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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.

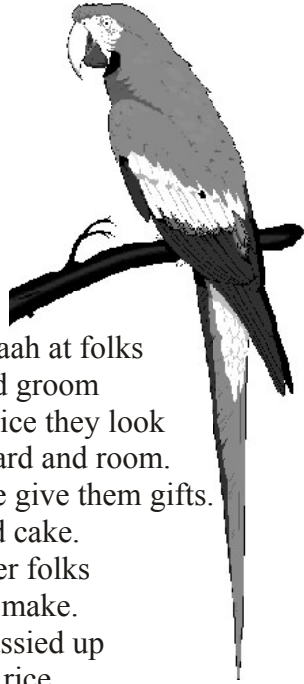
I think if I remember  
all the good times I have had  
My heart will sing a happy tune  
and perk me up a tad.

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.

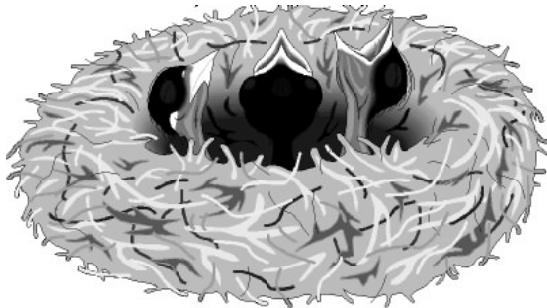
You need to dream big and to work toward a goal  
For good things can happen to body and soul.

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.



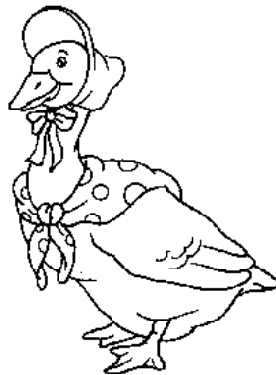
Of course I know we've got to work  
and earn a bit of dough  
So naps may not be possible  
if off to work we go.

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.

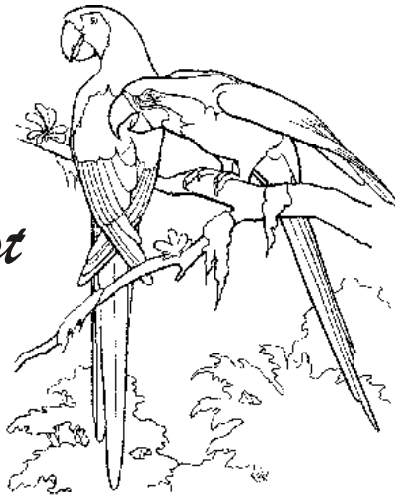
Then you and your household shall  
eat there in the presence of the Lord  
your God and rejoice.

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.

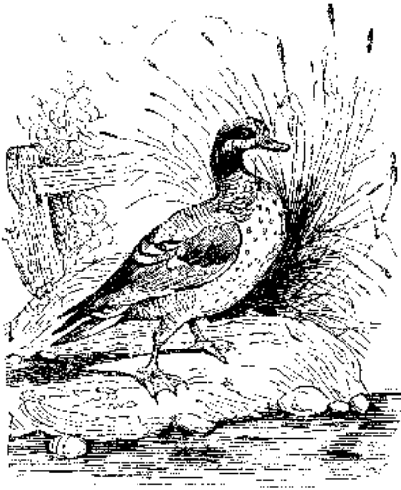
A lot of folks have things to say  
They'd like someone to hear  
So spend a bit of time with them  
And lend a listening ear.

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*



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

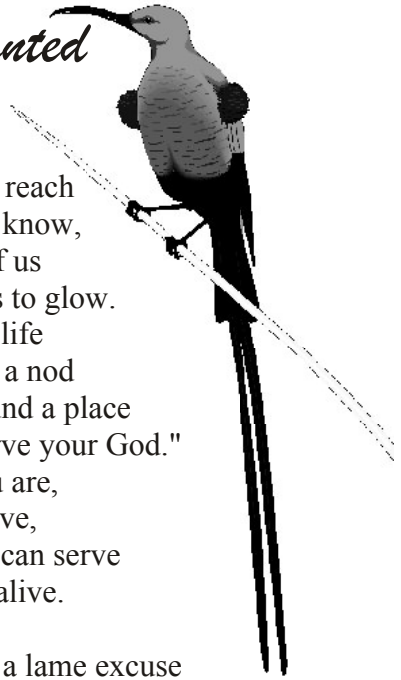
## *Servants Wanted*

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.

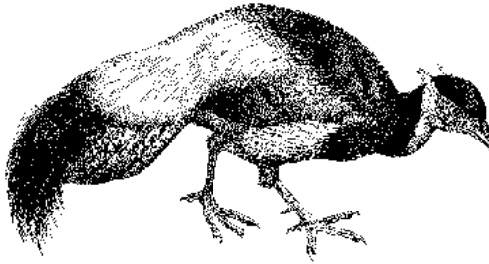
It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:24



## *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.

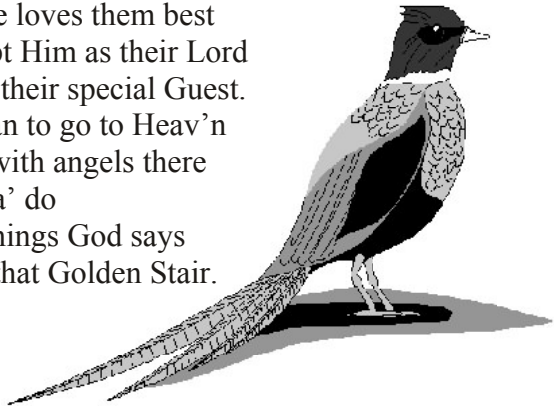
Do not judge, or you too will be judged.  
Matthew 7:1

## *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.

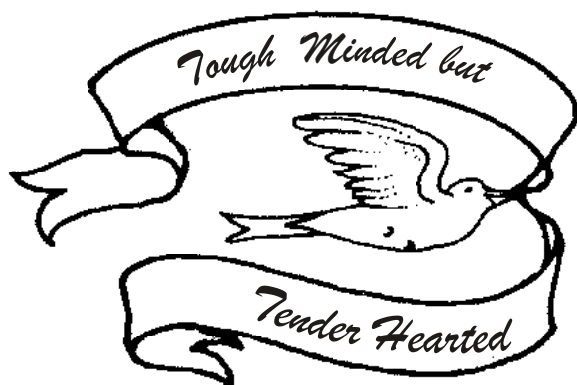


It's not too smart to treat ourselves  
and take a bunch of stuff;  
It's better far to eat good food  
and exercise enough.

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.



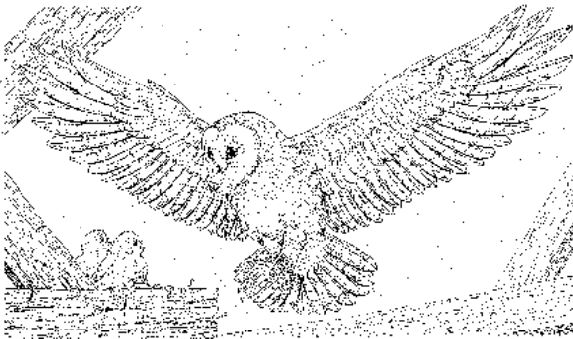
God's looking for tough-minded folks  
who know what they believe,  
They're not ashamed to live for Christ  
because they did receive  
The love of God within their hearts  
and know whereof they speak;  
Although they are tough-minded  
they still care about the weak  
For God gave them a tender heart  
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

