Top Ways the Bible Would Be Written ... By College Students**

11. The Last Supper would have been eaten the next morning: cold!
10. 10 Commandments are actually only 5, double-spaced & written in a large font.
9. New edition every two years in order to limit reselling.
8. Forbidden fruit would have been eaten because it wasn't dorm food.
7. Paul's Letter to the Romans becomes Paul's E-Mail To: abuse@romans.gov
6. Reason Cain killed Abel: They were roommates.
5. The place where the end of the world occurs: Finals, not Armageddon.
4. Out go the mules; in come the mountain bikes.
3. Reason why Moses and followers walked in desert for 40 years: They didn't want to ask directions and look like Freshmen.

## 2. Tower of Babel blamed for Foreign Language requirement.

1. Instead of God creating the world in 6 days & resting on the 7th, He would have put it off until the night before it was due & then pulled an all-nighter.

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One Sunday morning, a priest announced to his congregation: "My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons ... a \$500 sermon that lasts five minutes, a \$200 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a \$10 sermon that lasts a full hour. Now we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver."

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A male pastor walked into a neighborhood pub to use the restroom. The place was hopping with music and dancing, until people saw the pastor. As the room quieted down he walked up to the bartender, and asked, "May I please use the restroom?" The bartender replied, "I really don't think you should."

"Why not?" the pastor asked. "I really need to use a restroom!" "I don't think you should. There's a statue of a naked woman in there - and she's only covered by a fig leaf!"

"Nonsense," said the pastor, "I'll look the other way!" So, the bartender showed the clergyman the door at the top of the stairs, and he proceeded to the restroom. After a few minutes, he came back out, and the whole place was hopping with music and dancing again! He asked the bartender, "Sir, I don't understand. When I came in here, the place was hopping with music and dancing. Then the room became absolutely quiet. I went to the restroom, and now it's hopping again."

"Well, now you're one of us!" said the bartender. "Would you like a drink too?"

"But, I still don't understand," said the puzzled pastor. "You see," laughed the bartender, "every time the fig leaf is lifted on the statue, the lights go out for a few moments in the whole place. Now, how about a drink?"

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A friend was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the preacher was standing at the door as always to shake hands. He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside. The Pastor said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!" My friend replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor." Pastor questioned, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?"

He whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."

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A mother was teaching her three-year-old daughter The Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she repeated it after her mother. One night she said she was ready to solo. The mother listened with pride, as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end. "And lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some e-mail, Amen"

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During the wedding rehearsal, the groom approached the pastor with an unusual offer. "Look, I'll give you \$100 if you'll change the wedding vows. When you get to me and the part where I'm to promise to 'love, honor and obey' and 'forsaking all others, be faithful to her forever,' I'd appreciate it if you'd just leave that part out." He passed the minister a \$100 bill and walked away satisfied.

On the day of the wedding, and the bride and groom have moved to the part of the ceremony where the vows are exchanged. When it comes time for the groom's vows, the pastor looks the young man in the eye and says: "Will you promise to prostrate yourself before her, obey her every command and wish, serve her breakfast in bed every morning of your life and swear eternally before God and your lovely wife that you will not ever even look at another woman, as long as you both shall live?"

The groom gulped and looked around, and said in a tiny voice, "Yes." The groom leaned toward the pastor and hissed, "I thought we had a deal."

The pastor put the \$100 bill into his hand and whispered back, "She made me a better offer."

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One Sunday morning the pastor noticed little Johnny was standing staring up at the large plaque that hung in the church foyer. The young man of seven had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up and stood beside him gazing up at the plaque, and he said quietly, "Good morning son."

"Good morning pastor," replied the young man not taking his eyes off the plaque. "Sir, what is this?" Johnny asked.

"Well son, these are all the people who have died in the service", replied the pastor. Soberly, they stood together staring up at the large plaque.

Little Johnny's voice barely broke the silence when he asked quietly, "Which one sir, the 8:30 or the 10:30?"

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### The Bible in Fifty Words

God made,  
Adam bit,  
Noah arked,  
Abraham split,  
Joseph ruled,  
Jacob fooled,  
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.

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There's the one about an MC who said, just before the meal, "There being no clergy present, let us give thanks!"

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A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

A priest was called away for an emergency. Not wanting to leave the confessional unattended, he called his rabbi friend from across the street to cover for him. The rabbi told him he wouldn't know what to say, but the priest told him to come on over and he'd stay with him for a little bit and show him.

The rabbi comes and he & the priest are in the confessional. In a few minutes a woman comes in and says "Father forgive me for I have sinned. I've committed adultery."

Priest: "How many times?"

Woman: "Three."

Priest: "Say two Hail Marys, put \$5.00 in the box, and sin no more."

A few minutes later a man enters the confessional. He says, "Father forgive me for I have sinned."

Priest: "What did you do?"

Man: "Adultery."

Priest: "How many times?"

Man: "Three."

Priest: "Say two Hail Marys, put \$5.00 in the box, and sin no more."

The Rabbi says he thinks he's got it, so the priest leaves. A few minutes later another woman enters and says, "Father forgive me for I have sinned."

Rabbi: "What did you do?"

Woman: "I committed adultery."

Rabbi: "How many times?"

Woman: "Once."

Rabbi: "Go do it two more times; we have a special this week: 3 for \$5.00."

A little boy attended church for the first time. As the offering plate was passed, he said, very brightly, "Daddy, you don't have to pay for me. I'm under 6."

The reason that Daniel was not EATEN ALIVE in the Lions' Den is because he read the Bible to Them all night long. Thus, he became the first prophet ever to read between the lions.

A man, curious about Catholicism, approaches a Dominican. He asks the Dominican about various subjects, and eventually the conversation turns to religious orders. "So, you're a Dominican?" "Yes." "What can you tell me about the Dominicans?" "Well, in short, we were founded by St. Dominic as an answer to the heresy of the Albigensians." "I see. What about those Jesuits I hear about?" "They were founded by St. Ignatius of Loyola as a response to the Protestant Reformation." "Hmmm ... so which is the greatest order?" The Dominican ponders for a second, and replies: "Well, when was the last time you met an Albigensian?"

A boy was telling his grandmother that he and his three playmates attended different churches. Then he added, "It really doesn't matter if we go to different churches, does it, Grandma, as long as we're all Republicans?"

Moses' account of the creation in the book of Genesis is so familiar and so entrenched in our cultural heritage that many accept as actual historic fact the assertion that Woman was created from one of Adam's ribs.

Last week, at a dig in the escarpments along the western shore of the Dead Sea, archeologists have uncovered ancient, original texts that pre-date Moses' writings by 1,300 years. Translated, their account of life's beginnings on earth is much more scientifically plausible ...

"... and God created Woman, giving her three breasts to succor her young. And God spake, saying to her, "I have created thee as I see fit. Is there anything about thee that thou would prefer differently?"

And Woman spoke, saying, "Lord, I am not made to birth whole litters, and furthermore have only two hands. I need but two breasts."

And God said: "Thou speakest wisely, as I have created thee with wisdom ..." There was a crack of lightning and a lingering odor of ozone, and it was done, and Woman stood holding her third breast in her hand.

"Now just what am I gonna do with this useless boob?" Woman exclaimed.

And so it was, God created Man."

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A minister, a priest and a rabbi went for a hike one day. It was very hot. They were sweating and exhausted when they came upon a small lake. Since it was fairly secluded, they took off all their clothes and jumped into the water.

Feeling refreshed, the trio decided to pick a few berries while enjoying their "freedom." As they were crossing an open area, who should come along but a group of ladies from town! Unable to get to their clothes in time, the minister and priest covered their privates and the rabbi covered his face while they ran for cover.

After the ladies had left and the men got their clothes back, the other two asked the rabbi why he covered his face rather than his privates. The rabbi replied, "I don't know about you, but in my congregation, it's my *face* they'd recognize."

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A golfer is in a competitive match with a friend, who's ahead by a couple of strokes. The golfer says to himself: "I'd give anything to sink this next putt."

A stranger walks up to him and whispers: "Would you give up a fourth of your sex life?" The golfer thinks the man is crazy and that his answer will be meaningless but also that perhaps this is a good omen and will put him in the right frame of mind to make the difficult putt and says, "OK." And sinks the putt.

Two holes later he mumbles to himself: "Boy, if I could only get an eagle!" The same stranger moves to his side and says, "Would it be worth another fourth of your sex life?" The golfer shrugs and says, "Sure." And he makes an eagle.

Down to the final hole. The golfer needs another eagle to win. Again, the stranger moves to his side: "Would you be willing to give up the rest of your sex life to win this match?" The golfer says, "Certainly." And makes the eagle.

As the golfer walks to the clubhouse, the stranger walks alongside and says: "You know, I've really not been fair with you because you don't know who I am. I'm the devil, and from now on you will have no sex life."

"Nice to meet you," says the golfer. "My name's Father O'Malley."

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A Priest and a Rabbi are riding in a plane. After a while, the Priest asks the Rabbi: "Is it still a requirement of your faith not to eat pork?"

The Rabbi responds: "Yes that is still one of our beliefs."

The Priest then asks: "Have you ever eaten pork?"

To which the Rabbi replies: "Yes, on one occasion I did succumb to temptation and tasted pork - before I became a rabbi."

The Priest nodded in understanding and went on with his reading. Later, the Rabbi asked the Priest: "Father, are you still required to remain celibate?"

The Priest replied: "Yes, that is still very much a part of our faith."

The Rabbi then asked: "Have you ever fallen to the temptings of the flesh?"

The Priest replied: "Yes; before I entered the seminary."

The Rabbi nodded understandingly: "Beats the hell out of pork, doesn't it?"

One Sunday a pastor told the congregation that the church needed some extra money and asked the people to prayerfully consider giving a little extra in the offering plate. He said that whoever gave the most would be able to pick out three hymns. After the offering plates were passed, the pastor glanced down and noticed that someone had placed a \$1,000 bill in offering. He was so excited that he immediately shared his joy with his congregation and said he'd like to personally thank the person who placed the money in the plate. A very quiet, elderly, saintly lady all the way in the back shyly raised her hand. The pastor asked her to come to the front. Slowly she made her way to the pastor. He told her how wonderful it was that she gave so much and in thanksgiving asked her to pick out three hymns. Her eyes brightened as she looked over the congregation, pointed to the three most handsome men in the building and said.... "I'll take him and him and him."

#### **HYMN TITLES -- THE WAY WE'D SING 'EM IF WE WERE HONEST**

I Surrender, Some  
There Shall Be Sprinkles of Blessings  
Fill My Spoon, Lord  
Oh, How I Like Jesus  
He's Quite a Bit to Me  
I Love to Talk About Telling the Story  
Take My Life and Let Me Be  
There Is Scattered Cloudiness in My Soul Today  
Where He Leads Me, I Will Consider Following  
Just As I Pretend to Be  
When the Saints Go Sneaking In  
Sit Up, Sit Up for Jesus  
A Comfy Mattress Is Our God  
Self-Esteem to the World, The Lord Is Come  
Oh, for a Couple of Tongues to Sing  
Amazing Grace, How Interesting the Sound  
Go Tell It on the Speed Bump  
Special, Special, Special  
Lord, Keep Us Loosely Connected to Your Word  
Praise God From Whom All Affirmations Flow  
My Hope Is Built on Nothing Much  
O, God, Our Enabler in Ages Past  
I Lay My Inappropriate Behavior on Jesus  
Pillow of Ages, Fluffed for Me  
All Hail the Influence of Jesus' Name!  
When Peace, Like a Trickle  
I'm Fairly Certain that My Redeemer Lives  
We Give Thee but Still Think We Own

What an Acquaintance We Have in Jesus  
 Joyful, Joyful We Think Thee Pretty Good  
 Above Average Is Thy Faithfulness  
 We Are Milling Around in the Light of God  
 Spirit of the Living God, Fall Somewhere Near Me  
 Blest Be the Tie that Doesn't Cramp My Style

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**Eleventh Commandment**

Moses was complaining to God the Ten Commandments didn't seem to cover all the offenses Clinton was committing. It seemed another commandment was needed to cover what he was doing. God agreed and said he would get back to Moses right away.

The next day, God said unto Moses, "Moses, henceforth, there shall be an eleventh commandment: 'Thou shalt not show thy rod to thy staff.' "

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**THEME SONGS FOR BIBLE CHARACTERS**

- Noah: "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head"
- Adam and Eve: "Strangers in Paradise"
- Lazarus: "The Second Time Around"
- Esther: "I Feel Pretty"
- Job: "I've Got a Right to Sing the Blues"
- Moses: "The Wanderer"
- Jezebel: "The Lady is a Tramp"
- Samson: "Hair"
- Salome: "I Could Have Danced All Night"
- Daniel: "The Lion Sleeps Tonight"
- Joshua: "Good Vibrations"
- Peter: "I'm Sorry"
- Esau: "Born To Be Wild"
- Jeremiah: "Take This Job and Shove It"
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: "Great Balls of Fire!"
- The Three Kings: "When You Wish Upon a Star"
- Jonah: "Got a Whale of a Tale"
- Elijah: "Up, Up, and Away"
- Methuselah: "Stayin' Alive"
- Nebuchadnezzar: "Crazy"

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3 nuns on a train had been getting to know one another and decided to tell each other what their greatest sins were.

The first nun says, "My greatest sin is sex. Every year I go out for a week and work as a prostitute. Of course, I put all the money I earn into the poor box."

The second nun says, "My greatest sin is drinking. Every year I take the money from the poor box and go out drinking for a solid week."

The third just sits there quietly.

So the first nun says to her, "Come on, we've told you our worst sins. Now you have to tell us yours."

The third nun says, "My greatest sin is gossip, and I can't wait to get off this train."

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A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly something fell out of the bible. He picked up the object and looked at it closely.

What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.

"Mom, look what I found," the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked.

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered: "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

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A ten-year-old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible. But one day she floored her grandmother by asking, "Which Virgin was the mother of Jesus: the Virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?"

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The priest was preparing a man for his long day's journey into night. Whispering firmly, the priest said, "Denounce the devil! Let him know how little you think of his evil!"

The dying man said nothing.

The priest repeated his order.

Still the dying man said nothing.

The priest asked, "Why do you refuse to denounce the devil and his evil?"

The dying man said, "Until I know where I'm heading, I don't think I ought to aggravate anybody."

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**CHURCH HUMOR**

1. I don't want to say it was a cold church, but the ushers were using ice skates.
2. "If absence makes the heart grow fonder," said a minister, "a lot of folks must really love our church."
3. Q. "Why don't you come to my church this next Sunday?"  
A "Because I belong to another abomination."
4. A member of the church came to the pastor and said, "Pastor, my six brethren are all asleep, and I alone have remained awake to worship GOD." The pastor replied, "You had better been asleep yourself if your worship of GOD consists of accusations against your brethren."
5. A certain congregation was about to erect a new church edifice. The building committee, in consecutive meetings, passed the fellowship resolutions:
  - a. We shall build a new church.
  - b. The new building is to be located on the site of the old one.
  - c. The material in the old building is to be used in the new one.
  - d. We shall continue to use the old building until the new one is completed.
6. A church is a place where you encounter nodding acquaintances.
7. Pastor: Mrs. Smith, I really appreciate your devotion. You're present at all services.  
Mrs. Smith: Yes, it is such a relief after a long, hard week of work. I just love to come to church, sit down on the soft cushions and not think about anything for an hour.
8. A visiting pastor at a country church asked one of the farmers if he could use his barn to get away where it was quiet and study for his message. After several hours of study, the pastor left the barn for a walk. When he came back he discovered that the cow had eaten all of his sermon notes. The next day the farmer complained to the pastor that this cow had gone dry.

9. Deacon Johnson seemed to always fall asleep during the sermon on Sunday mornings. His wife grew very tired of his behavior and she decided to deal with the embarrassing situation. The next Sunday when her husband fell asleep, she quietly removed some Limburger cheese from her purse & carefully passed it beneath his nose. Whereupon Deacon Johnson was heard to murmur, "No, Helen, No-don't kiss me now."
10. A misprint in the church bulletin read: Our minister is leaving the church this Sunday. Will you please send in a small donation? The congregation wants to give him a little momentum.
11. CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD:
  1. Come in and have your faith lifted.
  2. Come in and let us prepare you for your finals.
  3. A miser is a rich pauper.
  4. Ask about our pray-as-you-go plan.
  5. We hold sit-in demonstrations every Sunday.
  - 6 Q. What do you call a non-churchgoer?  
A. A Seventh-Day Absentist.

- - - - -  
**Bible Funnies (From Twyla Outhier)**

- Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?  
 A. Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.
- Q. Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?  
 A. Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.
- Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he got married?  
 A. Ruth-less.
- Q. Who was the first drug addict in the Bible?  
 A. Nebuchadnezzar. He was on grass for seven years.
- Q. What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?  
 A. Jehovah drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden in a Fury.  
 A. David's Triumph was heard throughout the land.  
 A. Honda...because the apostles were all in one Accord.  
 A. 2 Cor. 4:8 describes going out in service in a Volkswagen Beetle:  
 "We are pressed in every way, but not cramped beyond movement."
- Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?  
 A. Samson. He brought the house down.
- Q. Where is the first baseball game in the Bible?  
 A. In the big inning, Eve stole first, Adam stole second. Cain struck out Abel, and the Prodigal Son came home. The Giants and the Angel were rained out.
- Q. How did Adam and Eve feel when expelled from the Garden of Eden?  
 A. They were really put out.

- Q. What is one of the first things that Adam and Eve did after they were kicked out?  
A. They really raised Cain.
- Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?  
A. Your mother ate us out of house and home.
- Q. The ark was built in 3 stories, and the top story had a window to let light in, but how did they get light to the bottom 2 stories?  
A. They used floodlights.
- Q. Who is the greatest babysitter mentioned in the Bible?  
A. David. He rocked Goliath to sleep.
- Q. Why was Goliath so surprised when David hit him with a slingshot?  
A. The thought had never entered his head before.
- Q. What do they call pastors in Germany?  
A. German Shepherds.
- Q. What is the best way to get to Paradise?  
A. Turn right and go straight.
- Q. Which servant of Jehovah was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?  
A. Moses. Because he broke all 10 commandments at once.
- Q. Which area of Palestine was especially wealthy?  
A. The area around the Jordan. The banks were always overflowing.
- Q. How do we know that Job went to a chiropractor?  
A. Because in Job 16:12 we read, "I had come to be at ease, but he proceeded to shake me up and he grabbed me by the back of the neck and proceeded to smash me."
- Q. Where is the first tennis match mentioned in the Bible?  
A. When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.
- Q. What is the first recorded case of constipation in the Bible?  
A. It's in Kings, where it says that David sat on the Throne for forty years.
- Q. Which Bible character had no parents?  
A. Joshua, son of Nun.
- Q. Why didn't Noah go fishing?  
A. He only had two worms!
- Q. How do we know that they played cards in the ark?  
A. Because Noah sat on the deck.
- - - - -

## CATHOLIC DICTIONARY

Amen - The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

Bulletin -  
1. Parish information, read only during the homily.  
2. Catholic air conditioning.  
3. Your receipt for attending Mass.

Choir - A group of people whose singing allows the congregation to lip-sync.

Christmas - The celebration of the birth of Christ, which invariably falls during the busiest shopping season of the year.

Confession - What you bragged about the night before.

Conscience - the little voice of morality that you wish had a body so you could punch it in the nose. OR E-mail from God!

Convent - A rectory where the toilet seats are always down.

Covenant - A contract between God and His people-one that the Devil is still trying to take to arbitration.

Creation - The story that scientists get a big bang out of.

Creationism - The belief that no one is a monkey's uncle.

Crucifixion - 1.A rather extreme form of impeachment.  
2.The form of execution used by Romans when the lions were full.

Cry room - A place in the back of church where children are brought after their tantrums have reduced their parents to tears.

Dead Sea Scrolls - The cliff notes to the Old Testament.

Devil - Evil with a capital D.

Devotion - Standing for the duration of the Gospel on Palm Sunday.

Disciples - Followers of Christ who hadn't earned enough merit badges to become Apostles.

Divine Intervention - What happens when God steps in and does something for the good of mankind...like ending Ronald Reagan's movie career.

Dona Nobis Pacem - The double play combination of the parish softball team.

Doxology - A verbal high-five with the Lord.

Easter - 1.The day you see Catholics you haven't seen since Christmas.

2.The day when Christ's body was missing and all the children are worried about is finding the missing chocolate eggs.

Ecumenical Council - Where all those "a priest, a rabbi, and a minister" jokes get started.

Ecumenism - The practice of unity among Christians whereby Catholics cut some slack for being close. Protestant

Egypt - the country which created the first form of writing: hieroglyphics (the basis for all medical prescriptions).

Envy - The sin Catholics commit when they think of non-Catholics who get to remain seated during their church services.

Eternity - The time between Communion and the end of Mass.

Evangelists - TV preachers with miraculous powers: the ability to squeeze dollars out of the penniless.

Eve - the only wife who never had to worry about the "other woman".

Everlasting life - What a Catholic will need to understand all the changes since Vatican II.

Eye of the needle - Analogy that provides a strong incentive for rich men to breed tiny camels.

Faith - Giving God the benefit of the doubt on the questions "Can God make a rock so big that even He Himself cannot lift it?"

Fast - God's diet plan.

Feast of the assumption - The holy day observed forty days after Easter, by which time all of the black jellybeans will be gone.

Folk mass - The type of liturgy celebrated at the Church of Saints Peter, Paul and Mary.

Font - The baptismal basin where the priest wets the baby's head and the baby wets the priest's vestments.

Free will - A gift from God that you will pay for later if you use it incorrectly.

Friday, Good - The day of the crucifixion of Jesus-which makes you wonder what a Messiah's got to do to make it a Bad Friday.

Garden of Eden - Where Adam and Even dug us a hole.

Gnosticism - Gneo-Christian cult based on gnebulous gnosis whose days were gnumbered due to gnaysayers.

Holy Water: A liquid whose chemical formula is H2OLY.

Hymn: A song of praise, usually sung in a key three octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

God - The Supreme Being who knows everything, including why people buy so many clothes for a three hour tour.

Golden Rule - The most painful thing a nun can hit you with.

Incense - Holy Smoke!

Jesuits - An order of priests known for their ability to found colleges with good basketball teams.

Jonah - The original "Jaws" story.

Justice - When kids have kids of their own.

Kyrie Eleison - The only Greek words that most Catholics can recognize besides gyros and baklava.

Magi - The most famous trio to attend a baby shower.

Manger - 1. Where Mary gave birth because Joseph wasn't covered by an HMO.  
2. The Bible's way of showing that holiday travel was always rough.

Pew - A medieval torture device still found in Catholic Churches.

Procession - The ceremonial formation at the beginning of Mass, consisting of servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats. altar

Recessional - The ceremonial procession at the conclusion of Mass - led by parishioners trying to beat the crowd to the parking lot.

Recessional Hymn: The last song at Mass, often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.

Relics - People who have been going to Mass for so long, they actually know when to sit, kneel, and stand.

Tonsure: The goofy haircut some monks receive to ensure their vow of chastity.

Ten Commandments - Most important Top 10 list not given by David Letterman.

Ushers - The only people in church who don't know the seating capacity of a pew.



13. The church directory doesn't have last names – OR In a congregation of 500, there's only 7 last names in the church directory
  14. The pastor wears boots.
  15. Four generations of one family sit together in worship every Sunday.
  16. The only time people lock their cars in the parking lot is summer, and then only so neighbors can't leave them a bag of squash.
  17. There is no such thing as a "secret" sin.
  18. Baptism is referred to as "branding."
  19. There is a special fund-raiser for a new septic tank.
  20. Finding and returning lost sheep is not just a parable.
  21. You miss worship one Sunday morning and by 2 o'clock that afternoon you have had a dozen phone calls inquiring about your health.
  22. High notes on the organ set dogs in the parking lot to howling.
  23. People wonder whether Jesus fed the 5,000 2 *bass* or 2 *catfish*.
  24. It's not heaven, but you can see heaven from there.
25. The final words of the benediction are: "Y'all come back now, ya hear!"
  26. The finance committee refuses to provide funds to purchase a chandelier because none of the members knows how to play one.
  27. Boone's Farm "Tickle Pink" is the favorite wine for communion.
  28. People think *rapture* is what you get from lifting something too heavy.
  29. The baptismal font is a #2 galvanized washtub.
  30. The choir robes were donated by (and embroidered with the logo from) Billy Bob's Barbecue + the collection plates are '56 Chevy hubcaps.

Three boys are in the schoolyard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper - he calls it a poem and they give him \$50."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, and they give him \$100."

The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon - and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

The tribal wisdom of the Dakota Indians, passed on from one generation to the next, says that when you discover you're riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount.

However, in modern business (or the church?) heavy investment factors must be considered, and other strategies are often tried with dead horses, including:

1. Buying a stronger whip.
  2. Changing riders.
  3. Threatening the horse with termination.
  4. Appointing a committee to study the horse.
  5. Arranging to visit other sites to see how they ride dead horses.
  6. Lowering standards so dead horses can be included.
  7. Appointing an intervention team to reanimate the dead horse.
  8. Creating a training session to increase the rider load share.
  9. Reclassifying the dead horse as living-impaired.
  10. Change the form to read *This horse is not dead*.
  11. Hire outside contractors to ride the dead horse.
  12. Harness several dead horses together for increased speed.
13. Donate it to a recognized charity and deduct its full original cost.

14. Providing additional funding to increase the horse's performance.
15. Do a time management study to see if lighter riders improve productivity.
16. Purchase an after-market product to make dead horses run faster.
17. Declare that a dead horse has lower overhead and thus performs better.
18. Form a quality focus group to find profitable uses for dead horses.
19. Rewrite the expected performance requirements for horses.
20. Promote the dead horse to a supervisory position.

A boy was sitting on a park bench with one hand resting on an open Bible. He was loudly exclaiming his praise to God. "Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God is great!" he yelled without worrying whether anyone heard him or not.

Shortly after, along came a man who had recently completed some studies at a local university. Feeling himself very enlightened in the ways of truth and very eager to show this enlightenment, he asked the boy about the source of his joy.

"Hey" asked the boy in return with a bright laugh, "Don't you have any idea what God is able to do? I just read that God opened up the waves of the Red Sea and led the whole nation of Israel right through the middle."

The enlightened man laughed lightly, sat down next to the boy and began trying to open his eyes to the "realities" of Bible miracles. "That can all be very easily explained. Modern scholarship shows that the Red Sea in that area was only 10-inches deep at that time. It was no problem for the Israelites to wade across."

The boy was stumped. His eyes wandered from the man back to the Bible in his lap. The man, content that he'd enlightened a poor, naive young person to the finer points of scientific insight, turned to go. But the boy began to rejoice and praise louder than before. The man turned to ask the reason.

"Wow!" exclaimed the boy happily, "God is greater than I thought! Not only did He lead the whole nation of Israel through the Red Sea, He topped it off by drowning the whole Egyptian army in 10 inches of water!"

A man was walking through a forest pondering life. He walked, pondered, walked, and pondered. He felt very close to nature and even close to God. He felt so close to God that he felt if he spoke God would listen. So he asked: "God, are you listening?"

And God replied, "Yes my son, I am here."

The man stopped and pondered some more. He looked towards the sky and said, "God, what is a million years to you?" God replied, "Well, my son, a second to me is like a million years to you."

So the man continued to walk and to ponder... walk and ponder... Then he looked to the sky again and said, "God, what is a million dollars to you?"

And God replied, "My son, my son...a penny to me is like a million dollars to you. It means almost nothing to me. It does not even have a value it is so little."

The man looked down, pondered a bit and then looked up to the sky and said, "God, can I have a million dollars?"

And God replied, "In a second."

A clergyman was walking down the street when he came upon a group of boys between 10 and 12 years of age.

The group surrounded a dog. Concerned lest the boys were hurting the dog, he went over and asked: "What are you doing with that dog?" One of the boys replied, "This dog is just

an old neighborhood stray. We all want him, but only one of us can take him home. So we've decided that whichever one of us can tell the biggest lie will get to keep the dog."

Of course, the reverend was taken aback. "You boys shouldn't be having a contest telling lies!" he exclaimed. He then launched into a ten-minute sermon against lying, beginning, "Don't you boys know it's a sin to lie," and ending with, "Why, when I was your age, I never told a lie."

There was dead silence for about a minute. Just as the reverend was beginning to think he'd gotten through to them, the smallest boy gave a deep sigh and said, "All right, give him the dog."

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### GREAT SAYINGS OF BIBLICAL MOTHERS

10. Samson! Get your hand out of that lion. You don't know where it's been! (Judges 14:5-8)

9. David! I told you not to play in the house with that sling! Go practice your harp. We pay good money for those lessons!

8. Abraham! Stop wandering around the countryside and get home for supper!

7. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego! Leave those clothes outside, you smell like a dirty ol' furnace!

6. Cain! Get off your brother! You're going to kill him some day!

5. Noah! No, you can't keep them! I told you: *no more strays!*

4. Gideon! Have you been hiding in that wine press again? Look at your clothes! (Judges 6:11)

3. James and John! No more burping contests at the dinner table, please. People are going to call you the sons of thunder! (Mark3: 17)

2. Judas! Have you been in my purse again?!

1. Jesus, close the door! What do you think: *you were born in a barn?*

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One day Adam and his son were walking past the Garden of Eden. "Wow, what a beautiful place dad, why don't we live there?" asked the boy. "We used to," Adam replied, "but your mother ate us out of house and home."

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Do not ride in automobiles: they cause 20% of all fatal accidents - Do not stay home: 17% of all accidents occur there - Do not walk on the streets or sidewalks: 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians - Do not travel by air, rail, or water: 16% of all accidents - happen there.

Only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are related to previous physical disorders. Hence, the safest place for you to be at any time is at church! **Go to church! It could save your life!**

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4 rabbis had a series of theological arguments, and 3 were always in accord against the fourth. One day, the odd rabbi out, after the usual "3 to 1, majority rules" statement signified he'd lost again, decided to appeal to a higher authority.

"Oh, God!" he cried. "I know in my heart that I am right and they are wrong! Please give me a sign to prove it to them!" It was a beautiful, sunny day. As soon as the rabbi finished his prayer, a storm cloud moved across the sky above the four. It rumbled once and dissolved. "A sign from God! See, I'm right, I knew it!" But the other three disagreed, pointing out that storm clouds form on hot days.

So the rabbi prayed again: "Oh, God, I need a bigger sign to show that I am right and they are wrong. So please, God, a bigger sign!" This time 4 storm clouds appeared, rushed

toward each other to form one big cloud, and a bolt of lightning slammed into a tree on a nearby hill.

"I told you I was right!" cried the rabbi, but his friends insisted nothing had happened that couldn't be explained by natural causes. The rabbi was getting ready to ask for a "very big" sign, but just as he invoked, "Oh God ..." the sky turned pitch black, the earth shook, and a deep, booming voice intoned, "HEEEEEEEEE'S RIIIIIIIGHT!"

The rabbi put his hands on his hips, turned to the other 3 and said, "Well?"

"Well, what?" shrugged the other rabbis, "now it's 3 to 2."

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### **An Irish Blessing**

"God bless your little Irish heart and every other Irish part."

*(It works using "Polish" - "German" - "Swedish" etc. too.*

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### **Three great religious truths**

1. Jews don't recognize Jesus as the Messiah
2. Protestants don't recognize the Pope as the leader of the Christian faith.
3. Baptists don't recognize each other in the liquor store or at Hooters.

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A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem.

A small child replied, "They couldn't get a baby-sitter."

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A rich man was near death, and was saddened because he'd worked so hard for his money and wanted to take it with him to heaven. So, he began to pray that he might be able to do that. An angel heard his plea and appeared to him.

"Sorry," the angel said, "but you can't." The man implored the angel to speak to God about making an allowance and continued praying his wealth could follow him.

The angel reappeared and informed him that God had decided to allow him to take one suitcase. Overjoyed, the man got his largest suitcase, filled it with pure gold bars, and placed it beside his bed. Soon afterward the man died and showed up at the gates of heaven to greet St. Peter.

St. Peter, seeing the suitcase, said, "Hold on, you can't bring that in here!" The man explained that he had permission and asked him to verify his story.

St. Peter checked and came back. "You're right. You are allowed one carry-on bag, but I'm supposed to check its contents before letting it through." He opened the suitcase to inspect the worldly items that the man found too precious to leave behind, and exclaimed, "You brought PAVING STONES?"

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The NAACP sent a black agent to Alabama to check the progress in integration of churches. After a few weeks, he called in to file his report.

"How about the Catholics?" asks his boss.

"The Catholics are doing okay; they got the right idea."

"What about the Methodists?"

"They've come a long way," says the agent. "They're doing just fine."

"And the Baptists?" asks the boss.

"I just want to know one thing," he says... "When they baptize you, how long are they supposed to hold you under?"

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## RELIGION: CHILDREN-STYLE

My young brother asked me what happens after we die. I told him we get buried under a bunch of dirt and worms eat our bodies. I guess I should have told him the truth: that most of us go to hell and burn eternally - but I didn't want to upset him. Age 10

I once heard the voice of God. It said "Vrrrrmm." Unless it was just a lawn mower!  
Age 11

A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?"

A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy.

"Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "You know: Our Father, who does art in Heaven."

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A pastor, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed a man get up and leave in the middle of his message. The man returned just before the conclusion of the service. Afterwards the pastor asked the man where he had gone.

"I went to get a haircut," was the reply.

"But," said the pastor, "why didn't you do that before the service?"

"Because," the gentleman said, "I didn't need one then."  
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I'm reminded of the woman who stood before the imperial court of Napoleon. Her son had been condemned to death. "I ask mercy for my son," she pleaded.

The emperor replied, "Madame, he does not deserve mercy!"

Replied the mother, "If he deserved it, it would not mercy be."  
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### WHAT IF GOD HAD VOICE MAIL?

Imagine praying and hearing this:

"Thank you for calling My Father's House. Please select one of the following four options:

- \* Press 1 for requests.
- \* Press 2 for thanksgiving.
- \* Press 3 for complaints.
- \* For all other inquiries, Press 4."

### What if God used the familiar excuse:

"All of the angels are helping other customers right now. Please stay on the line. Your call will be answered in the order it was received."

### Can you imagine getting these kinds of responses as you pray to God:

- \* If you'd like to speak with Gabriel, press 1.
- \* For Michael, press 2.
- \* For any other angel, press 3."
- \* If you want King David to sing you a psalm, press 6.
- \* For reservations at My Father's House, simply press the letters J-O-H-N on the keypad, followed by the number 3-1-6."
- \* For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth, and where Noah's ark is, wait until you get here!"
- \* Our computers show that you've called once today already. Please hang

up immediately."

\* This office is closed for the weekend. Please call again Monday."

**And when you call: Emergency Phone Numbers**

- \* When in sorrow, call John 14
- \* When men fail you, call Psalm 27
- \* If you want to be fruitful, call John 15
- \* When you have sinned, call Psalm 51
- \* When you worry, call Matthew 6:19-34
- \* When you are in danger, call Psalm 91
- \* When God seems far away, call Psalm 139
- \* When your faith needs stirring, call Hebrews 11
- \* When you are lonely and fearful, call Psalm 23
- \* When you grow bitter and critical, call 1 Cor. 13
- \* For Paul's secret to happiness, call Col. 3:12-17
- \* For idea of Christianity, call 1 Cor. 5:15-19
- \* When the world seems bigger than God, call Psalm 90
- \* When you want Christian assurance, call Romans 8:1-30
- \* When you leave home for labor or travel, call Psalm 121
- \* When your prayers grow narrow or selfish, call Psalm 67
- \* For a great invention/opportunity, call Isaiah 55
- \* When you want courage for a task, call Joshua 1
- \* How to get along with fellowmen: call Romans 12
- \* When you think of investments/returns, call Mark 10
- \* If you are depressed, call Psalm 27
- \* If your pocketbook is empty, call Psalm 37
- \* If you're losing confidence in people, call 1 Cor. 13
- \* If people seem unkind, call John 15
- \* If discouraged about your work, call Psalm 126
- \* If you find the world growing small, and yourself great, call Psalm 19

Emergency numbers may be dialed direct: all those lines are open 24 hours a day.

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**HOW TO CHANGE A LIGHT BULB RELIGIOUSLY**

1. How many Charismatics does it take to change a light bulb?  
Only 1 since his or her hands are in the air already.
2. How many Calvinists does it take to change a light bulb?  
None. God has predestined when the lights will be on. Calvinists do not change the light bulbs. They simply read out the instructions and pray the light bulb will be changed.
2. How many Missouri-Synod Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb?  
What do you mean change? My grandmother gave that bulb to the church!
4. How many Pentecostals does it take to change a light bulb?  
10. 1 to change the bulb and 9 to pray against the spirit of darkness.
5. How many TV evangelists does it take to change a light bulb?  
1. But for the message of light to continue, send in your donation today.
6. How many Fundamentalists does it take to change a light bulb?  
Only 1, because any more would be compromise & a spirit of ecumenicism

might arise.

7. How many Liberals does it take to change a light bulb?  
At least 10, as they need to hold a debate on whether or not the light bulb exists. Even if they can agree upon its existence, they still may 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 use candles.
9. How many Episcopalians does it take to change a light bulb?  
10. 1 to call the electrician, & 9 to say how much they liked the old one.
10. How many Unitarians does it take to change a light bulb?  
We choose not to make a statement either for or against the need for light bulbs. However, if in your journey you've found that a light bulb works for you, that's fine. You're invited to write a poem or compose a modern dance about your personal relationship to your light bulb and present it next month at our annual light bulb Sunday service, in which we'll explore a number of light bulb traditions, including incandescent, fluorescent, three-way, tinted and long-lived - all equally valid paths to luminescence through Jesus Christ.
11. How many Mormons: Five. 1 man to change the bulb, and 4 wives to tell him how to do it.
12. How many Baptists: At least 15. 1 to change the light bulb, and 2 or 3 committees to approve the change. Oh, and also a casserole!
13. How many United Methodists: Unknown. They're still voting on it.
14. How many Nazarenes: 6. 1 woman to replace the bulb while 5 men review church lighting policy.
15. How many Amish: What's a light bulb?
16. How many Jehovah's Witnesses: None. The lights are on, but no one's home.

***Prodigal Alliteration ... fortuitously fetched freewheelingly from fabled yore***

Feeling footloose and frisky, a feather-brained fellow  
Forced his fond father to fork over the farthings.  
He flew far to foreign fields  
And fabulously frittered his fortune with faithless friends.  
Fleeced by his fellows in folly, and facing famine,  
He found himself a feed-finder in a filthy farmyard.  
Fairly famishing, he fain would've filled his frame,  
With foraged food from fodder fragments.  
"Foey, my father's flunkies fair far finer,"  
The frazzled fugitive forlornly fumbled, frankly facing facts.  
Frustrated by failure, and filled with foreboding,  
He fled forthwith to his family.  
Falling at his father's feet, he forlornly fumbled, "Father, I've  
Flunked, and fruitlessly forfeited family fellowship favor,"  
The farsighted father, forestalling further flinching,  
Frantically flagged the flunkies.  
"Fetch a fatling from the flock and fix a feast."  
The fugitive's fault finding brother frowned  
On fickle forgiveness of former folderol.  
But the faithful father figured,

"Filial fidelity is fine, but the fugitive is found!  
What forbids fervent festivity?  
Let the flags be unfurled! Let fanfares flare"  
Father's forgiveness formed the foundation  
For the former fugitive's future fortitude!

- - - - -

Four-year-old Jared was eating a hot dog when he dropped it on the floor. He quickly picked it up and was about to take another bite when his mom said, "No, Jared, you can't eat that now it has germs."

Jared pondered the thought a moment and replied, "Jesus, germs, and Santa Claus - that's all I ever hear and I haven't seen one of them yet!"

- - - - -

The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to, after the worship service, ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building.

So, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play.

"Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently. "But you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances."

After the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as expected, and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up."

At that moment, the substitute organist played *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

And that's how the substitute became the regular organist!

- - - - -

### **God greets Mother Teresa at the Pearly Gates.**

"Are you hungry, Mother Teresa?" asks God.

"I could eat," Mother Teresa replies.

So God opens a can of tuna and reaches for a chunk of rye bread and they share it. During this humble meal, Mother Teresa looks down into Hell and sees the inhabitants devouring huge steaks, lobsters, pheasants, pastries and fine wines. Curious, but deeply trusting, Mother Teresa remains quiet.

The next day God again invites Mother Teresa for a meal. Again it's tuna and rye bread. Once again looking down, Mother Teresa can see the denizens of Hell enjoying caviar, champagne, lamb, truffles and chocolates. Still Mother Teresa says nothing.

The following day, mealtime arrives and another can of tuna is opened. Mother Teresa can't contain herself any longer. Meekly, she says: "God, I am grateful to be in heaven with you as a reward for the pious, obedient life I led. But here in heaven all I get to eat is tuna and a piece of rye bread, while in the Other Place they eat like emperors and kings! Forgive me, Oh God, but I just don't understand..."

God sighs. "Let's be honest - for just 2 of us, does it pay to cook?"

- - - - -

A Woman went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards. "What Denomination?" Asked the clerk. "Oh, good heavens! Have we come to this?" said the woman. "Well, give me 50 Baptist and 50 Catholic ones."

- - - - -

A man was lost and walking in the desert for about 2 weeks. One hot day, he sees the home of a missionary. Tired and weak, he crawls up to the house and collapses on the

doorstep. The missionary nurses him back to health. Feeling better, the man asks the missionary for directions to the nearest town. On his way out the backdoor, he sees this horse. He goes back into the house and asks, "Could I borrow your horse and give it back when I reach the town?"

The missionary says, "Sure but there is a special thing about this horse. You have to say *thank God* to make it go and *amen* to make it stop." Not paying much attention, the man says, "Sure, ok." He gets on the horse and says *thank God* and the horse starts walking. Then he said *thank God, thank God* and the horse starts trotting. Feeling really brave, the man said *thank God, thank God, thank God, thank God, thank God* and the horse takes off at a gallop.

Pretty soon he sees a cliff coming up and he's doing everything he can to make the horse stop: *Whoa, stop, hold on!* Finally he remembers: *amen!* The horse stops 4 inches from the cliff, and the man leans back and says *Thank God*.

A Baptist Minister went to the racetrack to watch the horses run. Not being a betting man, he watched the first race and noticed that a Catholic priest went to a specific horse, blessed it and the horse won the race.

The Baptist Minister watched this priest do the same thing for the next 6 races, and each time the horse the priest blessed, won. So the Baptist Minister decided that it was not really betting on a race if he knew the outcome, but rather an investment. He watched the priest bless a horse for the eighth race and promptly went and placed a wager on that horse. The horse finished dead last.

The Minister sought out the priest and said " Father, I watched you bless a specific horse for the first 7 races and in each race that horse won. In the eighth race the horse you blessed, finished dead last. What happened?"

The priest replied, "Obviously, you don't know the difference between a blessing and the last rites."

### Church Marquee Signs

No God -- No Peace      Know God -- Know Peace

Free Trip to heaven - Details Inside

Try our Sundays - They're better than Baskin-Robbins

Searching for a new look - Have your faith lifted here

An ad for St. Joseph's Episcopal Church has a picture of 2 hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed and a headline: For fast, fast, fast relief, take two tablets

When a restaurant next to the Lutheran Church put out a big sign with red letters that said, Open Sundays, the church reciprocated with:

We're open on Sundays, too

Have trouble sleeping? We have sermons -- come hear one

A singing group called The Resurrection was scheduled to sing at a church

When a big snowstorm postponed the performance, the pastor fixed the outside sign to read: The Resurrection is postponed

People are like tea bags - you have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are

God so loved the world that He did not send a committee

Come in and pray today. Beat the Christmas rush

When down in the mouth, remember Jonah. He came out alright

Sign broken. Message inside this Sunday

Fight truth decay -- study the Bible daily  
How will you spend eternity -- Smoking or Non-smoking?  
Dusty Bibles lead to Dirty Lives:  
Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long and the pay is  
low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world  
It is unlikely there'll be a reduction in the wages of sin  
Do not wait for the hearse to take you to church  
If you're headed in the wrong direction, God allows U-turns  
If you don't like the way you were born, try being born again  
Looking at the way some people live, they ought to obtain eternal fire  
insurance soon  
This is a ch\_\_ ch. What is missing? -----> (U R)  
Forbidden fruit creates many jams  
In the dark? Follow the Son  
Warning; exposure to the Son may prevent burning  
Running low on faith? Stop in for a fill-up  
If you can't sleep, don't count sheep - Talk to the Shepherd  
The best vitamin for a Christian is B1  
Under same management for over 2000 years  
Soul food served here  
Tithe if you love Jesus - Anyone can honk  
You can give without loving but you cannot love without giving  
Beat the Christmas rush - come to church this Sunday  
Don't wait for the hearse to take you to church  
Reputation is what people think about you - Character is what people know  
you are  
Life has many choices: For Eternity there are two - What's yours?  
Worry is interest paid on trouble before it is due  
A man's character is like a fence. It cannot be strengthened by whitewash  
Prevent truth decay - Brush up on your Bible  
It's hard to stumble when you're down on your knees  
A clear conscience makes a soft pillow  
The wages of sin is death. Repent before payday  
Never give the devil a ride. He will always want to drive  
Can't sleep? Try counting your blessings  
Forbidden fruit creates many jams  
Satan subtracts and divides - God multiplies and multiplies  
If you do not want to reap the fruits of sin stay out of the devil's orchard  
To belittle is to *be little*  
God answers kneemail  
If Jesus is your co-pilot, switch seats  
People want the front of the bus, the back of the church and the center of  
attention  
We have 35 million laws trying to enforce 10 Commandments  
- - - - -

A Muslim, Christian and Jew were becoming friends and were sharing stories about how they came to be so devoted to their respective religions.

The Muslim explained that he was traveling alone in the desert when a sudden, severe sandstorm came up. It quickly began covering him and his camel, and he was sure they'd both die. He immediately prostrated himself and prayed to Allah. In moments, he said, "A miracle happened. For 200 meters in every direction there was a peaceful zone. No wind, no sand blowing." Once the storm passed he expressed his deep thanks and from that moment was deeply devoted to his faith.

The Christian then joined in, saying, "Its amazing. My story is so similar. I was out in my boat for a casual outing when out of nowhere a horrible storm came up. It must have been a hurricane. The waves were coming over my boat and I was sure I was a goner. I fell to my knees and prayed to Jesus. Then, suddenly, there was a miracle. For 200 meters all around me everything quieted down. No wind and no waves. I just sat out the storm and decided right then to dedicate my life to Jesus.

They then turned to the Jew who shrugged and said, "It is truly a wonder how we all have such similar stories. There I was just walking along, quietly, on a beautiful Saturday morning when there, right in front of me on the ground, is a wallet. On the Sabbath we are not supposed to handle money, but I felt it was my moral obligation to check if there was some name of someone I should call after sundown. Well, there was no identification in the wallet, but to my total amazement there was over \$200,000. Well, I knew I couldn't touch it, so I dropped it, threw my arms in the air and prayed to God for guidance. And suddenly there was a miracle. For 200 meters all around me, it was Tuesday!"

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### **LENTEN SONG (to the tune of My Favorite Things)**

Sackcloth and ashes, and days without eating,  
Mortification and wailing and weeping,  
A hair shirt that scratches, a nettle that stings,  
These are a few of my favorite things.

Penitence, flagellants, memento mori,  
Spending nights sleeping on rocks in a quarry,  
The sound of a cloak'd solemn cantor who sings,  
These are still more of my favorite things.

Tossing and turning and yearning I'm spurning,  
Passions aflame like an ember day burning,  
Corpus and carnis and wild drunken flings,  
Forsaken are they for my favorite things!

When it's Christmas,  
When the tree's lit,  
When the cards are sent,  
I simply remember my favorite things,  
And then I can't wa-a-a-a-it till Lent.

- - - - -

### **IF BIBLICAL HEADLINES WERE WRITTEN BY TODAY'S MEDIA**

On Red Sea crossing:

WETLANDS TRAMPLED IN LABOR STRIKE - Pursuing Environmentalists Killed

On David vs. Goliath:

HATE CRIME KILLS BELOVED CHAMPION - Psychologist Questions Influence of Rock

On Elijah on Mt. Carmel:

FIRE SENDS RELIGIOUS RIGHT EXTREMIST INTO FRENZY - 400 Killed

On the birth of Christ:

HOTELS FULL, ANIMALS LEFT HOMELESS

- Animal Rights Activists Enraged by Insensitive Couple

On feeding the 5,000:

PREACHER STEALS CHILD'S LUNCH - Disciples Mystified Over Behavior

On healing the 10 lepers:

LOCAL DOCTOR'S PRACTICE RUINED - "Faith Healer" Causes Bankruptcy

On healing of the Gadarene demoniac:

MADMAN'S FRIEND CAUSES STAMPEDE - Local Farmer's Investment Lost

On raising Lazarus from the dead:

FUNDAMENTALIST PREACHER RAISES A STINK - Will Reading to be Delayed

- - - - -  
 At a catholic school gathering, Mother superior stacked a pile of apples on a table with a sign saying, "Take only one apple please - God is watching."

On the other end of the table was a pile of cookies + a sign a student had put there, which read: "Take all the cookies you want - God is watching the apples."  
 - - - - -

**PROTESTANT HYMNS FOR ALL**

- |                          |                                      |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 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 Pilot's Hymn         | - I'll Fly Away                      |
| The Paramedic's Hymn     | - Revive Us Again                    |
| The Judge's Hymn.        | - Almost Persuaded                   |
| The Psychiatrist's Hymn  | - Just A Little Talk With Jesus      |
| The Architect's Hymn     | - How Firm A Foundation              |
| The Zookeeper's Hymn     | - All Creatures of Our God and King  |
| The Postal Worker's Hymn | - So Send I You                      |

The Waiter's Hymn	- Fill My Cup, Lord
The Gardener's Hymn	- Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming
The Lifeguard's Hymn	- Rescue the Perishing
The Criminal's Hymn	- Search Me, O God
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
The Librarian's Hymn	- Whispering Hope
The Baker's Hymn	- When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder
The Realtor's Hymn	- I've Got A Mansion Just Over the Hilltop
The Credit Card Telemarketer's Hymn	- A Charge To Keep I Have

A businessman was in a great deal of trouble: his business was failing, he had put everything he had into the business, he owed everybody - it was so bad he was even contemplating suicide. As a last resort he went to a priest and poured out his story of tears and woe.

When he had finished, the priest said, "Here's what I want you to do: Put a beach chair and your Bible in your car and drive down to the beach. Take the beach chair and the Bible to the water's edge, sit down in the beach chair, and put the Bible in your lap. Open the Bible; the wind will rifle the pages, but finally the open Bible will come to rest on a page. Look down at the page and read the first thing you see. That will be your answer, that will tell you what to do."

A year later the businessman went back to the priest and brought his wife and children with him. The man was in a new custom-tailored suit, his wife in a mink coat, the children shining. The businessman pulled an envelope stuffed with money out of his pocket, gave it to the priest as a donation in thanks for his advice.

The priest recognized the benefactor, and was curious. "You did as I suggested?" he asked.

"Absolutely," replied the businessman.

"You went to the beach?"

"Absolutely."

"You sat in a beach chair with the Bible in your lap?"

"Absolutely."

"You let the pages rifle until they stopped?"

"Absolutely."

"And what were the first words you saw?"

"Chapter 11."

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### THINGS YOU SELDOM HEAR IN CHURCH

1. It's my turn to sit in the front pew.
2. I was so enthralled; I never noticed your sermon went 25 minutes over time.
3. Personally I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf.
4. I've decided to give our church the \$500/month I used to send to TV evangelists.
5. I volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the junior high Sunday school class.
6. Forget the denominational minimum salary; let's pay our pastor so he/she can

live like we do.

7. I love it when we sing choruses I've never heard before!
8. Since we're all here, let's start the service early.
9. Pastor, we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas.
10. Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual stewardship campaign!

- - - - -  
After a particularly trying week in kindergarten, Bobby went to spend the weekend with Grandma. Grandma took Bobby to the park. It had snowed all night, and the park was beautifully glossed in white. "Isn't this beautiful," said Grandma. "God painted this just for you."

"Yes, and he painted it all left-handed," replied Bobby.

Puzzled, Grandma asked, "Why do you think he painted with his left hand?"

"We learned in Sunday school last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand."

- - - - -  
There was a gracious lady mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.

- - - - -  
A Sunday-School teacher decided to have her young class memorize 1 of the most quoted Bible passages: Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verses. Little Bobby was excited about the task, but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Bobby was so nervous. But when he stepped up to the microphone, he said proudly, "The Lord is my shepherd - and that's all I need to know!"

- - - - -  
A little boy walked down the beach, and he spied a matronly woman sitting under a beach umbrella. He walked up to her and asked, "Are you a Christian?"

"Yes," she replied.

"Do you read your Bible every day?" She nodded her head. "Do you pray often?" the boy asked next, and again she answered, "Yes."

And then his final question, "Will you hold my quarter while I go swimming?"

- - - - -  
3 churches - Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian - worked together on a community-wide revival. Afterwards, the 3 pastors were discussing the results.

The Methodist said, "The revival worked out great! We gained 4 new families!"

The Baptist said, "We did better than that! We gained 6 new families!"

The Presbyterian said, "We did even better! We got rid of our 10 biggest trouble makers!"

- - - - -  
A Jewish girl tells her Catholic college roommate she's going home for Rosh Hashanah. The Catholic girl asks, "Is that the holiday when you light the candles?"

"No," the Jewish girl replies. "That's Hannukah."

The Catholic girl then asks, "Is that when you eat the unleavened bread?"

"No," the Jewish girl replies. "That's Passover. Rosh Hashanah is the holiday when we blow the shofar."

"See," the Catholic Girl replies. "That's what I like about you Jews - you're so good to your help."

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

One theory: 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: "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."

- - - - -

Mother Superior calls all the nuns together and says: "I must tell you something very serious: We have a case of gonorrhea."

A nun in the back says, "Thank God, I am so tired of Zinfandel."

- - - - -

A minister parked his car in a No Parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. So he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES.

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note. I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION.

- - - - -

A father was told by his proud young son: "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you *know* what it means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father. "So, Son, what does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy. It stands for Basic Information Before Leaving Earth."

- - - - -

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign: Energy efficient vehicle. Runs on oats and grass. *Caution: Do not step in exhaust.*

\* \* \*

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of the minister.

Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump. "Reverend," said the young man, sorry about the delay. "It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip."

The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean; same in my business."

Somebody has well said that there are only 2 kinds of people in world: those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord - and those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

- - - - -  
If you could get religion like a Baptist,  
Experience it like a Methodist,  
Be loyal to it like a Catholic,  
Sacrifice for it like a Jew,  
Be proud of it like an Episcopalian,  
and enjoy it like a Holiness ... What a great religion you'd have!

Especially if you could go to heaven automatically, like a Presbyterian!

- - - - -  
A priest and pastor from a local parish are standing by the side of the road holding a sign that reads, "The End is Near! Turn yourself around now before it's too late!"

"Leave us alone you religious nuts!" yelled the first driver as he sped by.

From around the curve they heard screeching tires and a big splash.

"Do you think," said 1 clergyman, "we should just put up, 'Bridge Out' instead?"

### God's Gifts To Adam

One day The Lord spoke to Adam. "I've got good news and bad news."

Adam looked at The Lord and replied, "Well, give me the good news first."

Smiling, The Lord explained, "I've got 2 new organs for you, one called a brain, which will allow you to create new things, solve problems, and have intelligent conversations with Eve. The other organ I have for you is called a penis - it will give you great physical pleasure and allow you to reproduce your now intelligent life form and populate this planet. Eve will be very happy that you now have this organ to give her children."

Adam, very excited, exclaimed, "These are great gifts you have given to me. What could possibly be bad news after such great tidings?"

The Lord looked upon Adam and said with great sorrow, "You will never be able to use these two gifts at the same time."

- - - - -  
A parson got up 1 Sunday and announced to his Congregation: I have good news and bad news.

The good news is: we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets.

- - - - -  
My problem lies with reconciling my gross habits with my net income. --Errol Flynn

- - - - -

*Moses and his flock arrive at the sea, with the Egyptians in hot pursuit. Moses calls a staff meeting.*

Moses: Well, how are we going to get across the sea? We need a fast solution. The Egyptians are close behind us.

The General of the Armies: Normally, I'd recommend building a pontoon bridge to carry us across. But there's not enough time - the Egyptians are too close.

The Admiral of the Navy: Normally, I'd recommend building barges to carry us across. But time is too short.

Moses: Does anyone have a solution?

Just then, his Public Relations man raises his hand.

Moses: You! You have a solution?

The PR Man: No, but I can promise you this: If you can find a way out of this one, I can get you 2 or 3 pages in the Old Testament!

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### **To consider for the Holiday season: IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS?**

*As a result of an overwhelming lack of requests, and with research help from that renowned scientific journal SPY magazine (January 1990) - I am pleased to present the annual scientific inquiry into Santa Claus:*

1) No known species of reindeer can fly. BUT there are 300,000 species of living organisms yet to be classified, and while most of these are insects & germs, this does not COMPLETELY rule out flying reindeer, which only Santa has ever seen.

2) There are 2 billion children (persons under 18) in the world. BUT since Santa doesn't (appear to) handle the Muslim, Hindu, Jewish & Buddhist children, that reduces the workload to 15% of the total - 378 million according to Population Reference Bureau. At an average (census) rate of 3.5 children per household, that's 91.8 million homes. One presumes there's at least one good child in each.

3) Santa has 31 hours of Christmas to work with, thanks to different time zones & the earth's rotation, assuming he travels east to west (which seems logical). This works out to 822.6 visits per second. So, for each Christian household with good children, Santa has 1/1000th of a second to park, hop out of the sleigh, jump down the chimney, fill the stockings, distribute the remaining presents under the tree, eat whatever snacks have been left, get back up the chimney, get back into the sleigh and move on to the next house. Assuming that each of these 91.8 million stops are evenly distributed around the earth (which, of course, we know to be false but for the purposes of our calculations we will accept), we are now talking about .78 miles per household, a total trip of 75-1/2 million miles, not counting stops to do what most of us must do at least once every 31 hours, plus feeding etc. This means that Santa's sleigh is moving at 650 miles per second, 3,000 times the speed of sound. For purposes of comparison, the fastest man-made vehicle on earth, the Ulysses space probe, moves at a poky 27.4 miles per second - a conventional reindeer can run, tops, 15 miles per hour.

4) The sleigh payload adds another interesting element. Assuming each child gets nothing more than a medium-sized lego set (2 pounds), the sleigh is carrying 321,300 tons, not counting Santa, who is invariably described as overweight. On land, conventional reindeer can pull no more than 300 pounds. Even granting that "flying reindeer" (see point #1) could pull TEN TIMES the normal amount, we cannot do the job with eight, or even nine. We need 214,200 reindeer. This increases the payload - not even counting the weight of the sleigh - to 353,430 tons. Again, for comparison, this is 4 times the weight of the Queen Elizabeth Ocean Liner.

5) 353,000 tons traveling at 650 miles/second creates enormous air resistance - this will heat the reindeer up in the same fashion as a spacecraft re-entering the earth's atmosphere. The lead pair will absorb 14.3 QUINTILLION joules of energy. Per second! Each. In short, they'll burst into flame almost instantaneously, exposing the reindeer behind them, and create deafening sonic booms in their wake. The entire reindeer team will be vaporized within 4.26 thousandths of a second. Santa, meanwhile, will be subjected to centrifugal forces 17,500.06 times greater than gravity. A 250-pound Santa (which seems ludicrously slim) would be pinned to the back of his sleigh by 4,315,015 pounds of force.

In conclusion - If Santa ever DID deliver presents on Christmas Eve, he's dead now.

**BUT ISN'T FAITH WONDERFUL!**

**GOD'S TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE - 7-4-4004 B.C.**

God would like to thank you for your belief and patronage. In order to better serve your needs, He asks you to take a few moments to answer the following:

(Please keep in mind that your responses will be kept completely confidential, and that you need not disclose your name or address unless you prefer a direct response to comments or suggestions)

1. How did you find out about God?

- Newspaper
- Television
- Word of mouth
- Tabloid
- Bible
- Torah
- Other Book
- Divine Inspiration
- Near Death Experience
- Burning Shrubbery
- Other (specify):

2. Which model God did you acquire?

- Yoweh
- Jehovah
- Alah
- God
- G\_d
- Father, Son & Holy Ghost
- Jesus
- Satan
- None of the above, I was taken in by a false god

3. Did your God come to you undamaged, with all parts in good working order and with no obvious breakage or missing attributes?

- Yes
- No

(If no, please describe the problems you initially encountered here:) \_\_\_\_\_

4. What factors were relevant in your decision to acquire a god?

(Please check all that apply)

- Indoctrinated by parents
- Indoctrinated by society
- Imaginary friend grew up
- Wanted to meet girls/boys
- Wanted to piss off parents
- Desperate need for certainty
- Need to feel Morally Superior
- Needed a reason to live
- Needed focus in who to despise
- Hate to think for myself
- Fear of death
- Needed a day away from work
- Like Organ Music
- My shrubbery caught fire

5. Have you ever worshipped a God before? If so, which false god were you fooled by?  
 (Please check all that apply)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Odin             | <input type="checkbox"/> Cthulhu              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zeus             | <input type="checkbox"/> The Almighty Dollar  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appolo           | <input type="checkbox"/> Left Wing Liberalism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ra               | <input type="checkbox"/> Barney T.B.P.D.      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The great Spirit | <input type="checkbox"/> The Great Pumpkin    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Sun          | <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Clinton         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Moon         | <input type="checkbox"/> A burning cabbage    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Bomb         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____         |

6. Are you currently using any other source of inspiration in addition to God?  
 (Please check all that apply)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tarot                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Lottery                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Astrology               | <input type="checkbox"/> Television                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fortune cookies         | <input type="checkbox"/> Ann Landers                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psychic Friends Network | <input type="checkbox"/> Dianetics                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Palmistry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Playboy and/or Playgirl      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self-help books         | <input type="checkbox"/> Sex, Drugs and Rock and Roll |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biorythms               | <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Clinton                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tea Leaves              | <input type="checkbox"/> EST                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mantras                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jimmy Swaggert               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crystals                | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Sacrifice              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pyramids                | <input type="checkbox"/> Wandering around a desert    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance policies      | <input type="checkbox"/> Burning Shrubbery            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barney T.B.P.D.         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barney Fife             | <input type="checkbox"/> None                         |

7. God employs a limited degree of Divine Intervention to preserve the balanced level of felt presence and blind faith. Which would you prefer (circle one)?

- More Divine Intervention
- Less Divine Intervention
- Current level of Divine Intervention is just right
- Don't know ... what's Divine Intervention?

8. God also attempts to maintain a balanced level of disasters and miracles. Please rate on a scale of 1-5 His handling of the following:

(1=unsatisfactory, 5=excellent):

a. Disasters

- |             |   |   |   |   |       |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|-------|
| floods      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5     |
| famine      |   |   | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 |
| earthquakes | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5     |
| war         |   |   | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 |
| pestilence  |   |   | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 |
| plagues     |   |   | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 |
| SPAM        |   |   | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 |
| AOL         |   |   | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 |

b. Miracles

rescues	1	2	3	4	5
spontaneous remissions	1	2	3	4	5
stars hovering over towns	1	2	3	4	5
crying statues	1	2	3	4	5
water changing to wine	1	2	3	4	5
walking on water (other than the Hudson)	1	2	3	4	5
talking flaming shrubbery	1	2	3	4	5
VCRs that set their own clocks	1	2	3	4	5
Sadam Husein still alive	1	2	3	4	5
Cubs winning the Series	1	2	3	4	5
Clinton's re-election	1	2	3	4	5

9. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions for improving the quality of God's services? (Attach additional sheet if necessary):

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Thank you!

**God's Total Quality Management Questionnaire** *(another version)*

God would like to thank you for your belief and patronage. In order to better serve your needs, He asks that you take a few moments to answer the following questions. Please keep in mind that your responses will be kept completely confidential, and that you need not disclose your name or address unless you prefer a direct response to comments or suggestions (just your name, please - I know where you live!).

1. How did you find out about your Deity?

- Newspaper  Bible  Torah  Book of Mormon  Koran  
 Divine inspiration  Dead Sea Scrolls  My mama done tol' me  
 Near-death experience  Near-life experience  National Public Radio  
 Tabloid  Burning shrubbery  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

2. Which model Deity did you acquire?

- Yahweh  Father, Son & Holy Ghost [Trinity Pac]  Jehovah  Jesus  
 Krishna  Allah  Satan  Zeus & entourage [Olympus Pac]  
 Odin & entourage [Valhalla Pac]  Gaia/Mother Earth/Mother Nature  
 God 1.0a (hairy thunderer)  God 1.0b (cosmic muffin)  
 None of the above OR I was taken in by a false god

3. Did your God come to you undamaged, with all parts in good working order and with no obvious breakage or missing attributes?  Yes  No

If no, please describe the problems you initially encountered here. Please indicate all that apply:

- Not eternal  Not omnipotent  Not omniscient  
 Not infinitely plastic (incapable of being all things to all creations)  
 Permits sex outside of marriage  Prohibits sex outside of marriage  
 Makes mistakes (Geraldo Rivera, Jesse Helms)

- Makes or permits bad things to happen to good people.
- When beseeched, doesn't stay beseeched  Plays dice with the universe
- Requires burnt offerings  Requires virgin sacrifices
- Finite in space/Does not occupy or inhabit the entire cosmos
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

4. What factors were relevant in your decision to acquire a Deity? Please check all that apply.

- Indoctrinated by parents  Needed a reason to live
- Indoctrinated by society  Needed focus in whom to despise
- Imaginary friend grew up  Graduated from the tooth fairy
- Wanted to know Jesus in the Biblical sense
- Hate to think for myself  Wanted to meet girls/boys  Fear of death
- Wanted to piss off parents  Needed a day away from work
- Desperate need for certainty  Like organ music
- Need to feel morally superior  Thought Jerry Falwell was cool
- My shrubbery caught fire and told me to do it

5. Have you ever worshipped a Deity before? If so, which false god were you fooled by? Please check all that apply.

- Mick Jagger  Rajanish  Baal  The almighty dollar  Bill Gates
- Left-wing liberalism  The radical right  Ra  Beelzebub
- Barney  The Great Spirit  The Great Pumpkin  The sun
- The moon  Cindy Crawford  Elvis  TV news
- Burning shrubbery  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Are you currently using any other source of inspiration in addition to God? Please check all that apply.

- Tarot  Lottery  Astrology  Television  Fortune cookies
- Ann Landers  Barney  Barney Fife  Burning shrubbery  Dianetics
- Palmistry  Psychic Friends Network  Biorhythms  Alcohol  EST
- Bill Clinton  Tea leaves  CompuServe  Crystals  Pyramids
- Wandering in a desert  Human sacrifice  Mantras  Self-help books
- Sex, drugs  Playboy and/or Playgirl OR rock and roll
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

7. God employs a limited degree of divine intervention to preserve the balanced level of felt presence & blind faith. Which would you prefer (circle one)?

- a. More divine intervention
- b. Less divine intervention
- c. Current level of divine intervention is just right
- d. Don't know...what's divine intervention?

8. God also attempts to maintain a balanced level of disasters and miracles.

Please rate (on a scale of 1 - 5) his handling of the following:

(1=unsatisfactory, 5=excellent):

Disasters:

flood	1	2	3	4	5
famine	1	2	3	4	5

earthquake			1	2	3	4	5
war	1	2	3	4	5		
pestilence			1	2	3	4	5
plague			1	2	3	4	5
spam			1	2	3	4	5
AOL			1	2	3	4	5

Miracles:

rescues					1	2	3	4	5
spontaneous remissions					1	2	3	4	5
stars hovering over a stable					1	2	3	4	5
crying statues			1	2	3	4	5		
water changing to wine			1	2	3	4	5		
walking on water			1	2	3	4	5		
VCRs that set their own clocks			1	2	3	4	5		
Saddam Hussein still alive			1	2	3	4	5		
getting any sex whatsoever			1	2	3	4	5		

9. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions for improving the quality of God's services? (Attach an additional sheet if necessary) If you are able to complete the questionnaire and return it to one of our conveniently located drop-off boxes by October 31, you will be entered in the One Free Miracle of Your Choice drawing (chances of winning are approximately one in  $6.023 \times 10$  to the 23d power, depending on number of beings who enter).

**HOW TO SURVIVE EVEN THE DULLEST SERMON**

1. Pass a note to the organist/pianist asking whether he or she plays requests.
2. See if a yawn really is contagious.
3. Slap your neighbor. See if they turn the other cheek. If not, raise your hand and tell the pastor.
4. Devise ways of changing the sanctuary light bulbs without using a ladder.
5. Sit in the back row and roll a handful of marbles under the pews ahead of you. After the service, credit yourself with 10 points for every marble that made it to the front, 15 if you tripped an usher & 30 if you tripped the preacher.
6. By unobtrusively drawing your arms up into your sleeves, turn your shirt around backwards.
7. Start from the back of the church and try to crawl all the way to the front under the pews without being noticed.
8. Try to raise one eyebrow.
9. Get the preacher's attention and try motioning that he or she has something between his or her teeth.
10. Using church bulletins or prayer cards for raw materials, practice your origami.

A 16 year old was approaching his birthday and was trying to talk his dad into buying him a Lexus. It wasn't working. So he went to a Franciscan and asked "Father would you say a novena so my dad will get me a Lexus. He can afford it." The Franciscan asked, "What is a Lexus?" The young man explained it was a luxury car. "I'm sorry but I can't pray for that."

Next he went to a Dominican and asked: "Father would you say a novena so my dad will get me a Lexus. He can afford it." The Dominican asked, "What is a Lexus?" The young man explained it was a luxury car. "I'm sorry but I can't pray for that."

Finally he went to a Jesuit and asked: "Father would you say a novena so my dad will get me a Lexus. He can afford it." The Jesuit asked, "What's a novena?"

It has been said that Adam and Eve had the perfect marriage - because he didn't have to hear about all the men she could have married and she didn't have to hear about the way his mother cooked!

A woman, 60ish, was walking in the woods when a booming voice from above said, 'You are going to live to 100.' Stunned, she looked about but could see no one. Again, the voice said, 'You are going to live to 100.'

'This must be God speaking,' she thought to herself. Immediately, she plans to have a facelift and all the nips and tucks that go along with a facelift, simply because she was going to live another 40 years, and she wanted to be as attractive as possible.

So she goes to a plastic surgeon and he does an excellent job for her. As she was leaving the hospital, after a few days recuperation, she crosses the street, is hit by a bus, and dies.

When she comes face to face with God, she says, "You told me I was going to live to be 100, so I got myself ready to live another 40 years, but I get hit by a bus, and here I am. Why?"

"I didn't recognize you," replies God.

### **YOU VISITED THE WRONG CHURCH ON SUMMER VACATION...**

- 10 The sanctuary has only entrances, no "exits"!
- 9 The offering plate is passed 3 times and the sermon hasn't even begun yet.
- 8 The ushers look mysteriously like "Men in Black"!
- 7 The people in the pew next to you brought a sack lunch.
- 6 The bulletin had advertisements for THE GUNS AND GUTS TAVERN with the the Sunday ROAD KILL Buffet!
- 5 The acolyte is the youngest member of the congregation, and she is 78.
- 4 The pastor's sermon begins: "Let me tell you about my book."
- 3 The pastor announces that the liturgy will be sung to the tune of either:  
"Wagner's Etude in F sharp minor and raises his baton" OR "Jesus is a friend just like my pickup and hound dog"
- 2 The pastor announces that the sanctuary's too warm for robes and removes hers, and she is wearing a halter top and hot pants.
- 1 When the choir sings the dogs outside begin to howl, and they sound better!

### **Top Ways the Bible Would Be Written ... By College Students**

11. The Last Supper would have been eaten the next morning: cold !
10. 10 Commandments are actually only 5, double-spaced & written in a large font.
9. New edition every two years in order to limit reselling.
8. Forbidden fruit would have been eaten because it wasn't dorm food.
7. Paul's Letter to the Romans becomes Paul's E-Mail To: abuse@romans.gov
6. Reason Cain killed Abel: They were roommates.
5. The place where the end of the world occurs: Finals, not Armageddon.
4. Out go the mules; in come the mountain bikes.
3. Reason why Moses and followers walked in desert for 40 years: They didn't

want to ask directions and look like Freshmen.

2. Tower of Babel blamed for Foreign Language requirement.

1. Instead of God creating the world in 6 days & resting on the 7th, He would have put it off until the night before it was due & then pulled an all-nighter.

### JESUS AND THE ELVES

And Joseph went up from Galilee to Bethlehem with Mary, his espoused wife, who was great with child. And she brought forth a son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn. And the angel of the Lord spoke to the shepherds and said, "I bring you tidings of great joy. Unto you is born a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

"There's a problem with the angel," said a Pharisee who happened to be strolling by. As he explained to Joseph, angels are widely regarded as religious symbols, and the stable was on public property where such symbols were not allowed to land or even hover.

"And I have to tell you, this whole thing looks to me very much like a Nativity scene," he said sadly. "That's a no-no, too." Joseph had a bright idea. "What if I put a couple of reindeer over there near the ox and ass?" he said, eager to avoid sectarian strife.

"That would definitely help," said the Pharisee, who knew as well as anyone that whenever a savior appeared, judges usually liked to be on the safe side and surround it with deer or woodland creatures of some sort. "Just to clinch it, throw in a candy cane and a couple of elves and snowmen, too," he said. "No court can resist that."

Mary asked, "What does my son's birth have to do with snowmen?"

"Snowpersons," cried a young woman, changing the subject before it veered dangerously toward religion. Off to the side of the crowd, a Philistine was painting the Nativity scene. Mary complained that she and Joseph looked too tattered and worn in the picture. "Artistic license," he said. "I've got to show the plight of the haggard homeless in a greedy, uncaring society in winter." "We're not haggard or homeless. The inn was just full," said Mary. "Whatever," said the painter.

Two women began to argue fiercely. One said she objected to Jesus' birth "because it privileged motherhood." The other scoffed at virgin births, but said that if they encouraged more attention to diversity in family forms and the rights of single mothers, well, then, she was all for them. "I'm not a single mother," Mary started to say, but she was cut off by a third woman who insisted that swaddling clothes are a form of child abuse, since they restrict the natural movement of babies.

With the arrival of 10 child advocates, all trained to spot infant abuse and manger rash, Mary and Joseph were pushed to the edge of the crowd, where arguments were breaking out over how many reindeer (or mix of reindeer and seasonal sprites) had to be installed to compensate for the infant's unfortunate religious character.

An older man bustled up, bowling over two merchants, who had been busy debating whether an elf is the same as a fairy and whether the elf/fairy should be shaking hands with Jesus in the crib or merely standing to the side, jumping around like a sports mascot. "I'd hold off on the reindeer," the man said, explaining that the use of asses and oxen as picturesque backdrops for Nativity scenes carries the subliminal message of human dominance. He passed out two leaflets, one denouncing manger births as invasions of animal space, the other arguing that stables are "penned environments" where animals are incarcerated against their will. He had no opinion about elves or candy canes.

Signs declaring: "Free the Bethlehem 2" began to appear, referring to the obviously exploited ass and ox. Someone said the halo on Jesus' head was elitist. Mary was exasperated. "And what about you, old mother?" she said sharply to an elderly woman. "Are

you here to attack the shepherds as prison guards for excluded species, maybe to complain that singing in Latin identifies us with our Roman oppressors, or just to say that I should have skipped patriarchal religiosity and joined some dumb new-age goddess religion?"

"None of the above," said the woman, "I just wanted to tell you that the Magi are here." Sure enough, the three wise men rode up. The crowd gasped, "They're all male!" And "Not very multicultural!" "Balthasar here is black," said one of the Magi. "Yes, but how many of you are gay or disabled?" someone shouted. A committee was quickly formed to find an impoverished lesbian wise-person among the halt and lame of Bethlehem.

A calm voice said, "Be of good cheer, Mary, you have done well and your son will change the world." At last, a sane person, Mary thought. She turned to see a radiant and confident female face. The woman spoke again: "There is one thing, though. Religious holidays are important, but can't we learn to celebrate them in ways that unite, not divide? For instance, instead of all this business about 'Gloria in excelsis Deo,' why not just 'Season's Greetings'?"

Mary said, "You mean my son has entered human history to deliver the message, 'Hello, it's winter'?" "That's harsh, Mary," said the woman. "Remember, your son could make it big in midwinter festivals, if he doesn't push the religion thing too far. Centuries from now, in nations yet unborn, people will give each other pricey gifts and have big office parties on his birthday. That's not chopped liver."

"Let me get back to you," Mary said.

A MAN HATED A BISHOP AND DETERMINED TO SHOOT HIM – HE DID IN THE HEAD, BUT THE BISHOP HAD NO BRAIN, SO HE DIDN'T DIE. THEN HE SHOT HIM THROUGH THE HEART, BUT AGAIN HE DIDN'T DIE, BECAUSE HE HAD NO HEART. SO HE FINALLY SHOT HIM THRU THE MITER AND THE BISHOP DROPPED DEAD!

MOST JESUITS ARE NICE GUYS, BUT I WOULDN'T WANT MY DAUGHTER TO MARRY ONE.

YOU CAN ALWAYS TELL A JESUIT - BUT YOU CAN'T TELL HIM MUCH.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TERRORISTS & LITURGISTS? YOU CAN NEGOTIATE WITH A TERRORIST.

PRIEST HAS SICK CALL DURING ROSARY, GETS SEXTON TO CONTINUE ... 35TH MYSTERY: MARY MAGDALENE STABS PONTIUS PILATE IN THE BACK!

PRIEST GIVES PENANCE TO FALLEN-AWAY: ANGELUS ... PENITENT IN PEW WITH HEAD DOWN SAYING: "BONG, BONG, BONG..."

PASTOR INTONES: "I'M THE PASTOR & I ONLY MAKE \$800/MONTH" ... ASSOCIATE: "I'M THE ASSOCIATE & I ONLY MAKE \$650/MONTH" ... VOICE FROM CHOIR LOFT: "I'M THE ORGANIST & I MAKE \$2000/MONTH" ... THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS..."

SEM SCRIPTURE PROF CHARACTERIZED GRADUATING CLASS: JOHN 11:35 ... THEY LOOKED IT UP: "AND JESUS WEPT"

MOUNTAIN CLIMBER FALLS OVER THE EDGE & IS CLING DESPARATELY TO A SMALL TREE ... IS ANYBODY ELSE UP THERE?

GUSSIE BUSCH ASKS POPE FOR "GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BUD" - BAD NEWS: WE'LL LOSE THE PILLSBURY ACCOUNT!

PRIEST ATTENDS A DEAF CONVENTION ... UNACCUSTOMED AS I AM...

Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) with his incredible wit said, "It ain't those parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me - it's the parts that I do understand."

Father O'Malley answers the phone: "Hello, is this Father O'Malley?"

"It is."

"This is the IRS. Can you help us?"

"I can."

"Do you know a Ted Houlihan?"

"I do."

"Is he a member of your congregation?"

"He is."

"Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?"

"He will."

A little girl was sitting with her grandfather as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She'd then touch her cheek, then touch his again.

Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered. "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," she paused. "Grandpa, did God make me too?"

"Yes indeed, honey," he said. "God made you just a little while ago."

Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

### **Church Hymns for the over 50 crowd**

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