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My girlfriend asked me to stop singing "I'm a Believer" by The Monkees, because she found it annoying. At first I thought she was kidding. But then I saw her face.

Dad: I'm giving all your toys to the orphanage.
Kid: Why are you doing that?
Dad: So you won't get bored there.

I believe a lot of conflict in the Wild West could have been completely avoided...
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UNION BEDTIME STORY
 A Union President was sitting at his son's bedside getting ready to read him a bedtime story.
 He starts out, "Once upon a time and a half..."

WHY DID MOM MARRY DAD?
 Grade school children were asked the question, "Why did your mom marry your dad?"

These are some responses:

1. She got too old to do anything else with him.
2. My grandma says that mom didn't have her thinking cap on.
3. My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world, and Mom eats a lot!

Never be a prisoner of your past. It was just a lesson, not a life sentence.

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JANUARY 2019
Page 3
 Now in our 11th Year

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When we go out into the woods, and we look at trees, we see all these different trees. And some of them are bent, and some of them are straight, and some of them are evergreens, and some of them are whatever. And we look at the tree, and we allow it. We see why it is the way it is. We sort of understand that it didn't get enough light, and so it turned that way. And we don't get all emotional about it. We just allow it. We appreciate the tree.

The minute we get near humans, we lose all that. And we are constantly saying, "You are too this, or I'm too this." That judging mind comes in. And so I suggest we practice turning people into trees. Which means appreciating them just the way they are.

Remember, when we judge another, we do not define them, we define our self.

**Overheard between friends: What rhymes with orange.
No, it doesn't.**



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A very belligerent old man insisted on buying 1/2 head of lettuce. The very young produce assistant told him that they sell only whole heads of lettuce. The man persisted and asked to see the manager. The boy said he'd ask his manager about it. Walking into the back room, the boy said to his manager: "Some old coot wants to buy half a head of lettuce." As he finished his sentence, he turned to suddenly find the man standing right behind him, so quickly he added, "And this gentleman has kindly offered to buy the other half." The manager approved the deal, and the man went on his way. Later, the manager said to the boy, "I was impressed with the way you got yourself out of that situation earlier. We like people who think on their feet here. Where are you from, son?" "Canada, sir," the boy replied. "Well, why did you leave Canada?" the manager asked. The boy said, "Sir, there's nothing but loose women and hockey players up there." "Really?" said the manager. "My wife is from Canada." "Wow"" replied the boy. "Who'd she play for?"

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"Success is not defined by obtaining everything you want, but by appreciating everything you have."

GOT ANOTHER CONCEALED CARRY PISTOL YESTERDAY.

In the afternoon, I went over to the local Bass Pro Shop to get a small 9mm handgun for home/personal protection.

When I was ready to pay for the pistol and ammo, the cashier said, "Strip down, facing me."

Making a mental note to complain to the NRA about the gun control wackos running amok, I did just as she had instructed.

When the hysterical shrieking and alarms finally subsided, I found out she was referring to how I should place my credit card in the card reader!

As an intelligent senior citizen, I do not get flustered often. But this time, it took me a while to get my pants back on.

I've been asked to shop elsewhere in the future. They need to make their instructions to seniors a little more clear.

I still don't think I looked that bad!

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A blonde goes to work in tears.

She says, "My mom died."
Her boss told her to go home, but she said, "No, I'll be fine."

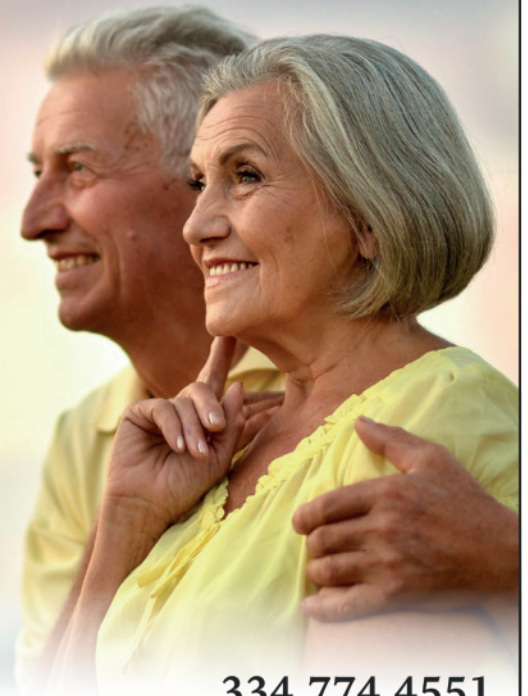
Later that day, her boss finds her crying again. He says, "What's wrong?"

She replies, "I just talked to my sister, and her mom died, too!"



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"Now, which group you tink the gubmint gonna send to Afghanistan

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to seek Him,
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to find him,
the greatest human achievement.
~ Augustine

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JANUARY 2019
Page 7
Now in our 11th Year

ONCE UPON A TIME

a psychology professor walked around on a stage while teaching stress management principles to an auditorium filled with students. As she raised a glass of water, everyone expected they'd be asked the typical "glass half empty or glass half full" question. Instead, with a smile on her face, the professor asked, "How heavy is this glass of water I'm holding?"

Students shouted out answers ranging from eight ounces to a couple pounds.

She replied, "From my perspective, the absolute weight of this glass doesn't matter. It all depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute or two, it's fairly light. If I hold it for an hour straight, its weight might make my arm ache a little. If I hold it for a day straight, my arm will likely cramp up and feel completely numb and paralyzed, forcing me to drop the

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



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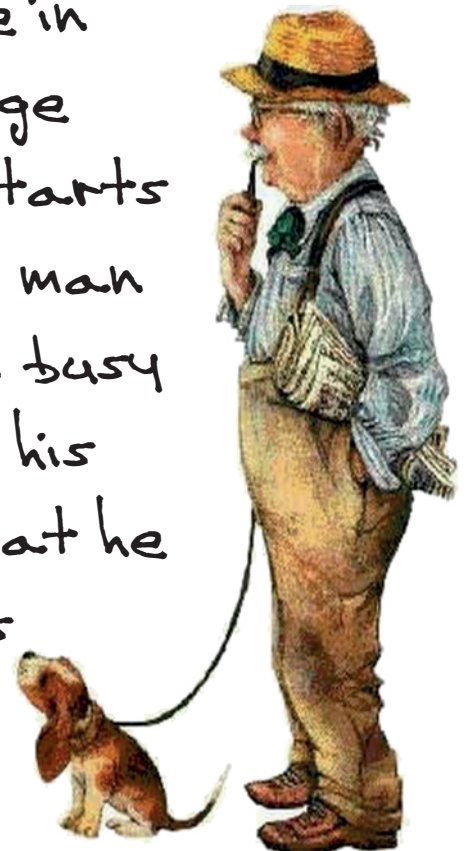
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Girls, take my advice: marry a military man - he can cook, sew, and make beds, and is in good health, and he's already used to taking orders.

Trouble in marriage often starts when a man gets so busy earnin' his salt, that he forgets his sugar.



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glass to the floor. In each case, the weight of the glass doesn't change, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it feels to me."

As the class shook their heads in agreement, she continued, "Your stresses and worries in life are very much like this glass of water. Think about them for a while and nothing happens. Think about them a bit longer and you begin to ache a little. Think about them all day long, and you will feel completely numb and paralyzed - incapable of doing anything else until you drop them." The moral: It's important to remember to let go of your stresses and worries. No matter what happens during the day, as early in the evening as you can, put all your burdens down. Don't carry them through the night and into the next day with you. If you still feel the weight of yesterday's stress, it's a strong sign that it's time to put the glass down.

Golf Comeback

A fellow is getting ready to tee-off on the first hole when a second fellow approaches and asks if he can join him. The first says that he usually plays alone but agrees to let the second guy join him. Both are even after the first couple of holes. The second guy says, "Say, we're about evenly matched, how about we play for five bucks a hole?"

The first fellow says that he usually plays alone and doesn't like to bet but agrees to the terms just to be friendly. Well, the second guy wins the rest of the holes and as they're walking off of the eighteenth hole (and he is counting his \$80) he confesses that he's the pro at a neighboring course and likes to pick on suckers.

The first fellow reveals that he's the Parish Priest at the local Catholic Church to which the second fellow gets all flustered and apologetic and offers to give the Priest back his money. The Priest says, "No, no. You won fair and square and I was foolish to bet with you. You keep your winnings."

The pro says, "Well, is there anything I can do to make it up to you?" The Priest says, "Well, you could come to Mass on Sunday and make a donation. And if you bring your mother and father by after Mass, I'll marry them. for you."

Lord, I hate buttermilk!

One Sunday morning at a small southern church, the new pastor called on one of his older deacons to lead in the opening prayer.

The deacon stood up, bowed his head and said, "Lord, I hate buttermilk."

The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going. The deacon continued, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was totally perplexed.

The deacon continued, "Lord, I ain't too crazy about plain flour. But after you mix 'em all together and bake 'em in a hot oven, I just love biscuits."

"Lord help us to realize when life gets hard, when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what You are doing, that we need to wait and see what You are making. After you get through mixing and baking, it'll probably be something even better than biscuits. Amen
Romans 8:28

~And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

**If you don't pass your values on to your kids,
someone else will.**

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JANUARY 2019
Page 9
Now in our 11th Year

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THE FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT

The year is 2024 and the United States has just elected the first woman, An Ariton High School Purple Cat and University of Alabama graduate, as President of the United States, Susan Baker. A few days after the election the president-elect calls her father and says, 'So, Dad, I assume you will be coming to my inauguration?' 'I don't think so. It's a 30 hour drive, your mother isn't as young as she used to be, and my arthritis is acting up again.' 'Don't worry about it, Dad, I'll send Air Force One to pick you up and take you home. And a limousine will pick you up at your door.' 'I don't know. Everybody will be so fancy. What would your mother wear?' Oh Dad, replies Susan, 'I'll make sure she has a wonderful gown custom-made by the best designer in New York.'

Continued on page 11

LOOKING OLD

Have you ever been guilty of looking at others your own age and thinking, "Surely I can't look that old." Well... You'll love this one. My name is Alice Smith and I was sitting in the waiting room for my first appointment with a new dentist. I noticed his DDS diploma, which bore his full name. Suddenly, I remembered a tall, handsome, dark-haired boy with the same name had been in my high school class some 50-odd years ago. Could he be the same guy that I had a secret crush on, way back then? Upon seeing him, however, I quickly discarded any such thought. This balding, gray-haired man with the deeply lined face was way too old to have been my classmate. After he examined my teeth, I asked him if he had attended my high school. "Yes. Yes, I did. I'm a Mustang," he gleamed with pride. "When did you graduate?" I asked. He Answered, "in 1966. Why do you ask?" "You were in my class!", I exclaimed. He looked at me closely. Then, That Ugly, Old, Bald, Wrinkled, Fat, Gray, Decrepit, So in So, Asked, "What Did You Teach?"



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Stuck

Charlie's wife, Lucy, had been after him for several weeks to paint the seat on their commode. Finally, he got around to doing it while Lucy was out. He left to take care of another matter before she returned.

Lucy came in and undressed to take a shower. Before getting in the shower, she sat on the commode. As she tried to stand up, she realized that the not-quite-dry epoxy paint had glued her to the commode seat. About that time, Charlie got home and realized her predicament. They both pushed and pulled without any success whatsoever. Finally, in desperation, Charlie undid the commode seat bolts.

Lucy wrapped a sheet around herself and Charlie drove her to the Hospital Emergency Room. The ER Doctor got her into a position where he could study how to free her. Lucy tried to lighten the embarrassment of it all by saying, "Well, Doctor, I'll bet you've never seen anything like this before"

The Doctor replied, "Actually, I've seen a lot of them. I just never saw one FRAMED before!"

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1st Woman President
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

"Honey,' Dad complains, 'you know I can't eat those rich foods you and your friends like to eat.' The President-to-be responds, Don't worry Dad. The entire affair is going to be handled by the best caterer in New York , I'll ensure your meals are salt free Dad, I really want you to come. So Dad reluctantly agrees and on January 20, 2025, Susan Baker is being sworn in as President of the United States. In the front row sits the new president's Dad and Mom. Dad noticing the senator sitting next to him leans over and whispers, 'You see that woman over there with her hand on the Bible, becoming President of the United States.' The Senator whispers back, 'Yes I do.'

Her Dad says proudly, ' Her brother played football at The University of Alabama.'

I asked my Dad if we are pyromaniacs and he replied,
"Yes, we arson".

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JANUARY 2019
Page 11
Now in our 11th Year

Aunt T's Kitchen

CHICKEN SPINACH ARTICHOKE

Ingredients

1 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
1/2 yellow onion, chopped
2 celery stalks, chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced
1/2 tsp. red pepper flakes
Kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
6 c. Chicken broth
Juice of 1/2 lemon
3 large breasts boneless skinless chicken breasts
1 (14-oz) can artichoke hearts, drained and quartered
1 c. Shredded mozzarella
1 c. Freshly grated parmesan, plus more for garnish
2 tbsp. heavy cream (optional)
4 c. Fresh spinach
2 tbsp. freshly chopped parsley, for garnish



Directions

1. In a large pot over medium heat, heat oil. Add onion and celery and cook until soft, 6 minutes. Add garlic and red pepper flakes if using and cook until fragrant, one minute more.
2. Add chicken broth and lemon juice and bring to a boil. Add chicken breasts and lower heat. Let simmer until chicken is cooked through, 10 to 12 minutes.
3. Remove chicken from pot and shred with two forks. Return chicken to pot, then add artichoke hearts, mozzarella, parmesan, and cream if using. Cook, stirring occasionally, until cheeses are melted. Stir in spinach and serve garnished with parsley and more parmesan.

Soups

SUN-DRIED TOMATO TORTELLINI

Ingredients

1/2 c. chopped sun-dried tomatoes, packed in oil
1 tbsp. tomato paste
1 clove garlic, smashed
1/2 c. chopped onion
1 carrot, chopped
1 tsp. Sugar
32 oz. low-sodium vegetable or chicken stock
1 c. crushed tomatoes
kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
8 oz. cheese tortellini
2 tbsp. cold unsalted butter
1/2 c. heavy cream
5 oz. baby spinach
Freshly grated Parmesan, for garnish
1/4 c. Chopped parsley, for garnish



Directions

In a large pot over medium heat, add sun-dried tomatoes and oil, tomato paste, garlic, onion, and carrots; sauté until tender, 2 to 3 minutes. Add sugar, stock, and tomatoes and season with salt and pepper. Bring to a boil and simmer for 15 minutes. Purée soup using a hand immersion blender or carefully pour into a blender and process in batches.
Meanwhile, in a large pot, cook tortellini according to package instructions until al dente. Add butter and stir until creamy, then add heavy cream, tortellini, and spinach. Mix until spinach is wilted and tortellini is warmed through. Garnish with Parmesan and parsley. Serve immediately.

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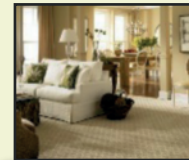
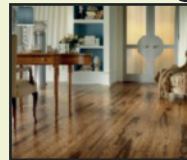
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CHILI MAC AND CHEESE

Ingredients:

1 tablespoon olive oil
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 onion, diced
8 ounces ground beef
4 cups chicken broth
1 (14.5-ounce) can diced tomatoes
3/4 cup canned white kidney beans, drained and rinsed
3/4 cup canned kidney beans, drained and rinsed
2 teaspoons chili powder
1 1/2 teaspoon cumin
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
10 ounces elbows pasta
3/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese
2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley leaves



Directions:

Heat olive oil in a large skillet or Dutch oven over medium high heat. Add garlic, onion and ground beef, and cook until browned, about 3-5 minutes, making sure to crumble the beef as it cooks; drain excess fat.

Stir in chicken broth, tomatoes, beans, chili powder and cumin; season with salt and pepper, to taste. Bring to a simmer and stir in pasta. Bring to a boil; cover, reduce heat and simmer until pasta is cooked through, about 13-15 minutes. Remove from heat. Top with cheese and cover until melted, about 2 minutes.

Serve immediately, garnished with parsley, if desired.

REUBEN

Ingredients

1/2 cup chopped onion
1/2 cup sliced celery

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2 tablespoons butter
1 cup chicken broth
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
2 tablespoons cornstarch
2 tablespoons water
3/4 cup sauerkraut, rinsed & drained
2 cups half-and-half cream
2 cups chopped cooked corned beef
1 cup shredded Swiss cheese
Salt and pepper to taste
Rye croutons, optional



Directions

1. In a large saucepan, saute onion and celery in butter until tender. Add broth and baking soda. Combine cornstarch and water until smooth; gradually add to pan. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened.

2. Reduce heat. Add sauerkraut, cream and corned beef; simmer and stir for 15 minutes. Add cheese; heat until melted. Add salt and pepper. Garnish with croutons if desired.



CAULIFLOWER

Ingredients

1 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for garnish
1 medium yellow onion, chopped
1 clove garlic, minced
1 large head cauliflower, cut into small florets (about 8 cups)
6 c. chicken or vegetable stock
3 sprigs fresh thyme, plus more for serving
1 bay leaf
Kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
1/4 c. heavy cream or whole milk

Directions

In a large pot over medium heat, heat oil. Add onion and cook until soft, 6 minutes. Add garlic and cook until fragrant, 1 minute. Add cauliflower, stock, thyme, and the bay leaf and bring up to a simmer. Cook until cauliflower is very tender, 15 to 20 minutes.

When vegetables are tender, remove thyme and bay leaf and discard. Blend with immersion blender or transfer to a blender in batches and blend until smooth. Stir in cream and reheat if needed.

Garnish with a drizzle of olive oil and fresh thyme and serve immediately.

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2018 Coffee County Arts Alliance



THE THREE ENVELOPES

The CEO had resigned in disgrace, and was leaving his office holding a box of these things when the new CEO arrived to take over.

The outgoing executive told his replacement that it was a tough job, and if she needed help, there were three envelopes in the top drawer of the desk that would help her -- "but only open these if you run up against a problem you don't think you can solve," the beaten man said.

The new CEO calmed things down and everything went fine, until the company hit a snag -- just before the annual Board meeting. She heard rumors that the Board was unhappy with her performance and, not sure what to do, she opened her desk drawer and pulled out the first envelope. The message inside read, "Blame your predecessor." The new CEO went to the Board meeting and tactfully laid the blame on the previous CEO. Sure enough, within weeks, sales picked up and the problems were soon behind her.

About a year later, the company was again experiencing a dip in sales and a product recall. Sure enough, it was right before a Board meeting, so she opened the second envelope. The message read, "Reorganize." The company's troubles were forgotten at the Board meeting as the CEO laid out her plan to streamline operations. Sure enough, the next year the company again was starting to falter just before the annual Board meeting, so the CEO went to her office, closed the door, and opened the third envelope. The message said, "Prepare three envelopes...."

I absolutely refuse to be assertive!

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JANUARY 2019
Page 15
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Page 17
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MILLENNIAL'S FIRST JOB!

"That's a great place to work!" shouted the 27 year old son after coming home from the first day of his first job.

"I get two weeks paid vacation."

"I'm so glad," said his mother.

"Yeah," added John. "I can't wait to find out where they send me."

A LESSON IN KINDNESS

The school teacher gave a pupil two apples. One was big the other was small. Then she said: "When your brother comes up and asks you for one of the apples which one are you going to give him?" The student thought about it for a minute then replied: "Are we talking about my little brother or my big brother?"

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For those of you who received a book from me for Christmas, they are due back to the library Tuesday.

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 Page 19
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Solution on Page 30

PLAY WORDS	SHGETAPE	MONKEY RUOY
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PROPER EXERCISE WHILE PREGNANT

The room was full of pregnant women and their partners, and the Lamaze class was in full swing. The instructor was teaching the women how to breathe properly, along with informing the men how to give the necessary assurances at this stage of the plan.

The teacher then announced, "Ladies, exercise is good for you. Walking is especially beneficial. And, gentlemen, it wouldn't hurt you to take the time to go walking with your partner!"

The room really got quiet. Finally, a man in the middle of the group raised his hand.

"Yes?" replied the teacher.

"Is it alright if she carries a golf bag while we walk?"

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Two prison inmates in Illinois were standing in the cafeteria line getting lunch...

One inmate said to the other inmate, "When I was governor, the food was much better!"

Submarine Sandwich

Mikey: "I ate a submarine sandwich for lunch and I think I'm going to be sick."

Mother: "What makes you say that?"

Mikey: "It's starting to surface."

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JANUARY 2019
Page 21
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Our Steps Are Ordered For 2019

By Wallace Kennedy, Jr.

I wanted to bring a message that would encourage us as we wrap up one year and prepare to enter another.

Our brother Paul encourages us to leave the past behind and press towards our purpose and destiny God desires for our life. (Philippians 3:13-14)

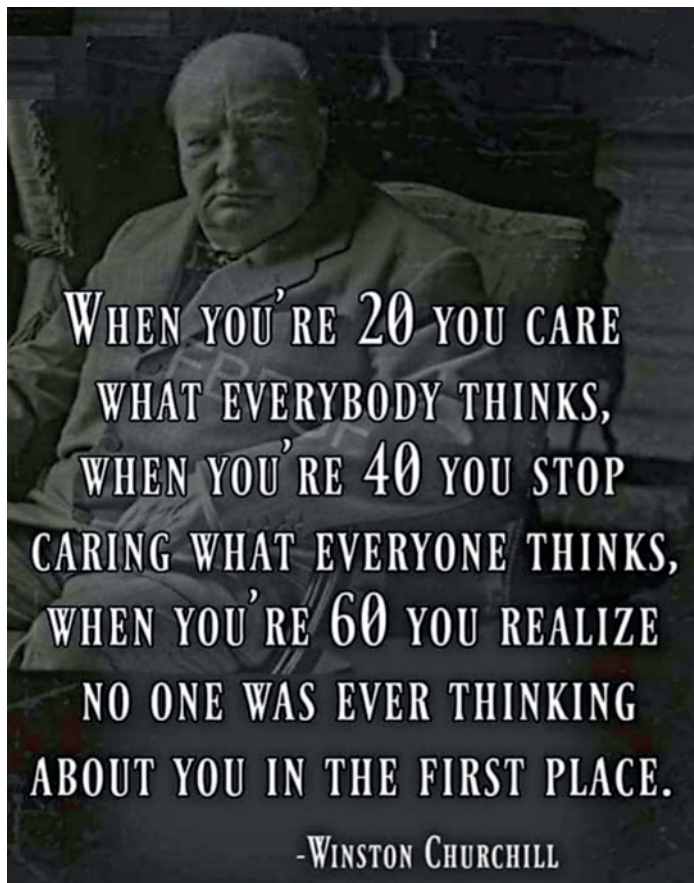


You may have stumbled in 2018, but God did not allow you to stay down. We are the righteousness of God through Jesus Christ! *Psalm 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. God ordains every step we take—the good, the bad, the happy, the sad, the positive and the negative; God never abandon us. The verb "ordered" is very strong in the original Hebrew. It means to establish something so that it has a strong foundation. Proverbs 16:9 tells us that "in his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps*

If we shall fall down, God will strengthen us to get back up. *Proverbs 24:16 For though a righteous man falls seven times, he will get up, but the wicked will stumble into ruin.* Listen my friends, we are blessed because we walk in the counsel of God, we delight in His principles and precepts and meditate on them day and night. *We are like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper Psalm 1:3*

Just like the pump tree roots are deep in the earth, our roots are deeply planted in God. The wind may blow (the storms of life) and we bend but do not break.

Happy New Years, I Pray will keep you in His care!



**WHEN YOU'RE 20 YOU CARE
WHAT EVERYBODY THINKS,
WHEN YOU'RE 40 YOU STOP
CARING WHAT EVERYONE THINKS,
WHEN YOU'RE 60 YOU REALIZE
NO ONE WAS EVER THINKING
ABOUT YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE.**

-WINSTON CHURCHILL

Spell-Checker

Everyone knows I'm a stickler for good spelling. So when an associate e-mailed technical documents asking me to "decifer" them, I had to set him straight.

"Decipher is spelled with a ph, not an f," I wrote. "In case you've forgotten, spell-checker comes free with your Microsoft program."

A minute later came his reply, "Must be dephective."

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HOW MANY ANIMALS OF EACH SPECIES DID NOAH TAKE WITH HIM IN THE ARK?

Are You Sure? You better read!

A: In Genesis 6:19-20, Noah is told to take two of every animal onto the Ark, clean or unclean, but in Genesis 7:1 he is told to take two of every unclean animal, but seven of every clean animal. The reason for this surprising find is that there are actually two stories of Noah's Ark in the Bible, written by two different authors and cleverly interleaved so that the result appears to be just one, rather complicated story.

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Every month Laughs and Lifts is giving away \$100.

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NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Drawings are held on the 20th of the month, and winners name will be published in the next month's edition. Winner must call and come by 322 Andrews Ave. to claim their prize before the 20th of the month of the edition in which their name appeared.

Have Fun. Enjoy the Contest!

We need to invent technology that's never even been invented yet ~ Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

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JANUARY 2019
Page 23
Now in our 11th Year

Vision For The Year

Pastor

Josh and Kayla Sims, Faith Christian Center



Did you know that 35% of New Years Resolutions are broken by the end of January? As a matter of fact 80% of resolutions fail by the second week of February.

With that rate of failure, no wonder people are discouraged before the first quarter of the year ends. I encourage everyone to put down their resolutions and start vision casting. I am a firm believer in vision casting. I try and write out a vision for my life and the church I lead. I desire to be a better man, husband and pastor than I was last year as I am sure you do as well. Vision casting is different than making resolutions based on motive or reasoning. The Bible

speaks to vision casting in **Habakkuk 2:2**, **'Then the Lord answered me and said: "Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it.'** I would like to encourage you as the new year approaches to begin to write down a vision for your life in 2019. When we search out Jesus He will guide us in the direction we should go. **Psalms 37:23-24**, **'The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the Lord upholds him with His hand.'** Why don't we make Jesus more than just the reason for the Christmas Season, and make Jesus the reason for all seasons of our life. I pray God will bless you in 2019.



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Claybank Master Gardeners



Youngsters from grades 4 through 6 interested in plants and gardens and learning about horticulture can become Junior Master Gardeners. The Dale County Extension Service will be starting a weekly after-school one-hour Junior Master Gardener class at the Ozark Dale County Library, beginning on Thursday, January

10th, for 12 weeks ending on March 28th. They will learn about plant growth and development, ecology, insects, vegetables and herbs, and other related topics from local Master Gardeners. Lots of fun interactive and hands-on activities will keep the youngsters engaged and learning.

What to plant in lower AL in January: cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce and onion transplants. Starting in the spring of 2019, the Dale County Extension Office and the Claybank Master Gardeners will be hosting quarterly Lunch & Learn programs open to the public. These will be held at the Dale County Extension office. Each program is open to the public and we encourage you to mark your calendars today! Call the Extension office to verify the dates, at (334) 774-2329.

- March 23rd – Fresh Herbs and Cooking Demo.
- June 21st – Lawn and Garden
- September 20th – Fall Vegetables
- November 30th – Citrus

A new Master Gardener class will be offered on Wednesdays from January 23 to April 10, 2019 at the Houston County Extension Office. Call (334) 794-4108 for registration and details.

The next Claybank Master Gardeners meeting will meet in Ozark at 11:00 on January 17, 2019 at Hoppergrass Restaurant. Come buy your lunch if you wish, and enjoy the presentation by Coffee County Master Gardener Brenda Evans, on butterflies and hummingbirds in the garden. Visitors are always welcome. Call the Extension office for more information at (334) 774-2329.



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IS THE HONEYMOON OVER?

After the honeymoon, the new wife tells her husband, "I think it's time for you to stop hunting and fishing. In fact, you might as well sell all of your guns and rod and reel." The husband replies, "You're starting to sound like my ex-wife." His wife says, "I thought you said you've never been married before?" The husband says, "I haven't."



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~ Winston Churchill

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JANUARY 2019
Page 25
Now in our 11th Year

The 99 Club

I heard a story about a very wealthy king who lived long ago. Even though his life was filled with luxuries, he was not happy or content. One day the king met a poor man who was very happy and joyous. The king asked, "You appear to be a very poor man... how are you so happy?" The poor man said, "Your majesty, my family and I don't need much. We have enough food to fill our bellies, a roof over our heads, and each other to keep us happy."

The king was not satisfied with the man's answer, so later that day he sought advice from one of his trusted advisors. The advisor said, "It's obvious that man has not become part of the 99 Club." The king asked, "What is the 99 Club?" The advisor replied, "To understand it, just place 99 gold coins in a bag and leave it on the man's doorstep."

After a long day in the fields, the man saw the bag on his doorstep. He took it inside and let out a great shout of joy when he discovered the bag was filled with gold coins. After counting it several times, he wondered, "What could've happened to the last gold coin? Who would leave just 99 coins!" After becoming exhausted looking everywhere for the last coin, he decided to work harder than ever to earn a gold coin to complete his collection. From that day on, the man's life was changed. He became overworked and grumpy. He was upset with his family for not helping him achieve his goal to earn the one-hundredth gold coin. All he could think about was the coin he longed for.

After witnessing the dramatic transformation, the king's advisor said, "Your majesty, the man is now part of the 99 Club, which is made of people who have more than enough, but are never content, because they're always striving for the one extra thing that will make them happy."

Charles Spurgeon said it best, "It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy, that makes happiness."

CONGRATULATIONS

Jeri Barefield of Bertha

Jeri Has Won \$100

Jeri found the hidden items in the December edition of Laughs and Lifts and has until January 15th to claim the prize by calling and coming by with photo ID.

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Thanks to everyone who entered,
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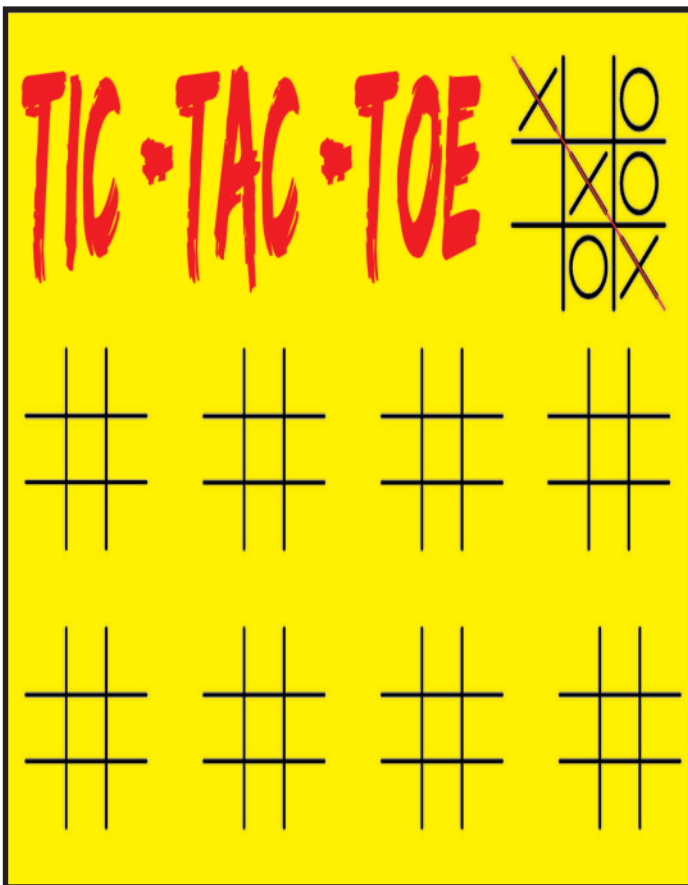
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A tom cat and a tabby cat were courting on a back fence at night.
 The tom leaned over to the tabby with pent up passion and purred... "I'll die for you!"

The tabby gazed at him from under lowered eye lids and asked, "How many times?"



The Molecular Structure Explanation

A 4-year old son was eating an apple in the back seat of the car, when he asked, "Daddy, why is my apple turning brown?" "Because," his dad explained, "after you ate the skin off, the meat of the apple came into contact with the air, which caused it to oxidize, thus changing the molecular structure and turning it into a different color."

There was a long silence. Then the son asked softly, "Daddy, are you talking to me?"

RELAX YOUR BRAIN AND HAVE FUN!

Fun Brain Teasers Below, Good Luck!

1. I have in my hand two U.S. coins which total 55 cents in value. One coin is not a nickel. Please bear this in mind. What are the coins?
2. A farmer had 17 sheep. All but 9 died. How many did he have left?
3. Two men play checkers. They play five games and each man wins five games. There are no ties. How can this be?
4. Take two apples from three apples and what do you have?
5. An archeologist claimed he found some gold coins dated 46 BC. Do you think he really found the coins?
6. A woman gives a beggar 50 cents. The woman is the beggar's sister, but the beggar is not the woman's brother. How come?
7. Is it legal in Tennessee for a man to marry his widow's sister?
8. What word is misspelled in this test?

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"Daily devotion is better than New Years resolution."

DON'T BE AFRAID TO MAKE MISTAKES

This story is about a famous research scientist who had made several very important medical breakthroughs. He was being interviewed by a newspaper reporter who asked him why he thought he was able to be so much more creative than the average person. What set him so far apart from others?

He responded that, in his opinion, it all came from an experience with his mother that occurred when he was about two years old. He had been trying to remove a bottle of milk from the refrigerator when he lost his grip on the slippery bottle and it fell, spilling its contents all over the kitchen floor—a veritable sea of milk!

When his mother came into the kitchen, instead of yelling at him, giving him a lecture, or punishing him, she said, "Robert, what a great and wonderful mess you have made! I have rarely seen such a huge puddle of milk. Well, the damage has already been done. Would you like to get down and play in the milk for a few minutes before we clean it up?"

Indeed, he did. After a few minutes, his mother said, "You know, Robert, whenever you make a

mess like this, eventually you have to clean it up and restore everything to its proper order. So, how would you like to do that? We could use a sponge, a towel, or a mop. Which do you prefer?" He chose the sponge and together they cleaned up the spilled milk.

His mother then said, "You know, what we have here is a failed experiment in how to effectively carry a big milk bottle with two tiny hands. Let's go out in the back yard and fill the bottle with water and see if you can discover a way to carry it without dropping it." The little boy learned that if he grasped the bottle at the top near the lip with both hands, he could carry it without dropping it. What a wonderful lesson!

This renowned scientist then remarked that it was at that moment that he knew he didn't need to be afraid to make mistakes. Instead, he learned that mistakes were just opportunities for learning something new, which is, after all, what scientific experiments are all about. Even if the experiment "doesn't work," we usually learn something valuable from it.

Author Unknown

CAN YOU SPOT THE 16 DIFFERENCES IN THESE PICTURES??



You know you're old
anytime you are
entering your DOB
in an online form
and you get to the year
and you have to spin
the dial like you're
on Wheel of Fortune.

A confused young man was in a difficult situation. He couldn't decide whether to marry Kathryn or Edith. Even though he tried as hard as he could, he was unable to make up his mind. Not willing to give up either, he strung them along for far too long. This indecision continued until both young women got tired of the situation and left him for good. Moral of the story: You can't have your Kate and Edith too.

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- Henry Ford (1863-1947)

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SPOT THE DIFFERENCES SOLUTION

1. White helicopter has 2 blades not 3.
2. Yellow helicopter letters change from hjc to chj.
3. Yellow helicopter has no DANGER on the tail.
4. Yellow helicopter tail light changes from red to green.
5. The ambulance is missing the words ST JOHN on the side.
6. The ambulances lights are missing.
7. The man hanging onto the rope; stripe changes from gray to yellow.
8. Yellow helicopter is missing the white Wespac logo.
9. The man pointing is missing the blue logo on his jacket.
10. The white planes left tail wing is missing.
11. The red ladder on the boat is missing a step.
12. The life saver on the boat has changed color.
13. The flag on the boat has changed from red to green.
14. The garage by the windsock is missing its horizontal lines.
15. The boat is missing a port hole on the side.
16. Pink flowers in bottom left change from 1 to 2

You Just Can't Out Sick Her!!

I told my Mother in Law
I was having prostate trouble..
She said me too!

Bamboozable Answers

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Somewhere Over the Rainbow | 6. High Seas |
| 2. X Marks the Spot | 7. Play on Words |
| 3. Put two and two Together | 8. Get in Shape |
| 4. Just Right | 9. Monkey on Your Back |
| 5. I Before E Except After C | 10. Dr. Dolittle |
| | 11. Fooling Around |
| | 12. A Kick in the Butt |

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SELF-CONFIDENCE TEST

Are you confident in your self-confidence?
Try this test.

First Question: You are participating in a race. You overtake the second person. What position are you in?

Answer: If you answered that you are first, then you are absolutely wrong! If you overtake the second person and you take his place, you are second!

Try not to mess up in the next question. To answer the second question, don't take as much time as you took for the first question.

Second Question: If you overtake the last person, then you are...?

Answer: If you answered that you are second to last, then you are wrong again. Tell me, how can you overtake the LAST person?!

You're not very good at this are you?

Third Question: Very tricky math! Note: This must be done in your head only. Do NOT use paper and pencil or a calculator. Try it.

Take 1000 and add 40 to it. Now add another 1000. Now add 30. Add another 1000. Now add 20. Now add another 1000. Now add 10. What is the total?

Did you get 5000? The correct answer is actually 4100.

Don't believe it? Check with your calculator! Today is definitely not your day. Maybe you will get the last question right?

Mary's father has five daughters: 1. Nana, 2. Nene, 3. Nini, 4. Nono. What is the name of the fifth daughter

Answer: Nunu? NO! Of course not. Her name is Mary. Read the question again!

"Stars Fell on Alabama"

Meteors streaking across Alabama were the inspiration for a jazz standard and a state motto. The song "Stars Fell on Alabama" was a hit in 1934, the same year a book by the same name was published. Astronomers estimate that a meteor storm on Nov. 12-13, 1833, bombarded Earth's atmosphere with more than 30,000 meteors an hour blazing over Alabama and much of the rest of the country. The memories still burn. Two centuries later, the phrase "Stars fell on Alabama" appeared on Alabama license plates from 2002 to 2009. The 1833 storm was an unusually active display of Leonid meteors, specks of debris from the comet Tempel-Tuttle, often as small as grains of sand, that briefly streak across the sky as they burn up in the atmosphere.

"The sky was literally filled with fireworks, and people thought it was the end of the world. That was the night stars fell on Alabama and most of North America," said Bill Cooke, an astronomer at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center near Huntsville. "The only people who weren't scared were the American Indians. They interpreted meteors as a sign of good luck." The 1833 event terrified people across America, says an article in "The Alabama Guide."

The Huntsville Democrat newspaper, as cited in the guide, reported on "this most awful and sublime appearance" and wrote, "For several hours, thousands and even millions of these meteors appeared in every direction to be in constant motion." Some people believed Judgment Day was at hand, said an article that ran in Alabama Heritage magazine in 2000. The article quoted a newspaper from a town in Georgia that said many profane people "were frightened to their knees," that dust-covered Bibles were opened and that dice and cards were thrown to the flames.





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Word of Truth Family Church welcomes Christians and those who seek to understand Christianity in the Ozark and surrounding areas of Alabama, helping them understand the message of eternal hope given to us by Jesus Christ through His word.

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**Sunday Morning at 9:45 am and Saturday Evening at 5:00 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study at 6:45 pm**

It is God’s desire for us to experience victory in every area of our lives through the teaching and preaching of the Word of Truth.

Jesus said, *“You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

“Our mission is to be actively involved in the Great Commission by delivering the Word of Truth to the believers who will be empowered by the leading of the Holy Spirit to go forth impacting those people around them with the Truth and Love of God’s Word.”(Ephes. 1:13)

“Everyone Is Welcome!”



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