

The Morning Breaks

"A sense of humor keeps life interesting..." -Marjorie Hinckley

Volume 3 Number 14

April 4, 2004

Three women die together in an accident and go to heaven. When they get there, St. Peter says, "We only have one rule here in heaven: don't step on the ducks!"

So they enter heaven, and sure enough, there are ducks all over the place. It is almost impossible not to step on a duck, and although they try their best to avoid them, the first woman accidentally steps on one.

Along comes St. Peter with the ugliest man she ever saw. St. Peter chains them together and says, "Your punishment for stepping on a duck is to spend eternity chained to this ugly man!"

The next day, the second woman steps accidentally on a duck and along comes St. Peter, who doesn't miss a thing. With him is another extremely ugly man. He chains them together with the same admonishment as for the first woman.

The third woman has observed all this and, not wanting to be chained for all eternity to an ugly man, is very, VERY careful where she steps. She manages to go months without stepping on any ducks.

One day St. Peter comes up to her with the most handsome man she has ever laid eyes on .. very tall, long eyelashes, muscular, and thin. St. Peter chains them together without saying a word.

The happy woman says, "I wonder what I did to deserve being chained to you for all of eternity?"

The guy says, "I don't know about you, but I stepped on a duck!"

On the first day of Spring Training, a baseball scout brings a horse with him to add to the starting lineup.

The coach asks, "Why on earth did you bring that horse here for?"

The scout replies, "Wait until you see him bat."

All the players are laughing, until the horse comes to bat. At this point, the horse grabs the bat and everyone quiets down. They stare at the horse.

The pitcher, just shrugs his shoulders, and throws the ball toward home plate, when astonishingly the horse hits the ball deep into the outfield.

The horse just stands there and does not move.

The manager then yells at the baseball scout to tell the horse to run to first base.

The scout looks back at the manager and yells back, "If he could run, he'd be in the Kentucky Derby!"

A feisty 70-year-old woman had to call a furnace repairman. After a quick inspection the man put some oil

into the motor and handed her a \$70 bill for labor.

"Labor charges!" she exclaimed. "It only took you five minutes."

The repairman explained that his company had a minimum one-hour charge on every house call.

"Well, I want my remaining 55 minutes of labor," the lady responded, and she handed him a rake. The repairman spent the next 55 minutes in her yard bagging leaves.

A young man was a slow worker and found it difficult to hold down a job.

After a visit to the employment office, he was offered work at the local zoo.

When he arrived for his first day, the keeper, aware of his reputation, told him to take care of the tortoise section.

Later, the keeper dropped by to see how the young man was doing and found him standing by an empty enclosure with the gate open.

"Where are the tortoises?" he asked.

"I can't believe it," said the new employee, "I just opened the door and whoooooosh, they were gone!"

Just in case the Commander-In-Chief decides to recall any of us military retirees, I have been trying on the old uniforms. I want to be ready. So far only the socks fit.

A certain man had invited the pastor and his wife for dinner, and it was little Joey's job to set the table.

But when it came time to eat, Joey's mother said with surprise, "Why didn't you give Mrs. Brown a knife and fork dear?"

"I didn't think I needed to," as everyone listened as Joey explained, "I heard Daddy say she always eats like a horse."

Three goobers, Bubba, Earl and Jeb, were walking home late one night and found themselves on the road that led past the old graveyard.

"Come have a look over here", says Bubba, "It's Zeb Jones' grave. Bless his soul, he lived to the ripe old age of 87."

"That's nothing", says Earl, "here's one named Butch Smith. It says here that he was 95 when he died."

Just then, Jeb yells out, "But here's a fella that died when he was 145 years old!"

"What was his name?" asks Bubba.

Jeb lights a match to see what else is written on the stone marker, and exclaims, "Miles, from Georgia."

A man goes to the doctor and tells him that he hasn't been feeling well. The doctor examines him, leaves the room and comes back with three different bottles of pills.

The doctor says, "Take the green pill with a big glass of water when you get up. Take the blue pill with a big glass of water after lunch. Then just before going to bed, take the red pill with another big glass of water."

Startled to be put on so much medicine the man stammers, "Wow doc, exactly what's my problem?"

The doctor says, "You're not drinking enough water."

Many years ago we had an aquarium. Slowly, one by one, all of the fish died, but for some reason we kept the aquarium up and running for months afterward. I guess we were trying to decide whether or not to buy more fish.

Anyway, we invited the missionaries over for dinner many times during those months and they always looked in the aquarium for the fish. We told them that there was something special in that aquarium and that only the most righteous missionaries could actually see the fish.

It was amazing how many of those elders saw fish in an empty aquarium!

At the seminary graduation ceremony for the Colorado Springs Stake, all the graduating seminary students were unexpectedly asked to share their sentiments regarding their early morning class, which started at 6 AM.

One young lady started her remarks by commenting: "We are constantly hearing about marvelous new breakthroughs in the field of education. For instance, they have been talking a lot recently about teaching students while they sleep. Well, the Church is ahead of them again."

As a young missionary, Present Joseph F. Smith described how he traveled in lowly steerage and in the holds where "I never before smelt a smell like that smell."

President Marion G. Romney, on his call to serve in the First Presidency, stated, "I have always sustained the President of the Church, and I can sustain this President now, even when he calls me as his Counselor."

Today in sharing time we played a "who am I" game using a somewhat familiar figure from each of the Standard Works. When the kids figured out that the person we were talking about was the Brother of Jared, I asked them if anyone knew what his real name was. I told them it was long, and hard to pronounce.

One of the boys in the back said, "John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt"!!!! [Note: The Brother of Jared's name was Mahonri Moriancumer]

One evening the full-time Elders came to our home for dinner. During our conversations one of them shared an experience that occurred a few months ago in their mission.

It seems these sister missionaries had been teaching a "golden" investigator. On this particular evening the sisters called in to their district leader to report on the investigator's progress. The conversation went something like this:

Sis. Missionary:(SM) I think we really lost our investigator this evening!!! (in tears)

District Leader:(DL) Why do you say that, Sister?

SM: Well, when we left their house this evening, we invited them to read some scriptures in the Book of Mormon. Instead of writing down 1 Nephi 3:7, I mistakenly wrote down Third Nephi 3:7 for them to read.

DL: What does 3 Nephi 3:7 say?

SM: Oh, Elder...(still in tears) the first words this investigator is going to read in the Book of Mormon are: "...yield yourselves up unto us, and unite with us and become acquainted with our secret works, and become our brethren that ye may be like unto us--not our slaves, but our brethren and partners in all our substance."

We were all laughing too hard to ask whether or not the investigator received any more lessons....

In New York City, a teacher asked a boy, "Who defeated the Nephites?" The boy replied, "If they don't play the Mets, I don't keep track of them."

Q: Why does everyone look up to Moroni?

A: Because he's always on the ball

Q: Why did the Lamanites have bruised knees?

A: Because of the Nephites.

In the car on the way home from Sunday School, we were quizing our four year old son, Jonathan, about the lessons of the day. "We had a great lesson today", he said. "It was about two thousand 'stricken lawyers.'" [Note: the story was about the 2,000 stripling warriors]

Following the brethren's admonition to become involved in the political process by attending the party caucus, I found myself elected as chairman for our precinct and as a delegate to the state convention. Shortly after my high priest group leader assigned me to home teach the family who had hosted the caucus meeting.

When I informed the family, the wife, who was also elected as secretary to the precinct, exclaimed: "Oh, Great! Could I please request that we keep the topic to

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April 11, 2004

A husband and wife, both getting on in years, are in bed one morning.

He takes her hand, and she says, "Don't touch me."

He says, "Why not?"

She answers, " Because I'm dead."

Husband says, "What are you talking about? We're lying here talking to one another."

The wife says, "No, I'm definitely dead."

Her husband insists, "You're not dead. What makes you think you're dead?"

His wife answers, "I know I'm dead because I woke up this morning, and nothing hurts."

One day on his way to work, my husband stopped at the cafeteria as it began to rain.

Forgetting that he hadn't brought an umbrella, he reached for the nearest one when he got up to leave.

"That's my umbrella," a woman immediately scolded.

Abashed at his mistake, he walked on to his office. He was drenched by the time he arrived.

Once there, he discovered three umbrellas that he had left in the office over the months, and he decided to bring them home at the end of the day.

That afternoon he ran into the same woman who had confronted him earlier.

She looked at the umbrellas, then at him, and tartly remarked: "You did real well for yourself today, didn't you?"

Give a man a fish and you take care of him for a day; teach him to use the internet and he won't bother you for weeks.

Wherever we take our twin daughters, strangers always come up to us and say, "Look, twins!" During a Las Vegas trip, though, we were wheeling them in their stroller through a hotel lobby when a woman came around a corner and exclaimed, "Look, a pair!"

The only cure for insomnia is to get more sleep.

Cassie was a really good mom. When her children were growing up, her one son gave her more "stop and count to 10" periods.

Once, after her small son fell into the pond and came home with his good school clothes dripping wet, the exasperated Cassie sent him to his room while she washed and dried his clothes.

A little later, Cassie heard a commotion in the back yard. She called out "Are you out there wetting your pants again!?"

There was dead silence for a moment. Then a deep, masculine voice answered meekly, "No, ma'am, I'm just reading the meter."

Today at work I was moving a computer system and listening to the conversation at the point of sale. A customer had brought his caller ID box back into the store and was rather irritably asking for a refund, as the device didn't work.

The customer service rep had taken it out of the box and was making sure that the customer had attached it to his phone properly. During her demonstration of the proper way to hook up the gadget, she removed the static cling label off the front, which showed a sample caller ID screen on it.

It was difficult for her to maintain a straight face as the customer realized the reason the numbers on the front never changed . . .

"I'm sorry," said the clerk in flower shop, "We don't have potted geraniums. Could you use African violets instead?"

Replied the customer sadly, "No, it was geraniums my wife told me to water while she was gone."

Cats are a lot smarter than dogs...you can't get eight cats to pull a sleigh through the snow.

Many of us "Old Folks" (those over 50 or hovering over 50) are quite confused about how we should present ourselves.

We're unsure about the kind of image we are projecting and whether or not we are correct as we try to be nice and conform to the fashions that the designers in NYC, California, and/or Paris inflict upon the world. So I made a sincere study of the situation and here are the results.

Despite what you may have seen on the streets, the following combinations DO NOT go together:

1. A nose ring and bifocals
2. Spiked hair and bald spots
3. A pierced tongue and dentures
4. Miniskirts and support hose
5. Ankle bracelets and corn pads
6. Speedo's and cellulite
7. A belly button ring and a gall bladder surgery scar
8. Unbuttoned disco shirts and a heart monitor
9. Midriff shirts and a midriff bulge
10. Bikinis and liver spots
11. Short shorts and varicose veins
12. Inline skates and a walker
13. Ponytails with bald heads

With these guidelines I'm sure we'll all be LOOKING GOOD!

Today in sharing time we played a "who am I" game using a somewhat familiar figure from each of the Standard Works. When the kids figured out that the person we were talking about was the Brother of Jared, I asked them if anyone knew what his real name was. I told them it was long, and hard to pronounce.

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"I am fascinated by children's literature, which probably led Travis (her boyfriend) to believe that I am only on a 4th grade reading level." —one of Marisa's friends.

I had a green companion from the southern states and he spoke his poor Spanish with a southern drawl. It was his turn to do the door approach at a particular house. After about two minutes, the man's eyes opened really wide and his face filled with amazement. Suddenly he turned and yelled into the house, "Wife, come quick! This gringo's talking English and I can understand him."

Our family has a favorite about Missionaries in the southern U.S. Apparently, after visiting with some elderly people the missionaries tracted out, they overheard the man saying to his wife as they left: "Ain't that a hoot! Both them boys named Elmer!"

Sister Hope Kibbey was expecting her first baby...and she was VERY BIG. Sister Kibbey was also the chorister for Sacrament Meeting.

About a week before she was due, she stood in Sacrament Meeting and directed the congregation in the closing hymn, 'We Thank Thee O God for a Prophet.' When they reached the part of the hymn that went, 'There is hope smiling brightly before us, and we know that deliverance is night.' the congregation got the giggles, and the closing prayer was postponed for nearly 5 minutes.

So let that be a lesson to you to carefully choose your closing hymns...and who will conduct them. See you next week.

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Volume 3 Number 16

April 18, 2004

Many years ago my father and brothers were framing a house...in fact, it was Seely's house in Horse Acres. In the process of doing the work, my brother David was trying to fir down an area where plumbing would go in the basement. He held up a piece of wood in place, and placing the nail gun into place, he pulled the trigger.

With lightning speed, the nail flew through the first piece of wood, started into the second, struck a knot in the wood, did a right turn and lodged itself in my brother's thumb. He started to yell and shout (hopefully without using any dramatic profanity) and finally succeeded in pulling his thumb away from the nail.

My father came running down the makeshift stairs to see what all the ruckus was about, and started to laugh.

"I thought I taught you how to do this. Maybe I better show you again." he said, yanking the bent nail out of the stud, then put the same piece of wood into place, pulled the trigger...and started to scream himself.

As he pulled his thumb off the nail and started to dance around, my brother looked at him balefully.

"But dad," he said painfully, "that's just the way I did it."

Fresh out of high school, I found a job cleaning the elegant home of an older couple. Among other duties, I had to dust their many imported carvings and petrified collectibles, as well as pick up after their pets.

One day, I was astonished to find two ivory fossils lying on the floor beside the bookcase. I quickly picked them up, and put them back on the shelf. The next week, the same thing happened.

That afternoon, my employer came into the parlor, her faithful dog behind her. Looking around, she eyed the bookcase. "Nya," she asked the dog, "how in the world do you keep getting your bones up there?"

A distraught patient phoned her doctor's office. Was it true, the woman wanted to know, that the medication the doctor had prescribed was for the rest of her life? She was told that it was.

There was a moment of silence before the woman continued, "I'm wondering, then, just how serious my condition is. This prescription is marked "NO REFILLS."

My friend was on duty in the main computer lab on a quiet afternoon he noticed a young woman sitting in front of one of the workstations with her arms crossed across her chest, staring at the screen.

After about 15 minutes he noticed that she was still in the same position, only now she was impatiently tapping her foot.

Finally, he approached her and asked if she needed help.

She replied, "It's about time! I pressed the F1 button over twenty minutes ago!"

I was scheduled to fly from North Carolina to Germany, where my husband was stationed in the military.

As I checked in at the airport, the ticket agent asked me some standard security questions.

"Has anyone given you any packages that you didn't pack yourself?" he asked.

I told him that my mother-in-law had given me a parcel to take to her son.

He looked at me very carefully and asked: "Does she like you?"

On a U.S. cruiser the officer of the deck asked the starboard lookout, "What would you do if a sailor was washed overboard?"

"I'd yell MAN OVERBOARD!" answered the lookout snappily.

"Good," said the officer. "Now what would you do if an officer fell overboard?"

The lookout asked, "Which one, sir?"

Okay write all this down...

Think of a number.

Multiply it by 3.

Now add 5.

Take away the number you first thought of.

Now, close your eyes for one minute...

Dark, isn't it.

In the car on the way home from Sunday School, we were quizing our four year old son, Jonathan, about the lessons of the day. "We had a great lesson today", he said. "It was about two thousand 'stricken lawyers.'" [Note: the story was about the 2,000 stripling warriors]

In every picture I have seen of Book of Mormon prophets they are depicted with *very* large arms. It must come from scripture chasing using brass plates.

I've always wondered why, if Abinadi went in secret, his first words among the people told them his name. Obviously he wasn't the secret agent type. (Mosiah 12:1 ". . .after the space of two years that Abinadi came among them in disguise, that they knew him not, and began to prophesy among them, saying: Thus has the Lord commanded me, saying--Abinadi, go and prophesy unto this my people . . .")

Mixed up Primary Songs

My friend Juliet learned to sing "I Hope They Call Me On a Mission" before she could read. She said she was mortified some years later to read the chart in primary and suddenly realized that the words read, "I hope by then I will be ready." She had been singing, "I hope the dinner will be ready." I guess it made sense when she was four.

How about this one:

I have five little fingers on one little hand.

I have six on the other; I don't understand.

During all the long hours till daylight is through,

I have one little finger with nothing to do!

(Once you sung it that way once, its hard to recall the original.)

[The real lyrics go:

I have two little hands folded snugly and tight.

They are tiny and weak, yet they know what is right.

During all the long hours till daylight is though,

There are plenty indeed for my two hands to do.]

A counselor in our bishopric last Sunday commented

about another time when he had first been called as a counselor in another bishopric. Apparently during ward business, someone raised an opposition to a calling. The counselor, not knowing what to do or how to handle the situation, turned to the bishop who told him that he should go on and they would talk to the person later.

The poor counselor was so shaken by the experience that he then said, "We will now prepare for the Sacrament by singing hymn #193, I Stand All Opposed." [Real title: I Stand All Amazed.]

There was a Bishop in Idaho who was also a mortician. He got up to announce the closing hymn. "We will now close with hymn number 243, Let Us All Pass On." [The real title: "Let Us All Press On". Obviously a very dry sacrament meeting...oops, did I say that?]

Norman Snarr, First Counselor in the Newburgh New York Stake presidency spoke at our stake conference last month and during his talk he said: Most of you are probably familiar with the sacrament hymn (and he sung the words), "Jesus, Once of Humble Birth."

"Well," he went on, "When I was a little child in Primary I used to sing it with great joy, but I had mistakenly heard and learned the words as (and he sang, again): "Jesus, once a humming bird...."

How many Primary workers/children does it take to screw in a light bulb?

TWELVE!

4 Cub Scouts to do the job and pass off a requirement.

1 Den Leader to sign their books.

3 children to hold up pictures.

1 chorister to lead everyone in a song.

2 Primary Teachers to assist

1 Member of the Presidency to oversee the activity.

I remember one time that I had a investigator meeting with two elders named Elder Jensen and Elder Lamb. They were talking about priesthoods. Elder Jensen asked me if I knew what the Aaronic Priesthood was, I guessed and said that it was the opposite of the real priesthood. (I thought they said Ironic Priesthood)

Oh, the joys of teaching with members and ...members.

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Volume 3 Number 17

April 25, 2004

Phrases for you to use in a job interview - or to interpret when interviewing!

Phrase: I'm extremely adept at all manners of office organization....*Meaning: I've used Microsoft Office.*

Phrase: I'm honest, hard-working and dependable...*Meaning: I pilfer office supplies.*

Phrase: I take pride in my work...*Meaning: I blame others for any mistakes.*

Phrase: I'm personable...*Meaning: I give lots of unsolicited personal advice to co-workers.*

Phrase: I am very adaptable...*Meaning: I've changed jobs a lot.*

Phrase: I am on the go...*Meaning: I'm never at my desk.*

Phrase: I'm highly motivated to succeed...*Meaning: The minute I find a better job, I'm outta here.*

A local hunting guide got himself into a big problem. His party became hopelessly lost in the mountains and they blamed him for leading them astray.

"You told us you were the best guide in Colorado!" they asserted.

"I am!," he said, "but I think we're in Wyoming now."

A man and his wife spent their vacation at a Dude Ranch in Texas. The cowboy preparing the horses asked if she wanted a Western or English saddle, and she asked what the difference was.

He told her one had a horn and one didn't.

She replied, "The one without the horn is fine. I don't expect we'll run into too much traffic."

A man absolutely hated his wife's cat and decided to get rid of the animal one day by driving him 20 blocks from his home and leaving him at the park. As he was getting home, the cat was walking up the driveway.

The next day he decided to drive the cat 40 blocks away. He put the beast out and headed home. Driving back up his driveway, there was the cat!

The man kept taking the cat further and further and the

cat would always beat him home. At last he decided to drive a few miles away, turn right, then left, past the bridge, then right again and another right until he reached what he thought was a safe distance from his home and left the cat there.

Hours later the man calls home to his wife: "Jen, is the cat there?"

"Yes," the wife answers, "why do you ask?"

Frustrated, the man answered, "Put him on the phone, I'm lost and need directions."

A young woman was talking with an older woman, apparently her mother. "I haven't slept in three days," she complained. "The baby is teething and he's up all night crying."

"Why don't you just rub a thimble-full of brandy on his gums. That will numb them up and put him right to sleep," answered mom.

"I can't give the baby alcohol! Lord knows what that will do to him."

"Well, it never hurt *YOU* any." The look on her face was priceless.

Because of an ear infection, my young son, Casey, had to go to the pediatrician. I was impressed with the way the doctor directed his comments and questions to my son.

When he asked Casey, "Is there anything you are allergic to?" Casey nodded and whispered in his ear. Smiling, the pediatrician wrote out a prescription and handed it to me. Without looking at it, I tucked it into my purse.

Later, the pharmacist filled the order, remarking on the unusual food-drug interaction my son must have.

When he saw my puzzled expression, he showed me the label on the bottle. As per the doctor's instructions, it read: "Do not take with broccoli."

Fisherman: "Hey, pal! You've been standing there watching me fish for three hours! Why don't you get a rod and reel and do some fishing yourself?"

Onlooker: "No, thanks. I don't have the patience for it."

Utah Residency Test

You must be able to answer yes to 10 or more of the following questions to qualify for permanent residency in the state of Utah. Failure to do so qualifies you as a temporary resident only.

Do you have a bumper sticker that says "Families can be Forever"?

Was the mother of the bride pregnant at your wedding?

Did a member of your family write in Lavelle Edwards for President in the last election?

If you shop on Sunday, do you post date the check?

Does your mother have purple or amber plastic grapes in the attic?

Were you an aunt or uncle before you attended kindergarten?

Do you have 2 gallons of ice cream in the freezer at all times?

Do you consider peanut butter on the seat of your car an accessory?

When you take a family to a restaurant, do you ask for extra plates?

Do you consider "dam" a swear word?

Does your family consider a trip to McDonald's a night out?

Do you believe you have to be 18 to order coffee in a cafe?

Are at least two of your salad bowls at neighbor's houses?

Do you think Jack Daniels is a country western singer?

Do you consider your temple recommend a credit reference?

When your ward basketball team plays, is it similar to the L.A. riots?

Do you have an uncontrollable urge to arrive at meetings 5 minutes late?

Did you meet your spouse at BYU or on "Your Mission."

Can you make a Jell-O with fruit salad without a recipe?

Do you bring cola home from the store in a brown paper bag?

Do your children believe that deer hunting is a national holiday?

Do you negotiate prices at a garage sale?

Do you feel guilty when you watch Monday Night Football?

Do you think red punch and green Jell-O are the main ingredients for a

successful party?

Do your kids think Jell-O is a major food group?

When you pick someone up at the airport, do you bring at least 1/3 of your

relatives and have a family reunion at the gate?

Do you have a "Quiet Book" as part of your library?

Are you embarrassed if any of your children are more than two years apart in age?

Do you say "Gawl", "Heck", or "Fetch" more than once a day?

Do you travel on Morris Air Service at least once a year?

Do you think "Ignernrt" means rude?

Does it take more than one car to get all your kids over to Grandma's house?

Do you have any relatives named LaDell, LaVelle, LaDawn, or LaVerle (how about LaDurl)?

Does your 2 year supply of food include more than 40 pounds of candy?

Do you keep a supply of butcher paper on hand to make large "Welcome Home" banners?

Do you refuse coffee but accept all offers of Excedrin?

Do you think it is more prestigious to go to BYU than Harvard?

Do you have relatives in California doing everything they can to "Move Back"?

Do you shop for wedding gifts at D.I.?

Does your family take Mormon Tequila to family reunions? (Ingredients of Mormon Tequila: Kool-aid with gummi worm in the bottom.)

Has anybody in your family ever taken Cheerios in a sandwich bag or Tupperware dish to church?

Have you ever made a major purchase at D.I (Couches, appliances, electronics)?

In Keithville, La, as many as 50 people, including sheriff's deputies, game wardens, and wildlife officials, spent most of the night trying to rescue what appeared to be a big black bear caught high in a pine tree. Finally, after nearly eight hours, during which a veterinarian fired a number of tranquilizer darts, the rescuers chopped the tree down and discovered they had saved a heavily sedated black garbage bag.

WIFE: "There's trouble with the car. It has water in the carburetor."

HUSBAND: "Water in the carburetor? That's ridiculous."

WIFE: "I tell you the car has water in the carburetor."

HUSBAND: "You don't even know what a carburetor is. I'll check it out. Where's the car?"