

Free

May 2016

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Nikki Lore Photography



*Her children arise and call her blessed...*

*Proverbs 31:28a*

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To enter your mother into our drawing, send her name  
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FL 32462 or email to [streettalkamerica@live.com](mailto:streettalkamerica@live.com).  
One BLESSED mother will be drawn at random  
on 5/20/2016. What are you waiting for?

**Congrats to Elizabeth Kent,**  
**winner of last month's**  
**Hidden Umbrella Contest.**

My wife told me that I did not love  
any of her relatives... I told her that  
was not true. I said, "I love your  
mother-in-law and father-in-law  
much more than I love mine."

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## Deer Hunting

A builder, pastor and professional golfer went deer hunting together. They were all novices, but wanted to try it. They had been out all day and towards dusk they all spotted a 5 point buck at the same time. They each took aim and 3 shots were fired at the moving target. The buck went down, so they rushed over to make sure it was dead. It was, so they started to discuss who had actually hit it. As they were discussing it, a game warden happened along and asked what the problem was. They told him, and he said for them to stand back and he would try to figure it out based on the bullet hole and the rifles that were being used. After only a couple minutes, he came to them and said that the pastor was the one who hit the deer. The three wondered how he could figure it out so fast. The warden said the bullet went in one ear and came out the other.



*Thank you to Shawn, Misty, Christa, Jacob and Peyton Lee for letting us use their beautiful family photo for the cover of this month's Street Talk America. Thanks also to photographer, Nikki Elmore.*



## Dog Heaven

The family dog had been deaf and blind for years. When she started to suffer painful tumors, it was time to put her down. After explaining this to seven-year-old Tommy, he asked if Suzie, would go to Heaven. The mom said she thought Suzie would, and that in dog heaven, she would be healthy again and able to do her favorite thing: chase squirrels. Tommy thought about that for a minute, then said, "So dog heaven must be the same as squirrel hell."

## Street Talk America®

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On Christ, the solid Rock we stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

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*The grass withereth, the flower fadeth,  
but the word of our God shall stand forever!*  
Isaiah 40:8



Here's Yer Sign!

## Who's Your Neighbor

By: Tim Patton  
Pastor, Shiloh Baptist Church

We all know the story of the Good Samaritan. A man is robbed, beaten, and left for dead. A priest and a Levite passed him by and refused to help him. A Samaritan, a man who was looked down upon culturally and racially, a man who the audience would have thought of as a villain, not a hero, stopped to help him. He not only cared for the man, but he went through inconvenience, difficulty, and financial expense to help this man who, if the tables were turned, probably would not have even made an attempt to care for him. So, today, Samaritan is no longer an insulting term but instead is a term of great compliment that speaks highly of a person's character.

We love Good Samaritan stories. We love when, out of the blue, the everyday man steps up and with a little extra effort, concern, or care makes a difference in other's lives. I've seen a couple of stories just like that this week (admittedly on Facebook). One was the story of a woman whose husband collapsed and died. She called 911 and the fire department was the first to arrive. Realizing that the man was dead they contacted the Sheriff's Department and the coroner. While awaiting the coroner's arrival, the fire commander on the scene noticed that the front door lock was not functional and sent another fireman with his Home Depot card to buy a new lock. He installed it that evening. Two other stories, one in Texas and one in Florida, tell about a fire department responding to a call about a man cutting grass and having a heart attack. After getting the man to the hospital, the fire fighters returned to his home and finished up his yard.

What is my point with these "feel good" stories that we find scattered throughout the social site universe?



# Shiloh

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6:00 Mid-Week Worship\*  
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\*Nursery provided for new born to PK4

\*\*Nursery & Children's Church (up to 3rd grade)

A little love goes a long way. In each situation, a need was noticed, and with a little thoughtfulness and kindness, a person received an act of love. When Jesus asked the lawyer which one of the men in the story proved to be a neighbor, the lawyer responded that it was the one who had helped him. In essence, Jesus told the lawyer that the question is never, who's your neighbor. The question is always what kind of neighbor are you? As believers, are we willing this week to find a way to share a little love in the name of Christ. Help a neighbor with a chore, be kind to a visitor at church, or take someone out for a meal. Show the love of Christ to someone you meet and be the neighbor God has called us to be!

*Bea Tamm*

### Delivering the Baby

A young girl was very much interested in the progress of her mother's pregnancy. Finally the day of birth drew near and the girl overheard arrangements being made for her mother to go to the hospital. She looked at her mother with great puzzlement and said, "Mom, I don't understand. If they're going to deliver the baby, why do you have to go to the hospital?"

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A patient says to his psychiatrist,  
"Doc, I think I'm a tepee, no I think  
I'm a wigwam, no I think I'm a tepee,  
no I think I'm a wigwam, no I think  
I'm a tepee, no I think I'm a wigwam!"  
The psychiatrist looks at him and says,  
"You're too tents!"



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## Jane Sugarbrown

A certain little girl, when asked her name, would reply, "I'm Mr. Sugarbrown's daughter." Her mother told her this was wrong, she must just say, "I'm JANE Sugarbrown." The next Sunday, the pastor spoke to her in Sunday School, asking, "Aren't you Mr. Sugarbrown's daughter?" She replied, "I thought I was, but mother says I'm not."

## Needing a Raise

The basketball coach stormed into the university president's office and demanded a raise right then and there. "Please," protested the college president, "you already make more than the entire History Department." "Yeah, maybe so, but you don't know what I have to put up with," the coach blustered. "Look." He went out into the hall and grabbed a jock who was jogging down the hallway. "Run over to my office and see if I'm there," he ordered. Twenty minutes later the jock returned, sweaty and out of breath. "You're not there, sir," he reported. "Oh, I see what you mean," conceded the president, scratching his head. "I would have phoned."

## Mother-in-Law

A newlywed farmer and his wife were visited by her mother, who immediately demanded an inspection of the place. While they were walking through the barn, the farmer's mule suddenly reared up and kicked the mother-in-law in the head, killing her instantly. At the funeral service a few days later, the farmer stood near the casket and greeted folks as they walked by. The pastor noticed that whenever a woman would whisper something to the farmer, he would nod his head "Yes" and say something. Whenever a man walked by and whispered to the farmer, he would shake his head, "No" and mumble a reply. Curious, the pastor later asked the farmer what that was all about. The farmer replied, "The women would say, 'What a terrible tragedy' and I would nod my head and say, 'Yes, it was.' The men would ask, 'You wanna sell that mule?' and I would shake my head and say, 'Can't. It's all booked up for a year.'"

## Rope in a Bar

A piece of rope walks into a bar, sits down and asks for a drink. The bartender says, "We don't serve your kind here." So the rope walks out, roughs himself up a little and ties himself, then goes back in. The bartender says, "Hey, aren't you the rope I just kicked out of here?" He replies, "No, I'm a frayed knot."

## Bonifay Seafood Market

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### B.S.M. Shrimp & Crawfish Casserole

1 lb shrimp	1 cup mayo
1 lb crawfish	1 egg beaten
¾ lb crabmeat	2 tsp Worcestershire
½ cup chopped onion	2 tsp butter
½ cup chopped pepper	½ tsp salt
1 cup tomato juice	breadcrumbs
3 oz. Mushrooms	2 cups cooked rice
½ cup milk	

Blend in large bowl; onion, pepper, celery & tomato juice. Beat egg in milk and add to above mixture. Then add mushrooms and seasoning along with rice, peeled shrimp, crabmeat, peeled crawfish and mayo. Pour into 2 quart casserole dish. Cover and bake in preheated 325° oven for about 30 minutes. When done sprinkle with breadcrumbs.

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## Gunpowder

By: Dr. Charlie Hinson

He was just a kid. But when his dad suggested he do something, he did it without question. It was the beginning of the 1900s. “Jamie,” said dad, “I need you to walk into town and bring me some gunpowder from the hardware store.” It was only three miles, nothing for Jamie. He huffed into the hardware store and told the clerk his pa had sent him for some gunpowder. *Was it really gunpowder the clerk gave him?*

The clerk went to the shelves, opened a wooden box, took some kind of stuff out, put it in a package, gave it to him and Jamie trotted back to his pa and handed it to him. That was the *Historical Evidence* that it was gunpowder. Jamie’s dad opened the package...it looked like gunpowder and it smelled like gunpowder. That was the *Internal Evidence* that it was gunpowder. He poured a little bit out on the table, lit a match and tossed it on it, then picked himself up off the floor. That was the *Experimental Evidence* that it was gunpowder. Whoa!Change Gears!

You can read God’s Word front to back and see how God has worked in men’s lives in years gone by. That

is the *Historical Evidence* that the Word may be true. You can go to church and see its Truth and Power demonstrated in the lives of those around you. That’s the *Internal Evidence* that the Word may be true. You can humbly bow before God, turn your life over to Him and invite His Word to prove itself in your own life. That’s the *Experimental Evidence* that you have found the TRUTH. That’s when you have Gunpowder Religion.

## Family Religion

The kindergarten teacher asked the students in her class to bring something related to their families’ religions to class the next day. She asked for volunteers to show what they had brought to the rest of the class. One boy came forward and said, “I am Muslim, and this is my prayer rug.” Another child came forward and said, “I am Jewish, and this is my Star of David.” Another came forward and said, “I am Catholic, and this is my Rosary.” The last little boy came forward and said, “I am Southern Baptist, and this is my Covered Dish.”

## Wrong Number

At a funeral parlor families are given the chance to choose the music CD they would like to enter the service to. One family asked to enter to Elvis Presley’s hit, “Love me Tender.” The day of the funeral arrived and the music was started ready for the family to walk in to the service. Unfortunately the wrong track number was entered into the CD player, and the family found themselves walking in to, “Return to Sender”.



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## Weighing the Baby

A blonde calls a pharmacy and asks if she needs an infant scale to weigh a baby. The clerk explains that many women figure out an infant's weight by weighing themselves while holding the baby on an adult scale, then the mother weighs herself alone and subtracts the second amount from the first. "Oh, that won't work," replies the blonde. "I'm not the mother -- I'm the aunt."

## New Toy

The father of five children had won a toy at a raffle. He called his kids together to ask which one should have the present. "Who is the most obedient?" he asked. "Who never talks back to mother? "Who does everything she says?" Five small voices answered in unison. "Okay, dad, you get the toy."

## Friendly

After the birth of their child, an Episcopal priest, wearing his clerical collar, visited his wife in the hospital. He greeted her with a hug and a kiss, and gave her another hug and kiss when he left. Later, the wife's nurse commented, "Your pastor is sure friendlier than mine."

# Luke Taylor



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# Aunt Judy's Kitchen

Southern Recipes from  
"The Old House"  
By: Judy Jenkins

By His hands we are fed,  
thank you Lord for daily bread.

## Pizza Casserole

1 lb ground Italian Sausage  
2 cloves garlic – minced  
1 tbs olive oil  
26 oz jar Marinara  
1 tsp salt  
½ medium onion – chopped  
½ medium red pepper – chopped  
½ medium green pepper – chopped  
8 oz mushrooms – chopped  
1 cup sliced black olives  
1 cup pepperoni slices – chopped  
16 oz Rigatoni pasta  
3 tbs butter  
3 tbs plain flour  
2 cups half and half  
16 oz mozzarella cheese – shredded  
Brown sausage and drain reserving drippings. Pour marinara over meat. In drippings; brown onion, and peppers until tender. Stir in olives and ½ of the pepperoni's. Cook pasta as directed. Melt butter, whisk in flour, cook one minute. Gradually whisk in half and half. Cook over medium heat whisking 7-10 minutes. Stir in half of the mozzarella cheese. Mix sauces and pasta together and pour into baking dish. Top with remaining mozzarella cheese and pepperoni. Bake 30 minutes in 350° oven.

## Jamaican Banana Bread

2 cups flour  
1 tsp baking soda  
½ tsp salt  
1 cup sugar  
¼ cup butter – softened  
2 large eggs  
1 ½ cup smashed banana – about 3 bananas  
¼ cup plain yogurt or pineapple  
3 tbs apple cider  
½ tsp vanilla flavoring  
½ cup flake coconut  
**Topping**  
1 tbs coconut  
½ cup powdered sugar  
1 ½ tbs fresh lemon juice  
Mix together and bake one hour in 325° oven.  
Mix topping and pour over top.

## Homemade Tarter Sauce

### Option 1

1 cup mayonnaise  
1 tbs sweet pickle relish  
1 tbs minced onion  
2 tbs fresh lemon juice  
Salt & Pepper to taste.

### Option 2

1 cup mayonnaise  
¼ cup minced dill pickle  
¼ cup minced onion  
2 tbs dill pickle juice  
Salt & Pepper to taste



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Green Peas	\$16	Broccoli	\$16
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Cream Yellow Corn 4#	\$10	Soup Blend	\$16
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		Sweet Potato Chunks	\$16

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### Shopping with Men

A young man was sitting next to me in one of the two chairs provided for men outside the ladies fitting room in our local department store. After 30 minutes and 6 changes of outfits, the fellow's wife came out of the changing room one more time. He looked at her and immediately said, "That looks great on you! Get that one." "Honey," she replied, "this is what I was wearing when we came in."

How did the farmer meet his wife?  
He tractor down!

### Playing in the Puddles

After a hard rainstorm filled all the potholes in the streets and alleys, a young mother watched her two little boys playing in the puddles through her kitchen window. The older of the two, a five-year-old lad, grabbed his sibling by the back of his head and shoved his face into one of the water holes. As the boy recovered and stood laughing and dripping, the mother was running toward them in a panic. "Why on Earth did you do that to your little brother?" she said, as she shook the older boy's shoulders in anger, combined with relief. "We were just playing church mommy," he said. "And I was just baptizing him. You know, 'In the name of the Father, the Son and in the hole he goes.'"

### Far Better Educated

A very intelligent boy was fortunate enough to be receiving a far better education than his parents had enjoyed, and his vocabulary far outstripped theirs. One day he came home from school and said, "Mommy, may I relate to you a narrative?" "What's a narrative, Gerald?" she asked. "A narrative, Mommy, is a tale." "Oh, I see," said his mother nodding, and Gerald told her his story. At bedtime as he was about to go up-



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stairs he said, "Shall I extinguish the light Mommy?" "What's extinguish?" she asked. "Extinguish means to put out, Mommy," said brainy Gerald "Oh, I see. Yes, certainly." The next day the clergyman came to tea and the family dog began to make a nuisance of himself, as a dog will, by begging for goodies from the table. "Gerald," said his mother, trying to impress, "take that dog by the narrative and extinguish him!"

### School Play

A boy came home from school and told his mother he had been given a part in the school play. "Wonderful," says the mother, "What part is it?" The boy says, "I play the part of the husband!" The mother scowls and says, "Go back and tell your teacher you want a speaking part."

### States

The old pastor made it a practice to visit the parish school one day a week. He walked into the 4th grade class, where the children were studying the states, and asked them how many states they could name. They came up with about 40 names. He jokingly told them that in his day students knew the names of all the states. One lad raised his hand and said, "Yes, but in those days there were only 13."

### Bad Advice

The girl came running in tears to her father. "Dad, you gave me some terrible financial advice!" she cried. "I did? What did I tell you?" said the dad. "You told me to put my money in that big bank, and now that big bank is in trouble." "What are you talking about? That's one of the largest banks in the world," he said. "Surely there must be some mistake." "I don't think so," she sniffed. "They just returned one of my checks with a note saying, 'Insufficient Funds'."

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## Precious Memories

*I watched by her bedside as she drew her parting breaths and recalled a different lady and a different time....*

Early fall, before the leaves had turned and started falling, the shapely, dark-haired lady, followed by me, her 6 year-old son, went into the woods. Stepping quietly, not to break a twig, her sharp eyes searched the tall oaks for squirrels. She looked back at me, pointing to her eyes, and then to the tree where a gray squirrel was gnawing on an acorn. Slowly, she raised the 22 rifle, aimed and the squirrel fell from the limb and hit the ground. I anxiously wanted to break and run for the dead squirrel, but Mom motioned for me to stand still. Again she pointed to a tree and another squirrel met his fate. After a short period, she motioned to me to pick up the squirrels. We returned home from the hunt just before dark with a total of six. I watched as mom skinned and gutted the squirrels. After frying them, we said prayer and sat down at the table with baked sweet potatoes, cathead biscuits and gravy. Just a simple meal, but one fit for a king.



With little money, most of our meals came from the land. Mom taught me how to fish, hunt, track and make do with whatever we had. One time the milk cow didn't come to the barn with the rest of the herd. We set out to find her and after searching for an hour, we came up on the cow laying on her side, grunting. Mom asked me if I knew what was wrong, I thought the cow was dying. She said, "Look close, the cow is trying to give birth to a calf. Do you know what is wrong?" I said "No," shaking my head. She looked like she was about to die. Mom smiled and said, "Pay attention because the next time you might be alone." Mom knelt down behind the cow, rolled up her sleeves, and reached up inside the downed cow. Mom said that the calf was turned wrong and couldn't come out. Carefully she turned the calf's head and it popped out. The cow stood up, started licking the calf and after the calf was clean, it stood up on shaky legs and began nursing.

I remember when something was breaking into the hen house and was killing chickens. After examining a dead, half eaten hen, Mom said we had a possum to kill. That night, we sat near the chicken house, I had the light and Mom had the 22 rifle guarding the sleeping hens. Mom whispered to turn on the light and there it was, looking for another hen to eat, but she put it's lights out for good. Sweet potatoes and possum made another simple meal for simple people living off the land.

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I have an older sister, Brenda. Throughout the years, when Brenda wasn't living with Mom, Mom lived with Brenda. At one time, they both had houseboats tied up, end-to-end on the river. Mom was real young when she had Brenda, and Brenda was young when she had her daughter, Sheila. Sheila was also young when she had her daughter, Callie. Brenda, Sheila and Callie all treated mom like royalty and let me know that Mom was their Mom.

For the past seventy-one years of my life, I was blessed to have my Mom and hear the sound of her voice. On Easter Sunday, she went Home to be with the Lord. She spent some time with me at my home before her passing, where my wife, Lilla, treated her like a queen. Standing there, watching her slowly slip away at the age of ninety-one, I had to smile. Many times we had discussed this day and time and what my job would be. Mom spent most of that week in bed, too weak to go outside, but her mind was swift as ever. We talked about her childhood and where she learned to fish and hunt and where the old homestead stood. This was the last week in her life where she was able to sit and talk.

Mom always showed compassion to others, whether it was by providing meals, transportation or just friendship. She taught me to be kind to others and treat people the way I wanted to be treated. She taught me not to fight, but if I had to, fight to win. What Mom would want others to remember most about her is that she was a *fisher of men*. She obeyed the Great Commission by God to tell others about His love and how to be saved. At our family gatherings, Mom would jump at the opportunity to witness for her



Lord and always explain the plan of salvation before she prayed over the food. She had a passion to pray regularly for loved ones and the lost. I'm sure that my Mom's relentless prayers were answered as I drifted away from God as a teenager and young man. I rededicated my life to Jesus after I married Lilla.

If we've been born again, we are soldiers in God's Army. Mom fought a good fight and I'm sure on Easter morning she heard God say,

***“Welcome in thy good and faithful servant.”***

As Mother's Day draws near, Mom would want all mother's young and old to remember...

*Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.*

Proverbs 31:30,

***Thanks Mom for giving me a priceless treasure; a Godly Mother.***

On behalf of our family, we would like to say thank you to Covenant Hospice for their tender care.

Thank you to Live Oak Baptist Church for the special memorial to Mother.

Later,  
**GATOR**



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## Thunderstorm

One summer evening during a violent thunderstorm a mother was tucking her son into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he asked with a tremor in his voice, "Mommy, will you sleep with me tonight?" The mother smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't dear," she said. "I have to sleep in Daddy's room." A long silence was broken at last by his shaky little voice: "The big sissy."

## 4 Letter Words

A young couple got married and went on their honeymoon. When they got back, the bride immediately called her mother. "Well," said her mother, "how was the honeymoon?" "Oh, mama," she replied, "the honeymoon was wonderful! So romantic..." Suddenly she burst out crying. "But, mama, as soon as we returned Sam started using the most horrible language - things I'd never heard before! I mean, all these awful 4-letter words! You've got to take me home... PLEASE MAMA!" "Sarah, Sarah," her mother said, "calm down! You need to stay with your husband and work this out. Now, tell me, what could be so awful? WHAT 4-letter words?" "Please don't make me tell

you, mama," wept the daughter, "I'm so embarrassed, they're just too awful! COME GET ME, PLEASE!!" "Darling, baby, you must tell me what has you so upset. Tell your mother these horrible 4-letter words!" Still sobbing, the bride said, "Oh, Mama ... he used words like: dust, wash, iron, cook..." "I'll pick you up in twenty minutes," said the mother.

## The Final Exam

A blonde walked into her final exam very nervous. But when she received the test, she was relieved to find out that it was a true or false exam. Immediately, she reached into her purse and pulled out a coin. Each time she flipped the coin she would write down an answer. "What are you doing?" the professor asked her. "I'm figuring out the answers," the blonde replied. To this, the professor just rolled his eyes and looked away. When she was done, the professor announced that there were five minutes left to go. "Oh my goodness!" she said in an excited voice, and started to flip the coin as fast as possible.

*I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose-fitting clothing. If I HAD any loose-fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up in the first place!*



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## Math Homework

A little boy was doing his math homework. He said to himself, "Two plus five, that son of a \_\_\_\_\_ is seven. Three plus six, that son of a \_\_\_\_\_ is nine...." His mother heard what he was saying and gasped, "What are you doing?" The little boy answered, "I'm doing my math homework, Mom." "And this is how your teacher taught you to do it?" the mother asked. "Yes," he answered. Infuriated, the mother asked the teacher the next day, "What are you teaching my son in math?" The teacher replied, "Right now, we are learning addition." The mother asked, "And are you teaching them to say two plus two, that son of a \_\_\_\_\_ is four?" After the teacher stopped laughing, she answered, "What I taught them was, two plus two, THE SUM OF WHICH, is four."

## Anti-Drug Message

A little girl in First Grade suddenly announced just before school that she needed to take a clean tee shirt to class. She told her parents the teacher was going to iron an anti-drug message on it. Her mother frantically swept through her daughter's room, finding nothing usable but one tee shirt that already had something

printed on one side. She sent it off to school with her anyway. That afternoon, the girl returned and happily showed off her shirt. On one side it said, "Families are Forever." And on the other... "Be Smart, Don't Start."

## Cry or Laugh

Little Johnny comes downstairs crying. His mother asked, "What's the matter now?" "Dad was hanging pictures, and just hit his thumb with a hammer," said little Johnny through his tears. "That's not so serious," soothed his mother. "I know you are upset, but a big boy like you shouldn't cry at something like that. Why didn't you just laugh?" "I did!" sobbed Johnny.

## Picnic

The service area was located on a main highway leading to the beach. The pump attendant was accustomed to seeing tired and sunburned occupants in the cars that pulled in to tank up. When a rusty old van containing a very tired looking couple and six screaming children pulled into his station, the attendant tried small talk to cheer the occupants. "Hope you had a good day at the beach! Nice looking kids there. Are they all yours, or is this a picnic?" Warily, the driver replied, "Yes, they are all mine, and it's NO picnic!"

## Mother of Six

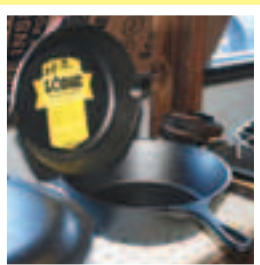
A man has six children and is very proud of his achievement. He is so proud of himself, that he starts calling his wife, "Mother of Six" in spite of her objections. One night, they go to a party. The man decides that it's time to go home and wants to find out if his wife is ready to leave as well. He shouts at the top of his voice, "Shall we go home, Mother of six?" His wife, irritated by her husband's lack of discretion shouts right back, "Anytime you're ready, Father of Four!"

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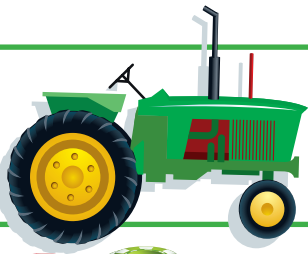
**Eastside Baptist Church**  
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Can you find the  
 5 differences?

## What Does Not Fit?





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By: BN Heard



## When to Bet

He was 25 years-old and on a ship, a destroyer to be specific.

*The Sullivans* was a “Fletcher-class” destroyer that saw action during World War II and the Korean War. I know these things, not only because I read them, but because my Daddy told me. “I fired the gun, the one on the front.” I suppose he did, I had no reason to question my Daddy – he was a bit rough around the edges, but he was honest and you wanted him on your side when there were situations which called for tough sailors.

On Christmas Day in 1952, *The Sullivans* scored direct hits on an important railroad bridge in North Korea. Enemy guns failed to hit the destroyer, yet “showered the warship’s decks with shell fragments.” Daddy had told me once, “Yes, they shot at us.” I suppose they did.

Early in 1953, *The Sullivans* was ordered home and reached Newport, Rhode Island in April, where she operated out of her home port well into the summer of that year. The letter was dated July 28, 1953 and it was addressed to my Mama, or “Dearest Alice,” as he began his letter. The armistice formally ending the war in Korea was signed the day before on July 27th.

Finding the letter in a stash of my Mama’s things, I was anxious to see what my Daddy had to say about the war ending, the mood of his fellow sailors and life in general through the eyes of a fellow in his early 20’s in the 1950’s.



USS The Sullivans

In the first page of the letter which was in the handwriting I knew so well, he said nothing of the war ending, coming home or anything of the sort. That was the way he was, and the way many in the military were and continue to be. It was his job and he was proud of it, but he would rather be writing love letters I think or what he thought was love letters.

He spent the whole first page telling his girlfriend, my Mama, “how proud he was that she hadn’t forgotten how to fuss, especially when it comes to me.” She never forgot, she did a pretty good job for many years to come. They wouldn’t be married until a few years later, and she continued not to forget how to fuss, especially at him. However, it kept him in line at times and at times it didn’t.

On page 2, Daddy does note, “I guess you heard the news, the war is supposed to be over.” Evidently his fellow sailors tied one on and had a big party – can you blame them? He went on to say “Nearly everybody got drunk.” He underlined the word nearly, insinuating that he wasn’t one of them. Daddy’s been gone 15 years, I was around him for close to 40, I hope he got to live it up a little with his sailor buddies when they got the good news. If I had to bet and

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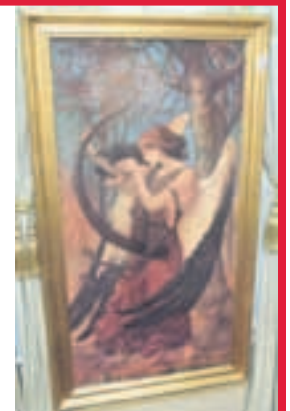


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Daddy told me never to bet on anything other than a sure thing, I'd bet he was including himself with the "everybody," rather than the "nearly."

And that's fine by me...

It seems we are living in a time when some people forget those who serve our country so bravely. There are even folks that make those who protect us out to be the bad guys. I don't understand it. Daddy used to say, "It's got to get done and somebody's got to do it," about everything from cutting the grass to putting out a daily newspaper in Anniston, Alabama.

What would happen if there were no service men and women to protect us and others around the world? Would evil just go away? That would be nice, but it is something I would never ever bet on.

So to my family members and yours, who served and continue to serve to protect us all, *thank you*. Not only for me, but for my children and grandchildren to come.

Daddy's last line to "Dearest Alice"? "Remember I still love you." That's one thing, I will bet on forever, even though he's gone.

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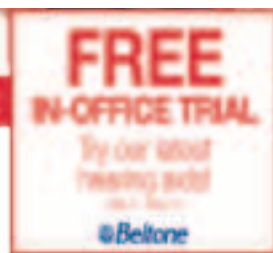
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## Leroy's Letter to God

Little Leroy came into the kitchen where his mother was making dinner. His birthday was coming up and he thought this was a good time to tell his mother what he wanted. "Mom, I want a bike for my birthday." Little Leroy was a bit of a troublemaker. He had gotten into trouble at school and at home. Leroy's mother asked him if he thought he deserved to get a bike for his birthday. Little Leroy, of course, thought he did. Leroy's mother, being a Christian woman, wanted him to reflect on his behavior over the last year and write a letter to God and tell him why he deserved a bike for his birthday. Little Leroy stomped up the steps to his room and sat down to write God a letter. LETTER 1: Dear God, I have been a very good boy this year and I would like a bike for my birthday. I want a red one. Your friend, Leroy. Leroy knew this wasn't true. He had not been a very good boy this year, so he tore up the letter and started over. LETTER 2: Dear God, This is your friend Leroy. I have been a pretty good boy this year, and I would like a red bike for my birthday. Thank you, Leroy. Leroy knew this wasn't true either. He tore up the letter and started again. LETTER 3: Dear God, I have been an OK boy this year and I

would really like a red bike for my birthday. Thank you, Leroy. Leroy knew he could not send this letter to God either, so he wrote another letter. LETTER 4: Dear God, I know I haven't been a good boy this year. I am very sorry. I will be a good boy if you just send me a red bike for my birthday. Thank you, Leroy. Leroy knew, even if it was true, this letter was not going to get him a bike. By now, Leroy was very upset. He went downstairs and told his mother he wanted to go to church. Leroy's mother thought her plan had worked because Leroy looked very sad. "Just be home in time for dinner," his mother said. Leroy walked down the street to the church and up to the altar. He looked around to see if anyone was there. He picked up a statue of the Virgin Mary. He slipped it under his shirt and ran out of the church, down the street, into his house and up to his room. He shut the door to his room and sat down with a piece of paper and a pen. Leroy began to write his letter to God. LETTER 5: I GOT YOUR MAMA. IF YOU WANT TO SEE HER AGAIN, SEND THE BIKE. Signed, YOU KNOW WHO.

## The Trade

A biker arrived at his brother's house to get ready for the big run that weekend. His thoughts were on the run as he walked up to the porch. He couldn't help but notice the huge dog sitting next to the door. When his brother answered the door he asked, "Is that your dog?" "Yea, I got him for the ol' lady", was the response. "No kidding. I always kept my mouth shut about your ol' lady, but I gotta say, nice trade."

*We would like to wish  
all mothers a...*



*Happy Mother's  
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## Dear Sherri,

*I have been unloved and unwanted all of my life. A mistake of two people too drunk to think things through. I have always felt like I caused all of my parents' problems. I am tired of being alone. I am ready to start a family of my own. To have my own children. Kids who will belong to me and who will always love me. I have learned how to be a great parent just by deciding to do the opposite of what was done to me. My friends think I am crazy and should wait until I am older. Until I have a good job, until I am married. How can I get them to support my decision?*

### Mommy in the Making

Dear Mommy in the Making,

I am sorry to hear that you had such a rough start in life. The words and attitudes of our parents tend to define us more than any other voices that we have heard. Please know this- *you are not a mistake!* Maybe your parents did not plan you. Maybe you were not born under ideal circumstances, but be assured that you were no surprise to God! He loves you and He knitted you together in your mother's womb with love and purpose! I encourage you to find a counselor who can help you sort through all the negative messages that you have heard; someone who will help you to re-define yourself in a positive, self-accepting way.

You did not cause your parents' problems, nor can you solve them. But as you reach adulthood (I assume

you are an adult...?) you become the driver in finding your own destiny. You are in charge of finding your own purpose and happiness. We all make mistakes, but to get your life started on the right path, you need time, wisdom and counsel to undo the damage that was done to you!

Children cannot be responsible for parental happiness or unhappiness. That decision lies squarely with the adults. Children are given to us by God to be cared for, instructed, provided for, and loved. Ask any mother or father and you will find, that parenting is a thankless task in many ways! Children are born with a selfish, "give me" attitude. The early years of their life consist of demands on parents to meet both their needs and wants. But a good parent recognizes that this is normal and gladly meets the needs of their children, while instructing them toward respectful, considerate attitudes and behaviors.

In adolescence and early adulthood, children begin the process of separating from parents and making their own way in life. All of this is natural and healthy if handled with mutual respect (and wisdom). *So what is the point of this parenting tutorial?* I am trying to help you see that having children will not meet your need to be loved. Having children (although a tremendous blessing!) is a very self sacrificing relationship.

If you are looking for love, I hope you can first accept the love that God has for you. That would be the real beginning to the turnaround you crave in your life. After that, your needs would be better met in learning to love yourself and becoming whole so that when the time is right to meet a young man, fall in love and marry, you will bring a whole "half" to the relationship. When we come into a relationship broken and looking to be fixed, we are often disappointed and perpetuate dysfunction onto the next generation. Give yourself a gift- *time*. Time to discover who you are with all of your positive attributes, gifts and abilities. When you reach that place, your friends will probably

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be able to rejoice with you, rather than argue against you!

Children need both parents. They need a stable home environment and parents who are prepared for the joys and sacrifices that parenthood bring. You could not fix your parents' problems, and your future children will not fix yours! I hope this helps!

Ultimately, the decision is yours. But I hope this letter is the beginning of you finding love and acceptance within yourself!

*Sherri*

Sherry Evans is a wife and a mother of three boys. She is an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God and an Associate Pastor at a local church. To read more from Sherri, visit her blog 'When God Whispers Over Your Life' @ sherrievans.blogspot.com.

*The advice offered in Dear Sherri, is intended for informational and inspirational purposes only. Use of the column is not intended to replace or substitute for any professional, financial, medical, legal, or other professional advice. If you have specific concerns or a situation in which you require professional, psychological or medical help, you should consult with an appropriately trained and qualified specialist.*

### A Toss Up

By the time Ted arrived at the football game, the first quarter was almost over. "Why are you so late?" his friend asked. "I had to toss a coin to decide between going to church and coming to the game." "How long could that have taken you?" "Well, I had to toss it 14 times."



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Isaiah 40:8 NLT



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Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:  
*Proverbs 31:28*





## Ready to retire? Take this quiz to find out.

Question: How many days in a week?

Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?

Answer: Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.

Question: How many retirees does it take to change a light bulb?

Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.

Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?

Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.

Question: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?

Answer: The term comes with a 10% discount.

Question: Among retirees what is considered formal attire?

Answer: Tied shoes.

Question: Why do retirees count pennies?

Answer: They are the only ones who have the time.

Question: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?

Answer: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.

Question: What is the best way to describe retirement?

Answers: The never ending Coffee Break.

Question: What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree?

Answer: If you cut classes, no one calls your parents.

Question: Why does a retiree often say he doesn't miss work, but misses the people he used to work with?

Answer: He is too polite to tell the whole truth.

## At the River

A minister was completing a sermon and with great emphasis he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river." With even greater emphasis he said, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river." And then finally, shaking his fist in the air, he said, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river!" At that point, his sermon was complete and he sat down. The song leader stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, nearly laughing, "For our closing song, let us sing Hymn #203, 'Shall We Gather at the River.'"

## The Power of Prayer

The minister's little six-year-old girl had been so naughty during the week that her mother decided to give her the worst kind of punishment. She told her she couldn't go to the Sunday School Picnic on Saturday. When the day came, her mother felt she had been too harsh and changed her mind. When she told the little girl she could go to the picnic, the child's reaction was one of gloom and unhappiness. "What's the matter? I thought you'd be glad to go to the picnic." her mother said. "It's too late!" the little girl said. "I've already prayed for rain."

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## Fairy Godmother

After watching the movie Cinderella, five-year-old Kaylee started using her pinwheel as a magic wand, pretending she was a fairy godmother. "Make three wishes," she told her mother, "And I'll grant them." Her mom first asked for world peace. Kaylee swung her wand and proclaimed the request fulfilled. Next, her mother requested a cure for all ill children. Again, with a sweep of the pinwheel, Kaylee obliged. The mother, with a glance down at her rather ample curves, made her third wish, "I wish to have a trim figure again." The miniature fairy godmother started waving her wand madly. "I'll need more power for this!" she exclaimed.

## No Thanks

A ten year-old boy was walking down the street when a big man on a black motorcycle, pulls up beside him and asks, "Hey kid, wanna go for a ride?" "No!", said the boy, and he kept on walking. The motorcyclist pulls up to him again and says, "Hey kid, I'll give you \$10 if you hop on the back" "NO!" said the boy and proceeded down the street a little quicker. The motorcyclist pulls up to the boy again and says, "Ok kid, I'll give you \$20 and a BIG bag of candy if you hop on the back for a ride." At this point the boy turns around to him and screams angrily, "Look Dad, YOU bought the Harley, so YOU ride it!!"

## Inheritance


A dying grandma tells her grandchild, "I want to leave you my farm. That includes the barn, livestock, the harvest, the tractor, and other equipment, the farm-house and \$24,548,750.45 in cash." The grandchild, absolutely floored and about to become rich says, "Oh grandma, you are SO generous! I didn't even know you had a farm. Where is it?" With her last breath, Grandma whispered, "Facebook..."



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## Not So Much Help Desk

My husband and I incurred several problems while assembling our new computer system, so we called the help desk. The man on the phone started to talk to my husband in computer jargon, which confused us even more. "Sir," my husband politely said, "Please explain what I should do as if I were a four-year-old." "Okay," the computer technician replied. "Son, could you please put your mommy on the phone?"



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*Dr. Dawn would like to wish her mother, Norma Frost, and her mother-in-law, JoAnn Haddock, a Happy Mother's Day!*

**May God Continue to Bless All Of You This Mother's Day!**

Dr. Dawn Frost Haddock, DNP, ARNP-BC  
Army Veteran

For the Lord is the Spirit,  
and wherever the Spirit of the  
Lord is, there is freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:17 NLT

## Close Shave

A man enters a barbershop for a shave. While the barber is foaming him up, he mentions the problem he has getting a close shave around his cheeks. "I have just the thing," says the barber taking a small wooden ball from a nearby drawer. "Just place this between your cheek and gum." The client places the ball in his mouth and proceeds with the closest shave the man has ever experienced. After a few strokes, the client asks in garbled speech "And what if I swallow it?" "No problem," says the barber. "Just bring it back tomorrow like everyone else does!"

## New Car

Three cowboys were hanging out in the bunkhouse. "I know that smart aleck Tex," said the first. "He's going to start bragging about that new foreign car he bought as soon as he gets back." "Not Tex," the second cowboy replied. "He'll always be just a good ol' boy. When he walks in, I'm sure all he'll say is hello." "I know Tex better than either of you," said the third. "He's so smart, he'll figure out a way to do both. Here he comes now." Tex swung open the bunkhouse door and shouted, "Audi, partners!"

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# AN OPEN LETTER TO MY CHILDREN: YOU'RE NOT THAT GREAT

By: Jami Amerine

I love you each. You're funny. And talented. But as I sit in this dance recital I am holding a foster baby that is in our home for the weekend and I am witnessing an American atrocity that I want you to remember. And it is not a drug addicted baby.

In the row ahead of me a family has taken hot pink duct tape and marked off 22 seats. We were specifically told not to do this at the informational meeting. Please, always follow the rules. They count off "new-naw, pawpaw, auntie Laurie, auntie Bitsy, Carl-baby, daddy, bubba, Unkie-Mikie, hankie..." These nicknames, while odd are also not the issue, but don't nickname me when I am old. It's getting embarrassing. The two women marking off seats are oblivious to everyone around them. "Unkie-Mikey" just entered the auditorium with an enormous balloon bouquet. I am able to quickly conclude that they are the family of the infamous Kkyylliiee on page 3 of the recital program. She has a full page ad. She's 5. The dead giveaway is that all of them have on pink t-shirts that say "we hope you dance KKyylliiee". Don't ruin songs for people by making silly t-shirts with the lyrics. The ad has Kkyylliiee in her recital costume in a professional portrait



for the occasion. I am over the moon to see this chubby kindergartener perform if only I could see over the balloons – and the camera equipment they are now setting up. Obviously, Kkyylliiee must be quite talented & very special because she needed two of every letter to spell her name. As someone whose name has been missing an "e" in my spelling her entire life, I covet her vowels. Dear Mary, John, Luke, Sophie, Sam and any others we may have the privilege of raising, you will love your children like nothing you can fathom. Name them wisely – otherwise, they will never have a personalized pencil from the museum gift shops on field trips.

Kkyylliiee enters with another "Auntie" and two suitcases so that "Maw-Maw" can do her makeup. "Nee-naw" brings McDonald's for the whole clan. I can't help but remember the sign clearly stated outside "NO FOOD OR DRINK." Again I say – just follow the rules. Yes. They apply to you.

I can't stop watching the insanity and as I compose this in my head – I make a mental note to myself to write this to you... *My dear Americanized children, you aren't above the rules and you aren't that great...* I am not sorry if you felt less than your peers because I forgot to turn in the form for you to be highlighted in a program.

As much as it hurts me – *feel less than*. Esteem not yourself. Feel lonely. Feel unworthy. Feel unaccomplished. Feel small. Feel lost. Feel broken. Feel least. For if you believe you are greater than, your father and I have failed miserably. Among the broken you will find Christ. My prayer for you is that you see Him everywhere. There's nowhere to go but down if we as a society continue to treat mediocrity as mighty. If you are never uncomfortable, weary, left out and un-praised how will you recognize the desolate? And if you are never desolate how will you recognize how much you need a Savior?



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Her children arise up, and call her blessed;  
her husband also, and he praises her. Proverbs 31:28

I will continue to put pictures of you on Facebook and brag about you. I will still cut the crust off your sandwiches – and bring you sonic slushes for no reason. It is my mommy nature – but I pray I never make you feel you are more than those around you. My prayer for you is that you *came to serve, not be served*. I may not like the way it wears on you, but it's not about you.

Ah, and most importantly I pray you are wise enough to recognize the broken among the esteemed. We well meaning and proud parents have created the monsters. You have to see the tragedy of the poor and the crack addicted; the baby who may never have a recital portrait taken or her name in lights. And it is sad. But it is also sad to learn too late you aren't that great.

*The last shall be first – the first shall be last.*

All this to be said... Sophie, I forgot flowers for you after the recital. You did a really good job, but don't quit school to pursue a career in dance baby girl. I wasn't lying to any of you when I said I was proud of your C- paper. If you tried – If you cared and that is how you were graded – bravo. Work hard, be willing to get dirty, give away your lunch or your last dollar, sit with the lonely, stand up for injustice, follow the rules, walk through the fire... You're doing just fine.

Love,  
Mom



Jami Amerine is a wife and mother of 6-8 children. Jami and her husband Justin are foster parents and advocates for foster care and adoption. *Jami's Sacred Ground Sticky Floors* is fun & inspirational. Jami holds a degree in Family and Consumer Sciences (yes Home Ec.) and a Master's Degree in Education, Counseling, & Human Development. You can find her crazy amusing

blog at <http://sacredgroundstickyfloors.com/> or check her out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/sacredgrounds.stickyfloors/> or Twitter at <https://twitter.com/jamiamerine>

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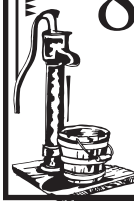
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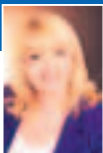


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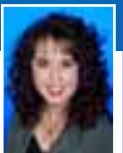


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## HEALTH TALK

by: Michael Kennedy, ARNP  
Hawkins Family Medicine

*April showers bring May Flowers.* That seems to be the case as we look at our beautiful creeks and wonder when they are going to clear up. I am thinking the time is right around the corner based on all the pretty flowers and seeds popping out of the ground.

This new growth makes me think of a Chris August song, *The Maker*. Some of the lyrics speak to me in this time of year especially. *“Everything that you have made is beautiful, oh my God I can’t believe my eyes, but in all of this to think that you would think of me, makes my heart come alive.”* In springtime, we are often flushed with memories of new beginnings. We see it all around us as baby chicks follow their mothers and new flowers bloom. Even the pesky weeds wear a colorful pattern that makes us pause at their beauty. That is, right before I weed eat those suckers down (when the wife can talk me into picking up that evil machine).

As May arrives, with all the new beginnings around us, we take time to celebrate our mothers. Those of us that are fortunate enough to have mothers in our life appreciate the unique connection of this relationship and embrace the mothers in our lives. I’m basically a mom specialist...I have an awesome one, married to an amazing one, and live beside the best mom-in-law ever (ask me anytime, I will never stray from this description).

May is also high blood pressure month (I’m not touching that ironic fact with a ten foot pole). As healthcare providers, we focus a significant amount of our attention on blood pressure and the treatment of high blood pressure. Most people cannot feel this occurrence and do not always understand the importance of treating elevated blood pressure. When blood pressure is elevated over time, arterial damage, enlarged heart/heart failure, stroke, dementia, kidney scarring, kidney failure, and damage to the eyes are all a guarantee, it is just a matter of to what degree. No one wants to experience this, so listen to your healthcare provider and treat any elevated pressure.

Elevated blood pressure doesn’t always cause symptoms, but sometimes it does. As Mr. John says *“listen to your body.”* Our body can give clues of when to get our blood pressure checked. Headaches, particularly in the back of the neck/head can be a sign that our pressure is elevated at times as can unexplained nosebleeds. Be aware and listen to your body.

*Celebrate the mother’s in your life this month as we thank the Father above for them.*



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## Biblical Mom Sayings

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- David! I told you not to play in the house with that sling! Go practice your harp. We pay good money for those lessons!
- Abraham! Stop wandering around the countryside and get home for supper!
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego! I told you never to play with fire!
- Cain! Get off your brother! You're going to kill him some day!
- Noah! No, you can't keep them! I told you, don't bring home any more strays!
- Gideon! Have you been hiding in that wine press again? Look at your clothes! (Judges 6:11)
- James and John! No more burping contests at the dinner table, please. People are going to call you the sons of thunder! (Mark 3:17)

Honor your father and mother.  
Then you will live a long, full life in the  
land the Lord your God is giving you.  
Exodus 20:12 NLT



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# Jesus is not one of us: A Challenge This Political Season

By: Stephanie Hillberry

I almost un-followed a friend the other day on social media. *Here's why*—As we all know, it's political season, which means that there's more than the usual volume of ideological chatter buzzing around the airwaves. In the midst of this, I'll confess that I find myself wondering how certain friends can combine their Christianity with their political beliefs. I'll read a status update on Facebook, or see an ideological endorsement come through Instagram, and think, "*How can they follow the same Jesus I do and feel this way? How can they read the same Bible I do and come to such different conclusions about social and political issues?*" Don't pretend that you don't do this, too. I can't be the only one.

Eventually these updates start to feel like an attack—like sandpaper on my skin. Anger stirs in my chest. My passions are heightened and I feel the need to defend my beliefs. And then, in the midst of this turmoil, a small voice says this, and it surprises me every time: *Stephanie*, it says, *Jesus is not "one of us."*

It's natural—human—to put ourselves into "*us*" and "*them*" categories. I'm doing this very thing when I see and hear people express their varied opinions on issues. *Are they on my side or the other side?* I ask. *Are they for us or against us?* I wonder. Jesus was not interested in being used for other people's agendas. These are normal questions, sure, but it's worth noting that Jesus stubbornly resisted attempts by others to place him in with "*this crowd*" or "*that crowd.*" He'd hang out with the religious elite one night, and then gruff tax collectors the next. To think that this behavior was just because Jesus was a laid back dude who liked to hang out with everyone, or because he was hanging out with "*them*" as a mission to the lost, misses an important point: Jesus was not interested

in being used for other people's agendas, political or otherwise.

The Samaritan woman at the well tried to get him to pick sides by drawing him into an ideological debate. He persistently thwarted her efforts. Peter rebuked him for predicting his death, likely hoping Jesus would eventually rise to power and overthrow Rome. Jesus called him Satan.

This doesn't mean that political convictions don't matter. *They absolutely do.* But when those convictions trickle down into the flesh and blood of real people, Jesus' example shows us what matters more: *love.* It was a lesson his disciples were constantly perplexed by. "*Why are you speaking to this woman?*" they'd ask. "*Why are we having dinner with them?*" I can imagine them saying. His response can be summed up in John chapter 15: *I'm the vine, he said, and you're the branches.*

In other words, *he's not one of us; we're one of him.* We abide on his vine, not the other way around. Every single time I reach for "*unfollow*" or "*hide*" or want to leave a potentially heated conversation, the Holy Spirit stops me. Is there no room for "*one of them*" on my vine, he asks? Can you only abide with those who are "*one of us*"? Immediately I know that the question is rhetorical. I don't get to pick who grows on the vine; *he does.*

So I'm being challenged to keep the relationships and updates that scratch at me, and instead of "*us*" and "*them*," I'm trying to focus on HIM. It's difficult, and messy, and uncomfortable, but hey—that's Jesus for you. My comfort isn't really his top priority.

Join Me? Will you join me this political season with this challenge: Will you proactively keep "*them*"—the people who agitate you—in your life and in your stream? And then will you pray with me that we would bear the fruit Jesus wants us to bear, which is love? Messy, uncomfortable, confrontational-yet-still-full-of-grace love.

I can't tell you how this love will manifest in your life and in your politics, but I'll be curious to see how it manifests in mine.



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*Stephanie Hillberry is a craft-loving, bread-baking, hike-taking Jesus follower from Colorado who loves writing about how faith interweaves with everyday life. She's the managing content editor for MyLifetree.com and also blogs on stephaniehillberry.com.*

## My Business

A father walks into the market followed by his ten-year-old son. The kid is spinning a 25-cent piece in the air and catching it between his teeth. As they walk through the market someone bumps into the boy at just the wrong moment and the coin goes straight into his mouth and lodges in his throat. He immediately starts choking and going blue in the face and Dad starts panicking, shouting and screaming for help. A middle-aged, fairly unremarkable man in a gray suit is sitting at a coffee bar in the market reading his newspaper and sipping a cup of coffee. At the sound of the commotion he looks up, puts his coffee cup down on the saucer, neatly folds his newspaper and places it on the counter. He gets up from his seat and makes his unhurried way across the market. Reaching the boy (who is still standing, but only just) the man takes hold of the kid and squeezes gently but firmly. After a few seconds the boy coughs up the quarter, which the man catches in his free hand. The man then walks back to his seat in the coffee bar without saying a word. As soon as he is sure that his son was fine, the father rushes over to the man and starts effusively thanking him. The man looks embarrassed and brushes off the thanks. As he's about to leave, the father asks one last question. "I've never seen anybody do anything like that before - it was fantastic - what are you, a surgeon or something like that?" "No" the man replies, "I work for the IRS, getting people to cough it up is my business."

## Teenage Driving

A teenager who had just received her learner's permit offered to drive her parents to church. After a hair-raising ride, they finally reached their destination. The mother got out of the car and said, "Thank you!" "Anytime," her daughter replied. As the woman slammed the door, she said, "I wasn't talking to you. I was talking to God."

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By: Scott Ward, Gearhead & Auto Connoisseur

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## You Must Be A ...

A man in a hot air balloon realized he was lost. He reduced altitude and spotted a woman below. He descended a bit more and shouted, "Excuse me, can you help? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am." The woman below replied, "You are in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You are between 40 and 41 degrees north latitude and between 59 and 60 degrees west longitude." "You must be an engineer," said the balloonist. "I am," replied the woman. "How did you know?" "Well," answered the balloonist, "Everything you told me is technically correct, but I have no idea what to make of you, and the fact is I am still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help so far." The woman below responded, "You must be in management." "I am," replied the balloonist, "But how did you know?" "Well," said the woman, "You don't know where you are or where you are going. You have risen to where you are, due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise which you have no idea how to keep, and you expect people beneath you to solve your problems. The fact is, you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow, it's my fault!"

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## Its Been a While

For the first time in many years, an old man traveled from his rural town to the city to attend a movie. After buying his ticket, he stopped at the concession stand to purchase some popcorn. Handing the attendant \$6.00, he couldn't help but comment, "The last time I came to the movies, popcorn was only 15 cents." "Well, sir," the attendant replied with a grin, "You're really going to enjoy yourself. We have sound now."

## Puzzle Club

A restaurant owner has a group of blondes come in for lunch. They're carrying a kid's puzzle. As they head to their table, they're laughing and congratulating each other. Curious, the owner asks the blondes what they are celebrating. They replied, "We finished this puzzle in 3 months, when it says 3-4 years on the box!"

## Little Johnny

Little Johnny had finished his summer vacation and gone back to school. Two days later his teacher phoned his mother to tell her that he was misbehaving. "Wait a minute," she said. "I had Johnny with me for three months and I never called you once when he misbehaved."

**Q: What's it called when a blonde blows in another blonde's ear? A: Data**

**Q: What do you call a blonde in an institute of higher learning? A: A visitor**

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## Clarinet

My Dad bought my Mom a piano for her birthday. A few weeks later, I asked how she was doing with it. "Oh," said My Dad, "I persuaded her to switch to a clarinet." "How come?" I asked. "Well," he answered, "because with a clarinet, she can't sing."

## New House

When the Smith family moved into their new house, a visiting grandparent asked five-year-old Tommy how he liked the new place. "It's great," he said. "I have my own room, Alex has his own room and Jamie has her own room, but poor mom is still stuck with dad."

## Okay to Park

Recently in traffic court, a man who received an expensive parking ticket testified that a uniformed policeman had given his ok for the man to park there. The judge asked the man if he would recognize the officer if he ever saw him again, and the man replied that he would. The judge then said, "Good. When you see the officer again, tell him he owes you 57 dollars. Next..."

## Mom's Where?

One evening after dinner, my five-year-old son noticed that his mother had gone out. In answer to his questions, I told him, "Mommy is at a Tupperware party." This explanation satisfied him for only a moment. Puzzled, he asked, "What's a Tupperware party, Dad?" I've always given my son honest answers, so I figured a simple explanation would be the best approach. "Well, son," I said, "At a Tupperware party, a bunch of ladies sit around and sell plastic bowls to each other." He nodded, indicating that he understood this curious pastime. Then he burst into laughter. "Come on, Dad," he said. "What is it really?"

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## A Note For The Journey

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### Spilled Gifts

It was summer 2013. There was a good group of us on the Honduran village trail that day. Hot temperature, cooled only by the frequent showers from the constant clouds that hovered in the skies. We had traveled to many houses that day, Marie, our voice to the neighbors had shared her inspiring testimony with all who had ears to hear. This is a story about the rice and beans. *Mostly.*

Walking anywhere in Honduras, we had to have a man—at least one—with us at all times. Bill Wester was our “man leader”—and we were thankful to have his cheerful self with us.

Picture us—a Gang of excited girls and ladies and we were ON a MISSION. Our hearts were glad to have a part in giving food to hungry lives, to give Spiritual Food—in the form of The Word.

Each of one of us had our backpacks laden with 5 lb. bags of rice and beans. As we in turn had handed over our bags 5 lb. portions, to the waiting and thankful ladies, we were able to catch a real glimpse of gratitude in the truest form.



After a long morning of walking, we arrived at the last house on the road—or the block—in this particular neighborhood—this isn’t suburbia...this is Honduras. Muddy valleys in the road, we step over some, go way around others. Piles of animal dung litter the road, and that too, we go around.

As we neared the last house, a woman stepped out on her porch as Maria called

a loud, Buenos! The lady said something back as Maria began her chatter of what we were doing in her neighborhood. GIVING gifts of food, and Jesus. “Has someone already been to your house?” “No...” “We would like to give you rice and beans.” “Gracias!” As we asked the crowd of missionaries, “Who has any rice and beans left”, Mr. Bill spoke up and handed over his bag of red beans. I handed it over to Maria, who in turn, handed it over the fence to the lady—patiently waiting for her gift.

Just as Mr. Bill grabbed his bag of rice he noticed the “secure zipper seal” had become “un-secure.” He cautioned me about it and in the transfer from his hands to mine, about 2 handfuls of rice spilled out onto the ground. I heard his sharp intake of breath--- and his, “Oh no!”

At that moment I saw immense sadness in his eyes as realization hit--this was some of her food...now on the ground. This was much more than dropping a piece of candy and snatching it up before the 5 second rule made it “uneatable.” There is no 5 second rule in Honduras. I knew what was about to happen as soon as we said our goodbyes and walked off.

Mr. Bill’s eyes filled with tears as she was handed the rice, she was cautioned about the zipper seal not

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working properly, and the girls were making their way onward. As I turned to talk to Mr. Bill, I knew what was going on behind my back. I said to whoever was listening, “*don’t turn around.*” I didn’t want the lady to be embarrassed at their hunger and need--scooping up rice off of the dirt road...and Mr. Bill was in disbelief of what had just happened.



While I knew what was happening--I knew I couldn’t take a picture--and was not sure I wanted to--but I wanted the memory preserved. I told Mr. Bill, as he was anguishing over the fact that it was “*his*” bag of rice, I reminded him that “*these girls, and each of us, needed to see the level of desperation for food that these people have.*”

As I thought later to myself, I would most likely do the very same thing were I in those circumstances. Another friend, Missy had her camera out--and was able to snap the picture. However, the lady saw her and she stopped picking up rice immediately. Another lady joined her in the road, and together they stood guard over the rice, lest some chicken come pecking before

they could get it up.

Long after that picture embedded itself in my mind, I was praying for that event to so change the hearts of each one of us—*forever.*

**Spilled gifts.** It made me also think of the gifts that we have--some we share with others--some we hoard as if there will never be another... The gifts I’m talking about are our talents. The things God has gifted us with--to share with others and bring Him glory. I’m

not a surgeon...but there were surgeons on that 2013 trip that gave their gift away to the needy. I’m not part of a medical staff--of any description--but there were countless nurses, and other staff who willingly gave their gift away. *It truly IS a gift.* Not one I possess--but each of us- have gifts that God has blessed us with-- *Can you spill some over into the life of another today?* Once you begin...You will find you just can’t stop.

*Angie Knight, Missionary to Bolivia.*

*www.tinyurl.com/sendjeffandangie*

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## I REMEMBER

By: Bernice Hagan

IT SEEMS I REMEMBER,  
SOMETHING OF MY PAST,  
AND OUT OF ALL THESE MEMORIES,  
I HAVE SOME THAT WILL LAST.  
I REMEMBER CHRISTMAS MORNING,  
THE TREE ALL DECKED IN RED,  
AND MAMA COOKING BREAKFAST,  
WHILE WE WERE STILL IN THE BED.  
I REMEMBER ALL THE POTS AND PANS,  
AND THE SMELL THAT FILLED THE AIR,  
I REMEMBER ALL THE CAKES AND PIES,  
THAT WERE BAKED WITH MAMA'S CARE.  
I REMEMBER HAVING MEASLES,  
AND BOY DID I FEEL BAD,  
BUT I REMEMBER MAMA NURSING ME,  
WITH ALL THE LOVE SHE HAD.  
I REMEMBER HAVING QUESTIONS,  
THAT TROUBLED MY POOR MIND,  
BUT I REMEMBER ASKING MAMA,  
AND AN ANSWER I WOULD FIND.  
I REMEMBER MAMA'S APRON,  
THE ONE SHE USED TO WEAR,  
AND AT THE CLOSE OF EVERY DAY,  
HOW SHE'D LAY IT ON HER CHAIR.  
I REMEMBER MAMA'S HEARTACHES,  
AND SOME OF MAMA'S PAIN,  
BUT NOT ONCE DO I REMEMBER,  
OF HEARING HER COMPLAIN,  
I REMEMBER HEARING MAMA,  
AS HER BIBLE SHE WOULD READ,  
AND ALL THE TIMES SHE TALKED TO GOD,  
AND TOLD HIM ALL HER NEEDS.  
I REMEMBER COMING HOME SOMETIMES,  
USUALLY ROUND TWO OR THREE,  
AND I'D FIND MAMA PRAYING,  
BY HER BEDSIDE JUST FOR ME.  
SO MAMA I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU,  
FOR THE MEMORIES I'VE TUCKED AWAY,  
AND I'D LIKE TO SAY I LOVE YOU,  
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A brilliant young boy was interviewing for a job with the railways. The interviewer asked him, "Do you know how to use the equipment?" "Yes," the boy replied. "Then what would you do if you realized that two trains, one from this station and one from the next were going to crash because they were on the same track?" The young applicant thought and replied "I'd press the button to change the points without hesitation." "What if the button was frozen and wouldn't work?" "I'd run outside and pull the lever to change the points manually." "And if the lever was broken?" "I'd get on the phone to the next station and tell them to change the points," he replied. "And if the phone was broken and needed an electrician to fix it?" The boy thought about that one. "I'd run into town and get my uncle." "Is your uncle an electrician?" "No, but he's never seen a train crash before!"

### No Use

Used to being the center of attention, Robbie was a little more than jealous of his new baby sister. The parents sat him down and said that now that she was getting older, the house was too small and they'd have to move. "It's no use." Robbie said, "She's crawling good now and she'd probably just follow us."

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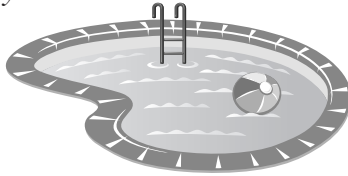
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## Dinner at Mom's

We had just finished eating a beautiful dinner that my mother had prepared for our 28-member family. As I glanced up at the chandelier over the table, I was mesmerized by the creative handiwork a spider had woven around the prisms and lightbulbs. "Don't look up there!" my mother screamed. "It's the one thing I was too tired to clean!" "Don't look where?" my brother asked. "There!" my mother pointed. "It's my own personal web sight!"

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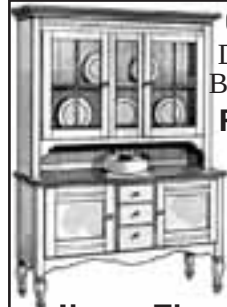
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If my life was a credit report and I was trying to obtain salvation, based on my score I would not get in. My history shows that I have been delinquent in praise, past due prayer, my worship has been in collections and I have missed a few payments (tithes) or only paid half (you know how we put \$20 in the basket and think that we have done God a favor). Not to mention that my debt (sin) to income (blessings) ratio is too high.

But thank God that I was able to file bankruptcy (repentance) and it cleared me of all my debt (sin). Now I have a co-signer (Jesus) whose score is FLAWLESS.

Not one blemish (sin) on His report.

So, now I qualify for everything! Most importantly, I have inherited eternal life and I did not have to put one penny down. All my closing costs were covered when Jesus laid down His life for me. I hear that my future home has all the upgrades too. Hardwood floors? Please! I'll be walking on gold!

Thank you Lord for Your  
mercy, grace and favor!

## On the **VERGE** with **BIRGE**

THOUGHTS, PUNS & FUN BY ROBERT BIRGE

- I really would like to take a yoga class. But I really can't trust my farts.
- Those 5 donuts I ate are really going to give me an extra boost during my workout tonight....
- I had a blind date once, her name was .....
- Just ordered a Fitbit and my bank called to see if my card was stolen.
- It took dozens and dozens of flushes and a plunger.... but my guinea pig's funeral is finally over.
- Diet tip: your pants will never get too tight, if you don't wear any.
- What do you think they would say if I showed up to SeaWorld with a reel and rod?
- I should probably be in a relationship just for the supervision.
- If I ever had to run for my life, I would probably die.
- Sometimes late at night, I dig a hole in the back yard to keep the nosey neighbors guessing.
- It's a little sad that today's youth don't get to experience a red rubber dodgeball to the face like we did back in the day.

### Speeding

A cop pulls a man over for speeding. He walks up to the car and says, "Do you know how fast you were going?" "I was trying to keep up with traffic," he replied. The cop looks up and down the highway. "What are you talking about? There is no traffic." And the man answered, "That's how far behind I am!"

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# Papa Shu's Movie Review

By: Timothy Shumaker  
Children's Minister, Gulf Beach Baptist Church

*Spoiler Alert! If you do not want to know how this movie ends, please stop reading. Movie plots will be revealed!*

Disney definitely delivers more than the bare necessities in this live-action version of Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*. This classic tale of the young orphan, Mowgli, who is lovingly adopted by a number of jungle animals, is perhaps one of the best movies of the year. Mowgli will need all the help he can get from his jungle family because he is continuously in jeopardy. The terrifying tiger, Shere Khan intimidates the entire jungle and relentlessly seeks to destroy Mowgli throughout the film. However, Shere Khan is not the only one seeking to make a meal out of Mowgli. The immense and mesmerizing snake, Kaa, comes extremely close to making a meal out of Mowgli. He escapes only through the help of his new friend, a self-serving grizzly bear named, Baloo. Mowgli is soon kidnapped by monkeys who play catch with him in the upper canopy of the trees as they bring him to the gargantuan orangutan, King Louie, who is seeking the secret of the "red flower," or fire. King Louie's pursuit of Mowgli results in an ancient temple collapsing around them. Needless to say, Mowgli would have been lunch if it were not for his animal protectors, Bagheera, his panther mentor, his family, pack of noble wolves, led by his adoptive parents, Akela and Raksha, and his best friend, Baloo. This film is a wonderful spring board for teaching children about loyalty, love, self-sacrifice, and bravery. The encounter with the hypnotic Kaa wonderfully parallels how Satan interacts with mankind.

Of course, there is one serious warning for parents of small children. This is not an animated film. In this



film, all of the animals are oversized and the main character is dwarfed by his animal counterparts. This includes those animals who are seeking to kill and eat little Mowgli. It is not a matter of the possibility of giving young viewers a nightmare. They will definitely be overwhelmed and frightened, especially during some of the films violent clashes between jungle animals, Mowgli's close brushes with death, and particularly during the extremely scary scene with Kaa. Parents of toddlers and sensitive children are cautioned, however, this film is rated PG and not PG-13. Some other negative points that parents should be aware of include the fact that the film portrays that only destruction and death can come from humans. They are the ultimate villains of the film. Secondly, there are some twisted worldviews that could possibly be a concern. These negative elements are not flagrant, but parents should be aware they exist.

The *Jungle Book* is breathtaking and reinforces essential ideas about what it means to be family, love one another, resist temptation, embracing courage, and sacrifice our own desires for the good of others. There is also a remarkable message of encouragement for adoptive or foster families.

Blessings,  
PAPA SHU

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## Fun Things to do in an Elevator

1. Crack open your briefcase or purse, and while peering inside ask, "Got enough air in there?"
2. Grimace painfully while smacking your forehead and muttering, "Shut up, all of you, just shut up!"
3. Whistle the first seven notes of "It's a Small World" incessantly.
4. Greet everyone getting on the elevator with a warm handshake and ask them to call you Admiral.
5. When at least 8 people have boarded, moan from the back, "Oh, not now, motion sickness!"
6. Meow occasionally.
7. Wear a puppet on your hand and talk to other passengers "through" it.

## Bats

Three priests were sitting around discussing how things were going at their respective parishes. The first priest complains of a terrible bat infestation at his church, and it is soon apparent that this is something of an epidemic at all three parishes. After much discussion of all matters clerical, they go home for the night. After a week or so, they meet again and discuss the bat problem.

Priest 1: I tried to get rid of my bats this week. I shot at them with my shotgun, but I think I damaged the belfry more than the bats! I still have no way of getting rid of them!

Priest 2: I tried another way. I couldn't bring myself to shoot them, after all they are God's creatures, so I went up with a big box. I knocked all the bats into the box with a stick and drove out to the forest where I released them. But they were back at the church before I was!!

Priest 3: I've solved the problem. I did much the same thing. I had all the bats in the box, but before I released them, I baptized and confirmed every one of them, and they have not been back since.....

*"Whenever I see a woman driving a bus I smile and think about how far we, as a society, have come in equality. And then I wait for the next bus."*



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