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Playing it Smart



*Even the stork in the sky
knows her appointed seasons,
and the doves,
and the swifts and the thrush
observe the time
of their migration.*

*But my people do not know
the requirements of the Lord.*

Jeremiah 8:7

To Remember or To Forget

Some things I should remember
and some things I should forget
And I confess there are some things
I haven't sorted yet.
But gradually I'm learning
I should throw the bad stuff out
Or it will fill my mind and soul
and cause my heart to doubt.

There are some times
when I've been hurt
when folks have done me wrong
And if I harbor stuff like that
I'll lose my smile and song.
It's not too smart to let folks run
my life down here below
So I'll forget those times that hurt
and really let them go.

I have so many blessings
I enjoy from day to day
I'm foolish if I fill my heart
with stuff that doesn't pay.

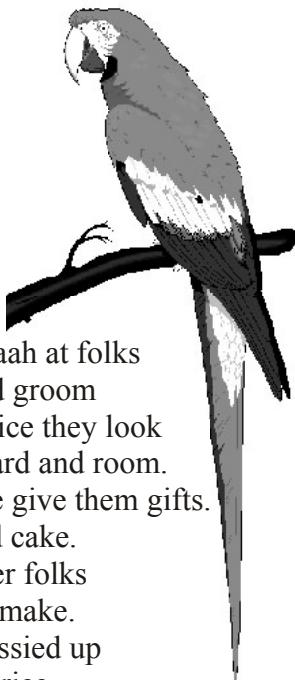
I think if I remember
all the good times I have had
My heart will sing a happy tune
and perk me up a tad.

So if your heart is heavy
and no smile is on your face
There may be stuff you should forget
to feel God's love and grace.
Don't let another spoil your life
by things they've said or done,
Forgive 'em for the whole nine yards.
You may find life is fun.

Forgetting what is behind . . .
Philippians 3:13



*Even
Better*



Sometimes we ooh and aah at folks
 who are the bride and groom
And comment on how nice they look
 who'll now share board and room.
We wish them well. We give them gifts.
 We eat ice cream and cake.
Of course we say to other folks
 what a fine pair they make.
We like to see guests gussied up
 who'll throw a bit of rice
As bride and groom rush to their car
 that's packed and polished nice.

But maybe even better
 we should celebrate the folk
Who've lived for years together
 and serve cake and Diet Coke.
They've walked life's road for many years
 in sun or driving rain,
Somehow they had the strength to cope
 if life dished out some pain.
So hats off to the oldsters
 who have lived a long, long while,
You may see they are holding hands
 while giving folks a smile.

Dreams

Do you have a dream hidden inside your heart?
It's really down there where your plans get a start.

If you have no inkling what you'd like to be
You may drift about like a cork on the sea.

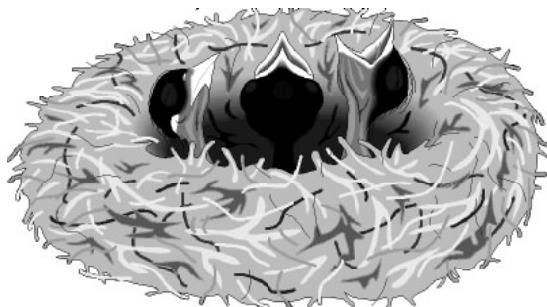
You need to dream big and to work toward a goal
For good things can happen to body and soul.

So don't be a phony, but do your work well,
You may be "discovered," you never can tell.

Someone may be looking at your life today
And like what they're seeing, and like what you say.

This may be the chance you are looking for, friend,
Who knows but some good may be
just 'round the bend.

Everything is possible to him who believes. Mark 9:23



The Happy House

With all the gadgetry we have
to save us time, you know,
Like microwaves and wash machines
and cell phones on the go,
No longer do we chop our wood
to keep the family warm,
We simply turn the thermostat
if there's a winter storm.

We open cans so we can eat,
we don't our veggies grow,
For in our harried, busy life
that just would be too slow.
Computers, too, are speeded up
so they go extra fast
You'd think with all the stuff we have
we shouldn't come in last.

In fact it kinda' seems to me
we should be done by noon
Then take a power nap
and maybe hum a tune.



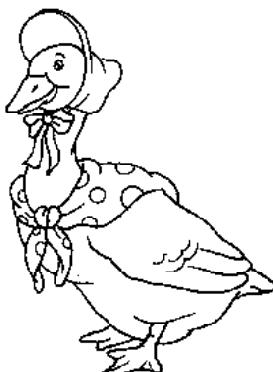
Of course I know we've got to work
and earn a bit of dough
So naps may not be possible
if off to work we go.

I wonder if we slowed a bit
and calmed our pounding heart,
And if we'd love each other more
we'd kinda' play it smart.
We're so obsessed with money
and the stuff that it can buy
We miss the things we should enjoy—
they simply pass us by.

Don't be too busy to enjoy
your children and your spouse
For if you love each other much
you'll have a happy house.

Then you and your household shall
eat there in the presence of the Lord
your God and rejoice.

Deuteronomy 14:26b



*Your
Greatest
Gift*



I wonder if you listen with your head
Or with your heart,
If you just listen with your head
You may not be too smart.

A lot of folks have things to say
They'd like someone to hear
So spend a bit of time with them
And lend a listening ear.

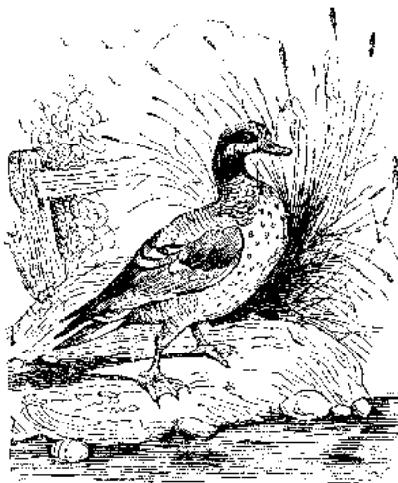
To give some cash or write a check
Can give some folks a lift,
But if you give them of yourself
It is your greatest gift.

Carry each other's burdens, and in this
way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2

Hallmark

Most all the stores and factories
that operate today
Will have some kind of trademark
for their product on display:
Like Sony, Macintosh, Excel,
or even Ivory Soap,
They have their trademark registered
protecting stuff they hope.
But not just products bear a name,
some groups of folks do, too,
The hallmark of the Christian
is LOVE that just shines through.



By this all men shall know that you are
my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:35

No Two the Same

I wonder if you've thought about
 how much folks are the same;
We all need food and shelter,
 a family, and a name;
But this amazes me the most:
 of all the folks on earth
No two have ever been alike
 from day one of their birth.
I guess the thing this says to me
 is God is awfully smart
To come up with a plan like this
 that comes right from His Heart.
He gives us talents we can use;
 He gives us minds and voice,
And what we wish to do with them
 is strictly our own choice.



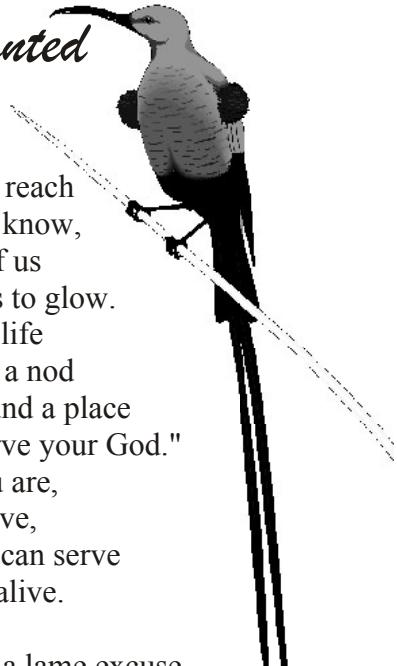
Each one should use whatever gift
he has to serve others, 1 Peter 4:10a



Yes, I believe the Bible, folks,
how else could one explain
How birds could do the things they do
without some kind of brain?
They're really pretty smart, you know,
no calendar have they
That tells them when they should fly south
or how long they should stay.
No map is tucked inside their wings,
they know how high to fly,
They know what kind of nest to build
for babies by and by.
Somehow they know what food to eat;
they're even taught to sing
So if the Lord made birds so smart
He's sure made everything!

By the word of the Lord were the
heavens made, their starry host by the
breath of his mouth Psalm 33:6

Servants Wanted



God doesn't wait until we reach
a certain age, you know,
Before he can make use of us
and make our lives to glow.
There is no magic time in life
when He will give a nod
And say, "I've finally found a place
where you can serve your God."
It matters not how old you are,
if five or ninety-five,
He has a place where you can serve
as long as you're alive.

Don't give to God a lame excuse
like you're too busy now
And when you're old you'll serve Him then
if He will show you how.
It's strange how folks will put stuff off
until another day,
But to those folks who hesitate
He has a lot to say.

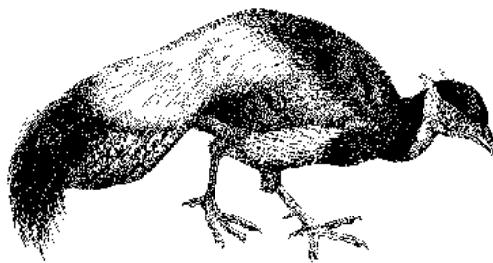
If you want peace of mind and heart
then think on worthy things
And serve the Lord with all your heart
and find the joy it brings.
So now whatever age you are
God has a place for you--
Just simply ask Him when you pray
what He'd like you to do.

It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:24

Decisions

If you're making a decision
that is really pretty small--
Like should you shop at WalMarts
or go to Lakeside Mall,
Or should you buy some stamps today
and stop in at the bank,
Or if your gas is getting low,
should you fill up the tank?
You can decide on things like this
with just your head, you know,
But if you have important stuff
that's not the way to go.

If you've a big decision
that you really need to make
Involving friends or family
and emotions are at stake
You need to think on this a bit
and really play it smart
And make that big decision
from the bottom of your heart.



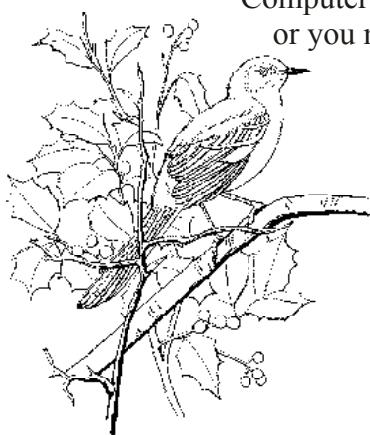
To the man who pleases Him, God gives wisdom,
knowledge and happiness Ecclesiastes 2:26

Slow Down A Tad

I know I'm quite old fashioned—
but it's really not all bad
It seems the world would better be
if folks slowed down a tad.
When I see ads on our TV
that urge you to buy more
And say your credit card is fine
for things throughout the store.

The trouble is folks want more stuff
than they have cash to buy
So they pay interest on their things
until the day they die.
There are so many gadgets now
to lure unwary folk
And stores don't seem to mind a bit
if you're in debt and broke.

Folks seem to want much faster cars,
a microwave that's fast,
Computer upgrades are a must
or you might come in last.

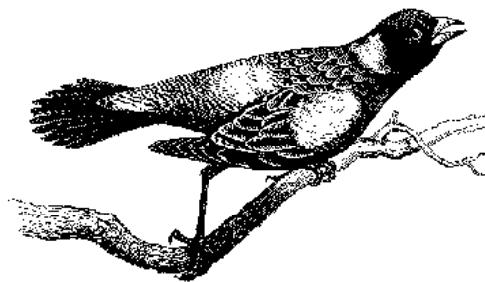


One phone is sometimes not enough
to answer every call,
And Wall Street with its ups and downs
might tumble down and fall.

Yes, living takes a lot of smarts
to make it through this life
And keep the home fires burning bright
with happy kids and wife.
The folks who live within their means
and know when they've enough
Are smart if they slow down a bit
enjoying all their stuff.

Poor are the folks who rush around
and always on the go
And don't find time to smell the flowers
and take a walk, you know.
So if you rush from day to day
with barely time to think
You might find slowing down a tad
will keep you in the pink.





Judging Others

Ignorance is swift to speak
and say what's on it's mind
And though it uses lots of words
I think that you will find
That wisdom waits and thinks a while
and mulls it o'er a bit
And may come closer to the truth
because they thought on it.

I wonder why we're quick to judge
another person's deeds
When we don't understand their thoughts,
their worries, or their needs.
God knows each human mind and soul,
He also knows their heart,
So if we'd let God be the judge
we might be pretty smart.

Do not judge, or you too will be judged.
Matthew 7:1

The Humble Folks

Every time you speak, my friend,
your mind goes on parade
And folks will judge your character
by the remarks you've made.
If you have hatred in your heart
or jealousy or pride
It's bound to slip out through your lips.
It's pretty hard to hide.

Sometimes it's strange to hear folks talk
and tell of what they've done
And if one listens really close
they think they're Number One.
If they would read their Bible
it could be that they would find
Forgiveness, love, and serving God
are clearly underlined.

God smiles upon the humble folks,
I think He loves them best
If they accept Him as their Lord
and He's their special Guest.
So if you plan to go to Heav'n
and live with angels there
You've gotta' do
the things God says
to climb that Golden Stair.



... God opposes the proud but gives
grace to the humble. James 4:6



Stuff Out There

Now if you watch TV a lot
and see the ads that say
They've pills to get you up to snuff
so buy, and don't delay.

They've pills for your emotions
plus some stuff for energy,
And if you cannot handle stress
they've pills for that, you see.

So they can help your frazzled nerves
if you'll give them a chance,
And if your self-esteem is low,
that, too, they might enhance.

I'm not too much on pills and herbs
the Doc does not prescribe;
The pills we count out one by one
could possibly not jibe.

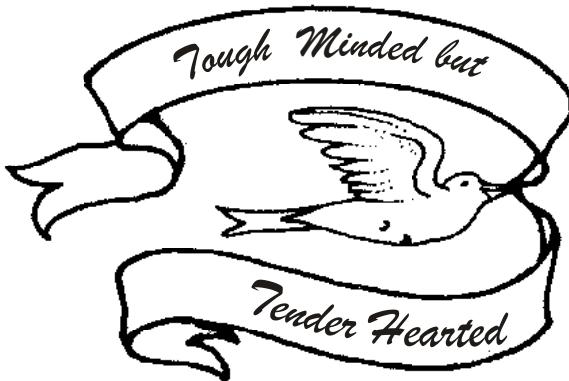


It's not too smart to treat ourselves
and take a bunch of stuff;
It's better far to eat good food
and exercise enough.

I'm just amazed that TV ads
that promise such and such
May harm you more than they can help
and leave you without much.

The things we swallow leave their mark
with side effects galore,
And if we take a lot of drugs
our stomach may get sore.

So see your Doctor now and then;
he'll give you good advice,
And if you do the things he says
your health could turn out nice.



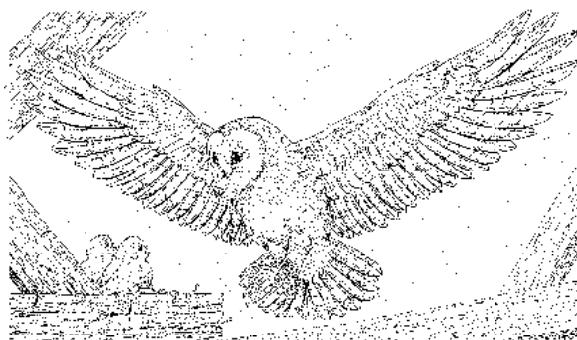
God's looking for tough-minded folks
who know what they believe,
They're not ashamed to live for Christ
because they did receive
The love of God within their hearts
and know whereof they speak;
Although they are tough-minded
they still care about the weak
For God gave them a tender heart
that sees another's need
And so they live for other folks
and not a life of greed.
God has some folks who live this way
and He their lives have blest
And from the peace and joy they have
their choice has been the best.

We who are strong ought to bear with
the failings of the weak. Romans 5:1

Enjoy Your Kids

Don't wait too long to tell your kids
 that you think they are great
For praise makes better kids, you know,
 than if you them berate.
If you love them and they love you
 I think that you will find
There's lots of joy in raising them
 if all have peace of mind.

To teach your kids important stuff
 like what is right or wrong
Will save them lots of hassles
 when temptations come along.
Enjoy your kids. They're God's great gift.
 No other thing can bring
Such joy and happiness to you
 and make your heart to sing.



All your sons will be taught by the Lord, and
great will be your children's peace. Isaiah 54:13

It Takes Only One

If you take a look at history
I think that you will find
That most worthwhile ideas come
from just one person's mind.

It seems committees and the like
don't think of too much stuff,
But if one person gets inspired
it might be quite enough
To get some changes started
that could help folks where you live,
And you could make a difference, friend,
if of yourself you'll give.

We need folks with a vision
who will start out on their own
And make their town a better place
e'en if they work alone.
It's easy to let life pass by
and watch from your tent door
Ignoring needs of other folks
in need of love and more.

Methinks we ought to stir ourselves
and spread our love around,
For love cannot be bought or sold
or traded by the pound.
Stand up for what you think is right
and every day you live
Put all you have into that day
and love and freely give.

And do not forget to do good and to share
with others, for with such sacrifices God is
well pleased. Hebrews 13:16

