

The Morning Breaks

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

Volume 3 Number 18

May 2, 2004

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."

A man entered a drug store and asked to see the pharmacist. When the pharmacist came out, the man asked if he could give him a cure for the hiccups.

The pharmacist immediately reached out and slapped him across the face.

"What'd you do that for?" the man asked.

"Well, you don't have the hiccups anymore, do you?"

"No," the man replied, "but my wife out in the car still does!"

Business Advice: "Don't be irreplaceable! If you can't be replaced you can't be promoted!"

A young man called his mother and announced excitedly that he had just met the woman of his dreams. Now what should he do?

His mother had an idea: "Why don't you send her flowers, and on the card invite her to your apartment for a home-cooked meal?"

He thought this was a great strategy, and a week later, the woman came to dinner. His mother called the next day to see how things had gone.

"I was totally humiliated," he moaned. "She insisted on washing the dishes."

"What's wrong with that?" asked his mother.

"We hadn't started eating yet."

It was the first camping experience for Paul. As soon as he had pitched his tent, he went for a hike in the woods. In about fifteen minutes he rushed back into camp, bleeding and disheveled.

"What happened?" asked a fellow camper.

"I was chased by a black snake!" cried the frightened Paul.

The other camper laughed and retorted, "A black snake

isn't deadly."

"Listen," groaned Paul, "if he can make you jump off a fifty-foot cliff, he is!"

"Some days you're the dog...and some days you're the fire hydrant." -Unknown.

Checking out of the grocery store, I noticed that the bag boy was eyeing my two adopted children curiously. They often draw scrutiny, since my son's a blond Russian, while my daughter has shiny black Haitian skin.

The boy continued staring as he carried our groceries to the car.

Finally, he asked. "Those your kids?"

"Yes, they are!" I answered proudly.

"They adopted?" he asked.

"Yes," I replied.

"I thought so," he concluded. "I figured you're too old to have kids that small."

Although we had recently moved into a new neighborhood, our young son had already made many new friends, ten of whom were invited to his birthday party. When the happy day arrived and he opened his presents, I was amazed to see that eight guests had presented him with sweaters.

Later I visited the mother of one of the boys to explain about the multiplicity of sweaters in the hope that an exchange might be arranged.

She said coolly, "Well, after all, you were the one who wrote on the invitation what you wanted me to buy."

For a few minutes I was stunned into silence; then I realized what had happened. Since the party was being held in our basement, which is always cool, I had written on each invitation: "Please have your child bring a sweater."

During Primary Singing Time, our music leader had a Nativity scene with individual pieces like Mary, Joseph, Jesus, etc. The kids each got to pick a piece and put it on the scene and each piece had a corresponding song. One piece was a small lamb and a little girl put it on the scene.

The Music Leader then asked, "Why do you think that there was a lamb in the stable?"

A little boy in my CTR 5 class piped up and said questioningly, "Mary had a little lamb?"

You might be a Mormon . . .

If you've ever referred to a friend as your "Companion."

If you have ever inadvertently addressed your boss or coworkers as brother or sister.

If you have ever blessed cake, cookies or donuts saying, "Please bless this food that it will strengthen and nourish our bodies."

If you have ever used the phrase "With every fiber of my being."

If all your dishes have your name written on masking tape.

If you have something stuck to your refrigerator for every time you have attended Relief Society.

If you have geese or cow decorations anywhere in your kitchen.

If you think toys are a normal part of any landscaping.

If you've ever refused a Coke although it's 105 degrees outside.

If you know a 300 lb woman who doesn't drink Coke because it may cause her to be unhealthy.

If you have no idea who ever said Mormons shouldn't drink Coke.

If you received baby clothes at a bridal shower (and didn't need them -honest- but you were really excited to get them.)

If you have to lock your car in the church parking lot to keep it from being filled with zucchini, tomatoes, and egg plants.

Sacrament meeting was about to begin and a mother couldn't find her son. She searched everywhere and finally located him sitting outside on the curb with his head in his hands.

"Son, we have to go in now. Sacrament is about to start."

He responded, "I can't go in there, Mom. Nobody likes me. No one will talk to me."

"But son, you have to go back in....You're the Bishop."
(This was the opening remark by Sister Roche, the Washington D.C. temple matron, at a Wilmington, N.C. Stake conference.)

In the early 1840's, the head of a fundamentalist Christian religion near Nauvoo decided that all the Mormons had to leave Illinois. Naturally there was a big uproar from the Mormon community. So the fundamentalist Christian leader made a deal. He would have a religious debate with a member of the Mormon community. If the Mormon won, the Mormons could stay. If the fundamentalist Christian leader won, the Mormons would leave.

The Mormons realized that they had no choice. So they picked a middle-aged immigrant convert named John to represent them. John, being a simple man of the earth and still learning the English language, asked for one addition to the debate. To make it more interesting, neither side would be allowed to talk. The fundamentalist Christian

leader agreed.

The day of the great debate came. John and the fundamentalist Christian leader sat opposite each other for a full minute before the fundamentalist Christian leader raised his hand and showed three fingers. John looked back at him and raised one finger.

The fundamentalist Christian leader waved his fingers in a circle around his head. John pointed to the ground where he sat.

The fundamentalist Christian leader pulled out a wafer and a glass of wine. John pulled out an apple.

The fundamentalist Christian leader stood up and said, "I give up. This man is too good. The Mormons can stay."

Minutes later, the Deacons of the fundamentalist Christian religion were all around their leader asking him what happened.

The fundamentalist Christian leader said: "First I held up three fingers together to represent that God the Father, his son Jesus and the Holy Ghost were all three in one. He responded by holding up one finger to remind me that they were all one in purpose.

"Then I waved my finger around me to show him that God was in the air everywhere at once. He responded by pointing to the ground and showing me that God the Son had appeared to many with a resurrected body.

"I pulled out the wine and the wafer to show that we are saved from our sins by grace alone. He pulled out an apple to remind me of repentance and doing good works. He had an answer for everything. What could I do?"

Meanwhile, the Mormon community had crowded around John.

"What happened?" they asked.

"Well," said John, "First he said to me that the Mormons had three days to get out of here. I told him that not one of us was leaving.

"Then he told me that this whole city would be cleared of Mormons. I let him know that we were staying right here."

"And then?" they asked.

"I don't know," said John. "He took out his lunch and I took out mine."

Once upon a time, a beautiful, independent, self assured princess happened upon a frog in a pond. The frog said to the princess, "I was once a handsome prince until an evil witch put a spell on me. One kiss from you and I will turn back into a prince and then we can marry, move into the castle with my mum, and you can prepare my meals and clean my clothes, bear my children and forever feel happy doing so."

That night, while the princess dined on frog legs, she laughed and said, "I don't think so."

And that winds up another edition of The Morning Breaks. Hopefully, you'll be able to stop your eyes from rolling in

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Volume 3 Number 19

May 9, 2004

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

"Because white is the color of happiness," replied her mother. "Today is the happiest day of her life!"

The child thought about this for a moment, then asked, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

A while back I was reading about an expert on subject of time management. One day this expert was speaking to a group of business students and, to drive home a point, used an illustration I'm sure those students will never forget. After I share it with you, you'll never forget it either.

As this man stood in front of the group of high-powered overachievers he said, "Okay, time for a quiz." Then he pulled out a one-gallon, wide-mouthed mason jar and set it on a table in front of him. Then he produced about a dozen fist-sized rocks and carefully placed them, one at a time, into the jar. When the jar was filled to the top and no more rocks would fit inside, he asked, "Is this jar full?"

Everyone in the class said, "Yes."

Then he said, "Really?" He reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel. Then he dumped some gravel in and shook the jar causing pieces of gravel to work themselves down into the spaces between the big rocks. Then he smiled and asked the group once more, "Is the jar full?"

By this time the class was onto him. "Probably not," one of them answered.

"Good!" he replied. And he reached under the table and brought out a bucket of sand. He started dumping the sand in and it went into all the spaces left between the rocks and the gravel.

Once more he asked the question, "Is this jar full?"

"No!" the class shouted.

Once again he said, "Good!" Then he grabbed a pitcher of water and began to pour it in until the jar was filled to the brim. Then he looked up at the class and asked, "What is the point of this illustration?"

One eager beaver raised his hand and said, "The point is, no matter how full your schedule is, if you try really hard, you can always fit some more things into it!"

"No," the speaker replied, "that's not the point. The truth this illustration teaches us is: If you don't put the big rocks in first, you'll never get them in at all."

The title of this illustration is The "Big Rocks" of Life. What are the big rocks in your life? A project that YOU want to accomplish? Time with your loved ones? Your faith, your education, your finances? A cause? Teaching or mentoring others? Remember to put these BIG ROCKS in first or you'll never get them in at all.

So, tonight when you are reflecting on this short story, ask yourself this question: What are the "big rocks" in my life or business? Then, put those in your jar tomorrow.

This truck driver hauling a tractor-trailer load of computers stops for a beer. As he approaches the bar he sees a big sign on the door saying: "NERDS NOT ALLOWED-ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK!" He goes in and sits down. The bartender comes over to him, sniffs, says he smells kind of nerdy, asks him what he does for a living. The truck driver says he drives a truck, and the smell is just from the computers he's hauling. The bartender says "OK, truck drivers are not nerds," and serves him a beer.

As he is sipping his beer, a skinny guy walks in with tape around his glasses, a pocket protector with twelve kinds of pens and pencils, and a belt at least a foot too long. The bartender, without saying a word, pulls out a shotgun and blows the guy away.

The truck driver asks him why he did that. The bartender said not to worry, the nerds are overpopulating the Silicon Valley, and are in season now. "You don't even need a license", he said.

So the truck driver finishes his beer, gets back in his truck, and heads back onto the freeway. Suddenly he veers to avoid an accident, and the load shifts. The back door breaks open and computers spill out all over the freeway. He jumps out and sees a crowd already forming, grabbing up the computers. They are all engineers, accountants and programmers wearing the nerdiest clothes he has ever seen. He can't let them steal his whole load. So, remembering what happened in the bar, he pulls out his gun and starts blasting away, felling several of them instantly.

A highway patrol officer comes zooming up and jumps out of the car, screaming at him to stop. The truck

driver said, "What's wrong? I thought nerds were in season."

"Well, sure," said the patrolman, "But you can't bait 'em."

A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was a Bishop, if they could discuss the use of the car. His father took him to his study and said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your Scriptures a little and get your hair cut and we'll talk about it."

After about a month the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss use of the car. They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Son, I've been real proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your Scriptures diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!"

The young man waited a minute and replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. You know, Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, why even Jesus had long hair...."

To which his father replied...."Yes, and they WALKED every where they went!"

The following Bible stories were apparently written by real students and are genuine, Richard Lederer assembled them; they appeared in National Review magazine on December 31, 1995.

In the first book of the Bible, Guinness's, God got tired of creating the world, so He took the Sabbath off. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark, the animals came on to in pears. Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.

Samson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles. Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments. The First Commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple. The Fifth Commandment is to humor thy father and mother. The seventh Commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery. Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol. The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.

David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Finklesteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines. Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which says to do one to others before they do one to you. He also explained, "Man doth not live by sweat alone."

The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels. The epistles were the wives of the apostles. One

of the opossums was St. Matthew who was, by profession, a taximan. St. Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage. A Christian should have only one wife. This is called monotony.

Two missionaries were asked to speak in the Sacrament Meeting of the small branch in which they were serving. As the first missionary got up to speak, the zipper in his pants broke -- unbeknown to the young Elder. The branch was so small that they didn't even have a real pulpit; they used a music stand to speak behind. It didn't take long for everyone to notice the young missionary's problem.

In his innocence, he continued to talk, but couldn't figure out why he was getting so many smiles at first, followed by a few nervous giggles. Even his companion had figured out the problem by now, so he looked in his scriptures and wrote "Isaiah 6:5" on a small piece of paper and slipped it into his companion's hand.

Unfortunately, the new missionary wasn't familiar with the Old Testament, so he figured it must be something his companion wanted him to read. Opening the scriptures, he read aloud: "Then said I, Woe [is] me! for I am undone...!" As the congregation burst into unrestrained laughter, the senior companion rushed his young charge to the Men's room.

[NOTE: I have also heard of 2 Nephi 16:5 and Numbers 21:29 being similarly used!]

Two home teachers went out one Saturday to visit their families. At one home, it was obvious that someone was there, but nobody came to the door even though they knocked several times. Finally, the senior companion took out a piece of paper and wrote the member's name on the card with the words, "Revelation 3:20" below it, and stuck the paper in the crack in the door.

(Revelation 3:20 -- Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with me).

The next day, on Sunday, the piece of paper was returned to the home teacher. Below the home teacher's message was the notation "Genesis 3:10"

(Genesis 3:10 -- I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself).

A little boy came home from Primary one day. His mother asked him what he learned. He replied, "My teacher told me that I used to be dust and I would be dust again. Is that true, Mommy?"

"Yes," the mother replied. "A scripture tells us so: 'For dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.'"

This little boy was wide-eyed and amazed. The next morning, he was scurrying around getting ready for school, looking for his shoes. As he crawled under the bed, lo and behold, there he saw balls of dust. He ran to his mother in wonder, saying, "Oh, Mommy, somebody's

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May 16, 2004

David received a parrot for his birthday. This parrot was fully grown with a bad attitude and terrible vocabulary. Every other word was an expletive. Those that weren't expletives were, to say the least, rude.

David tried hard to change the bird's attitude. He was constantly saying polite words and playing soft music, he did anything he could think of. Nothing worked. When he yelled at the bird, the bird got worse. If he shook the bird, the bird got madder and ruder.

Finally in a moment of desperation, David put the parrot in the freezer. For a few moments he heard the bird squawking, kicking and screaming and then suddenly, there was quiet. David was frightened that he might have actually hurt the bird and quickly opened the freezer door.

The parrot calmly stepped out onto David's extended arm and said, "I'm sorry that I might have offended you with my language and actions, so I ask for your forgiveness. I will endeavour to correct my behaviour."

David was astounded at the bird's change in attitude and was about to ask what had changed him when the parrot continued: "May I ask what the chicken did?"

A vampire bat came flapping in from the night covered in fresh blood and parked himself on the roof of the cave to get some sleep. Pretty soon all the other bats smelt the blood and began hassling him about where he got it. He told them to leave him alone and let him get some sleep but they persisted until finally he gave in.

"OK, OK, do you see that tree out there?" he asked, pointing through the mouth of the cave.

"Yes, yes, yes!" the bats all screamed in a frenzy.

"Good," said the first bat, "Because I didn't!"

One day a cat dies of natural causes and goes to heaven. There he meets the Lord Himself. The Lord says to the cat " You lived a good life and if there is any way I can make your stay in Heaven more comfortable, please let Me know".

The cat thinks for a moment and says "Lord, all my life I have lived with a poor family and had to sleep on a hard wooden floor."

The Lord stops the cat and says "say no more" and a wonderful fluffy pillow appears.

A few days later 6 mice are killed in a tragic farming accident and go to heaven. Again the Lord there to greet them with the same offer.

The mice answer "All of our lives we have been chased. We have had to run from cats, dogs and even women with brooms. Running, running, running; we're tired of running. Do you think we could have roller skates so we don't have to run anymore?"

The Lord says "say no more" and fits each mouse with beautiful new roller skates.

About a week later the Lord stops by to see the cat and finds him snoozing on the pillow. The Lord gently wakes the cat and asks him "How are things since you've been here?"

The cat stretches and yawns and replies "It is wonderful here. Better than I could have ever expected. And those 'Meals On Wheels' you've been sending by are theeeeeeeee best!!!"

A man visiting a rural Tennessee town during the Christmas season saw a wonderful "Nativity Scene," but one feature bothered him. The three wise men were carrying heavy canvas hoses, and wearing fire helmets. Unable to come up with a reason or explanation, he left. At a little country store on the edge of town, he asked the lady behind the counter about the hoses and helmets. She shook her head in disgust, and said, "You danged Yankees never

do read the Bible!" He assured her that he did, but simply couldn't recall anything about firemen in the Bible. She indignantly jerked her Bible from behind the counter and ruffled through the pages, finally jabbing her finger at one particular passage. Putting the Good Book right up in his face she said, "See, Yankee, it says right here, "The three wise men came from afar....."

The Top Ten Ways the Bible Would Have Been Different If Written by College Students:

10). Loaves and Fishes replaced by Pizza and Chips

9). Ten Commandments are actually only five, but because they are double-spaced and written in a large font, they look like ten.

8). Forbidden fruit would have been eaten only because it wasn't dining hall food.

7). Paul's Letters to the Romans become Paul's E-Mail to the Romans.

6). Reason Cain killed Abel: They were roommates.

5). The place where the end of the world occurs.... not the Plains of Armageddon, but Finals.

4). Book of Armaments would be in there somewhere.

3). Reason why Moses and followers wandered in desert for 40 years: They didn't want to ask directions and look like a Freshman.

2). Tower of Babel blamed for Foreign Language requirement.

1). Instead of creating the world in six days and resting on the seventh, God would have put it off until the night before it was due and then pulled an all-nighter and hoped no one noticed.

Q Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

A Noah. He floated his stock while the rest was in liquidation.

Q Mr. Doubleday thought that he was the one that invented baseball. He wasn't though. Do you know who played and when they played?

A Adam and Even played in the 'Big-inning'.

Q What time of the day was Adam born?

A A little before "EVE".

Q When were motorcycles first mentioned in the Bible?

A When Moses' Triumph was heard throughout the land.

Q Which prophet didn't have a father?

A Joshua, the son of Nun.

It was in the early 1960's and spray deodorant, new to the market, was being advertised on television about six times a day. I was still living at home with my parents saving money for college. One afternoon after a hard day of construction and before dinner I took a nice hot shower.

After drying off I spotted a new spray can on the bathroom shelf.

The label read "SafeGuard" and I was so surprised that my mom had bought some of that new deodorant so I sprayed a liberal amount under each arm.

When I entered the kitchen, where mom was fixing dinner, I thanked her for getting some new spray deodorant but also complained that it was pretty sticky and I didn't know if I really liked it yet.

Her response still rings in my ears - "I didn't buy any spray deodorant, but I did buy some of that new bandage spray, SafeGuard!"

After shaving my armpits in order to lift my arms and hours of laughing by my entire family I realized that RightGuard and SafeGuard were not the same thing.

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Volume 3 Number 21

May 23, 2004

It was in the early 1960's and spray deodorant, new to the market, was being advertised on television about six times a day. I was still living at home with my parents saving money for college. One afternoon after a hard day of construction and before dinner I took a nice hot shower.

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One of my daughter's wedding presents was a toaster oven. Soon after the honeymoon, she and her husband tried it out. Almost immediately, smoke billowed out of the toaster.

"Get the owner's manual!" my daughter's husband shouted.

"I can't find it anywhere!"

"Oops!" came a voice from the kitchen a moment later. "Well, the toast is fine, but the manual is burned to a crisp."

"So, what's the matter? I thought you just got back from a nice relaxing fishing trip with your husband."

"Oh, everything went wrong: First he said I talked so loud I would scare the fish. Then he said I was using the wrong bait; and then that I was reeling in too soon.

"All that might have been all right; but then, to make matters worse, I ended up catching the most fish!"

Military leaders succeed in building a computer able to solve any strategic or tactical problem.

They are assembled in front of the new machine and instructed to feed a difficult tactical problem into it.

They describe a hypothetical situation to the computer and then ask the pivotal question: attack or retreat?

The computer hums away for an hour and then comes up with the answer:

YES.

The generals look at each other, somewhat stupefied. Finally one of them submits a second request to the computer: YES WHAT?

Instantly the computer responded: YES SIR.

Cooking Terms

Tongue: A variety of meat, rarely served because it clearly crosses the line between a cut of beef and a piece of dead cow.

Yogurt: Semi-solid dairy product made from partially evaporated and fermented milk. Yogurt is one of only three foods that taste exactly the same as they sound. The other two are goulash and squid.

Recipe: A series of step-by-step instructions for preparing ingredients you forgot to buy, in utensils you don't own, to make a dish the dog won't eat.

Porridge: Thick oatmeal rarely found on American tables since children were granted the right to sue their parents. The name is an amalgamation of the words "Putrid," "hORRId," and "sluDGE."

Preheat: To turn on the heat in an oven for a period of time before cooking a dish, so that the fingers may be burned not only when the food is removed, but when it is put in.

Oven: Compact home incinerator used for disposing of bulky pieces of meat and poultry.

Microwave Oven: Space-age kitchen appliance that uses the principle of radar to locate and immediately destroy any food placed within the cooking compartment.

Calorie: Basic measure of the amount of rationalization offered by the average individual prior to taking a second helping of a particular food.

The owner of a small New York sandwich deli was being questioned by an IRS agent about his tax return. He

had reported a net profit of \$80,000 for the year.

"Why don't you people leave me alone?" the deli owner said. "I work like a dog, everyone in my family helps out, the place is only closed three days a year. And you want to know how I made \$80,000?"

"It's not your income that bothers us," the agent said. "It's these travel deductions. You listed six trips to Florida for you and your wife."

"Oh, that," the owner said smiling. "It is a legitimate business expense because we also deliver."

Many of the gentile persuasion in the Salt Lake City area have taken to calling members of the church "Mo's."

Well, the truth is that being called a Mo isn't so bad. While it's not exactly a term of endearment, Mo beats some of the other things I've been called--lots of them by fellow Mo's. To ease the tension, between Mos and gentiles, I've come up with a brief Mo Lexicon. Practice these terms, learn to be comfortable with your Mo-ism.

MO - Mormon

NO MO - Non-Mormon

MO NO MO - Apostate

MO NOPOLY - Utah

MO TOWN - Provo

MO PEDS - People walking across the street to Temple Square or the MTC in Provo.

MO HAIR - Missionary standards haircut.

PO MO - A financially challenged Mormon

MO LASSES - Mormon Babes!!

MO TEL - Bishop's interview, tithing settlement.

SU MO - Grad of BYU Law School

MO GUL - Large white Utah bird frequently seen in Church history books, parking lots and dumps.

MO RALLY - Third quarter BYU drive against the U of U.

MO SEY - LDS sense of time. See also LOCO MO TION.

LOCO MO TION - Post-game exodus from Cougar Stadium.

MO NOGOMY - LDS marriage practices.

MO TIF - Two or more Mormons engaged in a heated difference of opinion.

MO LDIE - Older LDS member, temple worker, etc.

And my personal favorite (probably because it's my creation)

MO MO Missourian Mormon

Now don't worry...there's plenty more coming next week as the MO thing has become a contagion in the LDS email lists.

A Mormon guy in line to get lunch leans over to the guy next to him and says, "Wanna hear a Mormon joke?"

The guy next to him replies, "Well before you tell that joke, you should know something. I'm 6' tall, 200 lbs., and I am an anti-Mormon. The guy sitting next to me is 6'2 tall, weighs 225, and he's an anti-Mormon. The fella next to him is 6'5 tall, weighs 250, and he's an anti-Mormon. Now, you still wanna tell that joke?"

The first guy says, "Nah, not if I'm gonna have to explain it 3 times."

When I was at BYU, my roommate was the ward music leader and was responsible for choosing the music for sacrament meeting. One Sunday, the theme was dating and marriage, and we couldn't resist. When the bishop announced the closing hymn, he had a rather sheepish look on his face. "The closing hymn will be 'The World Has Need of Willing Men'" (The former name of 'Put Your Shoulder to the Wheel')

The entire congregation exploded with laughter.

At a Stake Conference of the Chula Vista, California Stake, President Paul B. Duncan related the following story:

President Duncan explained how Saturday was a day to get things done around their house because of work, family and church responsibilities. Just a few weeks ago he and his youngest son Jeff who is six years old had just finished mowing the lawn and were putting things away. President Duncan thought this would be a terrific opportunity to rest and spend a few minutes with Jeff.

The two of them crawled up on the family's trampoline and gazed up into the blue sky. With a puzzled look Jeff turned and asked "Dad,...Why are we here?"

President Duncan thought this would be great teaching opportunity so he explained how we are children of our Father in Heaven, How he has sent us here because he loves us and wants us to experience the things he has created for us, How he wants us to serve one another, to learn, to grow and to develop those qualities that will allow us to return to live with Him some day. President Duncan paused and asked if that had answered his question.

Jeff responded, "Not really".

President Duncan then began to think how else he might be able to answer the question when Jeff again asked, "Dad,...Why are we here? Weren't we supposed to pick Mom up an hour ago?"

Weren't you supposed to be out of the apartment tracting an hour ago? Get to it! More next week.

The Morning Breaks

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

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A woman walks into a convenience store. She walks straight to the manager and asks, "Do you have any small notebooks?"

"Sorry," says the manager. "We're all out."

The woman shrugs, and asks, "Well, do you have any mechanical pencils?"

"Nope, don't have that either," says the manager.

The woman feels her stomach rumbling and asks, "Do you have Doritos? Nachos?"

The manager shrugs, "Sorry."

"Hmmp. How about Chapstick?" says the woman.

"Nope. Don't have that."

"Well" the woman says, "If you don't have anything, why don't you close the store?"

The manager shrugs, "Can't. Don't have the key."

I was taking a ground school class for private pilots. During the session on weather, the instructor wanted to discuss the concept of sublimation, the act of going from a gas to a solid skipping the intermediate liquid stage. He gave as an example water vapor in the air condensing on a plane's windshield to form ice.

Wanting to see if the class had understood the concept, the instructor asked if anyone could provide an example of something that went straight from a solid to a gas. He was expecting "dry ice" as the answer.

One of the students blurted out, "Burritos."

One afternoon while I was visiting my library, I noticed a group of preschoolers gathered for story time. The book they were reading was THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A FLY.

After the librarian finished the first page, she asked the children, "Do you think she'll die?"

"Nope," a little girl in the back said. "I saw this last night on FEAR FACTOR."

One day a young boy ran crying to his mother and rubbing his behind.

His mother said, "Bobby, why are you crying?"

"Because daddy hit his thumb with the hammer!" little Bobby wailed.

"Why, that's not something to cry over," his mother told him. "That should make you laugh."

Bobby rubbed his behind and said tearfully, "I DID laugh!"

Supposedly a true story from Sweden ... not sure about that ...

After 17 years of marriage, a man dumped his wife for a younger woman. The downtown luxury apartment was in his name and he wanted to remain there with his new love so he asked the wife to move out and he would get her another place. The wife agreed to this, but asked that she be given 3 days on her own there, to pack up her things.

While he was gone, the first day she lovingly put her personal belongings into boxes and crates and suitcases. On the second day, she had the movers come and collect her things. On the third day, she sat down for the last time at their candle lit dining table, soft music playing in the background, and feasted on a pound of shrimp and a bottle of wine. When she had finished, she went into each room and deposited a few of the resulting shrimp shells into the hollow of the curtain rods. She then cleaned up the kitchen and left.

The husband came back, with his new girlfriend, and all was bliss for the first few days. Then it started; slowly but surely. Clueless, the man could not explain why the place smelled so bad. They tried everything; cleaned & mopped and aired the place out. Vents were checked for dead rodents, carpets were steam cleaned, Air fresheners were hung everywhere. Exterminators were brought in, the carpets were replaced, and on it went.

Finally, they could take it no more and decided to move. The moving company arrived and did a very professional packing job, taking everything to their new home. Including the curtain rods.

As an instructor in driver education at the local area High School, I've learned that even the brightest students can become flustered behind the wheel.

One day I had three beginners in the car, each scheduled to drive for 30 minutes.

When the first student had completed his time, I asked him to change places with one of the others.

Gripping the wheel tightly and staring straight ahead, he asked in a shaky voice, "Should I stop the car first?"

Sign in a veterinarian's office:

"All unattended children will be given a free kitten."

As I promised, more MO RMON items.

In the past few weeks, the Mo-mania struck the Institute's student e-mail list, and there were brief exchanges of what was called "Mo ses."

Here are a few more of what we came up with.

MO SIAH - Italian member's expression of dismay

MO TION - What LDS do to coffee, tea, tobacco and alcoholic drinks

MO B - deseret

MO BILE - more healthy than other bile because of low alcohol consumption and the positive affect this affords the liver.

MO BIUS - a proud acclamation of one's LDS'ness

MO BIUS STRIP - only performed in modest or appropriate circumstances.

MO DEL - where the Mormon farmer hangs out

MO DERN - a western LDS cuss word - softer than "fetch"

MO DIFY - to be in open rebellion

MO DULATE - how outsiders refer to "Mormon Standard Time"

MO DULE - since killing isn't allowed, it usually amounts to scripture chase

MO HAWK - political faction opposed to the MO DOVES

MO HICAN - an strong supposition that a particular male LDS is able to do the task in question

NO MO MO - What Governor Boggs tried to achieve.

NO MO MO MO - What Governor Boggs tried to achieve and the state in which he tried to achieve it.

MO LDS - What we get when we do our missionary work and from "filling the measure of our creation". <note> The emphasis in conference was on the retention

of the MO LDS. (MO for "more")

Mo bile (pronunciation of the town): Tithing.

Mo cking: Gordon B. Hinckley.

Mo ccasin: Drinking coffee.

Mo dal: cf. molasses.

Mo lar: One who doesn't do his hometeaching, but says he does.

Mo narch: A Mormon DEA Agent.

Mo nophobia: Why Mormons have so many kids.

Mo notony: The Ward choir.

Mo ra: Go [insert favorite team(s) here]!

Mo rat: Ex-FBI Special Agent Richard (???) Miller.

Mo reover: One's pet dog.

Mo ro, mo rro, mo rrow: Where a pew is found.

Mo rose: Singular of morosis, plural of moro et al.

Mo rosis: Flowers that adorn the church podium.

Mo saic: Needs to call the Elders for a blessing.

Mo slem: Salt Lake City's West Side.

Mo selle: Life Insurance.

Mo llify -- To cause to be Mormon and Female

Mo nothesisism -- A door slammer

Mo nolingual -- First week in the MTC

Mo niker -- Not Haynes

Mo nk -- Steve Young

Mo noxide -- Ex Mormons for Jesus

Mo ron -- John C. Bennett

MO ST -- A redundancy

A primary teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor thy father and thy mother," she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family of seven) answered, "Thou shall not kill."

LDS actor James Arrington, who has portrayed Brigham Young in a one-man show for the past 23 years, shared his favorite story of the prophet in the Thursday, April 22, 1999 Provo Daily Herald:

It seems that a man came bursting into Brigham Young's office, crutches flying. He only had one leg, and he shouted, "Now, Mr. Prophet, I want you to give me another leg this instant. Otherwise, I will publish it abroad that you are not a prophet at all."

President Young apparently told him that would be easy enough, but that consequences would result. Young explained that if he gave him another leg, it would rise with him in the resurrection - as would the other two legs. That meant the man would have to deal with three legs for all eternity.

So be careful what you ask for...see you next week.