

May 2007

CLASS TIDBITS:

- Welcome new Member's George "Bear" and Dorsey Denton, 1301 Lakeshore Drive, Irving, 75060. 972 790-3992.
- Please note Ed & Jan Dame's new email address: ednjan1@verizon.net
- Please note that Novice Nicholson's new email is novicen@verizon.net
- Congratulations & thank you to JoCarol Adamson who has retired from leading the children's Sunday School music program after 33 years of continuous service
- The Moore's recently attended the ring ceremony of their grandson Daniel at Texas A&M.
- The Patrick's recently attended the ring ceremony of their granddaughter Stacey at Texas A&M.
- Remember to Vote. Class member Nita Patrick is running for re-election to the Irving School board.

The Kum Doubles Messenger

The God Gap? The Faith of Republicans and Democrats

March 5, 2007

(Ventura, CA) - Whose side will "God" be on in the 2008 presidential election? Recent elections have emphasized the importance of Christian voters to American electoral outcomes. How is this element of private spiritual life likely to influence party politics leading up to 2008?

A new survey from The Barna Group explores the so-called "God gap" between Republicans and Democrats, examining 32 measures of religious commitment, belief and activity. The study shows that while Republicans continue to hold advantage in attracting born again Christian voters, Democrats are not as far behind on measures of Christian commitment as might be assumed.

Republicans were distinct from Democrats on 18 of the 32 measures. However, less than half of those (just eight of the 32 factors) generated a difference of more than 10 percentage points, suggesting that in most areas of faith, the gap between the two parties is not large.

Beliefs and Born Aains

The eight most significant differences were al-

most exclusively in the domain of beliefs and commitment, rather than the arena of behavior. For instance, Republicans were more likely than Democrats to strongly assert that the Bible is accurate in all of the principles it teaches (57% versus 40%); twice as likely to believe Satan is a real spiritual entity (33% versus 17%); more likely to reject the idea that good works can earn salvation (35% versus 23%); and more commonly describe themselves as absolutely committed to Christianity (61% versus 48%).

Another gap relates to the proportion of born again Christian voters aligned with each party. In Barna studies, a born again Christian is defined based upon a person's religious beliefs - rather than their use of the "born again" term. Overall, 51% of Republicans have spiritual convictions that qualify them as born again Christians, compared with 38% of Democrats.

However, since Democrats outnumber Republicans among registered voters by a 10-point margin (31% to 41%), the born again vote balances out. This means that, if the 2008 election were held today, among born again voters, 37% would vote as a Democrat, 38% would be enter-

(Continued on page 7)

Why God Made Moms

Submitted by Bob Potter

Only a child would know the real reasons of "Why God made Moms."

The following are answers given by 2nd grade school children to the following questions:

Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who

knows where the scotch tape is..

2. Mostly to clean the house.

3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.

2. Magic plus super powers

and a lot of stirring.

3. God made my Mom just the same like he made me He just used bigger parts.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

1. God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and eve-

(Continued on page 13)

The Kum Doubles Messenger

Page 2

Announcements

• **September 2007** is the month for the Kum Doubles to sponsor the Golden Agers.

• Block your calendar for the weekend of Oct 20th. **October 20** will be the fall Craft Sale sponsored by the Kum Doubles class.

• **May 15, 6:30 PM** is the date of the next craft planning meeting.

• Craft night is the third Tuesday of every month.

May 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Birthdays

4 Rod Alleman
6 Pat Clough
18 Walter Lundgren
21 Ann Nicholson

Anniversaries

27 Anna & Charles Wilkins
29 Allan & Pam Knott

May Sunday School Study Plan

Date	Teacher	Study	Scripture
6	Street	Finding Community	Rev 19
13	Dame	The Eternal Home	Rev 21
20	Baggett	Living In Our New Home	Rev 21
27	Henson	The Ultimate Happy Ending	Rev 22

2007 Party Planner

Mon	Day	Host	Activity	Time	Notes
Jan		Committee	Chili Diner		
Feb	12	Street	Gaither Concert	6 PM	Concert starts at 6. Meet at Concert.
Mar	17	Committee	Amazing Grace	5 PM	
Apr	21	Patrick	BBQ	6 PM	
May	5	Dame	Dinner	6 PM	
Jun		Committee			
Jul		Alleman & Dayton	Picnic Dinner		Family Life Center
Aug		Committee			
Sep		Holcomb & Love			
Oct		Committee			
Nov		Henson & Carver			
Dec		Committee	Christmas Party		Fellowship Hall

Prayer Requests

[Pages 3 & 4 are not published on the internet]

Praises

Politics & Religion

Throwing Rocks at Israel

Ex-President Carter's new book is both misleading and dangerous.

David Aikman | posted 3/28/2007
08:40AM

From www.Christianitytoday.com

Whatever happened to former President Jimmy Carter?

Long hailed as "the best ex-President we've ever had," a hard-working humanitarian, a globe-trotting observer of Third World elections, a Southern Baptist volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, a mediator of international conflicts, and an idealistic campaigner for the abolition of dangerous tropical diseases, Carter has become the subject of widespread vilification in the U.S.

It's all because of his latest book, *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*. The book has offended many Jews and evangelicals because it appears to be a one-sided denunciation of Israel.

When Carter ran for President in 1976, he electrified the nation by declaring that one of his qualifications was being a "born-again Christian." Evangelicals supported him at the ballot box that year.

Carter's candidacy was made doubly appealing by a warmly sympathetic campaign book about him called *The Miracle of Jimmy Carter* by the late Bob Slosser.

Even so, the Carter presidency was disappointing to many. He seemed unable to cope with the crisis of American hostages held captive in Iran, the oil crisis of 1979, and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The one lasting achievement of his presidency, a peace accord brokered between Israel and Egypt in 1979, was not enough to prevent evangelical voters from leaving him and voting overwhelmingly for Ronald Reagan in 1980.

Once out of office, Carter founded the Carter Center in Atlanta in 1982, championing all kinds of worthy causes, such as ceasefires with rebel groups and the elimination of diseases like malaria and guinea-worm. He became the third U.S. President or former President (the others

being Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson) to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

Perhaps emboldened by the prize, Carter kept injecting himself into international affairs, visiting Cuba in 2002 (infuriating the Bush White House) and later declaring that Venezuelan populist strongman Hugo Chavez had fairly won the election of 2004, when many observers were convinced of voter fraud. A *Time* columnist opined that Carter's freelance, unauthorized diplomacy had "taken him dangerously close to the neighborhood of what we used to call treason."

But in *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid* (PPNA), it is Carter's overwhelmingly anti-Israel bias that has offended many. Some 14 members of the Carter Center's Board of Councilors resigned in protest following the publication of the book, claiming, among other things, that Carter had:

- denied that Ismail Haniyeh, the Palestinian prime minister and Hamas leader, had publicly stated that Hamas would never recognize Israel—even though Haniyeh was caught on audiotape saying just that;
- surrendered his role as a peace broker to become an advocate "for one side";
- and "confused opinion with fact, subjectivity with objectivity, and force for change with partisan advocacy."

Worse, said many critics, Carter maintained there was a massive "Jewish lobby" within the U.S. suppressing all rational discussion of Israel's role in the Middle East. Harvard liberal Alan Dershowitz wrote in a review that the book raised "the question of what would motivate a decent man like Jimmy Carter to write such an indecent book."

What indeed? Though a saintly man to many, Carter has often been strangely naïve about world leaders. After meeting Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev in 1979, for instance, he described Brezhnev as "a man of peace." A few months later, Moscow invaded Afghanistan.

Carter accurately depicts the humiliation many Palestinians have felt under Israeli rule. But in his denunciation of Israel's defensive barrier ("the Wall"), he fails to

note that its stated objective is not a land-grab but protection of Israeli civilians against Palestinian suicide bombers. (And in that respect, it has succeeded.) A *National Review* article noted that Arab financial support for the Carter Center might have been a factor in forming the strangely dyspeptic judgments of PPNA.

One of the deadliest Carter suggestions in PPNA is that Palestinian suicide bombers will refrain from their terrorism against Israeli civilians only "when the ultimate goals of the Roadmap for peace are accepted by Israel." But at Brandeis University, Carter told students, "That sentence was worded in a completely improper and stupid way." He apologized, saying future editions would include changes in the sentence.

Mr. President, fellow born-again Christian, despite this expression of regret about those words, your role as an impartial "man of peace" has never been more in question.

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Turbulence In The Sky

Submitted by Christine Burkett

A pastor I know had been on a long flight from one place to another. The first warning of approaching problems came when the sign on the airplane flashed on FASTEN YOUR SEATBELTS.

Then, after a while, a calm voice said, "We shall not be serving the beverages at this time because we are expecting a little turbulence. Please be sure your seat belt is fastened."

As he looked around the aircraft, it became obvious that many of the passengers were becoming apprehensive. Later, the voice of the announcer said, "We are so sorry that we are unable to serve the meal at this time. The turbulence is still ahead of us."

And then the storm broke. The ominous cracks of thunder could be heard even above the roar of the engines. Lightning lit up the darkening skies, and within moments that great plane was like a cork tossed around on a celestial ocean. One moment the airplane was lifted on terrific currents of air; the next, it dropped as if it were about to crash.

The pastor confessed that he shared the discomfort and fear of those around him. He said, "As I looked around the plane, I could see that nearly all the passengers

were upset and alarmed. Some were praying. The future seemed ominous and many were wondering if they would make it through the storm. Then, I suddenly saw a little girl. Apparently the storm meant nothing to her! She had tucked her feet beneath her as she sat on her seat; she was reading a book and everything within her small world was calm and orderly. Sometimes she closed her eyes, then she would read again; then she would straighten her legs, but worry and fear were not in her world.

When the plane was being buffeted by the terrible storm, when it lurched this way and that, as it rose and fell with frightening severity, when all the adults were scared half to death, that marvelous child was completely composed and unafraid." The minister could hardly believe his eyes.

When the plane finally reached its destination and all the passengers were hurrying to disembark, our pastor lingered to speak to the girl whom he had watched for such a long time.

Having commented about the storm and behavior of the plane, he asked why she had not been afraid.

The child replied, "Cause my Daddy's the pilot, and he's taking me home."✝

MY PILLS

Submitted by Marni Monty

A row of bottles on my shelf

Caused me to analyze myself.

One yellow pill I have to pop

Goes to my heart so it won't stop.

A little white one that I take

Goes to my hands so they won't shake.

The blue ones that I use a lot

Tell me I'm happy when I'm not.

The purple pill goes to my brain

And tells me that I have no pain.

The capsules tell me not to wheeze

Or cough or choke or even sneeze.

The red ones, smallest of them all

Go to my blood so I won't fall.

The orange ones, very big and bright

Prevent my leg cramps in the night.

Such an array of brilliant pills

Helping to cure all kinds of ills.

But what I'd really like to know.....

Is what tells each one where to go!✝

Kids On Marriage

Submitted by Karla Yager

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. -- Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. -Kristen, age 10

WHAT IS THE RIGHT AGE TO GET MARRIED? Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. -- Camille, age 10

HOW CAN A STRANGER TELL IF TWO PEOPLE ARE MARRIED? You might

have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. -- Derrick, age 8

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR MOM AND DAD HAVE IN COMMON? Both don't want any more kids. -- Lori, age 8

WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE? Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. -- Lynnette, age 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. -- Martin, age 10

WHAT WOULD YOU DO ON A FIRST DATE THAT WAS TURNING SOUR? I'd

run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns. -- Craig, age 9

WHEN IS IT OKAY TO KISS SOMEONE? When they're rich, of course. --Pam, age 7

The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. - - Curt age 7

The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. -- Howard, age 8

IS IT BETTER TO BE SINGLE OR MARRIED? It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. -- Anita, age 9

The God Gap?*(Continued from page 1)*

ing their ballot as a Republican, with the remaining born voters being unaffiliated.

Evangelicals

One crucial subset of the born again audience is evangelical Christians. Republicans attract a disproportionate share of evangelicals (described by Barna as a 9-point evangelical by virtue of their spiritual beliefs on nine separate survey questions). This group of voters - who represent 8% of the adult public - favors allegiance with the GOP over the Democrats by more than a 3-to-1 ratio (59% to 16%).

If the turnout for the 2008 election resembles that of the last two presidential contests, born again voters will cast roughly half of all ballots, despite being just 40% of the adult public. Of those born again voters, roughly one-fourth - or one-eighth of all voters - will be 9-point evangelicals.

Other Faith Perspectives

The study confirmed one spiritual distinctive of Democrats: they are much more likely to attract a wide spectrum of religious perspectives. While one out of 14 Republicans is aligned with a religious belief system other than Christianity, the same is true for one out of every five Democrats. Among the non-Christians within the Democratic Party, two-thirds are atheists and agnostics.

Church attendance was the only area of religious behavior generating a difference between the parties of more than 10 percentage points: 53% of Republicans say they attended church in the last seven days (compared with 41% of Democrats) and only 22% of Republicans qualified as unchurched (as opposed to 34% among Democrats).

Smaller Gaps

Other gaps in faith-related behavior also emerged, though much less significant in scope. For instance, Democrats are slightly less likely to attend Sunday school classes (17% versus 25% among their GOP counterparts) and to participate in church-related small groups (18% versus

25%). Republicans feel greater compulsion to share their faith with others - 34% strongly agreed with the importance of this impulse, compared with 24% of Democrats. However, born again Democrats were equally likely as born again Republicans to have explained their faith in Jesus Christ to someone in the last year.

In terms of the size of the congregation attended, Democrats are less likely to go to churches of 500+ attenders (10% versus 18%). Members of the two parties demonstrated equivalent personal participation in prayer, Bible reading, and volunteering at a church or other charitable organization.

The survey also explored denominational loyalties. One-quarter of the adults associated with each of the parties is Catholic (23% of Republican voters, 27% of Democrats). Non-mainline Protestants make up roughly one-third of both groups (36% and 31%, respectively), while mainline Protestants, surprisingly, are more common among the GOP (21% versus 13%).

Several other religious beliefs generated gaps between the parties. Republicans are more likely to deem their religious faith to be important in their life (77% versus 67%) and they are more likely to believe that God is the all-knowing, perfect creator and ruler of the universe (75% versus 65%).

Yet other areas of belief were indistinguishable between the parties, such as the likelihood of saying their primary purpose in life is to love God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength; contending that their life has been "greatly transformed" by their faith; and rejecting the notion that Jesus sinned.

Message and Mobilization

David Kinnaman, the researcher who directed the study, described the continued importance of reaching Christian voters. "Born again Christians should not be underestimated: they represent half of Republican voters, two-fifths of registered Democrats, and one-third of independent voters. As the presidential primaries gear up and both parties try to find the right mix

of messages that appeal to the broadest group of voters, it will be to their benefit not to alienate the diverse Christian segment."

The President of the California-based firm suggested that Republicans will face unusual challenges in the next general election. "With more than 9 out of 10 Republicans identifying as Christians, and such a vocal base of socially conservative voters, the GOP could be tempted to keep hitting the same notes as before to connect with its base. The problem is that Republicans face smaller numbers, a backlash against 'conservative' politics and policies, and young voters who increasingly align with the Democratic Party. In addition, recent elections have galvanized Democrats' attention on the faith vote, so Republicans are hardly assured of mustering the substantial margins of born again voters they enjoyed in past elections. To win in 2008 the GOP will have to stay true to social conservatives while also growing its message beyond its traditional voting blocks.

"Democrats must find effective ways to speak with relevance to a widely divergent audience," Kinnaman continued, "from zealous secularists to conservative Christians. Committed Christian voters are not at all the monolithic right-wing voting bloc portrayed by media. In fact, tens of millions of born again voters align with the 'blue' party. One key to the 2008 election - for both parties - will be promoting messages that resonate with Christian voters, who are skeptical of being played for political purposes, while also connecting with an increasingly pluralistic population."

Research Details

The data in this report are from a national survey conducted by The Barna Group among random sample of adults, age 18 and older. The survey was conducted in January 2007. In total, 1003 adults were interviewed. The maximum margin of sampling error associated with the sample is ± 3.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Statistical weighting was used to calibrate the sample to known

(Continued on page 9)

How to really plant a seed, a lesson for all of us to learn!

Submitted by Lee Voss

A successful Christian businessman was growing old and knew it was time to choose a successor to take over the business. Instead of choosing one of his directors or his children, he decided to do something different. He called all the young executives in his company together.

He said, "It is time for me to step down and choose the next CEO. I have decided to choose one of you. "The young executives were shocked, but the boss continued. "I am going to give each one of you a SEED today - one very special SEED. I want you to plant the seed, water it, and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from the seed I have given you. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next CEO"

One man, named Jim, was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly, told his wife the story. She helped him get a pot, soil and compost and he planted the seed. Everyday, he would water it and watch to see if it had grown. After about three weeks, some of the other executives began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow. Jim kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew. Three weeks, four weeks, five weeks went by, still nothing. By now, others were talking about their plants, but Jim didn't have a plant and he felt like a failure. Six months went by, still nothing in Jim's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Jim didn't say anything to his colleagues, however. He just kept watering and fertilizing the soil; He so wanted the seed to grow.

A year finally went by and all the young executives of the company brought their plants to the CEO for inspection. Jim told his wife that he wasn't going to take an empty pot. But she asked him to be honest about what happened. Jim felt sick at his stomach, it was going to be he most embarrassing moment of his

life, but he knew his wife was right. He took his empty pot to the boardroom. When Jim arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other executives. They were beautiful, in all shapes and sizes. Jim put his empty pot on the floor and many of his colleagues laughed, a few felt sorry for him!

When the CEO arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted his young executives. Jim just tried to hide in the back. "My, what great plants, trees, and flowers you have grown," said the CEO. "Today one of you will be appointed the next CEO!" All of a sudden, the CEO spotted Jim at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered the financial director to bring him to the front. Jim was terrified. He thought, "The CEO knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me fired!"

When Jim got to the front, the CEO asked him what had happened to his seed; Jim told him the story. The CEO asked everyone to sit down except Jim. He looked at Jim, and then announced to the young executives, "Behold your next Chief Executive! His name is Jim!" Jim couldn't believe it.

Jim couldn't even grow his seed. How could he be the new CEO the others said?

Then the CEO said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone in this room a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds; they were dead, it was not possible for them to grow. All of you, except Jim, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. Jim was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new Chief Executive!"

If you plant honesty, you will reap trust.

If you plant goodness, you will reap friends.

If you plant humility, you will reap great-

ness,

If you plant perseverance, you will reap contentment,

If you plant consideration, you will reap perspective,

If you plant hard work, you will reap success,

If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation.

If you plant faith in Christ, you will reap a harvest.

So, be careful what you plant now; it will determine what you will reap later.

Two thousand years ago Paul wrote to the church at Galatia the same story but with fewer words, "What you sow, so

Golf Club Sign

Submitted by Gerald Carver

Here is an actual sign posted at a golf club in Scottsdale, Arizona:

1. BACK STRAIGHT, KNEES BENT, FEET SHOULDER WIDTH APART.
2. FORM A LOOSE GRIP.
3. KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN!
4. AVOID A QUICK BACK SWING.
5. STAY OUT OF THE WATER.
6. TRY NOT TO HIT ANYONE.
7. IF YOU ARE TAKING TOO LONG, LET OTHERS GO AHEAD OF YOU.
8. DON'T STAND DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF OTHERS.
9. QUIET PLEASE...WHILE OTHERS ARE PREPARING.
10. DON'T TAKE EXTRA STROKES.

WELL DONE. NOW FLUSH THE URINAL, GO OUTSIDE, & TEE OFF

The God Gap?*(Continued from page 7)*

population percentages in relation to demographic variables.

"Born again Christians" are defined as people who said they have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in their life today and who also indicated they believe that when they die they will go to Heaven because they had confessed their sins and had accepted Jesus Christ as their savior. Respondents are not asked to describe themselves as "born again."

"Evangelicals" and "9-point evangelicals" meet the born again criteria (described above) plus seven other conditions. Those include saying their faith is very important in their life today; believing they have a personal responsibility to share their religious beliefs about Christ with non-Christians; believing that Satan exists; believing that eternal salvation is

possible only through grace, not works; believing that Jesus Christ lived a sinless life on earth; asserting that the Bible is accurate in all that it teaches; and describing God as the all-knowing, all-powerful, perfect deity who created the universe and still rules it today. Being classified as an evangelical is not dependent upon church attendance or the denominational affiliation of the church attended. Respondents were not asked to describe themselves as "evangelical."

"Mainline" attenders include Protestants who say they attend one of the following denominations: United Church of Christ, American Baptist, Episcopal, the Presbyterian Church USA, Lutheran, and United Methodist Churches.

"Non-Mainline" Attenders represents any Protestant denominations not covered in the mainline category above. Major groups include Adventist, Assembly of God, Baptist (various types), Church of God, Evangelical, Nazarene, non-

denominational churches, Pentecostal, Wesleyan, and so on.†

The Barna Group, Ltd. (which includes its research division, The Barna Research Group) conducts primary research, produces media resources pertaining to spiritual development, and facilitates the healthy spiritual growth of leaders, children, families and Christian ministries. Located in Ventura, California, Barna has been conducting and analyzing primary research to understand cultural trends related to values, beliefs, attitudes and behaviors since 1984. If you would like to receive free e-mail notification of the release of each new, bi-monthly update on the latest research findings from The Barna Group, you may subscribe to this free service at the Barna website www.barna.org

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Angels Explained by Children

Submitted by Gerald Carver

I only know the names of two angels. Hark and Harold...Gregory, 5

Everybody's got it all wrong. Angels don't wear halos anymore. I forget why, but scientists are working on it...Olive, 9

It's not easy to become an angel! First, you die. Then you go to heaven, and then there's still the flight training to go through. And then you got to agree to wear those angel clothes...Matthew, 9

Angels work for God and watch over kids when God has to go do something else...Mitchell, 7

My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good for science...Henry, 8

Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from Holy Cows!...Jack, 6

Angels talk all the way while they're flying you up to heaven. The main subject is where you went wrong before you got dead...Daniel, 9

When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. And when

he lets out his breath, somewhere there's a tornado...Reagan, 10

Angels have a lot to do and they keep very busy. If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money under your pillow. Then when it gets cold, angels go north for the winter...Sara, 6

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his son, who's a very good carpenter...Jared, 8

All angels are girls because they gotta wear dresses and boys didn't go for it...Antonio, 9

My angel is my grandma who died last year. She got a big head start on helping me while she was still down here on earth...Katelynn, 9

Some of the angels are in charge of helping heal sick animals and pets. And if they don't make the animals get better, they help the child get over it...Vicki, 8

What I don't get about angels is why, when someone is in love, they shoot arrows at them...Sarah, 7. †

10 Excuses Not to Attend Church

If you took the excuses people use for not going to church and applied them to other important areas of life, you'd realize how inconsistent we can be in our logic. For example:

10 Reasons Not to Wash

I was forced to as a child.

People who make soap are only after your money.

I wash on special occasions like Christmas and Easter.

People who wash are hypocrites—they think they are cleaner than everyone else.

There are so many different kinds of soap, I can't decide which one is best.

I used to wash. It got boring, though, so I stopped.

None of my friends wash.

The bathroom is never warm enough in the winter or cool enough in the summer.

I'll start washing when I get older and dirtier.

I can't spare the time. †

—*InHis.com humor archive; submitted by Mike Herman, Glen Ellyn, Illinois*

You Know You're From California If...

Submitted by Harrold Henson

So as not to be outdone by all the red-neck, hillbilly, and Texan jokes, somebody had to come up with this, you know you're from California if:

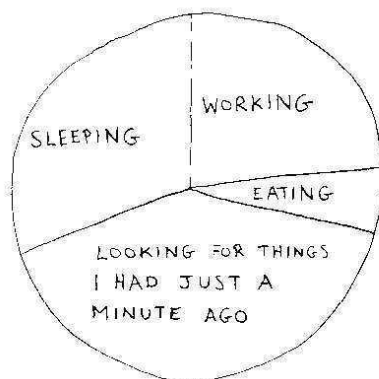
1. Your coworker has 8 body piercings and none are visible.
2. You make over \$300,000 and still can't afford a house.
3. You take a bus and are shocked at two people carrying on a conversation in English.
4. Your child's 3rd-grade teacher has purple hair, a nose ring, and is named Flower.
5. You can't remember . . . is pot illegal?
6. You've been to a baby shower that has two mothers and a sperm donor.
7. You have a very strong opinion about where your coffee beans are grown, and you can taste the difference between Sumatran and Ethiopian.
8. You can't remember . . . is pot illegal?
9. A really great parking space can totally move you to tears.
10. Gas costs \$1.00 per gallon more than anywhere else in the U.S.
11. Unlike back home, the guy at 8:30 am at Starbucks wearing a baseball cap and sunglasses who looks like George Clooney really IS George Clooney.
12. Your car insurance costs as much as your house payment.
13. You can't remember . . . is pot illegal?
14. It's barely sprinkling rain and there's a report on every news station: "STORM WATCH."
15. You pass an elementary school playground and the children are all busy with their cells or pagers.
16. It's barely sprinkling rain outside, so you leave for work an hour early to avoid all the weather-related accidents.
17. HEY!!!! Is pot illegal????
18. Both you AND your dog have therapists, psychics, personal trainers.
19. The Terminator is your governor.
20. If you drive illegally, they take your driver's license. If you're here illegally, they want to give you one.

Twenty-six Beautiful One-liners

Submitted by Harrold Henson

1. Give God what's right -- not what's left.
2. Man's way leads to a hopeless end -- God's way leads to an endless hope.
3. A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.
4. He who kneels before God can stand before anyone.
5. In the sentence of life, the devil may be a comma--but never let him be the period.
6. Don't put a question mark where God puts a period.
7. Are you wrinkled with burden? Come to the church for a face-lift.
8. When praying, don't give God instructions - just report for duty.
9. Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church.
10. We don't change God's message -- His message changes us.
11. The church is prayer-conditioned.
12. When God ordains, He sustains.
13. WARNING: Exposure to the Son may prevent burning.
14. Plan ahead -- It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
15. Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position.
16. Suffering from truth decay? Brush up on your Bible.
17. Exercise daily -- walk with the Lord.
18. Never give the devil a ride -- he will always want to drive.
19. Nothing else ruins the truth like stretching it.
20. Compassion is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back.
21. He who angers you controls you.
22. Worry is the darkroom in which negatives can develop.
23. Give Satan an inch & he'll be a ruler.
24. Be ye fishers of men -- you catch them & He'll clean them.
25. God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.
26. Read the Bible -- It will scare the hell out of you. †

MY LIFE BROKEN DOWN INTO SEGMENTS



DIRECTIONS HOME

Submitted by Christine Burkett

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

DIRECTIONS TO OUR FATHER'S HOUSE.

Make a Right onto Believeth Blvd.

Keep straight and go through the Green Light, which is Jesus Christ.

There, you must turn onto the Bridge of Faith, which is over troubled water.

When you get off the bridge, make a Right turn and Keep Straight.

You are on the King's Highway - Heaven-bound.

Keep going for three miles: One for the Father, One for the Son, and One for the Holy Ghost.

Then exit off onto Grace Blvd.

From there, make a Right turn on Gospel Lane.

Keep Straight and then make another Right on Prayer Road.

As you go on your way, Yield Not to the traffic on Temptation Ave.

Also, avoid SIN STREET because it is a DEAD END.

Pass up Envy Drive, and Hate Avenue.

Also, pass Hypocrisy Street, Gossiping Lane, and Backbiting Blvd.

However, you have to go down Long-suffering Lane, Persecution Blvd. And Trials and Tribulations Ave.

But that's all right, because VICTORY Street is straight ahead!

AMEN!

Life is God's gift to you.

The way you live it...is your gift to God. †

Voting Record-English as National Language

Submitted by Jane Pesaturo

The following senators voted against making English the official language of America :

Akaka (D-HI)

Bayh (D-IN)

Biden (D-DE)

Bingaman (D-NM)

Boxer (D-CA)

Cantwell (D-WA)

Clinton (D-NY)

Dayton (D-MN)

Dodd (D-CT)

Domenici (R-NM)

Durbin (D-IL)

Feingold (D-WI)

Feinstein (D-CA)

Harkin (D-IA)

Inouye (D-HI)

Jeffords (I-VT)

Kennedy (D-MA)

Kerry (D-MA)

Kohl (D-WI)

Lautenberg (D-NJ)

Leahy (D-VT)

Levin (D-MI)

Lieberman (D-CT)

Menendez (D-NJ)

Mikulski (D-MD)

Murray (D-WA)

Obama (D-IL)

Reed (D-RI)

Reid (D-NV)

Salazar (D-CO)

Sarbanes (D-MD)

Schumer (D-NY)

Stabenow (D-MI)

Wyden (D-OR)

Voting Record-Social Security for Illegal Aliens

Submitted by Jane Pesaturo

Now, the following are the senators who voted to give illegal aliens Social Security benefits. They are grouped by home state. If a state is not listed, there was no voting representative.

Alaska : Stevens (R)

Arizona : McCain (R)

Arkansas : Lincoln (D) Pryor (D)

California : Boxer (D) Feinstein (D)

Colorado : Salazar (D)

Connecticut : Dodd (D) Lieberman (D)

Delaware : Biden (D) Carper (D)

Florida : Martinez (R)

Hawaii : Akaka (D) Inouye (D)

Illinois : Durbin (D) Obama (D)

Indiana : Bayh (D) Lugar (R)

Iowa: Harkin (D)

Kansas: Brownback (R)

Louisiana: Landrieu (D)

Maryland: Mikulski (D) Sarbanes (D)

Massachusetts: Kennedy (D) Kerry (D)

Montana: Baucus (D)

Nebraska: Hagel (R)

Nevada: Reid (D)

New Jersey: Lautenberg (D) Menendez (D)

New Mexico: Bingaman (D)

New York: Clinton (D) Schumer (D)

North Dakota : Dorgan (D)

Ohio : DeWine (R) Voinovich(R)

Oregon : Wyden (D)

Pennsylvania : Specter (R)

Rhode Island : Chafee (R) Reed (D)

South Carolina : Graham (R)

South Dakota : Johnson (D)

Vermont : Jeffords (I) Leahy (D)

Washington : Cantwell (D) Murray (D)

West Virginia : Rockefeller (D), by Not Voting

Wisconsin : Feingold (D) Kohl (D)

Ways to Maintain A Healthy Level Of Insanity

Submitted by Lee Voss

1. At Lunch Time, Sit In Your Parked Car With Sunglasses on and point a Hair Dryer At Passing Cars. See If They Slow Down.
2. Page Yourself Over The Intercom. Don't Disguise Your Voice.
3. Every Time Someone Asks You To Do Something, Ask If They Want Fries with that.
4. Put Your Garbage Can On Your Desk And Label It, 'In.'
5. Put Decaf In The Coffee Maker For 3 Weeks. Once Everyone has Gotten Over Their Caffeine Addictions, Switch to Espresso.
6. In The Memo Field Of All Your Checks, Write ' For Smuggling Diamonds.'
7. Finish All Your sentences with 'In Accordance With The Prophecy.'
8. Don't use any punctuation
9. As Often As Possible, Skip, Rather Than Walk.

10. Order a Diet Water whenever you go out to eat, with a serious face.
11. Specify That Your Drive-through Order Is, 'To Go.'
12. Sing Along At The Opera.
13. Go To A Poetry Recital And Ask Why The Poems Don't Rhyme?
14. Put Mosquito Netting Around Your Work Area And Play tropical Sounds All Day.
15. Five Days In Advance, Tell Your Friends You Can't Attend Their Party Because You're Not In The Mood.
16. Have Your Co-workers Address You By Your Wrestling Name, Rock Bottom.
17. When The Money Comes Out The ATM, Scream 'I Won!, I Won!'
18. When Leaving The Zoo, Start Running Towards The Parking lot, Yelling, 'Run For Your Lives, They're Loose!!'
19. Tell Your Children Over Dinner. 'Due To The Economy, We Are Going To Have To Let One Of You Go.' †

Policeman testifies in court...

Submitted by Gerald Carver

If you ever testify in court, you might wish you could have been as sharp as this policeman.

He was being cross-examined by a defense attorney during a felony trial. The lawyer was trying to undermine the policeman's credibility...

Q: "Officer -- did you see my client fleeing the scene?"

A: "No sir. But I subsequently observed a person matching the description of the offender, running several blocks away."

Q: "Officer -- who provided this description?"

A: "The officer who responded to the scene."

Q: "A fellow officer provided the description of this so-called offender. Do you trust your fellow officers?"

A: "Yes, sir. With my life."

Q: "With your life? Let me ask you this then officer. Do you have a room where you change your clothes in preparation for your daily duties?"

A: "Yes sir, we do!"

Q: "And do you have a locker in the room?"

A: "Yes sir, I do."

Q: "And do you have a lock on your locker?"

A: "Yes sir."

Q: "Now why is it, officer, if you trust your fellow officers with your life, you find it necessary to lock your locker in a room you share with these same officers?"

A: "You see, sir -- we share the building with the court complex, and sometimes lawyers have been known to walk through that room."

The courtroom erupted in laughter, and a prompt recess was called.

The officer on the stand has been nominated for this year's "Best Comeback" line -- and we think he'll win. †

FRIENDSHIP AND FORGIVENESS

Submitted by Marni Monty

Two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey, they had an argument; and one friend slapped the other one in the face.

The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand: "Today my best friend slapped me in the face."

They kept on walking, until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath

The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire, and started drowning, but the friend saved him.

After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone: "today

my best friend saved my life".

The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, "after i hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, you write on a stone, why?"

The friend replied "when someone hurts us we should write it down In sand, where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it."

Learn to write your hurts in the sand and to carve your benefits in stone.

They say it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but then an entire life to forget them. †

Why God Made Moms cont.*(Continued from page 1)*

rything nice in the world and one dab of mean.

2. They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.

Why did God give you Your mother & not some other mom?

1. We're related.

2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's moms like me.

What kind of little girl was your mom?

1. My Mom has always been my Mom and none of that other stuff.

2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.

3. They say she used to be nice.

What did Mom need to know about dad before she married him?

1. His last name.

2. She had to know his background. Like is he a crook? Does he get drunk on beer?

3. Does he make at least \$800 a year? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores?

Why did your Mom marry your dad?

1. My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my Mom eats a lot.

2. She got too old to do anything else with him.

3. My grandma says that Mom didn't have her thinking cap on.

Who's the boss at your house?

1. Mom doesn't want to be boss, but she has to because dad's such a goof ball.

2. Mom. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.

3. I guess Mom is, but only because she has a lot more to do than dad.

What's the difference between Moms & dads?

1. Moms work at work and work at home & dads just go to work at work.

2. Moms know how to talk to teachers without scaring them.

3. Dads are taller & stronger, but Moms have all the real power 'cause that's who you got to ask if you want to sleep over at your friend's.

4. Moms have magic, they make you feel better without medicine.

What does your Mom do in her spare time?

1. Mothers don't do spare time.

2. To hear her tell it, she pays bills all day long.

What would it take to make your Mom perfect.

1. On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.

2. Diet. You know, her hair. I'd diet, maybe blue.

If you could change one thing about your Mom, what would it be?

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.

2. I'd make my Mom smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it and not me.

3. I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head. †

bined them. And Woman went from size 6 to size 14.

So God said, "Try my fresh green salad." And Satan presented Thousand-Island Dressing, buttery croutons and garlic toast on the side. And Man and Woman unfastened their belts following the repast. God then said, "I have sent you heart healthy vegetables and olive oil in which to cook them." And Satan brought forth deep fried fish and chicken-fried steak so big it needed its own platter. And Man gained more weight and his cholesterol went through the roof.

God then created a light, fluffy white cake, named it "Angel Food Cake," and said, "It is good." Satan then created chocolate cake and named it "Devil's Food."

God then brought forth running shoes so that His children might lose those extra pounds. And Satan gave cable TV with a remote control so Man would not have to toil changing the channels. And Man and Woman laughed and cried before the flickering blue light and gained 50 pounds.

Then God brought forth the potato, naturally low in fat and brimming with nutrition. And Satan peeled off the healthful skin and sliced the starchy center into chips and deep-fried them. And Man gained 10 more pounds.

God then gave lean beef so that Man might consume fewer calories and still satisfy his appetite. And Satan created McDonald's and its 99-cent double cheeseburger. Then said, "You want fries with that?" And Man replied, "Yes! And super size them!" And Satan said, "It is good." And Man went into cardiac arrest.

God sighed and created quadruple bypass surgery. Then Satan created HMOs. †

Let There Be Fat

Submitted by Gerald Carver

In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth and populated the earth with broccoli, cauliflower and spinach, green and yellow and red vegetables of all kinds, so Man and Woman would live long and healthy lives.

Then, using God's great gifts, Satan created Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream and Krispy Creme Donuts. And Satan said,

"You want chocolate with that?" And Man said, "Yes!" and Woman said, "and as long as you're at it, add some sprinkles." And they gained 20 pounds. And Satan smiled.

And God created the healthful yogurt that Woman might keep the figure that Man found so fair. And Satan brought forth white flour from the wheat, and sugar from the cane and com-

Cont. next column

**Kum Doubles Sunday
School Class**

First United Methodist Church

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Vice President	Doug Pierson
Secretary	Shirley Reynolds
Treasurer	Harold Henson

Committees

Party	Pat Love, Shirley Carver, Mary Holcomb
Sunshine	Sylvia Mayhew, Jamie Pierson, Jan Dame
Nominating	Christine Burkett George Adamson Judy Dayton

Missions Coordinators Anna Wilkins, Ed Dame

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1st Sunday	Jim Street
2nd Sunday	Jan Dame
3rd Sunday (Alternating)	Gayle Baggett, Pat Clough
4th Sunday	Danny Parsons, Doug Pierson, Harold Henson
5th Sunday	Guest Speaker

Kum Doubles members serving elsewhere during

Sunday School:

JoCarol Adamson	Music Director
Dottie Creech	SS Secretary
Paul Creech	Sonrise Village
Allan Knott	Covenant Class Teacher
Pam Knott	Covenant Class Teacher
Mary Lou Niethamer	Ass't SS Secretary

MISSION STATEMENT

to be developed

VISIT US

Come as you are for coffee, fellowship and good Bible based instruction. We meet each Sunday morning [9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.] in room 315 [3rd floor at top of stairway near elevator].

CONTACT US

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SEND US NEWSLETTER MATERIAL

We're always seeking stories and news for the newsletter. Please submit information on anything you think the class would enjoy. We'd love to hear you brag about your children or grandchildren. Forward me the emails that you get—inspiration, politics, jokes, one-liners, etc. What about photos that you think the class would enjoy? What about a letter to the editor expressing your opinion?

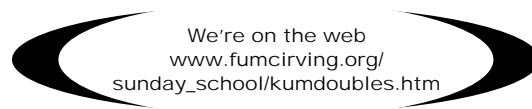
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www.fumcirving.org/sunday_school/kumdoubles.htm

THE NEWSLETTER PRAYER REQUEST PAGE is only published in the classroom edition of the newsletter. If you receive the KUM DOUBLES MESSENGER over the internet, and you would like to receive the prayer request pages, please contact Jim Dayton or a member of the class to make arrangements for receiving those pages.

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