

Well, it had to happen sooner or later. So why not now? As I tell people, I'm in the fourth quarter and the clock is running. I'm going through boxes I've saved (some would say hoarded) and computer files I've kept, and came across these. I hate to throw them away, yet I hate to leave them for someone else to indiscriminately pitch.

I've been collecting this stuff for years. I've used it in my classroom, shared it with my executive board, worked it into speeches. Some of it has inspired me,

motivated me,

amused me,

made me laugh,

made me cringe,

made me think.

While I've put together a couple books with quotes, many of these escaped print. I thought of doing another book, but that's more work than I want, plus I already have boxes of past publications to deal with. So I thought why not do it electronically. That way you can access it on your computer, tablet, phone, watch, or easily trash them.

But before you hit trash, think if there is someone else in your world who might be able to use some of these: a teacher, a preacher, a speaker, a friend (just like me!). Especially someone younger. A lot of these need to be preserved and passed down.

And for many of you who receive this, like me, you have a lot of time on your hands to read, reflect, remember. So enjoy. I've tried to keep most of the files to fifty messages so it doesn't slow down your mind or your computer.

And please don't yell at me for sending these. My feelings get hurt really easy!

MY HEARTFELT THANKS...

My heartfelt appreciation goes out to all of you who have taken the time and trouble to send me "forwards" over the past 12 months. Thank you for making me feel safe, secure, blessed, and wealthy.

Extra thanks to whoever sent me the one about rat shit in the glue on envelopes 'cause I now have to go get a wet towel every time I need to seal an envelope.

Also, I scrub the top of every can I open for the same reason. Because of your concern I no longer drink Coca Cola because it can remove toilet stains.

I no longer drink Pepsi or Dr Pepper since the people who make these products are atheists who refuse to put "Under God" on their cans.

I no longer use Saran wrap in the microwave because it causes cancer.

I no longer check the coin return on pay phones because I could be pricked with a needle infected with AIDS.

I no longer use cancer-causing deodorants even though I smell like a water buffalo on a hot day.

I no longer go to shopping malls because someone might drug me with a perfume sample and rob me.

I no longer receive nor send packages by UPS or FedEx since they are actually Al Qaeda in disguise.

I no longer answer the phone because someone will ask me to dial a number for which I will get a phone bill with calls to Jamaica, Uganda, Singapore, and Uzbekistan.

I no longer eat KFC because their "chickens" are actually horrible mutant freaks with no eyes or feathers.

I no longer have any sneakers — but that will change once I receive my free replacement pair from Nike.

I no longer have to buy expensive cookies from Neiman Marcus since I now have their recipe.

I no longer worry about my soul because at last count I have 363,214 angels looking out for me.

Thanks to you, I have learned that God only answers my prayers if I forward an e-mail to seven of my friends and make a wish within five minutes.

I no longer have any savings because I gave it to a sick girl who is about to die in the hospital (for the 1,387,258th time)

I no longer have any money at all - but that will change once I receive the \$15,000 that Bill Gates is sending me for participating in his special email program.

Yes, I want to thank you so much for looking out for me that I will now return the favor!

If you don't send this e-mail to at least 144,000 people in the next 7 minutes, a large pigeon with a wicked case of diarrhea will use your head for target practice at 5:00 PM (EST) this afternoon. (I know this will occur because it actually happened to a friend of my next-door neighbor's ex-mother-in-law's second husband's cousin who is a beautician, or was that a person in training down at the kennel?...huhhemmm!.)

MY JOB SEARCH

1. My first job was working in an orange juice factory, but I got canned. Couldn't concentrate.

2. Then I worked in the woods as a lumberjack, but just couldn't hack it, so they gave me the axe.

3. After that, I tried being a tailor, but wasn't suited for it, mainly because it was a sew-sew job.

4. Next, I tried working in a muffler factory, but that was too exhausting.

5. Then, tried being a chef. Figured it would add a little spice to my life, but I just didn't have the thyme.

6. Next, I attempted being a deli worker, but any way I sliced it I couldn't cut the mustard.

7. My best job was a musician, but I eventually found I wasn't noteworthy.

8. I studied a long time to become a doctor, but didn't have any patience.

9. Next, was a job in a shoe factory. I tried hard but just didn't fit in.

10. I became a professional fisherman, but discovered I couldn't live on my net income.

11. I managed to get a good job working for a pool maintenance company, but the work was just too draining.

12. So then I got a job in a workout center, but they said I wasn't fit for the job.

13. After many years of trying to find steady work, I finally got a job as a historian, until I realized there was no future in it.

14. My last job was working in Starbucks, but had to quit because it was the same old grind.

15. So I tried retirement. . .

AND I FOUND I'M PERFECT FOR THE JOB!

Natural Highs

1. Falling in love.
2. Laughing so hard your face hurts.
3. A hot shower.
4. No lines at the supermarket
5. A special glance.
6. Getting mail
7. Taking a drive on a pretty road.
8. Hearing your favorite song on the radio.
9. Lying in bed listening to the rain outside.
10. Hot towels fresh out of the dryer.
11. Chocolate milkshake (or vanilla or strawberry!)
12. A bubble bath.
13. Giggling.
14. A good conversation.
15. The beach
16. Finding a 20 dollar bill in your coat from last winter.
17. Laughing at yourself.
19. Midnight phone calls that last for hours.
20. Running through sprinklers.
21. Laughing for absolutely no reason at all.
22. Having someone tell you that you're beautiful.
23. Laughing at an inside joke.
24. Friends.
25. Accidentally overhearing someone say something nice about you.
26. Waking up and realizing you still have a few hours left to sleep.
27. Your first kiss (either the very first or with a new partner).
28. Making new friends or spending time with old ones.
29. Playing with a new puppy.
30. Having someone play with your hair.
31. Sweet dreams.
32. Hot chocolate.
33. Road trips with friends.
34. Swinging on swings.
35. Making eye contact with a cute stranger.
36. Making chocolate chip cookies.
37. Having your friends send you homemade cookies.
38. Holding hands with someone you care about.
39. Running into an old friend and realizing that some things (good or bad) never change.
40. Watching the expression on someone's face as they open a much desired present from you.
41. Watching the sunrise.
42. Getting out of bed every morning and being grateful for another beautiful day.
43. Knowing that somebody misses you.
44. Getting a hug from someone you care about deeply.
45. Knowing you've done the right thing, no matter what other people think.

Friends are angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly.

NEW MERGERS

For any of you with any money left, be aware of the next expected mergers so that you can get in on the ground floor and make some bucks. Watch for these consolidations in 2007:

Hale Business Systems, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Fuller Brush, and W. R. Grace Co. will merge and become:

Hale, Mary, Fuller, Grace.

Polygram Records, Warner Bros., and Zesta Crackers join forces and become:

Poly, Warner Cracker.

3M will merge with Goodyear and become:

MMM Good.

Zippo Manufacturing, Audi Motors, Dofasco, and Dakota Mining will merge and become:

ZipAudiDoDa .

FedEx is expected to join its competitor, UPS, and become:

FedUP.

Fairchild Electronics and Honeywell Computers will become:

Fairwell Honeychild.

Grey Poupon and Docker Pants are expected to become:

Poupon Pants.

Knotts Berry Farm and the National Organization of Women will become:

Knott NOW!

And finally . . .

Victoria's Secret and Smith & Wesson will merge under the new name:

Titty Titty Bang Bang

Since the Pledge of Allegiance and The Lord's Prayer are not allowed in most public schools anymore because the word 'God' is mentioned, a student in Arizona wrote the attached.

NEW School prayer:

*Now I sit me down in school, where praying is against the rule;
For this great nation under God finds mention of Him very odd.
If Scripture now the class recites, it violates the Bill of Rights.
And anytime my head I bow becomes a Federal matter now.
Our hair can be purple, orange or green, that's no offense; it's a freedom scene.
The law is specific, the law is precise, prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.
For praying in a public hall might offend someone with no faith at all.
In silence alone we must meditate, God's name is prohibited by the State.
We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks, and pierce our noses, tongues, and cheeks.
They've outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible, to quote the Good Book makes me liable.
We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen, and the 'unwed daddy,' our Senior King.
It's 'inappropriate' to teach right from wrong, we're taught that such 'judgments' do not belong.
We can get our condoms and birth controls, study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles.
But the Ten Commandments are not allowed, no word of God must reach this crowd.
It's scary here I must confess, when chaos reigns the school's a mess.
So, Lord, this silent plea I make: should I be shot, my soul please take!*

-Amen

NEXT SURVIVOR SHOW

Have you heard about the next planned “Survivor” show?

Three male politicians and three female politicians will be dropped into a high school classroom for 36 weeks. Each politician will be provided with a copy of his/her school district’s curriculum, five classes of 35 students each, and three preparations, including lab courses. Each class will have at least five learning-disabled children, three with ADD, one gifted child, and two who speak limited English. Three will be labeled with severe behavior problems. Hopefully, the others will be “normal” teenagers.

Each politician must complete lesson plans at least one week in advance for each prep, with annotations for curriculum objectives and modifications for SLD, ADD, gifted, and limited language students. They must organize labs and create materials accordingly. They will be required to teach students, handle misconduct, implement technology, document attendance, write referrals, correct homework, make bulletin boards, compute grades, complete report cards, document benchmarks, communicate with parents, and arrange parent conferences.

They must monitor the hallways between classes and perform after-school game duties (such as sell tickets, scan fans, and search purses and bookbags). In addition, they will complete drills for fire, tornadoes, and shooting attacks. They must attend workshops (100 hours), faculty meetings, union meetings, and curriculum development meetings. They also must tutor those students who are behind and strive to get their two non-English speaking children proficient enough to take the Terra Nova and EPA tests. If they are sick or having a bad day, they must not let it show.

Each day they must incorporate reading, writing, math, science, and social studies into their normal content program. They must maintain discipline and provide an educationally stimulating environment at all times. The politicians will only have access to the golf course on the weekends, but on their new salary, they will not be able to afford it anyway. There will be no access to lobbyists who want to take them out to lunch, and lunch will be limited to thirty minutes.

The politicians will be permitted to use the staff restroom as long as another survival candidate is supervising their hall-duty station. They will be provided with a fifty-minute planning period a day, but two of these planning periods must be used for team planning. If the copier is operable, they may make copies of necessary materials during their personal planning period or use the time to submit grades to the school’s server if they can get a connection.

The politicians must continually advance their education on their own time, and pay for this advanced training themselves. This can be accomplished by moonlighting at a second job or marrying someone with money. Because of the “No Child Left Behind” mandates, all students must pass their End of Course State Test.

The winner will be allowed to return to his/her job.

No Pun Intended. . .

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love, and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.

A jumper cable walks into a bar. The bartender says, 'I'll serve you, but don't start anything.'

Two peanuts walk into a bar and one was a salted.

A dyslexic man walks into a bra.

A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm, and says 'A beer please, and one for the road.'

Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other: 'Does this taste funny to you?'

'Doc, I can't stop singing 'The Green, Green Grass of Home.' 'That sounds like Tom Jones Syndrome.' 'Is it common?' Well, 'It's Not Unusual.'

Two cows are standing next to each other in a field. Daisy says to Dolly, 'I was artificially inseminated this morning.' 'I don't believe you,' says Dolly. 'It's true; no bull!' exclaims Daisy.

An invisible man marries an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at either.

Deja Moo: The feeling that you've heard this bull before.

I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day, but I couldn't find any.

A man woke up in a hospital after a serious accident. He shouted, 'Doctor, doctor, I can't feel my legs!' he doctor replied, 'I know you can't - I've cut off your arms!'

I went to a seafood disco last week . . . and pulled a mussel.

What do you call a fish with no eyes? A fsh

Two fish swim into a concrete wall. The one turns to the other and says, 'Dam!'

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel, and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office, and asked them to disperse. 'But why,' they asked, as they moved off. 'Because,' he said, 'I can't stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer.'

A woman has twins, and gives them up for adoption. One of them goes to a family in Egypt, and is named 'Ahmal.' The other goes to a family in Spain; they name him 'Juan.' Years later, Juan sends a picture of himself to his birth mother. Upon receiving the picture, she tells her husband that she wishes she also had a picture of Ahmal. Her husband responds, 'They're twins! If you've seen Juan, you've seen Ahmal.'

Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet . He also ate very little, which made him rather frail and with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. This made him. (Oh, man, this is sooo bad, it's good). . A super-calloused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.

And finally, there was the person who sent twenty different puns to his friends, with the hope that at least ten of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.

NOAH AND THE ARK

The Lord spoke to Noah and said, "In six months I am going to make it rain until the whole world is covered with water and all the evil things are destroyed. But I want to save a few good people and two of every living thing on the planet. I am ordering you to build an ark."

Then, in a flash of lightning, God delivered the specifications for the ark.

"OK," Noah said, trembling with fear and fumbling with the blueprints. "I'm your man."

Six months passed, the sky began to cloud up, and the rain began to fall in torrents. The Lord looked down and saw Noah sitting in his yard, weeping. There was no ark.

"Noah!" shouted the Lord. "Where is My ark?" A lightning bolt crashed into the ground right beside Noah.

"Lord, please forgive me!" begged Noah. "I did my best, but there were some big problems. First, I had to get a building permit for the ark's construction, but Your plans did not meet their code. So I had to hire an engineer to redo the plans, only to get into a long argument with him about whether to include a sprinkler system.

"Then my neighbors objected, claiming that I was violating zoning ordinances by building the ark in my front yard, so I had to get a variance from the city planning board.

"Then I had a big problem getting enough wood for the ark, because there was a ban on cutting trees to save the spotted owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that I needed the wood to save the owls, but they wouldn't let me catch them, so no wood.

"Next, I started gathering up the animals, but got sued by the animal rights group that objected to me taking along only two of each kind.

"Just when the suit got dismissed, the EPA notified me that I couldn't complete the ark without filling out the environmental impact statement on Your proposed flood. They didn't take kindly to the idea that they had no jurisdiction over the Supreme Being. Then, the Corps of Engineers wanted a map of the proposed flood plan, so I sent them a globe.

"Right now, I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Equal Opportunities Commission over how many minorities I'm supposed to hire. The IRS has seized all my assets claiming that I am trying to leave the country, and I just got notice from the state that I owe some kind of use tax.

"Really, I don't think I can finish the ark in less than five years."

With that, the sky cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow arched across the sky.

"You mean you are not going to destroy the world?" Noah asked hopefully.

"No," said the Lord. "The government already has."

NOW THAT I'M OLDER, *here's what I've discovered:*

I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.

My wild oats have turned to prunes and All-Bran.

I finally got my head together. Now my body is falling apart.

Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.

All reports are in. Life is now officially unfair.

If all is not lost, where is it?

It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.

Some days you're the dog; some days you're the hydrant.

I wish the buck stopped here. I could use a few.

Kids in the back seats cause accidents; accidents in the back seats
cause kids.

It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.

The only time the world beats a path to your door is if you're in the bath
room.

When I'm finally holding all the cards, why does everyone decide to play
chess?

It's not hard to meet expenses. . . they're everywhere.

The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would have put them on my
knees.

NOW YOU KNOW EVERYTHING!

The liquid inside young coconuts can be used as a substitute for blood plasma.

No piece of paper can be folded in half more than seven times.

Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes.

You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching television.

Oak trees do not produce acorns until they are fifty years of age or older.

The first product to have a bar code was Wrigley's gum.

The king of hearts is the only king without a mustache.

American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating one olive from each salad served in first class.

Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.

Apples, not caffeine, are more efficient at waking you up in the morning.

Most dust particles in your house are made from dead skin.

The first owner of the Marlboro Company died of lung cancer. So did the "Marlboro Man."

Walt Disney was afraid of mice.

Pearls melt in vinegar.

The three most valuable brand names on earth, in order, are Marlboro, Coca-Cola, and Budweiser.

It is possible to lead a cow upstairs, but not downstairs.

A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.

Dentists have recommended that a toothbrush be kept at least six feet away from a toilet to avoid airborne particles resulting from the flush.

Richard Millhouse Nixon was the first U. S. President whose name contains all the letters of the word "criminal."

Turtles can breathe through their butts.

THE MAIN KEYS TO BEING MORE SUCCESSFUL

1. Take personal responsibility.
2. Things change, so be flexible.
3. Work smart and work hard.
4. Serve others well.
5. Be nice to others.
6. Be optimistic.
7. Have goals. Want something big for yourself.
8. Stay focused.
9. Keep learning.
10. Become excellent at what you do.
11. Trust your gut.
12. When in doubt, take action.
13. Earn all you can. Save all you can. Give all you can.
14. Enjoy all you've got.
15. Above all, keep it simple.

How many leadership secrets are there? Just one.

Get out in front of people and give them something to follow. Just lead!

-Larry Winget

It's Called Work for a Reason

THE MARINE AND THE ATHEIST

A Marine was attending a college course between missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. The professor, an avowed atheist, shocked the class one day when he walked in, looked toward the ceiling, and said loudly, "God, if you are real, then I want you to knock me off this platform. I'll give you exactly 15 minutes."

The lecture room fell silent and the professor began his lecture. Ten minutes went by and the professor proclaimed, "Here I am God - still waiting."

It got down to the last minute when the Marine stood up, walked toward the professor and threw his best punch knocking him off the platform and out cold. The Marine went back to his seat and sat down.

The other students were shocked and stunned and sat there looking on in silence. The professor came to, noticeably shaken, looked at the Marine and asked, "What is the matter with you? Why did you do that?"

The Marine calmly replied, "God is busy today protecting America 's soldiers who are protecting your right to behave like an idiot, so He sent me."

THE MAYONNAISE JAR AND TWO CUPS OF COFFEE

When things in your life almost seem too much to handle, when twenty-four hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar, and the two cups of coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar were full. They agreed that it was. The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them in the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar were full. They agreed it was. The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar were full and received a unanimous "yes." The professor then produced two cups of coffee and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor as the laughing subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things: your God, family, your children, your health, your friends, and your favorite passions. Things that if everything else were lost and only they remained, your life would still be full."

"The pebbles are the other things that matter, like your job, your house, and your car. The sand is everything else, the small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you."

"Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. Play another eighteen. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented.

The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple cups of coffee with a friend."

A POEM TO LIVE BY

I was shocked, confused, bewildered as I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all, nor the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven who made me sputter and gasp;
The thieves, the liars, the sinners, the alcoholics, and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbor who never said anything nice.

Herb, who I always thought was rotting away in hell,
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine, looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal? I would love to hear Your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here? God must've made a mistake.'

'And why is everyone so quiet, so somber. Give me a clue.'
'Hush, child,' He said, 'they're all in shock. No one thought they'd be seeing you.'

JUDGE NOT!!

Remember: Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in your garage makes you a car.

Every saint has a PAST...

Every sinner has a FUTURE.

Life is too short to wake up with regrets.

So love the people who treat you right. Forget about those who don't.

Believe everything happens for a reason.

If you get a chance, take it. If it changes your life, let it.

Nobody said life would be easy, they just promised it would most likely be worth it.

A PRAYER

Dear Lord,

I thank You for this day,

I thank You for my being able to see and to hear this morning.

I'm blessed because You are a forgiving God and an understanding God.

You have done so much for me and You keep on blessing me.

Forgive me this day for everything I have done, said or thought that was not pleasing to You.

I ask now for Your forgiveness.

Please keep me safe from all danger and harm.

Help me to start this day with a new attitude and plenty of gratitude.

Let me make the best of each and every day to clear my mind so that I can hear from You.

Please broaden my mind that I can accept all things.

Let me not whine and whimper over things I have no control over.

And give me the best response when I'm pushed beyond my limits.

I know that when I can't pray, You listen to my heart.

Continue to use me to do Your will.

Continue to bless me that I may be a blessing to others.

Keep me strong that I may help the weak.

Keep me uplifted that I may have words of encouragement for others.

I pray for those that are lost and can't find their way.

I pray for those that are misjudged and misunderstood.

I pray for those who don't know You intimately.

I pray for those that don't believe.

But I thank You that I believe that God changes people and God changes things.

I pray for all my sisters and brothers.

For each and every family member in their households.

I pray for peace, love, and joy in their homes; that they are out of debt and all their needs are met.

I pray that every eye that reads this knows there is no problem, circumstance, or situation greater than God.

Every battle is in Your hands for You to fight.

I pray that these words be received into the hearts of every eye that sees it .

In Jesus' name, Amen!

~An Ode to America ~

Why are Americans so united? They would not resemble one another even if you painted them all one color! They speak all the languages of the world and form an astonishing mixture of civilizations and religious beliefs. Still, the American tragedy turned three hundred million people into a hand put on the heart.

Nobody rushed to accuse the White House, the army, or the secret service that they are only a bunch of losers. Nobody rushed to empty their bank accounts. Nobody rushed out onto the streets nearby to gape about. Instead the Americans volunteered to donate blood and to give a helping hand.

After the first moments of panic, they raised their flag over the smoking ruins, putting on T-shirts, caps, and ties in the colors of the national flag. They placed flags on buildings and cars as if in every place and on every car a government official or the president was passing.

On every occasion, they started singing: "God Bless America !" I watched the live broadcast and rerun after rerun for hours listening to the story of the guy who went down one hundred floors with a woman in a wheelchair without knowing who she was, or of the California hockey player, who gave his life fighting with the terrorist and prevented the plane from hitting a target that could have killed other hundreds or thousands of people.

How on earth were they able to respond united as one human being? Imperceptibly, with every word and musical note, the memory of some turned into a modern myth of tragic heroes. And with every phone call, millions and millions of dollars were put into a collection aimed at rewarding not a man or a family, but a spirit, which no money can buy.

What on earth can unite the Americans in such a way? Their land? Their history? Their economic power? Money? I tried for hours to find an answer, humming songs and murmuring phrases with the risk of sounding commonplace. I thought things over, I reached but only one conclusion... Only freedom can work such miracles.

Cornel Nistorescu

Observation Quiz

The average person only gets 7 of the following correct. This is based on U.S. information, so use all lobes of your brain. This can be more difficult than it looks; it just shows how little most of us really see! There are 25 questions about things we see every day or have known about all our lives. How many can you get right? These simple questions are harder than you think; it just shows you how little we pay attention to the commonplace things of life. Put your thinking caps on. No cheating! No looking around! No getting out of your chair! No using anything on or in your desk or computer! Write down your answers as you go. Check answers (on the back), **AFTER** completing all the questions. **REMEMBER - NO CHEATING!!! BE HONEST!!!** That means no looking at your phone or anything on your desk. LET'S JUST SEE HOW OBSERVANT YOU REALLY ARE. Here we go!

1. On a standard traffic light, is the green on the top or bottom?
2. How many states are there in the USA? (Don't laugh, some people don't know)
3. In which hand is the Statue of Liberty's torch?
4. What six colors are on the classic Campbell's soup label?
5. What two numbers on the telephone dial don't have letters by them?
6. When you walk, does your left arm swing with your right or left leg? (Don't you dare get up to see!)
7. How many matches are in a standard pack?
8. On the United States flag, is the top stripe red or white?
9. What is the lowest number on the FM dial?
10. Which way does water go down the drain, counter or clockwise?
11. Which way does a "no smoking" sign's slash run?
12. How many channels are on a VHF TV dial?
13. On which side of a women's blouse are the buttons?
14. Which way do fans rotate?
15. How many sides does a stop sign have?
16. Do books have even-numbered pages on the right or left side?
17. How many lug nuts are on a standard car wheel?
18. How many sides are there on a standard pencil?
19. Sleepy, Happy, Sneezzy, Grumpy, Dopey, Doc. Who's missing?
20. How many hot dog buns are in a standard package?
21. On which playing card is the card maker's trademark?
22. On which side of a Venetian blind is the cord that adjusts the opening between the slats?
23. There are 12 buttons on a touch tone phone. What 2 symbols bear no digits?
24. How many curves are there in the standard paper clip?
25. Does a merry-go-round turn counter or clockwise?

ANSWERS:

1. On a standard traffic light, is the green on the top or bottom? **BOTTOM**
2. How many states are there in the USA? (Don't laugh, some people don't know) **50**
3. In which hand is the Statue of Liberty's torch? **RIGHT**
4. What six colors are on the classic Campbell's soup label? **BLUE, RED, WHITE, YELLOW, BLACK & GOLD**
5. What two numbers on the telephone dial don't have letters by them? **1, 0**
6. When you walk does your left arm swing with your right or left leg? **RIGHT**
7. How many matches are in a standard pack? **20**
8. On the United States flag is the top stripe red or white? **RED**
9. What is the lowest number on the FM dial? **88**
10. Which way does water go down the drain, counter or clockwise? **CLOCKWISE (NORTH OF THE EQUATOR)**
11. Which way does a "no smoking" sign's slash run? **TOWARD BOTTOM RIGHT**
12. How many channels on a VHF TV dial? **12 (no #1)**
13. On which side of a women's blouse are the buttons? **LEFT**
14. Which way do fans rotate? **CLOCKWISE AS YOU LOOK AT IT**
15. How many sides does a stop sign have? **8**
16. Do books have even-numbered pages on the right or left side? **LEFT**
17. How many lug nuts are on a standard car wheel? **5**
18. How many sides are there on a standard pencil? **6**
19. Sleepy, Happy, Sneezzy, Grumpy, Dopey, Doc. Who's missing? **BASHFUL**
20. How many hot dog buns are in a standard package? **8**
21. On which playing card is the card maker's trademark? **ACE OF SPADES**
22. On which side of a Venetian blind is the cord that adjusts the opening between the slats? **LEFT**
23. There are 12 buttons on a touch tone phone. What 2 symbols bear no digits? ***, #**
24. How many curves are there in the standard paper clip? **3**
25. Does a merry-go-round turn counter or clockwise? **COUNTER**

A great article by Marybeth Hicks

Call it an occupational hazard, but I can't look at the Occupy Wall Street protesters without thinking, "Who parented these people?"

As a culture columnist, I've commented on the social and political ramifications of the "movement" - now known as "OWS" - whose fairyland agenda can be summarized by one of their placards: "Everything for everybody."

Thanks to their pipe-dream platform, it's clear there are people with serious designs on "transformational" change in America who are using the protesters like bedsprings in a brothel.

Yet it's not my role as a commentator that prompts my parenting question, but rather the fact that I'm the mother of four teens and young adults. There are some crucial life lessons that the protesters' moms clearly have not passed along.

Here, then, are five things the OWS protesters' mothers should have taught their children but obviously didn't, so I will:

Life isn't fair. The concept of justice - that everyone should be treated fairly - is a worthy and worthwhile moral imperative on which our nation was founded. But justice and economic equality are not the same. Or, as Mick Jagger said, "You can't always get what you want."

No matter how you try to "level the playing field," some people have better luck, skills, talents or connections that land them in better places. Some seem to have all the advantages in life but squander them, others play the modest hand they're dealt and make up the difference in hard work and perseverance, and some find jobs on Wall Street and eventually buy houses in the Hamptons. Is it fair? Stupid question.

Nothing is "free." Protesting with signs that seek "free" college degrees and "free" health care make you look like idiots, because colleges and hospitals don't operate on rainbows and sunshine. There is no magic money machine to tap for your meandering educational careers and "slow paths" to adulthood, and the 53 percent of taxpaying Americans owe you neither a degree nor an annual physical.

While I'm pointing out this obvious fact, here are a few other things that are not free: overtime for police officers and municipal workers, trash hauling, repairs to fixtures and property, condoms, Band-Aids and the food that inexplicably appears on the tables in your makeshift protest kitchens. Real people with real dollars are underwriting your civic temper tantrum.

Your word is your bond. When you demonstrate to eliminate student loan debt, you are advocating precisely the lack of integrity you decry in others. Loans are made based on solemn promises to repay them. No one forces you to borrow money; you are free to choose educational pursuits that don't require loans, or to seek technical or vocational training that allows you to support yourself and your ongoing educational goals. Also, for the record, being a college student is not a state of victimization. It's a privilege that billions of young people around the globe would die for - literally.

A protest is not a party. On Saturday in New York, while making a mad dash from my cab to the door of my hotel to avoid you, I saw what isn't evident in the newsreel footage of your demonstrations: Most of you are doing this only for attention and fun. Serious people in a sober pursuit of social and political change don't dance jigs down Sixth Avenue like attendees of a Renaissance festival. You look foolish, you smell gross, you are clearly high and you don't seem to realize that all around you are people who deem you irrelevant.

There are reasons you haven't found jobs. The truth? Your tattooed necks, gauged ears, facial piercings and dirty dreadlocks are off-putting. Nonconformity for the sake of nonconformity isn't a virtue. Occupy reality: Only 4 percent of college graduates are out of work. If you are among that 4 percent, find a mirror and face the problem. It's not them. It's you.

Ode to Plurals

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be those,
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.
We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim!

Let's face it - English is a crazy language.
There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger;
neither apple nor pine in pineapple.
English muffins weren't invented in England.
We take English for granted, but if we explore its paradoxes,
we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square,
and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing,
grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham?
Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend.
If you have a bunch of odds and ends
and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught?
If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?
Sometimes I think all the folks who grew up speaking English
should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane.

In what other language do people recite at a play and play at a recital?
We ship by truck but send cargo by ship.
We have noses that run and feet that smell.
We park in a driveway and drive in a parkway.
And how can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same,
while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language
in which your house can burn up as it burns
down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out,
and in which an alarm goes off by going on.
And, in closing, if Father is Pop, how come Mother's not Mop?

Some great ways to annoy people at work...

1. At lunchtime, sit in your parked car and point a hair dryer at passing cars to see if they slow down.
2. Page yourself over the intercom. (Don't disguise your voice.)
3. Insist that your e-mail address be xena-goddess-of-fire@companyname.com or elvis-the-king@companyname.com.
4. Every time someone asks you to do something, ask if they want fries with that.
5. Encourage your colleagues to join you in a little synchronized chair dancing.
6. Put your garbage can on your desk and label it 'IN.'
7. Develop an unnatural fear of staplers.
8. Put decaf in the coffee maker for 3 weeks. Once everyone has gotten over his or her caffeine addictions, switch to espresso.
9. In the memo field of all your checks, write "for sexual favours"
10. Reply to everything someone says with, "That's what you think."
11. Finish all your sentences with "In accordance with the prophecy."
12. Adjust the tint on your monitor so that the brightness level lights up the entire working area. Insist to others that you like it that way.
13. Don't use any punctuation
14. As often as possible, skip rather than walk.
15. Ask people what sex they are.
16. Specify that your drive through order is "to go."
19. Find out where your boss shops and buy exactly the same outfits. Wear them one day after your boss does. (This is especially effective if your boss is the opposite gender.)
20. Send e-mail to the rest of the company to tell them what you're doing. For example: "If anyone needs me, I'll be in the bathroom."
21. Put mosquito netting around your cubicle.
22. Pretend your phone is a CB when talking with clients.

OLD AGE

Old Age, I decided, is a gift.

I am now, probably for the first time in my life, the person I have always wanted to be. Oh, not my body! I sometimes despair over my body, the wrinkles, the baggy eyes, and the sagging butt. And often I am taken aback by that old person who lives in my mirror (who looks like my mother or dad), but I don't agonize over those things for long.

I would never trade my amazing friends, my wonderful life, my loving family for less gray hair or a flatter belly. As I've aged, I've become kinder to myself, and less critical of myself. I've become my own friend

I don't chide myself for eating that extra cookie, or for not making my bed, or for buying that silly cement gecko that I didn't need, but looks so avante garde on my patio. I am entitled to a treat, to be messy, to be extravagant.

I have seen too many dear friends leave this world too soon; before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging.

Whose business is it if I choose to read or play on the computer until 4 AM and sleep til noon?

I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 60&70's, and if I, at the same time, wish to weep over a lost love, I will.

I will walk the beach in a swim suit that is stretched over a bulging body, and will dive into the waves with abandon if I choose to, despite the pitying glances from the jet set .

They, too, will get old.

I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten. And I eventually remember the important things.

Sure, over the years my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers, or even when somebody's beloved pet gets hit by a car? But broken hearts are what give us strength and understanding and compassion. A heart never broken is pristine and sterile and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turning gray, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face. So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn silver.

As you get older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think. I don't question myself anymore. I've even earned the right to be wrong.

So, to answer your question, I like being old. It has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be. And I shall eat dessert every single day. (If I feel like it)

MAY OUR FRIENDSHIP NEVER COME APART, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART!

MAY YOU ALWAYS HAVE A RAINBOW OF SMILES ON YOUR FACE AND IN YOUR HEART, FOREVER AND EVER!

Old Farmer's Advice

"Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong."

"Keep skunks and bankers at a distance."

"Life is simpler when you plow around the stump."

"A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor."

"Words that soak into your ears are whispered.....not yelled."

"Meanness don't just happen overnight."

"Forgive your enemies; it messes up their heads."

"Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you."

"It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge."

"You cannot unsay a cruel word."

"Every path has a few puddles."

"When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty."

"The best sermons are lived, not preached."

"Most of the stu people worry about, ain't never gonna happen anyway."

"Don 't judge folks by their relatives."

"Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer."

"Live a good and honorable life, then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time."

"Don 't interfere with somethin' that ain't bothering you none."

"Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance."

"If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'."

"Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got."

"The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every mornin'."

"Always drink upstream from the herd."

"Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment."

"Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in."

"If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around."

"Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly, and leave the rest to God."

"Don't pick a fight with an old man. If he is too old to fight, he'll just kill you."

"Some days all you can do is smile and wait for some kind soul to come pull your ass out of the bind you've gotten yourself into."

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THE OLD PATHS

I liked the old paths, when
Moms were at home.
Dads were at work.
Brothers went into the Army, or took up a trade.
And sisters got married BEFORE having children!

Crime did not pay;
Hard work did;
And people knew the difference.

Moms could cook;
Dads would work;
Children would behave.
Husbands were loving;
Wives were supportive;
And children were polite.

Women wore the jewelry;
And Men wore the pants.
Women looked like ladies;
Men looked like gentlemen;
And children looked decent.

People loved the truth,
And hated a lie.
They came to church to get IN,
Not to get OUT!
Hymns sounded Godly;
Sermons sounded helpful;
Rejoicing sounded normal;
And crying sounded sincere.
Cursing was wicked;
Drugs were for illness.

The flag was honored;
America was beautiful;
And God was welcome!

We read the Bible in public;
Prayed in school;
And preached from house to house.

To be called an American was worth dying for;
To be called an American was worth living for;
To be called a traitor was a shame!

I still like the old paths the best!

OLDER THAN DIRT QUIZ

Count the ones you remember, not the ones you were told about.

1. Blackjack chewing gum
2. Wax Coke-shaped bottles filled with colored sugar water
3. Candy cigarettes
4. Soda pop machines that dispensed bottles
5. Coffee shops with table-side juke boxes
6. Home milk delivery in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers
7. Party lines
8. Newsreels before the movie
9. P. F. Flyers
10. Butch wax
11. Telephone numbers with a word prefix (Olive-3333)
12. Peashooters
13. Howdy Doody
14. 45 RPM records
15. S & H Green stamps
16. Hi-fi's
17. Metal ice trays with levers
18. Mimeograph paper
19. Blue flashbulb
20. Beanie and Cecil
21. Roller skate keys
22. Cork popguns
23. Drive-ins
24. Studebakers
25. Wash tub wringers

If you remembered 0 - 5, you're still a pup.

If you remembered 6-10, you're getting older.

If you remembered 11-15, don't tell your age.

If you remembered 16-25, **you're older than dirt!**

ON AGING

As I've aged, I've become kinder to myself, and less critical of myself. I've become my own friend. I have seen too many dear friends leave this world too soon, before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging.

Whose business is it if I choose to read, or play on the computer until 4 AM, or sleep until noon? I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 50's, 60's and 70's, and if I, at the same time, wish to weep over a lost love, I will.

I will walk the beach in a swim suit that is stretched over a bulging body, and will dive into the waves with abandon if I choose to, despite the pitying glances from the jet set. They, too, will get old. I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten. And I eventually remember the important things.

Sure, over the years, my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers, or even when somebody's beloved pet gets hit by a car? But broken hearts are what give us strength, and understanding, and compassion. A heart never broken is pristine and sterile and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

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MAY OUR FRIENDSHIP NEVER COME APART, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART!

On Being Older

Of course I talk to myself. Sometimes I need expert advice.

I don't have gray hair. I have "wisdom highlights." I'm just very wise.

I don't need anger management. I need people to stop pissing me off.

My people skills are just fine. It's my tolerance to idiots that needs work.

Even duct tape can't fix stupid, but it can muffle the sound.

I'm going to retire and live off of my savings. Not sure what I'll do that second week.

The kids text me "plz" which is shorter than please. I text back "no" which is shorter than "yes."

Oops! Did I roll my eyes out loud?

I don't trip over things. I do random gravity checks.

The biggest lie I tell myself is "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would've put them on my knees.

Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes and come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet!

Old age is coming at a really bad time.

Lord grant me the strength to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the friends to post my bail when I finally snap.

When did it change from "We the people" to "screw the people" ?

Why do I have to press one for English when you're just gonna transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

At my age, "getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.

Smile. It will make people wonder

ONLY IN AMERICA . . .

Only in America...do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get prescriptions while people can buy cigarettes at the front!

Only in America... do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries and a diet coke!

Only in America...do banks leave both doors open and then chain the pens to the counters!

Only in America...do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage!

Only in America...do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight

Only in America...do they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering!

EVER WONDER...

Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?

Why women can't put on mascara with their mouth closed?

Why you never see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?

Why "abbreviated" is such a long word?

Why doctors call what they do "practice"?

Why lemon juice is made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?

Why the man who invests all your money is called a broker?

Why the time of day with the slowest traffic is called rush hour?

Why there isn't mouse-flavored cat food?

Why Noah didn't swat those two mosquitoes?

You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?!

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?

JOB PERFORMANCE EVALUATION SCALE

Average: not too bright

Active Socially: drinks heavily

Zealous Attitude: opinionated

Character Above Reproach: still one step ahead of the law

Unlimited Potential: will stick with us until retirement

Quick Thinking: offers plausible excuses for errors

Takes Pride In Work: conceited

Takes Advantage of Every Opportunity to Progress: buys drinks for superiors

Indifferent to Instruction: knows more than superiors

Stern Disciplinarian: a real jerk

Tactful in Dealing With Superiors: knows when to keep mouth shut

Approaches Difficult Problems With Logic: finds someone else to do the job

A Keen Analyst: thoroughly confused

Expresses Self Well: can string two sentences together

Spends Extra Hours on the Job: miserable home life

Meticulous Attention to Detail: a nitpicker

Judgment Is Usually Sound: lucky

Maintains Professional Attitude: a snob

Keen Sense Of Humor: knows lots of dirty jokes

Strong Adherence To Principles: stubborn

Slightly Below Average: stupid

Of Great Value To The Organization: turns in work on time

Is Unusually Loyal: wanted by no one else

Alert To Company Developments: an office gossip

Requires Work-Value Attitudinal Readjustment: lazy and hard-headed

Hard Worker: usually does it the hard way

Enjoys Job: needs more to do

Competent: is still able to get work done if supervisor helps

Consults With Supervisor Often: annoying

Will Go Far: relative of management

Uses Resources Well: delegates everything

Deserves Promotion: create new title to make him/her feel appreciated

OVER THE YEARS, I'VE LEARNED. . .

That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

That we should be glad that God doesn't give us everything we ask for.

That money doesn't buy class.

That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

That the Lord didn't do it all in one day. What makes me think I can?

That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

That love, not time, heals all wounds.

That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.

That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.

That life is tough, but I'm tougher.

That opportunities are never lost. Someone will take the ones you miss.

That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.

That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

That I can't choose how I feel, but I can choose what to do about it.

That it is best to give advice in only two circumstances: when it is requested, and when it is a life-threatening situation.

That the less time I have to work with, the more I get things done.

OXYMORONS

1. Is it good if a vacuum really sucks?
2. Why is the third hand on the watch called the second hand?
3. If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?
4. If Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find the words?
5. Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack?
6. Why does “slow down” and “slow up” mean the same thing?
7. Why does “fat chance” and “slim chance” mean the same thing?
8. Why do “tug” boats push their barges?
9. Why do we sing “Take me out to the ball game” when we are already there?
10. Why are they called “stands” when they are made for sitting?
11. Why is it called “after dark” when it really is “after light”?
12. Doesn't “expecting the unexpected” make the unexpected expected?
13. Why are a “wise man” and a “wise guy” opposites?
14. Why do “overlook” and “oversee” mean opposite things?
15. Why is “phonics” not spelled the way it sounds?
16. If work is so terrific, why do they have to pay you to do it?
17. If all the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?
18. If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?
19. If you are cross-eyed and have dyslexia, can you read all right?
20. Why is bra singular and panties plural?
21. Why do you press harder on the buttons of a remote control when you know the batteries are dead?
22. Why do we put suits in garment bags and garments in a suitcase?
23. How come abbreviated is such a long word?
24. Why do we wash bath towels? Aren't we clean when we use them?
25. Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?
26. Why do they call it a TV set when you only have one?
27. Christmas. What other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat candy out of your socks?

PARADISE. . .

Ed finally decides to take a vacation. He books himself on a Caribbean cruise and proceeds to have the time of his life - until the boat sank.

He found himself swept up on the shore of an island with no other people, no supplies... Nothing. Only bananas and coconuts.

After about four months, he is lying on the beach one day when the most gorgeous woman he has ever seen rows up to him. In disbelief, he asks her, "Where did you come from? How did you get here?"

"I rowed over from the other side of the island," she says. "I landed here when my cruise ship sank."

"Amazing," he says. "You were really lucky to have a rowboat wash up with you."

"Oh, this?" replies the woman. "I made the rowboat out of raw material found on the island. I whittled the oars from gum tree branches; I wove the bottom from palm branches; and the sides and stern came from a Eucalyptus tree."

"But ... but ... that's impossible," stutters Ed. "You had no tools or hardware. How did you manage?"

"Oh, no problem," replies the woman. "On the South side of the island, there is a very unusual strata of alluvial rock exposed. I found if I fired it to a certain temperature in my kiln, it melted into forgeable ductile iron. I used that for tools and used the tools to make the hardware." Ed is stunned.

"Let's row over to my place," she says.

After a few minutes of rowing, she docks the boat at a small wharf.

As Ed looks onto shore, he nearly falls out of the boat. Before him is a stone walk leading to an exquisite bungalow painted in blue and white. While the woman ties up the rowboat with an expertly woven hemp rope, he can only stare ahead, dumbstruck.

As they walk into the house, she says casually, "It's not much, but I call it home. Sit down, please. Would you like to have a drink?"

"No, no thank you," he says, still dazed. "Can't take any more coconut juice."

"It's not coconut juice," the woman replies. "I built a still. How about a Pina Colada?"

Trying to hide his continued amazement, he accepts, and they sit down on her hand-woven couch to talk. After they have exchanged their stories, the woman announces, "I'm going to slip into something more comfortable. Would you like to take a shower and shave? There is a razor upstairs in the cabinet in the bathroom."

No longer questioning anything, Ed goes into the bathroom. There, in the cabinet, is a razor made from a bone handle. Two shells honed to a hollow-ground edge are fastened on to its end inside of a swivel mechanism. "WOW! This woman is amazing," he muses, "what next?"

When he returns, she greets him wearing 'nothing but vines' strategically positioned, and smelling faintly of gardenias. She beckons for him to sit down next to her.

"Tell me," she begins suggestively, slithering closer to him, "We've been out here for a really long time. I know you've been lonely. There's something I'm sure you really feel like doing right now, something you've been longing for all these months. You know..."

She stares into his eyes. He can't believe what he's hearing!

"You mean ...", he swallows excitedly, "We can watch the STEELER GAME from here?"

Paraprosdokians

are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and frequently humorous.

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right, only who is left.
7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. I didn't say it was your fault. I said I was blaming you.
10. In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of emergency, notify:" I put "DOCTOR."
11. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
12. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
13. I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.
14. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
15. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
16. You're never too old to learn something stupid.
17. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

I'LL BET GRADE THREE WAS THE TOUGHEST 3 YEARS FOR THESE PARENTS!

NO PARENT LEFT BEHIND.... I promise you cannot read these and not laugh out loud. These are real notes written by parents in an ALABAMA school district. Spellings have been left intact.

1. My son is under a doctor's care and should not take PE today. Please execute him.
2. Please excuse lisa for being absent she was sick and i had her shot.
3. Dear school: please excuse john being absent on jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and also 33.
4. Please excuse gloria from jim today. She is administrating.
5. Please excuse roland from p.e. for a few days. Yesterday he fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip.
6. John has been absent because he had two teeth taken out of his face.
7. Carlos was absent yesterday because he was playing football. He was hurt in the growing part.
8. Megan could not come to school today because she has been bothered by very close veins.
9. Chris will not be in school cus he has an acre in his side.
10. Please excuse ray friday from school. He has very loose vowels.
11. Please excuse Lesli from being absent yesterday. She had diahre dyrea direathe the shits.
12. Please excuse tommy for being absent yesterday. He had diarrhea, and his boots leak.
13. Irving was absent yesterday because he missed his bust.
14. Please excuse jimmy for being. It was his father's fault.
15. I kept Billie home because she had to go Christmas shopping because i don't know what size she wear.
16. Please excuse jennifer for missing school yesterday. We forgot to get the sunday paper o the porch, and when we found it monday. We thought it was sunday.
17. Sally won't be in school a week from friday. We have to attend her funeral.
18. My daughter was absent yesterday because she was tired. She spent a weekend with the marines.
19. Please excuse Jason for being absent yesterday. He had a cold and could not breed well.
20. Please excuse mary for being absent yesterday. She was in bed with gramps.
21. Gloria was absent yesterday as she was having a gangover.
22. Please excuse brenda. She has been sick and under the doctor.
23. Maryann was absent december 11-16, because she had a fever, sorethroat, headache and upset stomach. Her sister was also sick, fever an sore throat, her brother had a low grade fever and ached all over. I wasn't the best either, sore throat and fever. There must be something going around, her father even got hot last night.

Now we know why parents are screaming for better education for our kids

Peace Prayer

by St. Francis of Assisi

Lord: Make me an instrument of Your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light, and

Where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master,

Grant that I may not so much seek

To be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and

It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

THE PENALTY OF LEADERSHIP

In every field of human endeavor, he who is **first** must perpetually live in the **white light of publicity**. Whether the **leadership** be vested in a **man** or in a **manufactured product**, **emulation** and **envy** are ever at work. In art, in literature, in music, in industry, the reward and the punishment are always the same. The **reward** is **widespread recognition**; the **punishment**, **fierce denial** and **detraction**. When a man's work becomes a **standard** for the whole world, it also becomes the **target** for the shafts of the **envious** few. If his work be merely **mediocre**, he will be left **severely alone**. If he achieve a masterpiece, it will set a million tongues a-wagging. **Jealousy** does not protrude its forked tongue at the artist who produces a **commonplace** painting. Whatsoever you write, or paint, or play, or sing, or build, no one will **strive to surpass** or to slander you, unless your work be **stamped** with the **seal of genius**. Long, long after a great work or a good work has been done, those who are disappointed or **envious** continue to **cry out** that it cannot be done. Spiteful little voices in the domain of **art** were raised against our own **Whistler** as a mountebank, long after the big world acclaimed him as its greatest genius. Multitudes flocked to worship at the shrine of **Wagner**, while the little group of those whom he had dethroned and displaced argued angrily that he was no musician at all. The little world continued to protest that **Fulton** could not build a steamboat, while the big world flocked to the river to see his boat steam by. The **leader is assailed** because he is the leader, and the **effort to equal** him is merely added proof of that leadership. Failing to equal or excel, the **follower seeks to depreciate** and to **destroy**, but only **confirms** once more the **superiority** of that which he strives to supplant. There is **nothing new** in this. It is as old as the world and as old as the **human passions: envy, fear, greed, ambition**, and the **desire to surpass**. And it all **avails nothing**. If the leader truly leads, he remains the leader. Master-poet, master-painter, master-workman, each in his turn is assailed, and **each holds his laurels** through the ages. That which is good or great **makes itself known**, no matter how loud the clamor of denial.

That which deserves to live, lives.

PEOPLE IN OHIO

At +70 degrees:

Texans turn on the heat and unpack the thermal underwear.
People in Ohio go swimming in the rivers.

At +60 degrees:

North Carolinians try to turn on the heat.
People in Ohio plant gardens.

At +50 degrees:

Californians shiver uncontrollably.
People in Ohio sunbathe.

At +40 degrees:

Italian and English cars won't start.
People in Ohio drive with their windows down.

At +32 degrees:

Distilled water freezes.
Lake Erie water gets thicker.

At +20 degrees:

Floridians don coats, thermal underwear, gloves, and wooly hats.
People in Ohio throw on a flannel shirt.

At +15 degrees:

Philadelphia landlords finally turn up the heat.
People in Ohio have the last cookout before it gets cold.

At +10 degrees:

People in Miami all die.
Buckeyes lick the flagpole.

At -20 degrees:

Californians fly away to Mexico.
People in Ohio get out their winter coats.

At -40 degrees:

Hollywood disintegrates.
The Girl Scouts in Ohio are selling cookies door-to-door.

At -60 degrees:

Polar bears begin to evacuate the Artic.
Ohio Boy Scouts postpone "Winter Survival" classes until it gets cold enough.

At -80 degrees:

Mt. St. Helen freezes.
People in Ohio rent some videos.

At -100 degrees:

Santa Claus abandons the North Pole.
Buckeyes get frustrated because they can't thaw the keg.

At -297 degrees:

Microbial life no longer survives on dairy products.
Cows in Ohio complain about farmers with cold hands.

At -460 degrees:

ALL atomic motion stops (absolute zero in the Kelvin scale).
People in Ohio start saying "Cold 'nuff for ya?"

At -500 degrees:

Hell freezes over.
The Browns win the Super Bowl!

PERKS OF BEING OVER 50.

1. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
2. In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
3. No one expects you to run—anywhere.
4. People call at 9 pm and ask, “Did I wake you?”
5. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
6. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
7. Things you buy now won’t wear out.
8. You can eat dinner at 4 pm.
9. You can live without sex, but not your glasses.
10. You enjoy hearing about other people’s operations.
11. You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
12. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
13. You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.
14. You sing along with elevator music.
15. Your eyes won’t get much worse.
16. Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
17. Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.
18. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can’t remember them either.
19. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to manageable size.
20. You can’t remember who gave you this list.

And you notice these are all in Big Print for your convenience.

PERSPECTIVES

One day , the father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the express purpose of showing him how poor people live. They spent a couple of days and nights on the ranch of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad."

"Did you see how poor people live?" the father asked.

"Oh yeah, " said the son.

"So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered:

"I saw that we have one dog and they had four.

We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end.

We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night.

Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon.

We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight.

We have servants who serve us, but they serve others.

We buy our food, but they grow theirs.

We have walls around our property to protect us; they have friends to protect them."

The boy's father was speechless.

Then his son added, "Thanks Dad for showing me how poor we are."

Isn't perspective a wonderful thing? Makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for everything we have, instead of worrying about what we don't have.
Appreciate every single thing you have, especially your friends!

"Life is too short and friends are too few."

POLITICAL CORRECTNESS

Due to the climate of political correctness now pervading America, Kentuckians, Tennesseans, and West Virginians will no longer be referred to as "HILLBILLIES." You must now refer to them as APPALACHIAN-AMERICANS.

And furthermore.....

HOW TO SPEAK ABOUT WOMEN AND BE POLITICALLY CORRECT:

1. She is not a "BABE" or a "CHICK." She is a "BREASTED AMERICAN."
2. She is not a "SCREAMER" or a "MOANER." She is "VOCALLY APPRECIATIVE."
3. She is not "EASY." She is "HORIZONTALLY ACCESSIBLE."
4. She is not a "DUMB BLONDE." She is a "LIGHT-HAIRED DETOUR OFF THE INFORMATION SUPER-HIGHWAY."
5. She has not "BEEN AROUND." She is a "PREVIOUSLY-ENJOYED COMPANION."
6. She is not an "AIRHEAD." She is "REALITY IMPAIRED."
7. She does not get "DRUNK" or "TIPSY." She gets "CHEMICALLY INCONVENIENCED."
8. She does not have "BREAST IMPLANTS." She is "MEDICALLY ENHANCED."
9. She does not "NAG" you. She becomes "VERBALLY REPETITIVE."
10. She is not a "TRAMP." She is "SEXUALLY EXTROVERTED."
11. She does not have "MAJOR LEAGUE HOOTERS." She is "PECTORALLY SUPERIOR."
12. She is not a "TWO-BIT HOOKER." She is a "LOW COST PROVIDER."

HOW TO SPEAK ABOUT MEN AND BE POLITICALLY CORRECT:

1. He does not have a "BEER GUT." He has developed a "LIQUID GRAIN STORAGE FACILITY."
2. He is not a "BAD DANCER." He is "OVERLY CAUCASIAN."
3. He does not "GET LOST ALL THE TIME." He "INVESTIGATES ALTERNATIVE DESTINATIONS."
4. He is not "BALDING." He is in "FOLLICLE REGRESSION."
5. He is not a "CRADLE ROBBER." He prefers "GENERATIONAL DIFFERENTIAL RELATIONSHIPS."
6. He does not get "FALLING-DOWN DRUNK." He becomes "ACCIDENTALLY HORIZONTAL."
7. He does not act like a "TOTAL ASS." He develops a case of "RECTAL-CRANIAL INVERSION."
8. He is not a "MALE CHAUVINIST PIG." He has "SWINE EMPATHY."
9. He is not afraid of "COMMITMENT" He is "RELATIONSHIP CHALLENGED."
10. He is not "HORNY." He is "SEXUALLY FOCUSED."
11. It's not his "CRACK" you see hanging out of his pants. It's "REAR CLEAVAGE."

A Political Question: Why did the chicken cross the road?

DONALD TRUMP: We will build a big wall to keep illegal chickens from crossing the road. We will have a door for legal chickens.

JOHN KERRY: We will trust the chicken to tell us whether it crossed the road or not.

CHRIS CHRISTIE: We need to water board that chicken to find out why it crossed the road.

RAND PAUL: It's none of our business why the chicken crossed the road.

NANCY PELOSI: We will have to wait until the chicken crosses the road to see what it says.

CARLY FIORINA: Hillary Clinton lied about why the chicken crossed the road.

BRIAN WILLIAMS: I crossed the road with the chicken.

BEN CARSON: This isn't brain surgery. To look for pyramids... it wanted grain.

SARAH PALIN: The chicken crossed the road because, gosh-darn it, he's a maverick!

BARACK OBAMA: Let me be perfectly clear, if the chickens like their eggs they can keep their eggs. No chicken will be required to cross the road to surrender her eggs. Period.

HILLARY CLINTON: What difference at this point does it make why the chicken crossed the road?

GEORGE W. BUSH: We don't really care why the chicken crossed the road. We just want to know if the chicken is on our side of the road or not. The chicken is either with us or against us. There is no middle ground here.

BILL CLINTON: I did not cross the road with that chicken.

BERNIE SANDERS: That little chicken will pay 80% income taxes no matter what side of the road it's on. He's got to help finance free college even for those that just want a four-year vacation.

AL GORE: I invented the chicken.

AL SHARPTON: Why are all the chickens white?

Prayer of Jabez

**“Oh, that You would bless me indeed,
and enlarge my territory,
that Your hand would be with me,
and that You would keep me from evil,
that I may not cause pain.”**

PRAYER

By An Unknown Confederate Soldier

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve; I was made weak, that I might humbly obey.

I asked for health, that I might do greater things; I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.

I asked for riches, that I might be happy; I was given poverty, that I might be wise.

I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men; I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.

I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life; I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I had hoped for.

Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered. I am among all men, most richly blessed.

PROMISE YOURSELF . . .

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something special in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful smile at all times, and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

You might be employed by a public school system if...

1. You believe the playground should be equipped with a Ritalin salt lick.
2. You want to slap the next person who says, "Must be nice to work 8 to 3:20 and have summers free."
3. You can tell if it's a full moon without ever looking outside.
4. You believe "shallow gene pool" should have its own box on the report card.
5. You believe that unspeakable evils will befall you if anyone says, "Boy, the kids sure are mellow today."
6. When out in public, you feel the urge to snap your fingers at children you do not know and correct their behavior.
7. You have no social life between August and June.
8. Marking all A's on report cards would make your life SO much easier.
9. You think people should be required to get a government permit before being allowed to reproduce.
10. You wonder how some parents ever MANAGED to reproduce.
11. You laugh uncontrollably when people refer to the staff room as the "lounge."
12. You encourage an obnoxious parent to check into charter schools or home schooling.
13. You think caffeine should be available in intravenous form.
14. You know you are in for a major project when a parent says, "I have a great idea I'd like to discuss with you. I think it would be such fun!"
15. Meeting a child's parent instantly answers the question, "Why is this kid like this?"

One day in Heaven, the Lord decided to visit the earth and take a stroll.

Walking down the road, he encountered a man who was crying.

The Lord asked the man, "Why are you crying, my son?"

The man said he was blind and had never seen a sunset.

The Lord touched the man, who could then see, and was happy.

As the Lord walked further, He met another man crying, and asked,

"Why are you crying my son?"

The man was born a cripple and was never able to walk.

The Lord touched him, and he could walk, and he was happy.

Farther down the road, the Lord met another man who was crying, and asked,

Why are you crying, my son?"

The man said, "Lord, I work for the public school system."

And the Lord sat down and cried with him.

PUNOGRAPHY

When chemists die, they barium.

Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.

I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid. He says he can stop any time.

How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.

This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.

They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a Type-O.

PMS jokes aren't funny; period.

Why were the Indians here first? They had reservations.

We're going on a class trip to the Coca-Cola factory. I hope there's no pop quiz.

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?

When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.

Broken pencils are pointless.

I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.

What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.

England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool .

I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.

All the toilets in New York 's police stations have been stolen. The police have nothing to go on.

I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.

Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.

Velcro - what a rip off!

A cartoonist was found dead in his home. Details are sketchy.

Venison for dinner again? Oh deer!

HAVE YOU HEARD: Puns for the educated?

- *The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference . He acquired his size from too much pi.*
- *I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.*
- *She was only a whisky maker, but he loved her still.*
- *A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.*
- *The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.*
- *No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.*
- *A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.*
- *A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.*
- *Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.*
- *Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.*
- *A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.*
- *Atheism is a non-prophet organization.*
- *Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other, "You stay here; I'll go on a head."*
- *I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.*
- *A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: "Keep off the Grass."*
- *A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, "No change yet."*
- *A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.*
- *The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.*
- *The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.*
- *A backward poet writes inverse.*
- *In democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.*
- *When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.*
- *Don't join dangerous cults: Practice safe sects!*

THE PURSUIT

For the longest time – I got it wrong.

I thought the ultimate achievement in wrestling was to win a State Championship.

It is not.

The ultimate achievement in wrestling is to prepare a young man for his life by having him become the best person he can become by acquiring the “Qualities of a Wrestler” while in pursuit of a state championship.

Acquiring these qualities is more important than winning a state championship.

They are what is needed to become happy and successful in life.

These qualities are acquired during the pursuit and not in the winning.

It is in the pursuit that a kid transcends into a man.

It is in the pursuit that a kid is prepared for what life will bombard him with when he becomes a man.

It is in the pursuit that this sport is at its finest.

Winning a state championship doesn't teach these things.

The pursuit does.

It is setting a goal that is more than you think you can ever achieve and then achieving more than you thought you ever could.

It is in overcoming any and all obstacles that may be in your path in pursuit of that goal.

It is in the agony of learning how to “figure it out” on your own.

It is in making the necessary adjustments even after “You figured it out.”

The hard adjustments which will require supreme sacrifice that will only make a small difference. Which will happen to be the difference between winning or losing.

It is in working endlessly and seeing no results; and still continuing to work because your will is stronger than everyone else's doubt.

It is in learning that one man with belief is worth a thousand with only an interest.

It is in failing miserably and very publicly in front of your peers and everyone who is important to you. It is in learning to master the concept of “Again” – the ability to muster up a little more when the world would understand if you quit.

It is in not achieving your desired goal, after a very long hard season, one in which you bled to do so. To then make a personal decision to work even harder for another season with absolutely no guarantee of success.

It is in the knowing that you did everything that you could to achieve your goal and the understanding that sometimes that will be enough, and sometimes it won't.

You can't control that.

All you can control is to be as best prepared as you can.

It is in the understanding that when it magically is enough, that you are humble because you know the feeling of being on the other side of the win.

And when it is not enough you know to dig down and inspect and analyze your performance because there is something within the loss that you need to learn to help you achieve a future bigger goal.

And you find it.

And you turn a weakness into a strength.

And you keep doing that until you have no more weaknesses.

This is the process of becoming a man.

Many wrestlers who went on to win a state championship are now jerks.

Many wrestlers who took 2nd, 3rd or never even placed have become great people.

So it is not winning the state championship that is the difference.

It is what you take away from this great sport that is the difference.

It is in the pursuit.

If one's idea of achievement is to win a state championship, then logically there can be only one winner per weight class throughout the state.

There is not.

Because the real winners in this sport are the wrestlers who acquire the traits which will be necessary for their success and happiness in life.

And those traits all can be found in the pursuit.

John A. Passaro

THE OLD PATHS

I liked the old paths, when
Moms were at home,
Dads were at work,
Brothers went into the army,
And sisters got married BEFORE having children!

Crime did not pay;
Hard work did;
And people knew the difference.

Moms could cook;
Dads would work;
Children would behave.

Husbands were loving;
Wives were supportive;
And children were polite.

Women wore the jewelry;
And Men wore the pants.
Women looked like ladies;
Men looked like gentlemen;
And children looked decent.

People loved the truth,
And hated a lie;
They came to church to get IN,
Not to get OUT!

Hymns sounded Godly;
Sermons sounded helpful;
Rejoicing sounded normal;
And crying sounded sincere.

Cursing was wicked;
Drugs were for illness;
And divorce was unthinkable.

The flag was honored;
America was beautiful;
And God was welcome!

**We read the Bible in public;
Prayed in school;
And preached from house to house.**

**To be called an American was worth dying for;
To be called a Christian was worth living for;
To be called a traitor was a shame!**

**Preachers preached because they had a message;
And Christians rejoiced because they had the VICTORY!
Preachers preached from the Bible;
Singers sang from the heart;
And sinners turned to the Lord to be SAVED!**

**A new birth meant a new life;
Salvation meant a changed life;
Following Christ led to eternal life.**

**Being a preacher meant you proclaimed the word of God;
Being a deacon meant you would serve the Lord;
Being a Christian meant you would live for Jesus;
And being a sinner meant someone was praying for you!**

**Laws were based on the Bible;
Homes read the Bible;
And churches taught the Bible.**

**God was worshiped;
Christ was exalted;
And the Holy Spirit was respected..**

**Church was where you found Christians
on the Lord's day, rather than in the garden,
on the creek bank, on the golf course,
Or being entertained somewhere else.**

I still like the old paths the best!