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The Perihelion

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"THE POINT NEAREST THE SUN"

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Keep the **SUN** in your eyes!

(Email *Perihelion* available upon request)

Vol. XXXII no.1 3/17

NEW CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS

- ***Barbara** remains in the hospital. She is having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Nelson's sermons.
- ***The** sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water."
The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."
- ***The** church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment, and gracious hostility.

HIP HOP AND HIP POP WITNESSING

"*The Best of Larry Bubb plus 17 Bonus Tracks*" CD has a much-requested live comedy bit about creatively sharing your faith Hip Hop Style, *Valley Girl* Style, etc. I got excited when I had the inspiration to actually take excerpts of YouTube video clips of many of the songs and sync them up simultaneously with my live performance at a recent CA state youth conference. Do not pass GO but GO to Larrybubb.com or <https://youtu.be/TyYU9MCwgak> If imitation (To pg. 3)

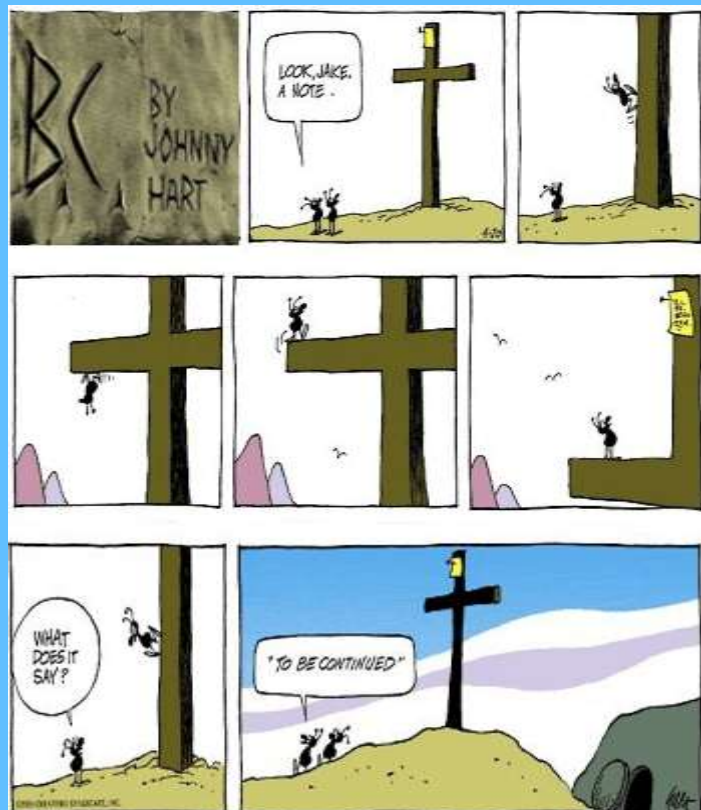
CONTROVERSIAL CARTOON & LETTER

It all started some time ago when I got the following letter after printing 2 cartoons, which unbeknownst to me were considered blasphemous by at least one person. Here is part of the letter:

"These 2 pictures are so disrespectful to Jesus Christ - the Son of God who suffered a horrible death on a cross for the sin of the world. It was not funny and neither are these pictures." Name Withheld

I replied immediately and will share that letter with you momentarily. I certainly did not want to offend anyone; however, as I reread my Easter response I started hunting for more (hopefully less blasphemous) Easter cartoons to use since Easter is fast approaching . . . like the one on the next column.

I found a plethora by Johnny Hart, who did B.C. and some other comics earning him *The Guinness Book of World Records* recognition as the most widely syndicated American comic-strip artist. Next is one of his Easter cartoons.



Hart was also controversial because of his Christian faith and was banned by some newspapers. I found a very touching tribute cartoon with many of his characters drawn after he passed away:



“Well done, my good and faithful servant.” (Matt. 25:23)

So, without further ado, here is my response to the letter I received.

Dear _____, I just received your note today and the first thing I must do is apologize profusely to you! I do love Jesus with all my heart and the last thing I would ever want to do is minimize what He did on the cross in suffering a much more painful death for us than we could ever realize while on this earth. It never once crossed my mind that anyone would be offended or misunderstand what I was getting from the comic. The way I read the comic (as well as the other people I have shown it to) was actually to emphasize the power of Jesus' resurrection from the dead in a language that speaks to someone who talks a surfer type language. Maybe it will help if I explain to you what I understood the words to be saying.

When I teach one of my college classes on communicating the gospel in the 21st century, one of the key and important elements we discuss is how to communicate the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection in a language that today's generation will understand. If I go to China to share the gospel I cannot expect to be very successful if I am only speaking English and not Mandarin (Chinese). I grew up in a Bible belt area of KY and we were very good at speaking "Christianese" that we inside the church totally understood . . . but sadly, those without a church background may not understand at all. For instance, if I talk about being "saved" . . . some will think of a life guard saving them from drowning in the water. If I talk about being "born again" some will immediately think of reincarnation and not even

realize we are using a Biblical phrase. I don't even want to think of what image some may conjure in their minds if we talk about being washed in the blood!

By God's grace I was able to lead one of the biggest drug dealers on my KY High School campus to know the Lord. He had never been to church so when he explained to others what had happened he said he was being "hound dogged" by God. In the church we knew the official way was to say "God was convicting me" but he did not know that language. So we want to be like Paul when he said, "I have become all things to all that I might by all means save some." I Cor. 9:19-23.

So, back to the cartoon. If I was to say "mē genoito" (from the Bible) many people would not know what those words mean because they are Greek. Some may translate it as "God forbid" but some will not even know what that means. In the language of the 80s and 90s it would be very accurate to translate the phrase: "No Way!" Today the surfer dude would say "Nah Bro!" These are all communicating a similar thought as this original Greek word but are understood in different ways to different people. They are all just different sounds coming out of our mouths with the goal of emphasizing the idea, for instance, that there was NO WAY Jesus was going to stay buried and be defeated by Pilate or any of Satan's cohorts! But, in fact, Jesus was emphatically saying in the cartoon that He was and is victorious and crucifixion was NOT going to defeat Him or God's plan!!! When Peter objected to this plan, Jesus emphatically said "Get behind me Satan!" and I believe these cartoons were saying the same thing . . . only in a language that surfers would understand and talk today.

That is why I was excited to see a cartoon that could communicate that to young people of this generation who don't understand "church" language and certainly do not understand the Greek language in which the words were originally written. I've had 4 years of Greek studying the language of the New Testament. Jesus and the disciples did not actually write or speak King James English ☺ . . . it was merely the language spoken around the 16th century when that version happened to be translated from the Greek. We continually need to communicate the SAME message of Jesus' love and death for us in a way that people will understand. That was my hope and goal as I certainly did not have any intent to disrespect Jesus nor cause anyone else to stumble because of it!

I often act out a powerful drama of Jesus' crucifixion at churches and camps portraying what He went through in His incredible death for us. I usually have tears in my eyes realizing what He experienced. I would never want to disrespect or minimize what He did for you and for me. In His Service, Larry Bubb

**THE FACT THAT
THERE'S A HIGHWAY TO
HELL AND ONLY A
STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN
SAYS A LOT ABOUT
ANTICIPATED TRAFFIC
NUMBERS.**

**I MAY NOT BE PERFECT,
BUT JESUS THINKS
I'M TO DIE FOR.**

**Adorable candy will help distract us from the astounding horror
of a man being nailed to a cross.**

*"The resurrection proclamation could not have been maintained
in Jerusalem for a single day, for a single hour, if the emptiness
of the tomb had not been established as a fact." ~ Paul
Althus, Theologian*

*"And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are
still in your sins. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we
are of all people most to be pitied." (I Cor. 15:17, 19)*

**FRANK
AND
ERNEST**
by
Tom
Thaves

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*"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here;
He has risen!" Luke 24:5-6*

~ Angel's words to the women at the empty tomb



Hip Hop and Hip Pop Witnessing (Cont. from pg. 1)
is a high form of flattery, I was thrilled when I got a
request by another traveling speaker to use my routine!
This video syncing was not an easy process as I have
been working on it since last August.

Of course, it is increasingly difficult to keep this
routine up to date because musical styles and
preferences are changing exponentially faster these
days. When I was growing up, an obscure British
group named after crawling insect-like Beatles were a
100 hit wonder. Now over 50 years later, their songs
are still popular. How many of you can tell me the
name of the musicians who recorded "What Does the
Fox Say" or "Gangnam Style"? I'll give you a hint . . .
they both have a prominent "Y" in their name . . . and
they have over 600 million and 2 billion hits on their
YouTube videos respectively! These days groups come
and go faster than the Padres will be eliminated from
baseball playoff contention . . . and faster than the
newest version of any Microsoft product will need to
be updated!



LETTERS

Hey Larry, A long, long time ago and in a galaxy far, far away you came and did a youth camp and a revival for the youth at Immanuel Baptist Church in Ridgecrest, CA. The young and handsome youth pastor was me, Jim Ricks! A youth from the past brought your name up and so I had to look you up and see if God was still using you in concerts, etc. Looks like He is. How do I find out your schedule? Would love to see you again!

Pastor Jim Ricks – Coleville, CA

Mr. Larry Bubb,

I was one of the youth interns for Sandbridge (VA Beach youth retreat). Seeing you preach those few days and interacting with you outside of those moments where you were speaking and singing were very influential for me.

I have myself begun the path to ministry and want to thank you for being one of those who gave me courage to do so. If someone can manage to make **"My Heart Will Go On"** (parody of the **Titanic** song) into a lesson, then by God I might actually have a chance in the world. I still enjoy getting the **Perihelion**; it always uplifts me to see that there is still light in the world.

John Langenstein – Morgantown, West VA

Dear Larry,

I'm so thrilled that you published my email in the **Perihelion**. Not that it's my accomplishments of course, but He that is my eternal King. Even though I deal with a great deal of pain in my life, it's so invigorating to watch and be part of His wonderful kingdom. When I first broke my back and had other physical problems, I considered that it was over for this individual, but through contacts that involved me in a Messianic Jewish Synagogue, my attitude has taken great forward strides. I may be more unusual than some could deal with. I'm a gourmet chef on top of being a Messianic Jew. I also have degrees in electronic technology. Well I have decided I want to pursue a Master's degree in Forensic Sciences to help solve murders. It is very unusual for a Jew, because a lot of my people still believe in Old Testament laws stating you are not to touch dead things and blood. Some people look questioningly at me, a gourmet chef, and a forensic science person, and because I have kind of a semi sick sense of humor.

I recently felt extremely blessed. Some folks at my church are living in a car, because of disabilities and income problems, so I invited them over for Thanksgiving. I made one slow cooked turkey and one deep fried turkey, and a ham; it's good to be Messianic. They wound up staying late conversing about Judaism and the differences between it and Christianity. We had a beautiful time, they called me for days thanking

me, and I told them although I prepared the food and did the inviting, it was Yeshua's workings in and through me, that brought it about. Now we get together a fair amount. We have been sharing wonderful times together, because Yeshua tapped me on the shoulder and said invite those people because it's a generous thing, and a godly thing to do, and I've at least grown enough to not refuse His requests.

This may be hard for you to understand, but you helped me to see some of the places within my life that were either not present or in need of growth. I can't even describe, I just need to share, and you are very understanding and a good listener. I thank the Lord we met those years ago. God bless you and your family. Thank you. The Lord's Servant, in Training,

Kenani Ya'aqob Gertner – Escondido, CA

PRAYER REQUESTS

CALENDAR & PRAYER CONCERNS

1. SPRING INTERIM WORSHIP LEADER 10:15 AM
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH – POWAY, CA
2. MAR/APRIL TEACH ONLINE WORSHIP CLASS – SDCC
3. APRIL 30 PREACH 11 AM – CHINESE CHRISTIAN
CHURCH OF THOUSAND OAKS
3. EVERY OTHER SUNDAY EVENING – LEAD
BIBLE STUDY/MORSHIP @ OUR HOUSE/HOME GROUP
4. THURSDAYS – LEAD WORSHIP @ ANOTHER HOME GROUP
5. OPEN DOORS FOR MINISTRY, EVANGELISM, TEACHING
6. FOR PEOPLE TO WATCH THE YOUTUBE VIDEOS (SEE
LARRYBUBB.COM) AND BE TOUCHED BY THIS PERIHELION

Special thanks to Holly Smith, Melanie Donovan & Kristen for their help on this newsletter!

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Allow 4 – 13 minutes for delivery ... just kidding!

