**Needs Met**

**I was naked and you gave me clothing,**

**I was sick and you took care of me,**

**I was in prison and you visited me.**

***(St. Matthew 25:36)***

**My God shall supply all your need  
according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.  
*(Philippians 4:19)***

**In 1950, H. David Dalquist created an aluminum cake pan with a center hole and fluted sides for members of a Jewish women’s society in Minneapolis, Minnesota, who wanted to re-create cakes like their mothers had baked. His Bundt pan became a best seller. *(American Profile magazine)***

**Various money-changers were cheating immigrants on Ellis Island. So those empowered gave the money-changing rights to just one concessionaire, so the operation could be policed. It was the beginning of American Express. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The Apollo 11 had only twenty seconds of fuel left when it landed. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 190)***

**The idea came to French-born inventor Michel Deal as he struggled up a long hill outside Bath, England: Why is there no automatic transmission on a bike? He perfected the idea in Montreal and it won first prize in the annual Lepine Competition of Invention in Paris in 1980. *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not!)***

**Atlantic City, New Jersey, opened the nation’s first beach boardwalk, June 26, 1870. The mile-long promenade was proposed by hotelier Jacob Keim and railroad conductor Alexander Boardman to keep tourists, drawn to the town by developers’ promises of healthful air, from tracking sand into hotels and trains. Extended over time to its current length of more than four miles, the boardwalk became famous for saltwater taffy, bathing beauties – Miss America contestants first posed here in 1921 – casinos and, after 1935, being primo Monopoly property. *(Alison McLean, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**Brahms wrote his famous Lullaby to comfort a child whose mother had been burned to death. *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 28)***

## Brassiere, 1914: New York partygoer Mary Jacob didn’t like the feel of a whalebone corset under her new slinky dress and so chucked the whalebone and wore some handkerchiefs tied with ribbon over her breasts. In 1914 she patented the brassiere, later selling out to a major corset company. (*Hunter Davies’ Book of Lists, p. 105)*

**Otto Frederick Rohwedder invented the first bread-slicing machine in 1912, but bakers spurned it because sliced bread would go stale too quickly. In 1928, he invented a machine that would slice and wrap bread at the same time. A bakery in Chillicothe, Missouri, was the first to use it. *(Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 231)***

**“George,” a friend said to young bank clerk George Eastman as he was about to take a vacation, “why don’t you take a camera along and make a record in pictures of your trip?” The young bank clerk was fascinated by the chance remark. But the 1870s were still the early days of photography and the problem was daunting. It would have meant taking along a huge camera, heavy tripod and chemicals and glass plates. So Eastman thought up a method of replacing glass plates with rolls of paper coated in chemicals and “cranking” the frames into place in a box camera. And that was the start of those holiday snapshots! *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 149)***

**“You press the button, we do the rest,” George Eastman promised buyers of his Kodak box camera, patented September 4, 1888. Loaded with Eastman’s flexible rolled film – far less bulky than glass plates – the easy-to-use $25 camera and its clever marketing made photography a medium for the masses. Users mailed the whole box back to Kodak to get their snapshots – and a reloaded camera, ready to click. (Alison McLean, in Smithsonian magazine)**

**Every home should have an emergency candle, so when the lights go out you can find the toys that have the batteries borrowed from the flashlight. *(Rotarian)***

**A chef's hat is tall and balloons at the top so as to counteract the intense heat in the kitchen; the unique shape allows air to circulate around the scalp, keeping the head cool. *(David Hoffman, in Who Knew?, p. 43)***

**A Long Island, N.Y., woman recently visited New York City to apply for a visa. After a long trip and three hours of waiting in line at the consulate, the whole day was shot. Just ahead of her was a man holding a fistful of applications. He was employed by LendaHand -- a company that helps busy people with this and other onerous chores. The brainchild of New Yorkers Oscar Allen and Donald Eggena, LendaHand now has 150 employees who queue up for hire at ticket offices, motor-vehicle bureaus, banks, supermarkets -- places where lines can try anyone's temper. *(Lester David, in Reader's Digest)***

**The kitchen dishwasher was invented by the socialite wife of an Illinois politician, not because she was fed up with the ho-hum chore of dirty dishes but because she had had it with careless servants who too frequently broke her expensive china while washing it. *(David Hoffman, in Who Knew?, p. 77)***

**In 1867, Charles Knapp of Waterloo, Wisconsin, patented the first machine for making a wooden drawer joint. Resembling a peg in a half circle, the Knapp joint saved labor involved in cutting dovetail joints and was used by many furniture makers until 1900, when a machine was invented to simulate handmade dovetails. *(American Profile)***

**In 1912, Halsey Taylor of Warren, Ohio, invented the public drinking fountain, Puritan Sanitary Fountain, and the still popular Double Bubbler, which shoots two streams of water that converge for a satisfying sip. In 1896, after his father died from typhoid fever caused by contaminated drinking water, Taylor dedicated himself to inventing a sanitary dispenser for water*. (American Profile magazine)***

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**Chester Greenwood suffered from frostbitten ears in the sub-zero temperatures of western Maine. He attached fur cups to both ends of a wire and bent the contraption around his head. Orders for earmuffs soon came in from all over. *(Lester David, in Reader's Digest)***

**One prophet has indeed found honor in his own country. The state legislature of Maine set aside the first day of winter as a tribute to Chester Greenwood, the Maine man who invented earmuffs. *(James Dent, in Charleston, W.Va., Gazette)***

**It all began when Chester Greenwood’s ears got cold. Allergic to the woolen scarves that others tied around their heads, the industrious teenager wanted a better way to warm his ears in Maine’s chilly winter weather. So, using wire, beaver fur, cloth and a pair of pliers, he fashioned the first set of earmuffs in 1873. Only 15 at the time, he hardly could have imagined that, a century later, his hometown would dedicate a day in his honor, complete with a parade, speeches from local dignitaries, and the raising of a Chester Greenwood Flag at the Franklin Country Courthouse. However, that’s exactly what the town of Farmington, Maine, has done each year since 1977 when the state Legislature designated Chester Greenwood Day, celebrated on the first Saturday in December. (Richard Matthews, in American Profile magazine)**

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Thomas Edison’s first invention was a device that enabled him to sleep on the job. As a young man, he worked as a telegraph operator. He was required periodically to check the wires by sending a brief signal to another station once every hour throughout the night. He devised a gadget that sent the signal automatically so that he could sleep undisturbed. *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It’s a Weird World, p. 60)***

**Eraser: Those who succeed follow one important principle: give 'em what they don't have. Until Hyman L. Lipman of Philadelphia came along, people would rub out their writing with small chunks of India rubber, which kept getting lost. Lipman simply cemented a piece of rubber onto the top of a standard wood pencil. His stroke of genius continues to help those of us who makes mistakes. *(Lester David, in Reader's Digest)***

**Old Evinrude got angry when the ice cream in his rowboat melted before he got to his island picnic spot - so he invented the outboard motor. *(Karl Vesper, in New Venture Strategies)***

**Frederick W. Smith was fed up with slow mail, so he developed the concept of overnight delivery, which grew into Federal Express. *(Lester David, in Reader's Digest)***

**In 1891, Philadelphia inventor James Henry Mitchell revolutionized the packaged-cookie business by building an apparatus that could combine a hollow cookie crust with a fruit filling. The machinery was quickly bought by the Kennedy Biscuit Works in Boston, which had established the tradition of naming their cookies and crackers after towns in the immediate area. Since the company already had the Beacon Hill and the Brighton, this fruit-filled number was christened the Newton. And although it was originally manufactured with a range of jam centers, fig quickly proved to be the most popular; hence the cookie officially became known as the Fig Newton. *(David Hoffman, in Who Knew?, p. 32)***

**There are thousands of short people whose feet cannot reach the floor when they sit. Carrying a footstool is too cumbersome, so Jacob Rabinow of Bethesda, Md., hit upon a solution for a short friend. He attached two pieces of sheet aluminum onto a hollowed-out footrest book, which, when extended, formed a lightweight, portable, collapsible. *(Lester David, in Reader's Digest)***

**Robert Cade, a University of Florida physiology professor, was determined to create a liquid that could quickly replace body fluids lost due to physical exertion and hot weather, so he developed a sports drink and tested it on ten of his school’s football players. The team – the Gators – posted a winning record that season, and, as a result, people took to calling Cade’s concoction Gatorade. (David Hoffman, in Little-Known Facts about Well-Known Stuff, p. 132)**

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**Since 1988, an international treaty against dumping plastic at sea has banned the practice of driving golf balls from the decks of ocean cruise ships. But seagoing duffers could get a reprieve now that University of Maine researchers have devised a golf ball made from lobster shells. They say the ball will sink and degrade within weeks in freshwater or seawater. *(Boston.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 6, 2011)***

**Dr. George F. Grant received U.S. patent number 638,920 on December 12, 1899, for his invention – the golf tee. He created it because he didn’t want to get his hands dirty by building a mound of dirt to place his ball on. *(Noel Botham, in The Best Book of Useless Information Ever, p. 97)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Humphrey O'Sullivan, of Lowell, Mass., often got tired, cramped legs from standing on the concrete floor at the printing shop where he worked. A rubber mat eased the aches, but because it was inconvenient to carry the mat with him and because his fellow employees often walked off with it, he decided to nail patches of it to the heels of his shoes. That was in 1896. Once patented, the simple solution to a small problem made O'Sullivan a wealthy man. Today the company born of that brainchild is known as the O'Sullivan Corporation. (Wallace/Wallechinsky, in The Book of Lists, #3)**

**The “whirlpool bath” is named after Candido Jacuzzi (1903-1986), an Italian immigrant to the U.S. and manufacturer of hydraulic pumps. His son was crippled with rheumatoid arthritis, so he hit on the idea of using one of the firm’s jet pumps for hydro-massage. Developed in the 1950s, the revolutionary bath that became known as the “Jacuzzi” began the cult of the hot tub and was the basis of a multi-million dollar empire. (Russell Ash, in The Top 10 of Everything – 1997, p. 180)**

**After seeing a boy eat a pathetic homemade biscuit, Mabel White Holmes introduced the nation’s homemakers to Jiffy, the first prepared baking mix, in 1930. The Holmes family still owns Chelsea (Michigan) Milling Company and markets Jiffy mixes. *(American Profile magazine)***

**Charlie Brown: “This is my Grampa's new car. It has bells, and lights, and buttons for everything.” Linus: “What's this light for?” Snoopy: “Reminds you to feed the dog.” *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)***

**When developing a new product, make sure it will fulfill a need. That's what Betty Nesmith, an executive secretary, did in 1951. The speed of the electric typewriter, new on the market, seemed to multiply typing errors. She concocted a mixture of water-based paint and a coloring agent that blended with the bank's stationery. Soon other employees wanted to use her correction fluid, and in 1956, she was making and selling the product fulltime. In 1979, Gillette bought her Liquid Paper Corporation for $47.5 million. (Joe Griffith, in Speaker's Library of Business , p. 304)**

**M&M's owe their success to the United States military, which was hungry for a candy that could hold up in G.I.s’ pockets and backpacks and could be eaten without their trigger fingers getting sticky. *(David Hoffman, in Who Knew?, p. 21)***

**Nature is wonderful. A million years ago she didn't know we were going to need glasses, but look where she put our ears. *(Los Angeles Times Syndicate)***

**Ed Pauls was running through freezing Excelsior, Minnesota, on a particularly cold winter night in the early 1970s when he came up with an idea. Instead of risking his life pacing along dark, icy roads, he thought, he’d build a machine that let him exercise in the warmth of his home. That machine, the NordicTrack, would go on to make him a fortune and play a key role in the home fitness craze of the 1980s. *(The Week magazine, November 25, 2011)***

**Peanut butter was invented by St. Louis physician Ambrose Straub, who, concerned about the nutrition of his elderly, toothless patients, concocted a health-food product that was high in protein and easily digestible. *(David Hoffman, in Who Knew?, p. 10)***

**March 10, 1891: Almon Strowger, an undertaker in Kansas City, patents the first direct-dial phone. He believes that one of the local operators (the wife of a competitor) is diverting his calls to her husband's funeral parlor. *(William Ecenbarger, in Reader's Digest)***

**The first pull-top can was invented by Ermal Cleon Fraze in 1959, after he had to use his car bumper to open a beverage can. (Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 149)**

**American inventor Herman Hollerith created a punch card computer in order to calculate the U.S. census in 1880. While the previous census took nearly ten years to calculate, Hollerith’s computer completed the task in just six weeks. (Jeff Harris, in Shortcuts)**

**Racecar driver Ray Harroun, who won the first Indy 500 in 1911 in Indianapolis, Indiana, is credited with inventing the rearview mirror. In his streamlined one-person car, the Marmon Wasp, Harroun didn’t have a mechanic riding with him to warn of overtaking vehicles, so he built a bracket to hold a rearview mirror. (American Profile magazine)**

**An American living in Japan in 1869 invented the rickshaw to transport his invalid wife. (Uncle John’s Unstoppable Bathroom Reader, p. 240)**

**Workers in a print shop came home night after night with aching backs, sore shoulders and stiff necks from standing all day on a hard floor. A co-worker, Humphrey O'Sullivan, relieved fatigue by standing on a rubber mat. Eventually, he affixed rubber cushions to his heels. Today Humphrey O'Sullivan's rubber heels are sold all over the world. (*Lester David, in Reader's Digest)***

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**King Gillette was tired of sharpening his straight razor, so he invented the safety razor with a disposable blade. *(Lester David, in Reader's Digest)***

**Safety razor, 1901: Until then, men had shaved with open “cut-throat” blades. King Camp Gillette invented a blade that fitted into a razor and was safe and also disposable, which meant he sold millions. The first electric razor was also invented by an American – Colonel Jacob Schick of the U. S. Army – who wanted to do away with wet shaving. (*Hunter Davies’ Book of Lists, p. 104)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**When airplanes were still a novel invention, seat belts for pilots were installed only after the consequence of their absence was observed to be fatal – several pilots fell to their deaths while flying upside down. (Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 149)**

**Sylvan N. Goldman of Humpty Dumpty Stores and Standard Food Markets developed the shopping cart so that people could buy more in a single visit in the grocery store. He unveiled his creation in Oklahoma City on June 4, 1937. (Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 151)**

**A victim of dyspepsia, lawyer and entrepreneur Henry D. Perky resolved to develop a food that was easy on the stomach. In accord with nutritional beliefs of the 1890s, he settled on the wheat berry as nature's most perfect food and devised a process for making shredded wheat. The earliest incarnation of the product was tested on some gastric patients, who thought that eating it was somewhat “like eating a whisk broom.” After further refinements, Perky began taking out patents on his product and the machines used to make it in 1892, and his pillows of shredded wheat became a tasty fixture on the American breakfast table. In 1930 the National Biscuit Company (Nabisco) bought the company which produced shredded wheat. (Wallace/Wallechinsky, in The Book of Lists, #3)**

**Students of the ancients say snowshoes were invented by Stone Age Asians to cross the Bering Strait land bridge, on their way there. (L. M. Boyd)**

**The Sony Walkman portable cassette player was developed in 1979, when engineer Nobutoshi Kihara created the first one so Sony co-chairman Akio Morita could listen to operas during extended airplane flights. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 51)***

**The straw was developed by Egyptian brewers to taste beer without removing the fermenting ingredients that floated on the top of the container. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 75)***

**Hallmark has introduced a line of sympathy cards for people who have just been fired. “Don’t think of it as losing your job,” reads one. “Think of it as a time out between stupid bosses.” Hallmark said the cards were designed to help the unemployed “focus on the hopeful side of things.” (The Week magazine, October 7, 2011)**

**In 1810, Peter Durand invented the tin can for preserving food. (Noel Botham, in The Best Book of Useless Information Ever, p. 98)**

**Does it rain a lot in England? The English invented both the umbrella and the trenchcoat. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**MISSOURI – In 1928, St. Louis pharmacist Jim Howe created a product that included calcium carbonate for his wife’s indigestion. During an ocean voyage, he gave sample tablets to other passengers with upset stomachs. The tablets were a hit, and TUMS were introduced commercially two year later. (American Profile magazine)**

**In 1832 the Scottish surgeon Neil Arnott devised the waterbed as a way of improving patients’ comfort. (Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 151)**

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