

LAUGHING AT OURSELVES

Compiled with a Grin by: **David Tait**

**500 “Christian!?!” Jokes and Stories to
Make You Laugh, Cry and – wait for it....
maybe even Think a Little!**

PLUS A FREE BONUS!

200 + “QWIK QWIPS”...

**... to help impress your friends
with your quick wit and deep
spiritual insight. (Perhaps!)**

A NOTE FROM DAVID

Too many people think that God doesn't have a sense of humour. Yet He made me! And you too!

Many people in the church seem to consider 'not having fun' as the 11th Commandment. Yet my understanding is that God made mankind to fellowship with. For He walked and talked with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden in the late afternoon. We have an example of one conversation, recorded immediately after they had eaten of the forbidden fruit.

In New Zealand, we believe the fruit was an 'apple', because our small country is one of the largest apple exporters in the world. But personally, I think that the forbidden fruit must have been 'a sense of humour', as so many Christians refuse to partake of it now! Can you imagine God making us so serious that He couldn't enjoy a laugh with us? I can't.

Humour too, is a great way of drawing attention to aspects of our lives and church life that are not as godly as they should be, without (sometimes!) bringing offence to others. For we all have our foibles, yet somehow, explained in a way at which we can laugh at, we're able to learn our lessons without being as offended and defensive as we are when stung by direct criticism.

Can you copyright humour? For humour is ageless and there is nothing new, simply twists on old themes. But I would like to acknowledge all those who contribute to making us laugh, in particular, Keith Todd's 'Sermon Fodder' <http://www.sermonfodder.com> Pastor Tim at 'Cybersalt' <http://www.cybersalt.org/cleanlaugh> I encourage you to support their excellent ministries.

This particular collection is of jokes about Christians and the church. While I trust they will add a few 'smile lines' to your face (there is a cost in everything!) I also hope that you will get a little revelation and insight into some of the messages their creators are endeavouring to convey. For then, this may be regarded as a genuine ministry, not just a foolish fancy for faithless, fallen, fallible, fanciful, feeble failures.

So, please join me to read, laugh and think!

1. Modern Day Religion

A teacher asked her students to draw a picture of their favourite Old Testament story. Moving around the class she saw many beautiful and moving drawings. Then she came to Johnny (why is it always Johnny?) and saw his picture of a man driving an old car.

"It's a lovely picture Johnny, but what is the story?"

It's simple, Miss, "Doesn't it say in the Bible that God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden!"

2. Sunday Savings

Johnny (It's okay all you Johnny's – don't be offended - John is my second name too!) came skipping into the house with a big 'all day sucker' in his mouth. "Where did you get it? his mother asked."

"I bought it with the dollar you gave me."

"But the dollar I gave you was for Sunday School!"

"I know mum, but the minister met me at the door and let me in for free!"

QWIK QWIP: "I'm as broke as the Ten Commandments. "

3. The Best Intentions of Ministers and Men....

The noted Evangelist arrived in the city to conduct a series of crusades. At his Press Conference the day before the first meeting, he asked the reporters not to report the examples he quoted to them, as he wished to use them in his meetings.

The next day's paper came out with a fine story on the meetings to start that very day and concluded, "The Evangelist also told a number of stories that cannot be repeated!" (One way of ensuring a good attendance! DJT)

4. Trumped!

There were two rich brothers who looked great on the outside, even attending church regularly, but whose hearts were evil.

A new, more astute pastor arrived at the church. The congregation grew and a fund raising campaign was started to extend the church.

All of a sudden, one of the brothers died. The day before the funeral the remaining brother sidled up to the pastor and gave him a cheque for the full amount needed to complete the extensions. "Just one condition," he said. At the funeral you must say that my brother was a saint."

The pastor gave him his word and deposited the cheque.

The next day, at the funeral, the pastor let it all go. "He was an evil man," he said, hard on his wife and family, corrupt in business," and on and on. He concluded, "but, compared to his brother, he was a saint."

5. The Flock

Three priests were having lunch in a restaurant.

One said, "You know, all summer I have been having trouble with bats in the belfry. I've tried everything to get rid of them - noise, spray, cats – but nothing works.

Me too, said the second. I've got hundreds living there too. I even had the place fumigated, but still they stay.

That's simple, said the third. "I baptised all mine – made them members of the church..... Haven't had a single one back since!"

QWIK QWIP: "Give God what's right - not what's left."

6. You Can Bank On It!

A woman went into the bank to cash a cheque before going Christmas shopping.

"What denominations would you like?" asked the Teller.

"Oh, good heavens – has it come to this!" said the woman. "Well give me 50 Baptists and 50 Presbyterians, please."

7. Sermon to Order

After the praise and worship the pastor got up and said, " For today I have prepared 3 sermons. A \$10 hell raiser on fire and brimstone that will take an hour and a half to deliver, a \$50 exposition on the evils of sin that will take 45 minutes to give, along with a \$100, 10 minute gem on love and generosity. We will now take the collection to see which you vote for!"

8. Child Power!

At the end of a series of lessons on the adventures of the Children of Israel, Johnny put up his hand and asked a question.

"Yes Johnny," said the teacher.

"There's something I can't work out. According to the Bible, the Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea." "Right."

"And the Children of Israel beat up the Philistines and built the Temple and did lots of other things too. "That's right Johnny."

"Please tell me Sir then, what were all the grown ups doing?"

QWIK QWIP: "A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing."

9. Church Bulletin Bloopers

*** The scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

*** The Outreach Committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not inflicted with any church.

*** Evening Massage – 6pm.

*** The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.

*** The congregation is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.

10. Giiiizumped!

A young lad who had just got his driving licence asked his minister father if he could drive his car.

"I'll make a deal with you said his father. "If you improve your grades, study your Bible a little more and cut your hair, we will talk again in a month."

A month later the son again approached his father, who said, "Son, I am real proud of you. Your grades have improved greatly and you have been diligent in your Bible Study. But you still haven't cut your hair.'

"But dad, I've been thinking about that. You know, Samson had long hair so did Moses and Noah, and maybe Jesus too."

"Yes son," his dad replied, "and they walked everywhere they went!"

11. The Ingenuity of Youth

After church one Sunday morning a young announced to his mother. "Mum, I'm going to be a minister when I grow up."

"That's wonderful son," his mum said, "but what brought you to that decision?"

"Well," the son replied, I'll have to go to church anyway, so I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell than to sit still and listen!"

12. Heavenly Qualifications

The pastor was talking to a group of young children about believing in Jesus and going to heaven. At the end of his talk he asked confidently, "And where do you want to go?"

"Heaven!" they shouted in unison.

Now on a roll he asked, "And what do you have to be to get there?"

"Dead!" was one boy's immediate reply.

QWIK QWIP: "Don' t wait for six strong men to take you to church."

13. Funny How...

....\$20 looks so big when you take it to church,
but so small when you take it to the mall.

....long it takes to serve God for an hour,
but how quickly a team plays 60 minutes of basketball.

....long a couple of hours spent at church are,
but how short they are when watching a movie.

....we can't think of anything to say when we pray,
but don't have difficulty thinking of things to talk about to a friend.

....we get thrilled when a game goes into extra time,
but we complain when a sermon goes longer than normal.

14. Child Childbirth

In Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny was particularly intent when they were telling how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week, his mother noticed him lying down as if he were ill.
"Johnny, what's the matter?"

Little Johnny replied in an anguished tone, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife!"

QWIK QWIP: "The church is prayer-conditioned."

15. Getting Priorities Right

Coming out of church Mrs Peterson asked her husband, "Do you think that Johnson girl is dying her hair?"

"I didn't even notice her," admitted Mr Peterson.

"And that dress that Mrs Hansen was wearing," continued Mrs Peterson, Really, don't tell me that you think that's a proper outfit for a mother of two."

"I'm afraid I didn't notice that either," replied a resigned Mr Peterson.

"Oh, For heavens sake," his wife snapped. "A lot of good it does you to go to church!"

16. More Church Bulletin Bloopers

*** The Low Self Esteem group will meet on Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

*** Ushers will eat latecomers.

*** The third verses of Blessed Assurance will be sung without musical accomplishment.

*** For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

*** The Rev. Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the congregation.

17. Ralph

"I hope you didn't take it personally Pastor," the embarrassed women said after a church service, "when my husband walked out during your sermon."

"I must admit, I did find it rather disconcerting," he replied.

"Its not a reflection on you," said the now red faced lady in a confidential tone, "Ralph's been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child."

18. Count Your Blessings

A visitor once asked, "Does it ever rain in Arizona?"

The rancher thought about it a minute and then replied, "Yes it does. You remember in the Bible how it rained for 40 days and 40 nights during Noah's flood. Well, we got 2 inches of that."

QWIK QWIP: "When God ordains, He sustains."

19. Its Funny How...

...hard it is to read a chapter in the Bible,
but how easy it is to read 100 pages of a best selling novel.

...people want to get a front seat at a game or concert,
but scramble for a back seat at church services.

...we need 2-3 weeks notice to fit a church event into our busy schedule,

but can adjust our schedule at a moments notice for other events.
...how hard it is to for people to tell others a simple gospel message,
but how simple it is to repeat gossip.
...we automatically believe what the newspaper says,
but always question the Bible.

20. Signs Outside Churches

YOU ARE NOT TOO BAD TO COME IN

YOU ARE NOT TOO GOOD TO STAY OUT.

COME IN AND LET US PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR FINALS.

A MISER IS A RICH PAUPER.

ASK ABOUT OUR PRAY-AS-YOU-GO PLAN.

WE HOLD SIT-IN DEMONSTRATIONS EVERY SUNDAY.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU NURSE A GRUDGE
IT WON'T GET BETTER.

START LIVING TO BEAT HELL.

QWIK QWIP: "Plan ahead - It wasn' t raining when Noah built the ark."

21. Feed My Cow

One Sunday a cowboy went to church. When he entered, he saw that he and the preacher were the only ones present. The preacher asked the cowboy if he wanted him to go ahead and preach.

The cowboy said, "I' m not too smart, but if I went to feed my cattle and only one showed up, I' d feed him."

So the minister began his sermon.

One hour passed, then two hours, then two-and-a-half hours. The preacher finally finished and came down to ask the cowboy how he had liked the sermon.

The cowboy answered slowly, "Well, I' m not very smart, but if I went to feed my cattle and only one showed up, I sure wouldn' t feed him ALL the hay."

QWIK QWIP: "WARNING: "Exposure to the Son may prevent burning."

22. Heavenly Guidance

A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write his sermon. "How do you know what to say?" he asked.

"Why, God tells me."

"Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"

23. The Flight To Egypt

A Sunday School teacher ask her class to draw a picture of their favourite Bible story.

All were beautiful, deep but understandable until she came to Johnny. For Johnny's picture showed four people on an aeroplane.

"What's that? she asked. "Oh, the flight to Egypt," Johnny replied.

"I see... And that must be Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus," she said. "But who's the fourth person?"

"Oh, that's Pontius – the Pilot!"

24. Still More Church Bulletin Bloopers

*** The Pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, "Break Forth Into Joy."

*** A songfest was hell at the Methodist Church on Wednesday.

*** Next Sunday Mrs Vinson will be the soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."

*** Due to the Rector's illness, Wednesday's healing service will be cancelled until further notice.

*** Stewardship Offertory: "Jesus Paid It All."

25. The Lord's Army

A friend was walking out of church in front of me, where he waited to shake hands with the pastor. The pastor grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside. "You need to join the Army of the Lord," said the pastor.

"I already belong," said my friend.

"Well how come we don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?"

My friend whispered back confidentially, "I'm in the Secret Service."

QWIK QWIP: "We don' t change God' s message -- His message changes us."

26. Hymns For The Ageing

--Precious Lord, Take My Hand (And Help Me Stand Up)

--It Is Well With My Soul (But My Back Hurts)

--Nobody Knows The Trouble I Have Seeing

--Amazing Grace (I've Got This Far)

--Just A Slower Walk With Thee

--Count Your Many Birthdays, Name Them One By One

--Go Tell It On The Mountain (And Speak Up)

--Give Me That Old Timers Religion

--Blessed Insurance

--Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah (I've Forgotten Where I Parked)

27. More Signs Outside Churches

IF SOME PEOPLE LIVED UP TO THEIR IDEALS THEY WOULD BE
STOOPING

EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT HEAVEN AND
HELL BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK.

PRAY UP IN ADVANCE

YOU THINK IT'S HOT HERE? (In an Arizona Church in August)

I WAS GOING TO WASTE BUT JESUS RECYLED ME

K-MART IS NOT THE ONLY SAVING PLACE

28. Who's Lying?

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

The Following Sunday he asked for a show of hands as to how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. (Shouldn't need to continue this but.....)

The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only 16 chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

QWIK QWIP: "Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position."

29. Even More Bulletin Bloopers

*** The music for today's service was all composed by George Friedrich Handel in celebration of the 300th anniversary of his death.

*** Remember in prayer the many that are sick of our church and community.

*** The 8th Graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement this Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

*** The concert held in the Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's daughter, who laboured the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.

*** Don't let worry kill you. Let the church help.

30. The Heavenly Artist

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

A hand immediately shot up in the air. "He is an artist," said the youngster.

Really, "How do you know?" the teacher asked.

"You know – Our Father, who does art in heaven...."

31. Back in Time

A little boy opened the big old family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the pages. Suddenly something fell out. It was an old leaf that had been pressed between the pages.

He yelled out to his mum, "Mum, come hear quick, I think I've found Adam's underwear!"

QWIK QWIP: "Man' s way leads to a hopeless end - God' s way leads to an endless hope."

32. A Tricky Tipple

Knowing that the minister was very fond of Cherry Brandy, one of the church elders offered to give him a bottle on one condition. – that he acknowledge receipt of the gift in the Church Bulletin.

The next Sunday, the elder turned at once to the 'Appreciation' column. There he read: "The minister extends his thanks to Elder Brown for his gift of fruit and the spirit in which it was given."

33. The Joys Of Marriage

A newly married pastor was taking a walk with his father one day, who asked how he was enjoying his young wife's home cooking.

The pastor replied, "My wife's cooking is so bad, we pray after we eat."

QWIK QWIP: "He who kneels before God can stand before anyone."

34. Church Bulletin Bloopers Continue...

*** Twenty-two members were present at the church meeting held at the home of Mrs Martha Crutchfield last evening. Mrs Crutchfield and Mrs Rankin sang a duet, 'The Lord Knows Why.'

*** Thursday night potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.

*** The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the son of Rev. and Mrs Julie Belzer.

*** This afternoon there will be a meeting in the north and south ends of the church. Children will be baptised at both ends.

*** On Tuesday there will be an ice cream social at 4pm. All ladies giving milk, please come early.

35. Help?

Several women were visiting an elderly friend who was ill. After a while, they rose to leave and told her; "We will keep you in our prayers."

"Just wash the dishes in the kitchen," the ailing woman said, "I can do my own praying."

36. A Good Question

If money is the root of all evil, why do churches want it so badly?

37. Saved For Sure!

A friend of mine and her husband were on vacation. They visited an Episcopal Church on Sunday. The pews in this older church were in those little, box-like enclosures that have a "gate" entry to each one.

My friend likes to sit close to the front. So they entered a pew in the second row.

Shortly after settling into the pew, an usher came up to them, tapped lightly on the gate, and said, "This pew is saved."

Her husband replied, "So are WE!"

38. Who's For a Wedding?

A minister was planning a wedding at the close of the Sunday morning service.

After the benediction he had planned to call the couple down to be married for a brief ceremony before the congregation.

For the life of him, he couldn't think of the names of those who were to be married.

"Will those wanting to get married please come to the front?" he requested.

Immediately, nine single ladies, three widows, four widowers, and six single men stepped to the front.

QWIK QWIP: "In the sentence of life, the devil may be a comma - but never let him be the period."

39. Heavenly Reward?

This 85-year-old couple, having been married almost 60 years, died in a car crash. They had been in good health the last 10 years, mainly due to her interest in health food and exercise.

When they reached the pearly gates, St. Peter took them to their mansion, which was decked out with a beautiful kitchen, master bath suite and Jacuzzi.

As they oohed and aahed, the old man asked Peter how much all this was going to cost. "It's free," Peter replied. "This is Heaven."

Next they went out back to survey the championship golf course in the backyard. They would have golfing privileges every day, and each week the course would change to a new one, representing the great golf courses on Earth.

The old man asked, "What are the greens fees?"

Peter' s reply, "This is Heaven -- you play for free."

Next they went to the clubhouse and saw the lavish buffet lunch with the cuisine of the world laid out.

"How much to eat?" asked the old man.

"Don' t you understand yet? This is Heaven, it' s FREE!" Peter replied with some exasperation.

"Well, where are the low-fat and low-cholesterol tables?" the old man asked timidly.

Peter lectured, "That' s the best part -- you can eat as much as you like of whatever you like and you never get fat and you never get sick. This is Heaven."

With that the old man went into a fit of anger, throwing down his hat and stomping on it, and shrieking wildly.

Peter and his wife both tried to calm him down, asking him what was wrong. The old man looked at his wife and said, "This is all your fault. If it weren' t for your blasted bran muffins, I could have been here 10 years ago!"

QWIK QWIP: I' ve learned that ultimately, ' takers' lose and ' givers' win.

40. Genesis 3:C-D

A newly discovered chapter in the Book of Genesis has provided the answer to "Where do pets come from?"

Adam and Eve said, "Lord, when we were in the garden, you walked with us every day. Now we do not see you anymore. We are lonesome here and it is difficult for us to remember how much you love us."

And God said, "No problem! I will create a companion for you that will be with you forever and who will be a reflection of my love for you, so that you will love me even when you cannot see me. Regardless of how selfish or childish or unlovable you may be, this new companion will accept you as you are and will love you as I do, in spite of yourselves."

And God created a new animal to be a companion for Adam and Eve.
And it was a good animal.
And God was pleased.
And the new animal was pleased to be with Adam and Eve and he wagged his tail.

And Adam said, "Lord, I have already named all the animals in the Kingdom and I cannot think of a name for this new animal."

And God said, "No problem. Because I have created this new animal to be a reflection of my love for you, his name will be a reflection of my own name, and you will call him DOG."

And Dog lived with Adam and Eve and was a companion to them and loved them.

And they were comforted.

And God was pleased.

And dog was content and wagged his tail.

After a while, it came to pass that an angel came to the Lord and said, "Lord, Adam and Eve have become filled with pride. They strut and preen like peacocks and they believe they are worthy of adoration. Dog has indeed taught them that they are loved, but perhaps too well."

And God said, "No problem! I will create for them a companion who will be with them forever and who will see them as they are. The companion will remind them of their limitations, so they will know that they are not always worthy of adoration."

And God created CAT to be a companion to Adam and Eve.
And Cat would not obey them.

And when Adam and Eve gazed into Cat' s eyes, they were reminded that they were not the supreme beings.
And Adam and Eve learned humility.

And they were greatly improved.
And God was pleased.
And Dog was happy.
And Cat didn' t care one way or the other.

41. Whose Funeral?

The old man had died. A wonderful funeral was in progress and the country preacher talked at length of the good traits of the deceased, what an honest man he was, and what a loving husband and kind father he was.

Finally, the widow leaned over and whispered to one of her children,

"Go up there and take a look in the coffin and see if that' s your pa in there."

QWIK QWIP: "If you don' t start, it' s certain you won' t arrive."

42. No Longer Home

After the fall in Garden of Eden, Adam was walking with his sons Cain and Abel.

They passed by the ruins of the Garden of Eden. One of the boys asked, "What' s that?"

Adam replied, "Boys, that' s where your mother ate us out of house and home."

43. Prophetic? A True Story

My appointment as pastor coincided with the church' s appeal for aid for victims of a hurricane.

Unfortunately, on my first Sunday in the parish, the centre page of the church bulletin was accidentally omitted. So members of the congregation read from the bottom of the second page to the top of the last page: "Welcome to the Rev. Andrew Jensen and his family... the

worst disaster to hit the area in this century. The full extent of the tragedy is not yet known."

44. Covering the Bases.....

A five-year-old girl who was squirting passers-by with a garden hose became furious when her father rushed out and took the hose away.

Kicking and screaming as he carried her into the house, she yelled out, "I' m going to tell Jesus and God and Santa Claus on you!"

QWIK QWIP: "A friend is someone who reaches for your hand but touches your heart."

45. The Real Truth

Little Johnny had bought Grandma a book for her birthday and wanted to write a suitable inscription. He racked his brain until suddenly he remembered that his father had a book with an inscription of which he was very proud, so Johnny decided to use it.

You can imagine Grandma' s surprise when she opened her book, a Bible, and found neatly inscribed the following phrase: "To Grandma, with the compliments of the author."

46. Know We Will Have The Perfect Church When We Hear

1. Hey! 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 a 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 can live like we do.

7. I love it when we sing hymns 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.

QWIK QWIP: "A coincidence is when God performs a miracle, and decides to remain anonymous."

47. True Faith!

Three nuns were returning to the convent after a day of volunteer nursing at a local medical care centre. They were travelling along a back road when their car stopped.

After a quick memory search, they remembered they had forgotten to get gas the last time out.

As they were deciding which one would walk for to a gas station, a pickup truck drove up. The driver had plenty of gas and offered some, but he didn' t have anything to put it in.

The nuns realised they had the ideal container for the donated gas, they thanked the driver and he went on his way.

A few minutes later an eighteen wheeler came down the road and saw the nuns pouring the contents of a bed pan into their gas tank.

The driver nudged his partner and said, "That' s what I call true faith."

48. How Many Christians Does It Take To Change A Light Bulb?

CHARISMATIC: Only one. Hands already in the air.

PENTECOSTALS: Ten. One to change the bulb, and nine to pray against the spirit of darkness.

PRESBYTERIANS: None. Lights will go on and off at predestined times.

ROMAN CATHOLIC: None. Candles only.

BAPTISTS: At least 15. One to change the light bulb, and three committees to approve the change and decide who brings the potato salad.

EPISCOPALIANS: Eight. One to call the electrician, and seven to say how much they liked the old one better.

METHODISTS: Undetermined. Whether your light is bright, dull, or completely out, you are loved - you can be a light bulb, turnip bulb, or tulip bulb. Church wide lighting service is planned for Sunday, October 14. Bring bulb of your choice and a covered dish.

NAZARENE: Six. One woman to replace the bulb while five men review church lighting policy.

LUTHERANS: None. Lutherans don' t believe in change.

AMISH: What' s a light bulb?

49. A Toothless Warning...

"Lead a righteous and spiritual life," admonished a minister to a young rascal he caught causing trouble, "for there will be weeping, wailing and a gnashing of teeth among the wicked who pass on to the next world."

"What if you haven' t got any teeth?" said the boy.

"Teeth will be provided!"

QWIK QWIP: "I don' t have to attend every argument I' m invited to."

50. Could This Be True?

A British clergyman struggled along with a small congregation in a small neighbourhood. A commercial firm offered to supply free hymn books, provided they could insert a bit of discreet advertising into the hymnals. The pastor was reluctant but finally agreed. When the hymnals arrived, he eagerly examined them and was delighted to find no brash advertisements on or inside the covers.

The next Sunday, his flock began to sing from the hymnals. All went well until the third song, in which the congregation lifted their voices in unison to the melodious notes of:

Hark the herald angels sing,
Hanson' s pills are just the thing;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
Two for men and one for child.

51. ' Fool'

A minister was opening his mail one morning. Drawing a single sheet of paper from an envelope he found written on it only one word: ' FOOL' .

The next Sunday he announced, "I have known many people who have written letters and forgot to sign their name.

"But this week I received a letter from someone who signed his name but forgot to write a letter."

QWIK QWIP: "God can mend all broken hearts. You just have to give him all the pieces."

52. The Latest Translation

Nine year old Joey, was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school.

"Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked.

"Well, no, Mom. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you' d never believe it!"

53. The Transfer

A professor at London University, just appointed to a new post in the United States, informed his three-year-old daughter that she would soon be making her home in America.

That night, when her parents heard her prayers, the little girl started with, "Good-bye dear God, I' m going to America."

54. One Good Turn deserves...

A priest was walking down his street one day when he noticed a very small boy trying to press the doorbell on a house. The boy was very short and the doorbell was too high for him to reach.

After watching the boy' s efforts for some time, the priest moved closer to the boy. He crossed the street, walked up behind the little fellow, placed his hand kind heartedly on the child' s shoulder leaned over and gave the doorbell a solid ring.

Crouching down to the child' s level, the priest smiled benevolently and asked, "And now what, my little man?" To which the boy replied, "Now we run!"

QWIK QWIP: "Our eyes are placed in front because it is more important to look ahead than to look back."

55. Signs Your Church Has Sold Out To Corporate Sponsors

- Nike "swoosh" on the cross
- Communion now sponsored by Welch' s Grape Juice
- Taco Bell' s talking dog now reading announcements
- In Christmas play, Joseph seen drinking can of Coke.
- Greeters all dressed like Ronald McDonald.
- Personal pew licenses now sold
- Baptismals include dolphin show from Sea World
- Statue of Moses seen holding keys to a Jeep
- The 12 disciples replaced by Disney characters
- Scripture verses brought to you by Windows ' 98
- Pastor doing subliminal product messages during sermon
- Bulletin has coupon section
- Choir members wear Dockers
- In the restrooms, an attendant hands you a towel
- There is a credit card swiper on the collection plate

- Offering envelopes bearing Visa or Mastercard emblems on them
- Handicap parking sponsored by the Family Medical Group, LLC
- Wednesday night suppers sponsored by KFC
- Sunday morning televised services sponsored by the FOX network
- Church vans traded in for Ford Broncos
- Church bell chimes to the tune of the NBC chimes
- Choir robes with the Lands' End emblem on front
- Sunday bulletins with the CNN logo
- Free Perrier at all baptism
- Church flag football team sponsored by the XFL

QWIK QWIP: "If you ever quit being a kid at heart, you' ll get old."

56. In The Eye of The Beholder

There was a little old lady who was nearly blind and she had three jealous sons who each wanted to prove that they were the best son to her.

The first son bought her a 15 room mansion, thinking it would be the best any of them could offer.

The second son bought her a beautiful Mercedes with a chauffeur, thinking this would certainly win her approval.

The third son had to do even better, so he bought her a trained parrot that had been in training for 15 years to memorise the entire Bible. You could ask him any verse of the Bible, and the parrot could quote it word for word. That certainly would be the best gift of all!

Well, the lady went to the first son and said, "Son, the house is beautiful, but it' s just too big for me. I only live in one room, and it' s just too hard to clean and take care of the rest. Thank you anyway."

Then to the second son she said, "The car was gorgeous, but I really don' t go out much, and it' s such a waste. Besides, the driver is pretty irritating and I really don' t like him that well. I appreciate your effort, but could you please return the car?"

Then she spoke to the third son. "Son, I' d like to thank you for the most thoughtful gift of all! That chicken was delicious."

57. Earthly Wisdom

A Sunday school teacher was teaching her class about the difference between right and wrong.

"All right children, let' s take another example," she said. "If I were to get into a man' s pocket and take his billfold with all his money, what would I be?"

Little Johnny raises his hand, and with a confident smile, he blurts out, "You' d be his wife!"

58. Top Ten Signs You' re in For a Long Sunday Sermon

10. There' s a case of bottled water beside the pulpit in a cooler.
9. The pews have camper hook-ups.
8. You overhear the pastor telling the soundman to have a few (dozen!) extra tapes on hand to record today' s sermon.
7. The preacher has brought a snack to the pulpit.
6. The preacher breaks for an intermission.
5. The bulletins have pizza delivery menus.
4. When the preacher asks the deacon to bring in his notes, he rolls in a filing cabinet.
3. The choir loft is furnished with La-Z-Boys.
2. Instead of taking off his watch and laying it on the pulpit, the preacher turns up a four-foot hour-glass.

AND THE NUMBER ONE SIGN YOU' RE IN FOR A LONG SUNDAY SERMON

1. The minister says, "You' ll be out in time to watch the super bowl" but it' s only July!

QWIK QWIP: "Many go to their grave with their music still inside of them."

59. Hoover!

Father Murphy was playing golf with a parishioner. On the first hole, he sliced into the rough. His opponent heard him mutter "Hoover!" under his breath.

On the second hole, the ball went straight into a water hazard. "Hoover!" again, a little louder this time.

On the third hole, a miracle occurred and Fr. Murphy's drive landed on the green only six inches from the hole!

"Praise be to God!"

He carefully lined up the putt, but the ball curved around the hole instead of going in.

"HOOVER!!!!" By this time, his opponent couldn't withhold his curiosity any longer, and asked why the priest said "Hoover". "It's the biggest dam I know."

QWIK QWIP: "If you can't see the bright side of life, polish the dull side."

60. A Little Knowledge is.....

While interviewing a prospective Minister of Education over lunch, one of the ladies on the committee at my end of the table was sharing the following.

Her husband was an avid bicyclist. She was sharing that he loved to race in bicycle races and that when he raced, he loved to race in the second position. Trying to explain why he did this almost broke up our luncheon. She meant to use the term "drafting", the technical term for allowing the person in front of him to block the wind on him - allowing him to work less as he raced and conserve his energy.

However, this is what she actually said. "My husband loves to race in the second position. That way, he can make the person in front of him break wind."

Most of the committee was under the table. I was trying to maintain what little ministerial decorum I had left. The people at the other end of the

table were asking why we were laughing so loud - with no explanation ever given. (P.S. The Minister of Education came and some of the committee members gave the lady a special Christmas gift that year - a "windbreaker".)

61. Pastoral Care!

After the birth of their child, an Episcopal priest, wearing his clerical collar, visited his wife in the hospital. He greeted her with a hug and a kiss, and gave her another hug and kiss when he left.

Later, the wife's roommate commented: "Your pastor is sure friendlier than mine."

62. Directions?

The Rev. Billy Graham tells of at time early in his career when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon.

Wanting to mail a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was. When the boy told him, Rev. Graham thanked him and said, "If you'll come to the Baptist church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to Heaven."

"I don't think I'll be there," the boy said. "You don't even know your way to the post office."

63. If Only!

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, 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, 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!"

QWIK QWIP: "God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called"

64. Powerful Prayer!

The Wednesday-night church service coincided with the last day of hunting season.

Our pastor asked who had bagged a deer.

No one raised a hand.

Puzzled, the pastor said, "I don't get it. Last Sunday many of you said you were missing because of hunting season. I had the whole congregation pray for your deer."

One hunter groaned, "Well, it worked. They're all safe."

QWIK QWIP: "Be ye fishers of men - you catch them and He'll clean them."

65. ' No Excuse' Sunday

To make it possible for everyone to attend church on Sunday, we are proposing to have a special ' No Excuse Sunday.'

1. Cots will be placed in the foyer for those who say, ' Sunday is my only day to sleep in.'
2. They will have steel helmets for those who say, ' The roof will cave in if I ever came to church.'
3. Blankets will be furnished for those who say it is too cold and fans for those who say it is too hot.
4. There will be hearing aids for those who say, ' The pastor speaks too softly,' and cotton for those who say, ' He preaches too loudly.'
5. Scorecards will be available for those who wish to list the hypocrites present.
6. Some relatives will be in attendance for those who like to go visiting on Sunday.

7. There will be TV dinners for those who can't go to church and cook dinner too.

8. Golf clubs will be available for practice swings for those who like to golf on Sunday.

66. If Only!!

A father is in church with three of his young children, including his five year old daughter. As was customary, he sat in the very front row so that the children could properly witness the service.

During this particular service, the minister was performing the baptism of a tiny infant. The little five year old girl was taken by this, observing that he was saying something and pouring water over the infant's head.

With a quizzical look on her face, the little girl turned to her father and asked: "Daddy, why is he brainwashing that baby??"

67. Quick Quotes

!!!! "If absence makes the heart grow fonder," said the preacher, "a lot of folks must love our church."

!!!! Did you hear about the dead angel? He died of harp failure.

68. Doggie Religion

A client brought a litter of golden retriever puppies to my veterinary clinic for inoculations and worming. As the look-alike pups squirmed over and under one another in their box, I realised it would be difficult to tell the treated ones from the rest. So, I turned on the water faucet, wet my fingers, and moistened each dog's head when I had finished.

After the fourth puppy, I noticed my talkative client had grown silent. As I sprinkled the last pup's head, the woman leaned forward and whispered, "I didn't know they had to be baptised, too."

QWIK QWIP: "Worry is the darkroom in which negatives can develop."

69. A Direct Line to God

Rick volunteers with prison ministries, and in his work has become a friend with the pastor of a storefront church. The pastor's church is called Almighty God Tabernacle.

On a Saturday night several weeks ago, this pastor was working late, and decided to call his wife before he left for home. It was about 10:00 PM, but his wife didn't answer the phone. The pastor let it ring many times. He thought it was odd that she didn't answer, but decided to wrap up a few things and try again in a few minutes.

When he tried again she answered right away. He asked her why she hadn't answered before, and she said that it hadn't rung at their house. They brushed it off as a fluke and went on their merry ways.

The following Monday, the pastor received a call at the church office, which was the phone that he'd used that Saturday night. The man that he spoke with wanted to know why he'd called on Saturday night. The pastor couldn't figure out what the guy was talking about. Then the guy said, "It rang and rang, but I didn't answer."

The pastor remembered the mishap and apologised for disturbing him, explaining that he'd intended to call his wife.

The man said, "That's OK. Let me tell you my story. You see I was planning to commit suicide on Saturday night, but before I did, I prayed, 'God if you're there, and you don't want me to do this, give me a sign now.'

At that point my phone started to ring. I looked at the caller ID, and it said, 'Almighty God'. I was too afraid to answer

QWIK QWIP: "Sour grapes can turn into WHINES."

70. True Redemption

While handing a 25 cent-off coupon to the supermarket clerk at the checkout counter, a woman inadvertently missed her hand, and the coupon slipped beneath the scale and was gone.

The checker looked distressed, so the woman said, "That's Okay, it's in coupon heaven now."

"Coupon heaven?", the checker said.

"Yes", the woman said, "That' s where coupons go when they die."

"Only the redeemed ones!" said the checker.

71. Thank You Jesus

Faith, 3, went to Good Friday services. That night she prayed, "Thank You, Jesus, for dying on the Cross. And thank you we didn' t have to watch!"

QWIK QWIP: "Suffering from truth decay? Brush up on your Bible."

72. Heavenly Inspiration

The temporary Sunday School teacher was struggling to open a combination lock on the supply cabinet.

She had been told the combination, but couldn' t quite remember it. Finally she went to the pastor' s study and asked for help.

The pastor came into the room and began to turn the dial. After the first two numbers he paused and stared blankly for a moment. Finally he looked serenely heavenward and his lips moved silently.

Then he looked back at the lock, and quickly turned to the final number, and opened the lock.

The teacher was amazed. "I' m in awe at your faith, pastor," she said.

"It' s really nothing," he answered.

"The number is on a piece of tape on the ceiling."

73. Honest Hymns

The way we might sing some well-known hymns if we were being 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
- It Is My Secret What God Can Do
- 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
- 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 Behaviour on Jesus
- Pillow of Ages, Fluffed for Me
- All Hail the Influence of Jesus' Name!

- When Peace, Like a Trickle
- We Give Thee but Still Think We Own
- What an Acquaintance We Have in Jesus
- My Faith Looks Around for Thee
- 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
- Sweet Moments of Prayer

QWIK QWIP: "Life is a journey...not a destination. Enjoy the trip!"

74. Confession

In the days when confessions had to be made before a priest, four young boys came together; the priest took them one at a time, starting with the biggest. He was a boy of around age ten, and at the conclusion of a list of wrongdoings, he said, "And please forgive me for throwing peanuts in the brook." The priest was somewhat curious about this last "sin", but decided not to say anything. The next boy, also 10, but a little smaller in size, also recited his list of sins for the week, and ended with the same one, "Please forgive me for throwing peanuts in the brook." Now the priest was getting very curious, but again said nothing. After the third boy repeated the pattern, the priest decided that he would wait until the last of the four before asking about this strange confession. However, when the smallest boy came in, he recited a list of sins, came to the end, and started to leave when the priest blurted out, "But aren't you going to ask forgiveness for throwing peanuts in the brook?" "Why?" asked the boy. "I'm Peanuts."

75. Early to Church!

Ever notice that you have to get to church pretty early to find a seat in the back row?

QWIK QWIP: "Most people will be about as happy, as they decide to be."

76. Divine Wisdom

A local priest and pastor were fishing on the side of the road.

They thoughtfully made a sign saying, "The End is Near! Turn yourself around now before it's too late!" and showed it to each passing car.

One driver that drove by didn't appreciate the sign and shouted at them: "Leave us alone you religious nuts!"

All of a sudden they heard a big splash, looked at each other, and the priest said to the pastor

"You think we should just put up a sign that says 'bridge out' instead?"

77. Saving or Saved?

A friend of mine and her husband were on vacation.

They visited a Church on Sunday.

My friend likes to sit close to the front.

So they entered a pew in the second row.

Shortly after settling into the pew, an usher came up to them, tapped lightly on bench, and said, "This pew is saved."

Her husband replied, "So are WE!"

78. Intimate Congregations

A group of women were talking together. One woman said, "Our congregation is sometimes down to 30 or 40 on a Sunday."

Another said, "That' s nothing. Sometimes our congregation is down to six or seven."

A maiden lady in her seventies added her bit, "Why, it' s so bad in our church on Sundays that when the minister says ' dearly beloved,' it makes me blush."

QWIK QWIP: "You will never "have it all together." "

79. Many a True Word.....

It has to be confessed that the minister was rather long-winded.

During his sermon a young wife of the congregation remembered that she had left the Sunday dinner in the gas range without regulating the flame.

She hastily wrote a note and slipped it to her husband, who was an usher.

He, thinking it was for the minister, calmly walked up and laid it on the pulpit.

The minister paused, took the note with a smile, which turned into a terrific frown as he read:

"Please hurry home and shut off the gas."

80. Sales vs. Management

A passenger jet was suffering through a severe thunderstorm. As the passengers were being bounced around by the turbulence a young woman turned to a minister sitting next to her and with a nervous laugh asks, "Reverend, you' re a man of God, can' t you do something about this storm?"

To which he replies, "Lady, I' m in sales, not management."

QWIK QWIP: "Now is the most interesting time of all."

81. Mistaken Identity

"Recently we got a call from that big white church at 11th and Walnut," the paramedic said. "A frantic usher was very concerned that during the sermon an elderly man passed out in a pew and appeared to be dead. The usher could find no pulse and there was no noticeable breathing."

"What was so unusual and demanding about this particular call?" the interviewer asked.

"Well," the paramedic said, "we carried out four guys before we found the one who was dead."

82. Hey Fellas!

Three preachers sat discussing the best positions for prayer while a telephone repairman worked nearby.

"Kneeling is definitely best," claimed one.

"No," another contended. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven."

"You' re both wrong," the third insisted. "The most effective prayer position is lying prostrate, face down on the floor."

The repairman could contain himself no longer. "Hey, fellas, " he interrupted, "the best prayin' I ever did was hangin' upside down from a telephone pole."

83. Collection Plate

A little child in church for the first time watched as the ushers passed the offering plates. When they neared the pew where he sat, the youngster piped-up so that everyone could hear "Don' t pay for me Daddy, I' m under five."

84. Sixteen!

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?"

"Sixteen," the boy responded.

His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly. "How do you know that?"

"Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up, like the Bishop said: 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."

QWIK QWIP: "Are you wrinkled with burden? Come to the church for a face-lift."

85. Modern Idiom

A 6-year-old was overheard reciting the Lord' s Prayer at a church service: "And forgive us our trash passes, as we forgive those who passed trash against us."

86. A Price For Everything

A little girl became restless as the preacher' s sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mummy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

87. Our Witness

After the christening of his baby brother in church, little Johnny sobbed all the way

home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong.

Finally, the boy replied, "That priest said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I want to stay with you guys!"

88. No Prayer Required

The Sunday School Teacher asks, "Now, Johnny, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?"

"No sir," little Johnny replies, "I don' t have to. My Mom is a good cook."

QWIK QWIP: "When it comes time to die...make sure all you got to do is die."

89. Practice Makes Perfect

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather' s lap 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 was alternately stroking her own cheek, then 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?"

90. Fundraising

There is the story of a pastor who got up one 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."

91. Wise Advice

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humour, 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."

92. Shakespeare

Q. What was William Shakespeare's favourite book of the bible?

A. The book of Acts

93. In the ' Nick of Time'

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 him in front of the service station. 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. It's the same in my business."

QWIK QWIP: "Following the path of least resistance is what makes rivers and men crooked."

94. Which Are You?

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

95. Whose Law?

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."

96. B.I.B.L.E.

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you ' know' what the Bible 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."

QWIK QWIP: "There are two things I' ve learned: There is a God. And, I' m not Him."

97. Church Football

Quarterback Sneak - Church members quietly leaving during the invitation.

Draw Play - What many children do with the bulletin during worship.

Halftime - The period between Sunday School and worship when many choose to leave.

Benchwarmer - Those who do not sing, pray, work or apparently do anything but sit.

Backfield-in-Motion - Making a trip to the back (restroom or water fountain) during the service.

Staying in the Pocket - What happens to a lot of money that should be given to the Lord' s work.

Two-minute Warning - The point at which you realise the sermon is almost over and begin to gather up your children and belongings.

Instant Replay - The preacher loses his notes and falls back on last week' s illustrations.

Sudden Death - What happens to the attention span of the congregation if the preacher goes "overtime".

Trap - You' re called on to pray and are asleep.

End Run - Getting out of church quick, without speaking to any guest or fellow member.

Flex Defense - The ability to allow absolutely nothing said during the sermon to affect your life.

Halfback Option - The decision of 50 percent of the congregation not to return for the evening service. (Only 50%?!)

Blitz - The rush for the restaurants following the closing prayer.

QWIK QWIP: "To the world you might be one person, but to one person you might be the world."

98. Condiments Please

The Sunday school teacher was carefully explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal. She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut the steer in pieces and laid it upon the altar.

And then Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar. He had them do this four times.

"Now, said the teacher, "can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the steer on the altar?"

A little girl in the back of the room raised her hand with great enthusiasm. "To make the gravy," came her enthusiastic reply.

99. The First Sunday School Lesson

One Sunday after church the mother asked her very young daughter what her lesson had been about. Her daughter answered "Don' t be scared, you' ll get your quilts."

Needless to say, the mother was perplexed.

Later in the day, when the Pastor stopped by for tea, the mother asked him what that morning' s Sunday school lesson had been about. The pastor said, "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."

QWIK QWIP: "Real friends are those who, when you feel you' ve made a fool of yourself, don' t feel you' ve done a permanent job."

100. Skipping Church

John, who loved to play golf, was also pastor of the Community Church. Every Sunday he chafed under the realisation that while he had to go preach at the church, his golfing buddies were having a great time out on the greens. So John devised a plan. On Saturday evening he taped his sermon, and placed the tape player in the pulpit. He then connected it to the church' s amplifying equipment, and set it on a timer so that it would start precisely at the time in the service when he would normally begin preaching. The next day, John enjoyed a wonderful day at the golf course. And surprisingly, there were no adverse comments from the church deacons, or from any of the members. So, John decided to follow the same plan the next week. However, after nine holes, John became a little uneasy, and decided to check to see if everything was going okay back at the church. As he approached the church, he could hear his own voice booming out the sermon he had taped the night before. He quietly opened the front door, and walked through the vestibule. But when he peered through the sanctuary doors, he was shocked to see that no one was in church at all. Instead, on every pew there were six small tape recorders, all of them eagerly taking in every word of the sermon.

101. Smiles From The Bible

Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married?

A. Ruthless.

Q. What do they call pastors in Germany?

A. German Shepherds.

Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

A. Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

Q. What 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 motor vehicles are in the Bible?

A. Jehovah drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden in a Fury. David' s Triumph was heard throughout the land. Honda, because the apostles were all in one Accord.

Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A. Samson. He brought the house down.

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. Which servant of God was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?

A. Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.

Q. Which area of Palestine was especially wealthy?

A. The area around Jordan. The banks were always overflowing.

Q. Who is the greatest baby sitter mentioned in the Bible?

A. David. He rocked Goliath to a very deep sleep.

Q. Which Bible character had no parents?

A. Joshua, son of Nun.

QWIK QWIP: "Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to get into their pews or their favourite church parking spot.

102. I Baptise you?!

The young son of a Baptist minister was in church one morning when he saw for the first time baptism by immersion. He was greatly interested in it, and the next morning proceeded to baptise... you guessed it... his three cats in the bathtub.

The youngest kitten bore it very well, and so did the younger cat, but the old family tomcat rebelled.

The old feline struggled with the boy, clawed and tore his skin, and finally got away. With considerable effort the boy caught the old tom again and proceeded with the "ceremony."

But the cat acted worse than ever, clawing and spitting, and scratching the boy' s face.

Finally, after barely getting the cat splattered with water, he dropped him on the floor in disgust and said:

"Fine, be a Methodist if you want to!"

QWIK QWIP: "Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisers."

103. Jonah and the Whale

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though they were very large mammals, their throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

The teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was impossible.

The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah."

The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl replied, "Then you ask him."

104. All Original

What a good thing Adam had going. When he said something he knew nobody had said it before.

105. Healthy Communion

Being a new pastor to an ageing congregation, I told them I would be serving them prune juice in Holy Communion. When asked why I would dare entertain such a thought, I said, "If the Holy Spirit won' t move you-- the prune juice will!"

106. Science v God!

A group of scientists decided that mankind had advanced far enough that they no longer needed God. So they drew straws, and the loser went to find God. When he found Him, he dithered a bit, made some small talk about the weather, and finally came out with it.

"OK, look God," he said, "We' ve mastered space exploration, we can cure any disease, we can talk instantaneously with people around the world, we can clone human beings; basically, we don' t need you any more."

God listened patiently. Finally He spoke.

"Tell you what," He said. "We' ll settle this with a man-making contest. Each of us will make a man, and the first one to finish wins."

"Sure," said the man, who headed off to consult with his colleagues.

"Wait a minute," called God.

The man turned.

"We' re going to do this the real way; the way I did it in the beginning."

"No problem," responds the man, bending down to grab a handful of clay.

"No, no, no," says God. "You make your own dirt."

QWIK QWIP: "It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one."

107. Kid Wisdom

A kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. She would occasionally walk around to see each child' s artwork. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I am drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "but no one knows what God looks like." Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

108. More Kid Wisdom

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her 5 and 6 year-olds. After explaining the commandment "Honour thy

Father and thy Mother," she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

One little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

QWIK QWIP: "We were called to be witnesses, not lawyers."

109. Your Point of View

An old farmer went to the city one weekend and attended the big city church. He came home and his wife asked him how it was.

"Well," said the farmer, "it was good. They did something different, however. They sang praise choruses instead of hymns."

"Praise choruses?" said his wife. "What are those?"

"Oh, they' re OK. They are sort of like hymns, only different," said the farmer.

"Well, what' s the difference?" asked his wife.

The farmer said, "Well, it' s like this - If I were to say to you: "Martha, the cows are in the corn" - well, that would be a hymn. If on the other hand, I were to say to you:

' Martha, Martha, Martha,
Oh Martha, MARTHA, MARTHA,
the cows, the big cows, the brown cows,
the black cows the white cows,
the black and white cows,
the COWS, COWS, COWS
are in the corn,
are in the corn, are in the corn, are in the corn,
the CORN, CORN, CORN.'

Then, if I were to repeat the whole thing two or three times, well, that would be a praise chorus."

The next weekend, his nephew, a young, new Christian from the city came to visit and attended the local church of the small town. He went home and his mother asked him how it was.

"Well," said the young man, "it was good. They did something different however. They sang hymns instead of regular songs."

"Hymns?" asked his mother. "What are those?"

"Oh, they' re OK. They are sort of like regular songs, only different," said the young man.

"Well, what' s the difference?" asked his mother.

The young man said, "Well, it' s like this - If I were to say to you: ' Martha, the cows are in the corn' - well, that would be a regular song. If on the other hand, I were to say to you:

' Oh Martha, dear Martha, hear thou my cry
Incline thine ear to the words of my mouth
Turn thou thy whole wondrous ear by and by
To the righteous, inimitable, glorious truth.

For the way of the animals who can explain
There in their heads is no shadow of sense
Hearkenest they in God' s sun or His rain
Unless from the mild, tempting corn they are fenced.

Yea those cows in glad bovine, rebellious delight
Have broke free their shackles, their warm pens eschewed
Then goaded by minions of darkness and night
They all my mild Chilliwack sweet corn have chewed.

So look to the bright shining day by and by
Where all foul corruption's of earth are reborn
Where no vicious animals make my soul cry
And I no longer see those foul cows in the corn.'

Then if I were to do only verses one, three and four and do a key change on the last verse, well that would be a hymn.

QWIK QWIP: "When you get to your wit' s end, you' ll find God lives there."

110. The Power of Prayer

The minister' s little six-year-old girl had been so naughty during the week, that her mother decided to give her the worst kind of punishment. She told her she couldn' t go to the SundaySchool Picnic on Saturday.

Then, when the day came, her mother felt she had been too harsh and changed her mind. When she told the little girl she could go to the picnic, the child' s reaction was one of gloom and unhappiness.

"What' s the matter? I thought you' d be glad to go to the picnic." her mother said.

"It' s too late!" the little girl said. "I' ve already prayed for rain!"

111. An Encouragement

Don' t give up. Moses was once a basket case!

112. Some Things Never Change?

Thanksgiving Day was approaching and the family had received a Thanksgiving card with a painting of a pilgrim family on their way to church.

Grandma showed the card to her small grandchildren, observing, "The Pilgrim children liked to go to church with their mothers and fathers."

"Oh yeah?" her young grandson replied, "so why is their dad carrying that rifle?"

113. Deja Vu!

The minister selected a 50-cent item at a convenience store, but then discovered he didn' t have any money with him.

"I could invite you to hear me preach in return," he said jokingly to the clerk, "but I' m afraid I don' t have any fifty-cent sermons."

"Perhaps," suggested the clerk, "I could come twice."

114. Great Faith

An overweight business associate of mine decided it was time to shed some excess pounds. He took his new diet seriously, even changing his driving route to avoid his favourite bakery. One morning, however, he arrived at work carrying a gigantic coffeecake. We all scolded him, but his smile remained cherubic.

"This is a very special coffeecake," he explained. "I accidentally drove by the bakery this morning and there in the window was a host of goodies. I felt this was no accident, so I prayed, ' Lord, if you want me to have one of those delicious coffeecakes, let me have a parking place directly in front of the bakery' , and sure enough," he continued, "the eighth time around the block, there it was!"

QWIK QWIP: "People are funny. They want the front of the bus, middle of the road, and the back of the church."

115. God' s Rescue Attempts

During heavy flooding caused by La Nina, a priest refused to obey evacuation orders and decided to stay back in town. As the floodwaters rose higher, he climbed to the roof of his house and started praying to God for help.

After an hour of devout praying, a boat came by. The priest refused the boat crew' s help.

"God will come to my assistance," he said. And he remained on the roof of his house.

After another hour praying, a canoe came by. The priest refused the owner' s help.

"God will rescue me," he said. And he remained on the roof of his house.

After yet another hour of prayer, a helicopter flew by. Yet again, the priest refused help.

"God will help me", he said. And again, he remained on the roof of his house.

Despite continuous praying, the flood waters rose and the priest eventually drowned in the raging water.

In heaven, he met God and asked Him, "Why didn' t you help me? I called for help and you didn' t answer my prayers!"

"Didn' t the help arrive? I sent a canoe, a boat, AND a chopper to your rescue!"

116. Ahhh -- Excuse me

The President was visiting Europe, and in Spain he noticed an old man in a long flowing white robe with a long white beard and long white hair. The man had a staff in one hand and some stone tablets under the other arm. Excited, G.W. approached the man and enquired, "Aren' t you Moses." The man ignored G.W. and stared at the ceiling.

President Bush positioned himself more directly in the man' s view and asked again, "Aren' t you Moses?" The man continued to look up at the ceiling.

Exasperated, G.W. reached out, tugged at the man' s sleeve, and asked again, "Excuse me, sir. But aren' t you Moses?" The man finally responded in an irritated voice, "Yes, I am."

G.W. asked him why he was acting so rude and Moses responded, "Purely self-defence, I assure you. The last time I spoke to a Bush I had to wander around in the desert for forty years!"

QWIK QWIP: 'I don' t know why some people change churches. What difference does it make which one you stay home from?'

117. Good Parentage

A young woman teacher with obvious liberal tendencies explains to her class of small children that she is an atheist. She asks her class if they are atheists too. Not really knowing what atheism is but wanting to be like their teacher, their hands explode into the air like fleshy fireworks.

There is, however, one exception. A beautiful girl named Lucy has not gone along with the crowd. The teacher asks her why she has decided to be different.

"Because I'm not an atheist."

Then, asks the teacher, "What are you?"

"I'm a Christian."

The teacher is a little perturbed now, her face slightly red. She asks Lucy why she is a Christian.

"Well, I was brought up knowing and loving Jesus. My mum is a Christian, and my dad is a Christian, so I am a Christian."

The teacher angrily says, "That's no reason."

"What if your mom was a moron, and your dad was a moron. What would you be then?"

She paused, smiled and said, "Then, I'd be an atheist."

QWIK QWIP: "A lot of church members are singing "Standing on the Promises" while they are just sitting on the premises."

118. BC!

Adam and Eve lived thousands of years BC - Before Clothing.

119. Dot Com Prayers

When my brother said, "Amen" after grace one night, one of his children asked what "amen" meant. Before he or his wife could answer, their five-year-old responded, "It means "send."

120. Perfection

An evangelist had a great revival camp going. One night he was up in front of a large audience, speaking on imperfection. He asked his audience towards the end, "Has anyone ever known anyone who has come CLOSE to the perfection of our lord, Jesus Christ?" Nobody, of

course raised their hand. So he issued the question again. "Anybody! Has ANYONE ever known that kind of perfection?"

Finally a guy in the back raised his hand, so of course he was asked to stand up. "Tell us. Tell us who you knew who was so close to perfection."

The man responded, "My wife' s first husband."

QWIK QWIP: "Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your door for years."

121. Visiting Church - Again!

A one-dollar note met a twenty-dollar note and said, "Hey, where have you been? I haven' t seen you around here much."

The twenty answered, "I' ve been hanging out at the casinos, went on a cruise and did the rounds on the ship, back to the United States for a while, went to a couple of baseball games, to the mall, that kind of stuff. How about you?"

The one-dollar note said, "You know, same old stuff - church, church, church."

122. The Word

Our five-year-old son went to a church conference with my wife and me. He got restless, so my wife handed him a pad and pencil and suggested he mark down every time the speaker said the word "and." After a while, he grew bored, and I asked,

"Would you like to listen for a different word?"

"Yes," he whispered. "I' d like to listen for ' Amen' ."

QWIK QWIP: "Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn' t belong."

123. Occupational Hymns

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 Realtor' s Hymn.....I' ve Got A Mansion Just Over the Hilltop
 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 Credit Card Telemarketer' s Hymn...A Charge To Keep I Have
 The Zookeeper' s Hymn.....All Creatures of Our God & 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 Baker' s Hymn.....When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder
 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 Haematologist' s Hymn.....Are You Washed in the Blood?
 The Mens' Wear Clerk' s HymnBlest Be the Tie
 The Umpire' s Hymn.....I Need No Other Argument
 The Librarian' s Hymn.....Whispering Hope

124. Can' t Take IWith You

There once was a rich man who was near death. He was very grieved because he had worked so hard for his money and he wanted to be able to take it with him to heaven. So he began to pray that he might be able to take some of his wealth with him.

An angel hears his plea and appears to him. "Sorry, but you can' t take your wealth with you." The man implores the angel to speak to God to see if He might bend the rules.

The man continues to pray that his wealth could follow him. The angel reappears and informs the man that God has decided to allow him to take one suitcase with him. Overjoyed, the man gathers his largest suitcase and fills it with pure gold bars and places it beside his bed.

Soon afterward the man dies and shows up at the Gates of Heaven to greet St. Peter. St. Peter seeing the suitcase says, "Hold on, you can't bring that in here!"

But the man explains to St. Peter that he has permission and asks him to verify his story with the Lord. Sure enough, St. Peter checks and comes back saying, "You're right. You are allowed one carry-on bag, but I'm supposed to check its contents before letting it through."

St. Peter opens the suitcase to inspect the worldly items that the man found too precious to leave behind and exclaims, "You brought pavement?!!!"

QWIK QWIP: "To make a long story short, don't tell it."

125. A Letter to God

Dear Lord,

So for today, God; I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or even indulgent. I'm very thankful for that - But in a very short time, God, I'm going to get out of bed, and from that moment on I'm going to need a lot of help! Amen

126. Take A Break

A clergyman, walking down a country lane, sees a young farmer struggling to load hay back onto a cart after it had fallen off.

"You look hot, my son," said the cleric. "Why don't you rest a moment, and I'll give you a hand."

"No thanks," said the young man. "My father wouldn't like it."

"Don't be silly," the minister said. "Everyone is entitled to a break. Come and have a drink of water."

Again the young man protested that his father would be upset. Losing his patience, the clergyman said, "Your father must be a real slave driver. Tell me where I can find him and I'll give him a piece of my mind!"

"Well," replied the young farmer, "he's under the load of hay."

QWIK QWIP: "The phrase that is guaranteed to wake up an audience: "And in conclusion." "

127. Many a True Word...

On his Key Life radio program Steve Brown told of a friend who attended a meeting of a local civic club. One member who was the pastor of a local congregation normally gave the invocation. Since the pastor was absent and there were no other ministers in attendance, the President asked the guest speaker if he would offer the blessing. The speaker stood up and started his prayer, "Being no ministers present, We thank thee Oh God....."

128. Reality Check

An elderly pastor, looking over his large congregation on Easter morning, startled them with this announcement: "My friends, realising that I will not see many of you until next Easter, may I take this opportunity to wish all of you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!"

129. Not 100% Correct, but still... Pretty Accurate.

A Sunday school class was studying the Ten Commandments. They were ready to discuss the last one. The teacher asked if anyone could tell her what it was.

Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, "Thou shall not take the covers off the neighbour's wife."

130. Prayer Needed?

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away.

"Johnny, wait until we say our prayer," his mother reminded him.

"I don' t have to," the little boy replied.

"Of course you do," his mother insisted, "we say a prayer before eating at our house."

"That' s at our house," Johnny explained, "but this is Grandma' s house and she knows how to cook!"

QWIK QWIP: "If the church wants a better pastor, it only needs to pray for the one it has."

131. From Bad to Worse

The minister was shaking everyone' s hand while they were leaving the church.

An elderly man shook his hand and said, "Reverend, that was the worst sermon I' ve ever listened to. It was terrible."

As the minister stood there dumbfounded, the old man' s wife stepped in, trying to help.

"Please don' t pay any attention to him, pastor. He only repeats what he hears others say."

132. Beautiful Bulletin Bloopers

1. Next Friday we will be serving hot gods for lunch.
2. If you would like to make a donation, fill out a form, enclose a check and drip in the collection basket.
3. Nov. 11: An evening of boweling at Lincoln Country Club.
4. Women' s Luncheon: Each membebring a sandwich. Polly Phillips will give the medication.
5. Karen' s beautiful solo: "It is Well With My Solo."
6. Congratulations to Tim and Ronda on the birth of their daughter October 12 thru 17.
7. If you choose to heave during the Postlude, please do so quietly.
8. We are grateful for the help of those who cleaned up the grounds around the church building and the rector.
9. Hymn: "I Love Thee My Ford."
10. Sign-up sheet for anyone wishing to be water baptized on the table in the foyer.

11. Newsletters are not being sent to absentees because of their weight.
12. Helpers are needed! Please sign up on the information sheep.
13. The Advent Retreat will be held in the lower level of St. Mary's Cathedral.
14. The District Superintendent will be meeting with the church board.
15. As soon as the weather clears up, the men will have a goof outing.
16. Fifth Sunday is Lent.
17. Thank you, dead friends.
18. Diana and Don request your presents at their wedding.
19. Lent is a period for preparing for Holy Week and Easter.
20. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget all His benefits.
21. For the word of God is quick and powerful...piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit.
22. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men.
23. Definition: Persons who are shut-in during bad weather.
24. The lovers in the exhaust fan are not working.
25. Volunteers are needed to spit up food.
26. Head Deacon and Dead Deaconess
27. We pray that our people will jumble themselves.

QWIK QWIP: "Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed up and permanently set."

133. Call To Worship

Two shipwrecked sailors were adrift on a raft for days. Finally, in desperation, one knelt and began to pray, "Oh Lord, I know I've been a pretty bad guy. I've drunk too much booze, and chased too many women. I've lied and cheated. I've done so many things that I'm ashamed of, but Lord, if you'll just save me I promise that I'll . . ."

"Hold it," interrupted his shipmate, "don't say another word, I think I just spotted land."

134. Christian Pick-Up Lines

by Craig Martinosky

1. Nice bible"
2. "I would like to pray with you"
3. "You know Jesus? Me too!"
4. "God told me to come talk to you"
5. "I know a church where we could go and talk"

6. "How about a hug, sister?"
7. "Do you need help carrying your Bible? It looks heavy."
8. "Christians don' t shake hands, Christians gotta hug!"
9. "Oh, you' re cold? Maybe we should read Ecclesiastes 4:11"
10. "Did it hurt when you fell from Heaven?"
11. "What are your plans for tonight? Feel like a bible study?"
12. "I am here for you."
13. "The word says "Give drink to those who are thirsty, and feed the hungry," So...how about dinner?"
14. "You don' t have an accountability partner? Me neither."
15. "You want to come over and watch "The 10 Commandments" tonight?"
16. "Is it a sin that you stole my heart?"
17. "Would you happen to know a Christian woman that I could love with all my heart and wait on hand and foot?"
18. "Nice bracelet. ' What would Jesus date? Uh, I mean do* " "
19. "Do you believe in Divine appointment?"
20. "Have you ever tried praying at a drive in before?"
21. "Excuse me, I believe one of your ribs belongs to me."
22. "My friend told me to come and meet you, he said that you are a really nice person. I think you know him. Jesus, yeah that' s his name."
23. "You know, they say that you have never really dated, until you have dated a Christian."
24. "Yeah, I predicted David over Goliath."
25. "What? Friends listen to Amazing Grace by candle light."

QWIK QWIP: "Having a spirit of non-forgiveness is like drinking poison - and waiting for the other person to die!"

135. Church Billboards

- * 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.
- * Forbidden fruit creates many jams.
- * Try our Sundays. They are better than Baskin-Robbins.
- * Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here.
- * Have trouble sleeping? We have sermons-come hear one.
- * People are like tea bags--you have to put them in hot water before you now how strong they are.
- * Where will you be sitting in eternity - smoking or non-smoking?

QWIK QWIP: "The Ten Commandments aren' t prefaced with "If you' re in the mood." -LauraSchlessinger

136. Church Bulletin Bombs

Actual announcements from actual church bulletins:

1. Don' t let worry kill you - let the church help.
2. Thursday night - Potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
3. Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community
4. Wednesday the ladies liturgy will meet. Mrs Johnson will sing "Put me in my little bed" accompanied by the pastor.
5. Thursday at 5:00pm there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All ladies wishing to be "Little Mothers" will meet with the Pastor in his study.
6. This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
7. Next Sunday a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet will come forward and do so.
8. A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
9. At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.
10. The preacher will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, "Break Forth With Joy."
11. During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when A. B. Doe supplied our pulpit.

12. The church is glad to have with us today as our guest minister the Rev. John Green who has Mrs. Green with him. After the service we request that all remain in the sanctuary for the Hanging of the Greens.

13. The eighth graders will be presenting Shakespeare's "Hamlet" in the church basement on Friday at 7:00pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

QWIK QWIP: "The most powerful force in the universe - gossip."

137. The Church Dictionary

- * AMEN: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.
- * BULLETIN: 1. Parish information, read only during the sermon. 2. Church air conditioning. 3. Your receipt for attending church.
- * CHOIR: A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the congregation to lip-sync.
- * HYMN: A song of praise, usually sung in a key three octave higher than that of the congregation's range.
- * RECESSIONAL HYMN: The last song at church, often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.
- * JONAH: The original "Jaws" story.
- * JUSTICE: When kids have kids of their own.
- * MANGER: 1. Where Mary gave birth to Jesus because Joseph wasn't covered by an HMO. 2. The Bible's way of showing us that holiday travel has always been rough.
- * PEW: A medieval torture device still found in Churches.
- * RECESSIONAL: The ceremonial procession at the conclusion of church - led by parishioners trying to beat the crowd to the parking lot.
- * RELICS: People who have been going to church for so long, they actually know when to sit, kneel, and stand without prompting.
- * TEN COMMANDMENTS: The most important Top Ten list not given by David Letterman.
- * USHERS: The only people who don't know the seating capacity of a pew.

138. Church-Lite

Does it seem to you that churches these days just expect too much from their people? Well before you remember that Jesus told us to pick up our cross and follow Him daily, read the following announcement, then repent!

Has the heaviness of you old fashioned church got you weighted down? Try us! We are the New and Improved Lite Church of the Valley. Studies have shown we have 24% fewer commitments than other churches. We guarantee to trim off guilt, because we are Low-Cal... low Calvin, that is. We are the home of the 7.5% tithe. We promise 35 minute worship services, with 7 minute sermons. Next Sunday' s exciting text is the story of the Feeding of the 500.

We have only 6 Commandments-- Your choice!! We use just 3 gospels in our contemporary New Testament *Good Sound Bites for Modern Human Beings*. We take the offering every other week, all major credit cards accepted, of course. We are looking forward with great anticipation to our 800 year Millennium.

Yes, the New and Improved Lite Church of the Valley could be just what you are looking for. We are everything you want in a church... and less!!

QWIK QWIP: "Millions who long for immortality don' t know what to do on a rainy Sunday afternoon. "

139. Value For Money

After church one Sunday morning, a mother commented, "The choir was awful this morning." The father commented, "The sermon was too long."

Their 7-year-old daughter added, "You' ve got to admit it was a pretty good show for a dollar."

QWIK QWIP: "Why should I waste my time reliving the past when I can spend it worrying about the future?"

140. The Church Staff

PASTOR...

Is able to leap tall buildings in a single bound;

Is more powerful than a locomotive;

Is faster than a speeding bullet;

Walks on water;

Gives policies to God.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR...

Is able to leap short buildings in a single bound;
Is as powerful as a switch engine;
Is just as fast as a speeding bullet;
Walks on water if the sea is calm;
Talks with God.

EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR...

Leaps short buildings with a running start;
Is almost as powerful as a switch engine;
Is faster than a speeding BB;
Walks on water if he knows where the stumps are;
Talks with God if special request is approved.

MUSIC DIRECTOR...

Clears a Quonset hut;
Loses race with a locomotive;
Can fire a speeding bullet;
Swims well;
Is occasionally addressed by God.

YOUTH DIRECTOR...

Runs into small buildings;
Recognises locomotives two out of three times;
Used a squirt gun in college;
Knows how to use the water fountain;
Mumbles to himself.

CHURCH SECRETARY...

Lifts buildings to walk under them;
Kicks locomotives off the track;
Catches speeding bullets in her teeth;
Freezes water with a single glance;
When God speaks, she says, "May I ask who' s calling?".

QWIK QWIP: "Don' t put a question mark where God puts a period."

141. Hard?

Ever wondered what it was like for Jesus at Nazareth High?
Nazareth Secondary School Term Report

Student: J. CHRIST Form: III Term: 1

SUBJECT GRADE TEACHER' S COMMENT

RELIGION (D) To the question "Who made the world?" persisted in answering

' My dad' . Claims bible originated from the same source.

ENGLISH (D+) Tends to speak and write in archaic forms and uses outmoded figures of speech.

HISTORY (A) Excellent pupil of ancient and Religious History.

GEOGRAPHY (C-) Assignment on ' Hot, dry lands' was excellent, but shows little interest in the rest. In geology, keeps talking about the Rock of Ages instead of the ages of Rock.

SOCIAL STUDIES (B+) Shows keen interest in social issues.

MATHEMATICS (F) Lacks basics. Keeps muttering about ' Three in one' and ' I and the father are one' .

GENERAL SCIENCE (D) Lacks discipline - e.g., when asked to repeat the experiment for making hydrogen, claimed he knew a better way.

GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION

(D) Prefers to draw with a stick in the sand to pencil and paper.

CONSUMER EDUCATION (C+) Interesting ideas about alternative life style: Something about living like sparrows and lilies of the fields...too impractical.

ART/CRAFT (B) Obviously has imagination and creativity, a good potter - likes working with dirt and water.

MATERIAL STUDIES (A) Excellent in woodwork section. Obviously receives help and stimulation at home.

MUSIC/DRAMA (B+) A keen member of the school choir. On occasions can be frighteningly dramatic.

COMMUNITY (A) Keenly interested in all aspects of Living community.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (D-) A trouble maker - e.g. during the learn-to-swim campaign insisted on trying to walk across the pool.

HEALTH CLASSES (A) Shows a remarkable aptitude for first aid and knowledge of the body.

CLASS TEACHER' S COMMENT: This boy has a very unhealthy tendency to form gangs. He has organised twelve of his friends into a gang and is seen constantly in the company of the children of publicans and sinners. He needs to be more selective in his choice of friends. Also, he should learn to keep his hair at a tidy length and not wear sandals with the school uniform.

QWIK QWIP: "When praying, don' t give God instructions -- just report for duty."

142. Abraham and Windows 95

Avraham (Abraham) wants to upgrade his PC to Windows 95. Yitzhak (Isaac) is incredulous.

"Pop," he says, "you can' t run Windows 95 on your old, slow 386.

Everyone knows that you need at least a 486 with a minimum of 16 megs of memory in order to multitask effectively with Windows 95."

But Abraham, the man of faith, gazed calmly at his son and replied, "God will provide the RAM, my son."

143. Acts 2:38

An elderly woman had just returned to her home from an evening service when she was startled by an intruder. As she caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables, she yelled "Stop, Acts 2:38".

The burglar quickly turned around and pointed his gun at her when she yelled again "Stop, Acts 2:38".

Well this time the man stopped, dead in his tracks. The woman calmly called the Police and explained what she had done. As the Officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked him "Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a Scripture to you."

"Scripture?" the burglar exclaimed, "I thought she said she had an AX and 2 38s."

144. Know The 10 Commandments

A student was asked to list the 10 Commandments in any order. His response was: 3, 6, 1, 8, 4, 5, 9, 2, 10, 7.

QWIK QWIP: "Exercise daily -- walk with the Lord."

145. A Dog' s Love

Rev. Warren J. Keating, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Yuma, AZ., says that the best prayer he ever heard was, "Lord, please make me the kind of person my dog thinks I am."

146.0000

146. Gravity Rules

A woman was at the beach with her children when her four-year-old son ran up to me, grabbed my hand and led me to the shore where a sea gull lay dead in the sand. "Mommy, what happened to him?" my son asked. "He died and went to heaven," I replied. My son thought a moment and then said, "And God threw him back down?"

147. The Truth of It

After the church service a little boy told the pastor, "When I grow up, I'm going to give you some money. "Well, thank you," the pastor replied. "But why?" "Because," the boy responded, "my daddy says you're one of the poorest preachers we've ever had."

148. More Truth

A woman invited some people over for dinner. At the table she turned to her six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" The girl replied, "I wouldn't know what to say." "Just say what you heard Mommy say," the mother answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

QWIK QWIP: "The biggest lie on the planet: "When I get what I want I will be happy." "

149. Bible Quiz

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. 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 Corinthians 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 Angels 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. Which Bible character had no parents?
A. Joshua, son of Nun.

Q. Why didn' t Noah go fishing?
A. He only had two worms!

QWIK QWIP: "When things go wrongdon' t go with them."

150. Biblical Headlines

Biblical headlines as they might be written today:

□ 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

Behaviour

□ 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:

PREACHER RAISES A STINK: Last Will & Testament Reading Delayed

QWIK QWIP: "Life is what' s coming....not what was."

151. 10 Reason Not to Wash

In one church, the pastor, apparently fed up with all the excuses given over the years as to why people don' t go to church, included "Ten 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 are cleaner than everybody else.

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 is never warm enough in winter or cool enough in summer.
10. People who make soap are only after your money.

152. An Arm and a Leg!

Adam was walking around the Garden of Eden feeling very lonely, so God asked Adam, "What' s wrong?" Adam said he didn' t have anyone to talk to. So God said he was going to give him a companion and it would be a woman.

He said this person would cook for you and wash your clothes, she will always agree with every decision you make. She will bear you children and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night to take care of them. She will not nag you, and will always be the first to admit she was wrong when you' ve had a disagreement. She will never have a headache, and will freely give you love and compassion whenever needed.

Adam asked God, "What would a woman like this cost?"

God said, "An arm and a leg."

Adam said "What can I get for just a rib?"

The rest is history!

153. The Righteous Eat

My pastor-husband Scott has a sweet tooth, so I knew the chocolate chip cookies I' d just baked might disappear before I returned from running errands.

To discourage him, I taped a verse on the wrapped goodies: "Everything is permissible for me -- but not everything is beneficial." - 1 Corinthians 6:12.

When I returned I found half the cookies gone and another verse attached: "The righteous eat to their heart' s content, but the stomach of the wicked goes hungry" - Proverbs 13:25.

QWIK QWIP: "Success is getting up one more time."

154. Thanks A Lot:

A minister was called to come to the bedside of a man who was dying. In spite of the lateness of the hour, the minister came and did what he could for the dying man. In a barely audible voice, and between hoarse hacking coughs, the man confessed his sins and asked the Lord' s forgiveness as the minister bent close to catch his words.

As he was leaving, the minister said to the man' s wife, "I was happy to come and comfort your husband the best I could. But, you' re not members of my church. Don' t you have a minister of your own faith?"

"Oh yes," the woman said, "but we couldn' t call him out in the middle of the night and have him exposed to scarlet fever."

QWIK QWIP: "Sometimes the majority only means that all the fools are on the same side."

155. Now You Tell Me

A deacon, driving home from church one hot and muggy Sunday afternoon, passed an older model car sitting on the side of the road with a flat tire. A young lady was struggling to get a spare out of the trunk, obviously having a difficult time. Wanting to be a "Good Samaritan," he turned around and went back to help.

Getting out of his car and rolling up his shirtsleeves, he smiled and said, "This is no job for a woman. Let me do it for you."

Fifteen minutes later, covered with sweat and grime, he finally got the spare on and began to take the car off the jack.

"Please take it down easy," whispered the lady. "My husband' s taking a nap in the back seat."

156. It Could Be Worse

The woman was pouring out her troubles to her pastor. "Oh, it' s awful," she cried. "My husband won' t work, and all of our bills are six months overdue."

"Well, look on the bright side," said the minister wryly. "You could be one of your creditors."

157. Which Service?

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex was staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. It was covered with names, and small American flags were mounted on either side of it.

The seven year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the boy, and said quietly, "Good morning, Alex."

"Good morning, pastor," replied the young man, still focused on the plaque. "What is this?"

"Well, son, it' s a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service." Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Little Alex' s voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which one, the 8:30 or the 10:40 service?"

158. Many a True Word.....

A minister, having served the same church for many years with little fruit, decided to leave and take a similar position in another church. Without telling anyone he had made this decision, or writing a letter to the congregation, he waited until Sunday morning to announce his resignation in church.

When he spoke to the congregation he said, "The same Jesus that called me to this church many years ago has now called upon me to leave and serve another church."

The assistant pastor immediately led the congregation in singing, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

QWIK QWIP: "A best friend is like a four leaf clover... hard to find, and lucky to have."

159. The Pentecostal Pet

A Christian couple felt it important to own an equally spiritual pet. So, they went shopping. At a kennel owned by a believer that only watched Christian TV, they found a dog they liked quite a lot. When they asked the dog to fetch the Bible, he did it in a flash. When they instructed him to look up Psalm 23, he complied equally fast, using his paws with great dexterity to turn the pages to the correct passage. Amazed and impressed, they purchased the uncanny canine, and went home... not ever thinking to ask about the dog' s denominational upbringing.

That night they had some friends over from their Baptist church. They were so proud of their new dog and his spiritual skills, that they called the dog to show him off. The friends were impressed, and asked whether the dog was able to do any of the usual dog tricks, as well. This stopped the couple cold, as they hadn' t thought about "normal" tricks.

"Well," they said, "let' s try this out." Once more they called the dog, and the man clearly pronounced the command, "Heel!" Quick as a wink, the dog jumped up, slapped him soundly on the forehead with a paw, then began to run around the room knocking over chairs and barking at the top of his lungs!

QWIK QWIP: "A person who asks a question might be a fool for five minutes, but a person who doesn' t ask, is a fool forever..."

160. Ouch!

A man had a habit of grumbling at the food his wife placed before him at family meals. Then he would ask the blessing.

One day after his usual combination complaint-prayer, his little girl asked, "Daddy, does God hear us when we pray?"

"Why, of course," he replied. "He hears us every time we pray."

She thought on this a moment, and asked, "Does he hear everything we say the rest of the time?"

"Yes, dear, every word," he replied, encouraged that he had inspired his daughter to be curious about spiritual matters.

Then his daughter asked, "Then which does God believe?"

161. Kids Are Funny People

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?"

162. Lateral Thinking

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, ' Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.'" Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

163. Pastoral Visiting

A new pastor moved into a town, and he went out one day to visit his parishioners. All went well until he came upon this one house. It was obvious that someone was home, but no one came to the door even after he had knocked several times. Finally he took out his card, wrote on the back "Revelation 3:20" and stuck it on the back of the door.

Revelation 3:20: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with me."

Later in the week, as he was counting the offering, he found his card in the collection plate. Below his message was the notation "Genesis 3:10."

Genesis 3:10: "And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked: so I hid myself."

164. 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"

QWIK QWIP: "Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God' s grace... and your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God' s grace. "

165. Move Over, Rover

A rather absent-minded pastor observed an interesting sight at the reception for a couple he had just united in marriage. The new husband rose to speak.

"I have a confession to make to my bride in front of all of you. I confess, dear, that before I married you, I spent many happy hours in the arms of another man' s wife - my mother." All present enjoyed it and the minister made a mental note to use it at the occasion of his golden wedding anniversary to be celebrated that week at his church.

The big night arrived. The fellowship hall was full of guests to honour the pastor and his wife. He rose to speak. "After fifty years of married life, my dear, I have a confession to make to you in front of all our friends. Before I married you I spent many happy hours in the arms of another man' s wife."

He paused for dramatic effect, but his wife' s look made him lose his train of thought and he finished weakly, "And for the life of me I can' t remember who she was!"

QWIK QWIP: "We often fear the thing we want the most."

166. Speeder' s Hymns

45 mph.....God Will Take Care of You
55 mph.....Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
65 mph.....Nearer My God To Thee
75 mph.....Nearer, Still Nearer
85 mph.....This World Is Not My Home
95 mph.....Lord, I' m Coming Home
over 100mph.....Precious Memories

167. God' s Provision

There' s a little old Christian lady living next door to an atheist. Every morning the lady comes out onto her front porch and shouts, "Praise the

Lord!" The atheist yells back, "There is no God". She does this every morning with the same result.

As time goes on the lady runs into financial difficulties and has trouble buying food. She goes out onto the porch and asks God for help with groceries, then says "Praise the Lord". The next morning she goes out onto the porch and there' s the groceries she' s asked for, and of course she says "Praise the Lord". The atheist jumps out from behind a bush and says, "Ha! I bought those groceries - there is no God".

The lady looks at him and smiles, remarking as she takes the bag inside, "Praise the Lord, not only did You provide for me Lord, You made satan pay for the groceries!"

168. Kids Today

Finding one of her students making faces at others in class, Mrs. Smith went over to gently reprove the child. Smiling sweetly, the Sunday School teacher said, "Bobby, when I was a child, I was told that if I made ugly faces, one day it would freeze and I would stay like that."

Bobby looked up into her face and replied, "Well, Mrs. Smith, you can' t say you weren' t warned!"

169. A Valuable Animal

A farmer named Muldoon lived alone in the Irish countryside except for a pet dog he doted on. The dog finally died and Muldoon went to the parish priest, saying "Father, my dog is dead. Could you possibly be saying a mass for the poor creature?"

Father Patrick told the farmer "No, we can' t have services for an animal in the church, but I' ll tell you what, there' s a new Protestant church down the road apiece, and they' ll take in just about anybody. Maybe they' ll do something for the animal."

Muldoon said, "I' ll go right now. By the way, do you think \$50,000 is enough to donate for the service?" Father Patrick replied "Why, didn' t you tell me the dog was Catholic."

QWIK QWIP: "The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little bit extra."

170. Vested Interest

A rather well dressed man called on the minister and told him a distressing story of poverty and misery in the neighbourhood.

"This poor widow," he said, "with four starving children to feed, is sick in bed with no money for the doctor, and besides that, she owes \$350 rent for three months and is about to be evicted. I'm out trying to help raise the rent money. I wondered if you can help?"

"I certainly can," said the minister. "If you can give your time to this cause, so can I. By the way, who are you?"

"I'm the landlord," said the man.

QWIK QWIP: If you're too open minded, your brains will fall out.

171. Gee, thanks!

While working on a message the pastor heard a knock at his office door. "Come in," he invited.

A contrite-looking man in threadbare clothes came in, pulling a large pig on a rope.. "Can I talk to you for a minute?" asked the man with his hat in his hand. Wordlessly, the pastor indicated the chair and the man sat down in it gingerly. The pig proceeded to sniff around the office. With one eye on the animal and one on the man, the pastor folded his hands on his desk and leaned forward, curious to hear the fellow's story. "What can I do for you?"

"My family is hungry," started the man. "So I stole this pig. But I feel that I have sinned. Would you please take it?"

"Certainly not," said the minister.

"Then what should I do with it?" asked the man.

"Give it back to the man you stole it from, of course!" the pastor explained.

"I offered it to him, but he refused to take it. Now what should I do?"

"In that case," the minister said, "It would be all right for you to keep it and feed your family."

That seemed to settle things as far as the man was concerned. "Thank you for your help, sir." With a lighter step, he walked out of the office, leading the pig on the rope behind him.

Later that afternoon when the minister returned home, he said to his wife as he walked in, "Have I got a story to tell you."

"I have something to tell you first," she exclaimed. "Someone has stolen your prize pig!"

172. Sympathy

A minister joined a new acquaintance on the golf course, hoping to bring the subject around to church. The course adjoined a cemetery, and as they neared the next hole they observed a funeral procession coming down the road. As it passed their location the man stopped, solemnly removed his hat, and bowed his head till it passed. The minister, touched by his reverence, remarked, "I must say, friend. That was a most heart-warming display of sympathy. I'm touched by your show of respect."

The golfer replaced his cap. "It's the least I could do," he said as he resumed rolling his golf bag to the green. "After all, she was my wife for 18 years."

173. Oops!

A young preacher was visiting a man in an oxygen tent in a hospital room. Standing by the bed he asked the elderly gentleman how he was feeling, but the patient merely grunted. Undeterred, the minister opened his Bible and began to read.

Soon he noticed a change come over the man. His eyes started bulging and his face began to turn red. Sensing the end was near, the pastor asked if he had any message, or last words. The man nodded weakly, motioning to something beside the bed. Spotting a table, the sympathetic pastor picked up a pad and pencil and passed it to the man under the oxygen tent. The man wrote something, stuffed it in the preacher's hand, then died.

Shaken, the preacher stepped out of the room. Remembering the note, and realising the importance of the man's last words, he uncrumpled the paper and read the hastily scrawled words: "You're standing on my oxygen line."

QWIK QWIP: "Men are from earth. Women are from earth. We have to live with it."

174. Well, You Asked...

A young preacher, fresh out of seminary, was scheduled to deliver the sermon at a pastor's convention. Afterwards he asked an old pastor what he thought of his sermon. Kindly, he replied, "Young man, your sermon was like the peace and mercy of God."

Taking it as a compliment he pressed, "What do you mean?"

"It was like the peace of God in that it passed all understanding," replied the pastor, "And the mercy of God in that I thought it would endure forever."

QWIK QWIP: "When all think alike, no-one is thinking much."

175. Cash and Carry...

A miserly rich man was nearing the end and he called three of his closest friends to his bedside: a doctor, a minister and a lawyer.

"They always say that you can't take it with you," he wheezed. "But I'm going to prove them wrong." He handed each of them an envelope. "Inside each envelope is fifty thousand dollars, evenly divided from my estate. I want each of you to throw your envelope in the grave with me just before they cover me up. You are the only ones I could trust to carry out my last wishes." And so saying, he expired.

Several days later at graveside services, they did as he asked. The three friends walked away in silence. Presently the clergyman spoke. "I have a confession to make," he started. "The church has desperately needed some major repairs, so I kept back \$10,000 of the money to do it."

This prompted the doctor. "I, too, friends must confess: the hospital needed a new wing, so I only threw in \$10,000 and have already given the rest to the building fund."

The lawyer stared at the two chagrined men. "Gentlemen! I am shocked, and ashamed of you for keeping back part of the money." He turned to leave, with a grim smile. "I'll have you know, friends, that I threw in a personal check for the entire amount!"

176. A Real Prayer

A couple was touring the Capitol in Washington D.C., and the guide pointed out a tall, benevolent gentleman as the congressional chaplain.

The lady asked, "What does the chaplain do? Does he pray for the Senate or House?"

The guide answered, "No, he gets up, looks at the Congress, then prays for the country!"

177. A Real Stayer

The sermon had gone on a long time. A visitor leaned over to the person next to him and asked, "How long has he been preaching?"

Came the reply, "Almost thirty years."

"Oh," said the stranger. "Guess I'll stay. He ought to be through soon."

178. Lateral Wisdom

A preacher stepped into the pulpit one Sunday morning with a Band-Aid on the side of his face. He explained at the start of his sermon, "I cut myself while shaving. I guess I was meditating on my sermon."

An hour and fifteen minutes later a sleepy member of the congregation whispered to his wife, "He should have meditated on his shaving and cut his sermon!"

QWIK QWIP: "You have the capacity to learn from your mistakes. You will learn a lot today."

179. You Can' t Win

The local post office received a letter addressed "To God." Not knowing where to deliver it, they forwarded it to one of the nearby churches.

The pastor read it at the next charity committee meeting. "Dear God," began the writer. "I hate to bother you, but my family is having it tough right now. The rent is two month' s due, my wife is expecting, and my car is broke down. Plus I just lost my job as a night watchman due to sleeping on the job. Please send us \$1,000 and I won' t bother you again."

The pastor read the name and one of the committee members recognised it. "He lives right down the street from the church," she said. "This might be a good way to witness to him and show him we care."

The others agreed but the church fund was only to help members. Finally, after much discussion, they decided to pool their resources and give from their own pockets. They came up with \$500, then wrote out a check from the church and sent it to him.

Months passed with no word of thanks or even acknowledgement. Some time later they received another letter forwarded to them addressed to God. It was from the same fellow. "Dear God," it read. "I hate to bother you again, but I lost my new job at the shoe store, my car was wrecked, and my wife is in the hospital again. Please send me \$1,000 to get these creditors off our backs. Thanks again. P.S. Please send it to me directly this time. Last time you sent it through the church next door and those dirty crooks kept half of it."

QWIK QWIP: "As you grow older, you' ll find that most of the things you regret are the things you didn' t do."

180. Church Marquee Signs

"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!"

"The wages of sin is death. Repent before payday"

"Never give the devil a ride. He will always want to drive"

"Beat the Christmas rush, come to church this Sunday!"

"Don' t wait for the hearse to take you to church"

181. The Final Word

The sermon went on and on. Finally the minister paused and asked, "What more can I say, my friends, what more can I say?"

From the back of the congregation came a voice that elicited a ripple of snickers. "Amen." it suggested.

182. Elementary

Sherlock Holmes was sent to heaven to find Adam and Eve. He came back within a day and said he had found them.

Watson: "How did you find them so quickly?"

Sherlock: "Elementary, my dear Watson, they were the only ones that didn' t have belly buttons!"

QWIK QWIP: "I don' t have to attend every argument I' m invited to."

183. Ten Signs Your Pastor Needs A Vacation

10. When he announces VBS he yells the word "VACATION" with special emphasis.

9. He has replaced the framed Ten Commandments in the foyer with a travel poster.

8. The bulletin cover has had pictures of Hawaii on it for the past 5 weeks.

7. His first words to the congregation on Sunday morning are "all right, listen up you heathens..."

6. He falls asleep during his own sermon.

5. He shows up for Sunday service wearing Bermuda Shorts and a Tank Top.

4. Every time his pager goes off, he exhibits a facial tic and shouts, "Why can' t they just leave me alone!"

3. He wears scuba flippers, mask and snorkel to the baptism service.

2. You go to his office for counselling and pour your heart out to him and he says, "Sounds like a personal problem to me."

AND THE NUMBER ONE SIGN YOUR PASTOR NEEDS A VACATION

1. For the past two months he has preached the same sermon every Sunday: "Come Ye Apart and Rest A Little While."

184. Movin' On Up...

A lady whose husband's climb up the ladder to success led her to a more showy way of life changed to a better car, finer home, more expensive furs and a more socially-upscale church. After another major advance, which landed her at the Mercedes-Benz stage, she paid a visit to her latest minister.

"I've had the feeling for some time that I should fit in better with my friends at another church," she sniffed, swinging her furs around her back and flashing her diamond rings. "What would be your opinion, sir?"

"My dear lady," the clergyman replied, "it matters little what kind of label you put on an empty bottle!"

185. All Together Now...

A worker was trying to get a large, heavy pulpit through the door of a church. A passer by, seeing his struggle offered to help. They pushed and tugged until they were exhausted but it wouldn't move. Finally, the man on the inside said, "We'd better give up, we'll never get this out."

The volunteer on the outside end said, "What do you mean, get it out? I thought you were trying to get it in!"

186. Stuck In A Rut...

An old gentleman at a small country church had given the same testimony at every meeting for the last twenty years. It was always, "I'm not making much progress, but Praise the Lord, I'm established."

One rainy afternoon his car slipped off the narrow dirt road and into the ditch. Try as he could, he couldn't budge, but simply spun his tires. Along came a deacon who could never quite accept the old fellow's testimony. Stopping to look the situation over he said with a smile, "Well, Brother, I see you're not making much progress, but you're sure established!"

QWIK QWIP: "Lead your life so you won't be ashamed to sell the family parrot to the town gossip."

187. Bet You Can't Tell Just One...

The pastor had come home tired after a full day of visitation and counselling, when there was a knock at the door. A peek through the curtain revealed the pinched features of the church's resident busybody.

"Oh, no," whispered the worn-out minister to his wife. "It' s MissBrisby! Tell her I went to bed early!" And he hurried upstairs to nominally justify the story by lying down on the bed.

After nearly an hour of reading and relaxing, he ventured out of the bedroom and listened at the top of the stairs. Not hearing anything, he started down, calling out to his wife, "Well, honey, did that dreadfully nosy old bore finally leave?"

As he finished the sentence he rounded the stair corner and saw his wife standing next to the woman in question. Both wore a shocked expression as they stared at him.

But his fast-thinking wife saved the day and said, "Yes, dear, she did; but now Mrs. Brisby is here and would love to see you! "

QWIK QWIP: "Life is 10% of what happens to you, and 90% of how you respond to it."

188. You Dirty Rat -- Er, Rodent...

A pastor was spending the Saturday afternoon at a house in the little country town where he preached. After lunch he was sitting out on the front porch with his host and his wife when their two children rushed up, one of them swinging a dead rat over his head by the tail. "Look, ma! Don' t be afraid, it' s dead!"kulted the boy, oblivious to his mother' s embarrassment. "Yeah, ma," shouted the girl. "We bashed him in the head with a stick, then we stoned him, then we took a rake to him, and we whacked him and hacked him until" - and then catching sight of the amused clergyman, she finished in a lowered, respectful voice - "until the good Lord called him home."

189. Pride Goeth Before a Fall:

Five Americans, including a famous brain surgeon, a prominent minister of a large church, a college student, and the president of the National Mensa Society were flying across the Rockies in the same aeroplane. Suddenly the pilot emerged from the cockpit with four parachutes. As he strapped one on, he said, "We' ve developed mechanical difficulties and we' re losing altitude." He tossed the three remaining chute packs on the floor, opened the hatch and jumped out.

Immediately, the brain surgeon stood up and said that since he could save lives with all of his skill and knowledge, he should have the first chute. The others agreed and he jumped from the plane. The Mensa Society president declared, "Since I am the leader of America's most intelligent people, I can do much to better the world. I deserve a parachute." Before the others could say a word, he snatched a pack from the hands of the student, slipped into the straps and jumped.

The minister immediately spoke up: "My friend, you are young and have many years ahead of you. I, on the other hand, have enjoyed a long life and am ready to meet my Maker. I want you to..."

"Relax, pastor," interrupted the student. "We can both have a parachute. One of the most intelligent people in the world just jumped out of this aeroplane with my book-bag on his back."

QWIK QWIP: "Life is like an onion; you peel off one layer at a time and sometimes you weep."

190. The Timid Witness

After being appointed to the church's evangelism and outreach committee, one particular member was quite nervous at having to make evangelistic visits. His Pastor comforted him by suggesting that he pray. "If you spend a few minutes talking with God prior to visiting someone, it should help."

When the committee met again, the nervous parishioner approached the Pastor and said, "Thank-you so much for suggesting prayer. I tried it before I went on my visit and it really worked!"

"I'm so pleased to hear that," the Pastor answered. "Why don't you share your experience with the rest of the committee so others may know of the power of prayer?"

"Well," he replied, "I prayed that the people wouldn't be home, and they weren't."

191. The Best Lie

A pastor was walking down the street when he came upon a group of about a dozen boys, all of them 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 boys doing with that dog?"

One of the boys replied, "This dog is just an old neighbourhood 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 pastor was scandalised. "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 pastor began to think he'd really gotten through to them, the smallest boy gave a deep sigh and said, "All right, give him the dog."

192. 'Hushers'

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough.

"You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers'."

QWIK QWIP: "Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself."

193. Room in Heaven

One day a doctor, a farmer and the president of an HMO arrive at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter hesitates, because heaven is getting kind of full. Finally he tells the doctor, "You may come in, for you have taken care of the sick in their time of need." Then he turns to the farmer and says, "And you, too, may enter, for you have grown food to nourish your fellow man."

Then St. Peter turns to the HMO executive. "Well, I guess you can come in too - but only for three days."

QWIK QWIP: "Did it ever occur to you that nothing occurs to God?"

194. And Then There Were None

10 little Christians standing in line. 1 disliked the preacher, then there were 9.

9 little Christians stayed up very late. 1 overslept Sunday, then there were 8.

8 little Christians on their way to Heaven. 1 took the low road and then there were 7.

7 little Christians chirping like chicks. 1 disliked music, then there were 6.

6 little Christians seemed very much alive, but one lost his interest then there was 5.

5 little Christians pulling for Heaven' s Shore, but one stopped to rest, then there were 4.

4 little Christians each busy as a bee. 1 got his feelings hurt, then there were 3.

3 little Christians knew not what to do. 1 joined the sporty crowd, then there were 2.

2 little Christians, our rhyme is nearly done, differed with each other, then there was 1.

1 little Christian can' t do much ' tis true, brought his friend to bible study, then there were 2.

2 earnest Christians, each won one more. That doubled the number, then there were 4.

4 sincere Christians worked early and late. Each won another then there were 8.

8 splendid Christians if they doubled as before. In just so many Sundays, we' d have 1,024.

In this little jingle, there is a lesson true, you belong either to the building or to the wrecking crew!

195. Atheist Holiday

An atheist complained to a Christian co-worker, "Christians have their special holidays, such as Christmas and Easter; and Jews celebrate their holidays, such as Passover and Yom Kippur; . EVERY religion has its holidays. But we atheists," he said, "have no recognised holidays. It' s an unfair discrimination."

"What do you mean, atheists have no holidays," his friend replied, "People have been observing a special day in your honour for years."

"I don' t know what you' re talking about," the atheist said, "When is this special day honouring atheists?"

"April 1st."

QWIK QWIP: "Drifting through life without aim or purpose is the first cause of failure."

196. Do You Have a BC?

The story is told of a lady who was rather old fashioned, always quite delicate and elegant, especially in her language. She and her husband were planning a weeks vacation to Florida, so she wrote to a particular campground asking for a reservation. She wanted to make sure the campground was fully equipped, but didn' t quite know how to ask about the toilet facilities. She just couldn' t bring herself to write the word "toilet" in her letter. After much deliberation, she finally came up with the old fashioned term BATHROOM COMMODORE, but when she wrote that down, she thought she was being too forward. So she started all over again, rewrote the entire letter and referred to the bathroom commode merely as the "BC". "Does the campground have its own BC?" is what she actually wrote.

Well, the campground owner wasn' t old-fashioned at all and when he got the letter he just couldn' t figure out what the woman was talking about. That "BC" business really stumped him. After worrying about it for awhile he showed the letter to several campers, but they couldn' t figure out what the lady meant either. So the campground owner finally coming to the conclusion that the lady must be asking about the local Baptist Church, sat down and wrote the lady. Upon reading his letter, and with great shock, the lady quickly decided not to go to that campground. The letter is as follows...

"Dear Madam, I regret very much the delay in answering your letter, but I now take great pleasure in informing you that a BC is located nine miles north of the campground and is capable of seating 250 people at one time. I admit it is quite a distance away, if you are in the habit of going regularly, but no doubt you will be pleased to know that a great number of

people take their lunches along and make a day of it. They usually arrive early and stay late. It is such a beautiful facility and the acoustics are marvellous; even the normal delivery sounds can be heard. The last time my wife and I went was six years ago, and it was so crowded we had to stand up the whole time we were there. It may interest you to know that right now there is a supper planned to raise money to buy more seats. They are going to hold it in the basement of the BC. I would like to say it pains me very much not being able to go more regularly, but it is surely no lack of desire on my part. As we grow older it seems to be more of an effort, particularly in cold weather. If you decide to come down to our campground, perhaps I could go with you the first time you go, sit with you, and introduce you to all the other folks (remember, this is a friendly community)."

QWIK QWIP: "Becoming aware of my character defects leads me to the next step - blaming my parents."

197. Recipe for Revival?

The Sunday school teacher was carefully explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal. She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut the steer in pieces and laid it upon the altar.

And then Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar. He had them do this four times.

"Now, said the teacher, "can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the steer on the altar?"

A little girl in the back of the room raised her hand with great confidence. "To make the gravy," came her enthusiastic reply.

198. Touche!

Old Pete, the town tippler, made it a habit to sleep off his drunks in the church cemetery every Saturday night. On Sunday mornings the pastor of the church would have to go out before services and rouse him, and escort him home before the services began.

Finally he grew tired of the routine, and on Halloween, which fell on a Saturday night that year, he decided to do something about Old Pete.

Borrowing his son' s skull mask, and donning a choir robe, he settled down in the dark cemetery to await Old Pete' s approach. He planned on scaring the devil out of the fellow, and teaching him a lesson.

Finally Old Pete staggered through the graveyard about midnight, unsteadily picking his way through the headstones in the light of the full harvest moon. Rising up from behind a large tombstone, the pastor, calling upon his seminary theatrical training, moaned and swayed in the dimness. Old Pete froze, quaking in his tracks.

"Lord, have mercy!" he cried, much to the satisfaction of the disguised pastor. "It' s Death, come for me!"

"Pete..." intoned the preacher in his deepest pulpit tones. "It is time for you to come with me!"

"Don' t take me Mr. Death," begged the inebriated fellow. "I' m not ready to go!"

The minister saw his chance. "Then repent, and change your ways." He raised a ghostly arm and pointed to the church. "Seek out the man of God yonder and he will guide you into the paths of life."

Old Pete slumped down next to a headstone. "That won' t do any good," he groaned.

The pastor was taken aback. "Why not?" he asked, forgetting his spectral voice.

"Because," explained the downcast Pete, "the pastor of that church is as dead as any of the stiff s out here in the cemetery!"

QWIK QWIP: "Laughter is the shortest distance between two people."

199. No Brain

A college student was in a philosophy class, where there was a class discussion about whether or not God exists, The professor had the following logic:

"Has anyone in this class heard God?" Nobody spoke.

"Has anyone in this class touched God?" Again, nobody spoke.

"Has anyone in this class seen God?" When nobody spoke for the third time, he simply stated, "Then there is no God."

The student did not like the sound of this at all, and asked for permission to speak. The professor granted it, and the student stood up and asked the following questions of his classmates:

"Has anyone in this class heard our professor' s brain?" Silence. "Has

anyone in this class touched our professor' s brain?" Absolute silence.

"Has anyone in this class seen our professor' s brain?" When nobody in the class dared to speak, the student concluded, "Then, according to our professor' s logic, it must be true that our professor has no brain!"

QWIK QWIP: "Without God the world would be a maze without a clue."

200. Friends and Family

Three friends die in a car crash, and they find themselves at the Gates of Heaven. Before entering, they are each asked a question by St. Peter himself.

"When you are in your casket and friends and family are mourning upon you, what would you like to hear them say about you?" asks St. Peter.

The first guy says, "I would like to hear them say that I was a great doctor and a great family man."

The second guy says, "I would like to hear that I was a wonderful husband and school teacher who made a huge difference in our children."

The last guy replies. "I would like to hear them say.... ' HEY LOOK! HE' S MOVING!' "

201. The Pig and the Chicken

A pig and a chicken were walking by a church where a gala charity event was taking place. Getting caught up in the spirit, the pig suggested to the chicken that they each make a contribution.

"Great idea!" the chicken cried. "Let' s offer them ham and eggs?"

"Not so fast," said the pig. "For you, that' s a contribution. For me, it' s a total commitment."

202. How to get rid of your pastor

1. Look the pastor straight in the eye while he's preaching and say "Amen" once in awhile, and he'll preach himself to death.
2. Pat him on the back and brag on his good points, and he'll probably work himself to death.
3. Rededicate your life to Christ and ask the preacher for some job to do, preferably some lost person you could win to Christ, and he'll die of heart failure!
4. Get the Church to unite in prayer for the preacher, and he'll soon become so effective that some larger church will take him off your hands.

QWIK QWIP: "Many millions search for God everywhere, then find Him in their hearts.

203. More Bulletin Bloopers

*** Don' t forget the annual Child Watch banquet next Tuesday. They' ve been serving children for 18 years.

*** We want to offer special prayers for the police officers in our congregation and all the officers on the force. Remember, Officer Wilson who was injured this week when his cruiser was hit by a car that then ran away.

*** One Sunday the first hymn listed on our song sheet was "Surley Goodness and Mercy!!" Those who weren' t in a good mood when the service started immediately had a smile.

*** Youth group please remember our kick-off for January 5 and 6 is a lock-in weekend that will be "Built to Last."

*** The morning service will be followed by holy communism.

*** Please join us for the Christmas concert and singalong.

*** Don't forget the Community Rabies Vaccination Clinic under the church picnic pavilion starting at 9:00 a.m. Saturday. The Cost is only \$10 and Senior citizens are free with proof of age.

*** For those parents who attend the progressive dinner Friday, you may pick up your youth after your stop at the pastor's house.

*** Providing adequate housing to area senior citizens has always been a concern. The staff and board of The Village see themselves as being in misery to the residents of the retirement community.

*** We are asking for donations of non-perishable food items to help the needy. Please help us refill our food pantry.

*** Thank you Conference Volunteers for your time and energy, especially those who helped with stuffing pockets the Friday before conference.

*** Our bulletin has changed, take a peek inside.

*** I would like to thank those who worked to make the regional annual meeting a success. Many of the delegates commented on the wonderful hospitality they received from our local people.

*** Congratulations to Dawn Olson who recently graduated from boot camp at U.S. Navy's Great Lakes Recruit Training Center on Feb 22nd.

*** PLEASE NOTE: We would like to make a correction in the recent edition of the church cookbook. An inaccurate number of jalapeno peppers was given for Jeanette Crowley's Southwestern chicken salad recipe. The recipe should call for two, not 21, jalapeno peppers.

*** The marriage of Miss Freda VanAmburg and Willie Branton, which was announced in the newsletter a few weeks ago, was a mistake which we wish to correct.

*** It was incorrectly reported in last week' s newsletter that thisunday is T-shirt Appreciation Day. In fact, it is actually Teacher Appreciation Day.

*** It has come to our attention that there was a mistake in a newsletter item two weeks ago. It stated that Ed Burnham entertained our Men of Integrity Group at "crap shooting." It should have read "trap shooting."

*** There are two important corrections to the information in the last church newsletter on our Women' s Deep Relaxation Exercise and Health Program. First, the program will include meditation, not medication. Second, it is experiential, not experimental.

QWIK QWIP: "God never asks about our ability or inability - just our availability."

204. You' reGoing to Die

The pastor started his sermon by saying, "Every member of this church is going to die." As the sermon progressed the minister noticed a gentleman gently smiling on the front row.

From time to time the minister kept pushing his theme by repeating, "Every member of this church is going to die." Each time the minister repeated the theme, the guy smiled even more while everyone else in the congregation had a very sombre look.

The preacher repeated it several more times forcefully, "I SAID EACH MEMBER OF THIS CHURCH IS GOING TO DIE." Each time the phrase was repeated, the man smiled more. This really got the preacher wound up and he preached even harder. The man still smiled.

As he neared the conclusion the preacher walked down off the platform to stand just in front of the smiling man and shouted, "I SAID EACH MEMBER OF THIS CHURCH IS GOING TO DIE." While everyone else was looking pretty grim from the prospects, the man was now almost laughing out loud.

After the service the preacher jumped down off the platform and worked through the crowd to find the man. The preacher said, "I don' t get it. Every time I said every member of this church is going to die, you were

laughing. I want to know why you did that?" The man grinned confidently and replied, "I'm not a member of this church."

QWIK QWIP: "Sometimes God calms the storm; sometimes He lets the storm rage and calms His child."

205. Church For Fanatics

I was a supply preacher for a small town Texas Church, coming in early Sunday, preaching a sermon to the congregation, and then leaving after lunch. Arriving early one Sunday I sat down at a local donut shop, opened my Bible and went over my sermon notes.

A man was sitting down the counter from me and he said, "You a preacher or something?"

I replied, "Yes I preach at the Christian Church here in town."

He got excited and said, "Hey, I'm a member of that church."

The church was small and I knew all the regulars so I said, "I've been preaching there for about three months and I've never seen you there."

He looked at me kinda strange and said, "I said I was a member of that church. I never said that I was fanatical about it!"

206. Wish for Understanding

A man walking along a California beach was deep in prayer. All of a sudden he said out loud, "Lord grant me one wish."

Suddenly the sky clouded above his head and in a booming voice the Lord said, "Because you have TRIED to be faithful to me in all your ways, I will grant you one wish"

The man said, "Build a bridge to Hawaii so I can drive over anytime I want."

The Lord said, "Your request is very materialistic. Think of all the challenges for that kind of undertaking. The supports are required to reach the bottom of the Pacific! The concrete and steel it would take! I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for such worldly things.

Take a little more time and think of another wish, a wish that would honour and glorify me."

The man thought about it for a long time. Finally he said, "Lord I wish that I could understand women. I want to know how they feel inside, what they are thinking when they give me the silent treatment, why they cry, what they mean when they say ' nothing' , and how can I make a woman truly happy."

The Lord replied, "You want two or four lanes on that bridge?"

207. A Cat Passes On

A little boy is gone to school one day and while he is gone, his cat gets killed. His mother is very concerned about how he will take the news.

Upon his arrival home, she explains the tragedy and tries to console the boy saying, "But don' t worry, the cat is in heaven with God now."

The boy replied, "What' s God gonna' do with a dead cat?"

208. Prayer in a Time of Trouble

A little boy who got in trouble at church while everyone was giving in his or her prayer request.

The daddy scooped the little boy up and made his way down the centre aisle toward the back, and on the way the little boy yelled out, "Pray Saints Pray !!!!!"

QWIK QWIP: "God writes with a pen that never blots, speaks with a tongue that never slips, and acts with a hand that never fails."

209. No Room

A college drama group presented a play in which one character would stand on a trapdoor and announce, "I descend into hell!" A stagehand below would then pull a rope, the trapdoor would open, and the character would plunge through.

The play was well received.

When the actor playing the part became ill, another actor who was quite overweight took his place. When the new actor announced, "I descend into hell!" the stagehand pulled the rope, and the actor began his plunge, but became hopelessly stuck.

No amount of tugging on the rope could make him descend. One student in the balcony jumped up and yelled: "Hallelujah! Hell is full!"

QWIK QWIP: "God can heal a broken heart, but he has to have all the pieces."

210. Terrorist Cell Groups

Subject: TERRORIST CELL GROUPS DISCOVERED IN THE CHURCH

By Rev. Dennis Smart, alias Bin Readin

Edited by Carlton Earp, alias Bin Thinkin

Latest news reports are that five terrorist cell groups have been operating in Baptist churches. (Maybe other churches also?)

Church security identifies these as: Bin Sleepin, Bin Arguin, Bin Fightin, Bin Complainin, and Bin Missin. Their leader, Osama Bin Lucifer, trained these groups to destroy the Body of Christ. The plan is to come into the church disguised as Christians and to work within the church to discourage, disrupt, and destroy the pastors and the churches.

Earlier reports of a sixth group proved false. A tiny cell known by the name Bin Workin is actually the only effective counter terrorism force in the church. This group appears to be very weak. It is easy to detect because it is the only group that is active in services to Christ. Unlike the true terrorist cells, the Bin Workin team does not blend in with whoever and whatever comes along.

Bin Workin visibly does whatever is needed to uplift and encourage the Body of Christ. We have noticed that the Bin Workin cell group has different characteristics than the others. They have Bin Watchin, Bin Waitin, Bin Prayin, and Bin Longin for their Master, Jesus Christ to return.

Which cell group do you belong to?

These same groups have been detected in other denominations since Smart first filed his report. The Office of Home Church Security is co-ordinating its efforts with the Bin Workin group to interdict the activities of the five terrorist cells now known to be active throughout many churches worldwide.

211. Modern Translation

A six year old was overheard reciting the Lord' s Prayer at a church service: "And forgive us our trash passes as we forgive those who passed trash against us."

212. Once Upon a Time

After the fall in Garden of Eden, Adam was walking with his sons Cain and Abel. They passed by the ruins of the Garden of Eden. One of the boys asked, "What' s that?" Adam replied, "Boys, that' s where your mother ate us out of house and home."

213. Little, But Smart

A little boy wanted \$100 badly and prayed for two weeks, but nothing happened. Then he decided to write a letter to the Lord requesting the \$100.

When the postal authorities received the letter addressed to The Lord, USA, they decided to send it to President Bush.

The President was so impressed, touched and amused that he instructed his secretary to send the little boy a \$5 bill. President Bush thought this would appear to be a lot of money to a little boy. The little boy was delighted with the \$5 and sat down to write a thank you note to the Lord, which read:

"Dear Lord, Thank you very much for sending me the money. However, I noticed that for some reason you had to send it through Washington, D.C., and as usual, they deducted 95 percent."

214. Joyful Reponse

A Sunday School teacher wanted to elicit the word HALLELUJAH from her class so asked, "What is it people shout out with joy in our church?"

A bright young thing yelled out "BINGO!!!!!!"

QWIK QWIP: "God is more interested in making us what He wants us to be than in giving us what we think we ought to have."

215. The Optimist Can' t Win

Two friends, one an optimist, the other a pessimist, argued constantly from their own perspectives.

Finally, the optimist decided to win his friend over by taking him hunting. The two stood by the side of a small pond when a pheasant took to the wing. The optimist' s shot was accurate, and the bird fluttered down onto the pond. An order was given, and the optimist' s dog quickly ran across the water and brought back the fallen bird.

"So, what do you think about that?" asked the optimist.

The pessimist was quick with his answer,

"Well, I guess the poor dog doesn' t know how to swim."

QWIK QWIP: "God has a history of using the insignificant to accomplish the impossible."

216. Letters to the Pastor

Dear Pastor, I know God loves everybody but He never met my sister.
Yours sincerely, Arnold, Age 8, Nashville.

Dear Pastor, Please say in your sermon that Peter Peterson has been a good boy all week. I am Peter Peterson.
Sincerely, Pete, Age 9, Phoenix.

Dear Pastor, My father should be a minister. Every day he gives us a sermon about something.
Robert Anderson, Age 11, Miami.

Dear Pastor, I' m sorry I can' t leave more money in the plate, but my father didn' t give me a raise in my allowance. Could you have a sermon about a raise in my allowance?
Love, Patty, Age 10, New Haven.

Dear Pastor, My mother is very religious. She goes to play bingo at church every week even if she has a cold.
Yours truly, Annette, Age 9, Albany.

Dear Pastor, I would like to go to heaven someday because I know my brother won' t be there.
Stephen, Age 8, Chicago.

Dear Pastor, I think a lot more people would come to your church if you moved it to Disneyland.
Loreen, Age 9, Tacoma.

Dear Pastor, I liked your sermon where you said that good health is more important than money but I still want a raise in my allowance.
Sincerely, Eleanor, Age 12, Sarasota.

Dear Pastor, Please pray for all the airline pilots. I am flying to California tomorrow.
Laurie, Age 10, New York City.

Dear Pastor, I hope to go to heaven some day but later than sooner.
Love, Ellen, Age 9, Athens.

Dear Pastor, Please say a prayer for our Little League team. We need God' s help or a new pitcher.
Thank you, Alexander, Age 10, Raleigh.

Dear Pastor, My father says I should learn the Ten Commandments. But I don' t think I want to because we have enough rules already in my house.
Joshua, Age 10, South Pasadena.

Dear Pastor, Who does God pray to? Is there a God for God?
Sincerely, Christopher, Age 9, Titusville.

Dear Pastor, Are there any devils on earth? I think there may be one in my class.
Carla, Age 10, Salina.

Dear Pastor, I liked your sermon on Sunday. Especially when it was finished.

Ralph, Age 11, Akron.

Dear Pastor, How does God know the good people from the bad people? Do you tell Him or does He read about it in the newspapers? Sincerely, Marie, Age 9, Lewiston.

QWIK QWIP: "God always gives His best to those who leave the choice with Him."

217. Preaching and Praying

There was a Pastor that died and went to heaven. Upon his arrival he was given an old shack to live in. He noticed a cab driver who had entered was given a huge mansion.

The pastor had asked Peter why he was given this shack after he had given his entire life to serving the Lord. He also inquired how a cabby could reap such a reward. Peter responded, "It' s simple, when you preached people fell asleep but when he drove people prayed "

218. Top 10 Reasons for Not Reading the Scripture

In one church, members were asked to read Joshua Chapter 1 in preparation for the following Sunday' s sermon. A few members failed to read - here are their top ten excuses:

10. I was absent last week, and thought that the bulletin I received in the mail was for spending quality time making paper aeroplanes with my grandson.
9. I tried, but finally gave up trying to find the book of Joshua in my handy pocket New Testament.
8. I procrastinated until Saturday night, but the excitement of my wife' s favourite WWF show was too distracting.
7. My dog ate my Great Chapters assignment sheet.
6. Spiritual giants like me read the Bible as guided from above, not as directed by mere man.
5. My Bible could not be found - prior to Y2k I had buried it in a metal box in the woods so I could access it when Anti-Christ takes over the world.
4. When the Pastor said "Joshua one", I thought he was telling us that "Joshua won" at the Israeli marathon race last week.
3. I' m a visual person so I looked at the Bible comic book pictures.

2. I' m an auditory person so I listened to the song "Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho".

And the number one top excuse for not reading the assigned Bible chapter:

1. I started to read the chapter, but then came under persecution when an officer pulled me over and forbade me to read while driving on I - 80.

219. Married Bliss

Adam and Eve had a unique advantage for starting married life: he didn' t have to hear about the men she could have married and she didn' t have to worry about not cooking things the way his mother cooked them.

220. A Great Mistake to Make

A preacher phoned the city' s newspaper. "Thank you very much," said he, "for the error you made when you announced my sermon topic for last Sunday. The topic I sent you was ' What Jesus Saw in A Publican.' You printed it as ' What Jesus Saw in a Republican' I had the biggest crowd of the year!"

221. A Child' s Prayer

Johnny had been misbehaving and was sent to his room. After a while he emerged and informed his mother that he had thought it over and then said a prayer.

His mother was pleased. "If you ask God to help you not misbehave," she said, "He will help you."

"Oh, I didn' t ask Him to help me not misbehave," replied Johnny. "I asked Him to help you put up with me."

QWIK QWIP: "Christianity is a religion of paradoxes: The way up is down; the way to get is to give; the way to be first is to be last; and the way to live is to die."

222. Apples and Cookies

Children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples.

The nun made a note, "Take only one: God is watching."

Moving through the line, to the other end of the table, was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies.

A boy wrote a note, "Take all you want: God is watching the apples."

QWIK QWIP: "When God measures a man, He puts the tape around the heart instead of the head."

223. Sleeping Through the Sermon

I was pastor of a small church in a rural community. Wilbur and his wife, Leah, attended every Sunday morning. Wilbur was a farmer, and whenever he came into the house from the field and sat down, he would fall asleep.

It was such a habit that when he came into church and sat in the pew he would also soon fall asleep. I discovered that some of the members of the church were taking bets to see how long I could keep Wilbur awake on Sunday mornings.

Wilbur' s wife was embarrassed by his behaviour, especially when he began to snore. She tried everything to keep her sleepy spouse awake. She complained to him that she was getting calluses on her elbow from poking him in the ribs in a futile attempt to keep him alert. One day while shopping in the grocery store, she saw a small bottle of Limburger cheese. Leah bought it and dropped it in her purse.

The next Sunday morning I had just started the sermon when Wilbur began to nod. When I finished the first point in my three-point sermon, I could see I was losing him. As I started the third point, Wilbur began to snore. Quietly, Leah opened her purse, took out the bottle of Limburger cheese and held it under her husband' s nose. It worked. Wilbur sat up straight and, in a voice that could be heard all over the church, said, "Leah, will you please keep your feet on your own side of the bed!"

224. The Pope' s Discovery

The Pope dies and, naturally, goes to heaven. He' s met by the reception committee, and after a whirlwind tour is told that he can enjoy any of the myriad recreations available. He decides that he wants to read all of the

ancient original text of the Holy scriptures, and spends the next aeon or so learning the languages.

After becoming a linguistic master, he sits down in the library and begins to pour over every version of the Bible, working back from the most recent "Easy reading" to the original script. All of a sudden there is a scream in the library.

The angels come running to him, only to find the Pope huddled in a chair, crying to himself, and muttering, "An ' R' ! They left out the ' R' ."

God takes him aside, offering comfort and asks him what the problem is. After collecting his wits, the Pope sobs again, "It' s the letter ' R' ... the word was supposed to be CELEBRATE!

QWIK QWIP: "God does not wish us to remember what he is willing to forget."

225. The Mummy' s Heart Failure

An archaeologist was digging in the Negev Desert in Israel and came upon a casket containing a mummy. After examining it, he called the curator of a prestigious natural-history museum. "I' ve just discovered a 3,000 year-old mummy of a man who died of heart failure!" the excited scientist exclaimed. To which the curator replied, "Bring him in. We' ll check it out."

A week later, the amazed curator called the archaeologist. "You were right about the mummy' s age and cause of death. How in the world did you know?"

"Easy. There was a piece of paper in his hand that said, ' 10,000 Shekels on Goliath' ."

QWIK QWIP: "God has two dwellings - one in heaven and the other in a grateful heart."

226. Married in Heaven

A couple is driving to the chapel to get married. Tragically, they have an accident and both are instantly killed. They arrive in heaven, still so very much in love and petition an audience with God. They then ask God if

they can still get married in heaven. God says that there is no reason to do so, it is not done, etc. The couple is persistent in professing their love and desire to be wed. God finally relents just a bit and says, "Okay, but first you must wait five years.

Five years go by; they are still eager to be wed, so they go to see God. And again, God tells them that they must wait another five years. The five years go by, and finally the couple has the wedding that they always dreamed of. However, after a few months, they begin to learn that being married is not the same as being engaged, and they appear before God seeking a divorce! God' s response to their request: "What? It took Me 10 years to find a clergy person up here, and now you expect Me to find a lawyer?"

227. Timothy and Antonio

There were two Catholic boys, Timothy Murphy and Antonio Secola whose lives paralleled each other in amazing ways. In the same year Timothy was born in Ireland, Antonio was born in Italy.

Faithfully they attended parochial school from kindergarten through their senior year in high school. They took their vows to enter the priesthood early in college, and upon graduation became priests. Their careers had come to amaze the world, but it was generally acknowledged that Antonio was just a cut above Timothy in all respects. Their rise through the ranks of Bishop, Archbishop, and finally Cardinal was meteoric to say the least, and the Catholic world knew that when the present Pope died, it would be either Timothy or Antonio who would become the next Pope.

In time the Pope did die, and the College of Cardinals went to work. In less time than anyone expected, smoke rose from the chimney and the world waited to see whom they had chosen. The world, Catholic, Protestant, and secular were surprised to learn that Timothy Murphy had been elected Pope.

Antonio was beyond surprise, he was devastated because, even with all Timothy' s giftedness, Antonio knew he was the better qualified. With gall that shocked the Cardinals, Antonio asked for a private session with them in which he candidly asked, "Why Timothy?"

After long silence one old Cardinal took pity on the bewildered Antonio and rose to reply, "We knew you were the better of the two, but we just could not bear the thought of the leader of the Roman Catholic Church being called "Pope Secola."

QWIK QWIP: "The man who walks with God always knows in what direction he is going."

228. Things We Wouldn' t Know Without SundaySchool

With your eyes closed for prayer, anything can happen in a room full of pre-schoolers.

- * Prayer requests reveal a lot about parents.
- * A fire extinguisher is a handy device.
- * Helium tanks should be chained down tightly.
- * Cheap glue adheres to skin.
- * Kool Aid and song motions do not mix.
- * Grand pianos are not as durable as you might think.
- * Church maintenance men do not have a sense of humour.
- * Offering money always rolls to the other side of the room when dropped.
- * Hand-me-down sound systems can get loud when the adult service is taking communion.
- * Ushers do not have a sense of humour.
- * There IS a doggie Heaven.
- * Parachute games should not be used in a room with a chandelier.
- * Animal crackers can be sneezed out the nose.
- * Girls are superior to boys.
- * There are good reasons why pastor's kids have a bad reputation.
- * Helium intoxication does not render respect in a staff meeting.

229. Three Religious Truths

1. Jews do not recognise Jesus as the Messiah.
2. Protestants do not recognise the Pope as the leader of the Christian faith.
3. Baptists do not recognise each other in the liquor store.

QWIK QWIP: "In order to receive the direction from God you must be able to receive the correction from God."

230. Memorandum

TO: Jesus, Son of Joseph. Woodcrafters Shop, Nazareth.

From: Jordan Management Consultants, Jerusalem.

Subject: Staff Aptitude Test.

Date: May 22/30

Thank you for submitting the resumes of the 12 men you picked for management positions in your new organisation. All of them have now taken our battery of tests, and we have not only run the results through our computer but also have arranged personal interviews for each of them with our psychologist and vocational consultant.

It is the staff opinion that most of your nominees are lacking in background, education and vocational aptitude for the type of enterprise you are undertaking. They do not have the team concept. We would recommend that you continue your search for persons of experience in managerial ability and proven capability.

Simon Peter is emotionally unstable and given to fits of temper. Andrew has absolutely no qualities of leadership. The two brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, place personal interest above company loyalty. Thomas demonstrates a questioning attitude that would tend to undermine morale. We feel that it is our duty to tell you that Matthew has been blacklisted by the Greater Jerusalem Better Business Bureau. James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus definitely have radical leanings, and they both registered a high score on the manic depressive scale.

One of the candidates, however, shows great potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness, meets people well, has a keen business mind and has contact in high places. He is highly motivated, ambitious and innovative. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your controller and right hand man. All other profiles are self-explanatory.

We wish you every success in your new venture.

231. A Big GOD

A little girl, who, on the way home from church, turned to her mother and said, "Mommy, the Preacher' s sermon this morning confused me."

The mother said, "Oh! Why is that? The girl replied, "Well, he said that God is bigger than we are. Is that true?"

"Yes, that' s true," the mother replied.

"He also said that God lives within us. Is that true too?"

Again the mother replied, "Yes."

"Well," said the girl. "If God is bigger than us and He lives in us, wouldn' t He show through?"

QWIK QWIP: "The measure of a man is not how great his faith is but how great his love is."

232. Not Again!

A Lutheran minister gets stopped for speeding. The state trooper smells alcohol on his breath and then he sees an empty wine bottle on the floor, and he says, "Sir, have you been drinking?"

And the minister says, "Just water."

The sheriff says, "Then why do I smell wine?"

And the minister looks down at the bottle and says, "Good Lord, He' s done it again!"

233. The Children of Israel

At the Country Church Sunday School, the new teacher finished the day' s lesson. It was now time for the usual question period. "Teacher," announced little Joey, "there' s somethin' I can' t figure out."

"What' s that, Joey?"

"Well, accordin' to the Bible, the Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, right?"

"Right."

"An' the Children of Israel beat up the Philistines, right?"

"Er-right."

"An' the Children of Israel built the Temple, right?"

"An' the Children of Israel fought thegyptians, an' the Children of Israel

"Again you' re right." fought the Romans, an' the Children of Israel wuz
always doin' somethin' important, right?"

"All that is right, too," agreed the teacher.

"So what' s your question?"

"What I wanna know is this," demanded Joey. "What wuz all the grown-
ups doin' all that time?"

***QWIK QWIP: "To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover the
prisoner was YOU."***

234. Pope in Heaven

The Pope dies and goes to meet St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter escorts him in, and shows him to his mansion. The Mansion is huge, with angels circling the outside, and a massive deck at the rear where the Pope can watch the heavens in his robe and relax in his golden lounge chair.

St. Peter says, "Just make yourself at home, I have some errands to attend to and I' ll be back to see that you' re settled in.". The Pope eases into his golden lounge chair, and a small angel brings him a cool glass of water to sip, at which point a golden table appears out of nowhere, in just the right spot for the Pope to put down the glass between sips. The Pope is amazed further to find that the glass is always full when he picks it up, never running dry.

As he sits relaxing, the Pope watches other mansions float by on their clouds, and while finding them beautiful, he also observes that his is larger than any of them, as befits a Pope. Then from a distance, the Pope

hears this amazing music; He looks to his left, and far away he sees a mansion ten times the size of his. Angels, cherubim, and seraphim are circling it, and then there' s that wonderful music...

As the mansion draws close, the music gets louder, and louder, and as it passes by, the Pope has to cover his ears, because of the sheer volume.

Later, St. Peter returns. The Pope says, "This is really wonderful. I have seen God' s own mansion float by! There were angels, cherubim, seraphim, and this wonderful music...". "Wait a minute," say St. Peter. "Was the music really loud?" "Yes", said the Pope.

"That wasn' t God' s mansion, that was Jimi Hendrix' place." Jimi Hendrix????!!!" said the Pope. "Why does he have a mansion ten times the size of mine? I was the leader of the Catholic Church!"

"Settle down!" said St. Peter. "We get you Popes in here all the time. We don' t get many musicians."

QWIK QWIP: "Let us so live that when we die, even the undertaker will be sorry."

235. Clerical Clothes

A priest was walking along the corridor of the parochial school near the pre-school wing when a group of little ones were trotting by on the way to the cafeteria. Little Johnny stopped and looked at him in his clerical clothes and asked, "Why do you dress funny?"

He told him he was a priest and this is the uniform priests wear. Little Johnny pointed to the priest' s plastic collar tab and asked, "Do you have an owie?"

The priest was perplexed till he realised that to him the collar tab looked like a band-aid. So the priest took it out and handed it to Little Johnny, to show him. On the back of the tab were raised letters giving the name of the manufacturer.

Little Johnny felt the letters, and the priest asked, "Do you know what those words say?"

"Yes I do," said Little Johnny, who was not old enough to read. Peering intently at the letters he said, "Kills ticks and fleas up to six months!"

QWIK QWIP: "You can preach a better sermon with your life than with your lips."

236. Dressed for Church

One Sunday morning, the congregation of a ritzy church, with vaulted ceilings, hand-carved oak pews, stained class windows, and a deep plush carpet, had a stir.

A man came in just minutes before the service was to begin. He was dressed terribly, had on ratty old boots, a dirty flannel shirt, jeans and a filthy cowboy hat. Besides that he must have not heard of deodorant. The congregation was not happy!

Several sent notes to the minister about their concern. So at the end of the service, the pastor greeted the wretchedly attired man and asked him if he enjoyed the service. The fellow exclaimed wholeheartedly that he had.

The minister invited him back but said, "Next time you come, please dress properly and take a shower. I want you to pray and ask Jesus about how He would want you to dress if you returned to His house." The fellow said he would.

Next week he came back, dressed the same way. Once again the congregation was very upset. At the end of the service, the minister greeted the fellow and asked, "Did you ask Jesus about how to dress for church here?"

"Oh yes," said the man, "I surely did." "And, what did He say to you," persisted the pastor.

"Well," said the fellow, "Jesus told me He didn' t know how I should dress for this church, because He' s never been here."

237. Top 10 Signs You' re at a Bad Baptism Service

10. The Coast Guard is involved.

9. The service is held at Splash Mountain Water Parks.

8. Pastor wears scuba gear.
7. As the baptism begins the organist plays the theme from "Jaws."
6. The preacher uses a "Billy the Bass" singing "Take Me to the River" instead of the traditional "Shall We Gather at the River?"
5. You keep hearing the pastor saying, "Oops! Honestly, sister; I didn' t know about that drop-off!"
4. The pastor can' t get the rather large person being baptised back up out of the water and calls for help.
3. The deacon board shows up with fishing gear.
2. Just as the choir starts to sing, Paul Hogan jumps out of the water and wrestles the preacher into submission.

AND THE NO. 1 SIGN YOU' RE AT A BAD BAPTISM SERVICE:

1. Two Words: Alka Seltzer

QWIK QWIP: "Christianity helps us to face the music even when we don' t like the tunē.

238. Faith

The fields were parched and brown from lack of rain, and the crops lay wilting from thirst. People were anxious and irritable as they searched the sky for any sign of relief. Days turned into arid weeks. No rain came.

The ministers of the local churches called for an hour of prayer on the town square the following Saturday. They requested that everyone bring an object of faith for inspiration.

At high noon on the appointed Saturday the townspeople turned out en masse, filling the square with anxious faces and hopeful hearts. The ministers were touched to see the variety of objects clutched in prayerful hands - holy books, crosses, rosaries...

When the hour ended, as if on magical command, a soft rain began to fall. Cheers swept the crowd as they held their treasured objects high in gratitude and praise.

From the middle of the crowd one faith symbol seemed to overshadow all the others: A small nine-year-old child had brought an umbrella.

QWIK QWIP: "A Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, is a heart through which Christ lives, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps."

239. You Might Be a Protestant!

1. If you believe you are supposed to take a covered dish to heaven.
2. If you have never sung the third verse of any hymn.
3. If you have ever put an IOU in the collection plate.
4. If you complain because your Pastor only works one day a week and then he works too long.
5. If you think God' s presence is always strongest in the back three pews.
6. If you think "Victory in Jesus" is the national anthem.
7. If the first complete sentence you uttered was "We' ve never done it this way before."
8. If you judge the quality of the sermon by the amount of sweat worked up by the preacher.
9. If your definition of "fellowship" has something to do with food.
10. If you think worship service music has to be loud.
11. If you think Jesus actually used Welch' s grape juice and unsalted crackers.
12. If you think preachers who wear robes are in cahoots with the Catholics.

240. Preacher and Choir Director

Church feuds are not uncommon, especially among cliques in the congregation. But when the Pastor and choir director get into it, stand aside.

One week our preacher preached on commitment, and how we should dedicate ourselves to service. The director then led the choir in singing, ' I Shall Not Be Moved.'

The next Sunday, the preacher preached on giving and how we should gladly give to the work of the Lord. The choir director then led the song, ' Jesus Paid It All.'

The next Sunday, the preacher preached on gossiping and how we should watch our tongues. The hymn was ' I Love To TellThe Story.'

The preacher became disgusted over the situation, and the next Sunday he told the congregation he was considering resigning. The choir then sang ' Oh, Why Not Tonight.'

When the preacher resigned the next week, he told the church that Jesus had led him there and Jesus was taking him away. The choir then sang, ' What A Friend We Have in Jesus.'

QWIK QWIP: "Most men forget God all day and ask Him to remember them at night."

241. Calling God

It seems a man in Topeka, Kansas, decided to write a book about churches around the country. He started by flying to San Francisco, and started working east from there. He went to a very large church and began taking photographs, etc. He spots a golden telephone on a wall and is intrigued with a sign, which reads "\$10,000 a minute."

Seeking out the pastor he asks about the phone and the sign. The pastor answers that this golden phone is, in fact, a direct line to Heaven and if he pays the price he can talk directly to God. He thanks the pastor and continues on his way. As he continues to visit churches in Seattle, Boise, Minneapolis, Chicago, Milwaukee, New York, Atlanta, and on around the United States, he finds more phones, with the same sign, and the same answer from each pastor.

Finally, he arrives in Texas. Upon entering a church in Dallas, lo and behold, he sees the usual golden telephone. But THIS time, the sign reads "Calls 25 cents."

Fascinated, he requests to talk to the pastor. "Reverend, I have been in cities all across the country and in each church I found this golden telephone, and have been told it is a direct line to Heaven and that I could talk to God, but, in the other churches the cost was \$10,000 a minute. Your sign reads 25 cents a call. Why?"

The pastor, smiling benignly, replies, "Oh, my son, that' s very easy to explain. You see, you' re now in Texas and, of course, it' s a local call from here."

242. All Knowledge

Minister: Do you know what' s in the Bible?

Little Girl: Yes. I think I know everything that' s in it.

Minister: You do? Tell me.

Little Girl: OK. There' s a picture of my brother' s girlfriend, a ticket from the dry cleaners, one of my curls, and a Pizza Hut coupon.

243. Send the Bill

A man was brought to Mercy Hospital and taken in for coronary surgery. The operation went well and, as the groggy man regained consciousness, he was reassured by a Sister of Mercy, who was waiting by his bed. "Mr. Smith, you' re going to be just fine," said the nun, gently patting his hand. "We do need to know, however, how you intend to pay for your stay here. Are you covered by insurance?" "No, I' m not," the man whispered hoarsely. "Can you pay in cash?" persisted the nun. "I' m afraid I cannot, Sister." "Well, do you have any close relatives?" the nun essayed. "Just my sister in New Mexico," he volunteered. "But she' s a humble spinster nun." "Oh, I must correct you, Mr. Smith. Nuns are not ' spinsters.' They are married to God." "Wonderful," said Smith. "In that case, please send the bill to my brother-in-law!!"

QWIK QWIP: "Somebody once figured out that we have 35 million laws trying to enforce 10 commandments."

244. Top 10 Ways to Lose Your Job in Youth Ministry

If you' re going to lose your job . . . lose it in one of the top 10 ways!

10. Play Peanut Butter Chubby Bunnies to see if kids really do choke.
9. Leave your Pastor' s kid at an orphanage in Mexico on your annual mission trip.
8. Replace the grape juice with actual wine during communion (this would only really affect Baptists)
7. Teach girls how to smoke cigars and gamble their babysitting money in a game of poker at the girls junior high Bible Study (teaching them to tithe their winnings of course!)
6. Cut up the church' s choir robes to make flags for a capture the flag game.

5. Give your Sr. Pastor a free subscription to the Victoria Secret Catalogue, sent to the church address!
4. Start a food fight at the annual church spaghetti feed!
3. Start a food fight during communion!
2. Finance the down payment of your new Mustang convertible through your youth petty cash fund.
1. Bring Dennis Rodman to speak at your True Love Waits rally.

QWIK QWIP: "Never give the devil a ride - he will always want to drive."

245. Best Preacher

Two ladies were praising the merits of their respective pastors. "Our minister is so wonderful, he can preach a dozen sermons from the same text," said the first woman.

"Why that's nothing," the second responded. "Our minister can take any text in the Bible and preach the same sermon from it!"

246. Drinkin' 'Til He's In Heaven

Father Murphy walked into a pub and said to the first man he met, "Do you want to go to heaven?"

The man said, "I do Father."

The priest said, "Leave this pub right now!" He then approached a second man. "Do you want to go to heaven?"

"Certainly, Father," was the man's reply. "Then leave this den of Satan!" said the priest.

Father Murphy then walked up to O' Toole and asked, "Do you want to go to heaven?" O' Toole replied: "No, I don't Father."

The priest looked him right in the eye and said, "You mean to tell me that when you die you don't want to go to heaven?"

O' Toole smiled, "Oh, when I die. Yes, Father. I thought you were getting a group together to go right now."

QWIK QWIP: "Nothing else ruins the truth like stretching it."

247. For Sale Items - Jerusalem Times AD30

10. For Sale: Used Tomb. Good location! Like new! No longer occupied!

9. For Sale: Temple Curtain. Subdivided by owner. (Mat. 27:51)

8. For Sale: Used Wrap Collection. Excellent condition. You can have it for a song!

7. For Sale: Large selection of sackcloth (mourning clothes)--men' s and women' s, various sizes and styles. No longer needed.

6. Looking For Work: Two former guards. Willing to lie for right price. No Cemeteries! (Mat 28:11-15)

5. Companions Wanted: Long-term relationships desired. I am dying to meet you!--JC

4. Lost Item: One body lost. Big Reward for its return!--the Sanhedrin.

3. Personal to Mr. S: nah-nah, nah-nah, nah, nah--you lose!

2. Personal to JC: Well-done, Son! You da man!--Dad And the number one classified to appear in the Jerusalem Times that First Easter is:

1. For sale: One Cross. Well used! Priceless! Best offer!

248. Pipe Organ

A local church built a new sanctuary. They moved their very fine old pipe organ from to the new sanctuary. It was an intricate task that was completed successfully.

The local news heralded . . . "St. Paul Completes Organ Transplant."

249. Letter From God

One day God sent one of His angels to earth to see how things were going. The angel came back and reported to God that things were very bad and very few people seemed to even want to live a godly life. God decided he had better send another angel for a second opinion. After a short time that angel came back with the same report.

So God decided that he would send a letter to each of the people that he felt were truly willing to serve Him and encourage them to keep the faith and continue to strive in the midst of evil.

Do you know what was in that letter?

No? Oh sorry, I guess you didn' t get one.

250. One Student' s Prayer

"Now I lay me down to rest,
And hope to pass tomorrow' s test.
If I should die before I wake,
That' s one less test I have to take."

251. Sleeping

A Sunday school teacher asked her little children, as they were on the Way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

252. Alike?

My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know How you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo while I asked, "No, how are we alike?" "You' re both old," he replied.

253. Which Virgin?

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

QWIK QWIP: "Compassion is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back."

254. An Honest Prayer

A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can' t make me a better boy, don' t worry about it. I' m having a real good time like I am."

255. The Monk' s Sound

A man is driving down the road and breaks down near a monastery. He goes to the monastery, knocks on the door, and says, "My car broke down. Do you think I could stay the night?"

The monks graciously accept him, feed him dinner, even fix his car. As the man tries to fall asleep, he hears a strange sound. The next morning, he asks the monks what the sound was, but they say, "We can' t tell you. You' re not a monk."

The man is disappointed but thanks them anyway and goes about his merry way. Some years later, the same man breaks down in front of the same monastery. The monks again accept him, feed him, even fix his car. That night, he hears the same strange noise that he had heard years earlier.

The next morning, he asks what it is, but the monks reply, "We can't tell you. You're not a monk."

The man says, "All right, all right. I'm dying to know. If the only way I can find out what that sound was is to become a monk, how do I become a monk?"

The monks reply, "You must travel the earth and tell us how many blades of grass there are and the exact number of sand pebbles. When you find these numbers, you will become a monk."

The man sets about his task. Some forty-five years later, he returns and knocks on the door of the monastery. He says, "I have travelled the earth and have found what you have asked for. There are 256,897,103,145,236,284,232 blades of grass and 561,281,219,999,129,382,756,124,512,999 sand pebbles on the earth."

The monks reply, "Congratulations. You are now a monk. We shall now show you the way to the sound."

The monks lead the man to a wooden door, where the head monk says, "The sound is right behind that door."

The man turns the knob, and behind that door he is amazed to find the source of that strange sound.

But I can't tell you what it is because you're not a monk.

QWIK QWIP: "He who angers you controls you."

256. Where's Jesus?

A Sunday School teacher of pre-schoolers was concerned that his students might be a little confused about Jesus Christ because of the

Christmas season emphasis on His birth. He wanted to make sure they understood that the birth of Jesus occurred for real. He asked his class, "Where is Jesus today?"

Steven raised his hand and said, "He' s in heaven."

Mary was called on and answered, "He' s in my heart."

Sammy, waving his hand furiously, blurted out, "I know, I know! He' s in our bathroom!!!"

The whole class got very quiet, looked at the teacher, and waited for a response. The teacher was completely at a loss for a few very long seconds. Finally, he gathered his wits and asked Sammy how he knew this. Sammy said, "Well... every morning, my father gets up, bangs on the bathroom door, and yells, "Good Lord, are you still in there?!"

257. They Won' t Leave

The year was 1492AD, and the citizens of Rome wanted to expel the Jews. The Pope, being somewhat more open minded than his followers, decided to give the Jews a chance to be heard on this question, and challenged them to a public debate. The elders of the Jewish community considered the matter carefully.

"We have many learned and erudite men among us," they reasoned, "but the Pope is also learned and erudite. By learning and erudition alone, we may not prevail. Perhaps we may prevail by common sense." So they chose the most common-sense man among them, a crusty old fellow named Moishe, to represent them. Moishe agreed, but on one condition: The debate must be held in silence, without words.

Surprisingly, the Pope agreed. On the appointed day, the Pope and Moishe took the stage and seated themselves before the crowd.

The Pope held up three fingers.
Moishe held up one finger.

The Pope pointed with his three fingers to the four horizons: East, South, West, and North.
Moishe pointed with his one finger to the ground at their feet.

After some moments, the Pope held up the elements of the Eucharist -- the wine and the wafer.

Moishe immediately held up an apple.

Suddenly, the Pope stood up and declared, "The debate is concluded. The Jews have won. The Jews can stay."

Some days later, a cardinal finally got up the nerve to ask the Pope, "Your Holiness, just what exactly did you and Moishe say to each other?"

"First," began the Pope, "I held up three fingers to symbolise the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Then Moishe held up one finger to represent the essential Unity of God. Okay, so he got me on the first round.

"Next, I pointed to all the horizons to indicate that God is all around us. But Moishe pointed to the ground between us to indicate that God is right here with us. Okay, he got me again.

"Finally, I held up the Eucharist to indicate the redemption of humankind through the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. But Moishe held up the apple to indicate the original sin of Adam and Eve that made that sacrifice necessary. I realized that he was right - that we are all one in Adam, and announced the Jews' victory."

Not long after that, one of the rabbis asked Moishe the same question.

"The Pope," said Moishe, "held up three fingers to say, ' The Jews must leave Rome in three days.' I held up one finger to say, ' Not one Jew will leave.' Then the Pope pointed to the horizons to say, ' The Jews must disperse into the wide world.' I pointed to the ground between us to say, ' We are staying right here!' Then Moishe shrugged, "he held up his lunch, I held up mine, and it was all over."

QWIK QWIP: "No one can ruin your day without YOUR permission."

258. Not So Good Sermons

A young minister took a rural parish. His wife kept herself busy with ministry and hobbies. Three years later, the couple decided to move to

another parish because the church was dying. As the minister cleaned out the bedroom closet, he found an egg carton filled with money. He counted out a dozen one-dollar bills and three beautifully decorated eggs.

"What' s this, sugar?" he asked his wife. "Oh, honey," she said bashfully, "I was hoping you wouldn' t find that." When her husband asked her to explain, she at last complied.

"You see, dear," she said in an embarrassed tone, "one of my hobbies is decorating eggs. When I get depressed, I decorate an egg and I feel better."

"Oh," the minister replied. "Tell me more. Why haven' t you told me about this before?"

"Well," she continued meekly, "The only time I get depressed is when you preach a bad sermon. So I decorate an egg whenever you mess up really bad."

At that point, the minister grinned and hugged his wife. "Not a bad record, if I do say so myself! Three years, over fifty sermons a year, and only three bad ones!"

After the hug, the wife spoke up again.

"There' s something else I should tell you," she said bashfully. "Every time I got a dozen eggs decorated I sold them to the women' s missionary corps for a dollar."

QWIK QWIP: "When your ship comes in.... make sure you are willing to unload it."

259. Bubba and the Pope

Bubba was bragging to his boss one day, "You know, I know everyone there is to know. Just name someone, anyone, and I know them."

Tired of his boasting, his boss called his bluff, "OK, Bubba how about Tom Cruise?"

"Sure, yes, Tom and I are old friends, and I can prove it." So Bubba and his boss fly out to Hollywood and knock on Tom Cruise' s door, and sure enough, Tom Cruise, shouts, "Bubba! Great to see you! You and your friend come right in and join me for lunch!"

Although impressed, Bubba' s boss is still sceptical. After they leave Cruise' s house, he tells Bubba that he thinks Bubba' s knowing Cruise was just lucky.

"No, no, just name anyone else," Bubba says.

"President Clinton," his boss quickly retorts.

"Yes," Bubba says, "I know him, let' s fly out to Washington." And off they go. At the White House, Clinton spots Bubba on the tour and motions him and his boss over, saying, "Bubba, what a surprise, I was just on my way to a meeting, but you and your friend come on in and let' s have a cup of coffee first and catch up." Well, the boss is very shaken by now, but still not totally convinced.

After they leave the White house grounds, he expresses his doubts to Bubba, who again implores him to name anyone else.

"The Pope," his boss replies.

"Sure!" says Bubba. "My folks are from Poland, and I' ve know the Pope a long time." So off they fly to Rome. Bubba and his boss are assembled with the masses in Vatican Square when Bubba says, "This will never work. I can' t catch the Pope' s eye among all these people. Tell you what, I know all the guards so let me just go upstairs and I' ll come out on the balcony with the Pope." and he disappears into the crowd headed toward the Vatican. Sure enough, half an hour later Bubba emerges with the Pope on the balcony. But by the time Bubba returns, he finds that his boss has had a heart attack and is surrounded by paramedics.

Working his way to his boss' side, Bubba asks him, "What happened?" His boss looks up and says, "I was doing fine until you and the Pope came out on the balcony and the man next to me said, "Who' s that on the balcony with Bubba?"

260. God Will Provide

A young woman brings home her fiancée to meet her parents. After dinner, her mother tells her father to find out about the young man. The father invites the fiancée to his study. "So what are your plans?" the father asks the young man.

"I am a Bible scholar," he replies.

"A Bible scholar. Hmmm," the father says. "Admirable, but what will you do to provide a nice house for my daughter to live in, as she's accustomed to?"

"I will study," the young man replies, "and God will provide for us."

"And how will you buy her a beautiful engagement ring, such as she deserves?" asks the father.

"I will concentrate on my studies," the young man replies, "God will provide for us."

"And children?" asks the father. "How will you support children?"

"Don't worry, sir, God will provide," replies the fiancée.

The conversation proceeds like this, and each time the father questions, the young idealist insists that God will provide.

Later, the mother asks, "How did it go, Honey?"

The father answers, "He has no job and no plans, but the good news is he thinks I'm God."

QWIK QWIP: "Everyone hears what you say. Friends listen to what you have to say. Best friends listen to what you don't say!"

261. Zeal and the Graduate

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, "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 to try to open his eyes to the "realities" of the miracles of the Bible. "That can all be very easily explained. Modern scholarship has shown 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 laying open on his lap. The man, content that he had enlightened a poor, naive young person to the finer points of scientific insight, turned to go.

Scarcely had he taken two steps when the boy began to rejoice and praise louder than before. The man turned to ask the reason for this resumed jubilation.

"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!"

QWIK QWIP: "Look for opportunities...not guarantees."

262. Give Us a Sign

The following are actual notices on church signs spotted around the country:

** Belgrade, Montana: "Fight truth decay. . .study the Bible daily."

** Independence, Missouri: "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."

** Mineral Point, Wisconsin: "Super Sunday every Sunday: 50-yard-line seats!"

** LaGrange, Indiana: "I was going to waste, but Jesus recycled me."

** Tequesta, Florida: "It is unlikely there'll be a reduction in the wages of sin."

** St. Petersburg, Florida: "Sign broken; message inside this Sunday."

** Also from St. Petersburg: "Forbidden fruit creates many jams."

263. Sermons

The congregation liked their new clergyman, but were somewhat puzzled by his speaking style. His first sermon ran only 8 minutes; the second Sunday he spoke for 45 minutes; the third week he rattled on for an hour-and-a-half. That was enough for the Board to summon him for a little chat.

To their relief, Wilkerson had a ready explanation. "The Saturday before the first sermon, I had my teeth pulled and my mouth was still terribly sore. But, by the time a week had gone by, I' gotten used to my new dentures." Here the minister paused, and blushed deeply. "And as for last Sunday . . . well, I' m afraid that I picked up my wife' s set of teeth by mistake!"

QWIK QWIP: "People gather bundles of sticks to build bridges they never cross."

264. Do Unto Others

The pastor's car stalled at a stoplight. He tried to get it started, but nothing. The light turned green, and there he sat, frustrated and embarrassed, holding up traffic. The car behind could have gone around, but instead the driver added to his anguish by laying on the horn.

After another desperate attempt to get the car started, he got out and walked back to the honker. The man rolled down his window in surprise.

"Tell you what," the pastor said. "You go start my car, and I'll sit back here and honk the horn for you!"

265. No Excuse Sunday

To make it possible for everyone to attend church this Sunday, we are going to have a special "No Excuse Sunday":

!!! Cots will be placed in the foyer for those who say, "Sunday is my only day to sleep in."

!!! There will be a special section with lounge chairs for those who feel that our pews are too hard.

!!! Eye drops will be available for those with tired eyes from watching TV late Saturday night.

!!! We will have steel helmets for those who say, "The roof would cave in if I ever came to church."

!!! Blankets will be furnished for those who think the church is too cold, and fans for those who say it is too hot.

!!! Scorecards will be available for those who wish to list the hypocrites present.

!!! Relatives and friends will be in attendance for those who can' t go to church and cook dinner, too.

!!! We will distribute "Stamp Out Stewardship" buttons for those that feel the church is always asking for money.

!!! One section will be devoted to trees and grass for those who like to seek God in nature.

!!! Doctors and nurses will be in attendance for those who plan to be sick on Sunday.

!!! The sanctuary will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies for those who never have seen the church without them.

!!!We will provide hearing aids for those who can' t hear the preacher and cotton balls for those who think he' s too loud.

Hope to see you there!

QWIK QWIP: "Seen it all, done it all, can' t remember most of it."

266. Life in the Deep Dark Pit

A man fell into a pit and couldn' t get himself out.

A subjective person came along and said, "I feel for you down there."

An objective person walked by and said, "It' s logical that someone would fall down there."

A Pharisee said, "Only bad people fall into pits."

A mathematician calculated how deep the pit was.

A news reporter wanted the exclusive story on the pit.

An IRS agent asked if he was paying taxes on the pit.

A self-pitying person said, "You haven' t seen anything until you' ve seen my pit."

A fire-and-brimstone preacher said, "You deserve your pit."

A Christian Scientist observed, "The pit is just in your mind."

A psychologist noted, "Your mother and father are to blame for your being in that pit."

A self-esteem therapist said, "Believe in yourself and you can get out of that pit."

An optimist said, "Things could be worse."

A pessimist claimed, "Things will get worse."

"Jesus, seeing the man, took him by the hand and lifted him out of the pit."

267. Size Matters

One Sunday school teacher believed in dramatising Bible morals with stories that could have specific modern applications. So the teacher said to the class of young boys, "Forgiveness is always a virtue. Could you, for example, forgive another boy if he had hit you with his fist?"

The class gave serious thought to so grave a matter, and finally one smallish lad said, "Yes sir, I could if he was bigger than me."

QWIK QWIP: "The best vitamin for making friends: B1."

268. Why God Created Eve

The first 10 reasons why God created Eve.

10. God was worried that Adam would frequently become lost in the Garden.

9. God knew that one day Adam would require someone to locate and hand him the remote.

8. God knew Adam would never go out and buy himself a new fig leaf when his wore out and would therefore need Eve to buy one for him.

7. God knew Adam would never be able to make a doctor's, dentist, or haircut appointment for himself.
6. God knew Adam would never remember which night to put the garbage on the curb.
5. God knew if the world was to be populated, men would never be able to handle the pain and discomfort of childbearing.
4. As the Keeper of the Garden, Adam would never remember where he left his tools.
3. Apparently, Adam needed someone to blame his troubles on when God caught him hiding in the garden.
2. As the Bible says, It is not good for man to be alone!
And finally, the Number 1 reason why God created Eve...
1. When God finished the creation of Adam, He stepped back, scratched his head, and said, "I can do better than that."

QWIK QWIP: "A good way to forget your troubles is to help others out of theirs."

269. Unusual Memorial

A newly appointed young preacher was contacted by the local funeral director to hold a graveside service at a small country cemetery.

There was to be no funeral, just the committal, because the deceased had no family or friends left. The young pastor started early to the cemetery, but soon lost his way.

After making several wrong turns, he finally arrived a half-hour late. The hearse was nowhere in sight, and the workmen were relaxing under a nearby tree, eating their lunch. The pastor went to the open grave and found that the vault lid was already in place. He took out his book and read the service.

As he returned to his car, he overheard one of the workmen say, "Maybe we'd better tell him that's a septic tank."

270. Who Are You?

A certain little girl, when asked her name, would reply, "I'm Mr. Sugarbrown's daughter."

Her mother told her this was wrong, she must say, "I'm Jane Sugarbrown."

The Pastor spoke to her in Sunday School, and said, "Aren't you Mr. Sugarbrown's daughter?"

She replied, "I thought I was, but mother says I'm not."

QWIK QWIP: "We can never see ourselves as others see us. Even the mirror shows us in reverse."

271. Do You Live Here?

Father Delany was walking home after his sermon late one night when he came upon this intoxicated tramp on the sidewalk. Wanting to help, he asked the man, "Do you live here?"

"Yesh," the man slowly replied.

"Would you like me to help you upstairs?" the father asked.

"Yesh," the man slowly sputtered.

When they got up on the second floor he asked, "Is this your floor?"

"Yesh," again the man replied.

Then Father Delany got to thinking that maybe he didn't want to face the man's irate wife because she may think he was the one who got the man drunk. So, he opened the first door he came to and shoved him through it, then went back downstairs.

But lo and behold when he went back outside, there was another Tramp lying on the sidewalk. So he asked that man "Do you live here?"

"Yesh."

"Would you like me to help you upstairs?"

"Yesh."

So he did and put him in the same door with the first Tramp. Then went back downstairs, where, to his surprise, there was another tramp.

So he started over to him. But before he got to him, the tramp staggered over to a policeman and cried, "For God' s sakeoffisher, protect me from thish man. He' sh been doing nothing all night long butakin' mæupstairsh and throwing me down the elevator shaft!"

272. Three Wise Women

Do you know what would have happened if it had been Three Wise Women instead of Three Wise Men?

- * They would have asked directions,
- * arrived on time,
- * helped deliver the baby,
- * cleaned the stable,
- * made a casserole, and,
- * brought practical gifts.

QWIK QWIP: "The bank of friendship cannot exist for long without deposits."

273. If At First You Don' t Succeed

A pastor was counselling a newlywed couple who had just had their first fight. "Why would her cooking get you so mad, Tom?" asked the pastor. "Well," Tom replied, "I asked if the steak was ready yet, and she told me, 'I'm sorry for the delay, dear, but it looked hopeless grilled, and it doesn't look much better fried, but if you'll be patient a little longer, I'll see what boiling does to it.'"

274. Judgement

When a rural Kansas preacher returned after visiting New England, a parishioner met him at the train station.

"How are things out our way, Hiram?" the preacher asked.

"Sad, sir. A cyclone came and wiped out my house."

"Dear, dear," cried the parson. "Well, I' m not surprised, Hiram. Your remember I warned you about the way you have been living. Punishment for sin is inevitable."

"It also destroyed your house, sir," said Hiram.

"It did?" The pastor was horrified. "Ah me, the ways of the Lord are past human understanding."

QWIK QWIP: "Many a man is not suspected of being ignorant till he starts to talk."

275. Kleptomaniac

A man with a nagging secret couldn't keep it any longer. In the confessional he admitted that for years he had been stealing building supplies from the lumberyard where he worked.

"What did you take?" his priest asked.

"Enough to build my own house and enough for my son's house. And houses for our two daughters and our cottage at the lake."

"This is very serious," the priest said. "I shall have to think of a far-reaching penance. Have you ever done a retreat?"

"No, Father, I haven't," the man replied. "But if you can get the plans, I can get the lumber."

276. The Hereafter

A minister told an elderly neighbour that at his age he should be giving some thought to what he called "the hereafter." the neighbour told the pastor that he thinks about it many times a day.

"That's very wise," the minister said.

The neighbour explained that it's not a matter of wisdom. And then he added, "It's when I open a drawer or a closet and ask myself, 'What am I here after?' "

277. When is the Resurrection?

A very zealous soul-winning young preacher recently came upon a farmer working in his field. Being concerned about the farmer's soul the

preacher asked the man, "Are you labouring in the vineyard of the Lord my good man?"

Not even looking at the preacher and continuing his work the farmer replied, "Naw, these are soybeans."

"You don' t understand," said the preacher. "Are you a Christian?"

With the same amount of interest as his previous answer the farmer said, "Nope my name is Jones. You must be lookin for Jim Christian. He lives a mile south of here."

The young determined preacher tried again asking the farmer, "Are you lost?"

"Naw! I' ve lived here all my life," answered the farmer.

"Are you prepared for the resurrection?" the frustrated preacher asked.

This caught the farmer' s attention and he asked, "When' s it gonna be?"

Thinking he had accomplished something the young preacher replied, "It could be today, tomorrow, or the next day."

Taking a handkerchief from his back pocket and wiping his brow, the farmer remarked, "Well, don' t mention it to my wife. She don' t get out much and she' llwanna go all three days."

QWIK QWIP: "Nobody talks so consistently about God as those who insist that there is no God."

278. God Speaks Billboards

Some new billboards are popping up all along major highways all over the country depicting some things God might say. The billboards are a simple black background with white text with no fine print or sponsoring organisation listed. Here' s a list of all variations of the "God Speaks" billboards.

Let' s meet at my house Sunday before the game. - God

C' mon over and bring the kids. - God

What part of "Thou Shalt Not..." didn' t you understand? - God

We need to talk. - God

Keep using my name in vain, I' ll make rush hour longer. - God

Loved the wedding, invite me to the marriage. - God

That "Love Thy Neighbour" thing... I meant it. - God

I love you and you and you and you and... - God

Will the road you' re on get you to my place? - God

Follow me. -God

Big bang theory, you' ve got to be kidding. - God

My way is the highway. - God

Need directions? - God

You think it' s hot here? - God

Have you read my #1 best seller? There will be a test. - God

Do you have any idea where you' re going? - God

Don' t make me come down there. - God

QWIK QWIP: "Heroes are people who rise to the occasion and slip quietly away." -Tom Brokaw

279. The Barber

The Barber After twenty years of shaving himself every morning, a man in a small Southern town decided he had had enough. He told his wife that he intended to let the local barber shave him each day. He put on his hat

and coat and went to the barbershop, which was owned by the pastor of the town' s Baptist Church.

The barber' s wife, Grace, was working that day, so she performed the task. Grace shaved him and sprayed him with lilac water, and said, "That will be \$20." The man thought the price was a bit high, but he paid the bill and went to work.

The next morning the man looked in the mirror, and his face was as smooth as it had been when he left the barbershop the day before. Not bad, he thought. At least I don' t need to get a shave every day. The next morning, the man' s face was still smooth. Two weeks later, the man was still unable to find any trace of whiskers on his face.

It was more than he could take, so he returned to the barbershop. "I thought \$20 was high for a shave", he told the barber' s wife, "But you must have done a great job. It' s been two weeks and my whiskers still haven' t started growing back."

Expecting his comment, the expression on her face didn' t even change. She responded, "You were shaved by Grace. Once shaved, always shaved."

280. Church Funnies

*** I asked our six-year-old, "How did you like the service?" She said, "I liked the music, but I thought the commercial was too long."

*** Pastor, I' ve got some terrible news. Someone broke into our church last night and stole ninety thousand dollars worth of pledges.

*** Does a good beginning and a good ending make a good sermon? Yes, if they' re close enough together.

*** A new pastor preached a stirring sermon on "Gossip" but then made a fatal error by closing the service by singing "I Love to Tell the Story."

*** Sunday school teacher: "Cleanliness is next to what?" Little boy answers, "Next to impossible."

QWIK QWIP: “Adam and Eve had many advantages, but the principal one was that they escaped teething.”

281. Jonah and the Whale

After telling the story of Jonah and the whale to her Sunday school class, the teacher decided to quiz them. She asked, "Timmy, what is the moral of the story?"

Timmy thought for a minute, then said, "People make whales throw up."

282. Long Sermon

A man got up to leave during a long sermon. The minister said, "Where are you going?"

The man replied, "To get a haircut."

The minister said, "You should have gotten one before you came."

The man replied, "When I came in, I didn' t need one!"

QWIK QWIP: “If you are willing to admit you are wrong when you are wrong, you are all right.”

283. Pastoral Candidates

The following is a confidential report on several candidates being considered for a pastorate.

ADAM: Good man but problems with his wife. Also one reference told of how his wife and he enjoy walking nude in the woods.

NOAH: Former pastorate of 120 years with not even one convert. Prone to unrealistic building projects.

ABRAHAM: Though the references reported wife-swapping, the facts seem to show he never slept with another man' s wife, but did offer to share his own wife with another man.

JOSEPH: A big thinker, but a braggart, believes in dream interpreting and has a prison record.

MOSES: A modest and meek man, but poor communicator, even stuttering at times. Sometimes blows his stack and acts rashly. Some say he left an earlier church over a murder charge.

DAVID: The most promising leader of all until we discovered the affair he had with his neighbour' s wife.

SOLOMON: Great preacher but our parsonage would never hold all those wives.

ELIJAH: Prone to depression. Collapses under pressure.

ELISHA: Reported to have lived with a single widow while at his former church.

HOSEA: A tender and loving pastor but our people could never handle his wife' s occupation.

DEBORAH: Strong leader and seems to be anointed, but she is female.

JEREMIAH: Emotionally unstable, alarmist, negative, always lamenting things, reported to have taken a long trip to bury his underwear on the bank of a foreign river.

JONAH: Refused God' s call into ministry until he was forced to obey by getting swallowed up by a great fish. He told us the fish later spit him out on the shore near here. We hung up.

AMOS: Too backward and unpolished. With some seminary training he might have promise, but has a hang-up against wealthy people--might fit in better in a poor congregation.

QWIK QWIP: "Better to understand a little than to misunderstand a lot."

284. Jericho Walls

The new pastor of a rural church dropped into a Sunday-school class and began quizzing the students to test the effectiveness of the teacher.

"Who knocked down the walls of Jericho?" he demanded of one boy.

"It sure weren' t me, Reverend," the boy said.

Turning to the embarrassed teacher, the pastor exclaimed, "I suppose that' s a sample of the kind of class you maintain!"

"Now, Reverend, Timmy' s a good boy and doesn' t tell lies. If he said he didn' t to it, I believe him."

Thoroughly upset, the pastor took the matter to the church' s board of deacons. After due consideration, the board sent the following message to the minister: "We see no point in making an issue of this incident. The board will pay for the damages to the wall and charge it off to vandalism."

285. Brief Sermon

A minister preached a very brief sermon and explained to the congregation, "My dog got into my office and ate all my notes."

On the way out the door, a visitor said to the pastor, "If your dog ever has pups, would you see that my minister gets one?"

286. Non-Partisan Pastor

A new pastor of a Presbyterian church in a southern city found himself in a difficult position due to the fact that two officers in his church were running for mayor. The young preacher had to walk with much caution the impartial, equal-time line.

At the post office one morning, a church member who was flagrantly partisan asked, "Pastor, what do you think about the election?"

"I' m praying about it," the pastor told her.

"Well, what are you praying for?" the partisan Presbyterian wanted to know.

And the preacher told her, "I' m just thanking God for the secret ballot."

QWIK QWIP: "You had no choice from where you came. But you CAN choose where you go from here."

287. Liquid Plumber

A Pastor in Oregon called a plumber to fix a leak in the parsonage bathroom. When the plumber finished the job, he left a bill in the bathroom itemising the repairs. There was also a P.S. He drew an arrow pointing to a bottle of Liquid-Plumber that the pastor kept in the bathroom, and noted: "How would you feel if you walked into someone's house and found a bottle of ' liquid pastor' ?"

288. Further Pastoral Candidates

MELCHIZADEK: Great credentials at current work place, but where does this guy come from? No information on his resume about former work records. Every line about parents was left blank and he refused to supply a birth date.

JOHN: Says he is a Baptist, but definitely doesn't dress like one. Has slept in the outdoors for months on end, has a weird diet, and provokes denominational leaders.

PETER: Too blue collar. Has a bad temper-even has been known to curse. Had a big run-in with Paul in Antioch. Aggressive, but a loose cannon.

PAUL: Powerful CEO type leader and fascinating preacher. However, short on tact, unforgiving with younger ministers, harsh and has been known to preach all night.

JAMES AND JOHN: Package deal preacher & associate seemed good at first, but found out they have an ego problem regarding other fellow workers and seating positions. Threatened an entire town after an insult. Also known to try to discourage workers who didn't follow along with them.

TIMOTHY: Too young!

METHUSELAH: Too old . . . WAY too old!

JESUS: Has had popular times, but once his church grew to 5000 he managed to offend them all, and then this church dwindled down to twelve people. Seldom stays in one place very long. And, of course, he's single.

JUDAS: His references are solid. A steady plodder. Conservative. Good connections. Knows how to handle money. We' re inviting him to preach this Sunday. Possibilities here.

QWIK QWIP: "Going to church does not make you a Christian anymore than going to MacDonald' s makes you a hamburger."

289. Land of Our Fathers

A Jewish father was concerned about his son who was about a year away from his Bar Mitzvah but was sorely lacking in his knowledge of the Jewish faith. To remedy this he sent his son to Israel to experience his heritage.

A year later the young man returned home. "Father, thank you for sending me to the land of our Fathers, " the son said. "It was wonderful and enlightening, however, I must confess that while in Israel I converted to Christianity."

"Oi vey," replied the father, "what have I done?" So in the tradition of the patriarchs he went to his best friend and sought his advice and solace.

"It is amazing that you should come to me," stated his friend, "I to sent my son to Israel and he returned a Christian."

So in the traditions of the Patriarchs they went to the Rabbi. "It is amazing that you should come to me," stated the Rabbi, "I too sent my son to Israel and he returned a Christian. What is happening to our sons?"

"Brothers, we must take this to God," said the Rabbi. They fell to their knees and began to wail and pour out their hearts to the Almighty. As they prayed the clouds above opened and a mighty voice stated, "Amazing that you should come to Me. I, too, sent My Son to Israel."

290. Picture the Scene:

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.

(General) Normally, I'd recommend that we build a pontoon bridge to carry us across. But there's not enough time - the Egyptians are too close.

(Admiral) Normally, I'd recommend that we build 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?

(PR Man) No, but I can promise you this: If you can find a way out of this one, I can get you two or three pages in the Old Testament!

QWIK QWIP: "Some people complain because God put thorns on roses while others praise Him for putting roses on thorns."

291. Daddy's Sermons

A pastor tried to prepare his two children for what he thought might be a boring high school graduation ceremony. "Graduations are sometimes long, boring events," he said. "I want you guys to behave and not constantly ask when it's going to be over."

"Don't worry, Dad. We'll live", his daughter replied. "We last through all of your sermons, don't we?"

292. Church Pew Position

A couple who usually sat in the back whenever they attended the church service.

One particular Sunday they decided to move up to the front in order to be sure to hear the sermon.

Even though they had been attending the church for several years, the long time church member they sat next to did not recognise them, but cheerfully said, "Good to have ya with us! Where y'all from?"

Taken by surprise, the husband mumbled, "The back."

QWIK QWIP: "A coincidence is when God performs a miracle, and decides to remain anonymous."

293. You May Be A Preacher If . . .

- * You' ve ever lied to the choir director about how good the cantata sounded.
- * Your wife has amassed a huge collection of unsolicited casserole recipes.
- * You think Exegesis should be an Olympic Event.
- * You love to eat lunch alone so you don' t have to say grace out loud.
- * You sort of enjoy inviting the Mormons in to "talk."
- * People apologise to you after they use profanity.
- * While shaving, you' ve pointed at yourself in the mirror and shouted, "REPENT!" just to see what you look like doing it.
- * You ever talked to a person who was sitting on a bedpan.
- * You find yourself counting people at a sports event.
- * You' ve spoken for free, and are worth every penny of it!
- * You received an anonymous U-Haul gift certificate.

294. Real Letters That Children Sent To God

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,

bet it is very hard for You to love all of everybody in the whole world.

There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it.

-Nan

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,

I went to this wedding and they kissed right in church. Is that okay?

-Neil

Dear GOD,

What does it mean You are a Jealous God? I thought You had everything.

-Jane

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,

If we come back as something - Please don' t let me be JennifeHorton because I hate her.

-Denise

Dear GOD,

I want to be just like my Daddy when I get big but not with so much hair all over.

-Sam

Dear GOD,

I didn' t think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset You made on Tuesday. That was cool.

-Anon

295. Baby Picture?

After making a few calls at the local hospital, the pastor got on the crowded elevator to head for the lobby. A young man, grinning broadly, was passing around a photograph. Amid appreciative smiles, someone asked for the weight. "Six-and-a-half pounds," the young man exclaimed.

"Congratulations," the pastor interjected. "Boy or girl?"

His grin spread even farther. "Bass," he said.

296. Religious Symbols

A kindergarten teacher gave her class a "show and tell" assignment of bringing something to represent their religion.

The first boy got in front of the class and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is the Star of David."

The second boy got in front of the class and said, "My name is Thomas and I am Catholic and this is the Crucifix."

The third boy got in front of the class and said, " My name is Johnny and I am Baptist and this is a casserole."

QWIK QWIP: "If God is your co-pilot - Swap seats!"

298. A Choice of Hymns

One Sunday a pastor told his 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 handsomest men in the building and said, "I ll take him and him and him."

QWIK QWIP: "We don' t change God' s message - His message changes us."

299. Heaven and Hell - The Real Difference

A man spoke with the Lord about heaven and hell. The Lord said to the man, "Come, I will show you hell." They entered a room where a group of people sat around a huge pot of stew. Everyone was famished, desperate and starving. Each held a spoon that reached the pot, but each spoon had a handle so much longer than their own arm that it could not be used to get the stew into their own mouths. The suffering was terrible.

"Come, now I will show you heaven," the Lord said after a while. They entered another room, identical to the first - the pot of stew, the group of people, the same long-handled spoons. But there everyone was happy and well-nourished.

"I don't understand," said the man. "Why are they happy here when they were miserable in the other room and everything was the same?"

The Lord smiled, "Ah, it is simple," he said. "Here they have learned to feed each other."

By Ann Landers

QWIK QWIP: "I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older. Then it dawned on me. They were cramming for their finals."

300. Sleeping In

Pastor to Parishioner: "Will I see you in church tomorrow?"

Parishioner: "I expect to be there Reverend, but I' ve been sleeping in on Sunday mornings."

Pastor: "Oh, really? How late have you been sleeping in?"

Parishioner: "That all depends on the length of your sermon."

301. A Matter of Priority

Jerry was walking along the street, when he passed by a Catholic Church and noticed smoke pouring out of the building. Jerry ran inside, and yelled to the Priest, "Father, Father!! Your Church is on Fire!" The Priest grabbed the New Testament, and ran out.

A little farther up the road, Jerry was passing a Jewish Synagogue. Smoke was pouring out of the building. Jerry ran inside. "Rabbi, Rabbi! Your building is on fire!", he cried. The Rabbi grabbed the Old Testament and ran out.

A little farther down, Jerry came to a liberal church. It too was on fire. Jerry rushed inside. "Minister, Minister!" yelled Jerry, "Your Church is on fire!" The minister grabbed the coffee-pot and ran out.

302. Get Up For Church!

A mother called her son one Sunday morning, to get out of bed and get ready for Church.

He replied "I' m not going."

His mother said "Yes you are going, so get out of that bed!"

The son replied "Give me ONE good reason why I should go."

The Mother said, "I' ll give you THREE good reasons...

1. I' m your mother, and I say you' re going.
2. You' re 40 years old, so old enough to know better.
3. You' re the Pastor, so you need to be there."

303. Fund Raising

The crumbling old church building badly needed repairs, so the preacher made an impassioned appeal, looking directly at the richest man in town.

At the end of the message, the rich man stood up and announced, "Pastor, I will contribute \$1,000." Just then, plaster fell from the ceiling and struck the rich man on the shoulder. Flicking a speck of white dust from his suit, the rich man calmly announced, "Pastor, I will increase my donation to \$5,000." Before he could sit back down, plaster fell on him again. Now covered from head to toe with plaster dust, the rich man grimly said, "Pastor, I will double my last pledge, but that' s all I intend to contribute."

As the rich man sat down, a deacon suddenly shouted, "Hit him again, Lord! Hit him again!"

QWIK QWIP: "It isn't that life is short. It's that death is so long!"

304. Always at Work

During the French Revolution, they condemned a priest and an engineer to be executed by the guillotine. The priest asked to be executed face up so he would be looking toward Heaven when he died.

The executioner raised the blade of the guillotine and released it. It came speeding down and suddenly stopped, just inches from the priest's neck. The authorities took this as Divine Intervention and released the priest.

Next, the engineer was placed on the guillotine. He also requested to die facing up, hoping he would be as fortunate as the priest. As the executioner slowly raised the blade of the guillotine, the engineer suddenly exclaimed, "Hey, I see what the problem is..."

305. Hell in Hell

The Pope, Billy Graham, and a Television Evangelist (who shall remain nameless) were among the passengers on a transatlantic flight. The plane crashed in the ocean and all passengers died.

When the three men of God arrived at the gates of heaven, St. Peter threw up his hands in dismay.

"Oh my," groaned St. Peter. "Your arrival is completely unexpected so your quarters aren't ready just yet."

Thinking hard, St. Peter got an idea. He quickly pressed the "Hell" button on his intercom, then said, "Hi Lucifer, I need a favour. You see, I've got these three fellows up here. They're ours, but they weren't expected right now so we need to fix the place up for them. If you could put them up for a while, I'll owe you one."

Reluctantly, the Devil agreed.

The next day, St. Peter' s intercom buzzes. "Hey Pete, this is Lucifer. Man, you have to come get these three men outta here RIGHT NOW! The Pope is forgiving everybody. Billy Graham is saving everybody. Worst of all, that Television Evangelist has raised enough money to install central air conditioning!"

QWIK QWIP: "Too much of the Christian faith has become trimming on the dress of life instead of part of the fabric."

306. The Cannibal and the Priest

A cannibal ate a priest and got very sick. Upon visiting the witch doctor and telling of his symptoms, the witch doctor asked how he had cooked the priest. The cannibal replied that he had broiled him.

Hearing this the witch doctor exclaimed, "Well no wonder you' re sick! He was a Friar!"

307. One For You, One For Me

There was a huge pecan tree in the cemetery, just a short ways from the fence. One day two boys sneaked into the cemetery and filled up a bucket with pecans. The bucket was so full that several pecans rolled away and came to a rest against the cemetery fence.

The two boys then sat down by the tree, out of sight, and began dividing the nuts between them.

"One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me," said one boy.

Cycling down the road near the cemetery came a third boy named Joey. As Joey passed the graveyard, he thought he heard voices from inside the cemetery and slowed down to investigate. Sure enough, Joey heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me."

Joey immediately knew what was going on. "Oh wow!" he shuddered. "It' s Satan and St. Peter dividing the souls at the cemetery!"

Joey sped down the road and found old Mr. Finch with a cane, limping slowly along.

"Come quick!" Joey shouted. "You won' t believe what I heard! Satan and St. Peter are down at the cemetery dividing up the souls!"

Mr. Finch scowled and yelled, "Shoo you brat! Can' ya see I' m finding it hard to walk as it is?"

After Joey made several more urgent pleas, Mr. Finch reluctantly hobbled to the cemetery and heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me."

"Boy, you' ve beertellin' the truth!" Mr. Finch exclaimed in a whisper. "Let' s get closer and maybe we' ll get to see the Devil himself."

Shivering with fear, Joey and Mr. Finch edged toward the fence, still unable to see the source of the voices.

Then they heard, "One for you, one for me. And here' s another for you and another for me. There, that' s the last of them. Now, let' s go get those nuts by the fence, and we' ll be done."

QWIK QWIP: "A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing."

308. A Matter of Priority

The Catholic Church' s air conditioning broke down, so they hired a fellow named Higgins to crawl around in the ducts and figure out what was wrong. As Higgins peeked down through one of the vents in the sanctuary, he saw little old Mrs. Murphy kneeling by the altar, saying her rosary.

Being a bit of a rascal, Higgins decided it would be funny to try and mess with Mrs. Murphy' s mind. In his most authoritative voice, Higgins said, "This is Jesus. Your prayers will be answered."

Mrs. Murphy didn' t even blink; just kept on saying her rosary. Higgins tried again. "This is Jesus, the Son of God!" Higgins boomed. "Your prayers will be answered!"

At this, Mrs. Murphy looks up and yells, "Wait your turn, Lord. I' m talking to your Mother!"

QWIK QWIP: "Yesterday is in the past. Tomorrow is in the future. Today is a gift; that' s why it' s called the Present.

309. Take Five

One Sunday, a preacher announced that he' d pass out miniature crosses made out of palm leaves.

"Put a cross in the room where your family argues the most," the preacher said. "When you look at the cross, it will remind you that God is watching."

As people were leaving the church, a woman walked up to the preacher, shook his hand and said, "I' ll take five."

310. Your Choice

A church was running short of the finances that were needed to do some sorely needed repairs.

The Pastor worried over how he could motivate the congregation to come up with more money. To add to the Pastor' s problems, just before the start of worship services he learned 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," the Pastor said impatiently. "But you' ll have to think of something appropriate to play after I make the announcement about the finances."

Following the Pastor' s sermon, he paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty. The church repairs are costing nearly twice as much as we 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 is how the substitute became the regular organist!

QWIK QWIP: "It isn' t what you have in your pocket that makes you thankful, but what you have in your heart."

311. Explaining God

A teacher gave her third grade class an assignment to write essays on the topic, "Explain God." The following was turned in by one of her 8-year-old students...

One of God' s main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth.

He doesn' t make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way, He doesn' t have to take up His valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to Moms and Dads.

God' s second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times besides bedtime and meals. God doesn' t have time to listen to the radio or watch TV because of this.

Because God hears everything there must be a terrible lot of noise in His ears, unless He has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy, so you shouldn' t go wasting His time by going over your Mom and Dad' s head asking for something they said you couldn' t have.

Atheists are people who don' t believe in God. I don' t think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren' t any that come to our church.

Jesus is God' s Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and doing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn' t want to learn about God. They finally got tired of Him preaching to them and they crucified Him.

Jesus was good and kind like His Father and He told His Father that they didn' t know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said OKAY.

Jesus' Dad (God) appreciated everything that He had done and all His hard work on earth so He told Him He didn' t have to go out on the road anymore, He could stay in heaven. So He did. Now Jesus helps His Dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones He can take care of Himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary only more important.

You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to hear you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there' s anybody you want to make happy, it' s God. Don' t skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong! And, besides, the sun doesn' t come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don' t believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can' t go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He' s around you when you' re scared in the dark or when you can' t swim very good and get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

But you shouldn' t just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and He can take me back anytime He pleases.

And that' s why I believe in God.

312. Gardening God' s Way

Plant three rows of peas:

- ☐ Peace of mind
- ☐ Peace of heart
- ☐ Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:

- ☐ Squash gossip
- ☐ Squash indifference
- ☐ Squash grumbling
- ☐ Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

- ☐ Lettuce be faithful
- ☐ Lettuce be kind
- ☐ Lettuce be obedient
- ☐ Lettuce really love one another

No garden without turnips:

- ☐ Turnip for meetings
- ☐ Turnip for service
- ☐ Turnip to help one another

To conclude our garden we must have thyme:

- ☐ Thyme for God
- ☐ Thyme for study
- ☐ Thyme for prayer

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.

There will be much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

QWIK QWIP: "Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don' t turn up at all."

313. Tradition

During a service at an old synagogue in Eastern Europe, when the Shema prayer was said, half the congregation stood up and half remained sitting.

The half that was seated started yelling at those standing to sit down, and the ones standing yelled at the ones sitting to stand up.

The rabbi, learned as he was in the Law and commentaries, didn' t know what to do. His congregation suggested that he consult a housebound 98-year-old man, who was one of the original founders of their temple. The rabbi hoped the elderly man would be able to tell him what the actual temple tradition was, so he went to the nursing home with a representative of each faction of the congregation.

The one whose followers stood during Shema said to the old man, "Is the tradition to stand during this prayer?"

The old man answered, "No, that is not our tradition."

The one whose followers sat asked, "Is the tradition to sit during Shema?"

The old man answered, "No, that is not our tradition."

Then the rabbi said to the old man, "Please help us! The congregation fight all the time, yelling at each other about whether they should sit or stand."

The old man interrupted, exclaiming, "THAT is our tradition!"

QWIK QWIP: "Today is the Tomorrow you worried about Yesterday. Was it worth it?"

314. Favourite Hymns, by Profession

Dentist - "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Weatherman - "There Shall be Showers of Blessing"

Building contractor - "The Church' s One Foundation"

Tailor - "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Golfer - "There is a Green Hill Far Away"

Politician - "Standing on the Promises"

Optometrist - "Open Mine Eyes that I Might See"

Internal Revenue Service - "All to Thee"

Gossip - "Pass It On"

Electrician - "Send the Light"

Shopper - "Sweet By and By"

QWIK QWIP: "Blessed are the flexible, for they can tie themselves into knots."

315. Observant

A Sunday school teacher asked the children, "Why should you be quiet in church?"

Little Johnny promptly answered, "Because people are sleeping!"

316. For the Preacher - Good News & Bad News

Good News: You baptised seven people today in the river.
Bad News: You lost two of them in the swift current.

Good News: The Women' s Guild voted to send you a get-well card.
Bad News: The vote passed by 31-30.

Good News: The Elder Board accepted your job description the way you wrote it.
Bad News: They were so inspired by it, they also formed a search committee to find somebody capable of filling the position.

Good News: You finally found a choir director who approaches things exactly the same way you do.
Bad News: The choir mutinied.

Good News: Mrs. Jones is wild about your sermons.
Bad News: Mrs. Jones is also wild about the "Jerry Springer show," "Beavis and Butthead" and "Texas Chain Saw Massacre."

Good News: Your women' s softball team finally won a game.
Bad News: They beat your men' s softball team.

Good News: The trustees finally voted to add more church parking.
Bad News: They' re going to pave the front lawn of your parsonage.

Good News: Church attendance rose dramatically the last three weeks.
Bad News: You were on vacation.

Good News: Your deacons want to send you to the Holy Land.
Bad News: They are waiting until the next war.

Good News: The youth in your church have come to your home to pay a surprise visit.
Bad News: It' s midnight and they are armed with toilet paper & shaving cream to "decorate" your house.

317. Constipation

Q: Where is constipation mentioned three times in the Bible?

A: (1) Satan is bound. (2) Elijah said, "Nothing will move me." (3) Moses took 2 tablets.

QWIK QWIP: "In the sentence of life, the devil may be a comma - but never let him be the full stop. (period)"

318. What Now?

The young priest rushed into his superior's office. "Father Murphy," he exclaimed. "Come quick! Our Saviour is in our church!"

The two clerics rushed into the church and sure enough, there was the Lord Jesus praying at the Altar.

"What should we do?" whispered young Father McLaughlin.

"Try to look busy!" answered the older priest.

319. More Kids Letters To God

Dear God:

If you give me a genie lamp like Aladdin, I will give you anything you want except my money or my chess set. Ralph

Please send Dennis Clark to a different camp this year. Peter

Our school teacher told us that Thomas Edison invented light. But in Sunday school they said You did it. So I bet he stole your idea.

Sincerely, Donna

320. Getting What You Deserve

Matt, Kimo, and Ken are killed in a car accident and end up at St. Peter's gates. St. Peter tells Matt that a wife has been chosen for him for eternity. St. Peter then introduces Matt to his new mate, who is ugly and not to the Matt's liking. Matt says "What did I do to deserve this?" St. Peter answers, "You killed 10 birds in your lifetime, and this is the eternal result."

Kimo is then introduced to his eternal wife who is even uglier than Matt's wife. Kimo grumbles, "What did I do to deserve this?" St. Peter replies, "While you lived, you killed 20 birds, and this is the eternal result."

Ken nervously approaches St. Peter but is overjoyed to meet his new wife, a beautiful woman any man would be thrilled to have. Kimo asks

"What did I do to deserve this?" St. Peter responds, "You? It was her...she killed 30 birds!"

321. Just Checking

When Adam stayed out very late for a few nights, Eve became upset. "You' re running around with other women," Eve charged.

"Don' t be ridiculous, honey," Adam responded. "You' re the only woman on earth."

The quarrel continued until Adam fell asleep, only to be awakened by someone poking him in the chest. It was Eve.

"What do you think you' re doing?" Adam demanded.

"Counting your ribs," said Eve.

QWIK QWIP: "You can only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough."

322. Too Much To Bare

A Preacher, a missionary, and an overweight tenor from the church choir are visiting Israel when, all of a sudden, they are captured by Arab terrorists. They are informed by these terrorists that they are going to be shot.

The Preacher said, "We are men of God. You can' t shoot us!"

When the terrorists refused, the Preacher asked the terrorists for one last request each.

"Okay," said the terrorist chief, "one last request each - but keep it short."

The Preacher says, "I would like to give a two hour sermon and not have anyone in my audience leave or fall asleep."

The tenor says, "I would like to give a two hour concert of my favourite hymns."

"And what about you?" the terrorist chief asked the missionary.

"Oh please!" said the missionary, kneeling with his hands raised in supplication. "Shoot me first!"

QWIK QWIP: "Truth will be truth regardless of a closed mind, ignorance, or refusal to believe."

323. Superbowl XXXIII - aftermath

After John Elway dies and enters the Pearly Gates, God takes him on a tour. He shows John a tiny two-bedroom house with a raggedy Broncos banner hanging from the front porch. "This is your house, John. Most people don't get their own houses up here," God says.

John looks at the house, then turns around and sees one sitting on top of the hill. It's a huge two-story mansion with white marble columns, flowing fountains, a rolling lawn, and splendid patios. Flags for the State of Georgia line both sides of the sidewalk, and a huge Atlanta Falcon's banner hangs between the marble columns.

"Thanks for the house, Lord," says John, "but let me ask you a question. I get this dinky little two-bedroom house, but Chris Chandler gets a mansion with brand new Falcon banners and flags flying all over the place. Why is that?"

God looks at him seriously for a moment, then with a smile God says, "That's not Chandler's house. It's mine."

QWIK QWIP: "The most effective answer to an insult is silence."

324. Not To Be Outdone

During Sunday services, a Pastor is so overwhelmed with religious fervour that he drops to his knees, puts his forehead to the ground and says, "Before you Lord, I am nothing."

Not to be outdone, the Deacon also gets down on his knees, puts his forehead to the floor and says, "Before you Lord, I am nothing."

Moved by their humility, a layman in the fourth row steps into the aisle. He falls down on his knees, puts his forehead to the ground and says, "Before you Lord, I am nothing."

The Deacon, noticing the guy, elbows the Pastor. "So," he whispers. "Look who thinks he' s nothing."

325. Dear God:

Why is Sunday school on Sunday? I thought it was supposed to be our day of rest. Tom

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

I didn' t think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset you made on Tuesday. That was cool. Eugene

326. The Microschlock Bible

(A parody. Adapted by Bellgamin)

Customer: Oh salesclerk, could you help me please?

Clerk: Hi, my name is Velma and I' ll be your Support. What' s your problem?

Customer: The book of Psalms is missing from this Bible I bought here yesterday.

Clerk: Try looking again. Maybe Psalms will be there this time.

Customer: No, it' s still missing.

Clerk: Maybe it' s the way you' re using the Bible. Try opening it from the back instead of the front.

Customer: Even when I open it from the back, Psalms is still missing.

Clerk: Maybe the Bible is incompatible with your eyeglasses. Did you wear READING glasses while you used this Bible?

Customer: I don' t need glasses. My eyesight is perfect.

Clerk: Hmmm... if you say so. Well, it might be a configuration problem. How was the Bible set up?

Customer: They just handed it to me in a cardboard box. What has that got to do with the fact that Psalms is missing?

Clerk: Can you remember everything you did before you noticed the book of Psalms was missing?

Customer: I took it out of the box, of course!

Clerk: Oh, oh! That could be the cause of your problem. Anyway, that Bible is rather out-dated technology. Have you considered upgrading to our most recent version?

Customer: You folks have updated the Bible?

Clerk: Certainly. We just issued Bible-98, version 2.1. It comes with 100 free hours on the internet, plus one full year of Tech Support.

Customer: Okay, bring me Bible-98. I' m running late now.

Clerk: Here you are sir. Bible-98, the latest thing.

Clerk starts to leave.

Customer: (Examines Bible) Hey, wait a minute! What are all these extra pages glued in between the Bible pages? I didn' t ask for those.

Clerk: No problem sir. They can be removed for a slight extra cost. Of course, doing so will void the warranty and your Bible might not function properly without them.

(And so it goes. Er..... did anybody say McWindoze?)

QWIK QWIP: "Worry takes as much time as work and pays less."

327. Church-o-logical Definitions

AMEN - the part of a prayer that everyone understands.

BULLETIN - a claim check to show your Mom you went to church.

CHOIR - a group of people whose singing allows the rest of the congregation to lip-sync.

HYMN - a song of praise sung three octaves higher than an operatic soprano can reach.

CLOSING HYMN - the last song in the service, usually sung softly so as not to awaken the children.

JESUITS - an order of priests known for their ability to establish colleges with good basketball teams.

JUSTICE - when your kids have kids of their own.

MANGER - where Mary gave birth because Joseph didn't have MediCare.

OFFERATORY PROCESSION - when the ushers come forward to receive the offering followed by late visitors looking for seats.

PEW - seating designed to punish you for your sins.

328. Touche!

Melba was a Christian lady who did a lot of travelling for her business. Flying made her nervous so she always took her Bible along, because reading it relaxed her.

One time Melba was sitting next to a man. When he saw Melba reading her Bible he chuckled and said, "You don't really believe all that stuff in there do you?"

Melba replied "Of course I do. It is the word of God."

"Well what about that guy who was swallowed by that whale? You don't believe that, do you?" the man asked.

Melba smiled. "You mean Jonah? Of course I believe it. God doesn't tell fairy tales."

The fellow snorted and asked, "Well, how do you suppose he survived all that time inside the whale?"

Melba said "Well I don' t really know. I guess when I get to heaven I will ask Jonah."

"What if Jonah isn' t in heaven?" the man asked sarcastically.

"Then you can ask him." Melba replied quietly.

QWIK QWIP: "If you feel far away from God, guess who moved?"

329. 'Heblish'

Old Simpson, a stubborn opponent of changing anything, was a constant thorn in the side of the Parent-Teachers Association. For one thing, he was loudly against the introduction of foreign languages in the town' s junior high school curriculum.

Waving his Bible high in the air, he shouted, "If English was good enough for the prophets and the apostles, it' s plenty good enough for me."

330. Thank God I' m anAtheist.

T' was the night before Christmas and all through the house, Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The stockings were hung by the chimney with care. They' d been worn all week long and they needed the air!

QWIK QWIP: "Fear knocked. Faith answered. No one was there."

331. Some Evil

A lady had been teaching her three-year-old daughter the Lord' s Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime the girl repeated it after her. One night the three-year old said she was ready to solo. The lady listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer.

"And lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some e-mail."

332. John

After hearing the Christmas story, and singing "Silent Night" a Sunday School Class was asked to draw what they thought the Nativity Scene might have looked like.

One boy did a good likeness of Joseph, Mary, and the infant Jesus, but off to the side was a roly-poly figure. The teacher, afraid that he had somehow worked Santa Claus into the scene, asked him who that was. She wasn't sure whether she was relieved or even more worried when the boy replied, "Oh, that's Round John Virgin."

333. The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer has always been easy for kids to misinterpret.

*One little boy said "Harold be Thy name."

*Two other lesser-known prayers though are a little girl saying: "Give us this day our jelly bread."

*Or the little New York boy who petitioned God to "Lead us not into Penn Station."

334. Sad

A Navy Commander began teaching Sunday School for young children. One Sunday, the Pastor asked one of the Commander's 4-year old students what she had learned that day.

"Well," she said, "I learned all about the ten commanders. Isn't it sad that they're always broke?"

335. Greenies

Four-year-old Jimmy attended the vacation Bible school at our church. The theme was "Discipleship and Saving Mother Earth." His mother asked Jimmy what he had learned. He immediately told her all about "Jesus and the 12 recycles."

336. Absent?

A Sunday school teacher challenged her children to take some time on Sunday afternoon to write a letter to God. They were to bring back their letter the following Sunday. One little boy wrote: "Dear God, we had a good time at church today. Wish you could have been there."

QWIK QWIP: "What you are is God' s Gift to you. What you become is your gift to God."

337. Multiple Outlets

On vacation with her family in Montana, a mother drove her van past a church in a small town and pointing to it, told the children that it was St. Francis' Church.

"It must be a franchise," her eight-year-old son said. "We' ve got one of those in our town too."

338. Come Out

Our children' s SundaySchool classes were presenting their end of the year program for the congregation - telling about the life of Jesus.

When it came to the part about Jesus' miracles, one little boy said, "Yes, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead!" The teacher urged him to tell us more.

He said, "Well, Jesus told them to open the tomb, and then He said, ' Lazarus, come out!' And it' s a good thing he didn' t just say ' Come out!' because there would have been a stampede of dead guys."

339. Healthy Lessons?

Two fellows died at ripe old ages and went on to Heaven. It was, of course, the most beautiful, wonderful place imaginable.

One of them, eyes misting with tears, remarked to the other, "Isn' t this marvellous?"

His friend replied. "Yes! And to think we could have gotten here so much sooner if we hadn' t eaten all that oat bran!"

QWIK QWIP: "I am God' s Melody of life and He Sings His Song through me."

340. What Chapter

A man has been in business for many, many years and the business is going down the drain. He is seriously contemplating suicide and he

doesn't know what to do. He goes to the Pastor to seek his advice. He tells the Pastor about all of his problems in the business and asks the Pastor what he should do.

The Pastor says "Take a beach chair and a Bible and put them in your car and drive down to the edge of the ocean. Go to the water's edge. Take the beach chair out of the car, sit on it and take the Bible out and open it up. The wind will rifle the pages for a while and eventually the Bible will stay open at a particular page. Read the Bible and it will tell you what to do."

The man does as he is told. He places a beach chair and a Bible in his car and drives down to the beach. He sits on the chair at the water's edge and opens the Bible. The wind rifles the pages of the Bible and then stops at a particular page. He looks down at the Bible and sees what he has to do.

Three months later the man and his family come back to see the Pastor. The man is wearing a \$1,000 Italian suit, The wife is all decked out with a full-length mink coat and the child is dressed in beautiful silk. The man hands the Pastor a thick envelope full of money and tells him that he wants to donate this money to the church in order to thank the Pastor for his wonderful advice. The Pastor is delighted. He recognises the man and asks him what advice in the bible brought this good fortune to him.

The man replies: "Chapter 11."

QWIK QWIP: "We can never really go where God is not, and where He is, all is well."

341. Having the Preacher for Dinner

In a small town way out in the country, a local farmer invited the new preacher and his wife to come out to the farm for supper. While the women were finishing preparations in the kitchen, the men talked in the living room. The farmer was in the middle of telling the preacher that because he was sure that most ministers liked chicken that's what he had asked his wife to prepare. The farmer's son, playing nearby, spoke up and said, "But I thought it was ' buzzard' , not ' chicken' that we were eating today."

"Of course not, where did you ever get that idea?" demanded the farmer.

"Well, I overheard you telling mommy that we ought to hurry up and have the ' old buzzard' " for dinner and get it over with."

342. Can You Spell "GOD"?

Three people from different parts of the country passed away at the same time. All were met at the gates by St. Peter. The first was an architect from California. Peter said, "You' ve built beautiful buildings and served men on earth, but before you come in you have to pass one small test, spell ' God' ". "G-O-D," replied the architect and St. Peter waved him through.

The second person to approach was a rancher from Texas. Peter looked at him and said, "You' ve served man upon the earth by providing food through the cattle you' ve raised but before you come in there' s just one small test, spell ' GOD' ". "G-O-D", said the rancher and Peter waved him through.

The third person was an attractive businesswoman from New York. Peter said, "You' ve served the world of commerce, but before you come in you' ll have to pass one small test." At this the woman interrupted, "Oh come on now Saint," said the woman, "I' ve had to fight for every promotion I' ve ever gotten. I' ve had to take lower pay for the same job as a male colleague, and I' ve been continually harassed by bosses and peers for one reason, my gender. And now here I am and you' re giving me a hard time too; what kind of test? Let' s get it over with."

Peter thought for a moment and said, "Spell Czechoslovakia"

343. Isaiah and His Horse

A young lad came home from church one day, and his mother asked him what he had learned in Sunday school. He said, "We learned about Isme."

Not remembering that name in the Bible, his mother asked, "Who is Isme?" "I guess it was a horse, the horse a man by the name of Isaiah rode." "What are you talking about, there' s no mention in the Bible of Isaiah riding a horse", the mother responded.

"Well, he must have", said the young boy. My teacher read from the place where Isaiah said "Woah, Isme!"

QWIK QWIP: "No matter what is happening in your life, know that God is waiting for you with open arms."

344. Job Description For The Pastor

As nearly everyone knows, the Pastor has practically nothing to do except -

- * Decide what is to be done;
- * Tell somebody to do it;
- * Listen to reasons why it should not be done;
- * Listen to reasons why it should be done by someone else;
- * Listen to reasons why it should be done in a different way;
- * Follow up to see if the thing has been done;
- * Discover that it has not;
- * Inquire why;
- * Listen to excuses from the person who should have done it;
- * Follow up again to see if the thing has been done, only to
- * Discover that it has been done incorrectly;
- * Point out how it should have been done;
- * Conclude that as long as it has been done, though incorrectly, it may as well be left as it is;
- * Wonder if it is not time to get rid of the person who cannot do a thing right;
- * Reflect that certainly any successor would be just as bad, or even maybe worse;
- * Consider how much simpler and better the thing would have been done if one had done it himself in the first place;
- * Reflect sadly that one could have done it right in twenty minutes, and as things turned out, one has to spend two days to find out why it has taken three weeks for somebody else to do it wrong.

QWIK QWIP: "Funny how a \$10.00 bill looks so big when you take it to church, but so small when you take it to the market."

345. Business Is Business

After watching sales falling off for three straight months at Kentucky Fried Chicken, the Colonel calls up the Pope and asks for a favour.

The Pope says, "What can I do?" The Colonel says, "I need you to change the daily prayer from, ' Give us this day our daily bread' to ' Give us this day our daily chicken' . If you do it, I' ll donate 10 Million Dollars to the Vatican."

The Pope replies, "I am sorry. That is the Lord' s prayer and I can not change the words." So the Colonel hangs up.

After another month of dismal sales, the Colonel panics, and calls again. "Listen your Excellency. I really need your help. I' ll donate \$50 million dollars if you change the words of the daily prayer from ' Give us this day our daily bread' to ' Give us this day our daily chicken.' " And the Pope responds, "It is very tempting, Colonel Sanders. The church could do a lot of good with that much money. It would help us to support many charities. But, again, I must decline. It is the Lord' s prayer, and I can' t change the words."

So the Colonel gives up again. After two more months of terrible sales, the Colonel gets desperate. "This is my final offer, your Excellency. If you change the words of the daily prayer from, ' Give us this day our daily bread' to ' Give us this day our daily chicken' I will donate \$100 million to the Vatican." The Pope replies, "Let me get back to you."

So the next day, the Pope calls together all of his bishops and he says, "I have some good news and I have some bad news. The good news is that KFC is going to donate \$100 million to the Vatican."

The bishops rejoice at the news.

Then one asks about the bad news. The Pope replies, "The bad news is that we lost the Wonder Bread account."

346. Lightbulbs

How many Psychiatrists does it take to change a lightbulb?

?? Just one - But the bulb has to want to change!

How many Policemen does it take to change a Lightbulb?

?? 4 - One to change, one for "backup" and 2 to buy the donuts!

How many Norwegians does it take?

?? 3 - One to hold the bulb and 2 to spin the ladder!

How many Ecologists?

?? 25 - 1 to change the bulb and 24 to do the environmental impact study! How many theologians?

?? Who can say? - Each has a different interpretation of what "Light" really is!!

QWIK QWIP: "He who always speaks the truth doesn't need a long memory."

347. God's Answering Machine

I have learned to live with the answering machine as a necessary part of modernisation. But I have often wondered - What if God decided to install an automated answering machine?

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 a thanksgiving. Press 3 for complaints. For all other inquiries, press 4.

What if God used the familiar excuse: "All 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 call on God in prayer? "If you'd like to speak with Gabriel, press 1. For Michael, press 2. For any other Angel, press 3." "If you'd like King David to sing a psalm for you, press 6." To find out if your relative is here, enter his/her date of death and listen for the list that follows." For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth, and where Noah's ark is, wait 'till you get here!" "Our computers show that you have called once today already. Please hang up immediately." "This office is closed for the weekend. Please call again Monday."

THANK GOD YOU CAN'T CALL HIM TOO OFTEN! YOU ONLY NEED TO RING ONCE, AND GOD HEARS YOU. BECAUSE OF JESUS, YOU NEVER GET A BUSY SIGNAL. GOD TAKES EACH CALL AND KNOWS EACH CALLER PERSONALLY.

"Then you will call and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and He will say: Here am I." Isaiah 58:9 NTV

QWIK QWIP: "Funny how everyone wants to go to heaven, provided they don' t have to believe, or to think, or to say, or to do anything."

348. A Little Bible Study Prophets Everyone

The following are some insights young Sunday school students turned in to their teachers:

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.

Lot' s wife was a pillar of salt by day and a ball of fire by night.

Noah' s wife was Joan of Ark.

Samson slew the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.

Moses went to the top of Mt. Cyanide to get the 10 Commandments.

The Seventh Commandment is "Thou shalt not admit adultery."

Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.

Solomon had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

The people who followed Jesus were called the 12 decibels.

The Epistles were the wives of the Apostles.

Paul preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.

A Christian should have only one wife. This is called monotony.

Parables mean there is more than one bull.

QWIK QWIP: "If God gives the vision He will also provide the provision."

349. Noah' s Ark

Noah' s Ark if it happened today:

And the Lord spoke to Noah and said, "In six months I' m going to make it rain until the whole Earth is covered with water and all evil people are destroyed. But I want to save a few good people, and two of every kind of living thing on the planet. I am commanding you to build an Ark." And in a flash of lightning, He delivered the specifications for an Ark.

"Okay," said Noah, trembling with fear and fumbling with the blueprints.

"Six months and it starts to rain," thundered the Lord. "You' d better have the Ark completed, or learn to swim for a very long time."

Six months passed, the skies clouded up and rain began to fall. The Lord saw that Noah was sitting in his front yard, weeping.... and there was no Ark. "Noah," shouted the Lord, "Where is the Ark?"

"Lord, please forgive me!" begged Noah. "I did my best. But there were big problems. First, I had to get a building permit for the Ark construction project, and your plans didn' t meet code. So I had to hire an engineer to redraw the plans. Then I got into a big fight over whether or not the Ark needed a fire sprinkler system. Then my neighbour objected, claiming I was violating zoning by building the Ark in my front yard, so I had to get a variance from the city planning commission." "Then I had problems getting enough wood for the Ark, because there was a ban on cutting trees to save the Spotted Owl. I had to convince the Fish and Wildlife that I need the wood to save the owls, but they wouldn' t let me catch any owls. So, no owls." "The carpenters formed a union and went out on strike. I had to negotiate a settlement with the National Labor Relations Board before anyone would pick up a saw or hammer. Now we have 16 carpenters on board, and still no owls." "Then I started gathering up animals, and got sued by an animal rights group. They objected to me taking only two of each kind. Just when I got the suit dismissed, EPA notified me that I couldn' t complete the Ark without filing an environmental impact statement on your proposed flood. They didn' t take kindly to the idea that they had no jurisdiction over the conduct of a Supreme Being. Then the Army Corp of Engineers wanted a map of the new flood plain. I sent them a globe." "Right now, I' m trying to resolve a complaint from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission over how many Croatians I' m supposed to hire. The IRS has seized all my assets, claiming I' m trying to avoid taxes by leaving the country. And I just got a notice from the state about owing them some kind of use tax. I really don' t think I can finish the Ark for at least another 5 years."

Then the sky began to clear. The sun began to shine. A rainbow arched across the sky. Noah looked up, "You mean you' re not going to destroy the earth?" he asked hopefully.

"No," the Lord said sadly. "The government already has."

QWIK QWIP: "Funny how people think that they can get more accomplished in a lifetime without God than in an hour with him."

350. Backward Christian Soldiers

Backward Christian Soldiers, Fleeing from the Fight
With The cross of Jesus nearly out of sight
Christ our rightful Master stands against the foe
But forward into battle we are loathe to go
Like a mighty tortoise moves the church of God
Brothers we are treading where we' ve often trod
We are much divided many bodies we,
Having different doctrines not much charity
Backward Christian soldiers fleeing from the fight
With the cross of Jesus nearly out of sight!

351. How Can I Get There?

There' s the story of the new Pastor in town who got turned around on his very first Sunday on the way to the new church He stops the paperboy and gives him the street address and then adds "you know that' s First Baptist Church."

The kid wants to help so he very politely says, "Oh sure, down three blocks, make a right, 2 blocks make a left and it' s in the next block on your right."

The preacher is moved by this kind of friendship to a newcomer like himself so he says, "son, how' d you like me to tell you how you can get to Heaven?"

At this the kid laughs slightly and says, "How you gonna do that, you can' t even find First Baptist?"

QWIK QWIP: "The answer is "Yes, God". What is the question?"

352. Pious Christian

Once there was a Christian, he had a pious look
His consecration was complete except his pocketbook.
He' d go to Church and give his dollar and meekly close his eyes,
So glad his weekly rent was paid for his mansion in the skies.

353. Success With Maths

A ten-year-old boy was failing math. His parents tried everything from tutors to hypnosis, but to no avail. Finally, at the insistence of a family friend, they decided to enrol their son in a private Catholic school.

After the first day, the boy's parents were surprised when he walked in after school with a stern, focused and very determined expression on his face, and went right past them straight to his room, where he quietly closed the door.

For nearly two hours he toiled away in his room - with math books strewn about his desk and the surrounding floor. He emerged long enough to eat, and after quickly cleaning his plate, went straight back to his room, closed the door, and worked feverishly at his studies until bedtime.

This pattern continued ceaselessly until it was time for the first quarter report card.

The boy walked in with his report card - unopened - laid it on the dinner table and went straight to his room. Cautiously, his mother opened it, and to her amazement, she saw a bright red "A" under the subject of MATHS.

Overjoyed, she and her husband rushed into their son's room, thrilled at his remarkable progress. "Was it the nuns that did it?", the father asked.

The boy only shook his head and said, "No."

"Was it the one-on-one tutoring? The peer-mentoring?"

"No."

"The textbooks? The teachers? The curriculum?"

"Nope," said the son. "On that first day, when I walked in the front door and saw that guy they nailed to the ' plus sign,' I just knew they meant business!"

QWIK QWIP: "Our eyes are placed in front because it is more important to look ahead than look back."

354. The Consultant

There once was a consultant who lived her whole life without ever taking advantage of any of the people she worked for. In fact, she made sure that every job she did resulted in a win-win situation. One day, while walking down the street, she was tragically hit by a bus and she died.

Her soul arrived up in heaven where she was met at the Pearly Gates by St. Peter himself. "Welcome to Heaven," said St. Peter. "Before you get settled in though it seems we have a problem. You see, strangely enough, we' ve never once had a consultant make it this far and we' re not really sure what to do with you."

"No problem, just let me in," said the consultant.

"Well, I' d like to, but I have higher orders. What we' re going to do is let you have a day in Hell and a day in Heaven and then you can choose whichever one you want to spend an eternity in." "Actually, I think I' ve made up my mind...I prefer to stay in Heaven" "Sorry, we have rules..." And with that St. Peter put the consultant in an elevator and it went down-down-down to hell.

The doors opened and the consultant found herself stepping out onto the putting green of a beautiful golf course. In the distance was a country club and standing in front of her were all her friends - fellow consultants that she had worked with and they were all dressed in evening gowns and cheering for her. They ran up and kissed her on both cheeks and they talked about old times. They played an excellent round of golf and at night went to the country club where she enjoyed an excellent steak and lobster dinner. She met the Devil who was actually a really nice guy (kinda cute) and she had a great time telling jokes and dancing. The consultant was having such a good time that before she knew it, it was time to leave. Everybody shook her hand and waved good-bye as she got on the elevator.

The elevator went up-up-up and opened back up at the Pearly Gates and found St. Peter waiting for her. "Now it' s time to spend a day in heaven." So the consultant spent the next 24 hours lounging around on clouds and playing the harp and singing. She had a great time and before she knew it her 24 hours were up and St. Peter came and got her. "So, you' ve spent a day in hell and you' ve spent a day in heaven. Now you must choose your eternity." The consultant paused for a second and then

replied, "Well, I never thought I' d say this, I mean, Heaven has been really great and all, but I think I had a better time in Hell." So St. Peter escorted her to the elevator and again the consultant went down-down-down back to Hell.

When the doors of the elevator opened she found herself standing in a desolate wasteland covered in garbage and filth. She saw her friends were dressed in rags and were picking up the garbage and putting it in sacks. The Devil came up to her and put his arm around her. "I don' t understand," stammered the consultant, "yesterday I was here and there was a golf course and a country club and we ate lobster and we danced and had a great time. Now all there is a wasteland of garbage and all my friends look miserable."

The Devil looked at her and smiled, "That' s because yesterday we were recruiting you, but today you' re staff."

QWIK QWIP: "Isn't it funny how big an hour serving God looks and how small 60 minutes are when spent playing golf, fishing or playing bridge."

355. Hang On

A mountain climber, who was also a Christian, began to slip as he climbed a dangerous section of the mountain. In a flash he had fallen over the edge of a cliff and began to plunge downward when he thrust out his hand and grabbed a small tree that had grown out from between two rocks. As he hung there fearing the worst, but trying to figure out what to do, he suddenly heard a voice calling him from above, "Just trust me, let go of the branch, and I will save you." Pausing a moment while he glanced down, the climber called out, "Hey, is there anyone else up there?"

QWIK QWIP: "How come you' re always running around looking for God? He' s not lost."

356. Noisy

Sunday School Teacher: "What evidence is there in the Bible that Adam and Eve were noisy?"

Boy: "They raised Cain!"

357. The Perfect Offertory Sermon

"I would like to remind you that what you are about to give is deductible, cannot be taken with you and is considered in the Bible that the love of this is the root of all evil."

358. Peanuts

A preacher visiting an elderly parishioner at a nursing home noticed a bowl of peanuts by her bed and took one. As they talked, he couldn't help himself and ate one after another. By the time their visit was over, the bowl was empty.

"I'm sorry, but I seem to have eaten all of your peanuts," he said.

"That's OK," she replied. "They would have gone stale anyway. Without my teeth, all I can do is suck the chocolate off."

359. Thank God!

A rabbi said to a precocious six-year-old boy: "So your mother says your prayers for you each night. Very commendable. What does she say?"

The little boy replied, "Thank God he's in bed!"

360. Country Wisdom

Pastor Jones was on vacation and had just driven into a rural town, when he had a flat tire. "How far is it to the next service station?" the pastor asked a farmer.

"Nigh onto two miles as the crow flies," the farmer said.

Perturbed, the pastor asked, "Well, how far is it if the crow has to walk and roll a flat tire?"

361. A Minister Learns from a Student

A minister was chatting with a University student about the doctoral paper he was preparing. Through reading and exacting studies with many patients, the student was prepared to report that the type of conversation that went on in the operating room had a definite impact on the recovery rate of surgical patients.

The minister was especially interested in the finding that even though a patient under anaesthesia was totally "out of it", in a comatose like condition, positive conversation by doctors and other attendants had a very beneficial affect on the patient. As the pastor listened to this revelation, his face suddenly lit up, and he said, "At last I' ve found some hope for the people who attend the Sunday morning church service."

QWIK QWIP: "It is far more impressive when others discover your good qualities without your help."

362. WWJD?

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

One theory is that Jesus would tool around in an old Plymouth because, "God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden in His 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 favours 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, in which Christ tells the crowd, "I did not speak of my own Accord."

Meanwhile, David rode an old British motorcycle, as evidenced by a Bible passage declaring that "the roar of David' s 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 carpooled in a Honda: they were in one Accord.

QWIK QWIP: "Yieldedness destroys bitterness."

363. Monkey Talk

Two monkeys were discussing the theory of evolution while they passed the time in their zoo cage. Finally, one turned to the other and said, "Tell me; am I my keeper' s brother?"

364. Golfing On Sunday

Bill Jenkins served as a deacon in a very strict, fundamentalist church. Skipping church to play golf would be considered a grave infraction, especially for someone in leadership. But the urge was greater than his ability to resist, and Bill found himself at the golf course on a beautiful sunny Sunday morning.

Nearing the end of a very enjoyable 18 holes of golf, Bill suddenly heard a voice from heaven calling out his name. "You may receive either a blessing or a punishment. Which will it be?" "Well, of course a blessing," Bill answered. "Then you may ask for one blessing, what will it be?" "Oh, I would love, just one time, to get a ' hole in one' ".

So Bill teed up, took a few practice swings, and sent the ball soaring toward the next green. To his great delight, the ball bounced at the edge of the green, and slowly rolled to the flag and dropped in." "Thank you, thank you", Bill shouted toward the sky. "Well actually," the voice responded, "You asked for a blessing, but you have received a punishment instead."

"Why? What do you mean?" "Because", intoned the voice, "Who are you going to tell?"

365. Not Too Funny

Pastor Beaverson was approached by a visitor after the service. "Pastor", she said. "I really appreciated your sermon. However, there' s just one thing. I still can' t figure out what the connection was between your text and the rest of the sermon."

366. Cars in Heaven

It seems the head Deacon died and went to heaven. When Saint Peter met him at the gate, he explained that because of all of his good deeds done on earth, he would be given a Mercedes for his heavenly transportation. "It could have been a Rolls Royce", the Deacon

commented. "But there were a number of deficiencies in your record, so this is the best we can do for you."

A while later, the Music Director died, and also appeared before Peter. He didn't fare quite so well, but was given a Yugo to drive. Although he accepted this graciously, inwardly he was upset, especially when he saw the head Deacon driving around heaven in his silver grey Mercedes.

Then one day, as the Deacon rounded a corner, he saw that the Music Director had had a terrible accident. His Yugo had crashed into a tree, and it appeared to be totally wrecked. And then he noticed that the Music Director was outside the car, and was laughing uncontrollably.

So the Deacon pulled his Mercedes to the curb, and jumped out to inquire what had happened. "What's going on?" he asked. "Why are you standing here laughing when you just smashed up your car?" "Because," said the Music Director between gasps for air, "I just saw Pastor Hester go by on roller blades."

QWIK QWIP: "people are so consumed with what others think about them rather than what God thinks about them."

367. No Good Deed Goes Unpunished

A man appeared at the Pearly Gates and knocked. St. Peter came out and asked him what he wanted. He said, "I want to get in please."

St. Peter asked him to name one thing nice he had done for someone during his life. He replied that one time he saved an old woman in front of a convenience store. She was getting beat up and shoved around by a large gang of bikers out front, and so "I just went up and kicked the biggest biker in the shins, and the old lady got away."

St. Peter was impressed, and asked, "How long ago did this happen?" The man replied as he looked at his watch, "Oh, about 25 seconds ago!"

QWIK QWIP: "Cream always rises to the top."

368. Make Over

A middle aged woman has a heart attack and is taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she has a near death experience. During

that experience she sees God and asks if this is it. God says no, and explains that she has another 30-40 years to live.

Upon her recovery she decides to just stay in the hospital and have a face lift, liposuction, breast augmentation, tummy tuck, etc. She even has someone come in and change her hair colour. She figures since she's got another 30 or 40 years she might as well make the most of it.

She walks out the hospital after the last operation and is killed by an ambulance speeding up to the hospital. She arrives in front of God and asks, "I thought you said I had another 30-40 years?"

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

369. Sunday School Bloopers

Some bloopers of biblical proportions written by Sunday School students.

* In the first book of the bible, Guinnessis, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off.

* Adam & Eve were created from an apple tree.

* Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark.

* Noah built the ark, which the animals came on in pears.

* Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.

* Sampson slated the Philistines with the axe of apostles.

* Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients.

* The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert.

* Afterward, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments.

* The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.

* The Fifth Commandment is humour thy mother and father.

* The Seventh Commandment is thou shalt not ADMIT adultery.

* Moses died before he ever reached the UK. Then, Joshua led the Hebrews in the Battle of Geritol.

* The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.

* David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in the biblical times.

* Solomon, one of David's sons, has 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

* When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.

- * When the three wise guys from the East Side arrived, they found Jesus and the manager.
- * St. John, the Blacksmith, dumped water on his head.
- * Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which says to do one to others before they do one to you.
- * He also explained, "Man doth not live by sweat alone."
- * The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels.
- * The epistles were the wives of the apostles.
- * One of the opossums was St. Matthew, who was by profession a taximan.
- * St. Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.
- * A Christian should have only one wife. This is called monotony.

QWIK QWIP: "A closed mouth gathers no foot."

370. Sparse Church Attendance

The preacher was growing concerned about sparse attendance, so he published this item in the church bulletin:

This . . . is . . . the . . . way . . . the . . . church . . . sometimes . . . looks . . . to . . . the . . . preacher . . . when . . . he . . . goes . . . into . . . the . . . pulpit.

It would look like this if everybody brought somebody else to church.

371. Sleeping in Church

Perturbed that a man had fallen asleep during his sermon, the pastor called on an usher to wake the man. The usher retorted, "Why should I do that, Pastor? You should wake him up yourself, after all, you put him to sleep."

QWIK QWIP: "Live every day like it is your last day on Earth and sooner or later you will be right."

372. Surprise Punishment

A man appeared before St. Peter to receive news of his eternal fate. Peter said, "I have good news and bad. The good news is that you get to choose where you will spend eternity, the bad news it, it won't be heaven. Come, let me show you your choices."

So Peter took the man down a long corridor. After walking a bit, Peter opened a door so the man could look in. Inside was a huge room with a cement floor, filled with hundreds of people standing on their heads. The man said he wanted to see a couple of more rooms before deciding, so Peter took him to another room where hundreds of people were standing on their heads on a hard wood floor. In the next room they were on their heads in a carpeted area, so the man silently reasoned that each situation was a little more bearable.

Then Peter said, "I'll show you one more room, and then you must make your decision." In this room were hundreds of people floating in sitting up position, drinking coffee. But there was a terrible stench, for what they were sitting in was a combination of garbage and sewage. But reasoning that he probably could soon become accustomed to the smell, the man made his decision to be consigned for eternity in this room. As he settled down into the slop, a cup of coffee was handed to him.

However, it wasn't more than 10 minutes later when a small side door opened and out came a demon who yelled, "OK. Coffee break's over. Everyone back on your heads!"

373. Substitute Preacher

A supply speaker was invited to fill in while the pastor was on vacation. He began his sermon by saying, "Today I'm just substituting for your Pastor, I kind of feel like the cardboard you temporarily place in the window while the glass is being repaired." Then he went on with his sermon.

At the end of the service, while shaking hands with parishioners, one said, "Remember what you said about feeling like a cardboard replacement? Well you shouldn't feel that way at all. Today you were a real pain."

374. Plenty of Fish

A young man, fresh out of seminary, became the pastor of a small rural church. On his first Sunday he announced his sermon by saying, "This morning I want to speak to you from the passage of Scripture where Jesus, with 5,000 loaves and 2,000 fishes fed 5 people. Everyone tried hard to not to laugh at the blunder, but one man, right down on the front row could not contain it, and laughed out loud.

So the next week the young pastor decided to redeem himself self by preaching from the same passage. "Today", he said, "I want to preach to you from the story where Jesus, with 5 loaves and 2 fishes fed 5,000." Then he confidently looked down at the man who had laughed the week before and said, "Now sir, could you have done that?"

"Why sure", the gentleman answered, "if I had was left over from last week."

QWIK QWIP: "Experience is something you don' t get until just after you need it."

375. Adam and Eve

One day, Adam sat outside the Garden of Eden shortly after eating the apple, and wondered about men and women.

So looking up to the Heavens he says, "Excuse me GOD, can I ask you a few questions?" GOD replied, "Go on Adam but be quick. I have a world to create."

So Adam says," When you created Eve, why did You make her body so curved and tender unlike mine?"

"I did that, Adam, so that you could love her."

"Oh, well then, why did You give her long, shiny, beautiful hair, and not me?"

"I did that Adam so that you could love her."

"Oh, well then, why did You make her act so stupid? Certainly not so that I could love her?"

"Well Adam, No. I did that so that she could love you."

QWIK QWIP: "God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage."

376. Chicken Dinner

After a community worship service, a farmer invited the local pastors, reverend, and priest back to the farm for dinner. At the meal, each clergy was served a whole young chicken. As the three returned to their cars, a rooster was seen strutting about, chest puffed out and held high. "He sure seems full of himself," commented the pastor. "He has good cause to be proud," answered the farmer. "He just had three of his children go into the ministry."

377. The Contest

Between moments of dispensing wisdom, it seems that historical religious leaders had also learned software programming. One day, a great contest was held to test their skills. After days and days of fierce competition, only two leaders remained for the last day's event: Jesus and Mohammed.

The judge described the software application required for the final test, and gave the signal to start writing code. The two contestants feverishly typed away on their keyboards. Routines, classes, applets and applications flew by on their screens at incredible speeds. Windows, dialogs, and other intricate graphics began forming on their monitors. The clock showed that the contest would soon be finished.

Suddenly, a bolt of lightening flashed and the power went out. After a moment, it came back on - just in time for the clock to announce that the last competition was over. The judge asked the two contestants to reveal their finished software. Mohammed angrily said that he'd lost it all in the power outage. The judge turned to the other competitor.

Jesus smiled, clicked a mouse, and a dazzling application appeared on his screen. After just a few moments, the judge was clearly impressed and declared Jesus the victor. When asked why the decision was made, the judge pointed out the unique characteristic that set the winner apart from all the other leaders: Jesus saves.

QWIK QWIP: "Isn't it amazing how long a couple of hours spent at church, but how short they are when watching a movie."

378. A Direct Line

Little 5 year old John ran to his Grandmother one rainy winter morning.

"Nana! Do they have telephones in Heaven? I' ve got to call God right now!" he said.

"John, why do you have to call God?" she asked.

"Because I' ve been praying and praying for snow all morning and look, He made a mistake. All its doing is raining!"

379. Thief

There is the story of a minister in a small town who was having trouble with his offering collections.

So one Sunday he announced from the pulpit: "Before we pass the collection plate, I would like to request that the person who stole the chickens from Brother Smith' s hen house please refrain from giving any money to the Lord. The Lord doesn' t want money from a thief."

The collection plate was passed around, and for the first time in many months everybody put something in.

380. The Right Prayer

Two "saints" were discussing which one of them was more ' spiritual' .

"Huh," says the first, "why I' ll bet you \$20 you can' t even repeat the Lord' s prayer."

"You' re on," says the second. He clears his throat and starts in. "Now I lay me down to sleep I pray the Lord my soul to keep, if I should die before I wake I pray the Lord my soul to take."

The first guy is incredulous. "Wow, I didn' t think you could do it. Here' s your \$20."

381. God' s Grade

A sophomore taking a test in Bible School was not well prepared for the exam. At one point over a particularly esoteric phrasing of a question, he wrote, "ONLY GOD KNOWS!" for his answer.

Later when he got his paper back, there written in RED was this comment, "God gets an "A", you get an "F".

QWIK QWIP: "Do your best and then sleep in peace. God is Awake."

382. Windows 95

Abraham is trying to load Windows 95 on his computer. His son, Isaac, walks in and says, "Dad, what are you doing? You can't load Windows 95 on to your computer! You need at least a 486 with 14 megs of memory; you only have a 386 with no available memory."

And Abraham said, "Don't worry, son, God will provide the Ram."

QWIK QWIP: "Character is like a fence - it cannot be strengthened by whitewash."

383. Wake Up Call

A certain pastor was upset with a man in his congregation who was frequently going to sleep during the sermon, so the pastor decided to teach the man a lesson. Near the end of the sermon, the pastor, in a normal voice said, "If there's anyone here this morning who wants to go to hell . . ." he began - then raising his voice to a near shout, continued, "PLEASE STAND UP."

The sleeping gentleman, startled from his slumber, sprang to his feet. Then he slowly looked around and then said, "Well, Pastor, I'm not sure why it is that I'm standing, but it looks like it's you and I are in the same boat."

384. God's Field

A pastor drove out into the country to visit one of his parishioners, a farmer. As he approached the farm, he noticed the man along side of the road, leaning over the fence gazing out at his expansive field of corn, nearly ready for harvest. As the pastor approached, the farmer exclaimed, "Look at this, isn't it beautiful?" "Well I think you should be careful not to be too boastful," the Pastor noted. "After all, it is God who created this field." "Maybe so," the farmer replied. "But you should have seen this field when God had it all to Himself."

385. Of The Devil

Two drunken men were sitting at the local bar when one turned to the other and asked, "What do you think of that 'speaking in tongues' thing?"

"I think it' s of the devil," replied the other man, "what do you think?" "I don' t know, but I don' t think it' s of the devil, because if it was, you and me would have it."

386. Lot' s Wife

The teacher was in the middle of telling the Bible story of Lot' s rescue from the sinful cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. When she came to the part about Lot' s wife, she said, "And Lot' s wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt." A little boy' s hand shot up. "That' s nothing. Last week when my mother was driving to the store, she looked back and turned into a telephone pole."

387. Needed

A pastor had a practice of leaving his pulpit for a brief time during the morning service. While one of his staff made the announcements, he went to tell a Bible story to the children in children' s church. One new member didn' t understand. One day he said to the minister, "Pastor, you' re the first preacher I ever saw who takes a coffee break during the service."

388. Laughter Like Medicine

A pastor listened outside the Sunday School room door while the children recited their memory verse. One little boy repeated it this way, "Laughter does good like a medicine should."

QWIK QWIP: "A pessimist complains about the noise made when opportunity knocks."

389. God' s Will

A farmer was on his way to town to buy a cow. On the way he stopped for a brief visit with his neighbour who was a Christian. "Where are you going today," the neighbour asked. "I' m going to town to buy a cow." Well actually, the Christian neighbour instructed, you ought to say, ' the Lord willing, I' m going to town to buy a cow.' " "What do you mean, I have the money, they have the cow, I' m going to town to buy a cow."

With that, he resumed his walk. Just before reaching the town, the farmer was mugged, his money stolen, and he was left unconscious by the side of the road. When he finally came too, and realising all his money was

gone, he started to limp back towards home. The Christian neighbour saw him coming, and hastened to help.

After hearing the story, the Christian farmer asked, "So now what are you going to do?" "Well, the Lord willing, I' m going home."

390. It' s An Ill Wind...

After coming out of the water, a new member exclaimed, "Good grief, preacher, I forgot to remove my wallet from these trousers. It' s dripping wet." "Hallelujah," exulted the preacher, "We could stand more baptised wallets."

QWIK QWIP: "Truth does not need a defender - only an investigator."

391. Painting the Church

The Pastor was painting the church one Saturday to get it nice and spiffy for services on Sunday. He had two sides of the church done when he realised that he didn' t have quite enough paint to finish.

Since he was many miles from where he could buy more paint and he was running out of time, he decided to thin the paint down so he' d have enough to finish the job. After finishing the third wall, he realised he had to thin the paint even more to make it stretch.

He finally finished and was standing back to admire his work when it started to rain. He watched in dismay while the paint ran down the windows and exposed the old colour on the last two walls he had painted.

Just then lightening struck followed by an ear splitting clap of thunder. From the sky came a loud voice saying,

"Repaint, repaint, and thin no more."

392. Death Angel

There' s the story of the man who was doing his bank business at the local Bank when he caught sight of the "Death Angel" waiting by the outside door. Being somewhat alarmed, he went out the other door and walked around the building to his car and hastily drove home.

When he came into the kitchen, his wife noted that his face was all white, and she asked what the matter was. He said, "I just saw the death angel."

"So what are you going to do," she asked.

"I' m getting out of town as fast as I can - I' ll go to my brother' s in Ashfield."

Unbelieving, as soon as his car pulled out of the drive way, the wife rushed down to the bank. Sure enough, there was the Death Angel, still standing by the door.

Being more bold than her husband, she walked up to the Angel and told him that her husband had been very frightened to see him there.

The Death Angel replied, "Well actually, I was also somewhat surprised to see your husband here. I was sure I had an appointment with him later today in Ashfield."

QWIK QWIP: "Too many people work up a head of steam before they find out what' s cooking."

393. The One Boy Who Knows His Holidays

Three 4th Grade Sunday School boys were promised a free Bible trip if they can answer one simple question.

The teacher asks the first boy, "What is Easter?"

The boy replies, "Oh, that' s easy! It' s the holiday in November when everyone gets together, eats turkey, and are thankful."

"Wrong!," replies the teacher, and proceeds to ask the second student the same question, "What is Easter?"

The second boy replies, "Easter is the holiday in December when we put up a nice tree, exchange presents, and celebrate the birth of Jesus."

The teacher looks at the second boy, shakes his head in disgust, tells him he' s wrong, then peers over at the third boy and asks, "What is Easter?"

Confidently he looks the teacher in the eyes, "I know what Easter is."

"Oh?" the teacher says incredulously.

"Easter is the Christian holiday that coincides with the Jewish celebration of Passover. Jesus and his disciples were eating at the Last Supper and Jesus was later betrayed and handed over to the Romans by one of his disciples. The Romans took him to be crucified and he was stabbed in the side, made to wear a crown of thorns, and was hung on a cross with nails through his hands and feet. He was buried in a nearby cave which was sealed off by a large boulder."

As the Sunday School teacher smiles broadly with delight, the third student continues, "Every year the boulder is moved aside so that Jesus can come out...and, if he sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter."

394. Bulletin Bleepers Keep Coming

!!! The sermon this morning: Jesus Walks on the Water.

The sermon tonight: Searching for Jesus.

!!! Next Thursday, there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

!!! The agenda was adopted . . . the minutes were approved. . . the financial secretary gave a grief report.

!!! Barbara C. remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack' s sermons.

!!! The ' Over 60s Choir' will be disbanded for the summer with the thanks of the entire church.

!!! Missionary from Africa speaking at Calvary Memorial Church in Racine:

Name: Bertha Belch

!!! Announcement: "Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa."

!!! Announcement in a church bulletin for a National Prayer & Fasting Conference: "The cost for attending the Fasting & Prayer conference includes Meals."

!!! Miss Charlene Mason sang, "I Will Not Pass This Way Again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

!!! Will the ladies of the Willing Workers who have towels which belong to the kitchen please bring them to the church on Friday as we need them for supper

QWIK QWIP: "He who boasts of being a self-made man or woman relieves the Lord of a lot of responsibility."

395. Jesus Wept!

Jesus took his disciples up the mountain and gathered them around Him and taught them saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."

"Blessed are the meek,

Blessed are they that mourn,

Blessed are the merciful,

Blessed are they that thirst after righteousness.

Blessed are you when persecuted, Blessed are you when you suffer, Be glad and rejoice for your reward is great in Heaven."

Then Simon Peter said, "Are we supposed to know all this?"

And Andrew said, "So we have to write all this down?"

And James said, "Will we have a test on this?"

And Phillip said, "I don' t have any paper."

And Judas said, " How much credit does this give me?"

And Matthew said, "May I go to the bathroom?"

And Bathelomew said, "Do we have to turn this in?"

And Simon said, "May I borrow a pencil?"

And Judas Iscariot said, "What does this have to do with real life?"

And James the Lesser said, "Now what was that again?"

Then one of the Pharisees, who was present, asked to see Jesus' lesson plan and inquired of Jesus, "Where are your anticipatory set and objectives in the cognitive domain?"

AND JESUS WEPT !!!!

QWIK QWIP: "It sometimes looks foolish for folks to be spending so much time loving their enemies when they should be treating their friends a little better."

396. Speed Reading

The parson had been disturbed by a person who was a fast reader. "We shall now read the Twenty-third Psalm in unison," he announced. "Will the lady who is always by ' the still waters' while the rest of us are in ' green pastures,' please wait a minute until we catch up?"

397. Amen, Preach!

"Amen, Preach!"

Preacher: "This church is just like a baby, and every baby has to learn to crawl."

The congregation shouts out, "Amen Preach, let her crawl.."

The Preacher continues: "But nobody stays a baby forever. After a while this church is going to stand and walk."

Congregation: "Amen, Preach it--Let her walk."

Preacher goes on: "And after a while this church is not just going to stand or walk, it' s going to run!"

Congregation: "Amen Preach, let her run."

Preacher: "And in order for this Church to run it needs to give!"

Congregation: "Let her crawl Preach, Let her crawl"

QWIK QWIP: "The trouble with learning from experience is that the test comes first and the lesson afterwards."

398. It might be a country church if . . .

1. The doors are never locked.
2. The Call to Worship is , "Y' all come on in!"
3. People grumble about Noah letting coyotes on the Ark.
4. The Preacher says, "I' d like to ask Bubba to help take up the offering" - and five guys stand up.
5. The restroom is outside.
6. Opening day of deer hunting season is recognised as an official church holiday.

7. A member requests to be buried in his four-wheel drive truck because, "I ain' t never been in a hole it couldn' t get me out of".
8. In the annual stewardship drive there is at least one pledge of "two calves."
9. Never in its entire 100-year history has one of its pastors had to buy any meat or vegetables.
10. When it rains, everybody' s smiling.
11. Prayers regarding the weather are a standard part of every worship service.
12. A singing group is known as "The OK Chorale."
13. The church directory doesn' t have last names.
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 during the summer and then only so their neighbours 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, when Jesus fed the 5,000, whether the two fish were bass or catfish.
24. It' s not heaven, but you can see heaven from there.
25. The final words, of the benediction are, "Y' all come on back nowya hear!"
26. On Sunday morning the parking lot looks like the parking lot at the livestock auction.

399. Mistaken E-mail

It is wise to remember how easily this wonderful e-mail technology can be misused, sometimes unintentionally, with serious consequences.

Consider the case of the Illinois man who left the snow-filled streets of Chicago for a vacation in Florida. His wife was on a business trip and was planning to meet him there the next day. When he reached his hotel, he decided to send his wife a quick e-mail. Unable to find the scrap of paper on which he had written her e-mail address, he did his best to type it in from memory.

Unfortunately, he missed one letter, and his note was directed instead to an elderly preacher's wife, whose husband had passed away only the day before. When the grieving widow checked her e-mail, she took one look at the monitor, let out a piercing scream, and fell to the floor in a dead faint. At the sound, her family rushed into the room and saw this note on the screen:

Dearest Wife,
Just got checked in. Everything prepared for your arrival tomorrow.
P.S. Sure is hot down here!

QWIK QWIP: "Don' t take tomorrow to bed with you today."

400. Prayer Posturing

"The proper way for man to pray," said Deacon Lemuel Keyes, "And the only proper attitude is down upon your knees."

"No, I should say the way to pray," said Reverend Dr. Wise, "Is standing straight with upraised arms and rapt and upturned eyes."

"Oh, no, no, no!" said Elder Sloe... "Such posture is too proud. A man should pray with eyes fast closed and head contritely bowed."

"It seems to me his hands should be austereclapped in front with both thumbs pointing downward," said Reverend Dr. Blunt.

"Last year I fell in Hodgekin's well headfirst," said farmerCyrus Brown.

"With both my heels a-stickin' up, my head a-pointin' down. And I made a prayer right then and there - best prayer I ever said - the prayingest prayer I ever prayed - a-standin' on my head!"

401. Biblical Bumper Stickers:

Adam: "You are what you eat."

Eve: "At least he doesn' t compare me to his mother."

Abraham: "I' mgoin' noknowin' ."

Noah: "Honk if you believe in treading water."

Moses: "From a basket case to the promise land."

Elizah: "When Jezebel ain' t happy, ain' t nobody happy."

Balaam: "My second donkey talks!"

Prodigal Son: "All roads lead to home."

At the Sinai desert: "Winding road next 40 years"

At the Red Sea: "Caution! Subject to sudden flooding"

QWIK QWIP: "God' s command to live holy has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult, and left untried."

402. Three Camels

Noah was standing at the gangplank checking off the pairs of animals when he saw three camels trying to get on board.

"Wait a minute!" he said. "Two each is the limit. One of you will have to stay behind."

"It won' t be me," said the first camel. "I' m the camel whose back is broken by the last straw."

"I' m the one people swallow while straining at a gnat," said the second.

"And I am the one that shall pass through the eye of a needle sooner than a rich man shall enter heaven." said the third.

"Well, I guess you had better all come in," said Noah, "the world is going to need all of you."

403. Meeting God

Two lifelong friends had a running argument. The black friend would argue that God was black, and the white friend would disagree and say that God was white.

One day, they decided to go fishing. On the way back, they were still arguing about whether or not God was black or white. Before they knew it, they were in an accident, and they found themselves in heaven.

When they got there, St. Peter met them at the Pearly gates. Again, the question was brought up, "Is God black or white?"

St. Peter told them to have a seat in the waiting room and God would come out and talk to them about it.

While they were waiting, they continued to argue whether God was black or white. Then they heard some footsteps coming. They turned around as the door swung open and in stepped God in His grandest toga.

They looked to Him expectantly, waiting for His answer to their long running argument.

He smiled at them and said, "Hola muchachos!"

Ya know -- God doesn't care what colour you are - ' cause He made all of ' em!

QWIK QWIP: "Pain and Suffering is inevitable but Misery is optional.

404. Children' s Notes to God

Dear God,

Please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter.

There is nothing good in there now.

Dear Mr. God,

I wish you would not make it so easy for people to come apart. I had to have 3 stitches and a shot.

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 (I am not going to tell you who I am).

Dear God,

I read the bible. What does begat mean?

Nobody will tell me.

QWIK QWIP: "A good exercise for the heart is to bend down and help another up."

405. Bible Study

A Bible study group was discussing the unforeseen possibility of sudden death. "We will all die some day," the leader of the discussion said, "and none of us really knows when, but if we did we would all do a better job of preparing ourselves for that inevitable event."

Everybody nodded their heads in agreement with this comment.

"What would you do if you knew you only had 4 weeks of life remaining before your death, before your Great Judgement Day?" the leader asked the group.

"For those 4 weeks, I would go out into my community and minister the Gospel to those that have not yet accepted Jesus into their lives," one gentleman said.

"A very admirable thing to do," said the group leader. And all the group members agreed that would be a very good thing to do.

"For those 4 weeks, I would dedicate all of my remaining time to serving my family, my church, and my fellow man with a greater conviction," one lady said enthusiastically.

"That' s wonderful!" the group leader commented, and all the group members agreed that would be a very good thing to do.

One gentleman in the back finally spoke up loudly. "For those 4 weeks, I would travel throughout the United States with my mother-in-law in a Ford Escort, and stay in a Motel 6 every night." Everyone was puzzled by his answer. "Why would you do that?" the group leader asked.

"Because," the man smiled, "it would be the longest 4 weeks of my life."

406. Slamming the Door

Two church members were going door to door, and knocked on the door of a woman who was not happy to see them. She told them in no uncertain terms that she did not want to hear their message and slammed the door in their faces.

To her surprise, however, the door did not close and, in fact, bounced back open. She tried again, really put her back into it, and slammed the door again with the same result the door bounced back open.

Convinced these rude young people were sticking their foot in the door, she reared back to give it a slam that would teach them a lesson, when one of them said, "Ma' am, before you do that again you need to move your cat."

407. The Evils of TV

A pastor was preaching an impassioned sermon on the evils of television.

"It steals away precious time that could be better spent on other things," he said.

He advised the congregation to do what he and his family had done.

"We put our TV away in the closet."

"That' s right," his wife mumbled, "and it gets awfully crowded in there."

QWIK QWIP: "Life is what you make of it... kinda like Play-Doh"

408. Preaching

It' s about two elderly excited women who were sitting together in the front pew of church with a fiery preacher. When this preacher condemned the sin of lust, these two ladies cried out at the top of their lungs..... AMEN... BROTHER!

When the preacher condemned the sin of stealing, they yelled again.... PREACH IT REVEREND!

And when the preacher condemned the sin of lying.... they jumped to their feet and screamed, RIGHT ON BROTHER.... TELL IT LIKE IT IS..... AMEN!

But when the preacher condemned the sin of gossip, the two got quiet and one turned to the other and said, "He' s done quit preaching and now he' smeddlin' ."

QWIK QUIP: “The bubbling brook would lose its song if you removed the rocks.”

409. Sunday Service

The 2000 member church was filled to overflowing capacity one Sunday morning. The preacher was ready to start the sermon when two men, dressed in long black coats and black hats entered through the rear of the church. One of the two men walked to the middle of the church while the other stayed at the back of the church. They both then reached under their coats and withdrew automatic weapons.

The one in the middle announced, "EVERYONE WILLING TO TAKE A BULLET FOR JESUS STAY IN YOUR SEAT!"

Naturally, the pews emptied, followed by the choir. The deacons ran out the door, followed by the choir director and the assistant pastor.

After a few moments, there were about 20 people left sitting in the church. The preacher was holding steady in the pulpit.

The men put their weapons away and said, gently, to the preacher, "All right, pastor, the hypocrites are gone now. You may begin the service."

410. Sink or Walk ?

A church had to hire a new pastor. Over the protests of one vocal male member a woman was hired as the new senior pastor.

After the new pastor had been there a few weeks, a member of the congregation offered to take then new pastor fishing. The vocal objector reluctantly agreed to allow them to use his boat and to go along.

The trio got into the boat and motored out on the lake. When they got ready to fish, they realised that all their tackle had been left on the dock. One of the men commented that he guess they would just have to go back and get it.

The pastor said that wouldn' t be necessary, and she got out of the boat and started walking across the water toward the dock.

The old grouch said, "See I told you we never should have hired that woman. She can' t even swim."

411. I' IHelp

Burglar: "One move and you' re dead. I' m looking for your money".

Vicar: "Hang on, let me get a light and I' ll help you".

412. Steady Progress

The pastor told the search committee, "If I am voted in as pastor of this church, I will work hard to bring us into the 19th century." Someone spoke up, " Uh, Preacher, don' t you mean the 20th century?" The pastor replied, " Let' s take it one century at a time."

413. The Dream

A young curate went to a conference at which most of the gathering consisted of bishops, archdeacons and high officials of the Church. The weather was very cold and it was natural perhaps that the older clergy should cluster around the cheerful fire in the dining room as often as possible.

The curate thought that it was about time he did something about this, so next morning he said in a loud voice: "I had a strange dream last night, I dreamt I had died and gone to hell". After a few moments of dead silence one of the number said "and what did you find there?"

"Just the same as here" was the reply, "I couldn' t get near the fire for bishops".

QWIK QWIP: "Happiness comes through doors you didn' t even know you left open."

414. The Preacher and The Policeman

A man lost two buttons from his shirt and put them in his pants pocket. But the pocket had a hole, so the buttons fell into his shoe. Unfortunately, the shoe sole also had a hole, so he lost the buttons. Since pockets with holes, holes without buttons, and shoe soles with holes are useless, the man ripped the buttonholes out of his shirt and the pocket from his pants and tossed them in the trash along with the soles of his shoes. After

looking in a mirror at the holes in his clothing, he decided to toss his clothes in the trash as well.

A policeman observed all this and asked the man for identification. The man produced a document that he was an ordained minister of the gospel. So, of course, the policeman promptly escorted him to a mental institution.

The minister protested violently, asking why he was receiving such unjust treatment.

"Look, it' s the best place for you now," the policeman replied, "Anyone claiming to be a preacher, but who doesn' t save souls or wear holy clothes has probably lost his buttons."

QWIK QWIP: "If all my friends jumped off a cliff, I wouldn' t jump with them... I would be at the bottom to catch them."

415. New Services

A church congregation that decided to have four worship services each Sunday.

There was one for those new to the faith. Another for those who liked traditional worship. One for those who'd lost their faith and would like to get it back. And another for those who had bad experiences with churches and were complaining about it.

The church came up with names for each of the services: FINDERS, KEEPERS, LOSERS, and WEEPERS.

416. Finally - The Truth

There was a parish that had a notorious reputation for spitting out their pastors. Every three years, the council would review their satisfaction with the current pastor, and invariably ask for his or her resignation. Pastor Smith was on pins and needles as the council meeting marking his third anniversary drew near. He knew the Church' s anti-clerical tradition, and he began to prepare for the worst. He was in consultation with his bishop over other call possibilities, should he have to make a change. He even contemplated leaving the pastorate.

The night of that dreaded council meeting, the lay president said, "Well, Pastor Smith, as you probably know, we have to ask you to step outside, while we discuss some concerns among ourselves." With his heart palpitating, Pastor Smith waited for what seemed like forever.

Finally, the president invited him back in and to have a seat. "Pastor Smith, we' ve reviewed the past three years, and the council has unanimously voted to renew your term as our pastor."

"That' s wonderful!" cried a relieved Pastor Smith. "But tell me, that' a first here for many, many years. How did you come about to that decision?"

"Well," replied the lay president, "if it were up to us, we wouldn' t have pastors at all. But as long as the Church says we have to have one, we figured you' re the closest thing we' ll ever get to not having a pastor."

QWIK QWIP: "Here is a test to find whether your mission on earth is finished: If you' re alive, it isn' t."

417. AWOL

Pastor Bob was a great preacher, and much loved by his congregation. He visited the sick, preached a great sermon, and had a loving wife, who could play the organ and type sermons...and had 3 perfect children.

However, Pastor Bob always left town at 2 in the afternoon and was gone for one hour. Like clockwork. Soon the parishioners became uneasy with Pastor Bob' s curious schedule and began to ask questions. They went to the PPR Committee with their concerns. "Could Pastor Bob have a girlfriend in the neighbouring town?" Unsure of what to do, and not wanting to confront him on their own, they went to the D.S. The D.S. didn' t want to touch it, so he went to the Bishop. Finally after prayer and deliberation the Bishop went to Pastor Bob, and asked him about his curious goings and comings; so he invited the Bishop to join him at 2:00 that afternoon. They drove to a high hill over looking the small town and the railroad track that ran through the valley. After sitting there quietly for some time, a beautiful silver train streaked through the valley at very high speed. He turned to the Bishop and said, "Isn' t that a beautiful sight?"

"Yes," the Bishop agreed, "that is a beautiful sight. And is this where you come every afternoon?" "Yes," said Pastor Bob. "I come here to be inspired. It is the only thing moving that I don't have to push!"

418. Not Necessary

Actual ad in the Drogheda Independent! FOR SALE BY Pastor. Complete set of Encyclopaedia Britannica. 45 volumes. Excellent condition. £1,000.00 or best offer. No longer needed. Got married last weekend. Wife knows everything.

419. What To Be Called

One pastor asked another pastor, "If you were a monkey what would you want to be called?" "I don't know", one pastor said. "The other one said "monk."

420. Not Lost For Long

Two men were marooned on an Island. One man passed back and forth worried and scared while the other man sat back and was sunning himself. The first man said to the second man, "aren't you afraid we are about to die." "No," said the second man, "for you see I make \$100,000 per week and I tithe faithfully to my church ever week. My Pastor will find me."

QWIK QUIP: "The Will of God will never take you to where the Grace of God will not protect you."

421. The Three Envelopes

The new preacher moves his things into his new office and comes across the former pastor, taking his items out. The former pastor says, "I left three envelopes in your desk. If you have any trouble, open them." Well, of course the new preacher thinks he will never have to use them, but in his youthful enthusiasm, he tries to change the order the kids march in during Vacation Bible School. Well, this makes the workers absolutely furious and there is a lot of ugly talk about the new pastor. He remembers the envelopes and opens the first one. It says, "You haven't been here long, but you decided to make a change in the Vacation Bible School; now everyone is mad. Tell everyone that the former preacher had told you this was how you preferred to do it." So the young preacher did that and it worked well.

He had been there about a year and a half when he tried to change the deacon position from being a life-long job to a position that rotated annually. Well, this made the deacons really mad, and they were the ones who made his salary recommendation. So he went back to the drawer and got the second envelope: "You did something to make the deacons mad and there' s talk of replacing you. Tell them this is the official denominational policy; that you thought they wanted to comply, but it doesn' t make you any difference what they do." He tried this, and again it worked great.

You guessed it. After three years, he finally told the women' s organisation that they were going to have to open the kitchen so that it could be used without a representative from the women' s group being present. This put the women' s organisation in open revolt. So he went back to that third and final envelope: "You' ve been here about three years and you finally got the women' s organisation mad. The only thing to do is prepare three envelopes ... "

QUIK QUIP: "We set the sail; God makes the wind."

422. Why Daddy?

A preacher' s young daughter noticed that her father always bowed his head and closed his eyes for a few seconds before he went to the pulpit to preach. When she asks him why he did that, he explained, "I' m asking God to help me preach a good sermon.

His daughter thought about it for a minute and said, "Well daddy, Why doesn' t he do it?"

423. The Thank You Note

There was a Catholic priest, Jewish rabbi and Baptist minister. One day the priest went to get a hair cut. After the barber cut his hair the priest wanted to pay him. The barber said, "Oh no, I will not accept any money from a man of God." So the next day when the barber went to open his shop he saw a loaf of bread with a thank you note.

Well the rabbi came for a hair cut. Again the barber said, "Oh no, I will not accept any money from a man of God." So the next day the barber went to open his shop and found a bottle of wine and a thank you note.

Well, the Baptist minister came for his hair cut. Again the barber said, "Oh no, I will not accept any money from a man of God."

Well, the next day when the barber went to open his shop, he found 10 other Baptist ministers with a thank you note.

424. Nothing There

Three friends decided to go hunting together. One was a lawyer, one a doctor, and the other a preacher. As they were walking, along came a big buck. The three of them shot simultaneously. Immediately the buck dropped to the ground and all three rushed up to see how big it actually was. Upon reaching it they found out that it was dead but had only one bullet hole.

Thus a debate followed concerning whose buck it was. 5 minutes later a game officer came by and asked what the problem was. The doctor told him their reason for the debate. The officer told them he would take a look and tell them who shot it. 5 seconds later he said he knew who shot the buck. He said with much confidence, "The pastor shot the buck!" They all wondered how he knew that so quickly. The officer said, "Easy. The bullet went in one ear and out the other."

QWIK QWIP: "Begin to weave and God will give you the thread."

425. The Holiday

Two priests were going to Hawaii on vacation and decided that they would make this a real vacation by not wearing anything that would identify them as clergy. As soon as the plane landed, they headed for a store and bought some really outrageous shorts and shirts, sandals, sunglasses, etc.

The next morning, they went to the beach, dressed in their "tourist" garb and were sitting on beach chairs, enjoying a drink, the sunshine and the scenery when a "drop dead" gorgeous blonde in a tiny bikini came walking straight toward them. They couldn't help but stare and when she passed them she turned to them, smiled and said, "Good morning, Father; good morning, Father" nodding and addressing each of them individually, then passed on by. They were both stunned - how in the world did she recognise them as priests?

The next day they went back to the store, bought even more outrageous outfits -these were so loud, you could hear them before you even saw them - and again they settled on the beach in their chairs to enjoy the sunshine, etc. After a while, the same gorgeous blonde, wearing a string bikini this time, came walking toward them again. (They were glad they had sunglasses, because their eyes were about to pop out of their heads). Again, she approached them and greeted them individually: "good morning, Father; good morning, Father" and started to walk away.

One of the priest couldn't stand it and said, "just a minute young lady. Yes we are priests, and proud of it, but I have to know, how in the world did YOU know?" "Oh Father, don't you recognise me? I'm Sister Kathryn"

426. Think First

My Protestant clergy friend was speaking with a Catholic Priest and wanted to make a solid friendship. He spoke of many things and felt it was going well, but when he asked if his Father had been a Priest, the conversation was over.

427. The New Wine

One communion Sunday, my communion steward prepared communion with a twist. When it came time to uncover the elements the grape juice looked darker than usual. I thought nothing of it and began to serve the communion. Promptly upon receiving the cup, each recipient's face had a peculiar, stunned look. When it came time for me to receive I discovered why the strange looks...the juice was prune juice! One parishioner stated, "Perhaps this is a Divine commentary on our spirituality...we need a little loosening up!"

QWIK QUIP: "1 (Cross) + 3 (Nails) = 4 (Given)"

428. Empathy

Jesus made a quick return to earth for a visit. He came upon a lame man, had compassion on him, and healed his leg. Further down the road, Our Lord came upon a blind man, had compassion on him, and healed him. A little further down the road, Jesus came upon a man sitting on the curb sobbing his heart out. Jesus asked him what was wrong. The man cried out in agony, "I'm a pastor!"

Jesus sat down beside him, put his arm around him..... and cried too.

429. Not Her Choice

A pastor was serving communion in a multicultural church. He was using "Pitta Bread" for the loaf. When he got to serve to an Hispanic young girl, she said to him aloud: "I don' t like flour tortilla, I like corn tortilla, Sir."

QWIK QWIP: "We are responsible for the effort, not the outcome."

430. You Can' t Win

When you prepare you sermons on paper, they say that you are just reading off the paper and not hearing from God. But when you DON' T have paper, they say that you were not prepared!

431. Think About It

Two ministers met in the after life. One said, "Isn' t heaven wonderful after the parish ministry?" The other said, "This isn' t heaven!"

432. Eternal Rest

A pastor thought that the reason he had no one coming to the altar week after week was because his sermons were too short. The next week he decided to preach for an hour and a half. Sure enough, 18 people came down the aisle to the altar to lay down after the first hour of preaching. He thought it was odd, though, that none of them got up after he was done.

433. Burning Faith

Nearing the parish church during his daily walk, a young man saw that some shrubbery was on fire. He banged on the rectory door and told the woman who opened it to call the fire department. She ran to the phone, and he heard her place the call. She identified herself, gave the location, and explained the situation.

"You mean to tell me," said the emergency dispatcher, "that there' s a burning bush on the church lawn, and you want to put it out?"

434. Mature Pastoral Wisdom

The Old Preacher was out fishing one afternoon when he heard a noise beside him. He looked down and saw a frog sitting next to him. The frog

said, "Buddy, I' ve had a spell cast on me. If you' ll kiss me, I' ll turn into a beautiful princess and I' ll make you happy for the rest of your life."

The Old Preacher smiled, picked up the frog and put it in his pocket. A little later, he looked into his pocket to see how the frog was doing. The frog said to him again, this time with exasperation, "Buddy, I' ve had a spell cast on me. If you' ll kiss me, I' ll turn into a beautiful princess and I' ll make you happy for the rest of your life."

The Old Preacher just smiled and kept on fishing. A little later he checked on the frog again. This time it said, "What' s wrong with youfella. I said I' ve been bewitched. Just kiss me and I' ll turn back into a beautiful princess and make you the happiest man on earth for the rest of your life."

The Old Preacher just smiled and said, "Frog, I hate to tell you this, but at my age, I' d rather have a talking frog than a beautiful princess!"

435. Voice from Above

Because our former small-town parish was not a wealthy one, our pastor was dependent on parishioners for upkeep and maintenance of the church. Once he asked my husband, Sam, to rewire the confessionals. The only way to reach the wiring was to enter the attic above the altar and crawl over the ceiling by balancing on the rafters.

Concerned for my husband' s safety, I waited in a pew. Unbeknownst to me, some parishioners were congregating in the vestibule. They paid little attention to me, probably assuming I was praying. Worried about my husband, I looked up toward the ceiling and yelled, "Sam, Sam -- are you up there? Did you make it okay?"

There was quite an outburst from the vestibule when Sam' s hearty voice echoed down, "Yes, I made it up here just fine!"

QWIK QWIP: "Funny how we believe what newspapers say, but question what the Bible says."

436. Ignorance results in..... Poverty!

A collector of rare books ran into an acquaintance who told him he had just thrown away an old Bible that he found in a dusty, old box. He happened to mention that Guten-somebody-or-other had printed it.

"Not Gutenberg?" gasped the collector.

"Yes, that was it!"

"You fool! You' ve thrown away one of the first books ever printed. A copy recently sold at auction for half a million dollars!"

"Oh, I don' t think this book would have been worth anything close to that much," replied the man.

"It was scribbled all over in the margins by some clown named Martin Luther."

QWIK QWIP: "A friend is someone who reaches for your hand and touches your heart."

437. Pay Up Or Else

The minister arose to address his congregation. "There is a certain man among us today who is flirting with another man' s wife. Unless he puts ten dollars in the collection box, his name will be read from the pulpit."

When the collection plate came in, there were 19 ten dollar bills, and a five dollar bill with this note attached: "Other five on pay day."

438. A True Story - Pin it Where?

My pastor quoted a poem in his sermon about giving your love to the living, and the last lines were: "If you have roses, bless your soul, Just pin one in my button hole." Well, so many people loved the poem and wanted a copy, it was printed in the church newsletter.

However, a gremlin got into the typewriter, and it came out: "If you have roses, bless your soul, Just pin one in my bottom hole."

439. Pastor/Thief?

A local newspaper article announcing the arrival of a new pastor and apparently "part time thief" read: "A lifelong commitment to ministry has brought Brother Carter to us. Carter will take the pulpit next Sunday."

440. What Kind of Class?

Back in the middle 1980' s our pastor wanted to recognise a ladies class for a recent accomplishment. He quickly found out he was between a rock and a hard spot. You can' t mention that this is the ladies class aged 55 and above. The next thought he had was that this was the ladies class with the highest number enrolled of any class in the church.

Much to his embarrassment the statement came out "the large ladies class". The congregation erupted in laughter as our red faced pastor sat down.

441. What Kind of Offering?

Someone had a great idea. We' d sell stock in our mission trip to help cover the cost. However, the promotional announcement in the bulletin that was suppose to promote our Initial Public Offering said something different. On the front page of our Church weekly newsletter was this heading to our message from our pastor: Initial PUBIC Offering. It erased any doubt about the newsletter readership.

442. Poor Geography

A little girl from Minneapolis came home from Sunday school with a frown on her face. "I' m not going back there anymore," she announced with finality.

"I don' t like the Bible they keep teaching us."

"Why not?" asked her astonished mother.

"Because," said the little girl, "that Bible is always talking about St. Paul, and it never once mentions Minneapolis."

QWIK QUIP: "Some days you are the bug, some days you are the windshield."

443. Misplaced Identity

A Sunday School teacher asked a little boy, "Bobby, do you believe in the devil?"

"No," said the little boy. "He' s just like Santa Claus. I think it' s my daddy."

444. Too Busy

So few people know the Bible nowadays!

I was standing downtown waiting on a bus. It was raining cats and dogs. A lady was standing next to me so I tried to be friendly and make conversation. ' If it keeps it up, we' ll all have to buy an ark," I said.

"What' s an ark?" she asked.

' You mean you haven' t heard about Noah and the great flood and all those animals?" I asked incredulously.

"Look, mister," she replied, "I' ve only been in town for four days. I' ve scarcely had time to read a paper."

QWIK QWIP: "In order to keep a true perspective of one' s importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him"- Derek Bruce

445. Every Word.

One Sunday morning, after attending church services in Hartford, Connecticut, Mark Twain said to Dr. Doane, the minister: "I enjoyed your services this morning, doctor. I welcomed it like an old friend.

I have, you know, a book at home containing every word of it."

"You have not," said the indignant Dr. Doane. "I have so,"

countered Twain. "Then send it to me. I' d very much like to see it."

"I' ll send it," promised Mark and the following day he sent the Reverend Dr. Doane an unabridged dictionary.

446. Who Was Jesus?

There were 3 equally good arguments that Jesus was Black:

1. He called everyone "brother"
2. He liked Gospel
3. He couldn't get a fair trial

But then there were 3 equally good arguments that Jesus was Jewish:

1. He went into his father's business
2. He lived at home until he was 33
3. He was sure his mother was a virgin and his mother was sure he was God.

But then there were three equally good arguments that Jesus was Italian:

1. He talked with his hands
2. He had wine with every meal
3. He used olive oil

But then there were three equally good arguments that Jesus was a Californian:

1. He never cut his hair
2. He walked around bare foot all of the time
3. He started a new religion

But then there were three equally good arguments that Jesus was Irish:

1. He never got married
2. He was always telling stories
3. He loved green pastures

But the most compelling evidence of all - 3 proofs that Jesus was a woman:

1. He had to feed a crowd at a moment's notice when there was no food
2. He kept trying to get a message across to a bunch of men who just didn't get it
3. Even when he was dead, he had to get up because there was more work for him to do.

QWIK QWIP: "Criticism is like dynamite. It has its place but should be handled only by experts."

447. Being Prudent

A little boy walked down the beach, and as he did, he spied a woman sitting under a beach umbrella on the sand.

He walked up to her and asked, "Are you a Christian?" She said, "Yes."

"Do you read your Bible every day?" She nodded her head, "Yes."

Do you pray often?" the boy asked next, and again she answered, "Yes."

With that he asked his final question, "Will you hold my quarter while I go swimming?"

448. God' s Way?

□ And God populated the earth with broccoli and cauliflower and spinach and green and yellow vegetables of all kinds, so man and woman would live long and healthy lives. And Satan developed the fast foods industry. And fast foods brought forth the 99 cent double cheeseburger. And Satan said to man, "You want fries with that?" And man said, "Supersize them." And man gained pounds.

□ And God created the healthful yoghurt, that woman might keep her figure that man found so fair. And Satan froze the yoghurt, and he brought forth chocolate, nuts and brightly coloured sprinkle candy to put on the yoghurt. And woman gained pounds.

□ And God said, "Try my crispy fresh salad." And Satan brought forth creamy dressings, bacon bits, and shredded cheese. And there was ice cream for dessert. And woman gained pounds.

□ And God said, "I have sent your heart healthy vegetables and olive oil with which to cook them." And Satan brought forth chicken-fried steak so big it needed its own platter. And man gained pounds, and his bad cholesterol went through the roof.

□ And God brought forth running shoes, and man resolved to lose those extra pounds. And Satan brought forth cable TV with remote control so man would not have to toil to change channels between ESPN and ESPN2. And man gained pounds.

□ And God brought forth the potato, a vegetable naturally low in fat and brimming with nutrition. And Satan peeled off the healthful skin and sliced the starchy centre into chips and deep-fried them. And he created sour

cream dip also. And man clutched his remote control and ate the potato chips swaddled in cholesterol. And Satan saw and said, "It is good." And man went into cardiac arrest.

□ And God sighed, and created quadruple bypass surgery, angioplastys, and stents. And Satan established HMOs...

QWIK QWIP: "Don' t approach a goat from the front, a horse from the back or a fool from any side." Yiddish Proverb

449. What is Your Faith?

I was walking across a bridge one day, and I saw a man standing on the edge, about to jump off. So I ran over and said, "Stop! Don' t do it!"

"Why shouldn' t I?" he said.

I said, "Well, there' s so much to live for!"

He said, "Like what?"

I said, "Well...are you religious or atheist?"

He said, "Religious."

I said, "Me too! Are you Christian or Buddhist?"

He said, "Christian."

I said, "Me too! Are you Catholic or Protestant?"

He said, "Protestant."

I said, "Me too! Are you Episcopalian or Baptist?"

He said, "Baptist!"

I said, "Wow! Me too! Are you Baptist Church of God or Baptist Church of the Lord?"

He said, "Baptist Church of God!"

I said, "Me too! Are you original Baptist Church of God, or are you Reformed Baptist Church of God?"

He said, "Reformed Baptist Church of God!"

I said, "Me too! Are you Reformed Baptist Church of God, reformation of 1879, or Reformed Baptist Church of God, reformation of 1915?"

He said, "Reformed Baptist Church of God, reformation of 1915!"

I said, "Die, heretic scum!" and pushed him off.

QWIK QWIP: "The highest reward for man' s toil is not what he gets for it, but what he becomes by it." John Ruskin

450. Only One Miracle Today

Grandma Deanie took her little grandson Billy to the beach. They were having a good time until a huge wave came in and swept Billy out to sea. Grandma Deanie fell down on her knees and pleaded to the heavens, "Please return my grandson, -- that' s all I ask! PLEASE!"

A moment later, lo and behold, a wave swelled from the ocean and deposited the wet, yet unhurt child, at her feet. She checked him over to make sure that he was okay. He was fine. But still she looked up at the sky with an annoyed expression and said, "When we came he had a hat!"

451. Good Looking

The Baptist church had a small congregation of very faithful people - all but Marvin the farmer, who had quit coming to church.

Pastor Feingold went to Marvin' s farm, and asked him why he didn' t attend anymore.

"Gee, Preacher," Marvin said, "I only have these coveralls and old boots, and I don' t want to come to the Lord' s house dressed so shabby."

Pastor Feingold said, "I' ve got a spare shirt, sports coat, slacks and shoes I' ll give you if you' ll come back!"

Marvin agreed, so Pastor Feingold returned that afternoon with the clothes. Next Sunday Marvin didn't show up again.

The Pastor went out to Marvin's farm and asked, "I gave you all those clothes, why didn't you come to church?"

"Well, brother," Marvin said, "I got up and showered and shaved, and I put on those neat duds, and I looked in the mirror. I looked so doggone good I went to the Episcopal Church!"

452. My Best

A man died and went to heaven. He was met at the Pearly Gates by St. Peter who led him down the golden streets. They passed mansion after beautiful mansion until they came to the end of the street where they stopped in front of a shack. The man asked St. Peter why he got a hut when there were so many mansions he could live in.

St. Peter replied, "I did the best I could with the money you sent us."

453. Very Religious

My husband is very religious.....

He won't work if there's a Sunday in the week.

QWIK QUIP: "If passion drives you, let reason hold the reins."

454. As Jesus Did

Old Pastor McTavish was dying. He sent a message for an IRS agent and his lawyer, both church members, to come to his home. When they arrived they were ushered up to his bedroom.

As they entered the room, Pastor McTavish motioned for them to sit on each side of the bed. Then he grasped their hands, sighed contentedly, smiled and stared at the ceiling.

For a time, no one said anything. Both the IRS agent and Lawyer were touched and flattered that the old preacher would ask them to be with him during his final moments. But they were also puzzled because Pastor McTavish had never given them any indication that he particularly liked either of them.

They both remembered how his many long, uncomfortable sermons about greed and covetousness had made them squirm in their seats.

Finally, the lawyer said, "Preacher, why did you ask the two of us to come?"

Pastor McTavish smiled weakly and said, "Jesus died between two thieves, and that' s how I want to go, too."

455. Hot Air

My pastor friend put sanitary hot air hand dryers in the rest rooms at his church and after two weeks took them out. I asked him why and he confessed that they worked fine but when he went in there he saw a sign that read, "For a sample of this week' s sermon, push the button."

456. My Mother

A little boy forgot his lines in a Sunday School presentation.

His mother, sitting in the front row to prompt him, gestured and formed the words silently with her lips, but it didn' t help. Her son' s memory was blank.

Finally she leaned forward and whispered the cue, "I am the light of the world."

The child beamed and with great feeling and a loud, clear voice said, "My mother is the light of the world."

457. Revenge

A 10-year old boy named Freddie wanted to be Joseph in the Sunday School pageant. Instead the teacher cast Freddie as the landlord. Freddie objected loudly, but to no avail.

When the pageant was presented, Mary and Joseph knocked on the door and asked Freddie if he had a room for them at the Inn.

Freddie smiled and said, "Sure -- lots of room. Come on in!"

458. The Virgin Mary

Little Kiana, under the tutelage of her grandfather, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible.

Then one day Kiana floored her grandfather by asking, "Which virgin was the mother of Jesus? The Virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?"

QWIK QWIP: "Sometimes I think I understand everything, then I regain consciousness."

459. Which Way?

Epitaph

The following caption was found written on a gravestone...

"As I am now, you soon shall be, so be content to follow me."

Graffiti

Someone had scrawled the following note on that gravestone...

"To follow you I' m not content, until I know which way you went!"

460. What should a good sermon be about?

About Jesus... and about 10 minutes.

461. Modern Moses

God called down to Moses and said, "I' ve got good news and bad news. The good news is that I' ve chosen you to deliver my people from bondage. There will be plagues of locusts and frogs and incredible devastation upon the land. Pharaoh' s armies will chase you as you try to leave, but do not fear because I will part the waters of the Red Sea to aid you."

"And the bad news?" Moses inquired.

"You have to prepare the Environmental Impact Statement," God replied.

QWIK QWIP: "The measure of a man' s intelligence is inversely proportional to the amount of time he keeps his mouth open."

462. Devil' s Beatitudes

Blessed are those who are too tired, too busy, too distracted to spend an hour once a week with their fellow Christians in Church ~ they are my best workers.

Blessed are those who wait to be asked and expect to be thanked ~ I can use them in my business.

Blessed are those who are touchy. Soon they will stop going to church ~ verily, they shall be my missionaries.

Blessed are those who sow gossip and trouble ~ they are my beloved children.

Blessed are those who have no time to pray ~ for they MY prey.

Blessed are those who gossip ~ for they are my secret agents.

Blessed are you when you read this and think it has everything to do with other people, and nothing to do with you. ~ I' ve got room for YOU at my inn.

463. 7 Reasons Why The Average Christian Can' t Play Baseball

Doesn' t practice all week, but expects to start on game day.

Gets upset when every ball that' s hit doesn' t come directly to him.

Never swings at a pitch because, "This pitcher doesn' t throw like the last pitcher. The game' s just not the same since he left."

Wants to run home before going to first base.

Chatters in order to keep his own teammates from hitting the ball.

Doesn' t come to the game unless the coach personally calls him on the phone, each week, and invites him to show up.

Worries the game will last so long, that the concession stand will be closed before it' s over.

464. Dial - a ?

They have Dial-a-Prayer for atheists now. You can call up and it rings and rings but nobody answers.

465. Misplaced Advertising

A little church in the suburbs had suddenly stopped buying from its regular office supply dealer. So, the dealer telephoned Deacon Brown to ask why.

"I'll tell you why," shouted Deacon Brown. "Our church ordered some pencils from you to be used in the pews for visitors to register."

"Well, interrupted the dealer, "didn't you receive them yet?"

"Oh, we received them all right," replied Deacon Brown. "However, you sent us some golf pencils...each stamped with the words, ' Play Golf Next Sunday.' "

QWIK QWIP: "Life is better when you open meals with a prayer instead of a can opener."

466. You And Me Both, Sister

A pastor was in a discussion with an elderly church member about a relative of hers who had seen the light and joined the church after a lifetime of riotous living. "Will my converted cousin's sins be forgiven?" she asked.

"Oh, certainly," replied the pastor, "Remember, the greater the sin, the greater the saint."

The woman thought silently for a time. Then she said, "Oh, Pastor, how I wish I'd known this fifty years ago."

(Not worth the risk - not the same blessings!)

QWIK QUIP: "Always remember that a person is not rewarded for having brains, but for using them."

467. Chow Down...

A little boy went to stay the night with a friend and ate supper with their family. Before they ate, the boy bowed his head and waited for the blessing to be said. But everyone started helping themselves to the food and he looked back up, puzzled.

"What's wrong, why aren't you eating?" asked his friend's mom.

The boy, who had been taught to give thanks, asked, "Don't you pray at meals?"

The father said they didn' t.

"Oh, I see," said the lad, "You' re just like my dog--you start right in!"

468. My Appetite is My Shepherd

My appetite is my shepherd; I always want.

It maketh me sit down and stuff myself.

It leadeth me to my refrigerator repeatedly.

It leadeth me in the path of Burger King for a Whopper.

It destroyeth my shape. Yea, though I knoweth I gaineth,

I will not stop eating for the food tasteth so good.

The ice cream and the cookies they comfort me.

When the table is spread before me, it exciteth me for I knoweth that I soon shall dig in.

As I filleth my plate continuously, my clothes runneth smaller.

Surely bulges and pudgies shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall be "pleasingly plump" forever.

469. Andy

Sister Luella died and arrived in heaven. At heaven' s gates she met Saint Peter.

St. Peter asked her what God' s name was.

"Oh that' s easy," Sister Luella replied. "God' s name is Andy."

" What makes you think His name is Andy?" St. Peter asked incredulously.

" Well, you see at Church we often sing this hymn -- ' Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me.' "

470. Omitted

A woman in her forties got married but was a bit nervous about her honeymoon.

Pastor Carl wanted to encourage her by sending a telegram with a verse of Scripture... 1 John 4:18 - There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.

But the Pastor' s oral instructions to the church typist omitted, by mistake, the 1 before John and the telegram just read...

John 4:18 - For you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly.

QWIK QWIP: "The mind is like the stomach. It' s not how much you put in it that counts, but how much it digests."

471. A Drier Climate

Pastor Bob shocked the congregation when he announced that he was resigning from the church and moving to a drier climate.

After the service, a very distraught lady came to the pastor with tears in her eyes. "Oh, Pastor Bob, we are going to miss you so much. We don' t want you to leave!"

Pastor Bob patted her hand and said, "Now, now, Carolyn, don' t carry on. The pastor who takes my place might be even better than me".

"Yeah," Carolyn said, with a tone of disappointment in her voice, "That' s what they said the last time too."

QWIK QWIP: "When God says "no", it' s because He has something better in store for you."

472. Tech Support VERSUS Exodus 20.4-5

Tech Support: All right...now double-click on the File Manager icon.

Customer: That' s why I hate this Windows -- because of the icons. I' m a good Christian, and I don' t believe in icons.

Tech Support: Well that' s just an industry term sir. I don' t believe it was meant to...

Customer: I don' t care about any "Industry Terms" -- I do NOT believe in icons!

Tech Support: Okay, then... why don' t you just click on the little picture of a file cabinet -- is "little picture" OK?

Customer: [click]

473. The Apple

Rabbi Ezra, his wife, and their children were really curious as to why Gentiles were so fond of eating pork. They decided to try some, but there was nowhere in town they could go and not be seen.

One weekend, the Rabbi and his family travelled to a distant town, went into a restaurant, and ordered roast pork.

While they were waiting to be served, a member of Rabbi Ezra' s Synagogue walks in. He sees the Rabbi and his family. The member asks if he could join them for dinner. The Rabbi has no choice but to agree.

A while later, the waiter returns with the Rabbi' s meal. He takes the cover off the large platter, and there is a whole roast pig, with an apple in its mouth. The Synagogue member is more than a little shocked.

"What a fancy place," explains the Rabbi quickly. "Just look at how they serve the apple I ordered."

QWIK QWIP: "Funny how much difficulty some have learning a simple gospel well enough to tell others, but how simple it is for the same people to understand and explain gossip about someone."

474. Creation: Snoopy' s Version

- ☐ On the first day of creation, God created the dog.
 - ☐ On the second day, God created man to serve the dog.
 - ☐ On the third day, God created all the animals of the earth (especially the horse) to serve as food for the dog.
 - ☐ On the fourth day, God created honest toil so that man could labour for the good of the dog.
 - ☐ On the fifth day, God created the tennis ball so that the dog might or might not retrieve it.
 - ☐ On the sixth day, God created veterinary science to keep the dog healthy and the man broke.
- On the seventh day, God tried to rest, but He had to walk the dog.

475. Repeat Again

What with sermon preparations and anxiety, the new preacher had gotten very little sleep the week before he was to address his flock for the first time.

By Sunday morning, he was both exhausted and extremely nervous. Nevertheless, he managed to make it up the few steps onto the platform and into the pulpit.

The preacher had barely begun his sermon when everything he had planned to say flew right out of his mind. In fact, his mind went totally blank. Then he remembered that in seminary they had taught him what to do if a situation like this ever arose: "Repeat your last point, and let it remind you of what's coming next."

Figuring this advice couldn't hurt, he recalled the very last thing he'd said, and repeated it: "Behold," he quoted, "I come quickly."

Still his mind was blank. He thought he'd better try it again, "Behold, I come quickly." Still nothing.

He tried it one more time. "Behold, I come quickly!" he all but shouted.

In his panic, the preacher pounded the pulpit with such force that he lost his balance, fell forward, knocked the pulpit to one side, tripped over a flower arrangement, and fell into the lap of a little old lady in the front row.

Flustered and embarrassed, the preacher picked himself up, apologised profusely, and started to explain what had just happened.

"That's all right, young man," said the little old lady kindly. "It was my fault, really. You told me three times you were on your way down here. I should have just gotten out of your way!"

476. I Beg Your Pardon

And Jesus said unto the Seminary's Advanced Theology Class, "And whom do you say that I am?"

They replied, "You are the eschatological manifestation of the ground of our being, the ontological foundation of the context of our very selfhood revealed."

And Jesus replied, "I beg your pardon!"

QWIK QWIP: "Serenity is not freedom from the storm, but peace amid the storm."

477. Eve and Adam

One day, Eve was walking in the garden with the Lord. She said, "Lord, the garden is wonderful, and the animals and birds provide such joy, but I am still lonely sometimes."

"No problem!" the Lord replied. "I will make you a man for a companion. He will desire to please you and to be with you. But I have to warn you, he won't be perfect. He'll have a difficult time understanding your feelings, will tend to think only of himself, and will stay out late with his bowling buddies."

"What's bowling?" Eve asked.

"Oh... never mind. I was just getting ahead of myself, sorry."

"That's OK. I think I can handle this 'man', " Eve replied.

"Great, I'll get right to it!" God said, and started grabbing some mud and shaping it.

Suddenly, the Lord stopped and said to Eve, "Oh, there's one other thing about this man I'm making for you."

"What's that?" asked Eve.

"You'll have to tell him he was here first."

QWIK QWIP: "Until you've given it to God you're carrying it."

478. Gladys Dunn

Our old friend Gladys Dunn attended church services one particular Sunday. The sermon seemed to go on forever, and many in the congregation fell asleep.

After the service, Gladys walked up to a very sleepy looking gentleman. In an attempt to be sociable, Gladys extended her hand in greeting, and said, "Hello, I' m GladysDunn."

To which the gentleman replied, "You' re not the only one!"

479. Gladly

A child came home from Sunday School and told his mother that he had learned a new song about a cross-eyed bear named Gladly.

It took his mother a while before she realised that the hymn was really "Gladly The Cross I' d Bear."

480. The New Preacher

There was a new preacher who wanted to rent a house in the country. The only house available was rumoured to be haunted. Since the preacher didn' t believe in such things, he rented it.

It wasn' t long before the ghost made its appearance. The preacher told his friends about the ghost, but they didn' t believe him. They told him the only way they would believe was if he would take a picture of the ghost.

The preacher went home and called for the ghost. When it appeared, the preacher explained the situation and asked the ghost if it would mind having its picture taken. The ghost agreed.

When the picture was developed, the ghost wasn' t visible. Feeling very disappointed, the preacher called again for the ghost. When it appeared, the preacher showed it the picture and wanted to know why the ghost wasn' t in it.

The ghost thought a minute and replied, "Well, I guess the spirit was willing, but the flash was weak."

QWIK QWIP: "Our faith is like the air that we breathe. It is only the current breath that gives life."

481. Cowboy Joe

Cowboy Joe was telling his fellow cowboys back on the ranch about his first visit to a big-city church.

"When I got there, they had me park my old truck in the corral," Joe began.

"You mean the parking lot," interrupted Charlie, a worldlier fellow.

"I walked up the trail to the door," Joe continued.

"The sidewalk to the door," Charlie corrected him.

"Inside the door, I was met by this dude," Joe went on.

"That would be the usher," Charlie explained.

"Well, the usher led me down the chute," Joe said.

"You mean the aisle," Charlie said.

"Then, he led me to a stall and told me to sit there," Joe continued.

"Pew," Charlie retorted.

"Yeah," recalled Joe. "That' s what that pretty lady said when I sat down beside her."

482. The Newborn

A proud mother named Ella brought her newborn baby to a church social one afternoon.

The ladies were all making a fuss over Ella' s baby.

Like any good mother, Ella was closely watching her newborn when she saw a little girl approach. The little girl started having a very one way conversation with the infant.

When the little girl began asking the newborn questions, Ella smiled at her and said, "The baby can' t talk yet."

The little girl, in all innocence, looked up at Ella and asked, "Does it need new batteries?"

QWIK QWIP: "God can mend broken hearts. You just have to give Him all the pieces."

483. Left Handed

The story told of a little girl and her mom discussing the morning Sunday school class. The child told her mom that they talked about Jesus is going up to heaven, and that He is now sitting beside God. As they continued to look at the Sunday school paper, the mother noticed a picture of a rainbow. She said, "Look at that beautiful rainbow that God pointed for us!" The little girl replied, "And just think, Mommy, God did it all with His left hand." The mother replied, "What do you mean? Can't God use both His hands?" The girl stated, "Of course not, Mom, my Sunday school teacher said that Jesus is sitting on His right hand."

QWIK QWIP: "Funny how laborious it is to read a chapter in the Bible and how easy it is to read 200-300 pages of a best selling novel."

484. This Modern World

One Easter Sunday morning as the minister was preaching the children's sermon, he reached into his bag of props and pulled out an egg. He pointed at the egg and asked the children, "What's in here?"

I know!" a little boy exclaimed. "Pantyhose!"

485. Cussing Deacon

A Preacher was made aware that he had a Deacon in his church who was from time to time known to cuss.

In his attempt to help the Deacon overcome this terrible habit, the Preacher decided he should spend some personal time with the Deacon so they could have a long talk about the problem. The Preacher decided to ask the Deacon to go fishin' thinking that might provide an opportunity to talk.

They were out in a boat and had their lines in the water when the Preacher hooked a big one. It put up a mighty fight, but finally he reeled the fish up to the edge of the boat. It was the biggest fish the preacher had ever caught. But, just as the minister started to pull his catch into the boat, the fish slipped off the hook and got away.

Thoroughly disgusted, the Preacher looked over and said, "Deacon, somethin' needs to be said here!"

486. Good.....

Somebody has well said that there are only two kinds of people in world, there are those who wake up in the morning and say

"Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it' s morning."

487. The Fig Tree

Mark took his elderly maiden-Aunt Lucy for a drive, and pointed out a fig tree as one of the sights.

"Fig tree?" exclaimed Aunt Lucy. "That cannot be a fig tree for goodness sakes!"

"Of course it is," Mark insisted. "What makes you think it' s not?"

Blushing so red she nearly glowed, Aunt Lucy said, "Well... I just thought... surely the leaves must be bigger than that!"

488. Lateral Thinking

Question: "Who is most unhappy in the Parable of the Prodigal Son?"

Answer: "The fatted calf."

QWIK QWIP: "The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us."

489. The Funeral

A new Pastor in a small Oklahoma town spent the first four days making personal visits to each of the members, inviting them to come to his first services.

The following Sunday the church was all but empty. Accordingly, the Pastor placed a notice in the local newspapers, stating that, because the church was dead, it was everyone' s duty to give it a decent Christian burial. The funeral would be held the following Sunday afternoon, the notice said.

Morbidly curious, a large crowd turned out for the "funeral." In front of the pulpit, they saw a closed coffin, smothered in flowers. After the Pastor delivered the eulogy, he opened the coffin and invited his congregation to come forward and pay their final respects to their dead church.

Filled with curiosity as to what would represent the corpse of a "dead church," all the people eagerly lined up to look in the coffin. Each "mourner" peeped into the coffin then quickly turned away with a guilty, sheepish look.

In the coffin, tilted at the correct angle, was a large mirror.

QWIK QWIP: 'It' s my business to do God' s Business and it' s His business to take care of my business.'

490. Observant

Three people were trying to get into heaven. Peter asked the first, "Who' s there?" "It' s me, Albert Jones," the voice replied. St. Peter let him in.

Then St. Peter asked the second one the second same question, "Who' s there?" "It' s me, Charlie Jones." And St. Peter let him in.

Finally he turns to the third, asking the same question, "Who' s there?" "It is I, Verla Chapman," answered the third.

"Oh, great," muttered St. Peter. "Another one of those English teachers."

491. A Rumour

Rumour has it that Billy Graham Ministries is starting up a Emotional Support Group for men who are experiencing the trauma of hair loss. Reportedly they close every meeting with the benediction, "Go, and thin no more!"

492. Spirit in a Vacuum

I once heard a preacher say that it' s man' s spirit that makes him different from animals.

That may be true, but I think there' s one other thing that separates us from animals. We aren' t afraid of vacuum cleaners.

493. The Purchase

I don' t know what' s wrong with my television set. I keep getting Christian TV and the Home Shopping Network on the same channel. I actually bought a church choir the other night.

494. Harold

A dad was listening to little Carol say her prayers.

"Dear Harold," Carol prayed, "please bless mom and daddy and..."

At this point, the dad interrupted and said, "Wait a minute, sweetie. Why are you calling God ' Harold' ?"

Carol looked up and said, "That' s what they call Him in church. You know -- the prayer where we all say, ' Our Father who art in Heaven, Harold be Thy name.' "

KWIK QWIP: "Funny how we can' t think of anything to say when we pray, but don' t have any difficulty thinking of things to talk about to a friend."

495. Made It

A pastor who enjoyed bragging on his son was talking one day with a friend, who happened to be a rabbi.

The pastor said "My son was a star on his high school baseball team."
"That' s nice," said the rabbi, "and after that?"

"Well," said the pastor, "after that he went to Harvard and graduated summa cum laude."

"Not bad," said the rabbi thoughtfully, "and after that?"

"So then he went to law school at Georgetown and was editor of the law review."

"Hmmm. And after that?" asked the rabbi.

"Well, as soon as he graduated from law school, the biggest law firm in New York immediately made him a full partner!"

"Not bad. Is that all?" the rabbi quietly asked.

The pastor, clearly irritated, said, "Is that ALL! What do you expect -- that my son should become God or something?"

The rabbi shrugged and said, "Well -- one of OUR boys made it."

496. Appropriate?

The Announcement: ' A new loudspeaker system has been installed in the church. It was given by one of our members in memory of his wife.'

497. My Jesus

When Bonnie' s daughter was four, they attended an Easter pageant about the death and Resurrection of Christ. The play was beautiful with magnificent costumes and scenery.

Bonnie made sure Robyn had an aisle seat so that she wouldn' t miss a thing. Jesus came staggering down the aisle carrying the Cross. Big Roman soldiers pushed and shoved him.

Robyn watched with wide eyes. At the reception following the performance, one of the actors who played a Roman soldier came over to Robyn, kneeled down and quietly asked her, "Did you enjoy the play?"

Robyn wagged her finger at him and said, "You BAD man! Bad! Bad man! You hurt my Jesus!"

498. Too True

Faith, 3, went to Good Friday services. That night she prayed, "Thank You, Jesus, for dying on the Cross. And thank You we didn' t have to watch!"

QWIK QWIP: "Prayer: don' t bother to give God instructions, just report for duty."

499. Looking After Jesus

Kiersten, 5, was having a discussion with Destini, 6. Destini was insisting that Jesus is dead. Kiersten insisted that Jesus is alive.

They began to argue, so Kiersten' s mother, Penny, interfered.

"Destini," Penny said, "Kiersten is right. Don' t you know that' s why we celebrate Easter? Easter is the day that Jesus rose from the dead. He was killed and they buried Him and three days later He arose from the dead."

Destini asked where they buried Him. Penny told her it was actually in a cave in Israel. "And after they put Him in the cave, they rolled a very, very, very big stone over the doorway," Penny said.

At that point Kiersten interrupted and added, "That was to keep Him warm!"

QWIK QWIP: "Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves for they shall never cease to be amused."

500. A Small Boy' s Prayer

"Dear God, I hope you take care of yourself. ' Cause if anything happens to you, we would all be in a terrible mess."

!*?!*?!*?!*?!*