

Don't Wait

I'm not a big coupon clipper, but if I see a coupon for a restaurant I frequent, I'll save it. "Better in my pocket than someone else's," my father would say about this easy way to save a few dollars.

Every few months I go through the stack and check expiration dates. I always find a handful that have passed the date of redemption. Waiting too long has consequences.

Missing out on coupons isn't as serious, however, as waiting too long to reconcile with a family member. I'm sure you know people who have severed family ties because of some unresolved disagreement—the passage of time makes the gulf between the two sides wider and wider. Then someone dies and it's too late to mend fences.

But the most critical—and everlasting—consequence of waiting too long happens when a person puts off a personal relationship with God. The Bible advises us, "Seek the LORD while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near" (Isaiah 55:6). The truth is we can hesitate so long that we become less likely to respond. A person's time on earth is not limitless: "Your life is like the morning fog—it's here for a little while, then

it's gone" (James 4:14).

Why hesitate? God lovingly looks and longs for your response. Act now and avoid becoming calloused. The Bible warns: "Be careful. . . . Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God" (Hebrews 3:12).

The next move is yours. Respond to God's call.

"The truth is we can hesitate so long that we become less likely to respond."

Acknowledge your need for him. Read Romans 3:23.

Recognize his love for you. Read John 3:16.

Receive Jesus Christ—the only way to God—and accept his forgiveness. Read John 1:12 and Acts 4:12.

Commit yourself to God's plan for your life. Read Romans 10:9-13.

If you want to make this start, there is no better way than by reading the *Gospel of John*. For a free copy, send your request to Have a Good Day, PO Box 80, Wheaton, IL 60187.

[Jim Kraus]

NAME & ADDRESS:

HAVE A GOOD DAY AND A SPLENDID *forever!*



|| February 2019 ||

A Slice of Birthday Pie

By George! February 22 is our first president's birthday. Or so we celebrate. He was actually born February 11, according to the Julian calendar. But when the Gregorian calendar was adopted, GW's birthday moved eleven days. Here are some interesting facts about George Washington.

George was an Olympic-level athlete. Before the presidency, he was a strapping surveyor, a job that kept him fit. He never threw a silver dollar across the Potomac, but he once hurled a piece of slate across Virginia's Rappahannock River and tossed another one over a 215-foot natural bridge.

George doted on dogs. He had nearly every breed, but particularly loved his French hounds: Sweetlips, Topsy, Mopsey, and Vulcan, among others.

George was a prolific letter writer. Researchers suggest he wrote between 18,000 and 20,000 letters. That's a lot of ink, quills, and paper.

George had bad teeth. He cracked walnuts with his natural pearlies, which helped destroy them. Most people know he had false teeth, dentures made from ivory or animal teeth or bone, not wood.

George was the true commander in chief. In response to the Whiskey Rebellion, George Washington became the only sitting US president to personally lead troops in the field when, on September 19, 1794, he led the militia over the Allegheny Mountains to the town of Bedford, Pennsylvania.



A MESSAGE OF CHEER AND GOOD NEWS. *Pass it along!*

Having a Lot of Pun

Vince Rozmiarek of Indian Hills, Colorado, wants to put a smile on your face as you're driving by. A volunteer at the community center, Vince started posting pun-loving signs five years ago as an April Fools prank. "I put up a sign that really stirred up the area," he says.

Since then, the locals and people just passing through have enjoyed his clever plays on words such as:

- Tried to grab the fog, I mist.
- Irony—the opposite of wrinkly.
- Decaf coffee is depresso.
- Despite the high cost of living, it still remains popular.



- You can't plant flowers if you haven't botany.
- Dogs can't operate MRI scanners, but catscan.

Armored and Ready

Last July in Marietta, Texas, 52-year-old Samuel Ebert spotted an armadillo rooting around his yard in the middle of the night. Determined to get rid of the critter, he grabbed his .38 revolver and fired three shots. The animal's hard shell deflected the bullets, and the final shot ricocheted back at Ebert and struck him in the jaw. He suffered a broken jaw and was airlifted to the hospital.

Comedian and animal rights supporter Ricky Gervais called the incident, "Karmadillo!"

Both Ebert and the animal recovered from their injuries, but the armadillo is still at large.



David Plowie and Gritsy Bitsy

Many people name their cars, so why should salt trucks be left out? That was the opinion of the Doncaster, England, village council who held an online contest to name their two new road salt spreaders, called gritters. Witty suggestions included Spready Mercury and Basil Salty. The best names were shortlisted and then offered to the public for their final



vote. More than 25,000 people voted. The winners? Gritsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Anti-Slip Machiney and David Plowie.

These two vehicles will join the others in the wintry fleet: Brad Grit, Gritney Spears, The Subzero Hero, Mr Plow, and Usain Salt.

Dissatisfied Customer

He didn't demand a refund in person—he wrote a letter. Archeologists have discovered the oldest documented customer complaint on an 800-year-old clay tablet from ancient Ur in Mesopotamia (now Tell el-Muqayyar).

The customer, Nanni, criticized a merchant, Ea-nasir, for selling him

the wrong grade of copper ore. "How have you treated me for that copper?" he wrote. "You have withheld my money bag from me in enemy territory; it is now up to you to restore [my money] to me in full."

The engraved message, written in an extinct East Semitic language, is long, suggesting it took a great deal of effort to produce. Obviously, Nanni was steamed.



"Well, well, well! Quality control is here again to critique my coloring!"



"I don't see a difference. When does your coffee kick in?"

Digging for the facts is better exercise than jumping to conclusions.

Stretching the truth won't make it last any longer.

All people smile in the same language.

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