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Forgiveness blesses both ways

Forgiveness is such an elusive puppy. It is human nature to become crabby when someone does something to us that we perceive as a wrong.

Just as each of us has experienced vexation caused by the actions of others, we've all said or done things that have raised someone else's dander. As the Bible says, there are NONE righteous.

As Christians we are called to be forgiving. Yet sometimes that is easier done than said.

SAYING "I forgive you" is a walk in the park compared to actually getting over the hurt inwardly. Far too often it turns out that truly getting past an episode is more like a walk in Jurassic Park.

We think we have forgiven someone and yet every time that person's name is mentioned, our blood begins to boil and we tent to begin frothing at the mouth, spitting venom at the other party.



It kind of becomes, "I forgive you, but I'd still like to do a Riverdance on your skull."

It takes more than just mouthing the words to reach a point of true forgiveness.

I read in a recent morning devotional some very wise words which now help me immediately identify when I still have the grudge stew simmering in my spirit. The author said that you know the forgiveness is real when you can talk about the person or the incident with anger or bitterness in your voice. When you can discuss the past with

calmness and tranquility, then what's past IS past.

Actress Carrie Fisher really hit the nail on the head with this fabulous quote: "Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and then waiting for the other person to die."

I need to be more forgiving--if Jesus can do it while hanging on the cross, what excuse do I have?

In the News

From the *Associated Press*:

INMATES TO TEST NEW LOCKS AT ATLANTA CITY JAIL

They should have called Otis Campbell from Mayberry.

From *Ria Novosty*, a Russian state news agency:

A cat in Russia is aiming for a seat in the legislature of the country's fourth-biggest city.

"He'd definitely win the vote," said Ivan Kolotovkin, a spokesman for the three-month-old Bublik. "He's neither left nor right, and will never be affiliated with any party."

Look out--Bublik's campaign has gone negative - the claws are out.

From the *Journal-Courier* in Jacksonville, Illinois: A resident in the 300 block of West State Street reported about 7:20 a.m. Monday that he believed someone had taken several T-shirts from his bedroom closet because "he has more free hangers than he normally has," a police report said.

At least there's one man in town who doesn't have as many hang-ups as I do.



SIGNS AND WONDERS:

This month our selections come from the website engrish.com which provides many examples of how our language can be misinterpreted for Oriental consumers.

醋猪手	Jiangcu trotter
式脆皮大肠	Beijing style Crispy colon 
姜凤爪	Ginger Chicken Feet
德鱼滑煎酿三宝	Three of a Kind Shunde slippery fish
椒西芹藕片	Slippery pig red paper fish chives

Dear, I'm dieting. Can we get grilled instead of crispy this time?



Ah, who needs to push a button anyway?



Soylent Green for the new millennium!



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:

“FLOORDROBE”

A form of storage for clothing which requires no hangers, drawers, doors or effort. Simply drop on the floor and you have a floordrobe.

TECH TALK:

“BFF”

Means “Best Friends Forever.” Very popular, especially among young ladies.

EVERYDAY PHRASE:

“THE LION’S SHARE”

Meaning: The first or largest share of something.

Origin: First defined in the Aesop fable *Phaedrus*. It begins with the reflection that "Partnership with the mighty is never trustworthy". It then relates how a cow, a goat and a sheep go hunting together with a lion. When it comes to dividing the spoil, the lion says, "I take the first portion because of my title, since I am addressed as king."

Hoof in Mouth Dept.

Every issue will feature a few typos - bloopers from the published word we have come across. This month we will look at various menu bloopers:

- “Honey-Mustard Chicken Diapers with dipping sauce.”

Not even on the kid’s menu.

- From the dessert section: “Chocolate Moose Cake.”

None for me--I filled up on those chicken diapers.



- “Battered Dip Fish.”

Beaten up right on the premises.

- From the side orders section: “Harsh Browns.”

Designed to accompany a plate full of Chicken Diapers.

- A Chinese restaurant had a sign up last year: “We close by Thanksgiving.”

Due to dwindling local cat population.



Education could use a bit more funding.

Tales From the Inbox

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

It's so HOT in Illinois.....

.....the birds have to use potholders to pull the worms out of the ground.

.....the trees are whistling for the dogs.

.....the best parking place is determined by shade instead of distance.

.....hot water comes from both taps.

.....you can make sun tea instantly.

.....you learn that a seat belt buckle makes a pretty good branding iron.

.....the temperature drops below 90 F and you feel a little chilly.

.....you discover that in July it only takes two fingers to steer your car.

.....you discover you can get sunburned through your car window.

.....you actually burn your hand opening the car door.

.....you break into a sweat the instant you step outside at 7:30 a.m.

.....your biggest motorcycle wreck fear is, "What if I get knocked out and end up lying on the pavement and cook to death?"

.....you realize asphalt has a liquid stage.

.....the potatoes cook underground, so all you have to do is pull one out and add butter.

.....the cows are giving evaporated milk.

.....farmers are feeding their chickens crushed ice so they won't lay boiled eggs .

.....the Baptists are starting to baptize by sprinkling, the Lutherans are using wet-wipes, the Presbyterians are giving rain checks and the Catholics are praying for the wine to turn back into water!

--Sent by Ruth Adams

The Apples of His Eye

A group of salesmen went to a sales convention in Chicago . As they rushed through the airport, one of the salesmen inadvertently kicked over a sales table full of apples. Apples flew everywhere. Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time... ALL BUT ONE!!!

He paused, took a deep breath and felt a twinge of compassion for the girl whose stand had been overturned. He told his buddies to go on without him. Then he returned to the terminal where the apples were all over the terminal floor. He was glad he did.

The 16-year-old girl was totally blind! She was softly crying and helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the crowd swirled about her with no one stopping to help. The salesman knelt on the floor with her, gathered up the apples, put them back on the table and helped organize her display.

As he did this, he noticed that many of them had become battered and bruised; these he set aside in another basket. When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here, please take this \$40 for the damage we did. Are you okay?" She nodded through her tears.

As the salesman started to walk away, the blind girl called out to him, "Mister....Are you Jesus?"

He stopped in mid-stride. He gently went back and said, "No, I am nothing like Jesus - He is good, kind, caring, loving, and would likely never have bumped into your display in the first place."

The girl gently nodded: "I only asked because I prayed for Jesus to help me gather the apples. He sent you to help me, so you are like Him - only He knows who will do His will. Thank you for hearing His call, Mister."

--From Greg Bergschneider

Begging the Question

This month's query (answer next month):

What was the name of the farm where Thomas and Nancy Lincoln settled where Abraham Lincoln was born?



Last month's query:

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

ANSWER: Bob Crowe (1981) and Harvey Mack (1997). First answer given by Keith Bradbury of Jacksonville, Illinois..

ROGER'S HALL OF FAME

Saluting people who made a difference in my life.

Joe Grojean

In 1969 I came under the hand of Joe Grojean, insurance guru and ex-Army tough guy who served as my Scoutmaster for the next six years. I, and just about every other kid in our troop, was scared to death of him!

It was he who took the sheltered, naive youth that I was and started him on the trail to being a person who cherishes traditional American values and doing the best one can at any given endeavor.

Yes, he was harsh but his edge was tempered with kindness and understanding. I salute you, Joe--you made a man out of me!



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:



The Capitol is almost 2 miles away from the White House and can't be seen from the Oval Office. Eagle-eyed Dave Cox of Bement, IL, caught it first.

This Month:



Something is wrong in this picture from the classic television show All in the Family. Can you spot the error?

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.

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