**Weighty Matters**

**God saw everything that he had made,**

**and, behold, it was very good.  
  *(Genesis 1:31)***

**Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,**

**and all these things shall be added to you.**

***(St. Matthew 6:33)***

**For it is through faith we understand**

**that the worlds were framed by the word of God,**

**so that the things which are seen**

**came to be from those which are not seen.**

***(Hebrews 11:3)***

**Affirmation: “Thank You, God, for the gift of physical life. Reveal to me ways in which I can learn and obey Your laws which will nurture and sustain me in this physical world. I know You have given me a body for a reason, and I make the commitment to honor and protect it. Thank You, God, for physical life.” *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafola, in The Quest)***

**The massive weight of Antarctica’s icecap pushes some parts of the continent more than 1 km (.6 miles) below sea level. (Jeff Harris, in Shortcuts)**

**Largest bell on earth: the Tsar Kolokol in Moscow. It weighs about 200 tons . . . and has never been rung. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 259)***

**Taipei 101, the world’s tallest building, may be heavy enough to trigger earthquakes. A paper in Geophysical Research Letters implicates the 705,132-ton structure as a factor in two tremors that hit Taipei in 2004 and 2005. *(Discover magazine)***

**Any farmer can tell you this: If weight is what counts, better plant cabbage. You get a heavier crop per acre from cabbage than from any other vegetable. *(L. M. Boyd)\***

**The meaning of life is just finding a place for all your stuff. *(George Carlin)***

**Man eating donuts: “This is so good, it makes me want to sing: Donuts are a many splendored thing!” He then says to those around him: “Sorry. Sometimes I get carried away!” Woman: “The Denver Broncos couldn’t carry you away!” *(Kevin Fagan, in Drabble comic strip)***

**All organisms combined make up one ten-billionth of Earth's mass -- a thin veneer on the planet's surface. *(Edward O. Wilson, in Discover magazine)***

**Fourteen tons each is the average weight of those remarkable giant stone heads on Easter Island. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Scientists estimate that the extinct elephant bird laid eggs which weighed nearly 20 pounds. *(Jeff Harris, in Shortcuts)***

**Astronomers have calculated the mass of a large number of galaxies.  They can tell that 90% of a galaxy’s mass is concentrated in a comparatively small region at its center. *(Isaac Asimov)***

**A glacier has to get about 60 feet deep before its own weight forces it to flow downhill. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Greenland’s ice cap is so heavy it’s pushed the dirt beneath it down about 11 feet below sea level. Some compression. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Charles Fillmore had a different kind of mind. He thought of himself as a hard-headed businessman, and he had a family to provide for. He was reluctant to let his business friends and associates know that he was interested in a new-fangled religious idea such as his wife had. Still, because he was a practical man, when he saw the living, tangible results of his wife’s faith, saw bodies rebuilt, crippled limbs renewed, he could not help but become interested.  *(James Dillet Freeman, in The Story of Unity)***

**Iron weighs more after it rusts. Why? Iron oxide (what iron becomes when it rusts) is heavier than iron alone. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 187)***

**A Delaware congressman brought a group of prominent citizens from Wilmington to see President Lincoln, introducing them with the comment: "Mr. President, these are among the weightiest men in Delaware." "So you are the weighty men of Delaware?" asked the president with a twinkle in his eye. "All from New Castle County? Did it ever occur to you gentlemen there was danger that your little state might tip up during your absence?" *(The Wit & Wisdom of Abraham Lincoln, edited by Alex Ayres, p. 194)***

**The densest substance on Earth is the metal osmium, which is one-sixth denser than gold. An ingot of osmium the size of a dollar bill and an inch thick would weigh nearly 13 pounds. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 248)***

**When God does a miracle, the Scriptures indicate that He usually chooses to start with something. He created man from the dust of the ground, a woman from a rib, wine from water, a meal for 5,000 from five loaves and two fish, and demolished Jericho’s walls by an army simply marching around them. *(Russ Johnston, in God Can Make It Happen)*  
We have been saying that we are so much more than the flesh and blood and bone and sinew that make us up. We are infinitely more. In fact, the real of us transcends our physicality and roots itself deeply in our divinity. We are spiritual beings living in a physical body, inhabiting a physical world. *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafola, in The Quest, p. 342)***

**Where do these birds build their nests? Bald eagles usually create homes in the highest branches of trees. They often use the same nest year after year, adding more twigs to it. One nest was used 34 years in a row and weighed 2 tons – as much as a truck! *(Jessica Mueller, in Frontier magazine)***

**A neutron star is very heavy. Only the size of a pinhead, it weighs as much as a huge ocean liner. (The Diagram Group, in Funky, Freaky Facts, p. 84)**

**A dense world far, far away: Astronomers have detected the first rocky planet ever found outside our solar system. Until now, most of the some 500 “exoplanets” discovered orbiting distant stars have been Jupiter-size gas giants. The latest find, named Kepler-10b, is only 40 percent larger than Earth, making it the smallest exoplanet yet identified, says The New York Times. The discovery “is a significant milestone in the search for planets similar to our own,” says Douglas Hudgins, a scientist with NASA’s Kepler satellite, which detected the body orbiting a star 560 light-years away. Kepler’s instruments could discern the fractional reduction in the star’s brightness as the planet crossed in front of it every 20 hours. Despite its geological kinship to Earth, Kepler-10b is uninhabitable: It is 20 times closer to its star than Mercury is to the Sun and has a surface temperature hotter than lava. “She’s a scorched world,” says study director Natalie Batalha. (The Week magazine, January 28, 2011)**

**Heaviest U.S. president: William Howard Taft (332 pounds). (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 257)***

**Grown in 2007, the world’s largest pumpkin weighed in at a whopping 1,689 pounds. *(Village Inn Pie Bites)***

**Estimated weight of Egypt’s Great Pyramid of Giza: 6 million tons. The Great Pyramid of Giza is made of 2.3 million limestone blocks; each weighs 2 ½ tons. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 153)***

**The remains of 1,123 victims of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center have never been identified. Some victims’ families now oppose a plan to place 9,041 pieces of human remains in a memorial wall under construction below ground zero, because they say it would be disrespectful to put them where “gawkers” and tourists will stream past. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 15, 2011)***

**The world’s largest living tree, the General Sherman giant sequoia in California, weighs more than 6,167 tons – as much as 41 blue whales or 740 elephants. *(The World Almanac and Book of Facts – 1996)***

**Bear in mind that 32 pounds of you is skeleton, if typical. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A massive star has a shorter lifetime than a less massive star. The more massive a star, the more tightly its gravity pulls it together, the hotter it must be to keep it from collapsing, and the more rapidly it uses up its hydrogen fuel.  The reason there are so few really massive stars is that they do not live very long, as little as a million years. For comparison, our sun has an expected lifetime of about 11 billion years. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 444)***

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**The white dwarf star A.C. 70 8247 is about 36 million times as dense as water. One cubic inch of matter from this star would weigh 650 tons. If a water pitcher were filled with such matter, the weight of the pitcher could not only collapse a table, but the floor under it--and the whole building as well. *(Timothy T. Fullerton, in Triviata, p. 112)***

**Throughout most of the life of the star, the nuclear fires in its interior burn steadily, consuming hydrogen and leaving behind a residue of heavier elements. These heavier elements are the ashes of the star’s fire.  Oxygen, iron, copper, and many other elements, ranging up to gold, lead, and uranium, are included among the ashes. According to astronomers, all the elements in the universe are formed in this way in the interiors of stars. *(Robert Jastrow, in God & the Astronomers, p. 117)***

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**An oil “super tanker” takes three miles to stop. *(The Pass Time Paper)***

**A fully loaded supertanker traveling at normal speed takes at least twenty minutes to stop. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 204)***

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**A touching response: If you want to impress a would-be employer, try printing your resume on heavier paper. That’s one conclusion from a series of experiments by MIT psychologists documenting how human feelings are altered by tactile input. In one experiment, volunteers were asked to interview job candidates; the volunteers who were given a heavy clipboard to hold viewed applicants as more serious than those who held a lighter clipboard. Similarly, when subjects were asked to envision bargaining with a car dealer, those who sat in hard wooden chairs were less likely to haggle than those sitting in comfortable chairs. The research builds on studies that have found links between touch and emotions, and helps explain the development of such metaphors as having a “rough” day or making a “weighty” decision. “These metaphors reflect a real connection between our physical and mental understanding of the world,” study author Joshua Ackerman tells Discovery News. (The Week magazine, July 16, 2010)**

**Far from the land of everyday, out in the distant curves of the universe, lie strange and fantastic realms, unlike anything in our wildest dreams. Hidden by the barriers of time and space, they have lived forever beyond the reach of man, unknown and unexplored. But now the cosmic barriers have begun to lift a little. Man has had his first glimpses of these once-secret domains, and their bizarre ways have left him stunned. In those bewildering worlds are places where a teaspoon of matter weighs as much as 200 million elephants. A teaspoon of neutron-star material would weigh a billion tons – the equivalent of 200 million elephants. *(Kenneth F. Weaver, in Reader’s Digest)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Old Tannenbaum: The oldest living tree on earth is believed to be a bristle cone pine in California named Methuselah, whose age is estimated at 4700 years. The world’s largest living tree, the General Sherman giant sequoia in California, weighs more than 6167 tones – as much as 41 blue whales or 740 elephants. *(The World Almanac and Book of Facts 1996)***

**What, for instance, should we answer when asked to name the biggest living thing Earth has ever seen? Dinosaurs? Blue whales? No, the largest sequoias in northern California weigh more than six blue whales. The tallest redwoods and Australian eucalyptus trees tower more than 300 feet high, three times the length of the greatest dinosaur. *(Lowell Ponte, in Reader’s Digest)* \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*The modern Nimitz class super-carriers, the biggest warships in the world, weigh one hundred thousand tons. *(Don Voorhees, in The Indispensable Book of Useless Information, p. 182)***

**Matter is God too.  We “matter.” *(J. Sig Paulson, Unity minister)***

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