

Just a Little Sin

Recently I saw two churches that had large banners in front of their buildings. One banner promoted the church's "Lenten Soup Supper," a Wednesday gathering during the 40 days before Easter. The other church building had recently changed hands. Their banner read, "Old Building, New Church."

Both banners included the words, "All Are Welcome."

If I had seen these signs before I became a Christian, I wonder if I would have considered going to either church. I don't think a sign offering an invitation would have done anything to sway me.

What would have worked? If a friend or someone I knew had invited me to either church, I probably would have gone with them. I may not have been ready to hear the truth, but I would have attended because of that personal invitation.

God wants us to call others to hear about him and his true nature as a gracious, welcoming host and friend. The final chapter of the Bible vividly reflects that nature: "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' Let anyone who

hears this say, 'Come.' Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires to drink freely from the water of life" (Revelation 22:17).

Those words are an echo of Jesus' declaration: "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me!" (John 7:37).

On hearing such an open invitation from a righteous God, we may feel we are far too unworthy to accept. But

anticipating that reaction, Jesus said, "I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent" (Luke 5:32).

That invitation is for you.

Do you sense the need for God? He is always ready to welcome you. "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16).

If you sense your need of God's pardon and peace, the next move is yours—accept Jesus. He has already issued the invitation.

[Jim Kraus]

"Anyone who is thirsty may come to me!"

NAME & ADDRESS:

HAVE A GOOD DAY AND A SPLENDID forever!



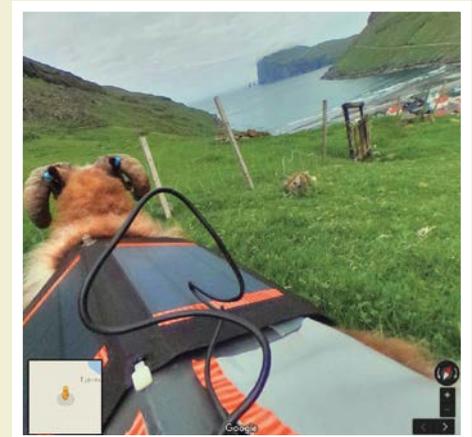
|| March 2018 ||

On the Map

It didn't seem like an unreasonable request: Please, Google, could you map the Faroe Islands? After all, there were street views of villages on Mont Blanc, the tallest peak in the Alps. Yes, the Faroe Islands are a little out of the way, in the North Atlantic about halfway between Norway and Iceland, but on-site navigation would entice people to come and experience its natural beauty and amenities. That's what Faroese resident Durita Andreassen, who worked for the Faroe Islands Tourism Board, thought. So while she was waiting for an official response from the technology giant, she enlisted locals to get things moving.

The initial volunteers carried 360° cameras powered by solar panels, hoofing their way over the rugged terrain with nary a complaint, except maybe an occasional *baah*. Yes, the photographers were four-footed woolly natives, a population that exceeds people on the 18-island archipelago. Shepherds and sheep-herding dogs were recruited. As photos were taken, Andreassen uploaded them on her smartphone, creating "sheepview."

As word spread through Andreassen's blog *Sheep View 360°* on social media, the Weather Channel came knocking for a feature. Finally, Google paid attention and sent five official representatives to oversee the mapping. More cameras were provided—strapped to kayaks, horses, ships, and even wheelbarrows. And after a year, the project was done—Google still retaining some of the original "sheepview" photos.

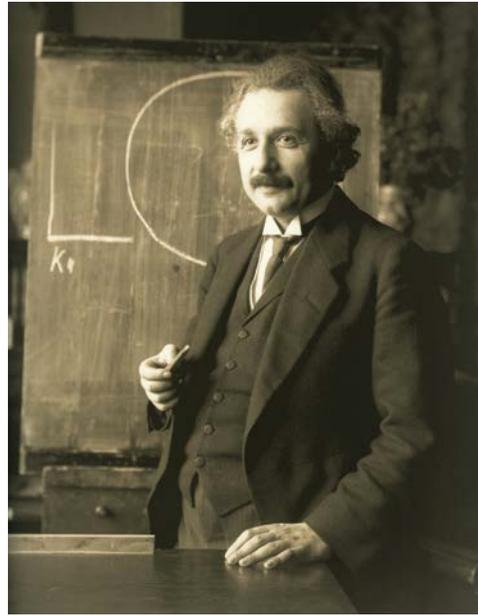


Advice Pays Off

Usually, when workers are looking for tips, they don't mean advice. But sometimes it can prove quite valuable.

In November 1922, Albert Einstein was traveling for a lecture series, during which he'd been awarded the Nobel Prize in physics. While staying at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, he received a delivery, but didn't have money to tip the courier. So he jotted a message, written in German, signed it, and handed it to the messenger: "A calm and humble life will bring more happiness than the pursuit of success and the constant restlessness that comes with it."

Last year at auction, the handwritten note sold for \$1.56 million.



Insights on In-Laws

Throughout history, married couples and their in-laws have struggled to get along. But there's hope. Check out these old-time advice gems for ways to make peace with a new extended family.

- A father-in-law will "pass over trifles in silence than . . . comment upon the same, and thereby engender bad feelings." —*Rural New Yorker*, 1881
- No mother-in-law jokes. "If he has proper affection for his wife, that affection includes, to some extent at

least, the mother who gave her birth."
—*The Home-Maker: An Illustrated Monthly Magazine*, 1895

- A mother-in-law should remember "that the husband your daughter has chosen with your sanction is not a worse man naturally than your husband who used to dislike your mother." —*Good Housekeeping*, 1894
- And, finally, a light-hearted quip.
- "There is one rule which will be found in all cases absolutely certain and satisfactory, and that is to marry an orphan." —*The Round Table*, 1902

Precise and Contrite

No passenger missed the train or even registered a complaint when the commuter train pulled out of a suburban Tokyo station 20 seconds early . . . but the management still apologized.

Every weekday morning at 9:44 a.m. a northbound train leaves Minami-Nagareyama Station. But one morning, the eager crew closed the doors at 9:43:40.

The mistake was so troublesome to the Tsukuba Express management, that by day's end, they had issued an official apology: "On November 14, at approximately 9:44 a.m., a northbound Metropolitan Intercity Railway Company train left Minami-Nagareyama Station roughly 20 seconds earlier than the time indicated on the timetable. We deeply apologize for the severe inconvenience imposed upon our customers."

Keg O' Ranch

Has it happened to you? You open a bottle of ranch dressing, and, alas, nothing comes out. Well, Hidden Valley promises you'll never go ranch-less again.

Introducing the five-liter keg of ranch dressing, measuring ten inches high and six inches wide. The company considers it a year's supply, at the bargain price of \$50 each. A dozen bottles of ranch dressing accompany the keg for the buyer to fill when needed. And no worries about rancid ranch; each keg is lined with a special FDA-approved coating to ensure freshness.

You can also order a cascading holiday-themed fountain for only \$110. After all, what makes revelers with fistfuls of celery and carrot sticks happier than an endless supply of creamy dressing for dipping?



"Call us crazy, but we actually met each other in real life."



"It's great for someone with a short attention span. It automatically changes channels every five seconds."

Courage is fear that has said its prayers.

It is not our position, but our disposition that makes us happy.

You really believe in heredity when your child brings home a report card with all As.

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