

**Jokes - Humor Sunday, October 16, 2011**  
**Fifteen Years of Mostly New Jokes**  
**Now That's a Success Story**  
**Larry Reimer**  
**The United Church of Gainesville**

**Psalm 126 – Norman Fischer Zen translation**

Psalm 126: Zen inspired translation by Norman Fischer

*When you bring us out from enclosure*

*We will be like dreamers*

*Our heads thrown back with laughter*

*Our throats vibrating with song...*

*We'd go out weeping*

*And come back singing*

**Scripture- Luke 4:29-30**

I love the first public appearance of Jesus in his home town described by Luke. It's his turn to read from scripture in the temple. He opens the scroll to Isaiah's words about giving sight to the blind, healing the lame, and freeing the captives, and reads well. But like any stand up performer on their first show in their home town, he takes it a little too far, pushes the people a little too much. He tells them he is the one who will make scripture come true, and furthermore, he'll start his healing of the sick and freeing of captives somewhere else, because no one can really do great deeds in his own home town. Listen to what happens.

“When they heard this, they got up, drove him out of town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went his way.”

It is a little like a Frankenstein movie where the mob chases the monster with torches and pitchforks. It's got a certain comic twist. It's any public figure's recurring nightmare.

And Jesus learns from that moment. He backs off, walks through the crowd, and mellows out, at least for a while.

It's a reminder of a wise saying I read recently - follow your dreams: except that one where you're naked in church.

I love Humor Sunday. We've done it for fifteen years now. It gets scarier to me every year, because frankly, how many jokes are there, especially that can be in used church?

So I searched for some different kinds of material this year.  
I found Muslim Humor. It's the new rage.

### **Muslim**

There's a new Muslim stand-up comedian, a Jordanian Arab, Dean Obeidallah. One of the great things about being a Muslim, he says, is there is virtually no threat of identity theft. If you lose your wallet, no one wants to use your credit card and driver's license and say, "Hi, I'm Abdul Malik, and I want to charge this air line ticket."

He says all kinds of ethnic groups have their months: African American Awareness Month, Native American Awareness Month... What do Arabs get? Orange Alert.

He heard recently on CNN that Arabs are the new Blacks. "That would be great," he said. "All the suburban white kids would start dressing like us and listening to our music. They'd pimp out their cars to look like taxis."

Speaking of ethnic religious jokes,

### **Jewish jokes**

Here's the The essence of all Jewish holidays.  
"They tried to kill us.  
We survived.  
Let's eat."

Why don't Jewish mothers use alcohol?  
It interferes with their suffering.

### **Amish**

How do the Amish hunt? They sneak up on a deer and build a barn around it.

### **Jehovah's witness.**

There was a knock on the door the other day. I opened it to find a Jehovah's Witness. I invited him to come in a sit down. I asked him what he wanted to talk about.  
"Beats the hell out of me. I've never gotten this far before."

And just because you're an atheist or agnostic doesn't mean you can avoid jokes about what you don't believe.

### **Atheist/Agnostic.**

One of the biggest problems of being an atheist is having nothing to shout out when you're having sex.

Did you hear about the problem the atheist and agnostic had when they got married? They couldn't decide what religion not to bring up their children in.

Then of course there's the pious man and the atheist neighbor.

This very religious man lived next door to an atheist. The religious man prayed every day and went to church three times a week.

The atheist never looked at a church. However, the atheist's life was good, he had a great job, a beautiful wife and healthy good-natured children, whereas the religious man had a terrible job with low pay, a disagreeable wife, and kids who wouldn't give him the time of day.

Finally the pious man prayed, "O God I honor you every day. I ask your advice on every problem and confess every sin. Yet my neighbor who does none of this receives every blessing. Why do I suffer so?"

God replies, "Because he doesn't bother me all the time."

Just to be fair, there are a bunch of jokes that work for both Unitarians and UCG members.

### **UU/UCG**

Do you know why UCG people aren't better at singing hymns? We're always reading ahead to see if we agree with the next verse.

What's the Unitarian's favorite Christmas movie?  
"Coincidence on 34<sup>th</sup> St."

A young religious woman came home from a date very sad. Her mother asked what was wrong.

"Jeff proposed to me."

"Then why are you so sad?" the mother asked.

"Jeff told me he goes to that UCG, and he doesn't even believe in hell."

“Marry him anyhow,” said the mom. “Between the two of us we’ll show him how wrong he is.”

Speaking of Hell, you know you have to be careful what you say to children about heaven.

Walking along the beach with her mother, a four year old girl found a dead seagull.

“Mommy, what happened to the seagull?” the little girl asked.

“He died and God took him to heaven,” the mother replied.

The child thought for a moment and said, “And God threw him back down?”

### **Bible and homosexuality.**

While we’re on religion, I have a reminder that the bible has six admonishments to homosexuals and 362 to heterosexuals. That doesn’t mean God doesn’t love heterosexuals; it’s just that we need more supervision.

### **Larry Jokes:**

Let’s take a break from religious groups for a while. I’ve been keeping track, and for some reason there are a lot of jokes going around with the name Larry. I don’t get it. Why Larry?

There are three stories about a little boy named Larry.

A new teacher was trying to use the skills of affirmation, giving children a sense of self worth, and started her class by saying,

“Everyone who thinks they’re stupid, stand up!”

After a few seconds, little Larry stood up. The teacher said, “Do you really think you’re stupid?”

“No ma’am, but I hate to see you standing there all by yourself.”

Larry watched his mother smooth cold cream on her face at night.

“Why do you do that mommy?” he asked. “To make myself beautiful,” said he mother who then proceeded to wipe it off.

“What’s the matter mom?” asked Larry. “Giving up.”

Larry’s kindergarten class went on a field trip to the police station where they showed him the pictures of the ten most wanted

criminals. One of the children picked one out and asked if this was a real photo of a wanted person. "Yes," the police officer replied, "and we really want to catch him."

Larry asked, "So why didn't you keep him when you took his picture?"

Larry attended a horse auction with his father. He watched his father move from horse to horse, running his hands up and down the horse's legs, rump, and chest.

Larry asked why he did this.

Dad said, "Because when I'm buying horses, I have to make sure that they're healthy and in good shape before I buy."

Larry, looking a little worried said, "Dad, I think the guy re-doing our kitchen wants to buy mom."

Speaking of marriage and families,

### **Marriage/divorce**

The doctor examining a wife who had been rushed to the emergency room took the husband aside and said, "I don't like the looks of your wife at all."

"Me neither doc," said the husband, "But she's a great cook and really good with the kids."

Of course, when we think of marriage we also think of divorce.

After a couple's case was presented in divorce court the judge said, "I have reviewed this case very, very carefully, and I've decided to give your wife \$775 a week."

"That's very fair, your honor," the husband said. "And every now and then I'll try to send her a few bucks myself."

Speaking of taking money,

### **Bank robber**

Guy runs into a bank, whips out a gun and yells, "Everyone down on the floor or you're all geography."

"Don't you mean history?"

"Don't change the subject."

The bank robbery reminds me of a trilogy,

**A semi connected trilogy –**

A burglar is robbing a house one night. He's working with a flashlight looking for valuables when he hears a voice say, "Jesus is watching you."

He freezes, turns off his flashlight. When he hears nothing for a while, he turns on his light and starts searching again. And again he hears a voice, "Jesus is watching you."

He turns off his light again, hears nothing, and begins a third time to haul away the valuables of the house.

Again the voice proclaims, "Jesus is watching you."

This time he shines the light around the room and finds a parrot.

"Did you say that?"

"Yes" said the parrot, "I'm just trying to warn you."

"Warn me? Who are you?"

"I'm Moses," says the parrot.

What kind of people name a bird Moses?"

"The same kind of people who would name their Rottweiler Jesus."

Second: Speaking of Rottweilers –

A man takes his Rottweiler to the vet. "My dog is cross-eyed. Is there anything you can do for him?"

"Well," says the vet, "Let's have a look at him." So he picks up the dog, examines his eyes and checks his teeth. Finally he says, "I'm going to have to put him down."

"What? Just because he's cross eyed."

"No, because he's really heavy."

Third: Speaking of holding heavy animals (see how these three weave together?).

A New Yorker is riding through New England looking at the leaves. He comes upon a farmer holding a pig to an apple tree as the pig eats apple after apple from the tree. New Yorkers, being what they are, can't resist giving other people advice, says, "Hey, wouldn't it save time if you just put the pig down and let it eat the apples from the ground?"

"Yep," said the Vermonter, "Figure it would."

But then, what's time to a pig?"

There are random subjects that have to be included in humor sermons.

### **Lightbulbs**

How many optimists does it take to change a lightbulb?

Who says it's dark?

How many gorillas does it take to change a lightbulb?

One, but you need a LOT of lightbulbs.

### **Doctors:**

According to a recent article in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, nine out of ten doctors agree that one out of ten doctors is an idiot.

### **Music –**

What's the definition of an alto?

A soprano who can read music.

One day God visited earth, walking among us.

She encountered a man crying. "Why are you crying my son?"

He said he was blind and would never see a sunset.

God touched the man. He could see, and he was happy.

Next God met a woman crippled and was never able to walk.

God touched her. She could walk and she was happy.

The last person God met was another woman crying.

Why are you crying?

"I'm a church choir director."

And God sat down and cried with her.

### **Walks into a bar-**

A pony walks into a bar and says, "Bartender, may I have a drink."

Bartender says, "What? I can't hear you speak up."

"I'm sorry; I'm just a little hoarse."

Julius Caesar walks into a bar and says, "I'll have a martinus."

Bartender gives him a puzzled look and says, "Don't you mean a martini?"

"Look, if I wanted a double, I'd have asked for it."

## **My last joke!**

### **Florida joke –**

Once long ago God was missing for six days. On the seventh day the archangel Michael found God resting and asked what she had been doing.

God said, well I created something called earth. It's a place of wonderful balance.

Michael said, "Balance?"

Yes, for example northern Europe has people of great diligence and hard work, and southern Europe has people of exhilarating joy and romance.

Some countries will be hot and others will be arctic. Some will be arid deserts, and others will be lush and green.

The archangel pointed to one peninsula in the ocean and asked, "What's that?"

"Oh that's Florida. It's the most glorious place on earth. It has beautiful lakes, rivers, streams and climate. The people are intelligent and humorous, sociable, and will carry peace throughout the world.

Michael said, "But what about balance? You said there would be balance."

God replied, "Wait till you see the piece of work I sent to be their governor!"

Thank you dear congregation for allowing me to pretend to be a stand-up comic once a year. Thank you for not picking up your pitch forks and torches and running me out of town.

I share the jokes each year with the understanding that while we all still struggle, and we all carry wounds, as Jimmy Buffett says, "If we didn't laugh we would all go insane."

So I close with a paraphrase of Rudyard Kipling's corny poem, "If". I found on the internet and tailored it especially for UCG today.

### **A paraphrase of Rudyard Kipling's "If"**

If you can keep your cool and coexist  
When others want to argue everything out;  
If you can handle humanist and theist,  
Balancing your own belief and doubt.  
If you can listen both to blame and praise

And treat those two imposters both the same;  
And read church bylaws with a steady gaze.  
And work for common good and not just fame.  
If you don't break but like the Tao blend,  
Then you'll be a UCG leader blessed by grace my friend.

As you are blessed by grace, so also be a blessing. When you consider your pledge to the church this year, be generous, not just because the programs and outreach of this church need your money (a friend of mine once said that nobody ever bought a Buick because General Motors needed the money) but because your faith and this community bring life, light, and fun to you and those around you.

Once again, the pledge committee rejected my campaign slogan for the year, "I upped my pledge, up yours!" but turn in your pledge cards anyhow.

Thank you again for being a church where so much joy can flow so easily.

Prayer:

We thank you God for the joy of being able to laugh together, not just today, but always.

We pray for the question of our lives, that which we wonder and worry about so deeply right now, and hear you saying to us like a good friend who has just heard us pour out our troubles, "Someday you'll laugh about this. Why not make it sooner rather than later?"

Pray for yourself and your own laughter.

Pray for the person by your side this morning, whether it is one dearest to your heart, a friend, or someone you hardly know. Pray for laughter in their lives.

And pray for our world, that it may find healing in laughter, and a path toward justice and peace.

Amen.