**Counting Our Blessings**

**The Lord has done great things for us,
Whereof we are joyful.
(Psalm 126:3)**

**During a first-of-the-month banking transaction, I asked the bank teller to give me my cash in dimes, quarters and dollar bills. “The coins are for my 13-year-old son’s lunch and bus money,” I said. “And he likes his allowance all in ones.” “It gets worse,” the woman behind me in line interjected. “My son wants his all in twenties.” *(Donna Fastle, in Reader's Digest)***

**Be glad there are artists doing absurd outrageous things – otherwise we might have to do them ourselves. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

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**If only things were just as bad now as they were before they got so much worse! *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**A bad day on earth is better than a good day anywhere else that we know of. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**No matter how bad things get, I can always escape into my depression. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

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**Report is you need a $5 permit to go barefoot in Austin, Texas. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**What I’m looking for is a blessing that’s not in disguise. *(Kitty O’Neill Collins)***

**The little boy says to his father: “The batteries in my calculator went dead before I could finish counting my blessings.” *(The Clergy Journal cartoon)***

**There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 a.m. It could be a right number. (Doug Larson, United Feature Syndicate)**

**Doctor says to patient who has just stood on the weight scale: “You counted your blessings instead of your calories on Thanksgiving, didn’t you Mrs. Blair?” (The Luther Witness cartoon)**

**Grandma: “You sure like to take advantage of me, don’t you, Muffin? I’m nothing but a cat couch to you, aren’t I?” Grandpa: “Count your blessings. All I am is a cat scratching post.” (Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)**

**If you think you’re confused, consider poor Columbus. He didn’t know where he was going when he started. When he got there, he didn’t know where he was. When he got back, he didn’t know where he’d been. (Bits & Pieces)**

**As people grow older, they can take some consolation in the fact that even though all their young dreams didn't come true . . . neither did their nightmares. *(Tom R. Kovach, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**If you think you have troubles, just watch a dachshund trying to walk through deep snow. *(Julien J. Girard, in Reader's Digest)***

**Praise God for dirty dishes. At least you have food. (Seen outside Paramus Baptist Church, Paramus, New Jersey)**

**Don't be unhappy if your dreams never come true -- just be thankful your nightmares don't. *(Bits & Pieces)***

***“*A lot of people complain about their dumb boss,” says Joey Adams. “What they don't realize is that they'd be out of a job if their dumb boss were any smarter.” (Reader's Digest)**

**Envy is the art of counting the other fellow's blessings instead of your own. *(Harold Coffin, AP)***

**Two expectant fathers were nervously pacing the floor of the maternity ward waiting room. One said, “What tough luck. This is happening during my vacation.” The other said, “What are you complaining about? I'm on my honeymoon.” (Joe Griffith, in Speaker's Library of Business, p. 278)**

**It was half time at my son Todd’s high-school football game, and I was in the bleachers with my camcorder, angry that I had missed the most important play of the first half. Todd had caught a pass and, eluding a defender, raced down the sideline for a 75-yard touchdown. Unfortunately, I had just stopped recording the game. Another spectator carrying a camcorder approached me. “How’s the picture-taking?” he asked. “Okay,” I answered, “but I blew the big play. That was my son who caught the touchdown pass, and I missed it on camera.” “Don’t feel bad,” he said. “I got the picture, and my son was defending against him.” *(Don Lewis, in Reader’s* *Digest)***

**Every day around the world, some 39,000 girls under the age of 18 are forced into marriage, with their families often selling them off for dowries -- often, to much older men. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 22, 2013)***

**It's a glorious feeling when that piece of paper under the windshield-wiper blade turns out to be an advertising circular. *(Dell Official Crossword Puzzles)***

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**Nothing’s as good as a good yawn, with a good stretch. Knowing the answer to a quiz-show question (and having somebody around to hear us answer it). Being a pound lighter on the bathroom scale. Hearing oneself quoted. A parking meter with ten minutes left on it. Hearing laughter in the house in the morning. A reachable itch. (James Alexander Thom, in Nuggets)**

**Oh for the good old days, when we all lived so comfortably in the trees. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

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**The hardest arithmetic to master is that which enables us to count our blessings. (Reflection)**

**A wife is to thank God her husband has faults; a husband without faults is a dangerous observer. *(Sir George Savile)***

**Most human beings have an almost infinite capacity for taking things for granted. (Aldous Huxley, English author)**

**Man: “Merle, I have an idea.” Merle: “What is it?” Man: “Well, it’s probably not a very good one.” Merle: “Then why bring it up in the first place?” Man: “I was just happy to have one at all.” (Jerry Bittle, in Geech comic strip)**

**If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week. If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world. If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than three billion people in the world. If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the worlds wealthy. If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read at all. Have a good day and count your blessings! *(Shirley Watkins, in S.C.U.C.A. Regional Reporter)***

**The annual inflation rate in Zimbabwe is currently 15,000 percent, the highest in the world. The note with the largest denomination, the Z$200,000 bill, is worth about $6.67. *(London Daily Telegraph, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 7, 2007)***

**Think today's interest rates are high? The Pilgrims borrowed $7,000 from a London company of 70 investors in 1620, and devoted the next 23 years to repaying it at 43 percent. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**After two decades of war and civil conflict, about 1.5 million Iraqi women -- 10 percent of the country's adult females -- are widows, a new study says. Nearly 60 percent of these women lost their husbands in the violence that followed the 2003 U.S. invasion, and most are desperately poor. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 30, 2011)***

**“Say, Bill,” a man said to his pal, “how do you like your new job?” “It's the worst job I ever had.” “How long have you been there?” “About three months.” “Why don't you quit?” “No way. This is the first time in 20 years that I've looked forward to going home.” (Jim Young, in Reader's Digest)**

## If you want to know what life is like in the Soviet Union, go to your local motor-vehicle bureau. *(Billy Joel)*

**Dad: “Reading your old journal, eh?” Mom: “Yeah, back from when Zoe was little. It makes me feel encouraged about having a new baby.” Dad reads from the journal: “Zoe is colicky. Another sleepless night.” Dad: “What’s encouraging about that?” Mom: “That I still had the energy to write.” *(Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)***

## If you think you have it tough, read history books*. (Bill Maher)*

**Two mice were launched in a Cape Canaveral missile. First mouse: “I'm scared. This space travel is dangerous, you know.” Second mouse: “Yeah, but it sure beats cancer research.” (Parts Pups)**

**Quite often you will hear someone say, “Our minister never calls on our home.” If this is true, you probably have much for which to give thanks to God. It usually means that death has not paid you a recent visit, that no serious illness has laid low the members of your family, that you are not a shut-in, that the surgeon's knife has not lately threatened you, that you have no serious marital problems, and that you are not spiritually delinquent. (Inspiring Quotations Contemporary and Classical)**

**If you've ever wished that your parents had given you a better handle, take comfort from the following actual names: Ure A. Pigg of Portland, Oregon, Ima Hogg of Houston, Texas, Serious Misconduct of Welwyn, England, General Error of Pueblo, Colorado, Safety First of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor and Honor Roll of Birmingham, Alabama, E. Pluribus Eubanks of San Francisco, California, and Harry “Bum” Messenger of Idaho Falls, Idaho. *(Valmarie Carson, in Tidbits)***

**I never had many of the things others had – but that includes their troubles. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Mother to teen-age daughter: “The bad news is, we're moving to a different city. The good news is, your new school is full of boys who didn't see you get sick in the cafeteria last month.” (*Randy Glasbergen, in Funny Times)***

**Nothing's As Good As: A good yawn, with a good stretch. Knowing the answer to a quiz-show question (and having somebody around to hear us answer it). Being a pound lighter on the bathroom scale. Hearing oneself quoted. A parking meter with ten minutes left on it. Hearing laughter in the house in the morning. A reachable itch. (*James Alexander Thom, in Nuggets)***

**The plants I had ordered from a catalogue were delivered in sad shape. However, the planting guide that accompanied them cheered me up: “Many plants may appear lifeless and wilted on arrival. You’d droop, too, if you spent a few days boxed up traveling from our nursery to your doorstep.” *(L. Jean Myers, in Reader’s Digest)***

**“So you think you've got problems!” a man said to his co-worker. “I lent a guy $4000 for plastic surgery, and now I don't know what he looks like!” *(Jay Trachman, in One to One)***

## Female sea lions are pregnant 364 days a year. *(L. M. Boyd)*

***“*Dear, Mr. Foshee: Congratulations. Your daughter Jennifer's essay ‘Why I Like Summer Camp’ won second place in our contest. She will receive a beautiful photograph album. You may be interested to know that the first prize, a Shetland pony, went to . . ..” *(John Foshee, in Reader's Digest)***

**Many years ago, as I carried a heavy garbage can out to the curb, my young daughter, Beth Ann, told me she was sorry I had to lift such a heavy thing. "Don't be," I said. "Putting out the garbage means we have a home, food, things we need and things we don't need. Recently, I called Beth Ann, who is now married and has a daughter of her own. She had just bought a house, and I asked her how everything was. "Great," she answered. "We're putting the garbage out." *(Joe Ryan, in Reader's Digest)***

**Dean: “Heart, look! Gollum wasn't lying! There's Mount Doom!” Heart: “The end of your quest is at hand, Dean! As we speak, Sauron's evil legions gather for a climactic battle! You must climb the mount and cast the ring into the molten depths and save middle-earth! Go!” Dean: “And to think I used to complain when my Mom asked me to take out the trash.” *(Mark Tatulli, in Heart of the City comic strip)***

**At least 14 countries have reported record high temperatures this year, which is on track to be the hottest year ever recorded throughout the world. In Iraq, where U.S. troops patrol in heavy armor, the temperature topped 126 degrees in July*. (AOLnews.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, August 20, 2010)***

**Russian school teacher: “Who were the first human beings?” Pupil: “Adam and Eve.” Teacher: “And what nationality were they?” Pupil: “Russian, of course.” Teacher: “And how do you know they were Russian?” Pupil: “Easy. They had no roof over their heads, no clothes to wear and only one apple between them -- and they called it Paradise.” (Mrs. A. Mayer, in National Examiner Montreal)**

**The Butterfield Overland Express Company, subsidized by the U.S. government to the tune of $600,000 per year, made the stagecoach trip from St. Louis to San Francisco in 25 days, covered 2,812 miles, and helped to settle the West. If you rode in the stagecoach, the trip didn’t settle your stomach. (Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia , p. 252)**

**The U.S. actually taxes its citizens less than almost any other developed nation. Of the 35 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries, only South Korea, Ireland, Chile, and Mexico collect less taxes than the U.S. as a share of GDP. (The Economist, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 6, 2017)**

**Average summer temperature in Baghdad is 94 degrees Fahrenheit. (L. M. Boyd)**

**After hiking for several days through rain and mud in Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Tetons, we decided to stop at a ranger station before going any farther. Information helpful to trail users was chalked on a blackboard. We walked over to read it and burst out laughing. Listed under “General Weather Conditions” was the simple statement: “You should have been here last week! *(Janet Mody, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Peculiar ancient wedding customs:**

**Middle Ages -- eggs thrown at bride and groom**

**England -- shoes thrown at groom**

**Germany -- coin baked in wedding cake**

**France -- couple arrived at church in chains**

## Rome -- bride threw nuts at rejected suitors. *(World Features Syndicate)*

## We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures. *(Thornton Wilder)*

## At the cafeteria, several co-workers and I were discussing the particularly harsh Vermont winter we were experiencing. “I'm so tired of winter,” one woman said, “that I can't wait to get my first mosquito bite.” *(Leo N. Gavin, in*

## *Reader's Digest)*

## When you are unhappy about getting older and yearn to return to your youth, think about algebra. *(Rocky Mountain News)*

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