

Morning Breaks

April 2026

Volume 27 Number 14

"A sense of humor keeps life interesting..." –Marjorie Pay Hinckley

April 5, 2026

When you don't want people eating your food..



THE AMAZING POWER OF SPRAY PAINT!

J. Golden Kimball was once asked his opinion of women wearing cosmetics, which some General Authorities in the early part of the 1900s frowned upon.

When asked, J. Golden said: "Well, a little paint never hurt any old barn."

Church History Museum has a new exhibition titled:
High Priests, Living Fossils

It was late fall or early winter, and Elder Thurman was bemoaning the lack of snow in our Southern California town, while his Utah hometown was enjoying good "skiing weather." One evening, following a particularly good DA, the homesick elder and his companion were riding down a long, sloping street when Thurman sat up, took his hands off the bars and put them in his pocket while leaning left and right in a slalom course down the middle of the street.

Elder Sorenson lagged behind, knowing that trunkiness cometh before a fall and preferring to be an observer than a participant. Trouble soon arrived with the dip in the road, which left Thurman's bike out of control as he tried in vain to pull his hands out of his pockets. He and his bike slide along the curb before finally tumbling end over end, flinging tracts and discussion manuals all over Glendora, and Elder Thurman parted ways with his bike while Elder Sorenson sat on his bike, laughing . . .

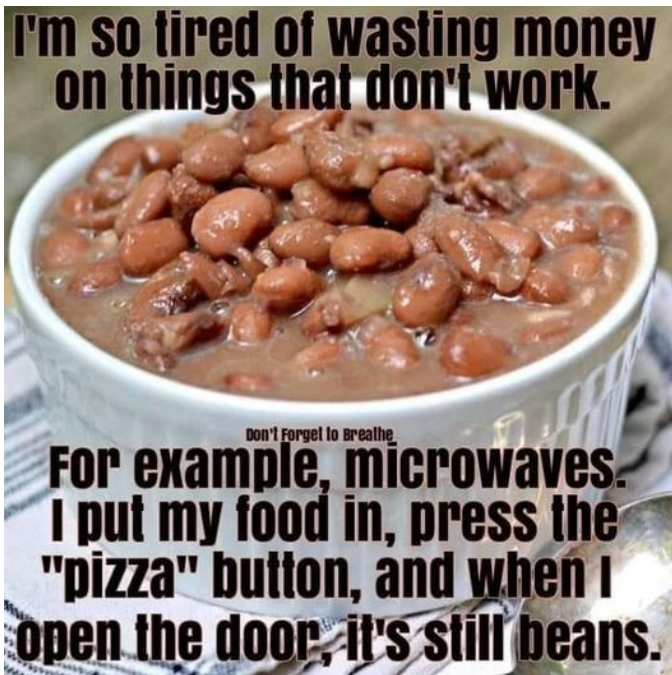
. . . as Elder Thurman came to rest on the lawn of some people who had been watching this whole circus coming toward them. They ran to him asking if he was all right, and his instant response:

"Now that I've got your attention, what do you know about the Mormon Church?!"

I have always considered this the Ultimate Door Approach . . .

Okay, embarrassing moment time...

I was called to be Elders Quorum music director during a summer at Wymount (BYU married student housing). One Sunday, the EQ pianist was unable to come so we sang a cappella. I picked "Ye Elders of Israel" but I was leading them to the tune of "Redeemer of Israel". The song went along nicely... until the last phrase. (try packing 10 syllables into that last chord) Needless to say, we only sang one verse. I now know the difference between the two hymns.



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, the elders came over for dinner many times during those months and 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!!!

Think of all the object lessons you received in seminary and institute class. How many of you recognize the use of fire ants, scorpions, killer bees, and tornados.

Well, my daughter reminded me that the best testing ground for some of the best latter day plagues is located in Texas, USA.

In fact, I've always suspected that the Land of Desolation described in the Book of Mormon is located somewhere between San Antonio and El Paso.

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 smelt." - Elder Neal A. Maxwell

At a recent (date unknown) 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?"

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"A sense of humor keeps life interesting..." –Marjorie Pay Hinckley

April 12, 2026



(Courtesy of Sheryl Coe and Tegan Coe)

A Bishop was an avid duck hunter, and was in the market for a new bird dog. His search ended when he found a dog that could actually walk on water to retrieve a duck. Shocked by his find, he was sure none of his friends would ever believe him.

He decided to try to break the news to a friend of his, a pessimist by nature, and invited him to hunt with him and his new dog.

As they waited by the shore, a flock of ducks flew by. They fired, and a duck fell. The dog responded and jumped into the water. The dog, however, did not sink but instead walked across the water to retrieve the bird, never getting more than his paws wet.

The friend saw everything but did not say a single word.

On the drive home the hunter asked his friend, "Did you notice anything unusual about my new dog?"

"I sure did," responded his friend. "He can't swim."

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.

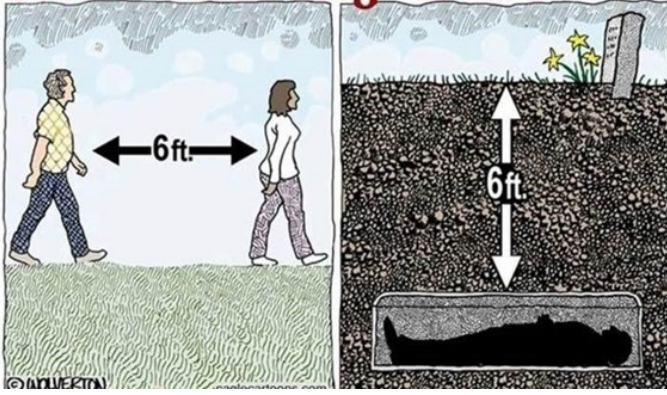
A Catholic priest, a Protestant minister, and a Mormon bishop were discussing when life begins.

"Life begins," said the priest, "at the moment of fertilization. That is when God instills the spark of life into the fetus."

"We believe," said the minister, "that life begins at birth, because that is when the baby becomes an individual and is capable of making its own decisions and must learn about sin."

"You've both got it wrong," said the bishop. "Life begins when the children have graduated from college and moved out of the house."

Social Distancing—Your Choice



Soon after I began my mission in Denmark, my trainer and I went to visit an inactive sister. The sister wasn't home, so we talked to her teenage son for a few minutes before leaving. As we were getting ready to leave I decided to try out a phrase I'd heard a lot since I'd been in Denmark: "Hilse," which means "Say hi." I tried to say, "Hilse din mor for os," which means "Tell your mother hi for us." Instead of saying, "Hilse," I said, "Hest din mor for os." The boy gave me a strange look and went into his house. I turned to my trainer and asked why he'd given me such a funny look. She laughed and said I'd just told him to "Horse your mother for us."

Several months later I was a trainer. My trainee wanted to say, "Because of Christ's atonement we can receive forgiveness for our sins." Instead of using the word, "Tilgivelse" (forgiveness), she used the word, "Tilladelse" (permission). So what she actually said was, "Because of Christ's atonement we can receive permission for our sins." Luckily we were in our room studying and not teaching an investigator when she said that.

In Salt Lake City, Utah, everyone is into researching their family tree. Even the big department stores sell genealogy supplies. A newcomer to Salt Lake City, and a non-researcher, got a job as a clerk at one of the big department stores. She received her introduction to genealogy one day when a customer came into the store and asked "Where do I find the Family Group Sheets?"

The new clerk, with a shocked look on her face, answered, "Family Group Sheets? All we carry are the King, Queen, double and twin size sheets."

It is rumored that the following rendition of the Book of Genesis was included in the portion of the plates taken into heaven by the Lord. If authentic, it would shed light on the question, "Where do pets come from?"

And Adam said, "Lord, when I was in the garden, you walked with me everyday. Now I do not see you anymore. I am lonesome here and it is difficult for me to remember how much you love me."

And God said, "No problem! I will create a companion for you that will be with you forever and who will be a reflection of my love for you, so that you will know I love you, even when you cannot see me. Regardless of how selfish and childish and unlovable you may be, this new companion will accept you as you are and will love you as I do, in spite of yourself."

And God created a new animal to be a companion for Adam. And it was a good animal. And God was pleased.

And the new animal was pleased to be with Adam and he wagged his tail. And Adam said, "But Lord, I have already named all the animals in the Kingdom and all the good names are taken and I cannot think of a name for this new animal."

And God said, "No problem! Because I have created this new animal to be a reflection of my love for you, his name will be a reflection of my own name, and you will call him DOG."

And Dog lived with Adam and was a companion to him and loved him. And Adam was comforted. And God was pleased. And Dog was content and wagged his tail.

After a while, it came to pass that Adam's guardian angel came to the Lord and said, "Lord, Adam has become filled with pride. He struts and preens like a peacock and he believes he is worthy of adoration. Dog has indeed taught him that he is loved, but no one has taught him humility."

And the Lord said, "No problem! I will create for him a companion who will be with him forever and who will see him as he is. The companion will remind him of his limitations, so he will know that he is not always worthy of adoration."

And God created CAT (Companion for Adam's Teaching) to be a companion to Adam. And Cat would not obey Adam.

And when Adam gazed into Cat's eyes, he was reminded that he was not the supreme being. And Adam learned humility.

And God was pleased. And Adam was greatly improved.

And Cat did not care one way or the other.

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"A sense of humor keeps life interesting..." –Marjorie Pay Hinckley

April 19, 2021



Grumpy Old Man.

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 everywhere 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.



What NOT to do while giving service to the elderly.

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.....'"

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.

(A True Story) 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 are, 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 under my bed, and they're either coming or going." (Elder Russell M. Nelson in his book, *"The Gateway We Call Death"*)

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!!!"

Morning Breaks

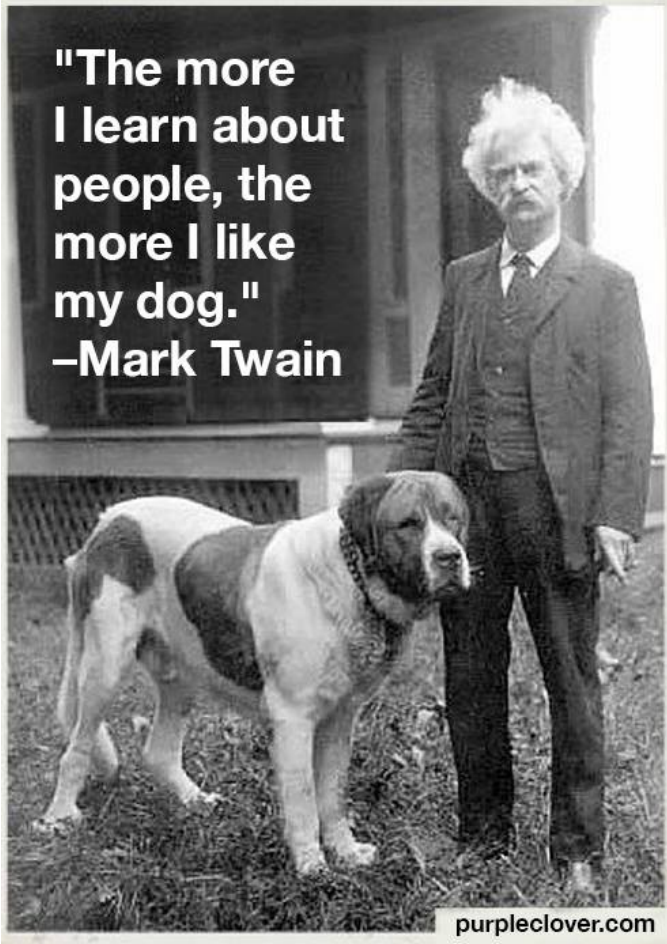
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"A sense of humor keeps life interesting..." –Marjorie Pay Hinckley

April 26, 2026

**"The more
I learn about
people, the
more I like
my dog."
–Mark Twain**



sign of scratch. I was sure it wouldn't be with the pickles or the meat. I asked the clerk if they carried scratch. He looked at me funny and finally said, "You'll have to go to the store on the corner."

When I got there, it turned out to be a feed store. I thought it rather strange, but I decided cakes were food. "Do you have scratch?" I asked the clerk.

He asked me how much I wanted. I suggested a pound or two. His reply was, "How many chickens do you have? It only comes in 20 pound bags." I really didn't understand why he mentioned chickens, but I had heard mother say she made chicken casserole from scratch. So, I bought 20 pounds and hurried home.

My next problem was to find a recipe calling for scratch. I went through every single page of my lovely "Better Homes and Gardens" Cookbook -- a wedding gift. I looked and looked for a recipe using scratch. There I was with 20 pounds and no recipe.

When I opened the scratch, I had doubts that a beautiful, fluffy cake would ever result from such a hard looking ingredient. I hoped with the addition of liquids and heat the result would be successful. I had no need to mention my problem to my new husband. He had suggested very early in our marriage that he liked to cook and would gladly take over anytime. One day he made a pie and when I told him how good it was, he said that he made it from scratch. That assured me that it could be done.

Being a new bride is scary and when I found out he made pies, cakes, and even lemon pudding from scratch . . . well, if he made all those things from scratch, I was sure he had bought a 20 pound bag of scratch also. But, I couldn't find where he stored it, and I checked my supply. It was still full! At this point I was ready to give up because all the people knew about scratch except me. I decided to try a different approach. One day when my husband was not doing anything, I said, "Honey, I wish you'd bake a cake." He got out the flour, sugar, eggs, milk and shortening. But, not a sign of scratch. I

My mother never let me help much in the kitchen. As a result, my cooking ability was practically non-existent when I got married. But, I did remember mother mentioning to her friends that she did make cakes, pies and other things from scratch. So my first priority after the honeymoon, was to locate some scratch.

With mother's delicious cakes in mind, my first trip to the supermarket was to buy some scratch. I found the aisle that read -- Baking Items. I spent a good 15 minutes looking at everything from vegetable oil, sugar, flour and chocolate without seeing a

watched him blend it together, pour it into a pan and slide it into the oven to bake. An hour later, as we were eating the cake, I looked at him and smiled and said, "Honey, why don't we raise a few chickens?"



Even missionaries need some kind of lighting setup when doing Facebook Live – though their budget is rather limited!

A first grade teacher collected old, well-known proverbs. She gave each kid in her class the first half of a proverb, and had them come up with the rest.

As You Shall Make Your Bed So Shall You ...
Mess It Up.
Better Be Safe Than ... Punch A 5th Grader.
A Miss Is As Good As A ... Mr.
Strike While The ... Bug Is Close.
It's Always Darkest Before ... Daylight Savings Time.
Never Under Estimate The Power Of ... Termites.
You Can't Teach An Old Dog New ... Math.
If You Lie Down With The Dogs, You'll ... Stink In The Morning.
Love All, Trust ... Me
The Pen Is Mightier Than The ... Pigs.
An Idle Mind Is ... The Best Way To Relax.
Where There's Smoke, There's ... Pollution.
A Penny Saved Is ... Not Much.
Two's Company, Three's ... The Musketeers.
Don't Put Off Tomorrow What ... You Put On To Go To Bed.
Laugh And The Whole World Laughs With You,
Cry And ... You Have To Blow Your Nose.
None Are So Blind As ... Helen Keller.
Children Should Be Seen And Not ... Spanked Or Grounded.

If At First You Don't Succeed ... Get New Batteries.
When The Blind Leadeth The Blind ... Get Out Of The Way.
Don't Bite The Hand That ... Looks Dirty.
You Can Lead A Horse To Water But ... How?

Got these from some friends out west.

Everyone has a photographic memory. Some don't have film.

If you choke a smurf, what color does it turn?

Who is General Failure and why is he reading my hard disk?

What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

Energizer Bunny arrested, charged with battery.

I poured Spot remover on my dog. Now he's gone.

I used to have an open mind but my brains kept falling out.

I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder.

Shin: a device for finding furniture in the dark.

How do you tell when you run out of invisible ink?

Join the Army, meet interesting people, kill them.

Laughing stock: cattle with a sense of humor.

Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?

Wear short sleeves! Support your right to bare arms!

For Sale: Parachute. Only used once, never opened, small stain.

OK, so what's the speed of dark?

Corduroy pillows: They're making headlines!

Black holes are where God divided by zero.

All those who believe in psychokinesis raise my hand.

I tried sniffing Coke once, but the ice cubes got stuck in my nose.

It is widely rumored today on the internet that United Parcel Service and Federal Express have begun preliminary discussions regarding a potential merger.

The new company will be called: FedUp.