

Layers of Healing at the New Baptist Covenant

It is hard to describe the euphoria felt by most of us who attended the New Baptist Covenant meeting in Atlanta this past week. I would like to analyze that euphoria as reflecting layers of healing and maybe try to name at least a few of those layers.

The most obvious layer of healing was found in the joyful reunion of black and white Baptists, sprinkled richly with Asian, Hispanic, and other Baptist brothers and sisters as well.

We really did worship together, sing together, laugh together, clap together, marvel together, study together, and talk together. We really did find unity in Christ, after 160 years of institutional division, itself occurring against the broader backdrop of centuries of slavery, segregation, and racism. Black and white Baptists met together on terms of equality and unity. This is miracle enough for one meeting.

Another layer of healing had to do with gender. Women preached, women taught, women sang, women danced, women read Scripture, women prayed. Certainly the majority of plenary speakers were men, and the various Baptist bodies represented at this meeting reflect different views on the issue of gender. But the bottom line was that at this meeting the question of women's leadership in Baptist life was not a question at all. Some might consider it heresy. I consider it healing.

There was healing in the institutional relationships between the various Baptist bodies. It remains relatively new for the major black Baptist groups to meet together, let alone for the various white Baptist groups to meet together, let alone for all these groups to meet together. That's healing, or at least the beginning of healing.

A more subtle kind of healing was visible as various speakers, especially the white southern Baptists, reflected on their own conflicts with, and breaks from, the Southern Baptist Convention. A narrative voice prevailed here, rather than a didactic one, and this trend was most profoundly and unexpectedly exemplified in the impromptu reflections of Bill Clinton on his own history as a Baptist. As the former president told the story of his long sojourn as a Southern Baptist, and attempted to pinpoint the crux of the difference between the prevailing SBC vision and that of those who do not share it, he did so with sympathy and without rancor.

I wondered what our black Baptist brethren were thinking while Clinton was speaking and while other white speakers like John Grisham were reflecting on the conflicts within the white southern Baptist world. In a sense, the problems dividing the white southern Baptists are not their problems, not their history. And yet somehow just being in the presence of Christian people who have had such grievous wrongs of their own to forgive makes it easier to abandon anger and embrace love and humility ourselves. If black Baptists can forgive and move on after slavery, segregation, and cruel racism, surely white southern Baptists can do the same after our own grievances?

Another layer of healing has to do with claiming our identity as Baptists once again with a healthy measure of pride. Grisham spoke for many of us in reflecting on the embarrassment he has sometimes felt when pressed about his Baptist identity and commitment. Our "brand" has been damaged. But this meeting, which was simultaneously a private religious gathering and a public declaration of a renewed Baptist identity before a watching world, made me proud to be a Baptist again.

I want to suggest a final possible kind of healing, especially for white Baptists who identify as moderate or post-SBC. This is a healing in relation to our own traditional piety.

There are signs of a kind of reaction-formation among some of us: Whatever the "SBC types" do, we will do the reverse. This is certainly not universal but I have witnessed it in many different settings. At its worst what emerges is a kind of stultifying cynicism about all passionate expressions of traditional Christian faith. Ultimately this is a path to a jaded secularism -- and empty churches.

It would be hard to remain a cynic if one truly entered into the spirit of the event just concluded in Atlanta. Here again white Baptists have so much to learn from Baptists of color, and perhaps we began learning it at the New Baptist Covenant. This combination is hard to beat: a vivid focus on Jesus Christ the incarnate Savior and Lord, theologically rich biblical preaching, gloriously passionate and skillful worship performance and participation, and a serious commitment to love and justice in both personal and public morality.

If that's what it means to be Baptist, count me in. It's certainly what it meant to be Baptist at the New Baptist Covenant meeting.

David Gushee

New Baptist Covenant Celebration was Political, but not Partisan

Fifteen thousand pastors and laypersons representing churches across the land met last week in Atlanta under the banner of the New Baptist Covenant to offer a progressive voice for Baptists. All Baptists in North America were invited, and every major group signed on except Southern Baptists.

This ground-breaking event affecting millions of Baptists was an image-changing, agenda-shifting event worth the attention of people even beyond Baptist borders.

That black, white and Hispanic Baptist groups met together seems hardly significant, though it was a historic first meeting of its kind. The three-day event was organized and orchestrated by a cross-section of leaders from both all participating conventions. There were obvious differences in practices (the crowd more animated and participatory when black pastors spoke; quiet and reflective for a white speaker) and in beliefs (we differ on who can preach, who can join, and what the text says here or there).

But differences were tolerated, even welcomed, because of what united us.

I think we were being brought together by a deeper understanding of the Baptist concept of conversion. For too long personal conversion has been the sum total of the Baptist message: become a disciple, then go make disciples. My childhood memories as a Baptist are of conversion sermons three times a week (twice on Sundays, once on Wednesday).

We were also encouraged to do good deeds but, truth be told, it was too often a kind of bait and switch: we mostly did good things in order to impress non-believers in hopes that they might be attracted to the faith and be converted. We were conversion machines.

The New Baptist Covenant recognizes that there is more to Jesus' message than saving souls for heaven. Jesus' inaugural sermon quotes from the prophet Isaiah about good news for the poor, blind, prisoners, oppressed and proclaims a new day. Converted people, that is, those who respond to the call to be Jesus' disciples,

are charged to re-enact his sacrificial, healing compassion for the least and last in our world.

We progressive Baptists still seek to convert people, not just to an ideology, but to active participation in caring, healing, becoming good news for broken people and not merely as a ploy for recruitment.

With so many Baptists in the U.S., this new self-understanding could have many hopeful, helpful implications for our community.

Coupled with this deeper, more faithful understanding of conversion is a deeper understanding of one of Baptists most cherished principles: the separation of church and state. Baptist children are taught that our forebears championed the Bill of Rights' First Amendment, which protects both religion and government from each other.

Somewhere along the way, however, we falsely assumed that this Baptist hallmark limited our voice in the public square. We were told that politics and religion don't mix, that churches should only focus on personal conversions instead of worrying about today's needs.

This notion that politics and religion were a toxic cocktail was exacerbated in the last two decades when fundamentalist Baptists used partisan politics as a way to promote their particular religious agenda. They rewrote history to their liking, turned the First Amendment disestablishment clause on its ear, and worked to restore the U.S. to its supposed place as a Christian nation.

Progressive Baptists wanted no part of this bastardized history or this partisan scripting of politics. And so some worried when politicians were invited to last week's Atlanta gathering, fearing that partisan politicking and electioneering would creep into the agenda.

What we are discovering is that there is a profound difference between sectarian partisan politics that seeks power, and politics that selflessly focuses on the common good of all people regardless of religion or practice.

The New Baptist Covenant was political but not partisan. It talked about Jesus' concerns for poverty, child welfare, equality, the environment and other issues that affect the common good. It never once came close to promoting one candidate or party over the other, but rather held up those concerns that we believe Jesus would champion.

This felt faithful to our Baptist heritage and to the people of our communities who need us to be our best.

Joe Phelps is pastor of Highland Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky.

Joseph Phelps
02-05-08

Celebrate Life Team

Do you have a significant birthday coming up this year? If so, the Celebrate Life team would like to help you celebrate! If you or someone you know is turning 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 or even 100!!! Let us help you celebrate in a memorable way that only CPC can do! Please contact Gay Hensley with any information at 676-8303.

The New Baptist Covenant: What's Next?

The New Baptist Covenant gathering in Atlanta exceeded all my expectations, and I hope it marks the beginning of a new day for Baptists in North America.

I confess I drove to Atlanta in "observer mode." My inner cynic was alive and well. Something unexpected happened. Starting with the first worship service and continuing until the final benediction, I was swept off my feet, drawn into the experience in a deeply personal way. My cynicism washed away. In its place, the Spirit of God took hold of my mind and heart. God brought life to my dry bones.

God used several factors to bring this to pass. My heart started to melt when I saw Afro-American, Anglo, Hispanic and Asian Baptist Christians gathered in one place for worship. Great preaching followed, preaching that demanded we take Jesus seriously, especially with regard to his own mission statement as found in Luke 4: 18-19. Jesus occupied center stage throughout the worship services.

Each speaker was a person of power, an acknowledged leader, articulate, capable of moving men and women to action. Yet I sensed each of them, lay and clergy, made a conscious effort to place the interests of Christ before any personal agenda. That's not easy to do. Their actions demonstrated it is possible for Christians of various backgrounds and agendas to worship and serve alongside each other, provided all are willing to treat Jesus as Lord of All.

As I left Atlanta for the long drive home, I pondered what might come next. For what it might be worth, I suggest the following actions be taken.

(1) Plan to meet again, perhaps every two to three years. There is no substitute for spending time together in worship and fellowship. Such gatherings model the possibilities for the Body of Christ.

(2) Create a simple mechanism through which congregations might partner with other congregations across denominational lines to engage in Luke 4 ministries. In fact, title the mechanism: "Luke 4 Ministries." This will keep Luke 4 central to the movement. It will also help congregations and individuals get to know one another and foster the development of meaningful relationships.

(3) Embrace and celebrate our historical diversity. We share one confession: "Jesus is Lord." We share one experience: a personal relationship with Christ, who has saved us by grace through faith. Otherwise, we come from varied traditions with regard to worship, church governance, denominational structures, cultural expectations and the like. Enjoy our differences, but seek unity only in our shared commitment to Jesus and his mission.

The New Baptist Covenant holds the potential to transform the witness and work of Baptists. I am ready to invest myself to help make it so.

Mike Smith is pastor at First Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Mike Smith
02-06-08



Reflections from a Sandy Eye

When I was twenty years old I was stationed at Ft Riley, Kansas with the First Infantry Division. It was a dull place to be and we did not yet know that one year later, we would all be in Vietnam and things would get much more exciting but, not in a good way. When we had some money, which was usually at the beginning of the month, we would go into Manhattan, Kansas the closest town, for a steak and a "near beer."

We went to one place in particular that had flank steaks and mashed potatoes and we always joked with the waitress, whose name was Frieda. Now Frieda was probably in her forties with thick "milk-bottle" eyeglasses and a heavy German accent. Being twenty years old and relatively mindless, we joked with her using the incredibly limited knowledge of the world stored in our twenty year old minds.

So upon entering and exiting the restaurant, we always gave her an enthusiastic "Heil Hitler" with a salute because we thought she would think it funny. She always laughed with us until one day, she was waiting on us and her sleeve came up above her wrist and I saw the numbered tattoo. I felt as though I was going to throw up as I realized what our little joke must have done to her. The other soldier who was with me was born in Germany and when I brought the tattoo to his attention, he asked her, in German, what had happened. She told him that her entire family had been sent to Dachau where all perished except her. Since that day, I have never joked about such things again to anyone, and to hear such a joke makes my stomach turn. You can try to imagine what people are feeling, including the degree of their pain, but you can only understand the reality of that association, when it comes knocking at your door.

Here in Mauritania, I have been teaching two classes of ten adults in each class. My students know that I lost a son in the Iraq war and even with this knowledge it seems their beliefs often overshadow their humanity. One day I asked "what is your favorite holiday" one answered "9/11", I mentioned President Bush's name and one of the students said he wanted to kill him, another argued that all the Jews should be taken out of Palestine and sent to the US, because Palestine belongs to the Arabs, another told me how great Osama Bin Laden was and asked me if I thought the same, I told him I didn't think he was so great. Another nineteen year old has a picture of Saddam Hussein on his cell phone, apparently his hero and several others joked about belonging to the "Muslim Brothers", which is the grandfather organization of al Qaida.

There are many Muslims here who say that the terrorists are bad and that they do not give an accurate impression of the Muslim faith, many are sweet, kind, and helpful, but then there are the others. On Christmas Eve, a family of four French tourists were murdered by terrorists as they picnicked on the side of the road, about two hours from Nouakchott.

Two days later four Mauritanian soldiers were murdered by terrorists at a border outpost. Yesterday there were two anti-terrorist rallies given by the opposition party of the government and Americans were warned to keep a low profile. Muslims pray five times a day and five times a day they wash their faces, hands, and feet then face Mecca, kneel on the ground and pray.

Muslims are among the most devoted practitioners of religion that I have ever seen and although there is a major difference between the terrorists and the anti-terrorists, make no mistake, they are one nation and as a nation they do not want any foreign government telling them what to do and they make that very clear.

The general impression that they have of us is given to them by our TV news media. During a recent two day period, nine American soldiers were killed in Iraq, yet on CNN and Fox the four stories that aired continuously here in Mauritania were the US primaries, the pregnant Marine who was murdered, OJ's re-arrest, and the parole

violation of Ms Lefavre. It seems the coverage of our political contest we must endure, including what they eat for breakfast and the price of their homes; the pregnant Marine, although a sad case did not require a camera trained on a plot of ground for two days in hopes of a glimpse of human remains; OJ ? who really cares about OJ ? ; and the story of Ms Lefavre concerned itself more with pictures of her straddled atop a motorcycle in a bikini with the words SEX OFFENDER flashing underneath her picture, so that it was really difficult to determine what exactly that story was trying to say but it caught your attention. The nine soldiers only received a byline across the bottom of the screen, as have the deaths of so many who have lost their lives in this war. War deaths are not sensational enough to boost the ratings of a reality starved audience.

I think the image that we offer the world is quite different than the image that we have of ourselves or at least I would hope so. It seems the Muslims see us as a rich and spoiled nation up to our neck in the superficial and sensational. When the man said that 9/11 was his favorite holiday I got directly in front of his face and said "I am an American and that was an insensitive thing to say." He never apologized, but the next day he gave me a Mauritanian key chain and offered me a ride home. We can only understand each other when we take responsibility for our own actions and words and begin to see each other as fellow human beings. When I saw the numbers tattooed on Frieda's wrist I was able to see her as a real person, with feelings and hurts and sensitivities and I think that is the first step of understanding between two people as well as between two nations.

With the Muslims, this will be a long and difficult road to travel, but we must try if we are to survive together.

Keep the faith,
Roland

Youth Spaghetti Dinner/Fundraiser

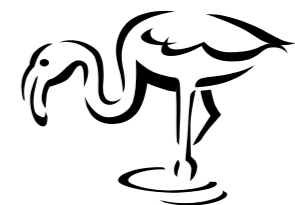
Come out and show your support on February 13th for College Park's youth group! The cost is \$7/plate, no more than \$20 per family of four. Kids under 3 eat free! All proceeds will go towards the youth mission trip this summer to Boston. Menu: Tossed Salad, Garlic Bread, Spaghetti (with meatless option), and desserts. Please reserve your plate with the church office no later than **Sunday, February 10**. This will ensure that enough food will be provided. Boston or bust!!

Wednesday Night Discussion Group

On February 13, a new book for the Wednesday night discussion group will be *Mindless Eating* written by Brian Wansink, a food psychologist, that details why we eat more than we think. This is the book that will literally change the way you think about your next meal. Discussion group will be led by Ann Usey and Terri Ramsey.

Garang's Citizenship Ceremony

Garang's citizenship ceremony will be held on February 22 at 12:30 PM in the Federal Court on the 3rd floor, 324 West Market Street in downtown Greensboro.



2007 Darwin Awards are out!

This year's nominees are:

Nominee No. 1: [San Jose Mercury News]:

An unidentified man, using a shotgun like a club to break a former girlfriends windshield, accidentally shot himself to death when the gun discharged, blowing a hole in his gut.

Nominee No. 2: [Kalamazoo Gazette]:

James Burns, 34, (a mechanic) of Alamo, MI, was killed in March as he was trying to repair what police describe as a "farm-type truck." Burns got a friend to drive the truck on a highway while Burns hung underneath so that he could ascertain the source of a troubling noise. Burns clothes caught on something, however, and the other man found Burns "wrapped in the drive shaft".

Nominee No. 3: [Hickory Daily Record]:

Ken Charles Barger, 47, accidentally shot himself to death in December in Newton, NC. Awakening to the sound of a ringing telephone beside his bed, he reached for the phone but grabbed instead a Smith & Wesson 38 Special, which discharged when he drew it to his ear. (For whatever reason, residents of Southern states always seem to figure prominently among the Darwin nominees.)

Nominee No. 4: [UPI, Toronto]:

Police said a lawyer demonstrating the safety of windows in a downtown Toronto skyscraper crashed through a pane with his shoulder and plunged 24 floors to his death. A police spokesman said Garry Hoy, 39, fell into the courtyard of the Toronto Dominion Bank Tower early Friday evening as he was explaining the strength of the buildings windows to visiting law students. Hoy previously has conducted demonstrations of window strength according to police reports. Peter Lawson, managing partner of the firm Holden Day Wilson, told the Toronto Sun newspaper that Hoy was "one of the best and brightest" members of the 200-man association. (And this guy was a lawyer????)

Nominee No. 5: [The News of the Weird]:

Michael Anderson Godwin made News of the Weird posthumously. He had spent several years awaiting South Carolinas electric chair on a murder conviction before having his sentence reduced to life in prison. While sitting on a metal toilet in his cell attempting to fix his small TV set, he bit into a wire and was electrocuted. (At least he saved the taxpayers some money....)

Nominee No. 6: [The Indianapolis Star]:

A cigarette lighter may have triggered a fatal explosion in Dunkirk, IN. A Jay County man, using a cigarette lighter to check the barrel of a muzzle loader, was killed Monday night when the weapon discharged in his face, sheriff's investigators said. Gregory David Pryor, 19, died in his parents' rural Dunkirk home at about 11:30 PM. Investigators said Pryor was cleaning a 54-caliber muzzle-loader that had not been firing properly. He was using the lighter to look into the barrel when the gunpowder ignited. (DUH)

Nominee No. 7: [Reuters, Mississauga, Ontario]:

A man cleaning a bird feeder on the balcony of his condominium apartment in this Toronto suburb slipped and fell 23 stories to his death. Stefan Macko, 55, was standing on a wheelchair when the accident occurred, said Inspector Darcy Honer of the Peel Regional Police. "It appears that the chair moved, and he went over the balcony," Honer said. (Wheelchair???)

Finally, **THE WINNER!!!!**: [Arkansas Democrat Gazette]:

Two local men were injured when their pickup truck left the road and struck a tree near Cotton Patch on State Highway 38 early Monday. Woodruff County deputy Dovey Snyder reported the accident shortly after midnight Monday.

Thurston Poole, 33, of Des Arc, and Billy Ray Wallis, 38, of Little Rock, were returning to Des Arc after a frog catching trip. On an overcast Sunday night, Poole's pickup truck headlights malfunctioned. The two men concluded that the headlight fuse on the older-model truck had burned out. As a replacement fuse was not available, Wallis noticed that the 22 caliber bullets from his pistol fit perfectly into the fuse box next to the steering-wheel column. Upon inserting the bullet the headlights again began to operate properly, and the two men proceeded on eastbound toward the White River Bridge.

After traveling approximately 20 miles, and just before crossing the river, the bullet apparently overheated, discharged, and struck Poole in the testicles. The vehicle swerved sharply right, exiting the pavement, and striking a tree. Poole suffered only minor cuts and abrasions from the accident but will require extensive surgery to repair the damage to his testicles, which will never operate as intended. Wallis sustained a broken clavicle and was treated and released. "Thank God we weren't on that bridge when Thurston shot his balls off, or we might both be dead," stated Wallis

"I've been a trooper for 10 years in this part of the world, but this is a first for me. I can't believe that those two would admit how this accident happened," said Snyder. Upon being notified of the wreck, Lavinia (Poole's wife) asked how many frogs the boys had caught and did anyone get them from the truck???

Though Poole and Wallis did not die as a result of their misadventure as normally required by Darwin Award Official Rules, it can be argued that Poole did, in fact, effectively remove himself from the gene pool. (Little Rock...need we say more!)

Thank you

Dear College Park,
I just wanted to let you all know how grateful we were for your over whelming support and generosity while I was in the hospital and after Devin was born. The meals were much better than we eat on a normal basis and your gifts for Devin made his homecoming so much easier! Most of all, I was truly blessed by all your prayers and visits. I will look back on my stay in the hospital fondly when I think of the time spent sharing books and conversation with those who came to visit. It got me through a time that could have been much more difficult. I hope that somehow in the future I will be able to give back as much as you gave to me.

Much love,
Stephanie McMullen

Hey! What's for dinner? CPC Wednesday Night Fellowship

2/6/2008

Five Spice Pork Chops
Broccoli
Corn Pudding
Cream Cheese Sheet Cake

2/13/2008

Youth Valentine's Dinner Fundraiser

2/20/2008

Bourbon Pork Chops
Salad
Scalloped Potatoes
Chocolate Cheesecake Cupcakes

2/27/2008

Sweet & Sour Chicken
Broccoli Salad & Orzo Pilaf
Nanaimo Bars

College Park Church Winter Bible Study on

Book of Tobit

Doctrinally, the book is cited for its teaching on the intercession of angels, a deep respect for family, and reverence for the dead.

The time to study is:
Tuesday Nights, 6-7 PM
in the Church Parlor.

Dates for the study are:

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| February 5 | March 4 |
| February 12 | March 11 |
| February 19 | March 18 |
| February 26 | |



Male Bake-Off Best of Show

| | |
|------|------------------|
| 1995 | Scott Wright |
| 1996 | Michael Calvert |
| 1997 | Keith Burkhead |
| 1998 | James Rush |
| 1999 | Matt Highfill |
| 2000 | Michael Calvert |
| 2001 | Steven Reeves |
| 2002 | Adam Team |
| 2003 | Jerry Cunningham |
| 2004 | Jerry Cunningham |
| 2005 | Jerry Cunningham |
| 2006 | Daniel Ingram |
| 2007 | Joel Stockard |
| 2008 | Matt Cravey* |

*Tested positive for estrogen afterwards.

So many worked to make our 14th annual Male Bake-Off a success: Penny Chambers, Deb Calusdian, Nancy Cravey, Mike Cumbus, Buddy & Phyllis Kelly, Frank Kendall, Matt & Juanita Lojko, Alison Schwartz, Lisa Shortt, Wendy Smithey, Darcie Thompson.

A huge THANK YOU!

Every Member a Minister
 Lin Bunce, Wake Forest Intern
 Phyllis Calvert, Treasurer
 Cindy Dillon, Minister of Small Groups
 Jeremy Fox, Wake Forest Intern
 Rydell Harrison, Minister of Music & Worship
 Patsy Kendall, Deacon Chair
 Rachel Luck, Associate Minister
 Georgia Murray, Office & Media Manager
 Helen Morehead, Sexton
 David Soyars, Organist
 Ralph & Tammy Stocks, Missionaries
 Michael S. Usey, Uber Kahuna is Hawaii 5-0
 www.collegeparkchurch.com cpbcgbo@bellsouth.net
Progressive - Diverse - Ecumenical

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Our Communion bread is graciously donated
 by Great Harvest in Friendly Center.

Sally was driving home from one of her business trips in Northern Arizona when she saw an elderly Navajo woman walking on the side of the road. As the trip was a long and quiet one, she stopped the car and asked the Navajo woman if she would like a ride. With a silent nod of thanks, the woman got into the car.
 Resuming the journey, Sally tried in vain to make a bit of small talk with the Navajo woman. The old woman just sat silently, looking intently at everything she saw, studying every little detail, until she noticed a brown bag on the seat next to Sally. "What in bag?" asked the old woman. Sally looked down at the brown bag and said, "It's a bottle of wine. I got it for my husband."
 The Navajo woman was silent for another moment or two. Then speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder, she said: "Good trade...."

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 Alliance of Baptists - American Baptist Churches - Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Jokes that can be told in Church

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" The mother replied, "Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life." The child thought about this for a moment then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!" While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again! As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!"

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50." The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100." The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."

A police recruit was asked during the exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" He answered, "Call for backup."

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem A small child replied, "They couldn't get a baby-sitter."

A Sunday school 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 answered, "Thou shall not kill."

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said, "Johnny, what is the matter?" Little Johnny responded, "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

Two boys were walking home from Sunday school 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."

Contributed by Phyllis Kelly