

The Danger of a Fake Faith

Imagine counterfeiters at work. I'll bet the first thing that comes to mind is printing fake currency. But criminals don't stop there. They also duplicate computer software, jeans, watches, handbags, perfumes, medicines, car parts—all manner of goods. The fake is marketed as real, but compared to the authentic item, the knockoff's shoddiness soon makes its identity known.

Counterfeits exist in church as well. Perhaps the most common counterfeit is church membership. In the quest for finding peace, acceptance, and salvation, a person can fool himself or herself into believing church membership guarantees a place in God's family. A person can go through the motions of joining a church but never undergo a personal conversion—a change that is indispensable to a genuine relationship with God.

Jesus spoke about spiritual counterfeiters in a story he told about a weed that resembles wheat and grows alongside real wheat. In its early stages of growth, the weed can even fool a farmer. But the weed produces no grain—regardless of what it looks like.

Jesus warned that on the Day of Judgment the fake will be separated from

the real thing. The fakes will be thrown away. Even the most well-crafted counterfeit will never fool God. (See Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.)

Is your relationship with God the real thing? Run a spiritual checkup. Ask yourself if you have ever experienced the life-changing transformation that Jesus described when he said, "I assure you, unless you are born again, you can never see the Kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

"Is your relationship with God the real thing? Run a spiritual checkup."

Become a bona fide member of God's family right now. The Bible promises that "anyone who calls on the name of Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13).

Living each day as a sham increases the danger of a disastrous ending—dying without having been born again by asking God to forgive your sins and accepting

the Lord as your Savior.

Don't deceive yourself any longer. Your eternity with God can begin today. Give your life to Jesus and enjoy the reality of a personal bond with God.

Then you will be a "real" member of God's family.

[Jim Kraus]

NAME & ADDRESS:

HAVE A GOOD DAY AND A SPLENDID *forever!*



HAVE A
good day

|| September 2018 ||

A Welcome Flight Delay

Army Specialist Brooks Lindsey was at Fort Bliss, Texas, preparing for deployment to Kuwait, when he received an urgent message from the Red Cross. His pregnant wife, Haley, was having an emergency induction, two weeks early, because their baby was in distress. With the Army's permission, Brooks left immediately for his home in Brandon, Mississippi.

Unfortunately, his connecting flight in Dallas was delayed and Haley was already starting to dilate. The first-time father was going to miss his baby's birth—until his mother quickly came up with a solution. She FaceTimed with Brooks so he could "be there."

Brooks watched, cried, and encouraged his wife. "Brooks was telling me it was okay, and I was doing so good, and I heard him saying, 'Wow!' through my pushes," Haley says. "I could hear people in the airport talking and cheering!"

Although Brooks would have preferred to be there in person, the delay was providential. Millie Fritz Anne Lindsey was born at 5:23 p.m.—exactly the time he would have been in the air, unable to witness the event.

His mom wasn't the only one recording the event. Fellow passenger Tracy Dover took a video and posted it on Facebook with the message, in part, "I wanted to share this because I never want us to forget about our soldiers who serve us every day and the sacrifices they make."



Love in the Kitchen

Want a better marriage? Grab a dish towel.

Researchers at the University of Utah studied how household tasks affect couples' satisfaction. Among common household chores like shopping, laundry, and housecleaning, dishwashing is the most unpopular—and the one that's most likely to lead to marital dissatisfaction if partners don't share it. The study found that women whose husbands helped were happier and had more fulfilling marriages.



Safe in His Arms

Pikin, the gorilla, might have become bushmeat after Cameroon poachers killed her mother. Fortunately, the charity group Ape Action Africa found her and rescued her in time. Her primary caretaker was Appolinaire Ndohoudou, and the two of them bonded immediately. Six years later, while in transit by car to a larger sanctuary, Pikin, who had been sedated, suddenly woke up—startled at her surroundings. But then she realized Appolinaire was there and she relaxed, eventually falling asleep.

Acclaimed Canadian wildlife photographer Jo-Anne McArthur cap-

tured the poignant moment from the front seat of the vehicle. From more than 50,000 photographs submitted to London's Natural History Museum for their annual photography contest, "Pikin and Appolinaire" won the 2017 People's Choice Award for Wildlife Photographer of the Year.



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Haven for Friends

Nine-year-old Sammie Vance of Fort Wayne, Indiana, was concerned for kids who wanted to make friends but didn't know how. She had heard about "Buddy Benches" and thought her school needed one.

"If someone is lonely, they can go sit on the bench, and others know to go up and ask them to play," Sammie says.



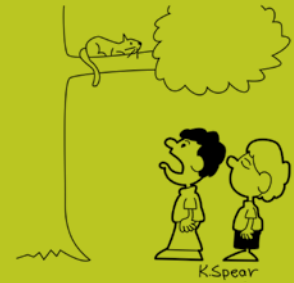
Sammie and her mom, Heidi, found a company that made benches out of recycled plastic bottle caps and posted a call for help on Facebook. People responded from all over the world. Soon Sammie had gathered more than 1,600 pounds of bottle caps—enough to make three benches.

"There is so much that can be accomplished from someone small with a big heart," her proud mom says.

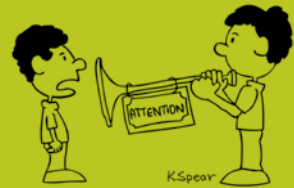
Quietly Amassing Millions

Brooklyn native Sylvia Bloom worked diligently for seven decades as a legal secretary, finally retiring when she was 96. During her career, she closely observed her bosses' investments and bought smaller amounts of the same stock. She lived modestly, and so when she died not long after retiring, her family and friends were stunned to learn Bloom had more than \$12 million—the majority of her wealth bequeathed to scholarship funds that help disadvantaged students. "She was a child of the Depression and she knew what it was like not to have money. She had great empathy for other people who were needy and wanted everybody to have a fair shake," a colleague said.

Just for laughs



"We're always getting him out of a tree. We should have called him Zacchaeus."



"Why can't you just text like everyone else?"

The IQ and the I Will both contribute to getting an education.

It is better to offer no excuse than a bad one. —George Washington

An archeologist is the best husband any woman can get. The older she gets, the more interested he is in her. —Agatha Christie