



and that's...
The Gospel Truth!!
with Pat Corn

a brief message of encouragement to make your day just a little bit brighter

My mother was a real-live Minnie Pearl. I've never met anyone with a greater sense of humor. When I was just a kid she taught me that the best way to diffuse a tough situation was with humor. That teaching sure saved my neck many times.

I'll never forget the time we went to Westover Air Force Base in Springfield, MA to visit my brother and his new bride. Westover was, at that time, a Strategic Air Command operation. My brother was a hydraulic mechanic and invited my folks to visit the base.

While on the tour my mother knowing nothing of military protocol decides to get a closer look at one of the B-52 bombers places well behind the SAC Line which forbids anyone to cross. Not Sa! She just starts waltzing over the SAC Line when an armed guard shouts, "Halt!". Well, she just keeps on walking toward the B-52 and he again shouts, even louder, "Halt!" My Dad yells, "Stop or he's gonna shoot you!". She wheels around with an armed guard pointing a rifle at her and puts her hand on her hip and says, "Can't you just say 'Whoa!??'". The guard lost it! He doubled up at the thought that this hillbilly woman wasn't the least bit intimidated by his authority or his rifle.

Well, this is a dreary time of year, so I thought I'd share a few humorous church incidents with you folks this week and hopefully brighten your wintry days.

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.

There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign... "Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him in front of the service station. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump. "Reverend," said the young man, "Sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip." The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business. People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention."

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay, said his father. "So, son, what does the Bible mean?" "That's easy, Daddy. It stands for 'Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.' "

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later, Mom had the opportunity to ask Pastor about the Sunday school lesson. He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."

The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money for repairs to the church building. "Here's a copy of the service," he said to the organist, "But you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances." During the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected, and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up." At that moment, the substitute organist played "The Star Spangled Banner." And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!

There you are! Just remember ... "He will yet fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy" ... Job 8:21 and Proverbs 17:22 "A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones."

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