

Saints and sinners: Bloopers that lead to laughter

When it comes to the Bible (as in other things), kids say the darnedest things. But would adults do any better?

Get a copy of the July-August issue of the Saturday Evening Post and see if you can correct the 22 “Biblical Bloopers.” A sampling follows (mistakes are put in italics):

“Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.”

“Moses died before he ever reached Canada.”

“When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.”

“Solomon had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.”

“Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.”

The magazine swears that these bloopers are all “genuine, authentic and unretouched.”

If you got stuck on any blooper, here are the

answers: Jericho, Canaan, Magnificat, concubines and conception.

Errors like these — especially when they occur in a Biblical context — are a source of delight to readers.

They chuckle at a typographical error in a 1631 Bible that omits the word “not” in the Sixth Commandment (“Thou shalt not commit adultery”). This Bible is known as the “Wicked Bible.”

In the “Sin on” Bible, John 5:14 (“Sin no more”) appears as “Sin on more.”

A collector of typographical errors suspects that many of these mistakes were deliberate. “Printers, like other people, love a good joke,” he says. “Some of the sensational misprints of the ages may have been printers’ pranks.”

Verbal boo-boos may be the source of as many smiles as printed typos. The man who



george plagenz

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made the verbal boo-boo famous was a distinguished Anglican clergyman named William Spooner.

Spooner has given his name to a form of loony speech known as a spoonerism, which is the transposition of the initial sounds of two or more words. An usher who says “Let me sew you to your sheet,” is uttering a spoonerism.

Spooner, who died in 1930 at the age of 86, was a nervous man who had trouble getting his

words to come out straight. After joining a couple in matrimony, he told the groom, “It is kistomary to cuss the bride.”

At a gathering of members of Parliament, he invited everyone to give “three cheers for the queer old dean.” He was referring to Queen Victoria, and he meant to say “the dear old Queen.”

In a funeral oration for a departed colleague in the clergy, he praised the deceased as a “shoving leopard to his flock.”

In a sermon he once warned his congregation that “there is no peace in a home where a dinner swells.” He intended to say “where a sinner dwells.”

“It wasn’t only Spooner’s tongue that tripped him up. The story is told of a social occasion at which he poured wine from his glass on some salt he had spilled on the tablecloth, forgetting

that it is salt you put on a wine stain to remove it. Spooner had this household hint reversed.

But back to the Saturday Evening Post, where we started. The magazine, which was founded in 1728 by Benjamin Franklin, has always been a favorite of mine.

I am of the same mind as the letter-writer who says in the current issue, “Thanks for your good, clean-living publication,” and with another correspondent who writes, “Thanks for letting me know there are still people in the world who enjoy old-fashioned morals. You keep me laughing and happy without once mentioning sex.”

I also learned in the current issue that, according to legend, the reason the back of a donkey looks like it has the sign of the cross on it is because a donkey carried Christ into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Cuban Catholic cardinal slowly helps church regain lost ground

By Anita Snow

Associated Press Writer

HAVANA—The message of sympathy and healing was familiar, but the venue gave it a special meaning.

In the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, Cuba’s top Roman Catholic churchman, Cardinal Jaime Lucas Ortega y Alamino, celebrated a special Mass in the Havana cathedral. Despite long-standing acrimony between the U.S. and Cuban governments, Cuban citizens and government leaders condemned the attacks. President Fidel Castro even offered medical help to the island’s historical foe.

“With pain we rebel against a calculated, evil act that involves so many innocent men and women,” Ortega said during the Sept. 16 memorial service. “Injustice always angers us, but justice won’t be re-established with hate and

vengeance.”

It was the latest sign of the Cuban Catholic church’s dramatic evolution under the 64-year-old archbishop of Havana. Ortega, who in 1998 saw the first papal visit to the Caribbean island, has worked hard to regain ground the church lost after the 1959 revolution that brought Castro to power.

Earlier this year, he consecrated the first parish church built in Cuba in more than four decades.

“Enter through the doors of the Lord, giving thanks for his sacrifices,” Ortega intoned then, amid applause from the parishioners. He was resplendent in a golden miter and vestments, as he opened the doors of St. Joseph parish just blocks from Communist Party headquarters.

“The Lord has built us a house!” young people sang, banging steel drums as they marched into the stucco sanctuary while

church bells rang.

The ceremony in late June was another victory for Ortega, who has negotiated modest but meaningful openings with a formerly atheist government.

“This is truly a historic event,” said the Rev. Fidel de Jesus Rodriguez, the parish’s priest. The government had approved the construction and sent representatives to the consecration, he noted.

Today, Ortega is among several cardinals in Latin America mentioned as possible successors to Pope John Paul II, now 81. But his beginnings were modest and his climb up the ecclesiastical ladder was arduous.

Just as Ortega began his priestly vocation, the new communist government was weakening an already feeble Cuban church. It closed parochial schools, expelled foreign priests, even sent Ortega and other Cuban priests to work camps.

The son of a sugar worker and a housewife, Ortega was born on Oct. 18, 1936, in the sugar mill town of Jaguey Grande, in the central province of Matanzas.

When he was 5, his family moved to the provincial capital of Matanzas, an important coastal city. There, Ortega attended public schools and studied for the priesthood before completing his studies with the Fathers of Foreign Missions in Quebec, Canada.

By the time he returned to Matanzas for his 1964 ordination, Cuba’s Catholic church — never strong to begin with — was seriously weakened. Previously identified with the wealthy, the church took a vehemently anti-communist line shortly before Castro declared Cuba to be socialist in 1961.

The revolutionary government soon accused prominent Catholics of trying to topple its new leader. Public religious

events were banned after processes became violent political protests.

The government nationalized the more than 150 Catholic schools island-wide. Hundreds of foreign priests, mainly from Spain, were expelled; the number of priests dropped from 670 to fewer than 200.

Ortega and many other Cuban priests were sent to military-run agricultural work camps during the few years they operated. Ortega spent a year at one camp beginning in 1966.

Afterward, he returned to Matanzas province, where the priest shortage required him to travel among multiple churches to celebrate Mass, perform baptisms, and officiate at weddings. He formed a youth group and organized a summer camp for young people.

During this busy period, Ortega, a practiced pianist, composed music for a

Cuban Mass, and traveled to Havana weekly to lecture on theology.

He was consecrated as bishop for the diocese in western Pinar del Rio province in 1979 and named archbishop of Havana in 1981.

During those years, beginning in 1974, the Cuban government was officially atheist. Believers of all faiths were banned from the Communist Party, the military and some other professions.

Nevertheless, Ortega helped rebuild the church infrastructure in and around Havana, establishing new parishes — often in people’s homes — and renovating more than 40 existing churches.

The archbishop also set up Caritas of Havana, the Catholic relief charity’s first office in Cuba. That planted the seed for Caritas of Cuba, now among the country’s most successful non-governmental organizations.

Bible Baptist Church
Pastor: Don Crutcher
Fifth & Broadway
899-7368
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship Service: 10 am
Evening Service: 6:30 pm
Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

Calvary Gospel Church
Pastor: Rev. Steve Rains
Fourth & College • 899-3605
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Evening Worship: 6:30 pm
Wednesday: Family Night: 7 pm
Adult Bible Study and Youth Group
Saturday: Prayer Meeting: 5-7 pm
If you would like to receive a free newsletter, please call the church office.

Church of Christ
401 Caldwell
899-6185
Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:45 am
Evening Service: 6 pm
Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

Church of the Nazarene
Pastor: Matthew Delp
Third & Caldwell
899-2080 or 899-3797
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:50 am
Evening Service: 6 pm
Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First Baptist Church
Pastor: Bud Chester
Fifth & Center • 899-3450
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Evening Worship: 6:30 pm
Tuesday: Mens' Prayer Group: 6:00 am
Thursday: Night Bible Study: 7:00 pm

Seventh Day Adventist Church
1160 Cattletrail
Pastor: Arlin Cochran • 785-332-2888
Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 11 am



Grace Fellowship Church

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Pastor: Loren Strait
Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233
Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am
Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups, Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups, Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship
Special Notice: Handicap Accessible, Hearing Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler Nurseries Available

First United Methodist Church
1116 Sherman
899-3631
Pastor: Rev. Carol Moore-Ramey
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Worship Service: 10:30 am

Sonrise Christian Church
Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398
Minister: Tony Kafka
Youth Minister: Doug Bean
Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am
Sunday School: 10:45 am
Wednesday: Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm
Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
13th & Sherman • 899-6161
Pastor: Scott Grimshaw
Sunday: Sunday School: 8:45 am
Worship Service: 10 am
Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Kanorado
United Methodist Church
Pastor: Leonard Cox
399-2468
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship Service: 10:15 am

Goodland Bible Church
109 Willow Road • 899-6400
Pastor:
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Morning Worship: 11 am
Evening Worship: 6 pm
Wednesday: Call for location

Grace Fellowship Church
104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423
Pastor: Bob Snyder • Residence: 899-0134
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am
Worship Service: 11 am

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
13th & Center
899-2115 or Rectory 899-2114
Priest: Father Charles Schneider
Deacon: Gretchen Talitha
Adult Forum: Sunday : 8:30 am
Morning Prayer: 9:30 am 1st & 5th Sundays
Holy Eucharist: 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays: 9:30
Sr. Warden for emergencies during the week 899-2067

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO • (970) 664-2470
Sacrament Meeting: 9:30 am
Sunday School: 10:45 am
Priesthood/Relief Society: 11:30 am

Word of Life Foursquare Church
223 E. 10th
899-5250
Pastor: John Coumerilh
Sunday: Worship Celebration & Kids' Church: 10:30 am

United Methodist Church
Brewster:
Pastor:
Worship Service: 10:45 am CST
Sunday School: 9:45 am CST
Winona:
Minister: Rev. Bob Winters
Worship Service: 9 am CST
Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo
La Luz Del Mundo
Spanish Speaking Church
Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.
1601 Texas • 899-5275
Daily Prayer: Sunday thru Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Pastor: Father Daryl Olmstead
307 W. 13th • 899-7205
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment
Mass Schedule:
Saturday: 6 pm
Sunday: 8 am and 9:30 am
Spanish Mass: 1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

Pleasant Home Church
Serving the rural community for over 100 years
Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70
Pastor: Jim Cress
899-5784
Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am
Sunday School: 10 am
Evening Service: 6 pm

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