



The Rainbow Journal

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FROM THE EDITOR

As we enter the New Year we are about to face many serious changes which will affect the lives of all of us. The economic recession with its related high unemployment will continue for some time yet while global warming is bringing with it more and more extreme weather patterns (see article below). The Chinese word for crisis comprises of two characters which mean danger and opportunity. It is unfortunate but true that we seem to learn more through suffering than from pleasure. While we are approaching a time of crisis it is also a time of opportunity for learning and spiritual progress. *Brian Alderson ΩΩΩ*

GETTING AND GIVING

In our last Journal in the article 'The Spirit of Christmas' we touched on the subject of giving, for it was at that time of year that so many gifts changed hands.

An often repeated phrase in the Edgar Cayce readings is "As you give you receive." We can all make sense of this as if we want something we usually have to give something to get it. If we want goods from the supermarket we have to give money to get them. We give the money first and then receive the goods. There are of course many cases when we give something and do not expect any material compensation, however we are usually still seeking something in return, even if it is only the personal satisfaction of giving. We feel 'good' when we give presents to those close to us or to charity. Sometimes we give because we are expected to, like on Sunday in church when we put money in the collection plate. How embarrassed would we feel if we just shook our heads when the plate was thrust in front of us?

When we use simple logic we can deduce that if we want to have something then we go and get it and usually give something in return so, in the circumstances, we can apply the Edgar Cayce statement "as you give you receive". However in one reading EC states "Hence as indicated, it is better to

give than to receive; *for only that you have given do you possess!*" Logic does not seem to work here for the statement suggests that by giving something we possess it! If we turn elsewhere to the Course in Miracles text we find that the first great lesson we are to learn is "*To have, give all to all.*" Again this does not appear to make sense. How is it that the way to have and possess something is to give it away? So what are we to make of all this?

To get some perception of the meaning of the Edgar Cayce and A Course In Miracles statements we must first have some understanding about ourselves. The first principle is that *we are not our bodies*. We possess bodies which will be discarded at the end of each sojourn on earth. The body itself cannot acquire or possess anything for it has no power or inclination to do so. It is only the mind that looks after the body and obtains the things necessary for the survival and well-being of the body. The second principle is that we consist of a soul which is the eternal part of us, a spirit which in conjunction with the Holy Spirit is our guiding light and our minds. The third principle is that our souls together with our spirits and minds are complete and indestructible and therefore *do not require anything*.

The soul is the creation of God but

we ourselves have created egos, existing within our minds that give us a false sense of being, separate from God. It is our egos that creates a false belief that we are in fact our bodies, using it for pleasure and pride and that gives us false beliefs as to what we need. It is our egos that give rise to feelings of insecurity and leads us to believe that our well-being is related to the possession of material goods.

With this understanding we can now have another look at the statements on getting and giving. The messages given by these two sources are directed at our spirits and not our egos. They do not relate to the illusionary needs of our egos and to material things. They are about the spiritual things we can give to those around us. And what are those spiritual things that we can give? They are such qualities as love, friendship, kindness, truth, empathy, peace, patience and wisdom that we can pass on by example of the way we conduct our own lives and by passing on our knowledge to others. And so by giving these things to others we have not only been dispossessed of nothing but the the spiritual gifts we have shared are returned to us causing us to grow spiritually.

FROM THE EDGAR CAYCE READINGS:

“As you give the truth you receive its beauties and its bounties to those about you, as a natural consequence.”
1469-1

“The entity must find in self, if it would accomplish more, the ability to

open the hand to give out; and in the giving out may you receive. For that which is of the spiritual, in giving you receive. For it is as of love, of friendship, of those which are ever Creative; they grow within themselves by doing, and when it becomes as something it would close away from others, it becomes as something that would deteriorate within its own self.” 5332-1

“Live closer to Him, who gives all good and perfect gifts, and ask and you shall receive; knock and it shall be opened unto you. Give and it shall be returned fourfold. Give, give, give, if you would receive. There has never been the lack of necessities, neither will there be, so long as adhering to the Lord's way is kept first and foremost.” 254-11

“It would be well, in the application of self in these directions, for the entity to learn that what is of the constructive nature is in giving. For, as you receive, so should you give. The word give is the prompting of the expression of love in, “The Lord gave His son that you, through Him, might have life, and have it more abundantly.”
1107-1

(Q) *“Please advise us concerning the readings.”*

(A) *“When readings, or advice, or counsel, are necessary, then seek same through those channels that are acceptable to all, and only in giving out may we receive.”* 281-11 BDA ΩΩΩ

OUR MIRROR IMAGE

Even as He, the Master gave, the faults you find in others are reflected in your own mirror of life. 3395-2

A number of maxims found in writings on spiritual matters seem to imply the opposite of what we believe as

true for these maxims appear to defy logic, such as in the Edgar Cayce statement “only that you have given do you possess” where logic would tell us that when we give we no longer possess, however the contrary can be true as

explained in the previous article.

Another often written axiom is “the faults we see in others are our own.” It would be logical to assume that we find faults in others because they express these faults in their behaviours and in the words they say so we can observe them. The faults we see may take many forms, from their physical appearance, the way they behave and their negative qualities such as meanness, lack of respect, unreliability, childishness, being demanding, just to name a few. So where does the assertion come from that states that these faults in others are in fact are own?

When we use logic and come to a wrong conclusion it is because either the premises to which the logic is applied are wrong or we do not have sufficient information to reach the right logical conclusion.

We accept that 'seeing is believing' however our brains are not TV sets which faithfully display what has been projected from the TV studio. We interpret messages from our eyes and ears based just as much on memory as on what is actually being seen. When we see something we look for patterns that we can recognise. When we see people we actually put together certain patterns that make up a face just as in computer facial recognition software. In fact we are inclined to look for faces everywhere. Just gaze up in the sky on a cloudy day and it may not be long before one sees faces in the clouds. It has been clinically proved that what we hear is affected by what we see and through our other senses such as touch and smell and then translated into pictures in our brains.¹

¹ Check the following websites for examples of misperception:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxwn1w7MJvk>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydpd5txtGdGw>

What further affects what we see is based on we believe so *what we believe we see*. What we see must conform to our beliefs otherwise our belief systems would fall apart. Our brains will therefore manipulate the images we create to suit our beliefs. As stated in A Course in Miracles “It is impossible not to believe what you see, but it is equally impossible to see what you do not believe.” Our thoughts and our beliefs either come from our spirits, which is the part of us that is one with the Universal Consciousness or from our egos which we have created through our false belief in separation from God.

When we let our thinking be controlled by our egos we will attempt to escape having to look at our own, sometimes troubling, behaviour by projecting our faults onto others. It is this projection that our minds see in others. Our attempt to judge other people is a clever avoidance technique used by the ego.

So that as long as we let our egos be in control we will see in others the very behaviours that we need to pay attention to in ourselves. The people in our lives – family and friends, neighbours, even the strangers at the supermarket or ahead of us in the traffic jam – are mirrors that reveal who we are. Our perception of them and reactions show us what we need to work on in ourselves. As we release negative thoughts about others, looking for the good in them instead, we can then realise that the good we can see in them is also in us.

FROM THE EDGAR CAYCE READINGS
(Q) *How may I best attain to that ideal as is set in Him?*

(A) *Put into active, prayerful, working service, what you know to do day by day. See in others something as may be*

glorified by Him, and see in yourself that which you would consecrate to Him. Your daily acts, your words, your speech – these will bring that understanding, and the realization of the ideal being manifest in you, as well as in others. Look for the good in everyone. Speak neither evil, harsh, nor unkind words to anyone. 262-12

(Q) Why am I so often disappointed in friends who seemed to be so fine but turn out to be so terribly selfish and self-centered? Am I too intolerant, or have I

no understanding of others?

(A) Are you not seeing the reflection of yourself, my daughter? As you judge, as you have disappointed, you become disappointed. For that you see in others is the reflection of yourself. Study to show yourself approved unto your ideal; keeping self unspotted from condemnation of the world. 2783-1

Materially, see in others that you would like to have within yourself; and you will grow in grace, in knowledge, in understanding. 2986-1 BDA ΩΩΩ

LOVE OR ATTACK

Possible what all of us desire more than anything else in life is just to be happy. By ourselves we can be happy especially when we feel we have achieved something or feel a certain tranquillity, having no disturbances from anything outside of us. Furthermore when we are alone we are not confronted with situations which cause negative emotions to rise up in us. However most of our happiness is experienced through our relationships with other people. It is with other people that we can share our love, our thoughts and feelings. When these exchanges are mutually positive we will experience joy and happiness.

While being alone can be a way of avoiding the consequences of conflict in interpersonal relationships we are by nature gregarious, and human contact is essential for our mental development and for us to live a fulfilling life. In fact the isolation of people for long periods has been, and is still used as a means of punishment and torture.

The problem with our relationship with others is that they are often not congenial. Sometimes we feel others are annoying us or appear to be openly hostile towards us because of some

perceived slight or because they feel we have crossed them in one way or another. We may respond under the maxim “treat others the way they treat you” so when we feel there is hostility aimed at us we may return it with our own hostility.

Within families and those very close to us this hostility may be in the form of a verbal fight with exchanges of unpleasantries, however if the bad feelings are not too deep we usually get over the altercation and restore peaceful coexistence. With others not so close to us these negative altercations may be lasting so that we will always consider them with a sense of unfriendliness, or even regard them as our enemies no matter how minor the perceived offence against us.

If we go through life building up numbers of people who we regard as our adversaries or enemies we will end up with less time feeling happy and more time feeling unhappy, for no one can be happy when confronted with a perceived enemy or adversary. Furthermore every time we have a confrontation or clash with someone our equilibrium is disturbed and we become stressed and upset.

So how can we avoid accumulating enemies and having fights with people and thus live a happier more joyful life? Surprisingly enough much of the Bible New Testament and New Age literature is about how to do just that.

These sources remind us that we are created in the image of God and as an attribute of God is love when we express our true selves we express love. The expression of love comes through our spirits, part of the Holy Spirit which is an integral part of us. The Bible tells us that "... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control..."

However we have created our own egos, apart from the spirit, as the result of a false belief that we can be and are separate from God. It is through these egos that we perceive ourselves to be vulnerable and open to attack. It is because of this false sense of weakness and insecurity that we feel we must be on the defensive and protect ourselves from any perceived attack. Our response to a perceived assault, even if it only of a verbal nature, is often by getting angry and results in a counter-attack, which, our egos tells us, will preserve our safety, self respect and dignity. Unfortunately rarely does such a response result in a satisfactory outcome and more often than not ends up with cementing animosity between us and our perceived attacker.

While we cannot control the actions and words of others we can control our emotions and responses. Whether or not we regard others as our enemies is our own decision and this decision should not be based on how others perceive us. There were many people who regarded Jesus as their enemy and killed him as a result but he

never saw anyone as *his* enemy.

How we respond from a perceived malice from others is determined by what part of us that delivers the response. If the response comes from our egos it will be of a defensive nature it and will be an attack in one form or another. However if the response comes from our spirits it will be, it must be, one of love. This is a central message as given by Jesus in such statements as "turn the other cheek", "love your enemies and pray for those that persecute you."

According to the text in The Course in Miracles there are only two ways we can respond to any situation, either by attack (from our egos) or by love (from our spirits). "The relationship of anger to attack is obvious, but the relationship of anger to fear is not always so apparent. Anger always involves projection of separation, which must ultimately be accepted as one's own responsibility, rather than being blamed on others. Anger cannot occur unless you believe that you have been attacked, that your attack is justified in return, and that you are in no way responsible for it. Given these three wholly irrational premises, the equally irrational conclusion that a brother is worthy of attack rather than of love must follow."

Probably one of the most difficult principles in the New Testament for us to grasp and understand is that of *oneness*. There is one God and one Sonship. We are all part of this one Sonship therefore what we do to others we do to ourselves. Simple statements but so hard for us to appreciate and act as if we believed it! We are acting within the Sonship when we respond to our brothers and sisters with love, rather than attack.

BDA ΩΩΩ

A few years ago I decided that I really should read the Bible. During my life I had studied a wide range of religions but despite the standard early exposure to Sunday School Christianity I had never felt that it warranted much attention. Then it occurred to me that it was wrong to hold any opinion on Christianity without reading the published guidelines. So I started at the beginning and read through to the end.

What an ordeal. The blood and gore at the start of the Old Testament really had me rattled. This was a book which purportedly promotes love and peace. I really thought that it deserved an MA15+ Rating so children under the age of 15 would be saved from emotional damage due to exposure to such mindless violence. Having dutifully read the Bible I now better understood how so much murder and mayhem could be committed using its contents as justification. And then I happily left it behind and went back to the basics as promoted by Jesus I.e. Love thy neighbour etc.

So recently when I was in a library looking for something to read on a plane flight I bumped into the book "The Bible in History – How Writers Create a Past" by Thomas L. Thompson who was until recently professor of Old Testament at the University of Copenhagen. In his early academic career Thomas had

written a thesis for his doctorate which basically compared the known history of the Middle East with the alleged history as described within the Bible. His conclusion was that the known history contradicted badly with the Bible version to the point that the Bible cannot reliably be considered to be an historical document. So we should stop reading it as if it was and start reading it as if it were a spiritual text – which is what it really is.

As you can imagine this caused a bit of a stink in America and assured him of unemployment in any American tertiary institution again – hence his professorship in Copenhagen. The book itself is a strongly academic piece and is quite uninteresting really because it goes to great lengths to prove the point that he is making. So unless you are having trouble sleeping at night it is best left on the book shelf. However it is now virtually the standard text book for tertiary biblical studies so it has made its mark.

If you are at all interested I would recommend starting on Wikipedia with the article on Thomas and read the book if you are still interested.

In the meantime the Old Testament is looking a whole lot more palatable now that it has lost its historical edge.

Sean Bennett ΩΩΩ

GLOBAL WARMING IS HERE

In previous issues of the Journal we have brought to our readers attention the potential catastrophic results of global warming. These article were written after international conferences only produced mediocre responses with no firm commitments being made by the

international community to do anything near what would be required to stop the heating up of our planet. It appears that the leaders attending the conference had determined that it would be too expensive to commit to the changes necessary to get rid of the cause of the

warming which is primarily by the polluting of our atmosphere by the burning of fossil fuels. Currently more than 25 billion barrels of oil and 7 billion tons of coal per year are being burnt. At the same time we are continuing to deplete the worlds forests which take CO² from the atmosphere and stores it in the form of carbon while releasing oxygen back into the air.

The response from these politicians was like a rich person finding out he has a potentially fatal disease and being told that it would be very expensive to cure it. So he has to decide whether to spent a lot of his money on a cure or save the money and die. It appears that the politician, like the rich man, has decided it would be easier for us to save the money and accept the consequences.

The knowledge that human activity could alter the world's climate is not new. The discovery that CO² emissions from the burning of coal would enhance the earth's greenhouse effect and lead to global warming was first proposed as far back as 1896. In the early 1950s the CO² levels in the atmosphere were scientifically measured and over the next decade it was confirmed that the levels were rising year by year. In 1967, an early computer simulation suggested that if the CO² levels continued at intensify at the rates as measured, over the next few decades temperatures would increase by more than 4 degrees. Improved climate models developed over the following 20 years confirmed the link between CO² emissions and global warming. According to the U.S. National Climatic Data Center, 2010 tied with 2005 as the warmest year of the global surface temperature since records began in 1880. The Earth's temperature was 1.12 degrees F above the 20th-century average, which was the same as 2005. last year was the 34th-consecutive year

that the global temperature were above average, according to the data center.

One effect of the warming which has become very noticeable is the dying off of the worlds coral reefs which are particularly sensitive to temperature changes and are the breeding grounds of much of the worlds marine life. The disappearance of these reefs will have a diminishing effect on the already strained supply of our food from the sea. The principle effect of a rise in global temperatures have been forecast as extremes in weather patterns, becoming more and more severe year by year. One only has to review the weather around the globe over the last year to confirm that the predictions are being fulfilled. There was hardly a single country in the world that did not suffer directly from this exceptional weather. In some areas, Africa in particular, there have been continuing droughts while in many countries unprecedented rainfalls caused floods on massive scales and landslides with the result of many deaths and millions of people being displaced. Particularly severe were the floods in Pakistan, South Asia, North and South America and now in Australia where, what has been described as, "biblical" floods deluged an area of Queensland as big as France and Germany combined.

Over the Christmas season millions of holiday makers had the travel plans disrupted as airports were closed throughout the northern hemisphere due to abnormal sub-zero weather conditions while in Northern Ireland tens of thousands of householders were left without running water following burst water mains. In recent weeks, the wettest rainy season in many decades has battered Columbia and Venezuela, and now Brazil with flooding and landslides claiming over 200 lives, forcing people from their homes and inundating

valuable agricultural crops. Over 1.6 million people have been displaced from their homes, primarily by flooding. Interestingly enough the left-wing Venezuelan president, Hugo Chavez, was the only national leader to publicly blame global climate change for the recent deluge.

While many have experienced the direct effect of this extreme weather the indirect effects will soon follow with no one being exempt. The huge areas of flooded agricultural land is already resulting in food shortages with the consequence of rising prices affecting everyone, while the costs of repairing the infrastructure is mounting and will put a further burden on the already cash strapped local and central governments around the world.

So what is in store for us this year – more of these extremes?

Edgar Cayce foretold of earth changes with land on both coasts of the US disappearing and the later prophet, Paul Solomon in a reading given in 1971 spoke of a time, now upon us, when we would stand “at the brink of destroying the balance of the natural energies in and about this planet.... Then the destruction of weather patterns, the imbalance of nature, the use, the burning of fossil fuels has produced a difference in the atmosphere, both in temperature and the filtering of the rays of energy to your planet – all of these become threats to the existence of your race as it now manifests.” The reading went on to warn that it would not be enough to cease the plundering and contamination of the earth but we must take *immediate* steps to *reverse* the processes that are impoverishing and destroying life at all levels. Unless through colossal human intervention we can re-establish an equilibrium between ourselves and the environment our grandchildren's

children will not live to see the light of day!

When taking an overview of the current state of affairs one is reminded of the situation in Egypt many ages ago as reported in the Bible. God sent ten plagues into Egypt in an effort to change the Pharaoh's heart over his treatment of the Israelite slaves. After some plagues caused havoc the Pharaoh seemed to relent for a time and then his heart hardened again and refused to bend. It was only after the catastrophic tenth plague where the first born children of Egypt were killed did the Pharaoh finally relent and released the Israelites. So, like the Pharaoh we have been stubbornly ignoring the signs brought down from heaven to the point that unless we relent the final plague will be set upon us.

What is surprising is that when a human life is being threatened, such as in an accident, or a person lost at sea, fellow humans will go to extreme lengths to save that one life and when someone is diagnosed with a life-threatening illness the person will endure great pain and suffering with no expense spared to effect a cure. Yet when the whole of the human race is being threatened with possible extinction we seem to just bury our heads in the sand.

There is, however hope, as there are many people all over the world who have been deeply concerned over what is happening and the potential consequences. They have been active, both personally in taking more care of their own environments and politically through forming and supporting 'green' political parties in many countries. Should we leave it to “aota” as in “they ought to do something about it”, or should *we* do something about it? We are reminded that we are not powerless for we do have the power within us to change things and we have an advocate

who has promised: "Ask and it will be given to you."

Inspired writers have stated that when prophecies come true it is because they have failed. The reason for inspired prophecies is to warn us of the consequences of continuing to act in a certain way. If we take the prophecies to heart and change our ways then the prophecies have served their purpose and the predicted calamity is avoided. If

we don't then the prophecies will be fulfilled.

In the end will our grandchildren suffer the loss of their first born; will the human race become extinct or the world populations reduced by billions, or can we all work together, change our lifestyles, and restore the delicate balance of nature?

BDA ΩΩΩ

CHRIST IN YOU

TWENTY-FIFTH LESSON

Omnipresence (Continued)

So that you may better understand ever-present time, I will make this statement, which is absolute truth: no time has passed since our last lesson, it was and is NOW. Man and not God made yesterday and will make tomorrow. This is to you the seventh month of the year 1907. It is the day on which Christ was born, and is the only day that has ever been. Time cannot pass. There is no past. Man is a new creation by the power of Christ. You may not understand at once, but you will. Can you conceive of Christ aging? Have you ever discovered the wonderful fact in the thought of the eternal youth of the Christ? As Christ is, even so are we, although it does not yet appear to physical or mortal sense.

You speak of us as the unreal. The truth is quite the reverse. We are on the only real plane, and your physical plane or plane of the senses is to us the unreal or shadow. We find many vital laws exactly the opposite of those in operation on your plane. You are there to bring into manifestation spiritual laws, and Christ showed you this possibility. Water was not able to engulf spirit when spirit was absolutely controlling physical atoms. There shall no evil or accident befall thee,

nor any sickness come nigh thy tabernacle (or body). Your sicknesses, your disasters, are the result of your descent or rather of your wrong plane of being. The Fall is a present and not a past fact. Man's real fall is that he is content with the shadow of good. He still eats from the tree of good and evil, and until the Christ fills the whole consciousness, man will ever be at war with himself, his brother, and his God.

Man's understanding is clearer, and light is breaking everywhere. You can read your Old Testament more intelligently, seeing in the symbols the inner and spiritual idea of God. The waters of Marah were bitter; this was the result of the bitterness of the people. Man makes the quality of the land; the flow of waters increases or decreases according to laws hidden within yourselves. You have made the very form of your island, England, by your thoughts and inner forces. Look to it that you obey the voice of spirit, for man was made to have dominion. The very changes of climate, all seeming disasters, are in accord with the life and being of man, and until man has come into and unto God, back to Eden, you will seem to wait

for the new Heaven and the new Earth, “for in that day they shall neither hurt nor destroy in all My Holy Mount.” I have lifted the veil that you may see the need of giving the utmost for the highest. Blessed be God for Jesus Christ, the Son of Man and Son of God.

In the story of the bitterness of Marah is a hidden truth: ingratitude and murmuring brought bitterness. It is the same today. Your thoughts, if they are the suggestions of the senses, will still lead to bitterness and ashes. Learn the secret of praise and thanksgiving, the oil of joy. Even in the wilderness experience the waters shall be sweet. You shall partake of the milk and honey. The manna is at your very feet, enough for each day, for Christ is that heavenly manna. Feed on Him in your heart by faith.

The very gifts you seek are poured

out in rich abundance. Lift up your eyes and see. Just inasmuch as you yield to the divine innermost, as you live and bring forth the fruit of the spirit, to that extent shall you have access to all that earth and heaven can yield. There is no want to the children of God. There are times on the physical plane when the way is hid, and the heavens seem as brass. You can open the floodgates by steady thanksgiving and certain hope. If you only knew, the closed doors are the senses, brought up against a wall of their own construction, a wall of doubt, fear, and falsity. A breath of the spirit of God consumes them. You are greater than shadow, sense, or clay. Having your feet on a Rock, they cannot slide. God is within you. Complete harmony will be realised, for God is working out His divine purpose in you. **ΩΩΩ**

AN INTERESTING CONVERSATION

For a number of years I have been providing musical backing to an Elvis Impersonator. Depending on the size of the show it could be a whole band or just the two of us performing. Delivering an Elvis show is pretty good fun and getting paid to do it is just pure bonus.

One Sunday morning I had arisen reasonably late after a show the night before and I was walking up to the local shops. In my mind I was going through the events of the show, how much fun it was and how good life was in general. Then I thought to myself I really should share my good fortune. So I resolved that if anyone asked for money that day I would give them some.....

Immediately this thought entered

my mind the chap walking a few paces in front of me stopped, turned around, and asked for some money so he could buy some food for breakfast. This took me by surprise because I am not even sure that I had finished thinking the thought. So my first reaction was to look upwards and think “Well that was fast!!”

Since I had been paid for the show my wallet only contained \$50 notes so I gave the man one of the notes. He was surprised by the amount and offered to buy some food then give me the change but I said it seemed like he was meant to have it.

Jesus did say “I am with you always” and since that time I fully believe it.

Sean Bennett **ΩΩΩ**

LAUGHTER, THE BEST MEDICINE

Through the Eyes of a Child

One child to another: "The Bible says, 'The Lord, thy God, is one,' but I think He is much older than that!"

The Devil Revealed

Two boys were walking home from church after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?" The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your dad"

Holy Ritual

Some children found a dead robin. Feeling that a proper burial should be performed, they secured a small box and some cotton batting, dug a hole in the back yard, and made ready to dispose of the deceased. The minister's 5-year-old son was chosen to say the prayer. And so with great dignity, he intoned, "Glory be to the Father...and unto the Son...and into the hole he goes."

Sinners Not Welcome

Going over the church finances the committee treasurer found an invoice from a local paint store signed by someone named Christian. She wasn't aware of anyone buying paint, so called the store to point out its mistake. "I'm sorry," she told the manager, "but there are no Christians here at First Baptist Church!"

The Only Way

A teacher was testing the children in her Sunday school class to see if they understood the concept of getting to heaven.

She asked them, "If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all

my money to the church, would that get me into Heaven?" "NO!" the children answered. "If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into Heaven?"

Again, the answer was, "NO!" Now she was smiling. Hey, they're getting it, she thought! "Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all the children, and loved my husband, would that get me into Heaven?" she asked.

Again, they all answered, "NO!" She was just bursting with pride for them. "Well," she continued, "then how can I get into Heaven?"

A five-year-old boy shouted out, "YOU GOTTA BE DEAD."

Bare Facts

A child came home from Sunday School and told his mother that he had learned a new song about a cross-eyed bear named Gladly. It took his mother a while before she realized that the hymn was really "Gladly The Cross I'd Bear,"

Sermons Can Bore You to Death

One Sunday morning pastor O'Riley noticed a young man standing and staring at a large plaque hanging in the church foyer; the pastor walked over to the young man and bid him 'good morning'; the young man replied 'good morning, sir' and not taking his eyes off the plaque asked 'sir, what is this?'; pastor O'Riley answered 'these are all our people who have died in the service'; soberly the two stood there before the plaque and after a long silence the young man asked 'which service sir, the morning or the evening?'. ΩΩΩ

OUR CLOSING THOUGHT

“What is it all about then? ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, your soul, your mind, your body, and your neighbour as yourself.’ The rest of all the theories that may be concocted by man are nothing, if these are just lived. Love your neighbour as yourself in the associations day by day, preferring as

did the Christ who died on the cross rather than preferring the world be his without a struggle. Know, then, that as He had His cross, so have you. May you take it with a smile. You can, if you will let Him bear it with you. Do it!” 3976-29 ΩΩΩ

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