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Four Flats Correspondence

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WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL

Nov. 11, 1981

Dear Fugitives from the formerly funny Four Flats,

Mary and I got a months old report letter from the Dick Cadds yesterday and I thought to myself, "I can do better than that." So I decided to write you-all and tell you what happened to me yesterday.

I went to an Armin Gesswien prayer retreat at which Jack Hayford spoke three times, and before he spoke he gave us some good ideas, almost worth passing on. He said because his is a larger church now he gets some crank letters--not good constructive criticism, but outright nutty kooks. He has a policy to answer all mail, but he didn't want to spend too much time on these so he gave his secretary several answers and she is to pick the one she feels fits best and send it without bothering him.

- (1) I found your letter very interesting. Help me confirm a point in history. Is it true you actually spoke to Balaam?
- (2) Your letter provokes me to good works. If you will come to my office and bend over I will perform them with my foot.
- (3) Dear friend, You need to get re-baptised.
- (4) Your letter prompted a spirit of worship in our office. In fact we presented it as a burnt offering.
- (5) Form your own cult, Bozo.
- (6) Upon reading your letter I became sick. My response is being sent to you under separate cover.

He also gave us a list of messages we could put on our telephone answering devices:

- (1) Lawyer: "Thank you for calling. If you wish you may leave a message at the sound of the tone. However, you have the right to remain silent, and anything you say could be used against you. I don't know the chances of your escaping indictment, but if I were you I'd hang up and leave the country."
- (2) Statistician: "The chances of my receiving a call today were 1 in 10. The chances of my receiving a call from someone I wanted to talk to were 1 in 50. The chances that you would call were 1 in 1000, so I went out. The chances of your leaving a message are 1 in 100. The chances I will reply approach the infinitesimal."
- (3) Psychologist: "It makes me feel good that you called. I hear you saying you want to rap. At the sound of the tone feel free to share your problems. That's what I'm here for. Or if it would make you feel better, hang up with a primal scream."
- (4) Minister: "Bless you for calling. I'm sorry I can't talk to you now because in fact I'm talking to the Divine One at this very moment. If you will leave your name and number I'll call and read a soothing scripture to you. If you leave only your name, I'll pray for you. If you hang up God will judge you with hell-fire."

O yes, there was some good inspirational preaching too, and lots of prayer and praise.