



Sisters in the Spirit Ministries Newsletter

Empowerment for the Christian Woman

LOOKING FOR JOSHUA



By Rev. Dr. Katrina White Brown

We live in a time where the role of fathers have been diminished, demeaned, disregarded, and disrespected. Many mothers only see the fathers of their children as simply “baby daddies,” and the only thing they want from them is a check for child support.

Many children see their fathers as absentee - not present in their lives, either by choice or by force. Many fathers see themselves as unnecessary, unwanted, or unloved by their children. Often, that’s the only thing the world sees when it looks at fathers. But that’s not what God sees. God called fathers to be strong and courageous. God empowers His call on the lives of fathers by reassuring them that He will never leave them nor forsake them.

God is looking for men and especially fathers, to lead and stand up for Him - and so are our children. The search is ongoing for men, and especially fathers, to be role models, to stand up for what is

right, and to be unafraid and courageous like Joshua. God, as well as our children, is indeed looking for Joshua.

Just who is Joshua? He was the man chosen to succeed Moses who led the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt and through 40 years of wilderness existence. Although the Israelites had finally reached the land God had promised, Moses was not going to lead them into Canaan. When God looked for someone to continue leading, He looked for a man of faith, obedience, vision, and courage. Those are the same qualities our children need in the search for their own Joshua - fathers or father figures who are committed to the Lord; who embrace the Word expressed in Joshua 24:15: “if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose today whom you will serve ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

To be effective in looking for Joshua, you need to know three things: why you are

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20 SECONDS OF PRAISE



Health officials recommend washing your hands frequently for a minimum of 20 seconds as a primary defense against germs. You can time this by singing a verse and chorus of:

Jesus is Love

By The Commodores

Verse: Father, help your children
And don't let them fall
By the side of the road
And teach them
To love one another
And heaven might find
A place in their hearts
Chorus: 'Cause Jesus is love
He won't let you down
And I know He's mine forever
Oh, in my heart

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Sisters in the Spirit is an outreach ministry created to empower Christian women in better serving the Lord. We are here to help "equip God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ..."

Ephesians 4:12



Sisters, parenting is the toughest job many of us will ever have. For women who have raised, or are raising, their children as single mothers, the work is exhausting, never-ending, stressful, overwhelming, frustrating, and yet, amazingly fulfilling. Although many of us have had to be both mother and father in our children's lives, this necessity is not the natural order of life. No matter how single mothers try to fulfill the role of a father, it's something that cannot be done by women. Because we are not men, we can only show our children, and especially our sons, the qualities we would like to see in men. Mothers cannot be fathers, no matter how hard we try. Parenting requires a team. King Solomon advised his son in Proverbs to "...hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother" (Proverbs 1:8). Fathers and mothers are God's constituted home authority to nurture children along godly paths and to admonish them away from ungodly ones. When one or the other parent is absent, the team's effectiveness is diminished substantially. The team is also comprised of the Village - extended family and friends. However, the Village must include a man who is a father, or can serve as a father figure.

My sisters, we have not been purposed to fulfill the role of our children's father, yet we do what we have to do. But there is a heavy cost that comes with trying to be both mother and father to our children. Most often we as mothers pay those costs, but unfortunately, our children pay as well. Both parents are needed to help bring up children in the way that they should go; so they become the people God wants them to be.

Sisters, we shouldn't have to raise our children alone. But, the reality of our times have many mothers in situations where the fathers of their children do not have a presence in their lives. What then are mothers to do? Trust God.

Psalm 68:5 says the Lord is a father of the fatherless. Just meditate on that for a minute. Your partner in parenting is God Himself. And my Sisters, if you determine to walk with God, He is faithful to keep His Word and help you raise your children. Look at what God says in Isaiah 41:10: "*Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*"

If your children do not have the presence of a father in their lives, still be encouraged. Take God's promise to be a father to the fatherless seriously. Trust God to direct your path to God-fearing men that can mentor and sow positively into your children; men who can teach your sons how to be men and your daughters how they should be treated by men. Ask God to show you fathers who have the characteristics of Christ.

Timothy in the Bible was raised by his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois. (Timothy's Greek father was likely not alive when Paul came on the scene.) God brought the Apostle Paul to not only mentor their young son, but he became Timothy's father-in-the-faith. God brought into the lives of these mothers a man who was a reflection of Christ, to pour into Timothy those things that they could not give him.

Sisters, in my Spirit is that God continue strengthening you as mothers. You shouldn't have to be a father - you can't - but I pray that God will bless you to have godly men to be fathers and father figures in the lives of your children; men who sincerely love the Lord, and passionately glorify Him.

Love, Peace, and Blessings Always,

Katrina W. Brown



Ron Brown and his sons Marcus and Justin

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF ABSENTEE FATHERS



Marcus Brown, wife Shani, and children Amina, Marcus Jr. and Isaiah

Ronald Brown has traveled 180 degrees in his fatherhood journey. He is the son of a father who chose not to be present in his life, and he has been intentional about breaking the cycle of the absentee dad.



From the time Ron became a father, he has refused to do to his sons what his father did to him. He says that “every father leaves a lasting mark on his children - a legacy, whether good or bad. Legacy isn’t confined to a will or an inheritance; it’s far more substantial than that. A father’s legacy has to do with the things he passes on to his children; what he gives them in terms of love, support, wisdom, character, and faith. Those are the qualities that break the cycle of the absentee father,” Ron says.

Being a father is a biological process, but it is also a choice. “My father made a conscious decision to be absent from my life. He lived a few miles away from me and enjoyed a rather lavish life. It was easier for him to ignore me than to acknowledge me. I watched him and his legitimate family live in abundance while my mother and I barely lived. We struggled just to have the basic necessities of life. He turned his back on me, but I decided that whenever I became a father, my children were not ever going to feel the way he made me feel growing up - like I was worthless.”

Ron was born in rural North Carolina in an area with a railroad track running through it. He was literally and figuratively, born on the wrong side of the tracks. His mother was from the poor side of town; his father lived on the prosperous side of tracks. When his father’s trips across the tracks resulted in a pregnancy that he wanted no part of, the cycle of the absentee father began for Ron. “I used to watch him with his legitimate children and wonder what was wrong with me that he didn’t want to be a part of my life,” Ron said. Millions of children ask themselves the same question every year.

Ron became a part of a statistical base that has had explosive growth over the last 50 years. In the decade of the 1950’s when Ron was born, 85% of the children in America lived in two-parent homes. As of 2020, that number had decreased to 51%. While the numbers are alarming, they don’t in any way, reflect the depth of the emotional, physical, and psychological damage done to the children who grow up without fathers.

“It hurt, and some of that pain I’ve never really gotten over.” He said that watching his father be fully engaged with his other children, while completely ignoring and denying him, was devastating. “It seemed like he had everything while my grandmother and I had nothing. My grandmother raised me and we were dirt poor and struggling. It was then that I developed my resolve to never do to my children what he did to me; to never make my children feel the way he made me feel - unloved, unwanted, and unimportant to my father.”

The cycle of absentee fathers has been spinning for generations. Many fathers over the years have made the heartbreaking choice to leave their families. The impact that a father has on his children’s lives cannot be understated. When a dad leaves his family - whether physically or emotionally - the effect on his kids can be life altering. Kids who grow up without a dad are more likely to have behavioral problems; drop out of school; face depression, anxiety, or other mental health issues; struggle financially; become sexually promiscuous and/or face teenage pregnancy; use drugs and alcohol; become aggressive or violent; and leave their own children when they become parents. Ron experienced a number of these problems growing up. But he refused to become his father. He was determined to make sure the cycle of the absentee father ended with him.

“Because I had no relationship with my biological father, it inspired and encouraged me to be a significant father. The pain of growing up without the love, support, and acknowledgement of a father was something that I was determined NOT to put my children through.”

Ron first became a father 43 years ago with the birth of his son Justin. Son Marcus came along two years later. He was an active and engaged father. He

Fathers determined to create a legacy and make a difference now and in the future for their children

Marcus Brown is proud to point to his father as his role model, mentor, confidant, and friend. “I didn’t always have the greatest communications with him, but I always had admiration for



him. My father helped me be a better man.”

Marcus is one of the proud recipients of the Ronald Brown legacy. He first became a dad 17 years ago; the father of two boys and a daughter, and he is determined to make a difference now and in the future for his children.

His commitment to creating legacy is as fierce as his father’s. “Dad always gave back. He was always supportive of whatever my brother and I pursued. He gave me the tools I needed in order to grow up to be a strong man and a good father. Most importantly, he set the example for me to live by,” Marcus said.

Marcus deeply loves and respects his father, but he was candid about the evolution of his relationship with Ron. “It went through stages. Initially as a child, I always looked up to him. He was really smart. He was my coach in baseball, and he taught me how to fish. Fishing is something that we still both share a love for. In my adolescence however, although I still looked up to him, our relationship changed. After my parent’s marriage fell apart, so did my relationship with my father. We just didn’t communicate. Maybe it was because I only heard one side of the story, but still, I just shut my Dad out of my life for years. I regret it now, and I can’t get that time back, but through it all, he was still there for me, and he was always willing to offer me wisdom and encouragement.”

Marcus’ generation has been deeply impacted by absentee fathers. The children born in the 1980’s became adolescents in the 1990’s and also became the group at greatest risk of youth incarceration, being victims and perpetrators of violent crimes, being socio-economically disadvantaged, being a part of the criminal justice system, and participating in drug related activities. Statistics indicate 90% of runaway and homeless children are from fatherless homes (National Institute of Justice); 70% of minors housed in state facilities are from fatherless homes (U.S. Dept of Justice); 39% of inmates housed in jail are from homes with an absent father (U.S Dept of Justice); and children without a father are more likely to show disciplinary issues (U.S. Census). Black families are disproportionately impacted by these societal realities and the lack of appropriate solutions exacerbates these problems. The common thread that runs through these dysfunctional situations is the lack of a father or father figure.

“The world is extremely cold to Black men, and being a Black father is not easy.” Many men just give up the fight. They are struggling with systemic injustice, they are fighting with the mother of their children; sometimes these father take the easy way out and just send money. But men can’t just be a weekly child support check - that doesn’t take the place of being there, of being present in your children’s lives.”

“The absentee father cycle isn’t going to be broken with the current cycle of fathers who aren’t present for their children. The cycle breaks with the sons,” Marcus says. He and his brother Justin evidence the truth in his words. “The way you break the cycle is by forgiving the father who is or was absent in your life. Forgiveness is liberating, and it gives you the power to change people and situations, so that you never place the burdens of not having a father on your children.”

Marcus is completely committed to being a father. “There is no greater influence in the Black community, and it’s most important for young Black men.” He take his role very seriously. “I get to show the image of a positive and involved Black father. I get to set an example for my sons. As a girl dad I do fatherly things with her, but I also get to show her what she should expect from a man and how she should be treated. Most importantly, my wife and I get to show our children what love in a household looks like. We parent through love, we disciple them, we provide for

See Ron Brown ... continues on page 5

See Marcus Brown ... Continues on page 5



Who is Your Father?

Can you identify the fathers of these men of the Bible?

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- 1. Who was the father of Ishmael and Isaac?**
 - A. Tebah
 - B. Gaham
 - C. Abraham
 - D. Joseph
- 2. Who was the father of Esau and Jacob?**
 - A. Amos
 - B. Ishmael
 - C. Jeconiah
 - D. Isaac
- 3. Who was the father of Cain, Abel, and Seth?**
 - A. Tubalcain
 - B. Adam
 - C. Maachah
 - D. Nabor
- 4. Who was the father of Joseph and his brothers?**
 - A. Jeroboah
 - B. Jacob
 - C. David
 - D. Jeremiah
- 5. Who was the father of Manasseh and Ephraim?**
 - A. Reuben
 - B. Simeon
 - C. Levi
 - D. Joseph
- 6. Who was the father of Aaron and Moses?**
 - A. Rameses
 - B. Amram
 - C. Shimei
 - D. Nathan
- 7. Who was the father of Ham, Shem, and Japheth?**
 - A. Noah
 - B. Hosea
 - C. Magog
 - D. Methuselah
- 8. Who was the father of the prophet Samuel?**
 - A. Manoah
 - B. Elkanah
 - C. Zohar
 - D. Haran
- 9. Who was the father of King Solomon?**
 - A. Amnon
 - B. Rehoboam
 - C. David
 - D. Absolom
- 10. Who was the father of Joshua?**
 - A. Chileab
 - B. Aaron
 - C. Abimelek
 - D. Nun
- 11. Who was the father of Jonathan?**
 - A. Saul
 - B. Micah
 - C. Ekeziel
 - D. Daniel
- 12. Who was the father of Noah?**
 - A. Zacharias
 - B. Lamech
 - C. Kish
 - D. Moses

THE SECOND VULTURE



In the 1990's there was a widely circulated photo of a vulture waiting for a starving little girl to die and feast on her corpse. That photo was taken by Kevin Carter during the two year 1993-94 famine in The Sudan. Carter, a South African photo-journalist, later won the Pulitzer Prize for this "amazing shot".

However, as Kevin Carter was savoring his work and being celebrated on major news channels and networks worldwide for such "exceptional photographic skill", he lived just for a few months to enjoy his supposed achievement and fame. Shortly after his worldwide acclaim, he became depressed and eventually took his own life.

Carter's depression started when, during one of the phone-in interview programs in which he was participating, someone called in and asked him what happened to the little girl. He simply replied, "I don't know. I didn't wait to find out. After I took this shot I had to rush to catch a flight." Then the caller said, "I suggest to you that there were two vultures on that day - one had a camera".

This struck a deep note with Carter. His constant thought of that statement, later led to depression and he ultimately committed suicide. He could have still been alive today and even

much more famous, if he had just picked up that little girl and taken her to the United Nations Feeding Center, where she was attempting to reach, or at least taken her to somewhere safe.

Today, regrettably this is what is happening all around the world. The world celebrates stupidity and inhumane acts; videotapes and posts violence and murder; and encourages the "I don't want to get involved" or "it's not my problem" approach toward people who are in trouble. Kevin Carter should have taken the girl away from that place, would have cost him nothing, yet he didn't. Here is the inhuman posture - he had all time to take his shot, but he had no time to save the girl's life.

Thus, we must all understand that, the purpose of life is to also touch lives. So, are you also a vulture? In whatever you do, do you let humanity come first, before considering what you stand to gain out of the situation?

In all that we do we should always think of others and how we can be of benefit to humanity and how we can lend a helping hand and wipe away tears. So, when we seek knowledge, wealth, fame, skills or even positions, we should think of how we can use it to benefit the people and the society at large.

Today, there is a lot of poverty in the land, so if God Almighty has blessed you, be a blessing to others and extend a helping hand to those in need. Remember, your giving is also a way of showing gratitude to the Lord for His divine blessings, bounties, and favor upon you. Whenever and wherever you can, help the poor and needy, and the orphans and widows among us, so that they can meet their needs. Please don't be like Kevin Carter. Always be aware that we are not truly the humans that God created us to be, if we lack humanity in all we do.

RON BROWN ... Continued from page 3

coached his sons in sports; made sure they prioritized being successful in school; insisted that they learned to play an instrument and how to swim. He celebrated all their victories with them, empathized with all their heartbreaks, made sure they were exposed to what the world had to offer them through family vacations and other adventures, showed them the iron hand of discipline, held them accountable for their actions, made sure they understood that all choices had consequences, worked hard on his job to support them, was always ready to listen to and advise them, and always made sure they knew how much he loved them - he told them and showed them every day. "I love being a father," he enthusiastically proclaims. But there came a time when he wasn't able to be the father he wanted to be. "When my son's mother and I divorced, the relationship with my boys suffered greatly. We were at odds with each other and not communi-

cating. They held me responsible for breaking up the family, and they literally wanted nothing to do with me. Then, after the divorce they lived in New Jersey and I took a job in Virginia. I had to fight to stay in my boys lives. I drove to New Jersey every weekend to visit them and watch their games. I was determined to be present in their lives. The damage wasn't easy to repair, but failure was not an option." The way these three fathers love and respect one another is inspirational. Justin has two sons; Marcus has two sons and a daughter. "The joy and pride that I feel watching my own sons be good fathers is absolutely overwhelming. I am proud, blessed, and thankful to be a father." Ron says that this attitude is critical in breaking the cycle of the absentee father because "a child growing up without a father is at risk of being lost." He wants men to know that "being a father is the single most important job that you will ever have in your lifetime - and it is the most satisfying."

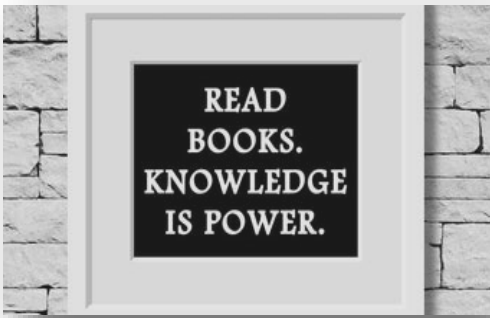
MARCUS BROWN

... Continued from page 3

them, we set the example for them, and we make sure they know how to survive and succeed in this world and in life." Part of that success comes from the legacy that Marcus insists on passing down to his children. "Legacy is about building for the future. "I've started a company to support that legacy and to make possible the dreams and goals that my children have. Legacy is about creating avenues to make things happen for them. My wife and I have a strong work ethic. They see that in us. We are people of faith, we emphasize character building and we emphasize education. I definitely got that from my Dad. One of the greatest days of my life was seeing Dad get his Master's degree in Engineering Management, and my son was right there to see his grandfather achieve that milestone. I was so proud of that - it was another investment in our legacy." "I admire my Dad, and a lot of my parenting guidance has come from him, especially the importance of discipline. As far as breaking the cycle of absentee fathers is concerned, fathers must be determined to be present, be a parent, and stop making excuses."

LOOKING FOR JOSHUA

Continued from page 1



YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE IT DEVOTIONS BY LYSA TERKEURST

Incorporate a new rhythm for those days when life feels too hard through the daily practice of receiving and releasing; receiving God's encouragement, instruction, and truth to start your day, and releasing to God all that's weighing you down at the end of each day. He'll set you on a path toward healing.

In her newest devotional, New York Times bestselling author Lysa TerKeurst helps you stay connected to God and continue loving others even in the middle of discouraging, disappointing, or even devastating circumstances. Experience 50 days of morning and evening devotions complimented with beautiful color photography of significant locations where Lysa has worked through her own healing. Each devotion contains: a Bible verse to start your day; a statement of truth to remember throughout your day; space to write and release something back to God at the end of your day; and a prayer to receive before you go to sleep to better prepare for tomorrow

Without these crucial components woven into the routine of our harder seasons, connecting with the Lord can very quickly begin to feel overwhelming and like just another item on our to-do lists. Lysa understands this struggle and wants to create a sacred space where women can bookend their days with God by simply showing up, soaking in truth, and being reminded they're not alone on their healing journey.

In her gentle, unassuming way, Lysa walks you through the pages of *You're Going to Make It*, where you will: receive the biblical truth and encouragement you need when hurtful situations leave you worn out and unmotivated to spend time with God; escape the loneliness of trying to heal on your own with trusted wisdom from a Bible teacher and friend who understands your pain and wants to help you move forward; be reassured that though this difficult season is part of your story, it will not be your whole story.

This difficult season doesn't have to be a time of numbing the pain or going through the motions. Let this devotional help you get intentional and know that, though this may be a hard time, it can also be a holy time.

Review provided by Church Source. *You're Going to Make It* is available at Amazon.com, Goodreads.com, and Christianbooks.com

looking for Joshua; whose guiding your search for him; and how you know when you've found Joshua.

Why look for Joshua? We need godly men who are willing to lead; willing to stand up for God; and willing serve the Lord. Leadership means being willing to set the example of right living. Joshua was not a man without problems or frustrations. He had haters, he got angry, at times he had doubts about his ability to do what God called him to do, and yes, at times he became fearful. But always look for a man and a father with the character of Joshua - one who serves the Lord first and depends on God to guide his path.

Whose guiding your search for Joshua? Are you looking through the eyes of the world, or are you looking through spiritual eyes when you are looking for Joshua?

When you look through the eyes of the world, you won't see Joshua. You'll see men leading with deceit, operating in their own pride, exhibiting violence, lying, cheating, and stealing. You'll see fathers abandoning their responsibility to train up their children in the ways of the Lord, and you'll see men ignoring and rejecting the purpose for which God created them.

Looking for Joshua through spiritual eyes will give you a vision of men living for God, and doing the best they can to step up, stand up, and show up to make a positive difference in the lives of all they encounter. Although the world systematically diminishes the importance of fathers, seeing men through spiritual eyes shows how vital they are in "raising up a child in the way they should go ..."

How do you know when you have found him? Joshua is found in every race, creed, and color. Joshua is rich, poor, working, retired, young, old, married or single. You've found Joshua in those men who apply Joshua 1: 7-9 to their lives. They are *strong and very courageous*; they are *careful to obey all the law [God's] servant Moses gave*; they *do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that they may be successful wherever they go*.

Men must understand that as fathers, they are somebody's Joshua. They will always have someone looking to them for leadership. And, they will be challenged, tested, and targeted by Satan. However God assures that "no one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. Walk with God when you are looking for Joshua and you will always reach your destination, *for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go*. (Joshua 1:9)



Answers to Who is Your Father?

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 7. A |
| 2. D | 8. B |
| 3. B | 9. C |
| 4. B | 10. D |
| 5. D | 11. A |
| 6. B | 12. B |



Sisters in the Spirit Ministries Inc.
Presents

The 2nd Annual Super Summer Bazaar and Food Sale



Saturday July 29, 2023

The Lighthouse Worship Center

4299 George Washington Highway * Hayes, VA 23072

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Vendors * Yard Sale Tables

Fried Fish and Fried Chicken Dinners

Vendor Tables - \$60 includes table and 2 chairs;
your business will be included in event publicity

VENDORS - This is THE BEST BAZAAR OF THE SUMMER!!!

Contact Katrina W. Brown

kawbrown@yahoo.com or 804-356-1721

for an application or more information

Application Deadline is July 15th



Sisters in the Spirit Newsletter

This is a free monthly publication of Sisters in the Spirit Ministries, Inc, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded to empower Christian women in better fulfilling their God-given purpose.

Editor: Dr. Katrina W. Brown

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Visit our website: sistersinthespirit.org



Sisters in the Spirit Ministries, Inc



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The LAST Laugh



I don't think I recognize you

A minister, a priest and a rabbi went for a hike one day. It was very hot. They were sweating and exhausted when they came upon a small lake. Since it was fairly secluded, they took off all their clothes and jumped in the water.

Feeling refreshed, the trio decided to pick a few berries while enjoying their "freedom." As they were crossing an open area, who should come along but a group of ladies from town. Unable to get to their clothes in time, the minister and the priest covered their privates and the rabbi covered his face while they ran for cover. After the ladies had left and the men got their clothes back on, the minister and the priest asked the rabbi why he covered his face rather than his privates. The rabbi replied, "I don't know about you, but in MY congregation, its my face they would recognize."

That's news to me!

The age of the computer brings much ease and expertise to the preparation of the worship folders. Some churches which use the same basic format each week can simply call up the form on the computer screen, make a few necessary changes, and presto, it's done. But it can be tricky.

In one church I know, they use the same format for funeral services. And when a person dies and a funeral service is prepared, the secretary simply uses the word-search-and-replace process and changes the name of the deceased from the previous service to the name of the deceased who has just passed away. Very simple.

So when Edna died, the pastor instructed the secretary to prepare the service for her by following the above mentioned process. The last person who died was Mary. So the secretary instructed the computer to change all "Mary's to Edna's. And so it was. Imagine the surprise of the attendees when they recited the Apostles Creed and read: "He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Edna..."

Going forth and multiplying

Four men are in the hospital waiting room because their wives are having babies. A nurse goes up to the first guy and says, "Congratulations! You're the father of twins." "That's odd," answers the man. "I work for the Minnesota Twins!"

A nurse says to the second guy, "Congratulations! You're the father of triplets!"

"That's weird," answers the second man. "I work for the 3M company!"

A nurse tells the third man, "Congratulations! You're the father of quadruplets!"

"That's strange," he answers. "I work for the Four Seasons hotel!" The last man is groaning and banging his head against the wall. "What's wrong?" the others ask.

"I work for 7 Up!"

Life is better with a pet

A bored young man decided life would be more fun if he had a pet. So he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet. After some discussion, he finally bought a talking centipede, (100-legged bug), which came in a little white box to use for his house.

He took the box back home, found a good spot for the box, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to church with him. So he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to church with me today? We will have a good time." But there was no answer from his new pet. This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked again, "How about going to church with me and receive blessings?" But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation.

The guy decided to invite the centipede one last time. This time he put his face up against the centipede's house and shouted, "Hey, in there! Would you like to go to church with me and learn about God?" This time, a little voice came out of the box, "I heard you the first time! I'm putting on my shoes!"

Let her stay where she is

My nagging wife died suddenly on a trip to Jerusalem. Funeral director, "Sir, it would cost about \$45,000 if we send her home back to the states or \$500 if we bury her here in Jerusalem." Me: "Ship her home."

Funeral director: "But sir, why don't you bury her here in the Holy Land and you can save money." Me: "A long time ago a man was buried here and 3 days later he rose from the dead, I can't take that chance."

Prayers for hearing

After service, a stranger approached the pastor and said, "I'd like you to pray for my hearing." The pastor placed his hands on the man's ears and said a passionate, earnest prayer.

"How's your hearing now?" the pastor asked.

Looking surprised, the man said, "Well, it's not until tomorrow."