



Volume 1, Number 7

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## ~~The Curse~~ BLESSING of the Morning

Some days I cannot help but visualize Jesus like this cat. The kinds of things I do sometimes must have Him asking, "Why me?"

Granted, like the baby in the picture, some things I do out of ignorance. There is much still waiting for me to learn about living a Kingdom life.

Yet how many times a day do I test His patience with my antics?

My first expressions almost every morning are ones of dismay and disgust at the sound of the morning alarm clock. I tend to start my day with the desire to take a sledge hammer to the very device I depend on to get me started--one which I, myself, set up to do that very thing.

I am definitely not keeping Jesus centermost in my mind when I discover we are out of toilet paper or the internet is not working or the bread for my toast is sporting a green beard. By the time I leave the house for work, I have piled up enough complaints to make Fred Sanford look like



Mother Teresa.

And don't even ask what I am like behind the wheel. I become irritable when someone is in front of me and won't move, when someone is following too closely, when a bike rider or pedestrian crosses unexpectedly or when stoplights seem to stay on red forever.

By the time I arrive at my office, I have so lost sight of the new day's blessing that it's a wonder anyone wants to be around me.

Maybe they don't!

I really have no desire at all to vex the Lord and I need to work harder at greeting the new day with "Yes, Lord!" rather than. "Oh, rats!"

Am I alone or do I have company? How many of us need to re-direct our mornings to a time of joy and anticipation?

I am going to make it my goal to get a lot more out of the morning while making sure Jesus gets a lot less of what I have been troweling out.

## In the News

From the *UK Daily News* in London, England:

### **36 YEAR OLD WOMAN GIVES UP ON MEN AND MARRIES HERSELF**

At the wedding ceremony, she read vows that said she would “enjoy inhabiting my own life and to relish a lifelong love affair with my beautiful self” and presented herself with a ring and invited all guests to “blow kisses to the whole world”.

*I hope she has a prenuptial agreement in case she splits up with herself.*

From the *Tri-Town Transcript* in Boxford, Massachusetts:

Boxford police Lt. James Riter says he was responding to a call about loose cows on Sunday and spotted them in a front yard. Riter says the herd high-tailed it for the backyard and then he heard screaming. When he ran back there he saw the cows had chased off some young adults and were drinking their beers.

*The cows were miffed--no Red Bull!*



*Who says the younger generations don't have any use for their elders?*

### **SIGNS AND WONDERS:**



*There's a reason why their biggest-selling item is called a slider.*



*You know, between the two, I don't think I'd sweat the fine.*



*Where's Batman when you need him?*



## Say WHAT?

Each issue will feature a look at terms which may or may not be familiar in the areas of urban slang, common tech phrases and well-known idioms.

### URBAN SLANG:

#### “SPLENDA DADDY”

A man who strives to be a Sugar Daddy but just doesn't have the funds to pull it off. See also “Deem, Roger.”

### TECH TALK:

#### “TMI”

Translated as “Too Much Information,” commonly used when someone has shared very personal information that makes the listener feel uncomfortable.

### EVERYDAY PHRASE:

#### “A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME”

Meaning: Something told by an unrevealed source.

Origin: Various authors over the centuries, including Shakespeare, have made reference to birds giving messages. The first that comes close to our current version of this phrase is Frederick Marryat, in *Peter Simple*, 1833: "A little bird has whispered a secret to me."

## Hoof in Mouth Dept.

Every issue will feature a few typos - bloopers from the published word we have come across. This month I thought I would share a few comments that came across my Facebook page. The names are excised to protect me from the guilty!



- “Going to the mail this afternoon with my friends.”
- “I hate the heat. I wish it were summer.”
- “My wife thinks she’s more awesome than me but she’s not. I’m the winner in this family.”
- “I’m not talking to you. Call me.”

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## Bottoms Up!

Submitted by Rick “The Rickmeister” Morris

An oxymoron is an apparent contradiction. Here are some common examples of oxymoronic expressions:

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| act naturally     | random order          |
| original copy     | conspicuous absence   |
| found missing     | alone together        |
| criminal justice  | old news              |
| peace force       | even odds             |
| awful good        | student teacher       |
| deafening silence | definite possibility  |
| definite maybe    | terribly pleased      |
| ill health        | turn up missing       |
| jumbo shrimp      | loose tights          |
| small crowd       | clearly misunderstood |

*My personal favorite: military intelligence.*

## Tales From the Inbox

My favorite joke and story from the multitude of last month's e-mails:

### Rounding Down To The Nearest Child

This report came from a lady who works in a call center in The Netherlands that answers calls from people whose cars have broken down in foreign countries. One of the questions they are always supposed to ask is how many people are in the car.

Call Center: "Are there any children in your car?"

Customer: "Yes, four children. One of the children is under four. Three are aged between four and twelve and one is older than twelve."

Call Center: "So you have five children, not four."

Customer: "No! Four children!"

Call Center: "But, you just mentioned five children."

Customer: "Don't you think I know how many kids I have?"

Customer: (to his wife) "Honey, how many kids do we have?"

Customer: "I'm sorry. You're right, I've got five children."

*The next sound you hear shall be the wife beating her husband with a wooden shoe.*

### A Whate of a Tale

There was a recent story in the *San Francisco Chronicle* about a female hump-back whale who had become entangled in a spider web of crab traps and lines.

She was weighted down by hundreds of pounds of traps that caused her to struggle to stay afloat. She also had hundreds of yards of line rope wrapped around her body, her tail, her torso and a line tugging in her mouth.

A fisherman spotted her just east of the Farallon Islands and radioed for help. Within a few hours, a rescue team arrived and determined the only way to save her was to dive in and untangle her.

They worked for hours and eventually freed her. When she was free, the divers say she swam in what seemed like joyous circles. She then came back to each and every diver, one at a time, and nudged them, pushed them gently around as if she was thanking them.

Some said it was the most incredibly beautiful experience of their lives. The guy who cut the rope out of her mouth said her eyes were following him the whole time, and he will never be the same.

*--From Jeremy Simpson*



# Begging the Question

This month's query (answer next month):

Try Googling this one: Who are the two men who played the character Harold Hill in *The Music Man* for the Jacksonville Theatre Guild in 1981 and 1997?



Last month's query:

What U.S. President had the nickname Old Kinderhook?

**ANSWER:** Martin Van Buren, who used to sign papers with his nickname's initials. This is where we got the phrase "O.K." First answer given by Chapin, Illinois' Martha Morris.

## ROGER'S HALL OF FAME

Saluting people who made a difference in my life.

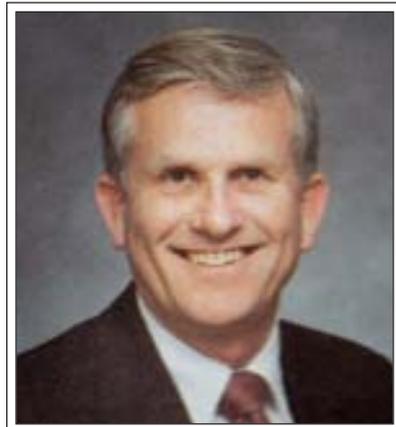
### *Rev. Ralph Nast*

My grandmother's pastor, I knew Ralph almost my entire life. He not only shared the Gospel with me, he lived it.

It was his words one Sunday morning that finally brought me to the acceptance of personal salvation.

But even more than that, he was the first minister to open up to me as a person, letting his human qualities show. I learned to appreciate the burdens carried by professional men and women of God.

Ralph was a dear, funny man whose insight and wisdom have served me well. Rest in peace, beloved friend.



# PHOTOSHOP TILL YOU DROP

In each addition I will feature an image which has been altered through the use of the Photoshop program. Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to identify how the picture has been changed. Answer in the next issue.

## *Last Month:*



*On the left - my creation with the wrong number. Albert was #5 as a Cardinal. First to guess correctly was Susan Berry of Monroe, Michigan.*

## *This Month:*



*What is wrong in this picture of the five living presidents? Other than the fact that Jimmy Carter is out of place at the far right?*

## End of Document Stuff No One Ever Reads

*The Help Desk* is published electronically once a month for the first 12 months of the year. It is distributed via e-mail free of charge to everyone with a genuine desire to increase their e-mail account spam levels.

Story/photo contributions are encouraged with appropriate credit given. Financial donations not accepted to eliminate the possibility of higher taxation. Any resemblance to real persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental. Except in cases where they are not.

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