**Prayer - Stories & Illustrations**

**In a Hassidic story, the disciple comes to the rabbi and says, “I have a terrible problem. I can't pray. I try to say words but nothing happens. I don't feel anything. What should I do?" The rabbi answers, “Pray for the ability to pray." *(Harold Kushner, in Who Needs God?)***

**An old story is told about a tough, weather-beaten, leather-skinned Alaskan morosely nursing drink after drink in a bar in Anchorage. He tells the bartender, with acrimony in his voice, that he has lost the faith he used to have in God. “I had a terrible accident in the Alaskan wilderness,” he confides. “My twin-engine plane went down in the tundra, hundreds of miles from civilization. I lay pinned in the wreckage for hours, believing that God would somehow help me. I cried out to God, I prayed with every ounce of strength I had left, I begged for rescue. But even as I started freezing to death, God didn’t lift a finger to help me. So now I’m done with that charade,” the Alaskan concludes bitterly, “and my faith in God is gone.” The bartender squints at the Alaskan in puzzlement. “But I don’t understand,” he protests. “You’re here, alive, telling me the story. Obviously you were saved.” “Oh, yeah, that’s right,” the Alaskan concedes. “Because finally some Eskimo came along.” *(Yitta Halberstam & Judith Levanthal, in Small Miracles of Love & Friendship)***

**Two parts of my life came together when I found out that acting could be a form of prayer. Now I offer my performances as prayers for someone I have worked with or someone who has died. I walk to the stage, and I offer that performance up for that person. *(Liam Neeson, actor)***

 **Half a world away, in a Korean orphanage, little Yee Seul waited to become part of our family. But one delay after another slowed the adoption proceedings. All I had was a snapshot of her dressed in red overalls, and some information on her background, including the English meaning of her name. Months dragged by. “Dear God,” I prayed one evening, “please promise me that Yee Seul will be part of our family soon.” To cheer me up, my husband took me to dinner at a Chinese restaurant. After our meal, I cracked open a fortune cookie. The slip of paper inside read, “Love is fragile as a flower and rare as a pearl.” Tears filled my eyes. Three weeks later, Yee Seul joined our family. We call her Caroline. But she has also kept her Korean name. It means “Flower Pearl.” *(Mary Tilghman, in Guideposts)***

**For a man to argue, “I do not go to church; I pray alone,” is no wiser than if he should say, “I have no use for symphonies; I believe only in solo music.” *(George A. Buttrick, in Prayers)***

**When a request is made of us, an abbreviation is sometimes attached: ASAP. We are asked to do the task As Soon As Possible! Sometimes in our busy lives, such requests frustrate us. We don’t have the time. Perhaps these letters could be a signal first to take a breather and Always Say A Prayer! Jesus did. There were constant demands made upon Him. At such times the disciples saw what Jesus did. He prayed. Moved by His example, the disciples asked Him, “Lord, teach us to pray” (St. Luke 11:1). So Jesus said to them, “When you pray, say, ‘Father, hallowed be Your name . . .’” (verse 2). *(John R. Sternberg, in Portals of Prayer)***

 **Johnny had been bad and was sent to his room. After a while he emerged and informed his mother that he had thought it over and then said a prayer. “Fine,” said the pleased mother. “If you ask God to make you good, he will help you.” “Oh, I didn’t ask him to help me be good,” replied Johnny. “I asked him to help you put up with me.” Boys will be boys, as the old saying goes, and it’s a wise mother who accepts this fact. *(Bits & Pieces)***

 **You remember the boy who prayed at night only, because he could take care of himself in the day time. Are we not much of his opinion? When the need is great, and the problem looms large, we pray. Prayer should be an attitude -- the attitude of affirmation. The small things as well as the large must be handled in this attitude. *(Nona L. Brooks, in In the Light of Healing)***

**In Fort Lauderdale, Florida, a burglar who ransacked a church apologized by leaving a message on a chalkboard, saying he needed the money for a drug habit but would appreciate being in their prayers. *(Bill Flick, in The Pantagraph, 1994)***

**A common complaint of many Catholics is that “prayer gets mechanical when you say the same old prayers from memory.” And until recently, I, too, echoed this corrosive critique. A 10-year-old convert set me straight – but fast. “You don’t pray from memory,” he said. “You pray by heart.” *(Del Miller, in Our Sunday Visitor)***

**At Bristol, England, in the 1830s George Muller learned that the British prison system contained some six thousand children. Their only crime: They were orphans and therefore homeless. Moved with compassion for their plight, the man resolved to provide a home for any child deprived of a mother and father. His vision became reality, and over the course of his life, he would feed, clothe, educate, and house more than 120,000 boys and girls. Although the cost for that mission of mercy ran into the millions, the man raised every dollar without once asking for money, writing a letter of solicitation, or hosting a fund-raising event. His unique method of generating the necessary financing was to pray, opening himself to God’s substance. *(Victor M. Parachin, in Unity magazine)***

**One day little Billy and Johnny were climbing around in an old apple tree. Finally they walked out on a limb, and were holding to the boughs above them. But the limb on which they were standing proved to be rotten and gave way, and the boys came tumbling down to the ground.  Johnny was hurt and began to cry.  But Billy got up with a smile on his face and began brushing the dirt off his clothes. “Why ain’t you hurt?” moaned Johnny. “You was out further on the limb than me.” “I prayed,” was the happy reply. “You didn’t have no time to pray,” retorted Johnny. “But it didn’t catch me, because I was already prayed up ahead,” explained Billy. “So I wasn’t scared. I know’d I’d be all right.” *(Charles Fillmore, in Atom-Smashing Power of Mind, p. 32)***

**Dr. Iris Keys, an internist at Baltimore’s Coppin State College Nursing Center, is an ordained minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Although Keys never imposes her religion, she always listens for “church talk” from her patients, many of whom are older black women with dangerously high blood pressure. Over the years she has learned that her religious patients are much more likely to follow strict medication, diet and exercise regimens if Dr. Keys combines medical science with comforting prayer. *(Malcolm McConnell, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Actress Dina Merrill was teaching her three-year-old daughter, Nina, to say her prayers. The child was mumbling and her mother said, “I can’t hear you.” Nina looked solemnly at her mother and replied, “I wasn’t talking to you.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Man’s true estate is spiritual. He is essentially God’s man, and he must eventually become conscious of this fact. How does he do this? By “judging himself to be wondrously made.” This is a definition of the word “prayer” as it is literally translated from the ancient Sanskrit word for prayer, “palal.” *(A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity, p. 22)***

**Over twenty years ago my college roommate told me a story I’ve never forgotten. After learning the basic meaning of prayer from her parents, a nine year old girl went happily off to bed. As she slept she dreamed she entered a church where three people were kneeling in prayer.  As she drew nearer, she noticed beside each person was a dove. The first bird was beautiful to behold but when she touched it the dove fell apart, having nothing but a crust. So I was with the prayer uttered beside the dove, beautiful on the outside but nothing on the inside. The dove beside the second person began to fly toward the ceiling but just as it was about to fly out of the church and soar to heaven, it sputtered and fell to the ground. This symbolized the prayer that starts off in the blaze of glory but after awhile the mind goes to other things and the meaning of the prayer is lost. The third dove was not as beautiful as the first nor did it get off as gracefully as the second but as it ascended to the steeple, it did not falter. It continued in its path and soared into the heavens. Here was a prayer that got through--that successfully made its way to God. *(Phil Barnhart, in Seasonings for Sermons, p. 133)***

**More than 120 Indian elephants were given a month-long holiday from their usual lives of hard work by a project initiated by the southern state of Tamil Nadu, the UNI news agency reported. The elephants, most of which either belong to private owners or work in temples, were pampered with special food and medical treatment at the Theppakadu forest. The animals were allowed to recuperate in a 15-acre range, tended to by more than 150 “mahouts" or elephant handlers and doctors. Before returning to a life of labor, the pachyderms were lined up for a prayer ceremony to ward off evil spirits. *(Steve Newman, in Rocky Mountain News, December 23, 2003)***

**Once Unity was in serious financial straits. Bills that had to be paid were piling up, and there did not seem to be money enough to meet the pay roll.  The Fillmores called their staff together to pray about the matter. One of the staff said, “Let us pray that the money holds out.” “Oh, no,” whispered Myrtle Fillmore, “let us pray that our faith holds out.” *(James Dillet Freeman, in The Story of Unity, p. 17)***

**Charles & Myrtle Fillmore had learned to pray at all times, in all places, and under all circumstances and they never let what was going on around them keep them from praying. Sometimes on Sunday morning after the service, Charles Fillmore would come down from the platform and see someone who was in need of prayer. Right there in the front row of the chapel with people talking and laughing and milling about them, he would have the one who needed help sit down beside him, and it would be as if the two of them were completely alone. In the midst of the confusion, he would sit quietly, close his eyes, and speak words of prayer with the one in need. *(James Dillet Freeman, in The Story of Unity, p. 163)***

**Bob is taking a walk when his foot gets caught in some railroad tracks. He tries to pull it out, but it gets wedged in tighter. Then Bob spots a train bearing down on him. Panicking, he starts to pray, “Please, Lord. Get my foot out and I’ll stop drinking.” But it’s still stuck. As Bob struggles to free himself, he prays again, “Please! Help me and I’ll stop drinking and cussing.” Still nothing. “I’m begging you, Lord,” Bob pleads. “Let me live and I’ll stop drinking, cussing and I’ll give all my money to the poor.” Suddenly, his foot slips free and Bob lunges to safety as the train thunders past. “Whew,” says Bob. “Thanks anyway, God, I took care of it myself.” *(Chris Parke)***

**An arrogant tycoon once told his minister that there really was no need for him to pray ever again. After all, he had everything -- he was young, rich, and good looking. After hearing this, the minister said, “Well, you might want to pray for humility.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**An old Jewish legend tells about a little farm boy who had been left an orphan at an early age and was unable to read. But he had inherited a large, heavy prayer book from his parents. On the Day of Atonement he brought the prayer book into the synagogue and laid it on the desk. He then cried out, “Lord of Creation, I do not know how to pray. I do not know what to say. So I give you the entire prayer book.” In the same village there was an old man who on the Day of Atonement over-slept and missed the service. That meant that the prayers offered did not include him. Not knowing how to pray by himself, he devised this plan. He repeated the letters of the alphabet over and over and asked God to arrange them into the words of an appropriate prayer. Both prayers were acceptable because of the faith of those who offered them. *(Mark Trotter, in Grace All the Way Home)***

**A little lad was keeping his sheep one Sunday morning. The bells were ringing for church, and the people were going over the field, when the little fellow began to think that he, too, would like to pray to God. But what could he say? He had never learned a prayer. So he knelt down and commenced the alphabet -- A, B, C, and so on to Z. A gentleman happening to pass on the other side of the hedge heard the lad’s voice, and, looking through the bushes, saw the little fellow kneeling with folded hands and closed eyes, saying, “A, B, C.” “What are you doing, my little man?” “Please, sir, I was praying.” “But what are you saying your letters for?” “Why, I didn’t know any prayer, only I felt that I wanted God to take care of me and help me to care for the sheep; so I thought if I said all I knew, he would put it together and spell all I want.” “Bless your heart, my little man. He will. He will. He will. When the heart speaks right, the lips can’t say wrong?" *(Our Sunday Afternoon)***

**Seen while passing by a church: “Get in touch with God by knee mail.” *(Dorothy Czarnecki, in Reader’s Digest)***

**There is a parable when I stoop before the fireplace; the truth of the parable is “you have to kneel in order to light a fire.” *(Phil Barnhart, in Seasonings for Sermons, p. 131)***

 **One thing to learn is to be led in prayer. I’m apt to think of prayer as my initiative. I realize I have a need or I am happy, and I pray. The emphasis is on me, and I have the sense when I pray that I started something. But what happens if I go to church? I sit there and somebody stands before me and says, “Let us pray.” I didn’t start it: I’m responding. Which means that I am humbled. My ego is no longer prominent. Now that’s a very basic element in prayer, because prayer is answering speech. *(Eugene Peterson, in A Monk Out of Habit)***

**Many years ago when I was hospitalized with the second of four nervous breakdowns, I was feeling a lack of faith. I couldn’t at that time say any special prayer, and I didn’t have my precious rosary with me. I was sick and felt lonely for Jesus and Mary and my dear family. One day I was sitting in the recreation room next to another patient. I began to tell her about my fears of losing my faith. Her words were like a God-sent answer. “I never use popular prayers in places like this,” she said to me. “I acknowledge my life as a prayer and give it to God humbly every day.” I am well again, but I have never forgotten her words and what it did to strengthen my faith when the need was so great. Now, at those times when I can’t say formal prayers, while working or in pain, I remember her advice: Let your life be your prayer. *(Patricia Mullen, in Catholic Digest)***

**Listening is the key to prayer. It is the place where truth leaves the intellectual mind of reason and enters the soul where it is experienced. This shifting makes a kind of spiritual change of chemistry in a person. Actually, the change affects even our material bodies. In the transition from larva to butterfly, the worm attaches itself to a limb, weaves a cocoon around itself, goes into a kind of meditative state, and changes its chemistry, resulting in a totally new body which emerges as a butterfly. (Walter Starcke, in The Ultimate Revolution)**

**I know of a manufacturer who likes to drive back and forth to work so that he can think about business problems without interruption. “One morning,” he relates, “I suddenly realized that problems were always coming up that I had not anticipated. How could I think about crises before they ever happened? Only by prayer. Right there I began to pray that I might meet wisely and well the problems of the day ahead. I arrived at my office feeling refreshed and confident, and I had one of my best days. I soon realized that I had hit upon a wonderful technique. Instead of praying to get pulled out of troubles, I was now conditioning myself in advance to make calm, rational and sound decisions on any problem that came up.” *(Fulton Oursler)***

**At one point in the history of the Mormons, a plague of locusts threatened to devour all the crops so desperately needed to feed the pioneers. They prayed. And shortly thereafter a cloud of seagulls appeared and gobbled up the locusts. Today there is, understandably, a statue to the memory of the sea birds who came from five hundred miles away to rescue the embattled farmers. As an added bonus, the birds also contributed tons of fertilizer to the ultimate benefit of the tillers of the soil. *(Bernie Smith, in The Book of Trivia, p. 336)***

**At Old Faithful geyser in Yellowstone Park, one of the grandest shows in nature, where that dazzling white plume of water shoots up 90 feet in the air toward the blue sky, park rangers say that the question most frequently asked there by tourists is, “Where’s the bathroom?” Imagine, in the presence of such majesty, such a mundane question! Just so, in the presence of the infinite majesty of almighty God, we often ask in prayer for such mundane things. If we ask more frequently for hearts of trust and love and joy and peace, then, as Jesus promised, “It will be done for them by my Father in heaven.” *(Robert Stackel, in The Clergy Journal)***

**Prayer And Our Nation: Prayer in 1620 safely guided the Mayflower with the Pilgrims to a new world. Prayer in 1623 saved the Pilgrim Fathers from starvation. Prayer in 1777 at Valley Forge saved the Continental Army and won the war of American Independence. Prayer at Philadelphia saved the Constitutional Convention and gave birth to the American Way of Life. Prayer in 1857 saved America from economic destruction. Prayer in 1918 ended World War I and lack of prayer started World War II. Prayer saved England at Dunkirk. Myriads of fliers and service men of all nations lost at sea were saved through prayer. *(Church Chimes)***

**A high percentage of new cars sold in Japan have their first “service” at a temple or shrine rather than at a garage. In a form of religious insurance taken out by an increasing number of Japanese motorists, drivers take their new vehicles to the temple gate for a blessing ceremony. A Buddhist or Shinto priest is summoned, and the doors, hood and trunk are opened. Hundreds of thousands of new cars are given this special benediction annually. *(The Daily Telegraph, London)***

**My grandmother has prayed first thing in the morning ever since she was a girl. But recently she has been reading the newspaper first, so I asked if prayer had become less important to her. “Oh, no,” she said. “I’m just looking to see what I should pray about.” *(Bruce C. Johnson, in Reader’s Digest)***

**The oldest known letter in Myrtle Fillmore’s handwriting, dated September 7, 1891, says in part: “My dear, you ask why you do not enter into the understanding you so desire. I will tell you. You are already in it, but think you have some great thing to do to get there. The kingdom of God is within you! All you need to do is ‘Be still and know.’” *(Unity Progress Newsletter, 1993)***

**An Italian mayor was shocked when the Catholic Church sent his tiny village an overdue bill for $25,000--to pay for an astounding 360 years of special masses! The church is charging the village of Levico Terme about $70 a year for annual religious services they’ve been performing since 1630. “The church tells me my town requested these masses back in the 17th century when it was afraid of being wiped out by the plague,” said a stunned Mayor Giuliano Gaigher. And church officials have the original 1630 contract that calls for seven masses a year, including an organist and a choir. The charge: about $10 a mass. “The bill was discovered when someone opened an old dusty record book,” said Gaighter. “Vatican officials say the church has upheld its part of the bargain -- and now we have to pay up. But it’s absurd for Levico Terme to cough up $25,000 for something designed to protect us from a plague which hasn’t been around for hundreds of years! We’re now trying to work out a deal with the church. Hopefully, there’s a less costly solution.” *(The National Enquirer, February 27, 1990)***

 **On our way to watch the homecoming parade, I asked our then 3-year-old if she knew what a parade was. “Yes,” she affirmed. “I pa-rayed for you, Daddy, Jacob, Nana and Papa last night.” *(Kelly Scott, in Country Woman)***

 **There is a sign on my office door that reads, “If a church wants a better pastor, it can get one by praying for the one it has.” *(Rev. Mark J. Nicolaus, in The Lutheran Witness)***

 **At Corinth Paul preached his way into jail and prayed his way out. *(Phil Barnhart, in Seasonings for Sermons, p. 133)***

 **On November 13, 1998, war ships were preparing to launch an assault against the Iraqi people. Later that night millions of people in at least 80 countries stopped what they were doing for ten minutes to “Pray Peace” for that terrible situation. Little did we know that at the same moment people gathered to pray, President Clinton ordered the bombing to begin. The jets were in the air and the missiles were made ready. But then something happened that no one expected. Twice that night President Clinton gave stand down orders and called the jets back to the ships. To this day no one knows exactly what happened, but it was as if the bombs could not fall with the force of so many people praying and sending their feelings of peace. At least for one night no bombs fell and no one died. *(A letter from Doreen Virtue, Gregg Braden & James Twyman)***

**Why is one of the bullets that almost killed Pope John Paul II in Portugal? One of the 9mm bullets that seriously wounded Pope John Paul II in the 1981 assassination attempt was placed in a reliquary at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in central Portugal. The pope gave the bullet as a gift because he believed his hospital prayers to Fatima saved his life. *(Nino Lo Bello, in The Incredible Book of Vatican Facts and Papal Curiosities)***

 **The person who is in the midst of poverty and prays and prays that he be lifted out of the poverty, giving emphasis to how dreadful and terrible the poverty is, will find that nothing good will happen. He may have a reward of some sort. He may start in the direction of peace, but giving the attention to poverty will only produce more poverty. *(Jack E. Addington)***

**The recipe for the praline candies made by the six Sisters of the St. Benedictine Monastery in Canyon, Texas, calls for butter, sugar, heavy cream, corn syrup, pecan halves, and vanilla. But the first ingredient listed on the label is “prayer.” The Sisters do, in fact, pray while making the pralines -- sold as “Pray-Lines.” They use cooking time as “creative and contemplative time,” says Sister Magdalene Grobe. It’s part of the Rule of St. Benedict: Ora et labora -- prayer and work. *(Marialisa Calta, in Catholic Digest)***

 **Jehoshaphat gathered his people together and designated some to sing and praise the Lord. How shall we sing if we do not know the words? When you face a challenge, the situation is easier if you already have ideas of Truth planted in your subconscious or if you are, as some say, “prayed up.” It pays to be “pre-prayered” with ideas of God’s omnipresence, omniscience and omnipotence already in the subconscious mind ready to aid in difficult times. *(Greg W. Neteler)***

**After my daughter, Christy, learned that the Navy might reassign her husband, Mark, to Paris, France, she was thrilled. She began to pray fervently that they would be stationed in the glamorous City of Lights. When the assignment finally came, however, it was to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Christy was crushed, picturing herself living in a strict, traditionalist society, without the freedoms and conveniences she was accustomed to. A few days later, reading various brochures on Abu Dhabi, she was relived to find it was a beautiful, modern city. Her new home was in a country that had unique and fascinating features even France didn’t offer. Her spirits rose. Maybe this was God’s will for her, and He knew what she would enjoy even better than she did. Just then, she came to a footnote in one of the brochures: “Abu Dhabi is known as the Paris of the Middle East!” *(Robert G. Greenleaf, in Guideposts)***

**A grandfather was walking through his yard when he heard his granddaughter repeating the alphabet in a tone of voice that sounded like a prayer. He asked her what she was doing. The little girl explained “I’m praying, but I can’t think of exactly the right words, so I’m just saying all the letters, and God will put them together for me, because He knows what I’m thinking.” *(Charles B. Vaughan)***

**When I pray, I can lock the door of an office and pray by myself. That’s like riding in a cab. Or I can go to a church. I can pray in a temple or a cathedral, where thousands of people pass in and out every day. They are all praying, too. They are taking the same ride I am. And in mingling my prayers with them, I join the fellowship of the world, in humility before the mysteries that surround the journey. I think that is the way to take the ride. *(Niven Busch, novelist and screenwriter)***

**I always say a silent prayer before I rise to speak. “Dear Lord, fill my mouth with meaningful stuff, and nudge me when I've said enough.” *(Pat Buttram, actor)***

 **One time a saloonkeeper came to him for prayers for healing and was helped. The saloonkeeper then said, “I also need prayers for prosperity, but of course you could not pray for a man in my business to prosper.” Charles Fillmore replied: “Certainly. God will help you to prosper. ‘If ye shall ask anything of the Father, he will give it to you in my name,’ does not exclude saloonkeepers.” He prayed for prosperity for the man, just as he would have prayed for anyone else, and learned afterward that the man had gotten out of the saloon business and had found prosperity in other lines of work. *(James Dillet Freeman, in The Story of Unity, p. 10)***

**The rabbi told him, “You have nothing to feel guilty about and nothing to apologize for. Your slamming the book down and storming out was probably the most sincere prayer anybody offered in synagogue all day long. The God I believe in is not so fragile that you hurt Him by being angry at Him, or so petty that He will hold it against you for being upset with Him. I believe He is just as upset about people being killed in the war as you and I are, and He respects good, clean, honest anger as much as you and I do, and a lot more than He respects mumbled prayers by people going through the motions.” *(Harold Kushner, in Who Needs God, p. 21)***

 **To me, saying prayers is sort of like flinging up skyhooks. If I get a few of them fastened in up there, then I’ll have something to swing on if someone jerks the world out from under me. *(James Alexander Thom, in Nuggets)***

**Dr. Alexander Whyte of Edinburgh was famous for his pulpit prayers. He always found something to thank God for, even in bad times. One stormy morning a member of his congregation thought to himself, “The preacher will have nothing to thank God on a wretched morning like this.” But Whyte began his prayer, “We thank Thee, O God, that it is not always like this." *(Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, p. 1456)***

**Spring is when a boy mantis sees a girl mantis and finally realizes what he's been praying for. *(Robert Orben)***

 **When Spurgeon was asked to explain his phenomenal power as a preacher he replied: “My people pray for me." *(Phil Barnhart, in Seasonings for Sermons, p. 132)***

**Overheard some children inside our church admiring the stained-glass window depicting Christ at prayer: “It’s beautiful here,” one boy said, with greater wisdom than he realized, “but it ain’t no good if you are outside.” *(Burton Hillis, in Better Homes & Gardens)***

 **My colleagues and I don’t pray that a particular stock we bought will go up because that just wouldn’t work. We simply pray that the decisions we make will be wise ones. *(John M. Templeton, mutual funds guru)***

**The great tenor, Roland Hayes, always used to pause for a moment of quiet with eyes closed when he faced his audience for the first time in a concert. He was once asked by a reporter what he was doing. A humble man, Hayes was hesitant to reveal his secret. But eventually he admitted that he was praying. When asked what he prayed about, he replied, “I just get quiet and receptive and say, ‘O Lord, blot out Roland Hayes, that the people may hear only thee.’” That is the meekness that compels God. *(Eric Butterworth, in Discover The Power Within You, p. 62))***

**In 1896, a tornado struck Adeline, Illinois, and destroyed the Methodist church in town. But with its 3-foot-thick stone walls, the United Brethren Church remained standing. After the storm, the pastor of United Brethren prayed that the next tornado to hit the town would take aim at the village saloon. But apparently, the Good Lord didn’t take too kindly to the tone of that prayer, because when another tornado hit 2 years later, it ripped the roof off United Brethren Church and smashed its bell tower -- and let the saloon untouched! For good measure, the tornado also destroyed the church parsonage and killed the minister’s horse. *(Olin Strole, in Country magazine)***

**People who knowingly select movies and television programs featuring foul language deserve exactly what they get. But it is not always possible to know in advance that a show is likely to overflow with filth. There are ratings for movies, but they provide inadequate protection for unsuspecting viewers. Vulgarity often erupts from television without any warning at all. Many people will wonder why governments that are clever enough to devise ways to shield children from the dangers of prayer in classrooms should not be clever enough to shield them from the evils of vulgarity in entertainment. *(Edward Grumsley, Creators Syndicate)***

**While attending to a patient in the E.R., a young priest came in. I had to leave the patient to prepare some medication, but the priest expressed fear of being left alone in the small cubicle with the patient. He became quite anxious and asked me what we at the hospital tell our patients when they are afraid. I answered, “We tell them to pray, Father!"  *(Nurses: Jokes, Quotes, and Anecdotes - 2005 Calendar, submitted by Florentina Hanna-Joshi)***

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