**Expansion**

**His lord said to him,
Well done, good and reliable servant;
you have been faithful over a little,
I will appoint you over much;
enter into your master’s joy.
*(St. Matthew 25:21)***

**Baby Boomers will still chuckle if you describe a song as “having a good beat” and saying that “it’s easy to dance to.” They’ll recognize that as the standard record review given each week on TV’s American Bandstand. Dick Clark, America’s eternal teenager, first hosted the televised dance party in 1952. It progressed from a local Philadelphia program to a national phenomenon. A wide variety of artists appeared on the show to promote their newest records, and Bandstand stayed on the air until 1989. *(Chifton Thorold-Stone, in Tidbits)***

**The amoeba is a single-celled animal, and evidence suggests that its mind diffuses progressively outward. Its image of the world can only come from its sense of touch, but generation after generation, it remembers what it has touched and builds and builds a picture of the universe. *(Guy Murchie, in Old Farmer's Almanac, 1992)***

**Man: “I feel bad. my wife and I had an argument and she went home to her mother.” Hagar: “Don't feel bad. She'll probably come back.” Man: “That's why I feel bad. She came back and brought her mother with her!” *(Chris Browne, in Hagar The Horrible comic strip)***

**The bigger your “frame” is the more you can see . . . other perspectives. *(Todd Siler, in Truizms)***

**Scholars think the brains of your ancestors didn’t get big until said ancestors started to walk upright. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A man was standing at a corner, with a hat in each hand, waiting for handouts. A passer-by stopped and dropped a coin in one hat, then asked, “What's the other hat for?” “Business has been so tremendous lately,” the man replied, “that I decided to open a branch office.” *(Lorene Workman, in Capper's)***

**Andrew Carnegie was 12 years old when he was working as a millhand for $1.20 a week. Fifty years later, he sold his steel mill for nearly $500 million. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**A newborn baby’s body contains 26 billion cells. An adult has about 100 trillion cells. *(Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 168)***

**He drew a circle that shut me out - Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout. But love and I had the wit to win: We drew a circle that took him in! *(Edwin Markham)***

**Communism has expanded its power faster than any movement in history. In 1903 Lenin had exactly seventeen followers. Today the Communist Party controls more than one billion people. *(Bits & Pieces)***

 **“Three” is the answer: Number of new cookbooks published daily worldwide. *(World Features Syndicate)***

**Enough Cracker Jack has been sold to stack end-to-end more than 63 times around the world. And to think, it all started with one man's dream and a fair that brought the world to Chicago, Illinois. The man was F. W. Rueckheim, the year was 1893, and the fair was the World's Columbian Exposition. Mr. Rueckheim mixed up and sold a new recipe of popcorn, peanuts and molasses and found he had a product people from all over the world couldn't get enough of. He called it Cracker Jack and adopted a slogan spoken by a satisfied customer—“The more you eat, the more you want.” The unique flavor was launched and hungrily accepted. The fun part of Cracker Jack's magic formula was added one day in 1912 when Mr. Rueckheim acted on the brilliant idea of packing a prize in every box. Children eagerly ate up the delicious snack while searching for their treasure. Since that day over 17 billion toys have been given out. Today Cracker Jack is one of the world's largest users of toys. *(Found on a box of Cracker Jack)***

**Early years of John Deere: First year (1837) -- made one steel plow; second year -- made two steel plows; third year -- made 10 plows; by 1852 -- made 4,000 steel plows a year. *(World Features Syndicate & Ben Ikenson, in Ingenious Inventions)***

**Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow. (*Ralph Waldo Emerson)***

**In modern society, hundreds of millions of people across the globe speak English. You don’t have to go back very far, though, to find a time when English wasn’t nearly so widespread or highly regarded. In the 16th century, the age of Queen Elizabeth I and William Shakespeare, only a few million people spoke the language – and not even all the people of England spoke English. *(Samantha Weaver, in Tidbits)***

 **Following World War II, Bob Evans was operating a 12-stool roadside restaurant in Gallipolis, Ohio. What the hungry truckers who patronized his hash house mainly wanted was sausage, and plenty of it. When Evans found he couldn’t get enough good-quality meat for them, he decided to make his own. So he scraped up $1,000, a couple of hogs, 40 pounds of black pepper, and 50 pounds of sage and other spices. The formula worked, and he went on to build Bob Evans Farms, which had sales last year of $1.6 billion. Today, there are more than 690 Bob Evans restaurants across the country, and Evans foods are sold in more than 18,700 grocery stores in 40 states. *(The Week magazine, July 13, 2007)***

**A lowly immigrant came to America to find prosperity. Though he couldn't read or write, he was a determined worker and a shrewd businessman. He opened a tiny tailor shop. When he had saved enough to begin a savings account, he went to the bank and simply made two x's for his signature. His tailoring business prospered and his bank account grew. His tiny shop grew into a chain of shops and then into a well-known custom tailoring house. After that the company began to manufacture ready-made clothing. Then he sold the company to a large conglomerate for millions of dollars. When he went to deposit the money into his account he endorsed it with three x's instead of the customary two. One bank official asked why the extra x. “I think I'm doing well enough now,” the gentleman said, “to have a middle initial.” *(Gene Perret's Funny Business)***

**It's about 800 times as massive as Earth, whizzes around two suns instead of just one and is close to three times as old as the orb on which we humans reside. Meet the Methuselah planet, the most ancient planet known to astronomers, just recently detected and suggestive of some rather extraordinary possibilities. For a decade, the identity of this object had been an astronomical mystery. At that time, astronomers were still struggling to confirm the first planet detected beyond the family of the sun. Now, the population of known extrasolar planets exceeds 100. But the newfound planet is the only one known to orbit a double star system. *(Rocky Mountain News, July 14, 2003)***

**“Look at me,” an overweight woman lamented to her friend. “When I was 18, I had a figure that wouldn't quit.” “What happened?” “It didn't.” *(Ivern Ball, in Quote Magazine)***

**As an astrological sign, “Sharon” will never cut it. That's the name astronomers have given to the oldest and farthest -- in deep space the two are the same -- galaxy ever discovered, another triumph for the Hubble Space Telescope. Sharon -- it's difficult to be on a first-name basis with a galaxy -- is 13 billion light-years from Earth, only – “only” -- 1 billion light-years from what is presumed to be the edge of the universe and, thus, the Big Bang, the moment of creation. What is remarkable about this discovery by astronomers at the State University of New York at Stony Brook is not that this galaxy is the oldest and most distant; what is remarkable is that this is the third time this past year that record has been set, and astronomers say they are on the threshold of identifying a half dozen or so even older and farther galaxies. *(Rocky Mountain News, April 20, 1999)***

**The Gateway Arch in St. Louis was completed in 1965, more than 150 years after the beginning of the westward movement in the United States. Horace Greeley’s “Go West, young man! Go West!” became a clarion cry that rang out across this nation. Many of these westward-bound people passed through the heartland city of St. Louis, “The Gateway to the West.” The nation would never be the same. The 630-foot Arch stands as a monument to that expansion. *(Gordon A. Beck, in Portals of Prayer)***

**On January 7, 1610, Galileo described telescopic observations in which he saw four of Jupiter's moons. Discovery of celestial bodies orbiting something other than Earth dealt a blow to the geocentric theory, which proposed that everything orbits Earth. *(The Daily Chronicle)***

**Customer to department-store clerk behind exchange counter: “It's this gift certificate – I’d like to exchange it for a larger size.” *(Bob Thaves, Newspaper Enterprise Assn.)***

**This pioneering movie producer of Hollywood's Golden Age said, "A wide screen just makes a bad film twice as bad." - Samuel Goldwyn*. (The Daily Chronicle)***

**As their physical abilities ebb, elders and grandparents become more relaxed and contemplative; their spiritual capacity expands to contemplate life's mysteries. These are the same issues that children are preoccupied with. They believe in angels and monsters and are able to live in their imaginations. *(Arthur Kornhaber, in The Grandparent Guide)***

**The word “Heaven” is perhaps the most misunderstood word in the Bible. In the original Greek text, the word used for “Heaven” is  “ouranos,” which, translated literally, means “expansion.” What is expansion? It is increasing, spreading out, multiplying, etc. “Seek ye first the Kingdom of expansion, and all these things shall be added to you.” Seek a place or state of being where you can expand, grow, increase, multiply, bring forth fruit. But we needn't look elsewhere for such a place, for Jesus assured us that the Kingdom of Heaven is already within us. So we must look within ourselves for the faculty of expansion. *(A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity, p. 50)***

**Question: When does a hill become a mountain? Answer: When it fills out an application for employment. *(Marilyn vos Savant, in Parade)***

**Man's mind stretched by a new idea never goes back to its original dimensions. (*Oliver Wendell Holmes)***

**When federal income tax was first established in 1913, the tax code was 400 pages. Today the tax code is 70,320 pages. *(USA Today, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 24, 2009)***

**There are currently 20 flavors of regular boxed Jell-O, but in the beginning there were only four: orange, strawberry, raspberry, and lemon. *(Charlotte Lowe, in Fact-O-Pedia, p. 135)***

 **Man often reaches his materialistic goals at the expense of his life, rather than in the expanse of it*. (Eric Butterworth, in Discover the Power Within You, p. 216)***

**The reason it is so difficult to make ends meet is because someone is always moving the ends. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**The first McDonald’s opened in 1940 in San Bernardino, California. By 1970 there was a McDonald’s in every state. *(Noel Botham, in The Best Book of Useless Information Ever, p. 142)***

**In 1899, the National Geographic magazine had a circulation of only 1000 copies. On its 75th birthday, if all the copies of the magazines that had been printed were stacked in a pile, it would have been over 20 miles high or about four times the height of Mount Everest. (Craig Varoga & the Associated Press editors, in It's A Fact, p. 26)**

**There's only one way to expand without ever conflicting with others: expand inwards! *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**On October 2, 1950, when the “Peanuts” comic strip first appeared, it ran in just seven newspapers. Today, over 50 years later, it's carried by 2,600 newspapers, reaching an estimated 355 million readers in 75 countries. It is translated into 21 languages. “Peanuts” is a $1 billion-a-year industry, including worldwide retail sales from licensing, publishing and TV shows. *(John Lang, in Rocky Mountain News)***

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**Every 20 minutes, the world’s human population increases by 3,500. *(Harry Bright & Jakob Anser, in That’s A Fact, Jack!, p. 25)***

**The world’s population grows by 100 million each year. *(Noel Botham, in The World’s Greatest Book of Useless Information, p. 147)***

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**Wife: “The magic is gone from our relationship! Have you noticed we never walk with our arms around each other anymore?” Husband: “That's because we can't get our arms around each other anymore!” *(Art Samsom, in The Born Loser comic strip)***

**One must, from time to time, attempt things that are beyond one's capacity. *(Pierre-Auguste Renoir, French Impressionist painter)***

**Store owner: “Tony, I’m planning to expand Montoni's!” Tony: “Expand? But we just finished paying off the last addition and renovation, not to mention all the dust and mess that expanding would cause. You haven't started drinking again, have you?” (*Tom Batiuk, in Funky Winkerbean comic strip)***

**Welcome Wagon: Company’s coming; add a cup of water to the soup*. (Anne Dingus, in Texas Monthly)***

**Billy asks his Mom: “Am I still small, Mommy? Or am I medium now?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

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**Wal-Mart -- opened a new store every three days**

**Walgreens -- opened a new store every day**

**Target -- opened a new store every five days**

**Staples -- opened a new store every three days**

**Radio Shack -- opened a new store every two days. *(Dealerscope magazine, March, 2002)***

**Franchise stores that opened frequently in 2002:**

**McDonald's -- 5.4 new stores opened every day**

**Subway -- 4.2 new stores opened every day**

**KFC -- 1.4 new stores opened every day**

**Baskin-Robbins -- 1.2 new stores opened every day**

**Taco Bell -- 1.7 new stores opened every day**

**Quizno's -- 1.1 new stores opened every day**

**7-Eleven -- 4.1 new stores opened every day. *(Enterpreneur magazine)***

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**Mother Goose: “Grimmy, I never see you sitting in your doghouse. Why?” Grimm: “I like thinking outside the box.” *(Mike Peters, in Mother Goose & Grimm comic strip)***

**Unity today is dynamic, vital and growing. Just over 400 in number as 1985 began and nearly 1000 as 1998 closes, study groups, satellite ministries and churches are forming all the time. The number of people served by Unity in the last thirteen years has tripled. *(Glenn R. Mosley & Connie Fillmore Bazzy)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*This whole universe may simply be a model for something much grander which God has in mind. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**While observing the high piles of paper on his desk, Frank says to Ernest: “The universe must be expanding. We keep getting in deeper and further behind.” *(Bob Thaves, in Frank & Ernest comic strip)***

**Man: “Some people think the universe is constantly expanding.” Garfield: “All right! Room for another donut!” *(Jim Davis, in Garfield comic strip)***

**Scientists have long recognized that the universe has been growing larger since its origin 13.7 billion years ago in an extremely rapid expansion called the “Big Bang.” But we assumed that this expansion should be slowing down due to the pull of gravity. In 1998, however, two teams of astrophysicists discovered that the expansion is actually speeding up. They observed a mysterious form of “energy” that opposes gravity and is causing the galaxies throughout the universe to move apart faster and faster. The discovery of “Dark Energy” is arguably the most important scientific breakthrough of the last 50 years. A full understanding of it eventually could have an effect on our daily lives. *(Meg Urry, in Parade magazine)*
I read that the universe is racing away from the Earth at over 15,000 miles per second! I wonder if it knows something we don't! *(Tom Wilson, in Ziggy comic strip)***

**If the universe is constantly expanding, how come the sky never gets any bigger? *(Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman, in Zits comic strip)***

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**In 1849, German immigrant Charles Hager bought the St. Louis, Missouri, blacksmith shop where he had been forging wagon hinges. Five generations later, Hager Companies is a family-owned swinging success and among the world’s largest manufacturers of hinges and hardware. *(American Profile magazine)***

**One of my favorite aphorisms goes like this: Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny. *(Harvey Mackay, in Outswimming the Sharks)***

**Woman to travel agent: “We've already seen the world. What else do you have?” (*E. A. Harris, in Boca Raton, Florida, Sun)***

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