

Reformed

A MAGAZINE FOR THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

JANUARY 2013
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PERSPECTIVE

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For Subscriptions or to Change your address, contact:

Reformed Perspective, 322 Caradoc St N., Strathroy, ON N7G 2N2
subscribe@reformedperspective.ca
1-888-773-7780

For Letters to the Editor, Advertising and Submissions, contact:

E-mail: editor@reformedperspective.ca

Editor: Jon Dykstra

Regular Contributors: Sharon Bratcher, Christine Farenhorst, Margaret Helder, Anna Nienhuis, Michael Wagner

Board of Directors: John Voorhorst (Chairman); Henry Stel (Managing Editor); James Teitsma (Secretary/Treasurer); Bob Lodder

Secretarial Address (Board Matters): James Teitsma
8 Granite Cove, East St. Paul, MB, Canada, R2E 0L6

Art Direction, Design and Layout: Compass Creative Studio Inc.
compasscreative.ca

Contact Address for South Africa:

Arie Roos, Box 584, Kuilsrivier, 7580 Republic of South Africa

Contact Address for Australia:

Pro Ecclesia Publishers, PO Box 189, Kelmescott, W. Australia 6111

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FROM THE EDITOR

Fearless Phil

The *Duck Dynasty* patriarch's Christian love is stronger than fear

Late last year GLAAD, a homosexual advocacy group, decided to pick a fight with a 67-year-old reality TV star who said a few things that weren't to their liking. Their target, Phil Robertson, is the patriarch of a clan whose business and hunting exploits are portrayed on a popular American reality television series by the name of *Duck Dynasty*. Ten million tune in each week to see their hijinks.

What got GLAAD's gander was Robertson's description of homosexual conduct. In an interview with the men's magazine *GQ* he not only called it a sin but, using precise anatomical terms, also confronted readers with what homosexual activity involves. As any description of homosexual conduct will do (no matter how delicately done), his underscored the perversity.

The gay game plan

That made GLAAD mad. They responded with a press release that said Phil's *GQ* "quote was littered with outdated stereotypes and blatant misinformation." They added, "Phil's lies about an entire community fly in the face of what true Christians believe."

The homosexual movement is used to having the media placate them, and that's the way things looked to be going this time too. Reporters didn't ask GLAAD to clarify as to what Phil had lied about, or how GLAAD had any expertise as to what "true Christians believe." And *Duck Dynasty's* network, A&E, quickly suspended Robertson.

That's when things got interesting, because Robertson refused to play the role they assigned to him. When GLAAD brings their pressure to bear, the usual

response is for the offending celebrity to offer a quick effusive apology. That's GLAAD's strategy – to use massive media attention and peer pressure to shame their opponents into silence.

But Robertson is no typical celebrity. He's a Christian who lived his early years without God, and who is now much more concerned with what God says than what the world thinks. He made it clear no apology was coming. Then his family doubled down, issuing their own press release in which they backed their father noting that what he had said was clearly "grounded in the teaching of the Bible." They added that they couldn't imagine doing the show without their patriarch.

Quick to concede

But if Robertson and his family were uninterested in apologizing, there were other Christians happy to do it for them. One popular author, in a post on ill-considered words, took Robertson to task for *how* he had talked. "Off-the-cuff words too often slap," she wrote.

What she failed to realize was that it wasn't the presentation, but the contents that his critics found offensive. What was being attacked here was not Phil Robertson's verbiage, but God's truth. The lines were clearly drawn, but this blogger and other Christians like her, so misunderstood what was at stake, they found themselves in the enemy's camp, siding with critics who wanted to tear down a man upholding God's law.

Ready to defend, except where the attack is most pressing

Another popular response among Christians was to defend Robertson's right to free speech. However this wasn't

a free speech issue. As pastor Douglas Wilson noted,

if A&E is privately owned and operated, then we have to cheerfully acknowledge that they have every right to refuse to broadcast people they don't want to broadcast.

More importantly, even if this had been about free speech, that wasn't the issue that most needed defending. Many in the enemy's camp also believe in free speech. As comedian Jon Stewart put it, he is fully committed to defending Robertson's right to say "ignorant [expletive]." Christians who dared only defend Robertson's right to speak, looked to the world to be siding with Stewart's assessment of what Robertson said.

The Christian response

But while others ducked, Robertson stood strong, and explained why Christians need to speak fearlessly. He was quoted in the *Daily Mail* saying,

All I did was quote from the Scriptures, but they just didn't know it.... The sins are the same, humans haven't changed. If you give them the bad news, they'll start kicking and screaming. But you love them more than you fear them, so you tell them.

Do we love our neighbors enough to tell them God's truth? Or are we too frightened to tell them the most important message they could possibly ever hear?

In 2014 may God increase our love!

Jon Dykstra can be reached at editor@reformedperspective.ca.

RP

DEAR EDITOR,

Thank you for publishing the article "Christians Need to Get Behind TWU's Law School" (Oct. 2013). As we are waiting for the response from both the British Columbia Ministry of Advanced Education and the Federation of Law Societies it is encouraging to members of the TWU community to receive support from fellow believers.

The article is thorough and reiterates conversations that are currently taking place in regards to the merit of TWU having a Law School. Thank you for directing readers to the precedent-setting Supreme Court of Canada case that TWU fought and won in 2001

regarding the education teachers, as this is often overlooked. I am also appreciative of the dialogue relevant to the separation of Church and State and the mischaracterization that many, including Clayton Ruby, seem to have made of it. Thank you for standing firm with Trinity Western on this very important issue of religious freedom.

Let me encourage you to continue supporting TWU. We would be grateful for your prayers!

Bob Kuhn, President
Trinity Western University
Langley, BC



DEAR EDITOR,

Thank-you for the informative article on Abraham Kuyper (Nov. 2013). Dr. Bredenhof was very fair in how he presented Kuyper's policy on Christian education.

However, there was a further point that could be added. There is good reason to be leery of the public funding for Christian education that Kuyper encouraged – many of our forefathers believed that Kuyper's policies on education in Holland very effectively turned all private Christian schools into public schools.

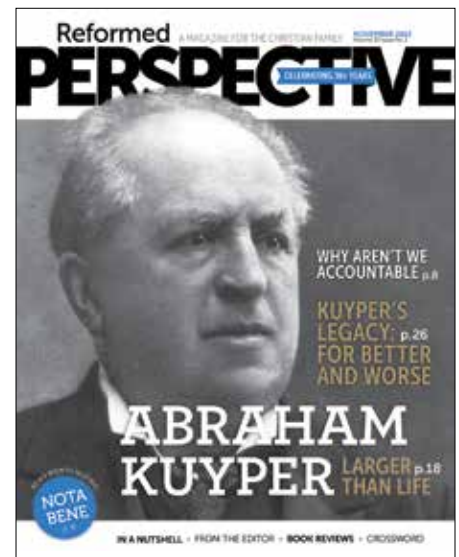
When our parents and grandparents first immigrated to Canada the public system was considered to be Protestant, with classes opening in prayer, and no sex education, etc.).

And yet it was precisely in this environment that this first generation of Canadian Reformed parents saw the need to build and run their own schools. When you read old Clarions of that time, you see clearly that this was because of their convictions about the antithesis - their understanding that the LORD has put enmity between the

seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent and there is no common ground between the two. Our Christian pedagogy – the Christian way of teaching – was radically different, endeavoring to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

In contrast to this, one of the government's main goals in education today is to bring a secular peace on earth by turning Bible study into religious studies, and by turning the faith of our fathers into a mere ideology which must be presented as no better than all the other religions of the world (Quebec has gone the furthest in this direction).

It is shocking to see how many institutions of learning eventually go on to betray the very cause upon which they were founded. And the most



common ingredient among those that do is government funding.

Andrew C. Viersen
Neerlandia, Alberta

CORRECTION: In the December edition, the solution to Chess Puzzle #204 had the wrong Algebraic Notation for "White to Mate in 3." The correct solution is:

1. Nd5-e7 + Kc8-b8
2. Qg2-a8 + Ra7xa8
3. Na5-c6 mate

NOTA BENE

News worth noting

MIXED RELIGION MARRIAGES – WHAT RELIGION IS REALLY LEFT?

BY ANNA NIENHUIS



A recent *Canadian Living* magazine featured articles on making the holidays work when you and your partner or spouse have different religious backgrounds. The tagline reads, “Religious differences don’t have to be difficult.” One Jew and one Roman Catholic? No problem. One Christian and one atheist? No problem. Families proudly displayed their blended traditions, and discussed the infinite wisdom they displayed in raising their children to choose for themselves.

“We are very careful not to make judgment statements,” says Jan Rubak, an atheist married to Karri Quan, who attends a United Church. He adds, “Instead of saying something is right or wrong, we just say it is different.” Karri admits she’d be “a little disappointed” if her children didn’t continue to believe, but like other couples interviewed, the goal seemed to be the comfort of the children, and not causing them any stress over the fact that Mom and Dad believed different things.

This is the epitome of uncertain, uncaring faith. If one partner truly believes in Jesus Christ and knows that there is salvation for those who do believe, shouldn’t they be bothered that their atheist spouse or children will be going to hell since they don’t believe? As children come to understand the balance their parents have agreed to in the self-interested motive of marrying whomever they wanted, they will either become tolerant in a way that is incompatible with true faith, or bitter at a believing parent who doesn’t care whether anyone but themselves gets to heaven.

SOURCE: Michelle Sponagle’s “A Matter of Faith”, *Canadian Living Magazine*, p. 107-108, Dec. 2012.

ABORTION DEBATE ALIVE AND WELL IN HALIFAX

BY ANNA NIENHUIS

New bus stop ads, scheduled also to become ads right on buses in the near future, are sparking renewed controversy about the right to life in Halifax. An ad stating simply “Luc was born today but his life began 9 months ago,” accompanied by a picture of a sleeping newborn, elicited both outrage and support from Halifax residents.

A main concern with the ad is that it is situated directly outside a hospital where abortions are performed, leading

some to question the location choice. However, as the group sponsoring the ads, Signs for Life, said, the ads aren’t meant to offend people, but to stimulate second thoughts and discussion.

The fact that someone could be offended by such a simple ad speaks to the depth of feeling people hold on the issue of abortion. Such emotional investment needs little trigger to turn into discussion, and keeping the discussion on the table is crucial to effecting change, both on a personal and political level.

SOURCE: “New prolife ads reignite abortion debate in Halifax”, posted on November 18, 2013 to atlantic.ctvnews.ca

THE DEATH OF THE DOORKNOB (AND PERSONAL CHOICE)

BY ANNA NIENHUIS

Vancouver, B.C. is leading a charge to eliminate doorknobs from all buildings. Under the name of accessibility to all, doorknobs are now being changed to lever door openings in some existing government buildings and levers will be a requirement in all new construction plans, as of March 2014. This will also apply to how we turn on taps, if, of course, they aren’t already activated by the wave of a hand. Levers are easier for those with

disabilities, including arthritis, to open. While this accessibility certainly makes sense in public access buildings, should the same stand true for private dwellings? It has been suggested that this is just one more area where the government is overstepping the bounds of privacy and personal choice, attempting to set boundaries outside of the area that should be their jurisdiction. While most do not care too much about how they open their door, many do, or should, care how much of a say the government has in how we accessorize our private homes.

SOURCE: Jesse Kline’s “Jesse Kline on Vancouver doorknob ban: Homeowners should have a choice”, Nov. 20, 2013, fullcomment.nationalpost.com

"19 KIDS AND COUNTING" STARS SEE EVIL TURNED TO GOOD

BY JON DYKSTRA

Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar and their 19 children, aged 3 to 25, have received a large amount of criticism since



the reality show depicting their day-to-day lives first began airing in 2008. Negative responses have focused on a variety of things, including the couple's choice to have 19 children, the model of courtship that the children follow, and the couple's emphasis on a wife's submission to her husband.

Recently, however, the Duggars have attracted negative attention for things that they said outside of the context of their show. During an address at the conservative Value Voters Conference, Jim Bob explained the importance of social conservatives running for office by comparing present abortion rates to the death toll caused by Nazi Germany. "We have since 1973," he explained after the conference, "had 55 million abortions, so what we have right now is a baby holocaust."

The comparison is not a new one for pro-life advocates to make, but it is one that enraged abortion proponents, some of whom have begun petitions to have the Duggars' show taken off the air. While it's unlikely that the TLC network would cancel the show without seeing a drop in ratings, the petitions have had an affect, though be it unintended. By publicizing Jim Bob's comments, even with their negative reaction, these pro-abortion protesters have cast a spotlight on an issue that is commonly ignored in the mainstream media. So what they intended for evil, God has turned it into good (Gen. 50:20, Rom. 8:28).

SOURCES: Steve Weatherbe's "How do the Duggars offend thee? Let me count the ways...", TheChristians.com, Nov. 18, 2013; Garret Haley's "Abortion Advocates Call for Cancellation of Duggar Family's '19 Kids and Counting'", Nov. 11, 2013

ADHD: A NORTH AMERICAN PROBLEM?

BY ANNA NIENHUIS

In North America, ADHD is a common diagnosis for kids to receive: according to a 2012 article on

PsychologyToday.com, 9 per cent of children in the United States school system have been labeled with this disorder. In France that number is less than 0.5 per cent. So why the huge difference?

The article's author, Dr. Marilyn Wedge, explains that in the United States ADHD is diagnosed as a biological-neurological disorder, and treated accordingly, with heavy medications. In France, however, the problem behaviors associated with ADHD are viewed through a psychosocial, or situational lens. This means treatment is geared toward the root cause of the behavior as something changeable – a situational or social problem that needs to be addressed, be it anything from lack of attention to

nutritional issues.

This holistic approach means the symptoms are being addressed and treated, not just masked by drugs. The result is significantly less of an issue with ADHD, to the point where it isn't an issue at all. Rather than stopping difficult behavior with medication or labeling regular childhood behavior as a disorder, France is evidence of an approach that works – an approach that looks at each individual child and makes a diagnosis as a last resort, not a first one.

The author also suggests a second major reason for the lower incidence of ADHD in France:

French parents have a different philosophy of discipline. Consistently enforced limits, in the French view, make children feel safe and secure. Clear limits, they believe, actually make a child feel happier and safer... French parents believe that hearing the word "no" rescues children from the "tyranny of their own desires."

France is not a notably Christian country, but in this respect they are in accord with Biblical instruction we find throughout Proverbs where we are told that if we love our children we will discipline them (3:11-12, 19:18 & 23:12-14, etc.). Unsurprisingly, going with what God tells us to do turns out to be good for our children.

SOURCE: Marilyn Wedge's "Suffer the children: Why French kids don't have ADHD", March 8, 2012, *psychologytoday.com*



UPON FURTHER REFLECTION...

by Margaret Helder



"Inferior" design in nature is supposed to be the result of, and evidence for, evolutionary trial and error.

Everybody loves to hear about wonderful living creatures with their amazing talents. It is certainly uplifting to learn about Monarch butterfly's continent-spanning migration, and the toe pads of the gecko that allow it to walk upside down, and the amazing strength of spider silk. Christians, especially, enjoy discussing the wonderful designs that we see in nature.

And among scientists, these creatures have their fans too. Indeed, there is an entire field in science called biomimicry where scientists try to learn from living creatures in order to produce practical designs for modern application.

But not everyone is equally enthusiastic about the implications of these amazing talents. Prominent evolutionist Stephen Jay Gould (1941-2002) in 1978 wrote: "But ideal design is a lousy argument for evolution, for it mimics the postulated action of an omnipotent creator." Dr. Gould thus said that everyone should ignore examples of wonderful design and concentrate on phenomena that are below par. He continued: "Odd arrangements and funny solutions are the proof of evolution – paths that a sensible God would never tread but that a natural process, constrained by history, follows perforce."

Gould was telling us that he knew how God should act if, that is, God really existed. God, according to Gould, would make everything perfect. And since we know that everything is not perfect in nature then, said Gould, this proves there is no God.

This kind of argument, based on assumptions of how God should act, continues to be common in science today. There is thus a lot of interest among scientists, in suboptimal (less than perfect) design. Let us look at some examples to see what the implications are.

THE PANDA'S THUMB

The example Gould discussed in 1978 was the thumb of the Giant Panda. These animals, native to China, eat almost nothing but bamboo shoots. They use their hands to strip off the leaves, leaving

the nice tender shoots on which to munch. Their flexible hands are unusual – they have a thumb of sorts, an extra structure produced from an enlarged wrist bone, with associated muscles and nerves.

Gould declares that this extra finger is a “somewhat clumsy, but quite workable solution.... A contraption, not a lovely contrivance.” Here he was declaring that the panda’s thumb was of suboptimal or inferior design, which thus constituted proof that the source of the thumb was evolutionary trial and error rather than from a “divine artificer” (supernatural designer).

INFERIOR EARS?

Even today, a major argument employed by many evolutionists, is to point to suboptimal (inferior) design and to declare that this proves that evolution was the source rather than God. However, what makes something “suboptimal” is an open question. Sometimes a phenomenon that appears less than ideal actually displays superior and unexpectedly sophisticated design. Gould might not like the panda’s thumb, but there is no denying how wonderfully this thumb gets the job done.

Another example: the inner ear of humans includes a spirally coiled structure called the cochlea. Lining its interior are very fancy hair cells which

by their motion, amplify the sound. The whole cochlea functions as a remarkably sensitive and finely tuned sound detector. However at the same time, it also distorts the sound. Might these distortions be considered inferior design?

A study in 2008 (Nature, Nov 13) demonstrated that the distortions actually contribute to clarity of sound. The distortions come from a particular structure connecting the top of the various hair cells. Mice without this connector in their cochlea, became progressively deaf.

Who knew distortions were so useful?

STABLE VERSUS MANEUVERABLE

A recent article published in the on-line edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (November 4-8) discussed another counter-intuitive (contrary to our expectations) situation. The study was conducted by engineers trying to build efficient robots. This is a large field of research. The designers want systems that are not only stable, but maneuverable. The problem is that these are opposite objectives. In general, the more maneuverable a robot is, the less stable it is. If your robot tips over, clearly it is not going anywhere. Alternatively the more stable a robot is, the less one can fine tune what it does – the harder it is to make sudden changes of direction.

excellent locomotion skills? Biologists may have already observed the solution without recognizing its significance. Why, many biologists have wondered, do animals move in directions that are different from their desired destination? Why, for example, do cockroaches and lizards tilt from side to side as they run forward? An engineer would most likely eliminate these motions, which seem to waste energy, as they do not obviously contribute to the forward motion. Lately, however, mechanical engineers have begun to research how unexpected, “inefficient” movements may benefit these animals.

THINGS GET FISHY

Insight into this mystery recently came from studies of a tiny fish from the Amazon basin. In order to avoid predators, this fish prefers to hide in various shelters such as tiny tubes. Scientists used slow motion video to study fin movements of this fish as it finessed its way into its hiding places. At 100 frames per second, a strange situation became apparent. The fish was using one part of the lower body fin to push water forwards, and the other part to push it backwards. This was definitely against common sense since it was like two propellers fighting against each other.

When scientists built a fishy robot, they found that the opposing forces actually improved the stability and maneuverability of their model. The assumption of the engineers that it is wasteful or useless to employ forces in directions other than the desired forward motion had now been proven wrong.

Apparently the same principle applies to motion of many other creatures. The take home lesson is that what, at first glance, appeared to be inferior design (opposing forces) actually turned out to be superior design!

Another recent robotic study which shows promise is one inspired by the talents of emperor penguins. While these creatures look pretty inept on land, in the water they can accelerate from 0 to 7 meters/second in less than a second (a veritable rocket). One student at Caltech’s Aeronautics Department, set out to create new propulsion

Clearly the breeding behavior of the ostrich is suboptimal but nevertheless designed by God.

Thus your robot may be able to proceed briskly straight ahead, but what if you need it to turn a corner or climb over an obstruction? Will it be able to turn, or will it instead tip over?

Animals obviously have no such problems. The engineers therefore have turned their attention to animal locomotion. They ask themselves, how do animals achieve the “impossible” combination of stability and maneuverability? How indeed do actual insects like cockroaches manage their





The panda's thumb is supposed to be an example of inferior design. Why, then, does it get the job done so well?"

However, what makes something "suboptimal" is an open question. Sometimes a phenomenon that appears less than ideal actually displays superior and unexpectedly sophisticated design.

technologies with high maneuverability and improved hydrodynamic efficiency. The new mechanical design is based on the penguin's shoulder and wing system and features a spherical joint with various other technical features. Concerning the promise of the study, the student declared that the manner in which penguins swim is still poorly understood. Nevertheless by accurately reproducing an actual penguin wing movement, he and his collaborators hope to shed light on the swimming mysteries of these underwater rockets (ScienceDaily.com November 14, 2013).

There are many other examples of unrecognized excellence in design. For example, the compound eye of insects and other invertebrates, is often considered to be less ideal than our own camera eyes. However, a recent study that modeled the compound eye found that it does offer some advantages over the camera style eye (Young Min Song et al. Nature. May 2, 2013). Specifically the compound eye provides for an exceptionally wide field of view, and secondly such an eye has a nearly infinite

depth of focus. As an object recedes away from the eye, the object becomes smaller, but it still remains in focus. It is apparent that in the case of eye design, there is no such thing as inferior design. There is instead good design that is more applicable to certain applications than to others.

GOD TELLS US TO EXPECT "INFERIOR" DESIGN

Obviously however there are many situations in nature that are less than ideal. This is a fallen world and there are many cases where we see distressing phenomena. The secular argument that a good God would never mandate inferior design is simply not valid. God cursed nature as a result of man's sin, so we have no reason to expect wholesale perfection, and the former "very good" creation now displays many inferior design choices. For example in Job 39:13-17 we read:

The wings of the ostrich wave proudly, but are they the pinions and plumage of love? For she leaves her eggs to the earth and lets them be warmed on the ground, forgetting

that a foot may crush them and that the wild beasts may trample them. She deals cruelly with her young, as if they were not hers; though her labor be in vain, yet she has no fear, because God has made her forget wisdom and given her no share in understanding.

Clearly the breeding behavior of the ostrich is suboptimal but nevertheless designed by God. Yet "when she rouses herself to flee, she laughs at the horse and his rider" (ESV). The strong legs of this bird and her running prowess also come from God. These gifts are a strong contrast to the behavioral deficits of the ostrich.

The evolutionists think they have proved that God did not work in nature. However, since their argument depends upon a discussion (however faulty) of the nature of God, this is a religious argument. Since they claim to have ruled out all religious arguments, then they cannot use arguments concerning what God would, or would not do, to prove evolution. The problem of evil (suboptimal design) is a theological problem. It cannot be used to argue that only natural mechanisms such as mutation and natural selection can account for what we see in nature. If one wants to argue like that, one must argue only from what one sees in nature. As for Christians, despite the fallen condition of the world, we can still enjoy and benefit from, and give thanks for the many wonders of creation as coming from God's divine wisdom. **RP**

DOG APE ALIG
CAT CAMEL BIR
RHINOCEROS B
FOX CHEETAH
DID CHICKENW
ADAM PRONOUN
HAVE PA
ENOUGH
TIME TO NAME
ALL THE ANIMA



ATOR D OX BOAR HARE ORM ORN LION ALS?



Some people argue that the activities assigned to Adam on the sixth day, described in Genesis 1:26-28 and Genesis 2:19-20, were too many for him to have been completed in a single 24-hour day. The activity of naming all the animals, in particular, would have needed much more time. And if he couldn't have done it in 24 hours, then this would contradict the literal interpretation of the six days of creation, forcing us to opt for a non-literal interpretation of these days.

Let us examine this argument more closely to see if it is valid.

ADAM FINISHED THE TASK

Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. – Genesis 2:19-20

According to this text, Adam actually finishes naming the animals that God has shown him – he completes all this activity even before the creation of Eve (Genesis 2:21-22).

This wasn't a task Adam was supposed to accomplish over the course of the rest of his life, or which he could have shared with his future wife, or which he could have passed on to future generations (as it was the case for the mandate to rule over the earth and over the animals). Adam indeed named all the animals that God has shown him before the end of the sixth day (or whatever period of time we should attribute to the word "day").

GOD PRESENTED THE ANIMALS TO ADAM

So we can see that Adam had some tight time constraints. But we also read, concerning the animals that Adam had to name,

that God "brought them to the man."

This detail is not trivial. Adam did not need to go everywhere looking for these animals. The Lord brought them to him. We can well imagine that this would make greatly increase the speed at which Adam could name the animals, greatly reducing the duration of the naming process.

THE SPECIES OF ANIMALS NAMED WERE LIMITED

The animals named were "all livestock," "every bird of the heavens," and "every beast of the field." The latter category may correspond to terrestrial mammals.

The text doesn't say anything about Adam naming the fish of the sea, other marine organisms, insects, arachnids, reptiles or dinosaurs (distinguished from terrestrial animals in Genesis 1:24), which excludes a large number of species. For example, the arthropods – excluded from this list – are by far the phylum that counts the greatest number of species of the animal kingdom (80% of known species, more than one and a half million living species: trilobites, crustaceans, arachnids, insects, etc.). For this first exhibition of animal kind, God left aside the strangest "creeping and crawling" creatures and presented to Adam only the most useful (livestock) and beautiful (birds, mammals) specimens of His collection. Thus Adam named only a small fraction of all the animals created by God, which greatly reduced his work.

THE SORT OF NAMING ADAM WAS DOING

On the sixth day, Adam was not doing taxonomy, in the sense that he did not need to describe the living organisms or to classify them in a specific system. All that God proposed to him was to name them. It was not necessary for Adam to give names that would be used as a basis for a rigorous classification.

Furthermore, it seems that God did not give any specific orders to Adam

by Paulin Bédard

about this activity. The text simply says that God "brought them to the man to see what he would call them." Adam did not have to give specific names to each animal neither was he requested to follow a rigorous method.

It is therefore possible that God presented to Adam successive groups of birds gathered according to what we call genus, family, or even order. Genesis says that Adam named all livestock, all the birds of heaven, and all the beasts of the field. However, this can be achieved in various ways. Today the class called "birds" lists almost 10,000 known species, distributed in 29 orders, including more than 200 families and 2,200 genera.¹ As for the class called "mammals" (including marine mammals), it includes more than 5,400 species, distributed in 29 orders, 153 families, and 1,229 genera.²

God may have presented to Adam a first group of birds that included every type of pheasants, partridges, cocks, quails, that Adam could have generally named chickens. Then God could have presented another group of birds including mergansers, scoters, mallards, teals, etc., that Adam could have all named ducks. It was legitimate for God to do so for practical reasons of simplicity and efficiency. Although less detailed than if he had named all the specimens to the species, this way of naming fully complies with the nature of the activity of naming according to the Bible.³ There was no problem, therefore, to do all this work in less than half a day.

THERE WERE FEWER SPECIES

We must also understand the phenomenon of speciation, which took place during the period of time between the creation of the first "kinds" of animals and today. Speciation is a rapid increase in the number of species due to the loss of genetic information in the genera originally created by God.

This is a phenomenon that goes in the opposite direction to the transformism taught by the neo-Darwinian theory of evolution. Evolution in the technical sense (and not the blurred meaning of "change"), involves a slow


but significant increase in genetic information in order to achieve the tremendous transformation involved in the production of a man from the first tiny living cell (a phenomenon never observed by any modern scientist, admitted by Richard Dawkins⁴). Speciation, in contrast, is a scientific phenomenon frequently observed, that some Christians mistakenly call "micro-evolution" (a very unhappy and confusing designation, since speciation has nothing to do with evolution, which goes in the opposite direction⁵).

etc.) through the rapid process of speciation.⁷ The same applies to other kinds of mammals and birds.

In short, the species included in the "livestock," the "birds of heavens" and the "field animals" that God presented to Adam were probably far fewer than today. Obviously, God gave Adam less work than he gave to modern taxonomists.⁸

ADAM WAS SMARTER THAN US

Theistic evolutionists and progressive creationists often make the mistake



The text doesn't say anything about Adam naming the fish of the sea, other marine organisms, insects, arachnids, reptiles or dinosaurs

For example, the initial "canine" genus created by God on the sixth day could have contained in its genetic material all the genes capable of producing all the many breeds of dogs and wolves that we know today. In order to subsequently see the appearance of the many breeds of modern dogs, with the observable traits of each race (phenotype), the process of speciation had to happen. To have dogs with short legs only, it was necessary to remove from the line all individuals with long legs, thereby eliminating the genetic information "long legs" from this line. This loss of genetic information occurring in only a few generations has resulted in a rapid increase in the number of subspecies. In many cases, speciation is so marked that it is impossible for different lines coming from the same original "kind" to reproduce together.⁶

It is quite possible that in the beginning God created a couple of big cats, producing thereafter all extant species of cats (lions, leopards, tigers,

of projecting the conditions of life as we know them today on the special and unique period during which God performed His creative works. Thus they think that Adam had similar capabilities to ours. But what do we know exactly about Adam's intellectual capacity to claim that he was unable to perform the task of naming the animals in only one day?

It is extremely difficult for us to imagine a man who could have had much greater intellectual abilities than us. But the brain of Adam was undoubtedly greatly superior to those of Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein together, because man had not yet suffered the destructive effects of sin greatly affecting our present intellectual capacity. We must let Adam have the freedom to have been much smarter than us and to have been fully capable of naming in a single day all the animals that God has shown him, without even becoming tired.

WHY WOULD GOD MADE ADAM LANGUISH?

Note that the activity of naming the animals is surrounded by the "problem" of Adam's solitude. First, God noticed this loneliness and expressed His intention to create a companion for him. "The Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him" (2:18). Then God came to present the animals to Adam, to see what he would call them, which Adam did (2:19-20). Finally Adam himself expressed his newly discovered emptiness, as a clear conclusion of his naming of the animals. "But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him" (2:20).

From this text it seems clear that one of the main purposes for which God presented to Adam the animals was to awaken him to the reality of his solitude. As he watched all these animals that were passing before him, Adam must have realized that they were all male and female, while he had no "female" with him.

In sum, the development of a taxonomic system was not the sole purpose of the presentation of these animals (otherwise God would have asked Adam to also name all the fish of the seas and all the other small terrestrial creatures). This exercise was also intended to make Adam sigh and to prepare him to be grateful for the wonderful gift that God had already planned to give him.

So why would it have been necessary for God to impose upon Adam an activity requiring a long period of time? This would have suggested either the stupidity of Adam – who would have needed a lot of time before realizing he had no companion of the opposite sex

with him – or the perverse pleasure of God in making Adam languish before finally giving him the companion after which he sighed.

Adam was not stupid and did not need a long time before realizing his loneliness. As to his Creator, He had no malicious intent and even longed to give him this much needed companion. God therefore had no reason to prolong the activity of naming the animals before finally giving him the gift of a wife and of marriage.

THIS ACTIVITY WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN LESS THAN ONE DAY

In conclusion, the argument claiming that Adam had to do too many tasks in one day – supposedly causing a problem to the literal interpretation of the days of creation – seems to be an ad hoc argument, created from scratch to annoy and disrupt those who believe in literal days.

There is no reason to doubt or to question that all the activities of the sixth day – listening to God's mandate to keep the garden, being ordered not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, naming the animals and finally rejoicing with his wife – have occurred within a day of normal length, the literal sixth day of creation. All this to the glory of God alone and to the greatest good of man... and woman!

END NOTES

1 For a complete catalogue of the birds of the whole world, one may consult with profit and wonder the fabulous website The World Bird Database, administered by the Quebec ornithologist Denis Lepage, <http://avibase.bsc-eoc.org/avibase.jsp?pg=home&lang=FR>.

2 For a complete catalogue of the mammals of the whole world, see the wonderful website Mammal Species of the World, <http://www.departments.bucknell.edu/biology/resources/msw3>.

...it seems clear that one of the main purposes for which God presented to Adam the animals was to awaken him to the reality of his solitude.

3 See the list of pure and impure animals in Leviticus 1, named according to broader categories than the species, nevertheless sufficient for the Israelites to be able to clearly distinguish them.

4 See <http://creation.com/was-dawkins-stumped-frog-to-a-prince-critics-refuted-again>.

5 See Carl Wieland's excellent article, "The evolution train's a-comin' (Sorry, a-goin'—in the wrong direction)"; <http://creation.com/the-evolution-trains-a-comin>.

6 We know the example of the mule, a hybrid of a horse and a donkey, but unable to reproduce. It is astonishing to see some scientists today who can produce what they call "zorses" (hybrid zebra/horse), "zenkeys" (hybrid zebra/donkey), "ligers" (hybrid lion/tiger), "wholphins" (hybrid whale/dolphin). An eloquent testimony to the speciation that happened not so long ago! See <http://creation.com/ligers-and-wholphins-what-next>.

7 I suggest that you consult the famous website creation.com and that you look for the word "speciation." You will find many articles about this subject.

8 We may say something similar about the number of species that embarked into Noah's ark. RP

Rev. Paulin Bédard is an ERQ minister, and pastor of the Reformed Church of Saint-Georges, Quebec. He is the author of *In Six Days God Created*, which analyzes and rebuts the Framework Hypothesis, and tackles other figurative interpretations of the days of creation.



There likely weren't as many types of dogs then. If there were, would Adam have named each individual species, or just gone with "Dog"?

IN A NUTSHELL

TIDBITS RELEVANT,
AND NOT SO,
TO CHRISTIAN LIFE.

BY JON DYKSTRA

TWO GREAT LINES FROM A GREAT BOOK

Trevin Wax's *Clear Winter Nights* is a thought-provoking book. In even the briefest of samples here below, there is justification enough to pause, consider, and then think some more. He writes:

Don't trust in your strength, because there is such a thing as pride.

Don't despair in your weakness, because there is such a thing as forgiveness.

FLYING DUCK ORCHID



Sometimes God's inventiveness is enough to make you laugh out loud. This is real - a flower, called the "Flying Duck Orchid" that actually looks like a bird in flight.

THE 6 GREATEST TOYS EVER

At year's end Geekdad.com blogger Jonathan H. Liu compiled a list of "The 6 best toys of all time." St. Nick may have come and gone, but parents in search of the perfect presents can still benefit from his wisdom. His top 6 were:

1. Stick
2. Box
3. String
4. Cardboard Tube
5. Dirt
6. Water

Simple, yes. But, he nailed it!

JOHN WOODEN ON REPUTATION

John Wooden had quite the reputation. During his tenure as the head coach of the UCLA men's basketball team they won the national championship ten times in twelve years! But he had this to say about what really mattered:

Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.

IS CHRISTIANITY GOOD FOR THE WORLD?

God's critics love to attack all the good He gives. But in his year end letter, Gary Bates, the CEO of Creation Ministries International told a short story that shows just how apparent God's goodness is, even to those who try to deny it.

Two of my colleagues were speaking on an Australian Christian radio station a few years ago....and a young geology student....told my colleague that Christianity was "not much good," and that she was drawn to

religions like Buddhism or Islam. My colleague asked her what country in the world she would choose in which to raise her future children.

"Australia, of course," she replied.

He shot back, "If it couldn't be Australia, what would be your next choice?"

"Umm ... America, I guess ... or maybe England."

"And if that isn't possible?"

"Well," she replied, hesitating, "probably Germany ... or Switzerland ..."

After she had been prodded to consider several more, my colleague pointed out that she did not cite any predominantly Buddhist or Islamic nations. Her "wish list" was made up entirely of countries that most would define as having a Christian foundation (despite their rapid decline into secularism).

My colleague wrote: "Of course, our young lady's choices were neither unusual nor surprising. Not even the most vehement Christian-bashers would prefer to bring their children up in Iran, Burma, Saudi Arabia or the like. But rarely would any of them make a connection between their choice of countries and the Bible."

SOURCES: Gary Bates' 2013 End of the year letter; He culled the story from Dr. Carl Wieland's *One Human Family*

ON THE PULL OF POWER

"Power is a poison well known for thousands of years. If only no one were ever to acquire material power over others! But to the human being who has faith in some force that holds dominion over all of us, and who is therefore conscious of his own limitations, power is not necessarily fatal. For those, however, who are unaware of any higher sphere, it is a deadly poison. For them there is no antidote."

- Alexander Solzhenitsyn



THE BEAUTY OF BILLBOARDS

You stopped. You looked. Now imagine these much, much bigger, as big as a semi trailer. Passersby couldn't help but look at them. The plight of the unseen unborn child is right there, in front of their eyes. These victims, once invisible, are now unavoidable.

Pro-life billboard are an exciting opportunity to reach the masses who have never spared a thought for the unborn. Their politicians won't say the word "abortion," let alone do anything about it. And they won't hear about the unborn in their newspapers. This is the biggest moral travesty of our time, and it's also the quietest.

But when you slap something on a 20 foot-wide billboard, it becomes hard to ignore. That's the beauty of billboards.

And that was the thought behind the 2013 Pro-life Billboard Contest sponsored by ARPA Canada, Compass Creative and Reformed Perspective.

[Winner Lynn VanEerden](#) contributed four designs (one pictured here) that highlighted the humanity of the unborn by showing how the panicked thought the mother is having applies just the same to her unborn child. (cont'd p. 20)

FREE POSTER ON REVERSE!

Help spread the fight for life! Place this poster in your community!



t's my body!

HUMAN FROM THE START

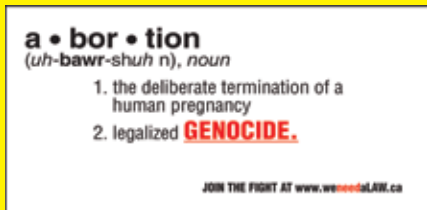
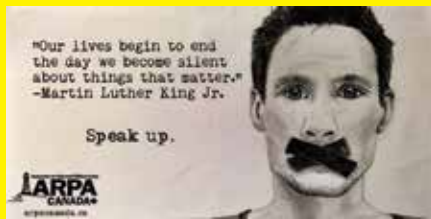
Second place was awarded to Caitlin Hamoen for her illustration confronting our society's hypocrisy, treating dogs better than babies. Six more designs by Karyn VanDooren, Jaclyn Kuntz, Josie Huttema, Sheryl Moedt, Jonathan Bakker, and Christie Hoeksema were chosen as worthy runners up.

If you, or your local ARPA group want to be interested in putting one of these designs on a billboard near you, please:

- investigate local partnerships (ex. your local pro-life society) to see if together you can afford a temporary or permanent billboard
- then send an email to ARPA Canada with details of what you are looking for.

ARPA Canada will then pass it on to the designer and work together to get a high-resolution version that can be printed. For more information, see www.tinyurl.com/ARPABillboard.

RP



SECOND PLACE WINNER!
Caitlin Hamoen

Quella's Question

IF IT'S TRUE WHY SHOULDN'T THEY KNOW?

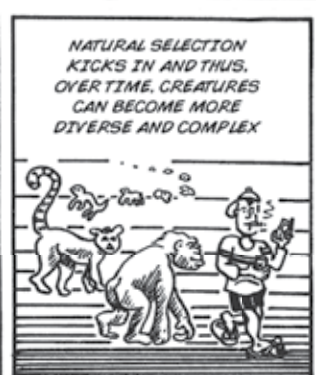
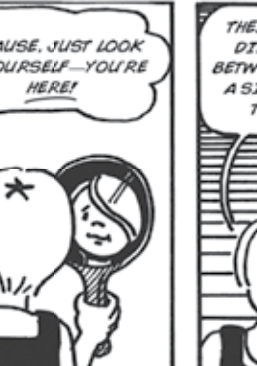
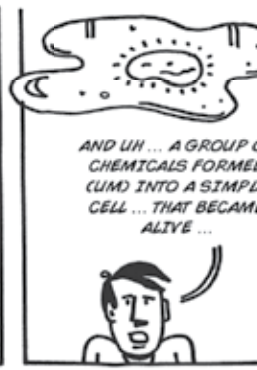
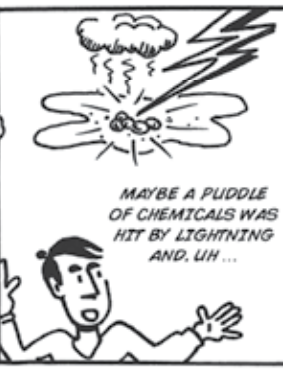
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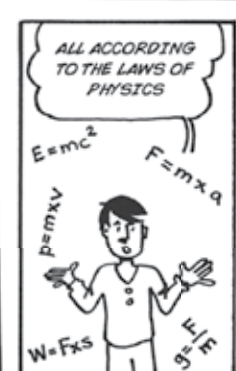
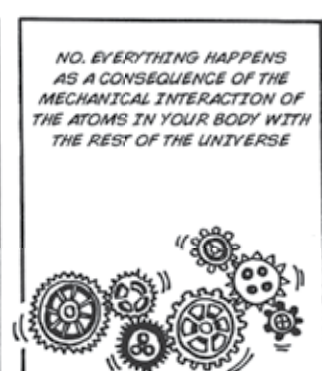
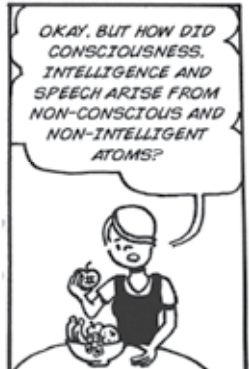
www.atheismforkidsandteens.com



BEFORE THE BIG BANG, NOTHING EXISTED









IN THE END, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING MATTERS





"Quella's Question" is written and drawn by Graham Preston, a freelance illustrator whose other work can be found at www.gpreston-drawing.com. For an online version of this comic, accompanied by telling quotes from high-profile atheists, visit www.atheismforkidsandteens.com. It is reprinted here with permission.

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ANSELM OF CANTERBURY

BY SIMONETTA CARR
62 PAGES / 2013



At first glance it seems author Simonetta Carr has made a

strange choice of subject for her latest biography. Anselm of Canterbury was a loyal follower of the pope, repeatedly seeing his advice and always submitting to the pope's commands. Why is a Reformed author highlighting this Roman Catholic archbishop?

It's because Anselm (1033-1109 AD), centuries before the Reformation, uncovered a truth that would be incorporated into the Reformers' catechisms and confessions. Anselm understood why Jesus had to be both fully God and fully man. That was a question being debated in Anselm's time, and before. He helped the Church by explaining that our Savior had to be perfect otherwise he would have his own debt to pay and couldn't pay anyone else's. That's why he had to be God. And he also had to be fully human, because God is just, and would only punish Man for Man's sins. Anselm, like the Reformers after him, sought to know God and tell others about His greatness.

Like Simonetta Carr's previous "Christian biographies for young readers," *Anselm* is produced to the highest standards: wonderful and plentiful pictures in a well-bound hardcover so it can last generations. For anyone over 8 (adults too!) it will make learning church history almost painless. But like many a history book, children might not pick this off the shelf on their own, so a little parental involvement will go a long way in turning this good biography into an excellent educational resource.

GRANDMA'S MOVING IN

BY STEPHANIE M. CONE
27 PAGES / 2013



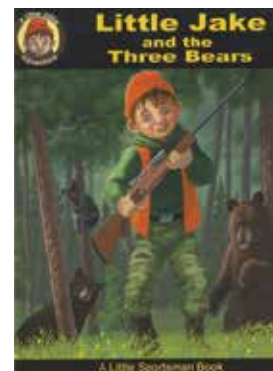
When Albert finds out that his grandma is moving in with them, he starts worrying about how he could possibly take care of her. "Will I have to sit with her in the house... every... single... day?" he wonders. "I'll probably have to push her in the wheelchair... for miles... and miles... and miles!" His fretting soon has him convinced that this is a job too big for a little boy like him.

But then his dad takes him for a walk, to show him "that Albert really was able to care for Grandma." Albert's dad asks the people they meet how Albert could care for his grandma. Lots of helpful suggestions are offered. The mailman suggests talking to her. The donut man suggests giving her a treat. The pastor's wife suggests praying with her. And the local star football player suggests touching her – gently – by giving her hugs and holding her hand. Albert soon realizes that there are lots of little ways "that even a little boy like me can help care for Grandma!"

It's a simple story, teaching a lesson to little children that is well worth learning whether their Grandma is moving in or not.

LITTLE JAKE AND THE THREE BEARS

BY ROBERT H. JACOBS, JR.
31 PAGES / 2007



After enduring a cold winter Little Jake realizes the solution to his chill is a thick warm bear rug to throw on his bed. So, after visiting the game warden and getting a license, Little Jake goes hunting.

The first bear he spots is too small, and the next, too big. But on his third day of hunting Little Jake finds the perfect bear and makes the perfect shot; it never feels a thing. The story concludes with Little Jake under his bearskin bed cover, warm and eating delicious bear sausage.

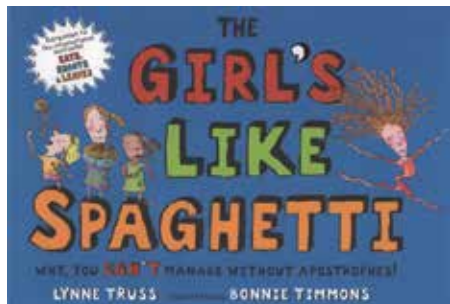
The pictures are Disneyesque and children 8 and under will enjoy this twist on the original. One caution worth mentioning is that Little Jake thanks the bear for his warm fur and tasty meat – too reminiscent for my liking of pagan religions that express kinship with the beasts. But parents can alter this and have Jake thank God instead.

It is an excellent teaching tool for civilized believers, Christians who recognize that God has given us the animals for food and for clothing, but who still have some emotional qualms about hunting. That describes me. My head knows better, but I've seen too many clips of Bambi to be able to appreciate hunting. So I want to teach my children to feel the right way about it. God, in his love, made animals tasty; children should know it is all right to kill and eat. Buy *Little Jake* at www.littlesportsman.com.

Many more picture books recommendations can be found at ReallyGoodReads.com.

THE GIRL'S LIKE SPAGHETTI

BY LYNNE TRUSS
32 PAGES / 2007



A children's book on the proper use of apostrophes doesn't sound like it would be engaging. But there's a lot of comic potential in the misuse of punctuation.

The Girl's like Spaghetti - Why you can't manage without apostrophes! uses a series of paired cartoons to explore how an apostrophe can make a world of a difference. For example, on the left side of a two-page spread we see a bunch of dogs jumping on and licking a friendly older man. The caption reads, "The dogs like my dad." On the facing page is a man with a dog that looks just like him, with the caption, "The dog's like my dad." An apostrophe can be pretty powerful!

The rest of the book continues with similar pairings: "See the boys bat" versus "See the boy's bat" and "Look, it's behind" versus "Look, its behind." It concludes with two pages that review exactly what the apostrophe was doing in each pairing, and how it impacted the sentence. It is a fun book that would be a fantastic resource for a school, especially Grades 2-4.

Two other books in this series are equally as instructive, but marred by minor flaws, (an instance of potty humor, for example) so only this one gets the gold star.

A TRIUNE TALE OF DIMINUTIVE SWINE

BY JOHN BRANYAN
42 PAGES / 2012



What if the Three Little Pigs was retold in Shakespearean English? And what if the third pig, just to mix things up a bit, spoke good ol' American English? Wouldn't that be the best fairytale ever?

A Triune Tale is purportedly a children's book, but it would be best appreciated by adults. And it might be of the greatest benefit to high school English students who don't yet appreciate Shakespeare's vast 54,000 word working vocabulary. (As author John Branyan points out in the comedic stand-up bit that inspired the book, that is a stark contrast to the 3,000 word working vocabulary of the modern North American.) How could any student not appreciate this display of verbal variety?

In time, there HAPPENED along,
as is frequently the scenario in classic tales of
PROTAGONIST PIGLETS or RED-HOODED CHILD,
A WOLF.

CARNIVOROUS NATURE in full season, he called out to
the STRAW-ENSCONCED swine, saying,
"PRAY THEE LITTLE PIG, GRANT ME ENTRANCE!"

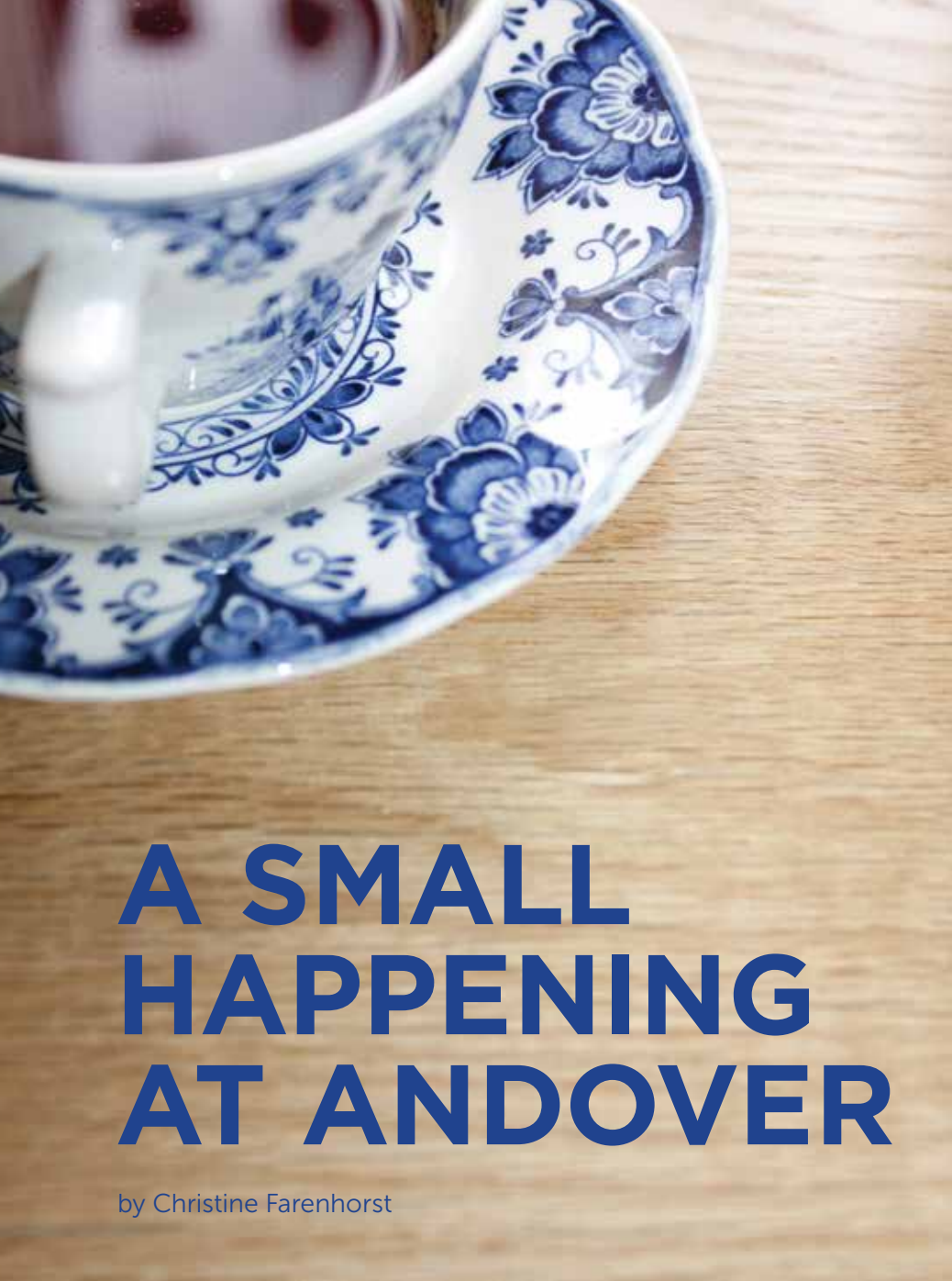
Pig NUMBERED FIRST recalled with sage foreboding
that it is the MADMAN who trust in the tameness of the
BELLY-PINCHED wolf. His reply in earnest,
"NAY, IT SHALL NOT BE!
NOT BY WHIT NOR WHISKERED JOWL!"

I read this to my four-year-old, and while she enjoyed it, that was probably only because she likes seeing her dad laugh. This is a fantastically fun book to read out loud, with the screeching pigs and howling wolf speaking thisly and thusly. So it's very high on my list of best picture books, but it hasn't cracked her top 100.

The price of shipping almost eliminated this book from consideration. The book is \$15, but with shipping it is nearly \$40 if you order just one. But if you order 5, it becomes a more reasonable \$16 per. That makes it a consideration for grandparents who might want to buy several copies to encourage an appreciation for Shakespearean English among their grandchildren.

And even at \$40 this could be a great tool for a high school English teacher. For those of us who hated Shakespeare in school – why couldn't this guy just write in real English? – one can only wonder what might have been if we had first been exposed to a Shakespearean English tale that was laugh-out-loud funny. I'm quite sure this would have helped.

You can order copies at TinyURL.com/triunetale. You will also find there examples of the book's interior pages, and a video of the original 8-minute comedic bit which spawned it.



A SMALL HAPPENING AT ANDOVER

by Christine Farenhorst

It really seemed to make no difference one way or the other. Surprisingly, either way looked right.

This was perplexing, she thought, tilting her head first to one side, then to the other. Why, almost never was there more than one way that anything looked right. That was the right way.

Cups and saucers. You didn't say saucers and cups, and you didn't place the saucer on top of the cup. She smiled at the absurd thought. Not even the lovely bone china ones, with the saucer design so much prettier than the plain, everyday ones.

No, she was wrong. Once she had. Her face clouded. It was the afternoon Edna had called, just as she was pouring water over the metal tea holder in a cup. It was the Delft Blue floral pattern. The water had boiled exactly seven minutes. That was the right length of time for tea water. And then the telephone rang. It was Edna, and she knew that Edna would be long and the tea would become overcool. So she made a hasty decision, of the sort one later regrets, and placed the saucer on top of the cup – to keep the tea warm. And it had. But to have done it right – reboiling the seven-minute water after

Edna had said good-bye – would have been the right course of action.

She should have never told Edna about that. How Edna had laughed at her insistence on the rightness of things. Somehow it made her uncomfortable, even now, to know that Edna knew. For Edna had not permitted her to forget that she knew.

Well, Edna would not learn of the present puzzling predicament. The letter P was such a delightful letter. Perfect P, she called it. Perhaps (that lovely, door-opening word), perhaps the letter P owed its delight to the fact that it was only one letter removed from R. Of all the letters, only R could vie with P. Rightness achieves Perfection.

Strange that Q should come between. Queer, quack, quandary. Why, it sounded somewhat like a Latin declension. Queer, quack, quandary. For a moment she imagined that tomorrow morning she would pack her lunch and set out precisely at seven fifty-five to walk the mile to Andover High School. Tomorrow was Thursday. That meant dry toast with grape jelly and a McIntosh apple and vocabulary tests.

It would be grape jelly on toast tomorrow, with an apple, but no longer in a paper sack. Nor would there be vocabulary tests. Tests had ended, along with grading and lunch carrying. Therefore, it was not right even to imagine them back. Resolutely, she turned her thought from the past. Retirement, not teaching, was right now.

Since there seemed to be no possibility of resolving the present problem tonight, she would read the Bible and go to bed. Besides, the right time had come – nine forty-five – she noted as the clock chimed.

Tomorrow she would find which was right. Obviously one was wrong, even though both appeared to be equally correct.

She turned to Leviticus 5, the reading for tonight. Yes, that was the right chapter, for this was the night of April fifth, the ninety-fifth day of the year, and that was the ninety-fifth chapter of the Old Testament. She had just begun to

read when the telephone rang.

That would be Edna, of course. Edna knew perfectly well that nothing, absolutely nothing, should interfere with her nighttime reading at the right time.

always, she prayed also that if there was anything in her that might be keeping Edna from faith, let the Lord remove it, whatever it might be.

But her mind was really on the

But it was like Edna to try to get her to do something that was not right.

Well, she would not answer. It would not be right to interrupt the reading to answer the telephone. Edna knew that. But it was like Edna to try to get her to do something that was not right.

Edna had two faults. First, she was not a Christian. And second, of course related to the first, she did not do things rightly. She went up to Main Street without wearing gloves. She had no regular time, no right time, for arising in the morning and going to bed at night. In fact, occasionally she did not go to bed the same day she got up.

That's how Edna would say it, too – she did not observe the right rules of English grammar. Edna seemed to find perverse delight in ending a sentence with a preposition, in splitting infinitives, in using adjectives where adverbs would be right.

The ringing stopped.

Well, now, that was more like it. Noise, of whatever sort, was not right at this hour.

She closed her Bible after a few minutes and carefully placed the folded afghan on the floor. Today's date was odd-numbered, and so the brown side should be uppermost. As she knelt on the faded blanket at the platform rocker, she examined the rug briefly – where the man had stepped when he came to repair the radio. She was pleased to find no trace of the mud flecks he had left. The thin wire brush might be almost sixty years old, but it was still the right instrument for such a job, she observed with satisfaction.

Then she prayed. She asked that Edna might become a Christian – a prayer of forty-three years' standing. And, as

evening's problem, and so she told the Lord that He knew – He knew – that there was only one right way for a thing to be, even though to her eyes either of two ways might be, or might seem to be, equally right. He knew that both could not possibly be right.

Accordingly, she asked Him to show her which was right: whether the African violet she had purchased at Dustin's Greenhouse that afternoon should be placed on the right or left end of the low bookcase. She told Him that she was willing to do that which was right, even though it might mean reversing the position of her mother's and father's photographs above the bookcase. But she did want it to be right. For she knew that it had to be right in order to please Him.

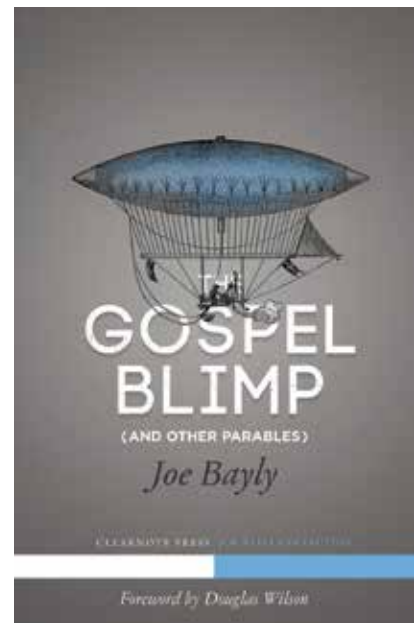
Having prayed, she arose, neatly folded the afghan and placed it on the blanket chest, checked the doors and went to bed. The time was precisely right – twenty minutes past ten o'clock.

Now it came to pass that the Lord heard her prayer, and He had pity on His child, who had been bound these many years.

The fullness of time having come for her deliverance, that same night, He caused a spark from the furnace to lodge in a broken place in the chimney. There it smoldered until three o'clock in the morning, when the house burst into flames.

The fire department responded to the urgent call too late, and the dwelling was destroyed with all that was therein – all except the Lord's child, who was saved, in her nightgown and wrapper.

Now the Lord moved Edna to invite



This story is one of many in Joe Bayly's *The Gospel Blimp (and other parables)* and is reprinted here with permission.

His child to come live with her. Other doors being closed, she accepted the kind invitation, albeit with great reluctance and misgivings.

As day followed day, and week followed week, and month followed month, a change took place in the Lord's child. The Lord completed her deliverance.

The signs of this were found in freedom to go to Main Street – at least in summer – without wearing gloves; freedom to stay up until midnight and to have breakfast at nine in the morning. She even had freedom to keep her cup of tea with the saucer on top. (But seldom did she split an infinitive.) And Edna, who had received the Lord's child into her home, also received the Lord into her heart. RP

Of all the letters, only R could vie with P. Rightness achieves Perfection.



THE QUICK-TEMPERED PRIEST

by Christine Farenhorst

A quick-tempered man does foolish things, and a crafty man is hated.

A patient man has great understanding,
But a quick-tempered man displays folly.

– Proverbs 14:17 & 29

We often have our grandchildren over and, consequently, I often check out thirty books or so at the children's section of the library. It's great to have libraries and to be able to use the facilities they provide for books and videos. The other day, however, the local librarian informed me that one children's book was missing when I returned my rather gargantuan pile at her desk. Back home, my husband and I searched under the couch, under the beds, under the seats of the car, but all to no avail. The book remained missing. I then checked out other libraries that I frequent, thinking that perhaps I had returned the book to the wrong library. But again, nothing turned up. Today, I told our local librarian that I was doing everything in my power to locate the book, but that unfortunately, I was not having much success.

She smiled and said, "Perhaps we should check our shelves."

She did check the shelves, and you know what? The book was there. She apologized most heartily concluding that the computer must have missed the bar code when it was checked in.

A moment later, when it turned out that my video was overdue to the tune of four dollars, she said, "You've gone to so much trouble to locate that book, Christine, and it was our fault. I will cancel the debt."

And she did!

Although this is just a small example, the truth is, that in the end of any matter, justice will always prevail. No matter how bleak, hopeless or lost things look to the human eye, in the end justice prevails. If not in this life, then surely in the next.

collector had not been seen for a prolonged period of time. Although folks were not fond of his figure ambling up to their door, they noted that he was absent and had been so for weeks and weeks. Required to collect from everyone, he simply seemed to have vanished from the face of the earth. Although the matter was at first joked about, his popularity growing in absentia as time passed, it was strongly suspected that he had come to a foul end. First a whispered rumor, then considered a foregone conclusion by most, people were certain that the tax collector had been murdered.

Now it was precisely at this moment in time that another man in a neighboring district was executed for highway robbery. Highway robbery being a heinous offense, the robber's body was gibbeted for a week or so in chains along

arithmetic of missing tax collector plus ill-tempered priest added up to murder in most folk's eyes.

It was not long before the priest was arrested and charged with the murder of the newly found body – which was presumed to be the tax collector's body. During the ensuing trial, the priest again and again pleaded not guilty.

"You cannot prove it is the tax-collector," he stoutly declared, "I have not killed the body you hold as evidence."

But no one believed him. The jury was convinced of the priest's guilt and he was, in due time, convicted of murder. Yet even in prison, awaiting his day of execution, he maintained injustice had been done.

The last day of the priest's life dawned. As he arrived at the place where he was to be killed, the priest broke down and made a confession.

"I have," he spoke haltingly, to the crowd gathered to watch him die, "committed the crime for which I am about to be killed."

People stared at him. Sobered by the judgment about to fall on him and the encounter he would soon have with Almighty God, the priest continued.

"I perpetrated the crime for which I am about to suffer. Nevertheless, I am, in a strange way, unjustly condemned. For the tax collector's body and that of his dog, still lie buried at the back of my garden where I killed them both."

The crowd that had gathered for the execution was silent. Then the drum began to beat and the priest ascended the scaffold where he shortly afterwards met his death.

Later, a thorough search was made of the priest's premises. The bodies of both a man and a dog were discovered, albeit in a very decomposed state. And over time, the family of the highwayman came forward to shed light on the identity of the body that had been drawn up by the fishermen.

Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city. – Proverbs 16:32

...the truth is, that in the end of any matter, justice will always prevail.

There is a curious story of an English country priest which bears out two truths: that it is vital to control one's temper, and that God's justice will prevail. This particular priest, whose name is not known, was infamous and feared throughout his parish for his terrible temper. There were few, if any, who would think to cross him in any matter. There was, however, one man who did dare, and he dared to do so again and again. This was the county's tax collector. He was a burly sort of man and one who constantly knocked on doors and asked for money. Not a pleasant job, but one he did with cheerfulness and audacity. Involved in several violent disputes about taxes due with the priest, the two could often be seen quarrelling heatedly on country roads, almost coming to blows.

There came a time when the tax

the main road, as a serious warning to others. Indeed, anyone seeing the decaying body thus exposed was moved to revulsion. The robber's family, desirous of burying the body, came out one night and released the man from his chains. They quietly carried the remains away, intent on interment. A few miles into this excursion, however, they were frightened by the sheriff's patrol, and in fear of being prosecuted, dropped the body into a nearby pond. And it so happened that the pond was in close proximity to the priest's house.

A day or so later, some fishermen who had set nets in this pond checked to see if they had caught anything. And lo and behold, a body appeared in their nets. Suddenly the whole district was abuzz with the grisly catch. Who was the body? Was anyone missing? Where was the tax collector? Wasn't the pond close to the priest's house? Hadn't the two been seen arguing over and again? And the



"... she commented that she was the sort of person who liked things to be really orderly... hello, me too."

Get-Pen Faith

by Rachel Jankovic

Not too long ago a young woman was over at my house for some reason that I cannot remember. Now on a typical day at my house you would find dishes in the sink, junk on the floor, a baby unloading a drawer, laundry on the stairs, and about 410 things on my to-do list. Children are always coloring, wielding scissors, and gluing things on the window when I'm not looking. Hopefully, you would also find me running around in the midst of it, because long experience has taught me that giving up on it won't get results.

I don't remember what exactly was going on when she came by, but at some point she commented that she was the sort of person who liked things to be

really orderly. It wasn't a criticism and it wasn't offensive, although it did make me laugh. Because, hello, me too.

The thing is, when I look over my past I feel that God has written it on the wall here, there, and everywhere that He doesn't care about that. That part of my personality that used to seem like a positive attribute is something that God didn't treasure. He has asked me to put that on the altar. When push comes to shove and it is either the house or the kids, God chooses the kids, and He tells me to. When it is the laundry all done or the kids all loved, it had better be the kids. When it is mom as an uptight dictator about the shoe placement or the mom who is laughing at the huge spill in the kitchen, I know which one

God wants me to be. He wants me to be joyful, hard-working, full of gratitude, laughter, and above all He wants me to have spit-spot closets. Wait. Does He? All but that last bit.

Of course God is honored when I am combining joy with closet organizing. Laughter with clean floors. Gratitude with getting all the dishes done. But you know what? If something has got to go at our house, it better not be my attitude. Because that is the one thing that God actually told me to keep track of.

As I look back at my life I can see that almost every time that there was something that I felt good at, or capable of, or confident in, God would give me a wonderful opportunity to lay it down. There is a way of looking at it that says,

“God just keeps not letting me be happy! He just makes the conditions perfect for me to be miserable! He knew that I need a certain amount of alone time every day and He keeps not giving it to me!”

But this is the way that I see it. Those things that I consider part of my personality – loving to decorate, loving

like fussing about the laundry. Because it is messing us up to believe this, because now our faith about this is not abstract. So we feel broken. Like the things that we believe aren’t coordinating with our emotions anymore. Like we can’t find ourselves. Like the old us with the journal and the gel pen had a much

me to be buoyed up by the fun, and the dress, and the flowers. He wanted me to take His joy and walk with it. And if that was all I had, it would be enough.

This is a pattern. I felt capable of being a mother, back before I was. God gave me more to handle than I could possibly handle on my own strength. I felt capable of keeping house. I’m sorry. I don’t know if I can stop laughing about that. Anything that I felt capable of doing, God will both make it seem impossible and simultaneously ask me to do it. And there I am – in the sweetest place you can ever be – relying on Him. Walking in faith. Living in joy.

This broken feeling is only broken if it stays there. If it stops in self-pity. If it wallows in grief about the lost emotions of our journaling days. But this is richer. When we seek His joy instead of our own, when we lay our best on His altar, and we have nothing left for ourselves, that is when we are truly accomplishing His purpose in our lives.

We are not broken. We are being healed. We are not alone. We are in His hands. We are not overwhelmed. We have a champion. We are not stupid. We are being made wise. We are not weak. For He is not weak. We are not hopeless. For we are His. RP

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Rachel Jankovic is also the author of *Loving the Little Years: Motherhood in the Trenches* and *Fit to Burst: Abundance, Mayhem and the Joys of Motherhood*

I felt capable of keeping house. I'm sorry. I don't know if I can stop laughing about that.

to cook, wanting things to be beautiful and organized and perfectly crafty and satisfying. I believe in these things. But I believe in them as things that I can use to honor my Creator. Back in the days when I wasn’t being challenged, these things came naturally, and I believed in them because I could cobble together reasons that they were good. But they primarily came from my own strength. I could be that way without really any pushback. So God brought the pushback. He made it take more than the capacity I think I have to do these things. He said to me, “I know you like it, and you think you believe it. Now I’d like to see you do it without yourself.” God isn’t interested in my strength. He is interested in my obedience in weakness. Do you hear that? God said enough with my hobbies and my preferences. Lets see about her obedience and her faith.

When we believe something, we can sign our cute little names on the dotted line. Children are a blessing? Check! You should be full of joy? Check! You should honor your husband and love your children? Check! Enjoy all the days of your life? Check! Watch me go with my cute little gel pen in my journal!

So then God gives us those children. And now we believe something that He has told us, but we are not dancing around ready to sign our names on it anymore. Why not? Well, because we feel

better grasp of motherhood than this weird lady we have suddenly become. Why so much brokenness? Doesn’t God love us?

God has brought me through this time and again. It is like He holds up my little statement of faith from my youth and says, “cute.” But He doesn’t want me to sign my name on it. He wants me to put myself on the altar. Enough with this chit chat. God wants to see action. Take that belief, and live it. Not when you have all the emotional strength to do that, but when you don’t.

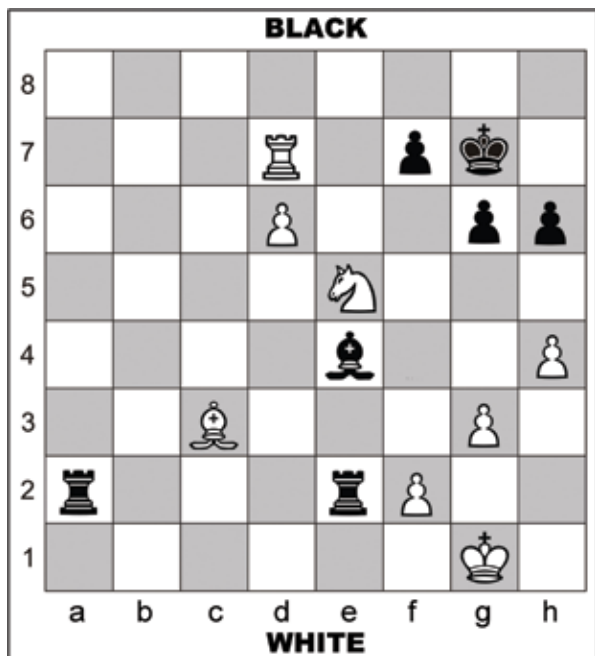
Do it when it must be all His strength. Do it because you believe, not because you feel. Do it in faith.

This has been happening to me long enough now that I can see His hand in it. I can see the tremendous mercy that it was for me (the wedding coordinator for other people) to be the sick bride. I remember standing at the window in my parent’s room looking out at all our wedding guests arriving. I didn’t want my dress on because it would make me throw up again. And as I saw them all coming, I could also see that God was giving me a chance to walk in joy down that aisle. I knew I believed that the wedding was just about the vows, and about honoring them for the rest of my life. That all the rest was just superficial. God didn’t want me walking down the aisle in superficial joy. He didn’t want

God isn't interested in my strength. He is interested in my obedience in weakness.

ENTICING ENIGMAS & CEREBRAL CHALLENGES

Chess Puzzle #206



Riddle for Punsters #206

"Playing games with bird names"

- What are sad birds called? _____ birds.
 What kind of doves are very slow? T _____ e doves.
 What birds steal things? R _____ s.
 What kind of birds have a long shelf life? C _____ s.
 What birds know the tune but not the words of bird songs?
 H _____ g birds.

Problem to Ponder #206

"By algebra calculations or by trial and error"

a) What number (negative OR positive), when divided by its reciprocal, produces a number 2 larger than the original number? (A number's reciprocal is: one over that number, for example the reciprocal of 5 is 1/5)

b) The cube of a number is added to double the square of the number. The result is triple the number. Find the number (negative OR positive).

WHITE to Mate in 3

Or, If it is BLACK's Move,

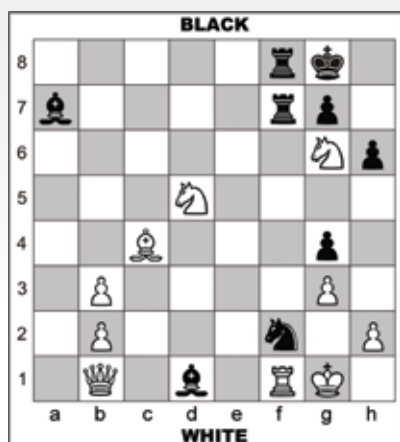
BLACK to Mate in 3

Hint: a) has 2 answers b) has 3

Send Puzzles, Solutions, Ideas to Puzzle Page, 43 Summerhill Place, Winnipeg, MB R2C 4V4 or robleach@gmail.com

Last Month's Solutions

Solution to Chess Puzzle #205



White to Mate in 3

DESCRIPTIVE NOTATION

1. QN-k7 ch K-R2
2. NxR dbl ch K-R1
3. Q-R7 mate

ALGEBRAIC NOTATION

1. Nd5-e7 + Kg8-h7
2. Ng6xf8 + Kh7-h8
3. Qb1-h7 ++

BLACK to Mate in 4

DESCRIPTIVE NOTATION

1. ----- N-R6 ch
2. K-R1 RxR ch
3. BxR RxB ch
4. K-N2 R-N8 mate

OR

1. ----- N-R6 ch
2. K-N2 R-B7 ch
3. RxR RxR ch
4. K-R1 B-B6 mate

ALGEBRAIC NOTATION

1. ----- Nf2-h3 + Rf7xf1 +
2. Kg1-h1 Rf8xf1 +
3. Bc4xf1 Rf1-g1 ++
4. Kh1-g2 Rf1-g1 ++

OR

1. ----- Nf2-h3 + Rf7-f2 +
2. Kg1-g2 Rf8xf2 +
3. Rf1xf2 Bd1-f3 ++
4. Kg2-h1 Bd1-f3 ++

CORRECTION

In the December edition, the solution to Chess Puzzle #204 had the wrong Algebraic Notation for "White to Mate in 3." The correct solution is:

ALGEBRAIC NOTATION

1. Nd5-e7 + Kc8-b8
2. Qg2-a8 + Ra7xa8
3. Na5-c6 mate

Answers to Riddle for Punsters

#205 – "Humour in a Timely Manner?"

Why did the watchmaker turn down a job at which he would receive a salary? He wanted to be paid by the hour. Why was the female clockmaker made secretary of her Bible Study Society? She was the one most familiar with minutes. What is the most appropriate place in which to buy a watch or clock? A second hand store.

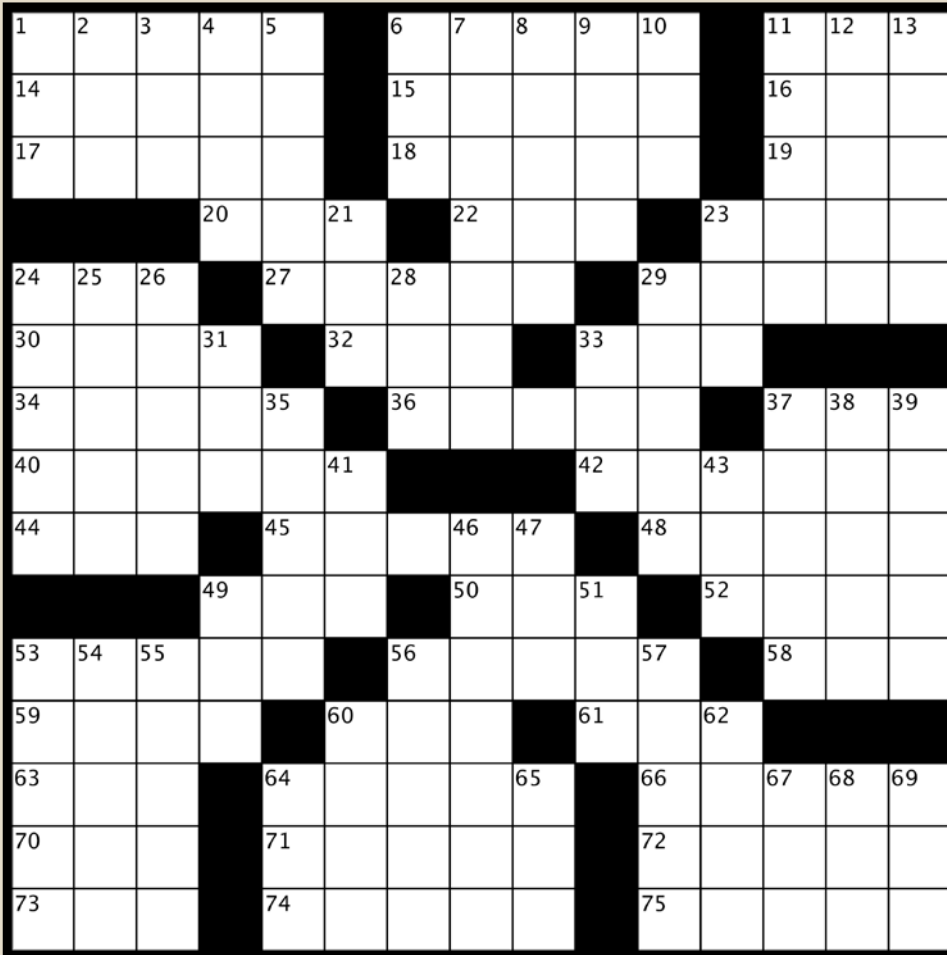
Answers to Problem to Ponder

#205 – "Catchin' Up with the Missus"

A man is out jogging and gets 1/5 of the way across a bridge when he sees his wife at the middle of the bridge. She is walking in the same direction as he is. If they both travel at constant speeds and both reach the end of the bridge at the same time, he jogs how much faster than she walks?

Let L be the length of the bridge. The husband thus has to walk 4/5 of L. Let v be the speed of the woman walking so k(v) is the husband's speed. Let t be the (same) time that both take to reach the end of the bridge. Distance = speed x time so for the husband (4/5)L = kvt and for the wife who needs walk only half the bridge (1/2)L = vt. Substitute this for vt into the first equation and so (4/5)L = k(1/2)L. Divide both sides by L and get (4/5) = k(1/2). Multiply both sides by 2 resulting in 8/5 = k. Thus k = 8/5 = 1.6 and **the man jogs 1.6 times faster than his wife walks.**

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



SERIES 20 #8

PUZZLE CLUES

ACROSS

1. Palm used in wickerwork
6. A chief of the tribe of Manasseh who joined David at Ziklag
11. Hooray!
14. A persuasive gift
15. Sierra _____
16. Edinburgh Airport's IATA airport code
17. Island in the Netherlands Antilles
18. Hard, black tropical wood
19. Neither's partner
20. Type of macaw
22. Single unit
23. Girl's name
24. Swimming distance
27. Pointed church part
29. The place where Melchizedek was king
30. Formerly known as Persia
32. Time period in history
33. Computer key
34. Pillow candy
36. The son of Joel (1 Chr. 5:8)
37. Name of God (two words)
40. Mordecai's beautiful cousin
42. Vindicate
44. Socioeconomic status
45. Rachel and Leah's father
48. A variation of emir
49. Twenty-four hours
50. Bread, or hair arrangement
52. Coffee pots
53. Where Hannah and Elkanah lived
56. OT Prophet

58. Golf peg
59. So be it
60. Cleaning cloth
61. Flying mammal
63. British vacation
64. Produced offspring, historically speaking
66. A city of refuge for accused murderers
70. Exist
71. To have, in Paris
72. Got up
73. Loud insect
74. French rule
75. French meal

DOWN

1. Australia's central bank (abbr.)
2. Airport abbr.
3. Ancient Germanic god of war
4. Father, in Aramaic
5. Gets closer
6. Drink
7. Famous OT judge
8. Not anybody
9. Past queen of England
10. Familiar call
11. Liver related
12. Love devotedly
13. King of Tyre who built a palace for David
21. Mimic
23. Took a seat
24. Tropical fruits
25. Get up
26. Clothing
28. US Government Dept.
29. Someone forced to work without pay
31. Indefinite number
33. Japanese pearl divers
35. Pause, in the Bible
37. Sluggish by habit or nature
38. Yellow volatile oil used for

- bleaching flour
39. A marsh, in Olde English
41. Beam of sun
43. Big bird
46. David's wife
47. A small honey bee colony
49. Rachel's son
51. Catch
53. She sheltered spies
54. Italian love
55. A confused struggle
56. One of Japheth's sons
57. Ishmael's mother
60. French dream
62. Ripped
64. Iron pole
65. _____ corde (piano: with soft pedal release)
67. Chop off part of a tree
68. King of Judah
69. Nintendo's first home video game system (abbr.)

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



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