



Volume 1, Number 9

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Recalculating....

Failure stinks. It can be demoralizing, depressing and confidence busting.

There are people who claim failing is great because it helps one learn. That may be true but I still prefer to succeed.

The way I look at it, if you don't fail then you have already learned what you needed to know. The secret lies in properly preparing yourself for the challenges you face. As the old adage goes, those who fail to plan, plan to fail.

I personally have been dealing with perhaps the greatest epic fail of my life this year, a financial one. In the process of setting things right, We have learned much and have complete confidence that this is a road we will not travel again. If we have truly learned from this setback then that prophesy will be realized.

But for now we are in a season of rebuilding or, it the language of the Global



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Positioning System technology, recalculating.

I love this cartoon because it speaks truth. But unlike the car in the drawing which will be unable to correct its path, the Lord is adjusting our direction and better days are indeed ahead.

There are times in life when we come to the ultimate realization the path we are on will end badly. There truly is a point of no return but I have found that what may seem like

the end of the road is often just a detour because God is standing by faithfully with new directions that can bring us to a better destination. Of course, it's up to us to steer our lives as He directs.

So these days we are being forcefully recalculated. The way is difficult and more than a little embarrassing. But the Lord is faithful and we rest with confidence in His hands.

As Dr. Robert Schuller used to say, "Life's not fair but God is good."

Amen!

In the News

From the *Jefferson (Iowa) News*:

VOLUNTEERS SEARCH FOR OLD CIVIL WAR PLANES

I'm sure this was news to the Wright Brothers, both born after 1865.

From an unknown source posted on Facebook:

LOST: WHITE CAT, 17 years, same family. Last seen back of 113 Maple Street in dog's mouth headed towards country club grounds.

Better double up on the faith and love, folks because I don't see much hope.

From the *New York Daily Messenger*:

SCHOOLS WILL HAVE TO IMPROVE DROPOUT RATES

Really, folks, there's such a thing as too much ambition.

From the *Lehigh Valley (PA) Express-Times*:

HOMICIDE VICTIMS RARELY TALK TO POLICE

Maybe they would if they could get more National Enquirer money for their stories.

From the *White Plains (NY) Journal-News*:

15 PIT BULLS RESCUED; TWO ARRESTED

When will the police stop going after easy targets and do something about all the felonious poodles running around?

SIGNS AND WONDERS:



You can always tell when Jesus has been shopping before you.



So true!



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:

“MANSLANG”

An interpretation by a man of something said by a woman, usually done incorrectly.

TECH TALK:

“SWAK”

Time-honored acronym for “Sealed With A Kiss.”

EVERYDAY PHRASE:

“ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL”

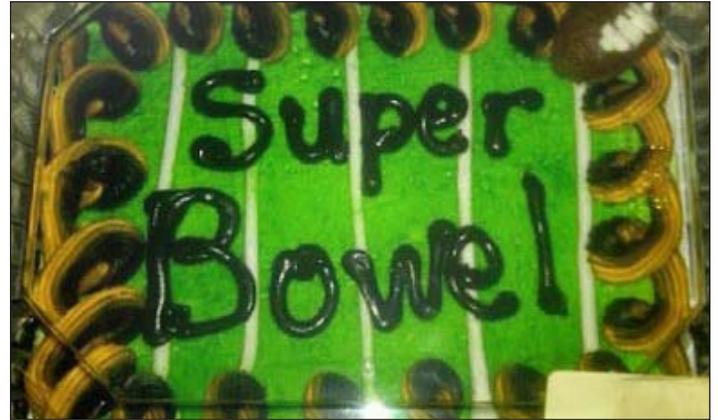
Meaning: A risky enterprise is justified so long as it turns out well in the end.

Origin: This is, of course, best known from the 1601 Shakespeare play of the same name, but it was a proverb years before it was a play title.

John Heywood included it in his work, *A dialogue conteinyng the nomber in effect of all the prouerbes in the Englishe tongue*, which he wrote in 1546.

Hoof in Mouth Dept.

Every issue will feature a few typos - bloopers from the published word we have come across.



Specialty cake orders sometimes go awry, especially when taken over the phone as seen above and below.



Brandi Passante from Storage Wars says Jarrod does not spell check worth squat.

Tales From the Inbox

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

Bad Day in the Black Hills

A man arrives in Heaven appeared before St. Peter at the Pearly Gates.

St. Peter looks over his paperwork. The guy looks OK, but he wants to be sure. "Have you ever done anything of particular merit?" St. Peter asks.

"Well, I can think of one thing," the man replies. "On a trip to the Black Hills out in South Dakota, I came upon a gang of high-testosterone bikers threatening a young woman. I warned them to leave her alone."

"That's impressive," the gatekeeper says. "Then what happened?"

"Well, they wouldn't back off, so I approached the largest and most heavily tattooed biker and smacked him on the head, kicked his bike over, ripped out his nose ring and threw it on the ground. I yelled, 'Now back off, biker boy, or you'll answer to me!'"

"That's really brave," St. Peter said, clearly impressed. "But I don't have it in your paperwork. When did this happen?"

"Let's see," the man says, looking at his watch. "About a minute and a half ago."

--From jumbojoke.com

Believe it or not, I have not gotten one solitary joke via e-mail in August. What a boring month for my inbox!

This jumbojoke.com website has the usual mixture of not-too-bad to not-too-good jokes but it is always good for a diversion.

The Cost of a Quarter

Several years ago, a preacher from out-of-state accepted a call to a church in Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the bus. When he sat down, he discovered the driver had given him a quarter too much change.

As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet."

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door and then handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change."

The driver, with a smile, replied, "Aren't you the new preacher in town?"

"Yes," he replied.

"Well, I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday."

When the preacher stepped off the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, "Oh God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter."

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is a vivid example of how much people watch us as Christians, and will put us to the test.

--From Ron Price

Begging the Question

This month's query (answer next month):

Who was the last president of the United States who did not graduate from college?



Last month's query:

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

ANSWER: Sinking Springs Farm. First answer given by Eleanor Luebbert of Jacksonville, Illinois.

ROGER'S HALL OF FAME

Saluting people who made a difference in my life.

David Cox

If it is true that a person is defined by who he embraces as his friends, then I believe that speaks well for me because of Dave Cox.

For over 30 years, he has been my best friend through thick, thin and everything in between. He is a man of integrity, dedication and class, sometimes atypical traits for an individual who makes his living as an attorney!

A second son to my father and brother to me in every respect, Dave's example has made me a better person.



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:



Meathead, Gloria and Edith had left All in the Family before Diet Coke was introduced in 1982. First spotted by Dave Cox of Bement, IL.

This Month:



Something in this photo was never envisioned by Mt. Rushmore creator Gutzon Borglum. Do you know what it is?

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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