**Little Things Make A Difference**

**The smallest one shall become thousands,  
and the least one a strong nation.  
(Isaiah 60:21)**

**The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed,  
which a man took and sowed in his field.  
It is the smallest of all seeds; but when it is grown,   
it is larger than all of the herbs; and it becomes a tree,   
so that the birds of the air come and rest in its branches. *(St, Matthew 13:30-31)***

**Do you not know that a little leaven will leaven the whole lump?  
*(1 Corinthians 5:6)***

**No more than the presence of a few atoms distinguishes the male hormone, testosterone, from the female, estrogen, yet their difference determines some considerable differences between the sexes. Male hormones are produced not only in males but also in the adrenal glands in females, and in males they are secreted not only in the testes but in the adrenals as well. From our medical experience with them we have learned that some of the functions of these hormones are interchangeable between the sexes. *(Miller/Goode, in Man & His Body, p. 197)***

**Our analytical laboratory purchased a new piece of equipment, costing nearly $100,000. When it arrived, we hooked it up to the water system and electrical outlets as instructed, but it wouldn't work. We finally discovered the problem. It also required four flashlight batteries --which were not included. (Norris M. Tollefson, in Reader's Digest)**

**Playwright Tennessee Williams choked to death on a nose-spray bottle cap that accidentally dropped into his mouth while he was using the spray. *(Noel Botham, in The Best Book of Useless Information Ever, p. 199)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Man’s three-pound brain is the most complex and orderly arrangement of matter known in the universe. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 321)***

**Every second, 100,000 chemical reactions occur in your brain. *(Uncle John’s Unstoppable Bathroom Reader, p. 42)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. *(Leo Buscaglia)***

**The old optimism has been tempered by reality. A butterfly, or rather what experts in the new field of chaos theory have nicknamed the Butterfly Effect, has killed the dream of perfect prediction. Weather is shaped by such complex forces, we now know, that the minuscule swirl of air caused today by a butterfly flapping its wings in Tokyo could send off a cascade of subtle changes in the atmosphere, each amplified by the next, that might determine if it rains in New York City two weeks from now. “We're getting better at predicting the weather tomorrow,” says James Howcroft, deputy director of the Weather Service's National Meteorological Center in Camp Springs, Md., “but because of the complex forces of chaos in the oceans of air around us, we may never be able to forecast reliably in detail more than two weeks in advance.” (Lowell Ponte, in Reader's Digest)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*His inborn potential is carried in an egg cell weighing about one millionth of an ounce and a sperm cell 100,000 times smaller than that, a minuscule tadpole-like cell with a length of only one five-hundredth of an inch. *(Miller/Goode, in Man & His Body, p. 10)*  
The largest cell in the human body is the female ovum, or egg cell. It is about 1/180 inch in diameter. The smallest cell in the human body is the male sperm. It takes about 175,000 sperm cells to weigh as much as a single egg cell. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 321)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**One of the Board members jokingly started the building fund by giving a one-cent piece. But the one-cent piece was not a joke to Charles Fillmore. He took it, gave thanks to God for it, and blessed it. To him, the building was on its way. The fund grew very slowly. By the end of 1903, there was only twenty-five cents in it. Nevertheless, in February, 1903 in Unity magazine, Mr. Fillmore gave his subscribers “the privilege and opportunity of contributing any sum from ten cents to one thousand dollars, or more,” towards the purchase of a site and the erection of a building. By 1905, only $601 had been raised. *(James Dillet Freeman, in The Story of Unity, p. 109)***

**You see, according to UNICEF, 60% of the 12.7 million children who die from hunger and disease each year could easily, inexpensively be saved. A 10 cent oral dehydration packet could save the lives of half of the 3 million children who die of diarrheal disease, a 50 cents measles immunization would mean life to the 1 million children killed by the disease each year, and a dollar's worth of antibiotics could prevent a child's death from pneumonia, which currently takes the lives of 3.6 million children annually. (David Lexington, in Rocky Mountain News)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*A chip of silicon a quarter-inch square has the capacity of the original 1949 ENIAC computer, which occupied a city block. *(Isaac Asimov)***

**Knowing full well how good I have it pastoring a small church, I naturally want more of that good thing. Ever since my ordination, I thought that for me to get more pastoral pleasure, the church I served had to get bigger. Thankfully, my burning bowl experience at the beginning of this year woke me up: it suddenly became clear to me that the small church is not an immature version of a larger church. No amount of budgetary pushing will get the small church to “grow up.” At 70 years of age, my small church is grown up, and is just fine being what it is -- small. In fact, it is highly successful at being small! Nor is my success as a minister measurable by how quickly I destroy a perfectly fine small church by forcing it to be big. As a minister, I have worth to the extent that I meet the spiritual needs of those who love to call their church their own, whatever the size. *(Michael Jamison, in S.C.U.C.A. Regional Reporter)***

**I have a friend who became a billionaire by inventing Cliff Notes. When I asked him how he got such a great idea, he said, “Well, to make a long story short . . .” *(Steven Wright)***

**Men do not stumble over mountains, but over molehills. *(Confucius)***

**The Constitution, with the Bill of Rights and the other amendments, fills perhaps 15 pages of regular-sized text. All this material can be read in about an hour. After this, the reader will have a general idea of how the American system of government works. *(Paul Kroll, in Plain Truth)***

**If the Queen Elizabeth II were a couple of feet broader of beam it couldn’t get through the Panama Canal. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**In 1999, Lockheed Martin signed a contract to sell military aircraft to “an international customer” (The company won’t say who). Unfortunately, whoever drew up the contract misplaced a decimal point in the formula for determining the price. The mistake wasn’t discovered until after the contract was signed, and the customer insisted on sticking to the wording of the contract exactly. Cost to Lockheed Martin: $70 million. *(Uncle John’s All Purpose Bathroom Reader, p. 247)*  
  
The dime isn’t worthless in spite of inflation. In an emergency it makes a good screwdriver. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**In God’s mind, a little bit of faith in the right source is better than a washtub full of will or a ton of determination. *(Russ Johnston, in God Can Make It Happen, p. 126)***

**At a press conference later Thursday, mission managers said they had identified three pieces of foam that broke away from the shuttle’s external fuel tank shortly before it separated from the orbiter. One small piece may have hit Discovery’s wing as if flew away, but the largest piece clearly did not. Wayne Hale, the leader of the shuttle mission management team, said engineers were closely studying the possible impact, but the piece of foam was very small, weighing no more than one-tenth of a pound, and “right now indications are very good” the event will not imperil the mission. By contrast, Hale said the piece of foam that struck shuttle Columbia’s wing, in 2003 and led to the loss of the ship and its seven astronauts weighed 1.67 pounds. *(Eric Burger, in Houston Chronicle, as it appeared in Daily Camera, on July 29, 2005)***

**It is precisely the minor differences in people who are otherwise alike that form the basis of feelings of hostility between them. *(Sigmund Freud)***

**Do not scorn little victories. *(Andre Gide)***

**Girl Scout founder Juliette Gordon Low was nearly deaf. A grain of rice thrown at her 1886 wedding lodged in her ear, and the resulting infection destroyed most of her hearing in that ear. Her other ear also had diminished ability. *(Joe Edelman & David Samson, in Useless Knowledge, p. 77)***

**My parents can take a lot of credit for what I’ve done right. They told me to keep my eyes open because there were many opportunities and phenomena in the world waiting to be discovered, and to make something out of everything, even when you’ve failed. My mother expressed it best when she said, “If you fall, try to grab a handful of sand.” She felt that even the smallest opportunity was worth grabbing.” *(Paul Chu, in Houston Chronicle)***

**The $1.6 billion Hubble Space telescope was launched into orbit on April 24, 1990, and immediately needed repairs. Cost of the rescue mission: $86 million. Cause of the problem: a few 25 cent washers that technicians used to fill in a gap in an optical testing device. No one noticed they were there . . . until they shook loose. *(Uncle John’s All Purpose Bathroom Reader, p. 247)***

**The human tendency to regard little things as important has produced very many great things. *(G. C. Lichtenberg, German physicist)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Your ideas don't have to be big to be creative. The Frisbee didn't change the world, but it gave people loads of fun and made a mint. The adhesive bandage, safety pin, paper cup and soda can pop-top were “small” ideas. Still, they were prime examples of imagination, curiosity, common sense and hard work -- all blended to fill a need, solve a problem and make life a bit better. (Lester David, in Reader's Digest)**

**Little seed ideas sown in consciousness and nurtured can change the world. Myrtle Fillmore sowed the idea that she was a child of God and could not inherit sickness. This idea grew and she was healed. Later, just as the birds of the air were indirectly blessed by the tiny mustard seed, Myrtle’s personal healing blessed many other people through the development of the Unity movement. *(Christine M. T. Dustin, in U. S. R. S. newsletter)***

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**I am done with great things and big plans, great institutions and big success. I am for those tiny invisible loving human forces that work from individual to individual, creeping through the crannies of the world like so many rootlets or like the capillary oozing of water, which if given time will rend the hardest monuments of pride. *(William James, in Random Acts of Kindness)***

**If one gram (one-twenty-eighth of an ounce) of matter could be converted into its equivalent of pure energy and the energy used with perfect efficiency to keep a 1,000-watt light bulb glowing, there would be enough energy to keep it lit for 2,850 years, or from the time of Homer to the present. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 107)***

**The actual explosion of an atomic bomb is over in less than a millionth of a second. *(E. C. McKenzie, in Tantalizing Facts, p. 78)* When the unmanned $10-million Mariner I space probe was launched from Cape Canaveral bound for Venus in the summer of 1962, it was intended that it would begin circling the mysterious planet in just 100 days, taking radar pictures of its surface. However just four minutes after take-off, Mariner I did an abrupt U-turn and plunged down in the Atlantic. It emerged that the accident was caused by the unfortunate omission of a minus sign from the computer program in charge of controlling the rocket’s engines. *(Geoff Tibballs, in The Giant Bathroom Book of Dumbology, p. 213)***

**We realize that what we are accomplishing is a drop in the ocean. But if this drop were not in the ocean, it would be missed. (Mother Teresa)**

The A. C. Nielsen Company, the research firm that formulates the Nielsen Ratings of television shows, measures American TV viewing habits by means of small boxes attached to TV sets in 1,170 homes. These 1,170 homes comprise only .0017 percent of all American homes with television -- or one in approximately 60,000! *(James Meyers, in Mammoth Book of Trivia, p. 201)*

**Annie was employed by the nation’s largest clothing manufacturer, Hart, Schaffner & Marx. When the company announced a salary cut for its employees, Annie walked out--just walked off the job. Annie Shapiro took sixteen other garment workers with her. And so began one of the toughest strikes in Chicago history. As contract shops went, it was not a bad working environment. The walkout was clearly the result of a recent cut in pay. As for the salary cut at Hart. Schaffner & Marx’s shop number five, the reduction in pay which had inspired Annie Shapiro and her friends to walk out in the first place, that salary cut stood. Annie and her fellow workers returned to work under virtually the same conditions they had fled. Students of social history maintain that the garment workers’ strike of 1910 led, at least indirectly, to the establishment of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. Mostly forgotten is this:  Annie Shapiro had been sewing pockets in men’s pants for four cents apiece. Her employer reduced that wage rate to three and three-quarters cents. That means Annie walked out, and tens of thousands struck in sympathy, and a half-dozen people were killed--over one-fourth of one penny. *(Paul Aurandt, in Destiny & 102 Other Real Life Mysteries, p. 84)*  
It’s the little things that matter most. What good is a bathtub without a plug? *(The Best of Bits & Pieces, p. 119)***

**The source of the trouble is the sap of plants known variously as poison ivy and poison oak. They contain an oil --called urushiol--so potent that a single ounce can produce a rash on 28 million people. (Emily & Per Ola D'Aulaire, in Reader's Digest)**

A farm boy was drafted. When he wrote his first letter home, he said he missed his mother, his father, his brother and sister, and the little pot his mother put under his bed at night. His mother wrote back, saying the family missed him too, but not to worry about missing the little pot, as he missed it most of the time when he was home. *(Marlin Swanson, in Reminisce Extra magazine)*

Great events make me quiet and calm; it is only trifles that irritate my nerves. *(Queen Victoria)*

Richard W. Sears of Sears, Roebuck and Co. saw to it his firm’s catalogs always were just a little smaller than those of the competition. In living rooms, he said, the smaller of two catalogs will be put on top, so picked up first. He was right. Another example of his marketing genius. *(L. M. Boyd)*

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Nine out of 10 car crackups wouldn’t happen if drivers could step on the brakes one second sooner. So claims Mercedes-Benz President Karl Heinz Faber. *(L. M. Boyd)*

**Capitol invaders came within seconds of seeing Vice President Mike Pence as he was rushed into hiding by his security detail, according to video footage and accounts from law enforcement officials. Pence wasn’t evacuated from the Senate chamber until 14 minutes after the violent mob broke into the building, many of them denouncing Pence as a traitor and shouting, “Hang Mike Pence!” *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, January 29, 2021)***

In 1936, running in a pair of worn spikes, Mack Robinson finished second to the legendary Jesse Owens in the 200 meters at the Summer Olympics in Berlin. Owens finished in an Olympic-record 20.7 seconds; Robinson in 21.1. *(Tim Wendel, in Baseball Weekly)*  
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The world’s tiniest plant seeds are those of the Epiphytic orchid. They come 35,000,000 to the ounce! *(Timothy T. Fullerton, in Triviata, p. 40)*

Show me a man who cannot bother to do little things and I'll show you a man who cannot be trusted to do big things. *(Lawrence D. Bell, American aircraft manufacturer)*

Little things are irritating. Sitting on a tack is irritating, sitting on a mountain is not. *(Jack Holland)*

The chemical that gives the skunk his mal-odorous reputation is called ethanethiol, a substance so pungent that less than one ten-trillionth (.000,000,000,000,1) of an ounce can be detected by the human nose.   
*(James Meyers, in Mammoth Book of Trivia, p. 207)*

**Most of us will never do great things, but we can do small things in a great way. *(The Best of Bits & Pieces, p. 119)***

**Nobel Prize-winning physicist Richard Feynman captured the world's attention during the Presidential commission's investigation into the Challenger space shuttle explosion. By dropping a piece of the rocket booster's O-ring into a glass of ice water, he demonstrated how this overlooked piece of rubber could in fact be the root cause of the disaster. Feynman explained his philosophy of looking at the world: Learn by trying to understand simple things -- always honestly and directly. What keeps the clouds up, why can’t I see the stars in the daytime, why do colors appear in oily water, what makes the lines on the surface of water being poured from a pitcher, why does the hanging lamp swing back and forth? Then when you have learned what an explanation really is, you can go on to more subtle questions. *(From a letter, in Reader's Digest)***

**If you have a great ambition, take as big a step as possible in the direction of fulfilling it, but if the step is only a tiny one, don’t worry if it is the largest one now possible. *(Mildred McAfee)*  
  
Sometimes the littlest things in life are the hardest to take. You can sit on a mountain more comfortably than on a tack. *(Quoted in Robesonia, Pennsylvania, Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter)***

**Two dark-suited IRS agents showed up at a California car wash, hand-delivering the owner an unpaid tax bill of 4 cents. Aaron Zeff, of Harv’s Metro Car Wash in Sacramento, says the agents were “deadly serious” about the $0.04 bill from 2006, which had accrued $202.31 in late fees and taxes. “It’s hilarious,” said Zeff, who paid the bill. “I think the IRS may have a problem with priorities.” *(The Week magazine, March 26, 2010)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**The toothpick is the item on which people most often choke. (David Hoffman, in Little-Known Facts about Well-Known Stuff, p. 15)**

**Writer Sherwood Anderson swallowed a toothpick at a cocktail party. He died of peritonitis on an ocean liner bound for Brazil. *(Noel Botham, in The Best Book of Useless Information Ever, p. 199)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Michelangelo was once putting what appeared to be the finishing touches on a sculpture when a friend dropped in for a visit. Days later, the friend dropped by again and was surprised to find the artist still working on the same statue. The statue looked the same to the friend as it had days earlier, so he said, “You haven't been working on this statue all this time, have you?” “I have,” Michelangelo replied. “I've been busy retouching this part, and polishing that part; I've softened this feature, and brought out that muscle; I've given more expression to the lips, and more energy to that arm.” “But all those things are so insignificant,” said the friend. “They're mere trifles.” “That may be so,” replied Michelangelo, “but trifles make perfection, and perfection is no trifle.” (Bits & Pieces)**

**Using the highest strength grade of Velcro, a 160-pound person will stick to a wall with only a four-inch square. (David Hoffman, in Little-Known-Facts about Well-Known Stuff, p. 7)**

**Walmart told investors this week that a small change to its plastic bags saved the company approximately #20 million this year. Shortening the paper receipts given to customers saved $7 million. (CNBC, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 28, 2017)  
  
Pepin the Short, King of the Franks from 751 to 768 A.D., was short indeed -- all of four feet six inches. Yet he carried a six-foot-long sword and was a mighty warrior -- and the father of Charlemagne. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 6)* You can eliminate mosquito-breeding places from around and even within your own home. Remember: The smallest accumulation of water – in a beer can, a flower vase, a paint bucket, an old tire – can produce hundreds in just one week. *(Richard Conniff, in Reader’s Digest)***

**In a beehive, only 1 1/2 ounces of wax are used to build a comb that will hold 4 pounds of honey. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 72)***

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