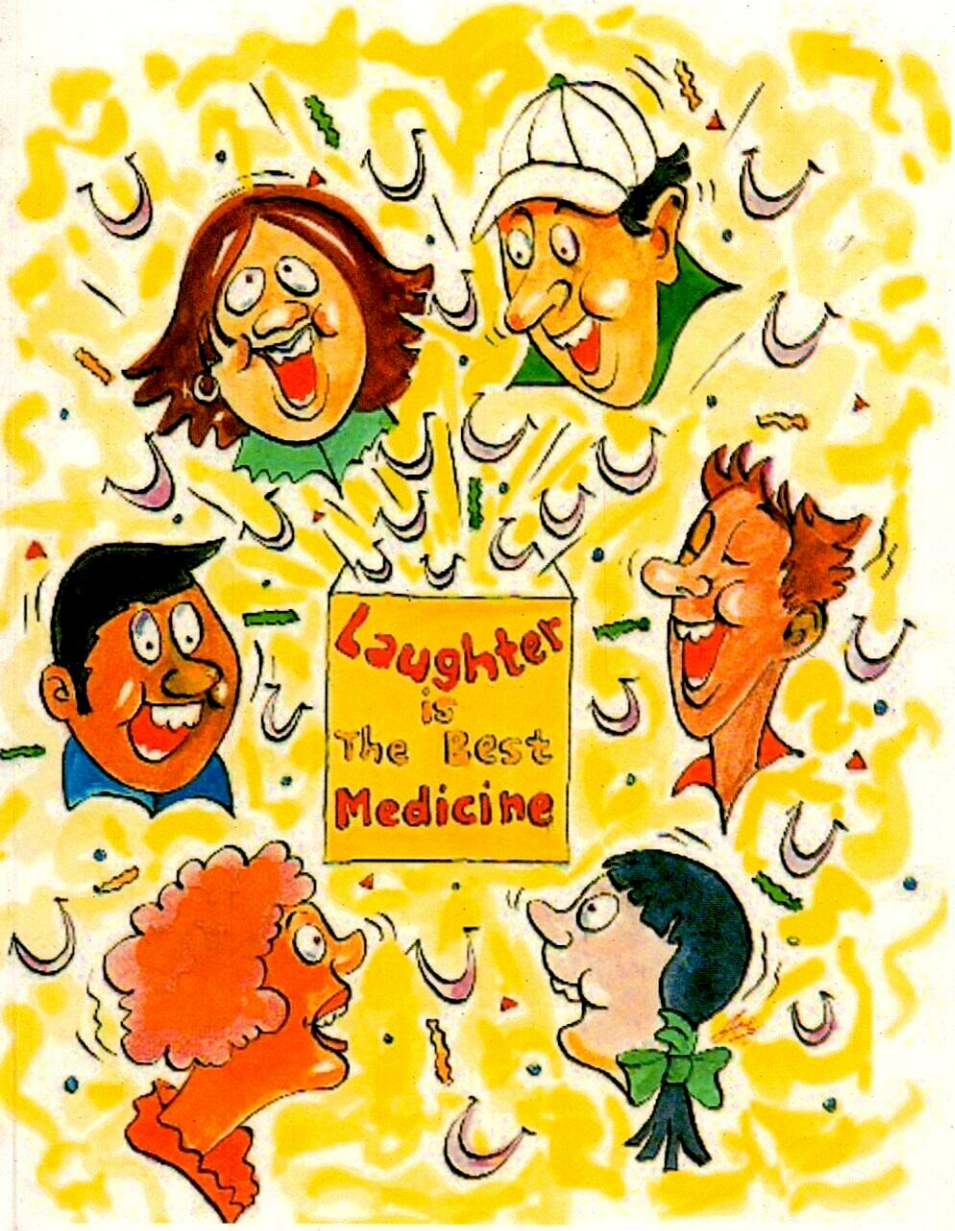
BISHOP'S JOKES

Most Rev. Dr. Mar Aprem



LIGHT OF LIFE BOOKS

BISHOP'S JOKES

(A Collection of 207 Jokes)

Most Rev. Dr. MAR APREM
METROPOLITAN



Light of Life Books
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(A collection of 207 Jokes)

Most Rev. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan
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PREFACE

We all need to relax. We laugh when we hear jokes. Think of what would happen to us if there were no humorists. However, if our happiness depends on what somebody else says, we have a problem.

There is laughter in the vestibule of the temple, but not in the holy of holies. Light of Life Books have always published serious religious stuff and we are aware that *Bishop's Jokes* does not fit into the regular mould. This book is intended to provide for you a break from the routine.

Humour is the harmony of the heart. Everything is funny as long as it is happening to somebody else. But the sense of humour remains healthy only when it deals with immediate issues and faces the obvious and surface irrationalities. Real enjoyment is found in a sober, heavenly-minded life–a close and perpetual walk with God.

We are glad to present Mar Aprem's *Bishop's Jokes* to you. Hope you will enjoy reading them, individually and in families.

Mumbai
November 15, 2004

P. Abraham
Chairman
Light of Life Society of India

INTRODUCTION

James Thurber, the American humorist, wrote "It's hard to write humour in the mental weather we've had, and that's likely to take you into reminiscence." Then in 1952 he published his *Thurber Album.* While accepting an award for this book, he said: "The devoted writer of humour will continue to try to come as close to truth as he can, even if he gets burned in the process."

To write humour is not an easy joke. To make readers appreciate humour is not easy. Such books cannot be best sellers because it is mainly sex and crime that thrill the readers today. Still the scope for humour is intriguing. As one who has succumbed to the inner urge to write history, biography, autobiography, poetry, travelogue etc., the present writer was persuaded by some inner instinct to write this book of jokes.

Since the writer is a man of religion, he confined himself to jokes that could be re-told by his colleagues to audiences of religious and social gatherings. This book was first titled *Decent Jokes* and then was changed to *Bishop's Jokes* to be more revealing of its contents.

Bishop's Jokes is not meant for Bishops only. It could be appreciated by all alike. Christians and non-Christians will find this book interesting. Special care has been taken not to offend anybody. If any story or incident mentioned here has any autobiographical connotation to any of the readers, please understand that it is just accidental and not intentional.

After reading this book, if the readers query or worry whether the writer of this book is a journalist, poet or humorist, let it be known to all friends that this writer has many shoes, which he rarely puts on, even if they often fit.

While writing this book, the writer shared his intention of writing such a book with some of his fellow Bishops. One of them quite candidly commented that such an ambition of mine is itself a big joke. Nevertheless, my ambitious announcement of such a forthcoming

book provoked several of my friends to share their stories, thereby increasing the number of jokes in this book. None of them knew whether they had become the victims or heroes of my jokes in this book.

One problem I envisage is that I will not get response from my audience, if I say a joke in future. Now the secret is out. When I start narrating one joke, somebody in the audience will turn the pages of this book and say to others seated near him, "Okay, this is Page 37 of this book." Or, some others will start laughing before I reach the punch line. And, in some cases, I will be disappointed in finding no response from the audience, because the audience already knows what I am going to tell. Now, I am constrained to collect and fabricate more jokes.

Kalam, a secular weekly published from Trisoor, has been publishing these jokes serially for the past several months. Thus these jokes have a wider readership already among people of all religions. My gratitude to Advocate A.S. Divakaran, the Managing Editor of *Kalam*, who encouraged me to put these jokes into print.

I am grateful to Philipose Mar Chrysostom, Suffragan Metropolitan of the Mar Thoma Church who wrote a FOREWORD for this book. Those who know him all agree with my choice. He is the most suitable person to write a FOREWORD to a book of jokes.

Happy reading to all readers. Laugh with me and at me, if you like.

Metropolitan's Palace
TRISOOR 680 001, Kerala

MAR APREM

FOREWORD

Most Rev. Dr. Mar Aprem, Metropolitan of the Chaldean Church in India, a good friend of mine, has asked me to write a foreword to his book "Bishop's Jokes." I thought it was the Bishop's joke and left it at that. Later, I got a reminder from him. The joke is that Mar Aprem, a prolific writer covering a wide sweep of subjects both within his competence and outside, should ask me, very little associated with print, to write a foreword to his book. I like jokes and so I have accepted the "hierarchical bull."

Jokes are things said or done to amuse people. People are amused at what the bishops say and do. They dress queerly, live pompously, process sombrely, preach obscurely, pray solitarily, appeal incessantly, cash liberally and occasionally?

One who can laugh at oneself or at any situation is one who is able to transcend the situation. The one who can look from above is called 'episcopos.' The malady of modern man is that, instead of being the master of the world, the world has mastered him. Laughter, though not the remedy, is of use in the eradication of this evil.

Jokes help to cut people to size. Jokes are good antidotes to people's pretentious obesity. It helps Suffragan Metropolitan of the Mar Thoma Church, polish off the hurting corners and the offending angularities and equip them for life in society. Wit introduces penetrating insights and revealing interpretations. Like whiskey, the key that unlocks the tongue, jokes remove the rigidity and reclusiveness in social groups. Jokes are like spices. They add flavour to dishes, but can never take the place of dishes. They are like water to tea. Added in the correct temperature and quantity, it makes tea drinkable. If the temperature and quantity are not correct, the tea becomes insipid or useless.

Metropolitan Aprem heads a business community. As a leader of that community, he makes a business even of jokes meant for recreation and pastime.

I was about to wish "may his tribe increase." Unfortunately or fortunately, he is a celibate Bishop.

Metropolitan Aprem, a writer on history, biography, autobiography and poetry, has now turned to jokes. Like the Joker in a card game, he can take any role and help the printing and publishing trade.

Ladies and gentlemen, friends and foes, young and old, frivolous and serious, I am happy to 'forward' to you the new work of my good friend Metropolitan Dr. Mar Aprem, the prodigious Bishop, a versatile writer, a man, no, a Bishop, nay, a Metropolitan of firm determination, indefatigable energy and a business magnate who uses his God-given talents to exploit the less fortunate for the benefit of the publisher.

Those who know him know that he is a dear servant of God, blessed with many talents, devoted to people, simple in his life, humble in his manners and noble in his conduct. I am sure he will find great joy to know that his work has helped a few to relax, laugh and be at ease, for some time at least. He rejoices to see others happy.

May this book thus help him to rejoice in the thought that many find relaxation and mental ease through these jokes and in its successful sale. This gives satisfaction to me that my name has at last appeared in a book.

P. Chrysostom
Suffragan Metropolitan
Mar Thoma Syrian Church

Trivandrum
20 June 1983

JOKES

ADVICE

1. FOOLISH ADVICE

A young Seminary student approached his Bishop to ask for some clarification about life after death. He spoke of some wrong theories he learned from others.

The Bishop got angry and asked him what foolish people he had consulted? He replied that he had consulted the professor in his Seminary. "What sort of foolish advice did he give you?," roared the Bishop. Frightened, he answered: "He said to consult you, Bishop."

2.PLEASE DON'T SING

A friend of mine invited me to preach in Mangalore. He had heard me preach in Kerala. He had also taken note of my sudden outbursts of singing during sermons.

Although the sense of my songs was appropriate to the context of my sermon, he did not appreciate my non-musical singing.

He wrote in his letter of invitation, "Bishop, please don't sing in Mangalore. Because the people of Mangalore are capable of good music." I honoured his advice, but for Mangalore only!

3.THIS IS LIKE THISH

A Bishop saw one of his church members who was an alcoholic. He advised the old man to give up drinking for the sake of his health and his family. He promised to reduce the quantity of liquor he took daily. He said that he was used to 4 bottles a day, but will reduce to one bottle the second day, half a bottle the third day, quarter bottle the fourth day and stop it completely by the end of the week.

At the beginning of the next week, the Bishop saw the man in the same old condition. He was drunk. The angry Bishop asked him, "Why are you fooling me?" The man replied, "Well, Bishop, thish is like thish. I completed one week of your advice. Now this week, I repeat the same treatment. I start with 4 bottles, and end with no drink. Then I start the 3rd week the same way. I will repeat it until I am cured."

ASSUMPTIONS

4. BISHOPS HAVE MOTHERS

Rt. Rev. D.C. Gorai, Bishop of Calcutta, who was the Deputy Moderator of the Church of North India, was returning after a foreign tour. When he was getting through customs at the Calcutta Airport, a Roman Catholic Customs officer was shocked to see a saree in the baggage of the Bishop.

"What my Lord? Why do you carry SAREES in your baggage?", asked the puzzled officer.

Bishop Gorai, who is a married Bishop, was taking it as a present for his wife. But he knew that it was not easy to explain that Protestant Bishops are allowed to marry or the history of Reformation, or that Martin Luther was married. Hence he asked a counter question to the officer.

"Do you think that Bishops have no mothers or sisters?"

5. 12 o' CLOCK

A man went to buy a time-piece. He bought a good one, and he took it home. At 12 noon he looked at his new time-piece to check the time. To his great surprise, he discovered that one of the hands of the time-piece was missing. Taking his newly-bought time-piece, he rushed to the shop and complained that it had only one hand, instead of two. Waiting for a minute, the shopkeeper showed him the other hand of the time-piece. From that time onward, the man was called *barah baja* (12 o' clock).

6. TYPIST'S MISTAKE

A Bishop had a petition from Mr. Wilson, one of his church members, to baptise his son. When the Bishop checked with the Priest of that church, he reported that Mr. Wilson was not married as per the church records. The Bishop checked the letter of Mr. Wilson to ascertain whether he wanted his son or his brother's son to be baptised. The typed letter of Mr. Wilson had stated that it was his son who was to be baptised.

After thinking about the puzzle, the Bishop thought that it was a typographical error. So he wrote to Mr. Wilson, "I suppose it was your typist's mistake." The repentant Mr. Wilson wrote back, "Now I know that you know the things that happened in darkness. It was a secret known to me and my typist only. Even the boy does not know that my typist is his mother."

7. MEET MY WIFE

Bishop Ambalavanar, the CSI Bishop of Jaffna, Sri Lanka was travelling with his wife in a bus once. A pious Roman Catholic, who thought that all priests were celibates, did not like the way this Padre sat close to this lady in the bus.

When the Rev. Ambalavanar got off the bus, the Catholic layman too got off the bus in order to give a piece of advice to this flirting Priest. To his great surprise the lady also got off the bus and followed the Priest. The layman hesitated to insult the Priest in front of the lady friend. So he called the Padre away from the lady and said, "It is not good for you to be in such a close conversation with a lady." The Priest wondered what to do. At last he called his wife and told this layman, "Friend, meet my wife."

8. MALA NASRADDIN

There are several stories about a humorous person named Mala Nasraddin who lived in Persia long ago. Assyrians rejoice in telling stories about him.

One day Mala Nasraddin had a dream that while travelling on his donkey, the animal would stop at one crossroad and make a noise. At that time Mala Nasraddin would fall and die.

As anticipated, at a crossroad, the donkey stopped and made a noise. Yet Mala did not fall. So he jumped from the donkey and fell on the ground as a dead person.

While travellers were passing by that way, they called out: "Why Mala? You are lying down on this road?"

"I am dead," replied Mala Nasraddin. In support of his claim he told them about his dream. He said that was the reason why he was now dead. The people had a hard time to make him believe that he was not dead!

9. WHERE IS THE WALL?

A patient went to his ophthalmologist to test his eyesight and to get new glasses. The doctor took him to a room and asked him to read the letters hung on the opposite wall. "I cannot read," replied the patient. Then the doctor pointed his finger to the chart and said that the chart was there.

"I cannot see the chart," complained the patient. The doctor said, "The chart is on the wall facing you." The patient was silent for a moment. Then he asked, "Where is the wall?'

Finally the ophthalmologist realised that the patient was totally blind.

BAPTISM

10. DOVE EATEN BY CAT

After every baptism, a Pastor wanted his servant to drop a dove from a hole in the roof. One day, after a baptism, he read the passage about the Holy Spirit coming down on the newly baptised. He repeated that passage 2 or 3 times. Still the dove did not come down. So that Pastor looked up.

Then his servant put his head through the hole above and said, "Your Holy Spirit has been eaten by a cat."

11. PORK BAPTISED INTO FISH

Yusuf was a cook and fond of pork. But, as a Muslim, he could not eat pork. He went to a Christian Priest, who baptised him a Christian, pouring some water over his head and naming him Joseph, instead of Yusuf.

The new convert from Islam was appointed as the cook of the Priest. The Priest gave him instructions to buy only fish, instead of chicken or pork on Friday. One Friday, Joseph could not get fish in the market, as he was late to reach there. He bought some pork, cooked it and served the lunch to the Priest. When the Priest tasted it, he questioned his cook.

Joseph innocently replied: "You poured water over me and you called me Joseph, instead of Yusuf. Similarly, I poured water over the pork and called it fish."

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

12. MATCHING, HATCHING AND DESPATCHING

A Bishop was preaching about the regular church attendance which every Christian is expected to adhere to. But many members of his church never paid attention to his advice.

One day the Bishop burst out and declared, "Some members come to church only on the occasion of matching, hatching and dispatching."

13. 60% NOT SEEN

There was a dispute in the church committee. Some members decided to oppose the Pastor. They brought some witnesses to state that the Pastor stole money from the offertory bag. One man stood up and accused the Pastor of stealing. When the Pastor challenged this allegation, the lay member declared that he could produce 40% of the congregation who would testify that they had seen the Pastor stealing it. Boldly, the Pastor announced that he could produce 60% of the people who had not seen the Pastor stealing anything. The Pastor was confident that 40% was the maximum attendance in his church. So the Pastor was sure that 60% of the people had not seen it.

14. PLANNING TO THROW MUD

One Priest reported to the Bishop that a prominent member of his church, aged 30, is always absent from church. The Bishop called this man and enquired about the reason for his absence. He replied that he decided not to go to church any more because of what the Priest had done to him.

The first time he went to the church 30 years ago, the Priest threw some cold water on him. The second time he went to church, the Priest got him hooked to a nagging wife. The next time he would go to the church, the Priest was likely to throw mud on him.

15. A CENTENARY WITHOUT JESUS

A poor Christian from a backward community was transferred to a city where there was a church of his own denomination. But its members were rich and fashionable. He went to the Pastor and asked for membership in that church. The Pastor knew that the members of his congregation would not like to give membership to this stranger. The Pastor asked the newcomer to pray about it and seek an answer from God. After a few days, he came to the Pastor for a reply. The Pastor asked him, "Son, did you pray about it?" He said, "Jesus told me as

follows, 'Son, don't be disappointed. You have been trying to get membership in that church only during the last 4 weeks. I have been trying to enter there since its foundation 100 years ago, and I have not yet been admitted there'."

16. THE SAME OLD CROWD

A Bishop, who was fond of birds, wanted to purchase a parrot that could talk. His secretary heard of a parrot which had been trained to talk and whose master had passed away. So the Bishop's secretary purchased this parrot. It had belonged to a man who had owned a bar.

The parrot attended its first Sunday Service in the Cathedral. It was quiet while the service was going on, solemnly conducted by the Bishop, who could chant the prayers very beautifully. As soon as the service was over, the parrot announced its first observation. Comparing the church to the bar of its former master, the parrot said, "The songs are different, the rituals are also not the same, but it is the same old crowd."

17. GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

A pious mother persuaded her lazy son to attend the Sunday School. The mother said that the boy's character would be better if he went to Sunday School. She assured him that all the great people went to Sunday School in their earlier years. The mother also said, "My only hope in the future is you, because your father is a drunkard."

The boy went to his father and asked: "Pop, did you go to Sunday School when you were a little boy?"

"Of course, regularly," replied the father in a reminiscent mood.

"I'll bet it won't do me any good either," was the verdict of the son who knew his drunkard father very well.

DILIGENCE AT WORK

18. NIGHT TO SLEEP, DAY TO REST

A Chinese philosopher, who was not inclined to do any hard work, was praying: "We thank Thee God, for creating the night to sleep and the day to rest."

19. TAILOR'S SON IS 16

A Bishop was presented with 6 metres of expensive cloth to make a cassock for him. He called in a tailor who was a Christian and asked him to make a cassock for him. The tailor, who took the measurements, declared that the cloth was not sufficient to make a cassock for the Bishop who had a big belly.

The Bishop called in another tailor who made a cassock with that cloth. When he came back to deliver the fully finished cassock, the Bishop enquired whether the piece of cloth was sufficient for that cassock. The tailor replied, "To tell the truth, I had enough extra cloth with which I made a shirt for my 6-year old son."

The Bishop called in the first tailor and asked him why he could not find enough cloth in it while a non-Christian tailor got even extra cloth to stitch a shirt for his 6-year old son.

"Bishop, don't be angry with me. His son is only 6 years old and my son is 16."

20. THREE VERSES FOR HALF BOIL

A new cook was appointed in a Bishop's house. The cook was fond of music. The next morning, the Bishop heard a beautiful Christian hymn sung in his kitchen.

At the breakfast table, the Bishop expressed his appreciation at the devotional life of the cook who starts his day with Christian devotional songs.

"Well," said the cook, "I don't like to count upto fifty seconds to get the egg boiled. I make mistakes when I count. So I sing 3 verses for half boil and 5 verses for hard boil. That is the easiest way for me to measure the boiling time of the eggs."

21. A CRYING TEACHER

Soon after the government examination results were announced, a lady teacher started weeping in the staff room.

All the fellow staff members came to the staff room and enquired about the cause of her great grief. The teacher would not tell the reason. The intimate friends of this teacher were called in to talk to her and find out the cause of her deep sorrow.

"Is there any bereavement in your family?," some sympathetic teachers queried.

The teacher continued to cry when questioned by her friends. Finally she said that one or two students in her class had failed in the exam.

N.B. Such teachers who cry and care for the students are very rare nowadays.

DOCTORS AND PATIENTS

22. CIRCUS CLOWN

Once an unhappy little man in New York went to a famous psychiatrist. The qualified doctor diagnosed that the problem with his patient was that he did not have enough relaxation and entertainment. So the psychiatrist prescribed that this unhappy patient should see the new circus in New York City and enjoy the performance of the circus clown who was making all spectators happy by his jokes and actions.

The patient read the prescription and told the psychiatrist, "Doctor, you are mistaken. Your prescription will not help me. I am that circus clown."

23. AIRLINE'S PSYCHIATRISTS

One airline engaged two psychiatrists to travel in an aircraft to mix with the passengers and to report on any passenger with a tendency to kill or hijack. Each of them thought that he was the only psychiatrist employed on that flight for this purpose. Before the flight was over, the captain got notes from two people requesting that two dangerous people be arrested. They were the two psychiatrists reporting against each other, not knowing the identity of each other.

24. MADE HIM WALK

A rich man, who owned a car, had an accident. He went to a mission hospital and they put his leg in plaster. After 3 months, when the plaster was removed, the man discovered to his dismay that he was not able to walk properly.

He approached a famous bone specialist who was doing private practice. The doctor promised to make him walk within six months. He sent six bills within that period which made the patient sell his car and start walking within those six months.

25. RIGHT IN SENDING FOR

A Doctor was called in to treat a Bishop. When the Doctor arrived at the Bishop's house, he went straight to the Bishop, who appeared normal. The Doctor enquired from the Chaplain what was wrong with the Bishop, and why he sent for the Doctor. The Chaplain replied that the Bishop was crying the previous night saying that he wanted to die. "Oh," replied the doctor, "Then you are right in sending for me."

26. YOU WILL BE OKAY

A Bishop went to visit a mental hospital in his town. When he

started visiting the patients, one of them asked the new bearded visitor who he was. The Bishop replied quite graciously that he was the Bishop of that locality.

The mental patient gave a piece of advice to this stranger. He said, "When I was admitted in this hospital last year, I said the same thing. But do not worry, you will not make such claims after two weeks of treatment here."

27. ATE THE PRESCRIPTION

The physician in a remote Mission Hospital was a foreigner who could not communicate well in the local language. One day when he was very busy, an illiterate villager came for treatment. After listening to the symptoms of the disease, he wrote a prescription and gave the paper to the patient. The doctor instructed him to take it 3 times daily for 2 days and to report to him the progress after two days.

As suggested by the doctor, the patient returned after two days and the doctor asked how he was. He replied, he was much better and the pain had stopped, and he wanted to know whether he should take any more medicine. The doctor asked him to hand over the prescription so that he could write one more medicine on that slip. The patient was confused. He asked, "What slip you want, doctor?"

He said, "The piece of paper I gave you two days ago. The innocent patient fearfully replied, "I ate that paper, tearing it into six pieces, thrice daily for two days as per your instruction."

28. CRITICS GONE TO THE OTHER WORLD

A Surgeon was under criticism in his neighbourhood. Many tales were in circulation about the people who died during surgery owing to the lack of skill of this Surgeon. He thought that the local Bishop would comfort him at this time of tribulation as he had contributed liberally to the church.

In a mood of self-justification, he told the Bishop that there were many people who can testify to his skill. There were only a few people who would criticise his ability as a Surgeon. The Bishop said, "There are only a few critics of yours left in this world. Your other critics have already gone to the other world."

29. YOU ARE MORE LIKE ONE OF US

The government appointed an Advisory Committee for the local Mental Hospital. A Bishop was one of the members. The members made their first visit to the Mental Hospital to get acquainted with the living conditions of the patients.

The Bishop was happy and proud when one of the patients

remarked, "I like you better than all other members of the Committee." The flattered Bishop asked, "Why is that?" The patient innocently replied, "You are more like one of us."

30. SPLIT PERSONALITY

A Priest learned counselling and psychiatry to help people in his Pastoral work. His name spread far and wide and many people came to see him. One of the servants of the Bishop showed some signs of mental sickness. The Bishop sent him to this Priest.

"What is wrong with him?" queried the Bishop.

"He seems to have a split personality," said the Priest.

"How did you treat him?," asked the Bishop.

"I asked him to chase himself."

31. TOO STRONG PRAYER

A devout Christian lady went to her parish Priest and requested him to pray for her calf which was sick. She told the Priest that her livelihood depended on her income from her cow. If the calf died, she would not have enough milk from her cow.

The Priest felt pity for her. He opened a prayer book, showed her a prayer and asked her to recite that prayer every morning and evening for 3 days and the calf would be better. After three days the woman returned in tears to report that the calf died after 3 days of prayer.

The Priest asked her to open the prayer book and show him what prayer she had recited. When she did so, the Priest noticed the heading "For the healing of the sick cows." He said that she had recited the prayer for the healing of the cows, instead of the prayer for the calf which was at the bottom of the page. The Priest consoled the pious lady stating that the prayer for the cow was too strong for the calf. That was the reason why the calf died. You should not use an overdose, even if it is good medicine.

GIVE AND TAKE

32. COLLECTION IN CHURCH

A young boy was attending a church service. The preacher preached a very long sermon. When the boy got tired, he asked his mother, "Mum, will he let us go home if we give the money now?"

33. DISTRIBUTION OF COLLECTION IN CHURCH

A preacher from Scotland asked a preacher from England how he divided Sunday collection between him and the church. The first preacher explained that he took the offertory and threw the bag on the table. What falls on the left side is for him and what is on the right is for the Lord. The second preacher explained that he also threw his offertory bag on the table. What fell close to him was his share and the rest which fell away from him went to God for the church expenses. An Indian preacher, who listened to this conversation, explained his method. He said that, after prayer, he threw up the offertory bag in the air. Whatever went up was for God and whatever came down was for him.

34. COLLECTION BAG

An Indian preacher went to speak in America. He had heard that some visiting preachers used to pass their hats around and receive collection. So, after his sermon, he sent his hat around. The hat was getting heavy when the usher reached near the door. The visiting preacher became suspicious of the movements of the young usher. The preacher shouted from the pulpit, "If that man runs away with that money, he will be damned." The second usher suddenly murmured: "If he does not run away with it, I will be damned."

35. HAT BACK AFTER COLLECTION

A visiting village preacher passed his hat around in a city congregation where such a thing was not in vogue. When the hat came back to the preacher, he noticed that it was empty. He turned his hat upside down and prayed in a loud voice, "I thank Thee, Lord, for at least getting my hat back from this congregation."

36. LADY FEELS LIKE JESUS CHRIST

A rich old lady was in her death bed. The Bishop and a Priest went to visit her. Since the lady was rich and had no heirs, the Bishop suggested to her that she should sign a document bequeathing all her property to the church. The lady signed the document.

The Bishop asked her, "How do you feel now, since you have given away your money for a noble cause?" She said: "I feel like Jesus Christ." The Bishop said, with a smile on his face: "Yes, I know why you feel like Christ, because you gave your money to the church." "No," said the dying lady, looking at the Bishop and the Priest on either side, "I feel like Jesus Christ, being crucified between two robbers."

37. COINS IN ALTARS

There was a discussion among the currency notes and coins. The currency had the privilege of speaking first. The dollar note said, "I am used by the President of the USA." The Sterling Pound said, "I am stronger than the dollar." The hundred rupee note claimed, "I am used by cinema stars and rich people."

Finally, the 5 paise coin and ten paise coin got their say. They stood up and said, "It is true that 100 rupee notes are in the pockets of the millionaires. But we are in the collection bags in the holy altars of Christian churches! 100 rupee notes rarely get a chance to reach the holy sanctuary. But we have been to the holy sanctuaries several times."

38. DONATION AND DOWRY

Mr. Mathew, a rich man, told Bishop Chrysostom that he was immensely rich and that the Bishop should recommend to his friend to give good dowry to the friend's daughter who was to marry Mr. Mathew's son. He tried to impress the Bishop saying that the dowry already offered was below the dignity and status of his family.

The next day the church committee asked every man to offer good donations for the construction of a new church. The members present said that Mr. Mathew should subscribe Rs. 50,000. Mr. Mathew stood and said that he was not able to afford such an amount, as he was not very rich.

The Bishop called him and asked him whether he should convey this information also to the friend mentioned the previous day. He immediately gave Rs. 70,000.

39. OWNER OF THE HOUSE

A well dressed man knocked at the door of the Bishop's house. He told the Bishop the story of the poverty and misery in his neighbourhood and asked him to make a donation. He specially spoke of a widow, with starving children to feed, who had no money to buy food and had no means for paying the rent of her house. He told the Bishop that the poor widow was going to be evicted if she would not pay the rent of the past three months. He informed the Bishop that he offered his services to collect donations to pay arrears of this poor widow and to avert her eviction from the house.

The compassionate Bishop paid the arrears and thanked the man for the service he rendered for the sake of a poor widow. The Bishop then asked the man who he was. "I am the owner of the house," said the man.

40. FIVE PAISE COIN NOT ACCEPTED

In the days when 10 paise coins were worth something and 5 paise coins had become very cheap, one was not able to buy anything with less than 10 paise. A beggar, who used to get 5 paise or 10 paise coins during his begging, got a signboard made and hung on his back: '5 paise coin not accepted!'

41. STOLE NURSE'S RING

There was a Priest who was a good fund raiser. He knew how to persuade even misers to give donations to the church. There was a lady social worker in the same town. She was extremely capable of collecting large funds for noble causes in their society.

These two fund raising experts met. They found their talents very similar and their interests challenging. They decided to marry. The guests at the wedding reception wished the couple many years of happy married life. They also wished that their children would be better fund raisers, if heredity meant anything to them.

The next year, when a son was born to them, the baby would not open his right hand. Doctors could not explain why the baby did not open his hands. Finally, a psychiatrist came and studying the backgrounds of the fund raising parents, the psychiatrist took out a hundred rupee note and showed it to the baby. Immediately, the baby opened his hand to receive the Rs. 100 note. Suddenly fell from the baby's hand a golden ring which he had grabbed at the time of delivery from the hand of the nurse who helped at this birth.

GRATITUDE

42. FREE MARKS IN EXAM

It actually happened. One Pastor decided to give a free meal to his Sunday School children every Sunday evening. The teachers got interested and they contributed some money to buy sugar to make the milk tastier. The church contributed some money to give bread also along with the milk. After a few Sundays of getting free milk and bread, the students demanded that the teacher give them 5 extra marks in the examination, if they should drink the milk!

43. MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN

Bishop Fulton Sheen, who was a well known television speaker, was given the Emmy Award. Usually whenever the award is given, the winner has to say a few words of gratitude to his boss, producer or author. When the Award was given, Bishop Sheen was thinking of some author or personality to express his gratitude to, for his meritorious performance which qualified him for the Award. He said, "I express my thanks to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John."

HEAVEN AND HELL

44. BISHOP IN HEAVEN

An army captain came to heaven. Angel Gabriel welcomed him. Then a Bishop came. Angel Gabriel was so happy and had a special celebration. The army captain did not like this partiality in heaven. Angel Gabriel read his thought.

The angel told him, 'Captain, do not be annoyed. You see Captains like you come here so often that there is no need for special celebration. But Bishops come here rarely. Since I am welcoming a Bishop for the first time in this century, I thought of a special celebration."

45. ICE CREAM IN HEAVEN

A lot of Americans went to heaven. Satan was sorry. He wanted to attract those Americans to hell. Knowing of a minor vice of the Americans, from hell he yelled, "ice cream." All the Americans rushed to hell for ice cream which they were missing in heaven.

46. St. PETER'S KEY

Peter knocked at the door of heaven to enter. Angel Gabriel said, "Come in." Peter answered, "The door is locked. How can I come in?" Gabriel asked, "Don't you have the key of heaven?" He said: "I left it on the earth."

47. TOO BUSY IN HELL

A man declared that he had nothing to worry about whether he went to heaven or to hell. The Pastor asked him to explain his statement further. He replied that if he went to heaven, he will be happy there. If he went to hell, he will be too busy there meeting his friends including his Bishop; so he would not get time to worry about anything.

48. KEYS OF HELL

A rich member donated a huge amount to the Bishop and told him, "I wish you were St. Peter and had the keys of heaven in your possession so that you would let me in."

The Bishop thought for a moment and, knowing the private life of his rich donor, he replied, "It would be better for you, if I had the keys of hell so that I could let you out."

49. PUSH BUTTON 'UP'

A Priest was telling an old man about the heaven which is above and the hell which is below. The old man was living in a skyscraper apart-

ment in New York. The Priest said, "While going down in your elevator from 80th storey apartment, if you feel you are having a heart attack or something, please push the button of the elevator marked 'UP.'"

50. KEEP ME OUT OF HEAVEN

A Bishop, who had diabetes, often consulted a doctor near his residence. Even after several consultations, the Bishop did not pay the fees of the doctor. The doctor sent several reminders. Then came the reply from the Bishop, "Dear doctor, you do your best to keep me out of heaven. I will do my best, in return, to keep you out of hell."

51. HEAVEN ABOVE

There was an illiterate village preacher who was generous in his use of gestures while preaching. He used to speak fast. Sometimes his words came faster than his gestures. When he spoke of heaven and hell, he wanted to impress upon his village audience with the use of gestures. Pointing his hand downwards, he spoke about the "heaven above." He was speaking about the "earth below," when he had quickly moved his hand heavenward!

52. TREASURERS WILL GO TO PARADISE

A Bishop was preaching a sermon on Good Friday. He told about the thief crucified with Jesus and said, "You see, Jesus did not take any of the good people with him to heaven. He did not take either his loving mother or faithful disciples. He took only a thief with Him to heaven."

Then he paused for a moment and uttered his punch line. "That is the reason why most of the treasurers of our churches and organisations are sure that they will go to heaven."

53. TOURIST VISA TO HELL

One Bishop went to heaven. He was getting bored by the angelic choirs and the spiritual atmosphere. He wanted to know what hell is like. He asked for permission to visit hell for two days. He was granted permission to visit hell. When he went to hell, he heard better music and saw lots of pleasure and luxury which he had seen and heard about during his earthly life. Therefore, when he returned to heaven after two days' visit, he enquired from St. Peter whether he could permanently reside in hell which was much more enjoyable than the holy, holy atmosphere of heaven.

St. Peter told the Bishop that, if he wished to go to hell for a second time, he would not be able to return to heaven. He would have to reside there permanently. Finally, the Bishop decided to go to hell to reside permanently. He was given permission. When he arrived in hell, he noticed that it was hot with fire, etc. He went to the Chief Custodian

of hell and asked why it was different from the hell he had visited the previous week. The custodian replied that his earlier visit was on a tourist visa. For tourists, they show a better hell. But then he had come on a permanent visa as an immigrant, he had reached the real hell. There was no way to escape from there.

54. REJECTED FROM HEAVEN?

Fr. Paul was appointed Chaplain to the Paratroop Regiment in the Army. Since he was a man of religion, the soldiers used to mock him saying that he would go up to heaven if he jumps with a parachute from the aeroplane.

During the performance of the Army Day, the Chaplain too was supposed to jump from the aircraft. Owing to his lack of experience, the Chaplain landed on the ground, like a sack dropping from the air. As he was trying to get up, a soldier came running and asked him, "Hi Chaplain, were you rejected in heaven?"

KIDS

55. BISHOP EATS LIKE A PIG

A Bishop was a good eater. He was invited by John and his wife Rosa for dinner. When the Bishop came in for dinner, John called his five-year-old daughter Mary and asked her to prepare the table. When the food was placed on the table and the Bishop said the prayer, he noticed that there was no spoon, fork or knife near his plate. He brought it to the attention of his hosts. John asked, "Oh Mary, why didn't you put spoon, fork and knife near the Bishop's plate? Was it not your duty?"

Without hesitation came the reply. "Because, I heard last night mummy telling you that the Bishop eats like a pig. Pigs do not need spoon, etc. to eat."

56. FOR ADULTS ONLY

A ten year old girl asked her mother how she was born. Embarrassed by the question, the mother replied that she was brought to that home by a stork when she was tiny. "What about you mummy?," she queried. The mother replied that she was brought by a stork, when she was very small. She asked about her daddy. The mother said that he too was brought by a stork. The confused girl asked her mother, "How come nobody in this family is born like others in my school?"

57. NATURAL OR CAESAREAN?

An eleven year old asked her mother, "How was I born?" The mother thought that the time had come to tell her some facts about life. She began to think where to start and how to tell her. She realised that she would not be able to tell her very easily. She called her husband and asked him to get back from office quickly. He did.

She rushed to him when he arrived home and told him that their daughter was ready to learn some facts of life. When should they start? How should they explain to her? They looked long at each other and finally asked each other to start. Seeing all the caution and preparation, the daughter asked: "Mummy, why are you taking so much time? I asked you a simple question. I just wanted to know whether I was born naturally or by caesarean operation."

58. EMPTY INSIDE

Dr. Sam Kamaleson told the story of a fat man walking near the Egmore Railway station in Chennai. Two boys walked behind him arguing about his weight. One said: "I say he is 250 pounds." The other challenged and declared that he must be 300 pounds." When

they continued to argue about his weight, he got into the Railway station. When he looked back, he noticed that the boys had left. He felt relieved.

But he began to wonder whether the boys could be right about his weight. He climbed on the weighing machine and put 10 paise coin into the slot. To his surprise, the two boys came running to look at the needle to determine whose bet was right. To the deep disappointment of both the boys, the machine showed only 200 lbs. Both remarked in surprise: "Oh boy! He must be empty inside."

59. DADDY, WHERE WERE YOU LOST?

Dr. Akbar Haqq, the world famous evangelist, went to the New Delhi Fair, with his wife and son. They asked their son to hold Papa by one hand and Mama by the other. The boy agreed.

As he began to penetrate into the crowd, his left hand let go and then his right hand too. Slowly, he slipped away from his parents enjoying the attractive sights and fun. Finally, he began to cry when he realised that he had lost his parents in the crowd.

The Police took him to the Police Station in the premises. When the parents discovered that their young son was missing, they began to panic. They blamed each other for not holding the boy's hand tight.

Dr. Haqq rushed to report to the Police about his missing boy. There he saw his son and grabbed his arms. Before he could ask his son what had happened, the child asked him, "Daddy, where were you lost?"

60. BARBER SHOP

A black American boy did not like my beard. When I was walking through Harlem in New York, the boy came running after me and shouted, "I will show you the barber shop." I did not get the message for some time. Then I realised, with a smile, that he was making fun of me owing to my beard.

61. SEND FIRE FROM ABOVE

A lady was always praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on herself. One day, when her son was in school and she was alone in the house, she started shouting, "Send fire from above, O Lord." When the boy returned from school, he heard the loud prayer of his mother to send fire from above.

Then the boy went to the kitchen and took some fire and climbed the stairs and put it on the roof of the room where his mother was praying for fire. When the room caught fire, the neighbours came running to help. The mother stopped the prayer and opened the door and saw what had happened.

62. WAY TO HEAVEN

Bishop Fulton Sheen was once going to preach in the Town Hall in Philadelphia. He stopped his car on his way to the Town Hall and asked a group of children about the way to the Town Hall. One of the inquisitive boys asked the Bishop, "Why are you going there?" He replied, "To speak in a meeting." The boys queried, "What are you talking about?" With a missionary zeal to use that opportunity for witness, the Bishop said, "I am going to talk about how to go to heaven." A smart boy immediately asked an innocent question. "You do not know the way to go to the Town Hall. Then how can you tell the way to go to heaven?"

63. SANTA CLAUS

I was walking in the city of New York, after I had joined the Union Theological Seminary, New York, in 1966. When the children in the neighbourhood saw me for the first time, they were attracted by my beard. One of them called out to his friends, "Look, Santa Claus."

I felt like defending myself and proving that the identification made by the boy was wrong. So I turned to him and told, "I am not Santa Claus. Look, I have only black beard, while Santa Claus has a white one." The smart boy retorted, "Don't worry; your beard will turn white when snow comes!"

64. JAWBONE OF A JACKASS

When a Bishop visited a Sunday School class, the teacher was teaching the Old Testament lesson of Samson. The Bishop wanted to examine the knowledge of the young students. He asked, "What did Samson arm himself with to fight the Philistines?" A brilliant boy stood up and replied, "The axe of the Apostles." He was able to give this answer because the New Testament teacher had taught them about the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament.

The Bishop was unhappy with the incorrect answer of the boy. He asked the whole class to think again and give him the correct answer within two minutes. The minutes were up and the students were not able to answer the Bishop. The good Bishop decided to help the students to find out the answer and tapped his own jaw and asked the students what that was. They shouted in unison, "The jawbone of a jackass."

65. THE FATTED CALF

When a Sunday School class was learning the familiar story of the Prodigal Son in the Bible, a Bishop walked into the class. When the teacher finished his lesson, the Bishop wanted to know how much these students had understood the content of the story. He asked them: "In the midst of all the celebrations for the Prodigal Son's return,

there was one for whom the feast brought no happiness, only bitterness. Who was that?" A smart boy answered, "The fatted calf."

66.BREAK TEN COMMANDMENTS

A Sunday School teacher taught his class about Moses and how God gave His Ten Commandments on two tablets of stone and how he threw it and broke it when he saw that the people of Israel were worshipping an image, under the leadership of his brother Aaron.

When a student of this class was returning home, the Bishop met him on the way. The good Bishop greeted the boy and asked him what he had learned in his class that day. When he heard from the boy that the lesson of the day was on Moses, the Bishop enquired from the youngster what Moses was famous for. The innocent boy replied, "He was the first man to break all the Ten Commandments at the same time."

67. "OH JESUS"

A Bishop happened to visit a Sunday School class. When he entered the class, the students were reciting John 14:6, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." The Bishop asked the students, "Who said these words?" One boy looked at the chapter heading and saw the "Gospel according to St. John" written on the top of the page, So he stood up and answered, "St. John." The Bishop said that the answer was not correct. A girl in a hurry stole a look into the chapter and saw the name of Thomas written above this verse. So she stood up and answered "Thomas." The Bishop, "Incorrect."

Other students looked at the teacher's face begging for a clue to the answer.

"St. Peter," answered a boy named Antony getting up from the seat. When the "incorrect" verdict came from the Bishop, the disappointed boy sat down. Just a second before he sat down, the naughty boy behind his seat took a pin and held it upside down on Antony's seat. As Antony sat on the pin he writhed in pain and jumped up saying aloud, "Oh Jesus!" Instantly came the verdict from the Bishop: "Correct. Congratulations."

68. NOT YET NINE

Mr. Babu Paul, a senior officer of the Indian Administrative Service (I.A.S) recently related an incident of his childhood days. A boy aged nine asked him, "How old are you?" He replied that he did not know how old he was. Then the boy asked, "Are you nine years old?" He replied: "I have no idea whether I have reached nine years of age." The boy asked, "Do you feel anything when you see girls?"

Then he replied "No." The wise boy declared, "Then you are not yet nine years of age. Because I am nine years old and I feel something when I see girls."

69. DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CATHOLIC AND A PROTESTANT

A Protestant Bishop told me this story. I do not know whether he wants to own this story. Hence I do not reveal his identity except to state that he is a very good story-teller and a grandfather too.

There was a Roman Catholic boy named Jim and a Protestant girl named Nancy. They were neighbours. Both were going to Lower Kindergarten class and aged about four. On a Sunday when Jim's parents took him to the Catholic Church he asked his mother, "Can I take Nancy also to the church?" The mother replied, "No" "Why not?" argued Jim. Jim's mother explained that Nancy was Protestant and we should not invite her to our church.

"What is Protestant, mummy? She has invited me for her family's picnic this afternoon and I have accepted her invitation. So why can't we take her to our church?"

Jim did not get a response and was disappointed, wondering what the difference was between him, a Catholic, and his classmate Nancy, a Protestant.

During the afternoon, Jim went along with Nancy and her family for a Sunday afternoon picnic. Jim was the only child of his parents. So was Nancy. During the family picnic the children were taken to the baby pool to learn to swim. When Jim and Nancy undressed to get into the pool, Jim looked at Nancy and said to himself, "Now I understand the difference between a Catholic and a Protestant."

70. SATANTHA, SATANTHA

In an old Assyrian village near a big city where modern civilisation had crept in, a grandfather told his son to take his little daughter with him when he went to the city.

When the father and the 5-year old girl walked though the city, the girl's eyes were attracted to the many new things which she had never seen or heard of. So she stopped in front of bars or dancing places where the big pictures had been displayed of the belly dancers. The father did not want his little daughter to spend time gazing at such pictures. He said to her, "Let us move." He had to literally drag her away from the posters.

"Why can't I stay here and look at that picture, daddy?," begged the little girl. "It is not good", said the pious father. He added, "It is Satantha," meaning the feminine form of Satan or devil.

The girl obeyed her father. When she reached home the grandfather asked the little daughter what she had enjoyed most in the town.

"Satantha, Satantha," was the innocent reply.

71. THE TEACHER FAILED

A student of the 2nd standard was crying when she came home from school, the day it reopened. The mother enquired as to the cause of her sorrow.

"Were you not promoted to standard II?"

"Yes," replied the crying girl.

"What about your class mates? Did any of your fellow students fail?"

"No, no," said the girl and still continued to cry.

After further questioning, she said: "Elsy teacher failed." When all the students of Standard I were promoted, this student could not control her tears when she realised that their teacher who had taught them for the year was not going to teach them anymore. The teacher must have failed in Standard I, thought the student.

LANGUAGE

72. FIVE LANGUAGES SOUND THE SAME

When I did sing a song in New York at the Christmas function in 1966, claiming that the song was in five Indian languages, wife of the Indian Visiting Professor M.M. Thomas, who herself was a professor in Kerala, came to me after my "performance," and told me, "Father, you are fooling these Americans; your five languages sounded like one language." I defended myself stating that it sounded like the same language, because many Indian languages have several common words derived from Sanskrit.

73. NO KIDDING

When I was writing two hundred jokes for this book, I met an American friend visiting Trisoor as part of the "Athletes in Action" basketball team.

"I am busy writing a book of jokes," said I. "No kidding," replied my American friend.

"I have written 200 jokes," I went on. "No kidding," repeated my friend.

"I will publish this book within five days," I announced my ambitious plan. "No kidding," repeated my friend.

His repeated use of the statement "No kidding" reminded me of a heading in an Indian Newspaper which I showed him. The news item in English stated that a father of 15 children underwent an operation in a Family Planning Campaign and it had the caption "No Kidding."

74. OH NO!

When I told some American friends about my pleasant and surprising experiences in New York, they unanimously said: "Oh no!"

"Yes, it is true," said I. "Oh no!," they laughed again.

"Yes, yes. I would not lie to you. I am not joking. I am telling what happened to me."

"Oh no!"

I was almost annoyed, thinking that these people did not believe my words. "I am not telling a lie. What advantage do I have by telling a lie to you? You must believe me. Yes, yes, you have to believe that I am telling the truth." I was trying to convince them.

"Oh no!," they roared with laughter. Then I understood that in America, "Oh no!" means "Yes." They made it clear saying, "We believe it. It is strange. It is amusing. Yes, we believe it."

Then I gave up my protests and learned an Americanism.

75. CHANGED THE GEAR

When a village Priest was travelling in a Bishop's car, he heard some noise while climbing hilly areas. After they had reached their destination, the old Priest asked the driver what the cause of the sound was.

"I changed the gear," replied the driver. "That was the cause of the noise."

"Why did you change the gear of a new car? It should be old to be changed. You must have got money in this transaction. I will report it to the Bishop."

P.S. In Malayalam, "to change" means "to replace"!

76. DO YOU HAVE ECZEMA?

A Bishop was visiting Germany. He did not know the German language. So he was a little nervous when he sat down to order his food from the German menu. The waitress felt a little uneasy at the delay in giving orders. She began to scratch her nose.

The Bishop asked her, "Do you have eczema?" She replied, "Sorry, Bishop. We cannot supply anything which is not in today's menu."

77. YOU CAN REST HERE

When I was studying in Union Theological Seminary, New York, one family came to see me. I went to the Common Room in the hostel and began to talk with the members of that family. During the conversation which was rather lengthy, my friend's wife asked me where the Rest Room for women was. I told her that she could rest here. She could not believe my words. Realising her reluctance, I explained to her that, although this was a Seminary, there was no objection to ladies coming and resting in the Common Room. I also told her that I had seen ladies resting in the very same room. She did not believe me. Only later did I understand that whenever Americans speak of the Rest Room, they mean the Toilet, or what we call latrine or bathroom or lavatory. Perhaps Rest Room is a better word.

78. YOU WANT TO REMOVE YOUR CLOTHES?

When an American lady came to visit the churches in Trisoor, I called one of our young graduates and asked him to accompany her to the next church. The young graduate was happy that he could try to speak English. So he agreed to take her.

Then to my surprise and to the greater surprise of my foreign visitor, the young man asked the young lady, "Do you want to remove your clothes?" She could not believe her ears. The young man repeated the same question. He explained that since we were going out, he would wait for a few minutes, if she wanted to remove her clothes. Suddenly realising what he meant, I interfered and said, "It is okay. This dress is

alright. She does not want to change her clothes." It was not any insinuation or invitation to instant nudity!

79. Fr. H.C. DIRK

A Bishop married a pious lady from a village. The choice was based on her character and not much on education or ability to speak English. Life in a big city was not easy for her. Still she tried to adjust to telegrams and telephones unfamiliar to her in her village life.

One day Fr. H.C. Dirk telephoned the Bishop. Since the Bishop had gone out for a meeting, the lady of the house answered the phone. "What is the message I should convey to the Bishop, when he returns?", asked the lady.

The good Priest said, "Please say Fr. H.C. Dirk called." She was not familiar with that name. "Please spell your name," she requested. The Priest explained, "H for Horse, C for Cat, D for Donkey, I for Indian, R for Rabbit and K for Kite."

When the Bishop returned, he read the note by the telephone in his wife's handwriting. Fr. Horse Cat Donkey Indian Rabbit Kite called."

80. MALAYALAM ENGLISH

Many people from Kerala go to work in the Gulf countries. Some of them are not well educated. They go as unskilled labourers and earn money faster than professors or doctors in Kerala.

One of the Gulf Keralites came home and wanted to get married. Since the leave of absence from duty was limited, he decided to put in an advertisement in the newspaper. To keep the status of a 'foreign-returned', he decided to give the advertisement in English. It read as follows:

"Want a good looking degree holder lady to marry a four figure salary, healthy man, Gulf employed, Permanent N.O.C., owning one big house, Video set, Stereo Record Player, etc."

81. GEORGE TO MARRY ME

When I was studying in New York, I went to Seattle, Washington, for the summer vacations. I had the privilege of preaching in the church of the Rev. Ralph Barber one Sunday. After the Sunday service and a sumptuous lunch, the Pastor took me for a boat ride in lake Washington. The Pastor's wife and daughter accompanied us in the boat.

While we were in the boat, the Pastor's daughter Kathy was talking with me. She told me that she was engaged and would be married the following week. After a few minutes of conversation, she turned to her parents and announced, "I will ask George to marry me." She said those words with strong emphasis on the word 'marry'. I was shocked as I did not know whether it was a proposal or not. I wanted to jump into

the lake to avoid embarrassment; but alas, I did not know to swim. I began to wonder why she said what she did, as I had already told the family that I was a celibate Priest. Then only did it dawn on me that what she meant was that she wanted me to marry her to her would-be-husband.

82. RETURN TICKET

In 1961 I was selected by the World Council of Churches to go to England for an academic year for theological studies. I received a letter from Geneva, the Headquarters of the World Council of Churches, stating that they would buy me a return ticket, if my church would not do it for me.

I was worried about purchasing the ticket for making the onward journey to England. My immediate concern was somehow to get there. Hence my father bought me a ticket and sent me to England.

When I reached England I got a letter from Geneva asking me why I had put a financial burden on my father when they had offered to purchase a return ticket for me. I innocently replied that their offer was only for the return journey. My English teachers had never taught me that "return" meant, to and from!

83. LARGE SIZE TOOTHPASTE

When I went to purchase tooth paste in America, the shopkeeper asked what size of tube I required. I replied that I wanted a large size tube of tooth paste. He took a small one and gave it to me.

"Large size" I repeated, "Yes, it is the large size," he replied. "What about the other bigger tube?" I asked, pointing to a bigger tube on his shelf. "Oh that is not large size. That is the extra-large size."

"What about the other still bigger one?," I persisted in my enquiries.

"No, that is the economy size," replied the shopkeeper.

"What about the one next to it?," I again made another enquiry.

"Oh, that is the giant size," replied the owner of the shop.

Finally I learned that the smallest tube was called large size.

84. TELEPHONE REPLY

When I was visiting Duisburg in Germany in 1980 I went to visit a friend. When I reached the railway station, I was disappointed to see that nobody was there to receive me. I telephoned my friend's office soon after 5 p.m. The person who answered the phone replied in German that the office was closed for the day. She said that I could convey a message if I wanted to. The office would be open the next morning. Since the message was in German language, I did not understand the message fully. Nevertheless I understood that the office was closed.

After putting the receiver back, I dialled again hoping that somebody who knows English would pick up the phone. This time also the same female voice greeted me in German. I was so disappointed that I could not explain to the lady on the other side. So I said, "Speak English." The lady refused to acknowledge my request. Only then did I realise that I was listening to a pre-recorded message and not a live person. I realised that there was no use in continuing my "conversation" with a tape player. So desperately I shouted, "Speak English, speak English" and put the phone down. There was no use talking to such pre-recorded messages.

To my great surprise, during my visit to that office the next day, a lady came and asked me, "Are you the man who shouted, "Speak English," yesterday?"

"How do you know? There was nobody in the telephone booth when I said that," said I. "No, our tape has recorded your words." She explained that they had advanced their technology more than what I was familiar with in America 12 years ago while studying there. Now the taped message is followed by blank spaces where the message of the person who calls is recorded.

I'm glad I did not express my deep despair in harsh words the previous evening. In that case it would have been fully recorded.

85. NO LANGUAGE PROBLEM

One Bishop went to Africa to visit the churches and mission fields. When he came back, his secretary asked him whether he had any difficulty with the language.

He replied that he had no language problem whatsoever. Only the local people had some problems as they did not know English.

86. WRITING OF CHRISTOPHER COLOMBO

Samuel Clements, the American humorist known as "Mark Twain," writes about a "Roman Guide." The Guides usually do not know enough English. Still they try to explain a lot of things from history with minute details. Mark Twain was in Genoa, Italy with other Americans, including a doctor, "who can keep his countenance and look more like an inspired idiot, and throw more imbecility into the tone of his voice than any man that lives."

A guide approached them saying, "Come, wise men! Gentlemen, Come! I show you the letter writing by Christopher Colombo! Write it himself! Write it with his own hand! Come!" After taking the party to the Municipal palace, the Guide showed a parchment and boasted, "What I tell you, gentleman? Is it not so? See! Handwriting Christopher Colombo! Write it himself!"

The doctor asked the Guide, "Ah Ferguson. What did you say was the name of the party who wrote this?"

"Christopher Colombo! Ze great Christopher Colombo!"

"Ah, did he write it himself or-or how?'

"He write it himself, Christopher Colombo! His own handwriting, write by himself!"

The doctor looking at the handwriting remarked: "Why, I have seen boys in America only fourteen years old that could write better than that."

"But zis is ze great Christo-"

"I don't care who it is! It's the worst writing I ever saw. Now you must not think you can impose on us because we are strangers. We are not fools, by a good deal. If you have got any specimens of penmanship of real merit, trot them out! And if you haven't, drive on."

All of us, who have had some experience with Guides in foreign countries, will understand the humour of Mark Twain.

MARRIAGE

87. MARRIED BY BISHOP

A Bishop went to visit a Hollywood actress. He told the receptionist that he wanted to meet the actress because he had married her 25 years ago and it was the Silver Jubilee day of that event. When the receptionist reported the matter to her boss, the much married actress, after thinking for some time, replied: "Certainly I had 25 husbands during the last 25 years. But I do not remember a Bishop among them."

88. JOHN 4:18

A Bishop was too busy to attend a wedding reception. So he decided to send the newly weds a verse from the Bible telegraphically. The verse read as follows: "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love." Instead of sending the verse, he wired only the reference to this verse as 1 John 4:18.

When the telegram reached during the reception, the proud bridegroom asked the bride to take the Bible and read this verse out aloud so that the guests might get the benefit of the wisdom of the Bishop, who was kind enough to send the message. The bride, however, who was not very familiar with the Bible, opened the holy book and read John 4:18, instead of 1 John 4:18, as the Gospel of St. John was more familiar to her than his 1st Epistle.

She read out to the guests John 4:18 which are the words Jesus said to the Samaritan woman, "For you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband: in that you spoke truly."

89. "ARE YOU MARRIED?"

A Cabinet Minister was not able to speak English. But he was always invited for public receptions by foreign diplomats. A well-wisher taught him to ask the ambassadors, "What is your name?" "Are you married?" "How many children have you?" The Cabinet Minister learned all the three questions correctly. He met an ambassador at a reception and asked his name. Then he asked his second question, "Are you married?' The ambassador replied, "No." Then he asked the third question: "How many children have you?"

His secretary apologised and led the minister to the next ambassador who was married. But the minister asked the last question first: "How many children have you?" The ambassador replied: "Four." Then he asked his second question. "Are you married?"

90. LOOK WHAT I GOT

A Bishop went to visit a newly married couple, who had purchased an old building with the money which the bridegroom's mother had given the couple as a wedding gift. When the Bishop's car arrived, the wife was decorating the bedroom with wall paper.

She went to open the front door. The husband, who was working in garden clothes, dashed to the bed room through the back door. After opening the front door, the wife invited the Bishop to see the old bedroom she was decorating.

91. IT IS GOOD TO PAY RESPECT

A man, who was very fond of playing badminton, went for his regular evening game. A funeral procession passed near that place. Then the man took off his cap and put his bat on the ground. When his partner asked why he showed such unusual respect that day, he replied, "It is good to pay some respect. After all, she was my ex-wife."

92. VALIDITY OF ORDINATION

Roman Catholic Bishop Fulton Sheen, was travelling with a Priest of the Protestant Episcopal church in America. On their way from New York to Boston by train, Bishop Sheen began to discuss with the Episcopal Priest, the validity of the ordination of the priesthood in the Anglican tradition. The other travellers were listening too.

When the Priest of the Episcopal church was getting off the train, he concluded, "Bishop Sheen, you have to admit that whatever you can do as a Priest, I can also do." Bishop Sheen replied that what he said was not completely correct. "Why?', questioned the clergyman. The Bishop calmly replied, "I can kiss your wife. But you can never kiss my wife."

93. WHY DID YOU HAVE TO DIE?

A Bishop went to the cemetery to conduct the ceremonies for all the departed people of his church on All Souls Day one November. While he was praying, his attention was captured by a man who was lamenting with a loud voice standing near the tomb of a man. The kind old Bishop decided to comfort him. So he moved closer to the lamenting layman. He was crying asking the dead man in the tomb, buried a few months ago, "Why did you have to die?" The unmarried Bishop took the hint that this man must be crying for a very dearly beloved relative.

The Bishop asked, "Was this man in the tomb your father?" "No," said he and repeated, "Why did you have to die?" The Bishop asked, "Was it your dear son?" "No, Sir," and he repeated, "Why did you have to die?" "Who was it, a close friend?", queried the Bishop. "No, Sir," he repeated, "Why did you have to die?"

The perplexed Bishop asked, "Was he known to you at all?" "No," replied the crying man repeating, "Why did you have to die?" Having lost his patience as well as compassion, the Bishop demanded to know, "Who was he then?" The crying man replied, "My wife's first husband."

94. HUSBAND TO REDUCE WEIGHT

A fat plump lady tried all kinds of tricks to reduce her weight. She did exercise. She was on diet. She took some medicines. But nothing worked.

When she got married, she had a lot of arguments with her husband. So she went to her parents and told her mother that her husband was a big problem and that she was losing sleep and weight.

The kind mother asked her to stay with her for a few months for a change before she returned to her husband. "No," said she, "I will stay with him until I reduce to 120 pounds and then I will divorce him. At present, I cannot find any other remedy to reduce my weight which I have been trying to do for twenty years!"

95. WIFE'S FUNERAL

Three ladies died in three months. Mr. Jones attended these funerals with his wife. When a fourth lady died in the neighbourhood, Mrs. Jones asked her husband to accompany her to the funeral. Mr. Jones found some lame excuse and did not participate in the funeral.

When the Bishop came to visit that church, Mrs. Jones complained to the Bishop saying that her husband was an unkind person. She mentioned his absence at the recent funeral. The husband said, "Bishop, I have attended funerals of the wives of my 3 friends. I feel it is not appropriate that I attend more funerals without giving my friends the chance to reciprocate."

96. NEXT CHILD'S BAPTISM

Most of the men working in Gulf countries from Kerala leave their wives in Kerala. They work hard, earn enough money and visit their families once a year or once in 2 years.

Once a wife wrote to her husband that their first child was born and she wanted him to come to Kerala for the baptism of the child. The "Gulf husband" replied, "I have no leave for 2 years. I shall come for the baptism of our second child after 2 years. Please let me know as soon as he is born."

97. SEPARATE HONEYMOONS

One girl grew up as an independent type. She was the only child of her parents. Hence she managed to lead her life as per her own whims and fancies.

During her wedding reception, an argument broke out between the bride and the bridegroom. The bridegroom wanted to go to Chennai for their honeymoon. The bride insisted on going to London for the honeymoon. The old celibate Bishop got up and told them not to start a quarrel between them even before the wedding reception was over. He suggested that the boy could have his honeymoon in Chennai as per his desire and the girl could have her honeymoon in London, as per her insistence.

98. LOOK AT MY RING

(Late) Cardinal Valerian Gracias, the first Indian Cardinal, said this story soon after the consecration of Bishop Sebastian Mankuzhikari in Cochin, Kerala. He invited the new Bishop's parents to come to the platform to be seated with him during the public reception that followed.

To justify his action, he narrated the story of a Bishop who went to his parents soon after his consecration and showed them his beautiful ring. The mother looked at the Episcopal ring of her son. She showed him a small and old ring which was on her finger and said, "Son, if your father did not put this old ring on my hand you would not be in this world to wear that beautiful ring on your hand."

MEMORY

99. FORGOT WHERE I WAS GOING

An old Bishop, who depended very much on his efficient office secretary, was travelling by train from one town to another on official duty. The ticket examiner came and asked the Bishop where he was going. The embarrassed Bishop checked his pocket and realised that his ticket was with his secretary and he did not know where he was travelling.

The ticket examiner said, "Bishop, don't worry about your ticket too much; I will issue another ticket. But please tell me where you want to go." The Bishop told the ticket examiner to wait until the train stops at the next station. Then he would call his office and find out from his secretary where he was supposed to be going.

100. SERMON AS DETECTIVE

After a Sunday sermon, one of the members in the congregation could not find his umbrella. He complained to the Pastor that somebody in that church had stolen his umbrella. The Pastor stated that he could preach a sermon on Ten Commandments the following Sunday and perhaps find out a clue to his missing umbrella. When he uttered the words "Thou shalt not steal," he looked around and could not find any guilt on the face of anybody in the church. Then he came to the commandment "Thou shalt not commit adultery." The man, who had complained, instantly remembered where he had forgotten his umbrella and immediately rushed out of the church.

(MIS)COMMUNICATION

101. LADY BITTEN BY MAD DOG

A rich lady was bitten by a mad dog. As death was certain in those days before Pasteur, the lawyer was called in to write her will. The lawyer passed a piece of paper to the lady to write down the names of the persons she wanted her property to go to. As she was writing a lot of names such as her neighbours, relatives, school mates etc, the lawyer asked the lady why she wanted to give her money to so many people.

She replied: "Money? To these people? I want to write down the names of the people whom I want to bite when I am affected by the poison. I want to bite everybody so that they should bark like dogs and die. I do not want to miss anybody whom I hate!"

102. NO SODA

One new Bishop went to visit an old friend. The master of the house was away. The wife asked the Bishop whether he would like some coffee. He replied that he does not care for coffee. "What about tea?", she queried. He said he had 2 cups of tea already and therefore he did not need tea then.

"Then what about some wine?", ventured the lady. The Bishop replied: "No, thank you." Then she thought he preferred something stronger and asked, "What about whisky and soda?" The nervous Bishop blurted out, "No soda please."

103. ONLY 39 ARTICLES

An Anglican Bishop went to visit his missionaries working abroad. He was given a wonderful reception and many gifts in several mission-stations. When he returned to England, he had heavy baggage with several pieces of luggage.

At the airport in London, the customs officer saw the baggage and asked the Anglican Bishop how many articles he had. He replied, "My young man, you ask me how many articles. Not one less and not one more than 39 articles!"

N.B. The Anglicans firmly believe in 39 articles of faith.

104. FATHER MOTHER

There are several stories connected with telegrams. This is one that actually happened. There was a boy who was not well versed in English. His father was a Pastor. When the Pastor's mother passed away, he asked his son to inform the family of the Pastor's wife about

the death. The boy sent a telegram: "Father Mother died." When the relatives of the boy's mother rushed to his home, thinking that the boy's father and mother died in some accident, they were met by the boy's mother first. Finally it came out that his 'Father Mother' was his father's mother.

105. M.A. PASSED

When a young man passed his M.A. examination, his mother told him to send a telegram to his elder sister who was married and staying with her husband in a village 300 miles away. The boy was very excited about his passing the M.A. exam and sent a telegram to his sister stating "M.A. passed."

When the joyful telegram reached his less educated sister, she read it, "MA passed." She thought her mother, whom she calls MA, passed away. She called a taxi in the middle of the night and reached her home early morning. The mother opened the door for the crying girl.

106. CLERGY IN RETREAT

Since every Bishop has a large geographical area for his Episcopal supervision, it is not always easy to visit each church under his supervision every year. Whenever he visited a rural parish, it was big news in the local newspapers. When a Bishop arrived in Province Wellesley in Malaysia, the headlines of the newspapers read: "Bishop Arrives Clergy in Retreat."

107. OMIT ADULTERY

A Pastor taught a convert the Ten Commandments. He told the new convert that it was necessary for all Christians to obey the Ten Commandments. In order to make sure that the new convert understood all the Commandments correctly, the Pastor asked him to recite at least two of them. In all sincerity, he recited two of them as follows:

"Thou shalt humour thy father and thy mother."

"Thou shalt not omit adultery."

108. TURN OFF THE GAS

A young housewife forgot to turn off the gas of the oven, where she had kept chicken to be roasted, when she went for Sunday worship. She remembered it just before the collection time. Her husband was an usher who comes with the collection plate. She wrote a note to him and placed it on the collection plate hoping that he would take it and read it before he handed the plate over to the Pastor.

As usual, he handed the collection plate to the Pastor to bless. The Pastor took the note from the plate thinking that it was some urgent message for him. It read, "Please go home and turn off the gas."

109. TO BE FOUND HANGING

There was a dispute in a church. A Pastor was appointed to the church by the Bishop, but he was not accepted by one group in that church. The old Pastor did not move out of the church either. After a lot of consultation, both pastors decided to stay on in the church. The services would be conducted by one of them according to the convenience of the pastors.

The members of the church wanted to know which Pastor would be preaching the following Sunday and wanted this to be announced and notified on the church notice board the previous Sunday.

The old Pastor announced, "In future, the preacher for the following week will be found hanging on the notice board in front of the church."

110. WRITE THE CHEQUE

When a village Pastor was appointed to a city church, he was asked to open a bank account. The Bishop told him that he could deposit his savings in the bank and withdraw money at the time of need by writing cheques.

When the Priest went to the bank to open the account depositing Rs. 10, he was given a cheque book. He asked the Bank Manager what he was supposed to do with the cheque book. The Manager explained to him that he had to write the amount he required in the leaf and put the date and signature and the name of the person to whom he wants to give money. The Pastor asked the Manager what the maximum amount he could draw at one time was. The Manager informed that the Pastor could draw up to Rs. 10,000 in one single cheque.

After one week the Pastor wrote ten cheques of Rs. 10,000 each in the name of his friends and relatives. When the bank got these cheques from the different people, the manager called the Pastor and asked him why he was writing cheques without depositing money.

The Pastor said, "You personally gave me the cheque book. You did not tell me to stop issuing cheques. If you did not want me to write more cheques, you should claim the cheque book back from me."

111. BEHIND YOU

During a debate in the U.S. Senate, President John Kennedy was making a speech. His brother Senator Robert Kennedy did not agree fully with the views expressed by his brother.

While the speech was going on, Senator Robert Kennedy passed on a note to him stating, "I am behind you, brother. Way, way behind."

112.BISHOP'S CAR RUNS ON WATER

There was a dispute in a village parish concerning the travel money to be paid to the Bishop after his first official visit. The trustee began to

calculate the expense of petrol. He said that they have to pay Rs. 100.

"That is too much," said another member. "Moreover the Bishop does not use petrol for his car. You see, it is a foreign car. It runs without petrol. It is enough to pour water in the engine,"

"Foolish idea," said the Pastor. "No car will run on water. You have to put petrol or diesel."

"Yes, I have evidence in my hand. I shall bring witnesses whom the driver of the Bishop's car approached this morning for a bucket of water. He said that it was to pour water into the engine of the Bishop's car."

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

113.MY LORD, YOUR LAD

A new servant in a Bishop's House was a nervous man. So his master taught him to say to any visiting Bishop, "My Lord, your lad." He learnt it well and said it correctly when a Bishop came next week. But the following week a pompous Bishop came. Seeing a new servant in the Bishop's House, he asked, "Who are you?" The man replied, "Your Lord, my lad."

114.NOT HIS MOTHER, BUT HIS FATHER

A visiting Bishop went to see the United Nations headquarters in New York. As he was waiting in queue, he saw a young person in front of him. He was surprised to see such a person. With his long hair, the person looked like a girl, but his face was like that of a boy with mustache. He asked the old lady, who was standing behind him in the queue. "Excuse me, is that a boy or a girl?"

The old person responded, "It is a boy."

"Are you sure? With his long hair, he looks like a girl."

The lady affirmed, "I am sure he is a boy because he is my son."

The Bishop apologised. "Sorry Madam, I did not know you are his mother."

On the top of his voice, the long haired old "lady" replied: "I am not his mother, I am his father."

115. PRESIDENT HAS A BEARD

When I was preaching to a women's group in the USA, one lady asked me why I was growing a beard. It was in 1966, when hippies were growing beards in the USA. She said, "If you grow a beard like these hippies, how can we respect you?" I told her that beard was respectable in India. To prove my claim, I stated that our President has a beard. The women were shocked and got agitated.

They asked, "Are we talking about the same person?" I laughed and said, "Mrs Gandhi is not our President. She is our Prime Minister. President is Mr. Zakir Hussain."

116. NOT DADDY, BUT PADDY

A boy named Johny had a pet dog called Paddy. Johny used to play with Paddy as soon as he returned from school every afternoon. One day when Johny was at school, Paddy began to walk in the street in front of the house. Paddy was suddenly struck down by a car and instantly killed. Johny's mother buried Paddy in the

garden and put there a sign board with the name Paddy written in large letters.

Johny's mother was worried how to break this sad news to Johny when he returned from school. When Johny arrived, mother reluctantly told Johny that his Paddy was killed by a car. Johny did not cry. He took his tea and went to the garden. In the garden he saw the name of Paddy in large letters. He read carefully and understood that his dear Paddy had been killed. He went crying and running to his mother. Mother asked Johny why he did not cry earlier when she told him that Paddy was killed. Then Johny blurted through tears, "I thought you said daddy."

117. I AM THE ARCHBISHOP

A Cabinet Minister in Brazil, during a dance dinner party, noticed a person clad in red silk dress. He requested that person to dance with him. The guest refused the invitation. The disappointed minister asked the guest, "Don't you know that I am the Finance Minister of this country? Then how do you dare to refuse my invitation to dance with me?"

The guest politely replied the drunk minister, "Firstly, the music now being played is the national anthem; secondly, I do not know to dance; thirdly, I am the Archbishop of Brazil."

118. THIS IS OUR BISHOP

There was a blind man in a village who had the special gift of identifying the persons of his village by touching the face of the persons. Several people tested his ability and found it to be fantastic. A bearded Bishop in town was told by his servant of the special gift of the blind man. The bearded Bishop doubted the story. The Bishop asked his servant whether this blind man could identify animals also by touching the face. The servant said "Yes."

On an appointed day, the obedient servant of the Bishop brought the blind man to the Bishop's house. The Bishop arranged his servant to bring his pet goat in front of the blind person and to ask him whose face it was. The blind man touched the face of the bearded goat and said, "This is the Bishop."

119. BEARDED HUSBAND

A bearded Priest married a lady who had seen him for some years. After some years of marriage, the Priest decided to quit the church in order to make money. After he had secured a good secular job, the boss asked him to shave off his beard before he reported for duty. After his shave in a barber shop, he went home to tell his wife about the new job he had got. When he reached the front door of his house, his wife asked him, 'What do you want?"

He answered coolly that he just wanted to enter the house.

She asked the second question, "What is your name?" When he told his name, she said to the stranger, "Don't fool me. I know my husband. He never looked like you. I have seen him for the past ten years."

The poor man had to go out and put on an artificial beard to get entrance to his home.

120.NO LADY, YOU HAVE TO GO TO THE OTHER SIDE

A Mar Thoma Bishop said the following story (I keep his identity a secret as I am not sure whether it actually happened or he said it just to outwit me!)

It happened in London airport. He was travelling with a coloured cassock; the Bishops in the West Syrian tradition (such as Orthodox, Jacobite, Mar Thoma etc.) wear a head gear called Masnapsa. It looks like the head veil of a Catholic nun except that the Bishop's head dress has several crosses on it. Viewed from behind, a Bishop dressed in this manner appears to be a Roman Catholic nun.

During his transit in the airport he wanted to go to the wash room. Men and women have separate wash rooms.

As the Bishop was going to the men's room, an airhostess from behind called out, "You have to go to the other side," pointing in another direction. The Bishop turned back to the hostess. As she saw the face of this "nun," she was shocked to see the beard!

121. BOY, GIRL, NO! BOY, GIRL

When I was studying in Princeton, USA, I went shopping one day. A mother came along with her child of 2 years of age. Whether the child was boy or girl, I do not know. Anyway the child was left in one corner inside the shop where I was trying to select items for my purchase. The child's mother went to the other rows in the shop.

After carefully and quietly observing me for a while, the child shouted: "Mummy, look! A boy, no, a girl, no, a boy, a girl." The mother who came running to the side of her child saw me and apologised. The child was sure that I was a girl on seeing my long cassock which looked like a lady's dress. Then the boy's eyes would go to my beard and say that I was a boy. What a dilemma!

122.ARE YOU IDI AMIN?

In June 1977 I was visiting Germany. When I went to the Wurzburg railway station, some people gathered around me. That was the time the British Commonwealth Prime Minister's meeting was being held in London. President Idi Amin had flown from Africa to London. The television news the previous night was that Idi Amin would not be permitted to land in London owing to the atrocities he was committing in

his own country. The news commentator suggested that since he was already nearing London, he might land in Germany.

The curiosity of the people in Wurzburg increased as they saw the bearded face of a somewhat fat man, weighing about 182 lbs, dressed in black gown. They asked me, "Are you the President?" Since I had no idea about the television news, I asked them, "What President?"

Wondering whether they were students of church history, I said: "I am the president of the Church History Association of India."

Without wasting more time, one asked, "Are you President Idi Amin?" I could not but laugh hearing that question. I said, "I am not Idi Amin. I am small; Amin is very very big fat man." They laughed and dispersed.

123. GURU FROM INDIA?

During my studies in New York in 1966 I heard about hippies. They were just new then. Some of my American friends asked whether I had seen hippies. When I replied in the negative, they advised me to go to Greenwich village in New York and see them.

On one Sunday afternoon I reached there. The hippies were a happy group of people singing, playing guitars and shouting "Banana, banana." It was amusing to see a lot of bearded people around there, though it is a sad sight, if you pause to think for a moment about the predicament of these youngsters.

As I stood in their midst, involved in deep meditation on their condition, some hippies came and asked: "Welcome, are you the great guru coming from India to stay with us?"

When I told them that I am a Christian Priest, they said, "We are sorry, we thought that you are a guru, because of your beard."

PERSPECTIVE

124. CANED EVERY MAN IN TOWN

Miss Wilson, an old lady who taught in the Sunday school for 50 years, was retiring when she was 75 years old. The Pastor arranged a farewell for Miss Wilson in the parish hall. All her former students in that town were invited. When the meeting was over, it was almost mid-night.

The Pastor promised to walk her home, as he felt it was not safe for a lady to walk alone in the night. She insisted that she did not need anybody's help to go home. The Pastor asked, "Miss Wilson, are you not afraid to walk alone so late in the night?"

"Whom should I be afraid of?," asked the 75-year old. "I have caned every man in this town during the past 50 years, right in this Sunday School!"

125. THANK GOD, IT IS A GIRL

A young Priest was waiting in the hospital for a long time to hear the news of the birth of his first baby. After a long wait, the nurse came outside and told the Priest, "It is a girl." Then relieved, the Priest responded by saying, "Thank God, it is a girl. She will not have to wait outside like me and undergo the agonies I had to undergo for the past two hours."

126. YOU CREATE THE PROBLEMS

Dr. E. Stanley Jones, the world famous evangelist, talked to the students when we were studying in Jabalpur. He gave very valuable advice to us.

"You are going home with a lot of answers in your pocket. You have learned many theories. You look for the problem situations so that you can apply your remedies," said he. "When you do not find enough problems, you create problems in order to get a chance to try your knowledge in your new areas of activities," explained Dr. Stanley Jones.

How true!

PREACHING

127. WIFE'S FALSE TEETH

The new Priest preached a 15-minute sermon on his first Sunday in that parish. People began to murmur. They were used to 20-minute sermons. The next Sunday, the same preacher concluded his sermon after 10 minutes. They began to wonder about such a reduction. But the third Sunday he preached for one hour. A good old lady of the church went to the Pastor and asked the reason why the sermon was so long.

The Pastor explained, "The reason is so simple. The first Sunday I had a toothache. So I concluded in 15 minutes. The second Sunday I had taken out all my teeth. So I could speak only 10 minutes. Today I would have preached the regular 20-minutes sermon. But, as I was in a hurry to come, by mistake, I put my wife's false teeth in my mouth. That is the reason why the sermon was so long."

128.BISHOP'S SERMON

When a Bishop preached in a church, a woman asked her husband how he liked the Bishop's sermon. He replied: "I like our Priest's better." "Why is that?," she demanded to know.

"It is the words they use," said the husband. "Our Priest says, "In conclusion," and then he concludes. The Bishop says, "Lastly," and he lasts."

129.SERMON NOTES EATEN BY DOG

A Pastor preached a short sermon on a Sunday. He used to preach for half an hour every Sunday. But that Sunday, he did it in 10 minutes. He explained to the confused congregation that some of his sermon notes for that day were eaten by his pet dog. That was the reason why the sermon was short.

After the sermon, he went to the vestry to hear appreciation of the sermon from his congregation as usual. But nobody came, except one man. So the Pastor called him and asked whether he came to express his appreciation of the sermon. "No sir," replied the newcomer. He said he had come to enquire whether that dog had a puppy. Because his Pastor also had the habit of preaching long sermons and he wanted to present that puppy to his Pastor.

130.BISHOP WILL PREACH

When agitations were going on among the school students in Kerala, one day a large number of students gathered around the Bishop's residence near the school. The police came and tried to

disperse the students with a lathi charge. But the students would not leave the place.

The Sub-collector, who knew the Bishop, went inside the Bishop's House and asked his advice on how to disperse the crowd, without resorting to bloodshed and violence. The Bishop, who is known for his quick wits, told him, "It is a simple thing. You do not need any police to disperse this crowd of students. You just go to the students and announce to them that within five minutes, the Bishop will come to preach to them."

When the announcement was heard, the students ran home, leaving many slippers and books scattered about.

131.THE PREACHER AS INTERPRETER

In Kerala there was some special respect and great demand for English preachers. So, when English preachers were not available, the local preachers used to speak in English and get a friend to interpret their message into their mother tongue, Malayalam. Some preachers, who could not preach in English, spoke in Malayalam and asked their friends to repeat the same in Malayalam.

Once a preacher who could speak in English could not find a friend to interpret his speech into their mother tongue. Although he could have preached in Malayalam, he thought that the people would not be attracted to him if he preached in Malayalam. So he preached in English. But, after every sentence, he moved to his right by about one metre and he himself interpreted it into Malayalam.

132. "IN CONCLUSION" OR "LASTLY"

There was a Bishop who used to preach long sermons. Worshippers used to get up during his sermons and walk out. Occasionally he repeated the words "In conclusion" and "lastly" but went on for many more minutes.

One day some people of the church went to the Bishop and said that they would wait only for half an hour once the sermon began. They threatened to get out of the church if he exceeded half an hour. The next Sunday the Bishop started his speech at 6 p.m. At 6.30 p.m. the people got up from their benches and started walking out. Looking at his watch and counting the number of pages remaining in the manuscript of his prepared sermon, the Bishop told his church members, "Please wait for two minutes more, I will finish my sermon at 7 p.m.!"

133.NOT THE WHOLE DAMN LOAD

A Priest sent one of his new assistant priests to lead the Sunday morning worship in a village chapel. The young assistant was disappointed to find that only one old farmer had arrived in the church.

After waiting for half an hour, he asked the farmer whether the service should be cancelled. The old man replied, "I am a farmer, Pastor. When I carry a load of hay to feed my four bullocks and find that only one shows up, I will feed that one cattle. I will not refuse to feed that one bullock stating that I will feed only if all my four bullocks show up at the same time."

Encouraged by the wisdom of the old farmer, the young Priest started his service. He delivered his full length sermon at the top of his voice, as if the church hall was filled to the full capacity.

After the whole service was over, which lasted 2 hours, he asked the farmer what he thought of the service and the sermon. "Well, Pastor, when I carry hay to feed my four bullocks, and if only one shows up, I don't give him the whole damn load."

134. MAKE IT ONE THIRD

All the priests of a church used to preach long sermons during the communion service. People complained to the Bishop, who used to conclude his sermon exactly in 15 minutes.

The Bishop called the Clergy Council and enquired from them how many minutes each Priest preached. He came to know that most of them preached 45 minutes each. He told them that he preached only 15 minutes each time. They should learn how to reduce their sermons into one third the length of their present sermons. The Bishop promised his priests that he would teach them how to do this.

He gave them a paragraph from Church History and asked them to reduce it to one third of its length. The first sentence read: "In the year A.D 363, three Bishops, 60 clergy and 30,000 faithful were murdered by the three Generals of the Persian Emperor." The priests obeyed the Bishop's order and reduced it to one third its size as follows:

"In the year A.D 121, one Bishop, 20 clergy and 10,000 faithful were murdered by one General of the Persian Emperor."

PRINTER'S DEVIL

135. AMERICA FOR ARMENIA

When I wrote the book *The Nestorian Missions*, I had written: "In the codification of canon law made in 1291 A.D. by Mar Abdishod, Metropolitan of Suva, we find the Metropolitan of the Turks placed tenth in the list of the Metropolitans, taking precedence over China, Armenia and others." (P.85) When the book was printed, I saw to my surprise that the word Armenia was printed as America. The great Christopher Columbus, who discovered America in 1492 by mistake, taking it to be India, would be shocked to learn that there was a Bishop in America already in the 13th Century.

136. BURNED OR BURIED

In my book *America Revisited* it was written, "I ran through the places of tourist interest in Washington such as Arlington Cemetery where President Kennedy and Senator Kennedy were buried" (P.64). I was disappointed to read what was printed in the book although I had seen the proof sheets. The word 'Buried' is changed into 'Burned'. The change is so small; 'i' is changed into 'n.'

PROOF

137. CHANGING DIRTY SOCKS

A Cabinet Minister used to go to public receptions wearing nasty smelling socks. The Prime Minister told his Cabinet colleague that he should not wear dirty smelling socks any more. But during the next reception, the Prime Minister sensed the dirty smell of his socks.

He asked the Minister, "Mr. Singh, didn't I tell you to change your socks?" "Yes sir, I changed it. As its proof I have brought the dirty socks with me." Taking it from his pocket, he showed it to the Prime Minister.

138. NOT SIGNS, BUT WITNESSES

A Pastor came to a Bishop and complained that his Assistant Pastor got angry and pulled his beard and tore his cassock in the presence of many people. The Bishop was shocked to hear about the conduct of the young Assistant Pastor.

"When did it happen?", queried the Bishop. The complaining Pastor replied, "It happened just now."

"I do not find any sign of violence done to you and your cassock is not torn," observed the Bishop. "I do not care for any sign of violence on my face or on my cassock. I have brought witnesses. Not one, but two people," replied the Pastor.

139. TO MAKE SURE THAT I AM ALIVE

An old man went through the obituary column of the newspaper, the first thing every morning. He would read all the details of all the dead people mentioned in the daily newspaper. One day, his wife asked him. "Why do you go through the obituary everyday?" He replied, "I want to make sure that I am alive before I take the trouble of eating my breakfast."

140. WHO IS OLDER

An American and an Englishman were arguing about their achievements in antiquity. The Englishman said, "Our archaeology department was digging in one place in England. When they went 1000 ft deep, they found telephone parts. Way back we had invented the telephone for communication."

The American said, "Our archaeology department was digging 2000 ft deep in New York. It reached very deep and found out about very ancient times." The Englishman said, "Okay, now what did they find 2000 ft below sea level?"

The American replied that they found nothing at 2000 ft depth. "What does it prove?," queried the Englishman. The American replied in a triumphant tone, "You see, we found no telephone parts, so it proves that we were using wireless at that time!"

141. KEEPING ELEPHANTS AWAY

There was a hippie standing in an important place in Los Angeles, California. He was whistling and signalling with his hand. A Bishop watched him for a few minutes and asked him what he was doing. The hippie replied, "Don't you know, I am keeping the elephants away."

"Elephants?," quipped the surprised Bishop. "I do not find any elephant in Los Angeles." "Is it so?," asked the happy hippie. "That proves that my whistling has already started working. You see no elephant, because I keep them away."

142. NEVER RETURNED BORROWED BOOKS

When a church decided to make a library, they consulted some knowledgeable people regarding the rules and regulations applicable to such a library. One experienced clergyman gave the young Priest responsible for the work many valuable pieces of advice regarding the manner of selection of books, preserving the catalogue, etc.

"Most important advice I want to give you," said the wise man, "is to ask you to make it only a reading room. Don't allow a single book to be taken out of the room. Our people have a very bad habit of never returning the books they borrow. It is a pity our people never return the books they borrow," continued the old Priest. He pointed out to the young Priest, "Look how many books I have got in my room. All these books I have borrowed from different libraries. I could not return them in time. Hence they are still with me!"

143. BEATING THE FAILED SON

Mrs. Thomas asked her son whether he passed in his exam. The boy replied that he failed in his exam. The mother did not say anything. Perhaps she had anticipated that the boy would fail.

After one hour her neighbour's daughter visited them. She was the classmate of the son of Mrs. Thomas. Therefore Mrs. Thomas asked the girl whether she passed the exam. She proudly replied that she passed with first class marks.

Mrs. Thomas immediately ran upstairs and pulled her son down and began to beat him. "Why are you beating me now?," asked the crying boy. "I told you earlier that I failed and you said nothing." The mother did not reply. But it was obvious that she could forgive the failure of her son; but she could not tolerate the success of her neighbour's daughter.

REPUTATION

144. BISHOP'S ESTIMATE

A Bishop was complaining to a Trustee about inflation. He said, if everything has gone up, I cannot balance the budget. The Trustee confronted the Bishop saying that there were three things that had not gone up.

"What are they?," asked the Bishop.

The Trustee calmly replied, "1. My estimate of you. 2. Your estimate of me. 3. People's estimate of both of us."

145. CROOKED PERSON

When a Deacon becomes a Priest, he wears his stole straight instead of crooked. Somebody remarked, "When the stole is crooked, the deacon is straight. But when the stole becomes straight, the person becomes crooked."

146. GOLDEN BISHOPS

Savanorala, the reformer, stated: "In the olden days we had golden Bishops with wooden chalices. But now we have golden chalices, but wooden Bishops."

147. BODY OF YOUR FATHER OR NOT

When a rich drunkard died, the Bishop was brought in for the funeral. The body had already been placed inside the coffin and covered. The widow was sitting near the coffin and crying. The Bishop began the funeral oration and spoke about the good qualities of the dear departed soul. As he went on praising the dead man for his good qualities, his wife whispered to his son, "Please lift the lid of the coffin to see whether it is the body of your father or not."

148.FAMILY SERVED ENOUGH

A church council was held to elect a Bishop in a Protestant church, where Bishops are allowed to marry. As names were proposed, one Rev. John stood up to speak for his fellow Priest, who was the son of a previous Bishop. When the new name was proposed, the Moderator, who was presiding over the meeting, asked the Rev. John why he proposed his friend.

The Rev. John replied that his friend was the son of a Bishop. His grandfather was an archdeacon. His great grandfather was also a prominent clergyman of the diocese. In fact, for five generations this family has supplied leaders for the church.

The Moderator queried: "Don't you think that the family has served enough and opportunity should be given to the members of other families too?"

149. BURIED IN WRONG HOLES

A Bishop visited a church where he was once Priest. During the ten years when he was away from the church, several prominent persons had died and were buried. He went to the cemetery to visit the tombs of his old friends.

He remarked that either some of those people who wrote the words were terrible liars, or those dead men were put in the wrong holes.

150. LIVE ONE MORE DAY

Attending the funeral of a friend, Dr. Joseph heard the fine words spoken about the departed soul. Then he said, "I wish to live one more day after my funeral so that I can myself hear such nice words spoken about me by the Priest and other people. Then I can order my wife to revise her opinion of me."

151.MY SEAT WILL BE LOST

A Bishop from Kerala entered heaven, just behind two Bishops, one from England and one from America. When Jesus Christ saw the white Bishops, He got up from His seat, shook hands with them and congratulated them. When the Kerala Bishop approached Jesus, He sat in His seat and just nodded welcome.

The bearded Bishop imagined that there is racial discrimination in heaven also. Jesus explained the reason for not getting up from His seat. He stated that He got up from His seat without hesitation when others came in. But, in your case, I chose not to get up from My seat because I knew that, if I got up from My seat to shake hands with you, you would occupy My seat.

152. THE COOK'S ESTIMATE

A Bishop asked his cook to prepare dinner for five Pastors who would be visiting him the next day. The Bishop gave some detailed description of the items required for the dinner. The menu was discussed and decided with the cook.

"Are they liberals or evangelicals?", asked the cook. The Bishop was amused to hear that question from his cook. He never anticipated any theological question from his cook. Moreover, the Bishop did not know the background of the visiting clergyman.

"What does it matter to you, if they are liberals or evangelicals?", queried the Bishop.

"The liberals like to drink more while the evangelicals like to eat more," was the candid comment of the cook.

153. OF COURSE, YOUR WIFE, SIR

Dr. C.E Abraham, the first Indian Principal of Serampore College, wanted to convince his illiterate servant about the existence of God. As the boy was uneducated, the Principal knew that it was not easy to convince him about the existence of God by theological, ontological or philosophical arguments.

He decided on an easy method. He asked, "Ramji, who is controlling you?" He replied: "Well, you sir."

With careful thinking, he asked the final question. "Who is controlling this College and the Principal?" "Of course, your wife, sir"

SERMON RESPONSES

154. JESUS FED 5000

The new Pastor came to preach his first sermon. He was nervous. He said, "Friends, Jesus fed five men with 5000 loaves and 2000 fishes." The lady in the front retorted: "So what? I can do that myself." The nervous Pastor did not understand what went wrong in his words. When he went home, his wife explained to him what was wrong in his speech. The next Sunday he began to preach. "Friends, Jesus fed 5000 men with five loaves and two fishes." The same lady again shouted, "What is there to that? I can do that also." The wife of the Pastor asked, "How can you?" The old lady replied, 'Well, with the things left over from the previous week."

155. "THAT IS YOURS"

A Bishop was invited to speak in a Theological Seminary. In the well prepared speech, the Bishop had included many quotations from famous authors and from the Bible. When he read out the first sentence of his speech, one student shouted, "St. Paul", as that quotation was from one of the epistles of St. Paul. After the second sentence, another shouted, "St. Matthew." When he completed the third sentence, someone shouted, "St. Basil."

The interruptions increased after each sentence, as the smart students continued to identify the source of his wise utterances. Then he got angry and shouted, "Shut up."

"That is yours," chorused all the students. And they were correct in identifying the source of that last utterance also.

156. PEACE OF GOD

Once a young foreign-trained theologian was appointed Pastor of a church. One day the Bishop called the church secretary and asked his opinion about the sermons of the new Pastor.

"Well," replied the church secretary, "Our new Pastor's sermon is like the peace of God. It passeth all human understanding."

157. APPLIES TO SOMEBODY OR THE OTHER

A self-righteous man went to his church one day. The Priest was preaching on the Ten Commandments. After the sermon this man went to the Priest and spoke in a loud voice, congratulating him for his very appropriate sermon. He declared, "Each one of the Ten Commandments applies to somebody or the other whom I know."

158. WAKING CONGREGATION

A young Priest requested his Bishop for a transfer. He enquired from the Priest what the reason for his request was, since it was made within one month of his being in the new parish. "Particularly," said the Bishop, "because your parishioners have a good report about you and they would not like you to leave so soon." But the honest Priest insisted that he should be transferred.

He said, "Bishop, I am used to preaching to sleeping congregations only. But in this new parish, all people are wide awake until the end of the sermon and I do not know what to preach to such a congregation with their eyes wide open."

159. SLEEP WALKING

When a Bishop visited a parish and began to preach, everybody in the congregation listened patiently. Nobody moved from his seat. But after ten minutes, one man got up from his seat and walked out. The annoyed Bishop asked the lady who was in the next seat, "What is it? Why did he get up and walk out?" The lady replied, "Don't be angry, my Lord Bishop, my husband has a habit of walking in his sleep."

160. ONE SANE MOMENT

While a famous Bishop was preaching an excellent sermon, one person in the congregation got up and asked, "Do we have to listen to this useless talk?" Taken aback by this unexpected outburst, the Bishop asked the Priest whether he should conclude or proceed. The Priest advised the Bishop to ignore the remark of this mad man. He said, "This mad man has only one sane moment and that too only once during the church service."

161. VERY INSTRUCTIVE SERMON

A young Priest was appointed to a rural church. He was of the opinion that sermons in church should deal with various aspects of human life. When he preached about sinners, he gave a lot of details of sins and sinners.

One day the young Priest asked the lady secretary of the Youth Committee what she thought of his sermons. She said, "Your sermons are very practical. It is instructive and very informative. Many of our parishioners did not know what sin was until you arrived in this town."

162. FORBIDDEN FRUIT

A preacher was explaining the story of Adam and Eve from the book of Genesis. He told his congregation about the "Forbidden fruit" which Eve persuaded Adam to eat. He explained the consequence of the act of disobedience of Adam and Eve.

Before proceeding further he asked his attentive congregation, "What was the forbidden fruit responsible for?"

"A pretty bad jam," was an instant reply from one corner of the church.

163. COMMIT THE SIN FIRST

A Bishop, who is a good theologian, was invited to speak to a village parish. His topic was "sin." He gave a lot of explanation on the forgiveness of sins. He wanted to test the comprehension capacity of his congregation and asked, "What must we do before we can expect forgiveness of sins?' An elderly lady stood up and replied, "We must commit the sin first."

164. IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

A saintly Bishop went to speak in a modern city church. Since it was St. Mary's Day the Bishop spoke about the Immaculate Conception of Virgin Mary. He gave several theological arguments in favour of this dogma. A teenage girl, who got completely confused about this concept, asked her mother, "What is the advantage of this immaculate conception over the normal thing?"

165. WE ARE NOT GUILTY

When a Bishop visited a city church in a permissive society, he was saddened to hear the stories of sins of the people who worshipped in that church. Burdened by the sin of those people, he decided to challenge them by preaching on the Ten Commandments. He condemned adultery and all similar evils. He exhorted his audience to obey the Ten Commandments. Raising his voice, he concluded his sermon asking, "Is there a person here who has not broken at least one of these ten commandments?" One girl told her lover sitting next to her, "At least we are not guilty of making graven images and worshipping them."

166. IN 1491 - NONE

A Bishop, who was a church historian, was asked to give a lecture in an American church regarding the missionaries working in India. During his well-studied presentation, the Bishop quoted figures of missionary activities for several years in the present century and in previous centuries.

During the question hour, the Bishop wanted to test the comprehension of his audience. He asked them to tell him the number of American missionaries working abroad in any given year. One jumped from his seat and said, "In the year 1491 - none."

Note: Columbus discovered America only in 1492.

167. CONVERTED IN YOUR MEETING

Billly Graham, the world famous evangelist, was travelling in an aeroplane. One passenger got drunk during the flight. The air hostess thought that it would be a bad thing if this traveller created a scene during the flight. She thought that she could persuade this passenger to be quiet.

"Do you know a VIP is travelling in this plane? You have to behave yourself."

"Who?," enquired the drunken passenger.

"Billy Graham," replied the hostess with great respect.

"Is Billy Graham here? You see I was converted in his crusade. I want to shake hands with him," insisted the passenger.

Dr. Billy Graham did not know what to say to such a "convert" in such a "condition."

SMART AND SMARTER

168. DYING THIEF & LIVING THIEF

A Pastor visited a member of his church and asked why he did not pay his monthly contributions to the church. He replied that the dying thief on the cross did not pay money to the church and still Christ offered him Paradise. Then the Pastor asked him to come to attend the church service the following Sunday. The man replied, "Well, Pastor, the dying thief did not attend church services. Still he went to Paradise." The Pastor prayed for a moment for an apt reply and said, "Well young man, on the Cross was a DYING thief, but you are a LIVING thief."

169. QUEUE WILL BE TOO LONG

An old Bishop had to take action against a young rebellious Priest on more than one occasion. One day, after an argument, the old Bishop told his young Priest: "Young man, I know you are waiting to spit on my grave." "No Bishop," proclaimed the Priest, "I am not interested to do that, because the queue will be too long."

170. INSULTING HIM TWICE

A greedy Pastor was invited to conduct the wedding of a couple. After the marriage ceremony, the couple gave the Pastor Rs. 25 as a gift for his services. The greedy Pastor looked at the couple and declared that it was an insult to receive Rs. 25 for a wedding ceremony.

The couple asked the Pastor how much he expected. He said Rs. 25 more would do. When the husband was about to pay another Rs. 25, the bride stopped him saying, "Please don't insult him a second time."

171. THAT WAS THE JOKE

A reader of a leading weekly, sent jokes to the editor for publication. He sent it for 6 weeks continuously and nothing was published. Hence he got angry and wrote a letter to the editor asking why his jokes were not published. Immediately, that letter was published.

The writer got annoyed at the strange behaviour of the editor and wrote him demanding an explanation why his jokes were not published and the letter of enquiry was published. The editor promptly and innocently replied, "I thought your letter of enquiry was the real joke!"

172. EAT ASKING NO QUESTION

Dr. Ida S. Scudder, the famous founder of the Christian Medical College in Vellore, was a very humorous person. Before she joined a

medical school in the USA, she was a student in the Seminary for girls, founded by Dwight L. Moody in Northfield, Massachusetts. Since Dwight L. Moody knew the Scudder family, he admitted the young girl of missionary Scudder to the Seminary.

Although Ida S. Scudder fared well in the Seminary, she began to rebel against the boarding-house diet, which is a perennial problem in almost all hostels. Being Seminary students, they were supposed to make sacrifices. Hence nobody had the courage to revolt against it openly. Ida S. Scudder, during the prayers around the breakfast table one morning, when it came to her turn for a memory verse from the Bible, recited with solemnity 1 Corinthians 10:27, "Whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no question for conscience sake."

She was promptly reprimanded by the Principal for this piety.

173. CATECHISM CLASS

A lady teacher in a Christian college was asking her students how they were learning their catechism lesson for the coming examination.

She asked a male student how far he had got in the Catechism text book.

"I have come to original sin," was the caustic comment of the boy.

"I am way beyond redemption," was the reply of a girl in the same class.

"What are sins of omission?," asked the teacher.

"Those you ought to have committed, but could not," was the innocent reply of another student.

174. A BIG FAN

A village Pastor went to the airport to see off his Bishop who was going on a foreign tour. It was the first time the village Pastor saw an aeroplane. As the aeroplane took off from the ground, the propeller began to rotate fast.

The Pastor had never seen such a big fan in his life. So he asked the driver of the Bishop, "What is the purpose of such a big fan in front of the aircraft?"

The humorous driver replied: "Padre, now this plane is going near the sun. Sun is very hot for us even at such a distance. But the plane reaches near the sun in the sky and the passengers inside the plane will feel very hot. So they need a big fan to cool them off."

175. "REALLY? ALL 12 OF YOU?"

A murderer was acquitted by a jury of 12 members in America. The judge was not able to see any excuse to let this murderer go unpunished. Hence the angry judge demanded of the Chairman of the 12-member jury, "What is your reason for acquitting the accused?"

"Insanity," replied the Chairman of the jury. Sarcastically, the judge remarked, "Really? All the 12 of you?"

176. TURN THE OTHER CHEEK

The (late) Padre Abdul Haqq, father of the evangelist Dr. Akbar Haqq, was a convert from Islam. He used to be a great debater. One day a non-Christian fanatic slapped the left cheek of Padre Haqq. The zealous convert slapped back and the young non-Christian fell to the ground.

His friends questioned Padre Haqq on why he broke the command of Jesus Christ. "Is it not written in your Bible that you should turn your other cheek when somebody strikes you on one cheek?" He challenged, "Where is such a rule written? Show me." They searched for the verse in the Bible and brought it to Padre Haqq. He demanded that it should be read aloud. When it was read, he said, "Look, it is written that if someone strikes you on your right cheek, show him the left also. But, you see, this man slapped me on my left cheek (as most Indians are right handed). If he had slapped on my right cheek, I would have shown him the left one too, as per the command."

177. IDENTIFICATION CHARGE

Once there was a Bishop whose head was bald. Whenever he went to get his face shaved in a barber shop, he used to be charged Rs. 3 as per the status of the Bishop. But the Bishop came to know that the usual charge for a shave was only Rs.2. One day the Bishop asked his barber why he charged one rupee extra from him. The obliging barber replied, "Sir, you know that you are bald headed. So it takes extra time to decide which part is your face and which part is head. So the extra rupee is the identification charge."

178. TOGETHER WE HUNT FOR THE CASH

Although there is a general feeling that Bishops are rich financially, the fact is often contrary. One day a thief decided to steal the cash from the Bishop's house. While Bishop was asleep, the thief entered the bedroom of the Bishop.

"Who is that?", asked the Bishop.

"Don't get up. I am hunting for your money," replied the thief.

"Then, allow me to borrow your match box and to light my candle. We together can hunt for the cash."

179. LOOKING AT YOUR PLACE OF ORIGIN

St. Ephrem (or Mar Aprem), the poet-theologian of the 4th century, was a holy monk. He was not used to looking at women if they happened to pass in front of him.

One day a lady came across him. So Mar Aprem walked bowing his head. When the lady came near him, she said (I do not know whether she belonged to the women's lib, if there was any such movement in the 4th century.): "Hi, holy man, why can't you look at me?"

Without lifting his head he declared, "You have a right to look at me because you are looking for the place of your origin. I look down on earth, because that is where I was created from."

180. SUNDAY SCHOOL EXAM

Answer papers at examinations often contain many interesting and absurd answers. The Sunday School exams are no exception.

Question: Write a note on Sodom and Gomorrah.

Answer: They were husband and wife.

Question: What is an epistle?

Answer: An epistle is the wife of an apostle.

Question: What is the Book of Life?

Answer: It starts with a man and woman in a garden and ends with Revelations.

Question: What do you learn from the story of Adam, Eve and the Serpent?

Answer: Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the Serpent and the Serpent had no legs to stand on.

SOLUTIONS

181. GIVE THE MANGO TO THE BISHOP

One day a Bishop was asked to arbitrate a dispute among the boys of his church. The dispute was about the ownership of a ripe mango which fell from a mango tree. When the mango fell, the youngsters decided among themselves that the mango would be given to the person who tells the biggest lie. They vied with one another to utter the biggest lie to be the right claimant. But they could not decide among themselves whose was the biggest lie, so they went to the Bishop.

After patiently listening to the strange dispute among his church members, he said that they should not tell lies. In order to fortify his statement, he decided to cite his own example. He said that so far he had never said a lie in his life.

"Give him the mango," was the unanimous verdict of the youngsters.

182. TELL JOKE NO. 10

Prisoners have to spend several years in the company of the same fellow prisoners during their term of imprisonment. Some of them spend their time cracking jokes. But the problem is that they have a few jokes only and they have to repeat the same jokes quite often to the same audience i.e., fellow prisoners.

Some prisoners in a jail in America devised a plan to avoid unnecessary repetition of the details of the jokes that have been repeated dozens of times. They numbered their important jokes. When the hour of recreation comes, they gather in a common room and start their jokes.

According to the new plan, instead of repeating the jokes, each prisoner was asked to call out the number of that joke and the rest are supposed to know it by heart and start laughing, as if it were fully retold. By shouting joke No. 10 or joke No. 15, the prisoners could save a lot of time and they could enjoy more jokes.

183. WE WILL EAT IN A HOTEL

A busy Pastor used to be annoyed if his meals were delayed. He used to blame his wife for her failure to prepare food in time. The Pastor gave a warning to his wife that he would go and eat in a hotel if she would not prepare food in time.

One day the lunch was late. The Pastor decided to put his threat into practice.

He told his wife, "I will go and eat in the hotel."

"Okay," she said, "I was waiting for a chance to eat in a hotel. I will get ready in a moment."

184. AN EGG AND A BANANA TOO

Once a Bishop went to preach in a poor parish. When his sermon was longer than usual, one boy fell unconscious. The Bishop went near the boy and he thought, a cup of hot tea would do him some good. He called the Pastor and asked him to get a cup of tea for the boy.

The boy immediately said without opening his eyes, "Please get one egg and a banana too."

185.WALL OF JERICHO

A Bishop went to visit the final year class in a Sunday School. The teacher was teaching about Joshua. The Bishop asked the students who broke down the walls of Jericho. The students were afraid to answer the question.

One frightened student stood up and replied: "Not I, sir." A second student repeated the same. The Bishop was not happy. He asked the teacher why the class was so bad. The teacher answered that both those students must be telling the truth. They usually did not get into any trouble. The Bishop was disappointed and went to the Sunday School Superintendent and told him what happened in the final year class.

The Superintendent reported that the students of that class were most obedient and quiet ones. The teacher had 25 years of experience and therefore, what they had told must be true. Finally, the Bishop called the Pastor and explained what had happened. The Pastor pleaded with the Bishop not to worry about it. He would recommend to the Pastorate Committee to sanction money to rebuild the wall.

186. PIANO-TUNER

A Bishop who has no sense of music was advised by his friends not to sing in the church publicly. Nevertheless, the Bishop loved to sing. Finally, somebody persuaded him to learn the piano, obviously to escape from his bad singing.

Everyday he played his piano. He enjoyed every bit of playing it, although it was an ordeal for the members of his church who found it impossible to keep up with the Bishop's piano music.

One day a man visited the Bishop and told him that he was a piano-tuner by profession. The Bishop innocently answered that he did not send for a piano tuner. "I know, Bishop, that you did not send for me. But your church members made several, frantic telephone calls to me to visit you to tune your piano."

187. EVERYBODY AT HOME

Heavy monsoon starts in South India in the beginning of June. One day the rain was heavy. There was lightning and thunder. The radio also announced it was going to be a day of rains.

The Parish Priest took his umbrella and was about to go out to visit a family in his parish. The wife stopped the Priest and asked him, "Where do you go in this heavy rain? Why can't you wait until the heavy rains subside?" The Priest replied, "No, this is the only time I can meet my church members in their homes. So, this is the best time for my visits."

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

188. PLAGIARISM

When somebody published a book there were complaints of plagiarism, that is, copying from somebody else's book. Plagiarism is stealing materials from published sources.

We asked our Professor Dr. R.D. Immanuel while studying for B.D. degree, "Sir, what is the difference between copying and original research?"

The teacher, in a very serious mood, replied: "If you copy from one single book it is plagiarism and is an offence. But if you copy from two books it is original research."

P.S. If it is true, then the present book is original research and the results of fertile imagination.

189. SAY A PRAYER HERE

An old conservative Priest was leading a funeral procession. Each clergyman was travelling in a rickshaw pulled by a man. There were 12 clergymen in 12 rickshaws.

During the service there is a section for singing hymns. Just before the hymns there is the direction, "Say here the prayer found in page 2 of the book." He put his emphasis on the word "here." He asked his rickshaw puller to stop there so that he could say the prayer at the same spot. Unfortunately, the other rickshaw pullers had already pulled a few yards ahead. He called back all the 12 rickshaws to the same position where his rickshaw was when he reached the top of the page where this direction to say the prayer was given. He said the prayer there and only then, did the procession proceed.

190. HE IS NOT A FATHER

Dr. Edwin Orr, a married Baptist Pastor, used to be greeted by the children in his neighbourhood saying, "Good morning, Father." One day, as Dr. Orr was getting out of his house, one boy as usual greeted him, "Good morning, Father."

A Roman Catholic boy nearby protested, "He is not a Father." "Why?", asked the Protestant boy. Replied the Catholic boy: "He is not a Father, because he has got a couple of children of his own!"

191. RUBBER SOLUTION, NOT ABSOLUTION

A man, who got his cycle tube punctured, wanted to repair it. But he did not have rubber solution with him to repair the tube. So he went to the nearby house. The servant opened the door and asked

what he wanted. He said, "I shall call my master." The traveller said, "Please don't disturb your master for this small matter. You can give me some rubber solution." The servant insisted that he had to call his master.

After a few minutes, his master, who was an Anglican Bishop, came and began to ask questions. "Are you an Anglican?" He said, "Yes, my Lord." "Are you baptised and confirmed? Do you attend the church regularly? Are you a practising Christian?" He replied in the affirmative to all these questions. Then he asked, "Sir, why do you ask all these questions for giving me some rubber solution?" Then came the reply from the Bishop, "Didn't you ask for absolution?"

192. K.I.S.S.

The Lord Chancellor of Exchequer was presenting the budget in the British Parliament. When the speech was going on and on, his wife, who was seated in the visitors' gallery, sent in a note. The piece of paper had the letters KISS only on it. The Marshall of the House passed it to the Lord Chancellor who concluded his speech without further delay. The Marshall later told his boss, "My Lord, your wife really loves you, that is why she sent in a KISS to you when you were making a brilliant speech."

The disappointed Lord confessed. "No, that's what she always does when I make a long speech. KISS simply means, "Keep it short, stupid."

193. MASTER OF MASTERS

Some years ago, there was a third class compartment attached to every Ist Class compartment. These 3rd Class compartments were meant for the attendants of the 1st Class passengers.

There was a British Bishop who did not waste money by travelling 1st Class like his compatriots. So he used to travel 3rd Class. Instead of bothering other Indian passengers crowding in 3rd Class compartment, the British Bishop preferred to travel by 3rd Class compartments attached to the 1st Class meant for the servants of the 1st Class passengers.

One day, when the Ticket Examiner came, there was no passenger in the 1st Class compartment. Strangely enough, there was one passenger in the servants' section. The Examiner asked the Bishop, "Who is your master?" The Bishop looked upto heaven and calmly replied, "My master is the Master of masters, and Lord of lords!"

194.BORN AGAIN CURRY

An evangelist was over-emphasising the "born again" experience of Christians. Once he irritated the Pastor's wife by asking whether she was a born again Christian or a nominal Christian.

One night this evangelist came to the Pastor's home after the Pastor's family had finished their supper. When the Pastor realised that the evangelist was coming after a long trip and was hungry, he asked his wife to prepare a meal for the evangelist.

She went to the kitchen and heated some left over food and served the meal to the evangelist. After eating the food to the satisfaction of his belly, he asked the Pastor's wife what kind of curry she had cooked for him. She replied, "It is a born again curry."

195.DO YOU KNOW SWIMMOLOGY?

An Oxford educated English Priest came as a missionary in Kerala. He used to travel by small boats in the backwaters of Kerala, in connection with his missionary duties.

One day he was travelling in a small boat, known as 'VALLAM', during the monsoon season. During the pleasant boat ride, the missionary decided to convert his boatman and asked whether he knew theology. The illiterate boatman replied that he did not know theology. The missionary explained that it was a science like biology or zoology. The boatman replied that he did not know biology or zoology either. The missionary explained that if he did not know at least theology, his life would be lost after his death.

Suddenly clouds and strong wind began to appear above them. The boatman suspected that his small boat was going to be capsized. He asked the missionary, "May I ask you a last question? Do you know "NEENTHOLOGY ('Neenthu' is the Malayalam verb for 'swim')?" The missionary replied, "No." "Then your life is lost," uttered the boatman as their boat capsized.

196. IS THIS MUMMY DEAD?

A Bishop who did not have much interest in history was visiting Rome for a meeting. When he was visiting a museum, a Guide took this Asian Bishop to a room and said:

"This is an Egyptian mummy."

"Where is she from?"

"It is not a lady," replied the guide, "it is the king of Egypt."

"You said it is a mummy from Egypt. Now you say that is a king."

The Guide insisted that this Egyptian Mummy is a king.

"Is she dead?", queried the innocent Bishop.

"Yes, Bishop! This king died 3400 years ago. He was a contemporary of Moses."

Confused by the comments of the Guide, the Bishop left the room murmuring. 'Funny Egyptians. They call their kings Mummies, instead of Daddies."

197.DESPATCHING ACCOUNT

The Managing Director of a firm lost his father. He gave instructions to the juniors to make arrangements for the funeral and to order a coffin. The Accountant came and asked him under what head he should write the expenses of the funeral of his father.

After thinking for a second, he ordered: "Put it under despatching section."

198. SINGING ALTO

When I was a student for B.D degree in Jabalpur, I was invited to join the English Choir. I had never heard English hymns before in my life. I was amused and puzzled by the way everyone sang different words at the same time. My friends told me that was the way they sing English songs, in different parts.

I was assigned to one section in the front row. The director used to call us "alto." Some were girls in that section. Perhaps at my age, 17 at that time, my voice was more feminine.

But after four years at Jabalpur, I studied in England. When I told my friends that I sang ALTO in the Jabalpur Choir, they laughed and told me that I should sing BASS.

Three years later during my studies for M.Th degree, I joined the Choir in the United Theological College, Bangalore. The Choir director did not believe that I could sing ALTO and asked me to stand in the TENOR section.

Two years later, during my S.T.M degree course in New York, when I was invited to sing a song for Christmas function, I offered to do it in SOPRANO.

It was so easy for me because I did not know the difference between ALTO and TENOR and others. Blessed ignorance!

TITLES

199. LORD CHAJJURAM

When India and Pakistan were divided in August 1947, a man named Chajjuram left Pakistan and came to Punjab on the Indian side. He put a name board in front of his rented house: "Lord Chajjuram." The neighbours began to wonder what kind of a Lord he was.

They asked him, "What kind of a Lord are you?" He replied that he was a landlord in Pakistan. When he ran away from Pakistan for life, he lost his land. Now he could not claim the first portion of his title 'landlord'. That is why he had put simply "Lord Chajjuram," instead of Land Lord Chajjuram.

200. BARON AND BARREN

A talkative British Lord was bragging about his lineage. "My father was Baron so and so. His father too was a Baron." Bored by the boasting of this Baron, a man from the audience stood up and said: "I wish, sir, your mother too was barren."

201. COMMIT SUICIDE

When the Presidential election campaign was going on in the USA in 1968 I used to watch television occasionally. Richard Nixon was running for the office of the President on the Republican party ticket, which he won.

Senator Robert Kennedy, the hopeful Democratic candidate had been shot. There was much discussion about the candidates for Presidency and Vice Presidency.

A Jewish Senator in the United States (I forget his name. Am I getting old?) was trying to get a chance to run for the office of the Vice President. William Buckley, well known for his quick wit and sharp comments, was asked about the chance of the Jewish Senator becoming a Vice President in the USA. Since several people had an aversion to Jewish people at that time, it was almost impossible for a Jewish candidate to be elected as the President of the USA. But as Vice President some Americans were willing to vote for him.

There is a rule in America that a Vice President automatically becomes the President of the USA, if the President dies during his term of office. Lyndon Johnson became the President when John Kennedy was shot.

Anticipating such a casualty, Buckley commented humorously that the Americans would vote the Jewish Senator to the office of the Vice President if he signed a document that he would commit suicide if the

President died in harness. Because Americans could tolerate a Jewish Vice President, not a Jewish President.

202. ASSISTANT PASTOR

A Bishop appointed a young Priest as an Assistant Pastor in a parish. He went to the Bishop and told him that he was a well qualified Priest and should be posted at least as Associate Pastor and not Assistant Pastor. "Well, young man," the old Bishop replied, "What difference does it make to you, because both words begin with an ass?"

203. WISH TO BECOME A BISH

An old Pastor from America came to me and requested to be made a Bishop. I asked him why he wanted to be made a Bishop. He replied quite candidly that he was being called by his congregation members as "Hi past." His wish was to be called "Hi bish."

His wish to be called "bish" was good. But when I told him that being a 'bish' involved food restrictions; that a bish has to eat fish, instead of flesh of other animals, his wish to be called "bish" vanished. Moreover, he had to be a celibate, which was too late for that grandfather.

204. MISS GRACE

Once I received a bill from C.L.S. Madras for a book I had bought from them. Since Bishops in our church are usually addressed as His Grace, the professor who had given my address to the C.L.S office had put me down as "His Grace Mar Aprem." The clerk, who probably is a Miss, suspected that there is a mistake in the address. First she wrote Rev. His Grace Mar Aprem. Then she realised Grace is the name of a lady. Hence she changed the word 'His' into 'Miss' and struck off the word Rev.

205. UNION THEOLOGICAL CEMETERY?

The Union Theological Seminary, New York, where I took my S.T.M degree, is known to be a place of liberal theology. One conservative lady, who was supporting the Seminary financially, got angry at the new theological ideas propagated by the teachers of the Seminary. Dr. Henry Sloane Coffin was the President of the Seminary at that time. The lady telephoned to the President and queried, "Is this Union Theological Cemetery?" The President calmly replied, "Yes Madam, Coffin speaking."

206. RT. OR REV.?

A Bishop wanted to make his reservation in a train. The secretary filled the application form for the reservation and put Rt. Rev. in front of his name. The reservation clerk looked at the double title and told, "I do not have room here for Rt. Rev. I can write only one word. Which one do you want, Rt. or Rev.?"

207. GOD SAID SO

Several patients were quarrelling in a mental hospital. As they were shouting at the top of their voice, a visitor stopped by and asked the first man why he was shouting. He said, "I am the Prime Minister of India and these people do not obey me."

The visitor asked the man, "Who told you that you are the Prime Minister of India?" He replied, "God said so." The second patient immediately retorted, "No, I did not say so."

POST SCRIPT

It is not a practice for me to write a postscript in my books. Nevertheless, it is a permitted practice. Hence I take the liberty to write a Postscript in this book "Bishop's Jokes."

In a letter if one forgets to write something important, one writes a P.S. It stands for Post Script. P.S. matter may be very important and should not wait until one writes the next letter. In some cases, it may be like an appendix and the writer did not want it to be included in the main text.

In the case of the present work, the Post Script is added because the writer did not think of enough jokes to fill in the required number of pages for which paper was purchased by the Printing press for printing this book. Within three weeks of quick printing, the writer could not think up enough jokes to fill the paper already purchased.

Jokes are not available when you require them. Inspiration is slow. The present writer is unable to assess whether writing the jokes or writing serious historical treatises is easier. Some jokes stored in the memory did not turn up readily when the writing commenced. The best way to store it is to write it down soon after you hear, before you forget. As for the jokes in this book, you do not have to write it down, as it is already in your book. If you are reading from a borrowed book, please return it to the owner or to the library and purchase a copy of your own. My friend Bishop P. Chrysostom would comment that I make this recommendation in order to help the publisher.

Regarding the jokes written in this book, several of them are auto-biographical. Those who know the author will know it better than the author himself.

Many stories have been copied. In most cases they have been changed in some details. Therefore, it has become difficult for the author to acknowledge the real authorship.

Details of stories differ from person to person. Some jokes have been more amusing than others, to some audiences that I have told these jokes. In the case of some, they do not catch the punch line. In some cases, it is over before the listener enjoys or grasps its contents. In some cases, the author had to show signs with hands and eyes in order to make it effective and dramatic. Just reading will not give the full satisfaction. But, on the other hand, the author does not have the time at his disposal to explain the jokes to every reader.

The readership in the mind of the present writer is ordinary people, the intellectual Christians as well as non-Christians, foreigners as well as Indians. Of course, there is no discrimination between male and female, as St. Paul has stated.

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