**Foundations**

**You have made me stride freely,**

**and my feet do not slip.**

***(2 Samuel 22:37)***

**The Lord liveth; and blessed be my rock;**

**and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation.**

***(2 Samuel 22:47)***

**The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer.**

***(Psalm 18:2)***

**Therefore whoever hears these words of mine, and does them,**

**he is like a wise man who built his house upon a rock.**

**And the rain fell and the rivers overflowed**

**and the winds blew and beat upon that house;**

**but it did not fall, because its foundations were laid upon a rock.**

***(St. Matthew 7:24-25)***

**According to the grace of God which is given to me,**

**as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation,**

**and another builds upon it.**

**But let every man be careful how he builds thereon.**

***(1 Corinthians 3:10)***

**More than 90 percent of the earth’s animals have no backbone. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**In your hands and wrists are all but six of the 60 bones of your arms. In your feet and ankles are all but eight of the 60 bones in your legs. In other words, the bones are where the action is. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them. *(Henry David Thoreau)***

**The foundations of the great European cathedrals go down as far as forty or fifty feet. In some instances, they form a mass of stone as great as that of the visible building above the ground. *(Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 291)***

**The foundations of many great European cathedrals are as deep as forty to fifty feet. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 156)***

**Much of Chicago was built on mud. In the 1800s, it started to sink. From 1855 to 1875, renovators jacked up buildings, replaced foundations and cut new drainage lines. Builders say the “raising of Chicago” was one of the wonders of the 19th century. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The first pilings upon which the glorious city of Venice was built were pounded into the mud flats on April 25, 912 A.D. There are 1,156,672 of them holding up the fabled church of Santa Maria della Salute. Now, a millennium later, the whole works is sinking into the sea. What a tragedy! *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 330)***

**The foundation under Egypt’s Great Pyramid is about as big as 10 football fields. *(Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 29)***

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**A baby typically gets its first tooth at seven months, and it’s a lower. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Years ago, when I was in college, I heard a lecturer tell this story. It has stayed with me ever since. It seems a family with a little four-year-old daughter moved to a house by the sea. They loved the house but they worried about the location. It was high up on a cliff. The view was out of this world but the steep cliff in front of their yard worried them. They kept telling their little daughter that she must be careful never to go beyond the rock wall in front of the house. But, one day the mother looked out of the window just in time to see the little girl climb up on the wall and over she went. The mother was terrified. She rushed out, her heart pounding, and looked over the edge of the cliff. There was Mary hanging onto a little shrub about three feet over the edge. The mother was torn between scolding her and hugging her and, of course, she did the latter. “Tell me what happened?” she asked. “Well,” answered Mary, “I felt myself falling and I said, ‘Get under me, God.’ And God said, ‘I've been there all the time!’” *(Cornelia Addington)***

**It’s been reported that it’s impossible for a kangaroo to jump unless its tail is touching the ground. *(Samantha Weaver, in Tidbits of Denver)***

**Lichens are rootless. They're nourished from the air. Some live more than 4,000 years. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Good week for: Living on the ground floor, after a new study using incredibly precise atomic clocks confirmed Einstein's prediction that time runs faster the higher off the ground you are. For every foot above ground, a person ages about 90 billionths of a second faster over a lifetime. *(The Week magazine, August 3, 2012)***

**About half of all people killed by tornadoes live in mobile homes, which are ripped apart and sucked into the air because of their flimsy construction. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 13, 2011)***

**Moss has no roots. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**If you want to take motion sickness medicine, take it on the ground before the flight, not on the plane in the air. So advise the medicos. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**It’s one of those things I wish I’d said: “If you end up ‘on the rocks,’ remember that rock is a good foundation to build on.” *(Phil Barnhart, in Seasonings for Sermons, p. 66)***

**A school system without parents at its foundation is just like a bucket with a hole in it. *(The Rev. Jesse L. Jackson)***

**A five-foot pelican weighing twenty-five pounds has a skeleton that weighs only twenty-three ounces. *(E. C. McKenzie, in Tantalizing Facts, p. 3)***

**Rock bottom became the solid foundation upon which I rebuilt my life. *(J. K. Rowling)***

**I think growing up in a small town is a good foundation for anyone who decides to enter politics, Ronald Reagan reflected after being president. “You get to know people as individuals, not as blocs or members of special-interest groups. You discover that, despite their differences, most people have a lot in common.” *(Douglas Brinkley)***

**One rye-grass plant, grown as a scientific experiment, put out roots totaling 378 miles in a single four-month period. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 177)***

**Earthquake: The neighborhood was the worst hit in the city because its homes were built on landfill, not bedrock. The area was once part of San Francisco Bay but was filled in, and as many as 60 homes either collapsed or will be torn down. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**More than 95 percent of the sand mined each year goes into construction. Indeed, despite the Biblical warning about building upon sand, our industrial society is largely founded upon a base of it. Mix sand with equal volumes of gravel and portland cement, add a little water, and you get versatile concrete, which can be poured to make buildings, bridges, dams and roads, or molded to form blocks, pipes, girders, beams and precast walls. *(Richard Bode, in Reader's Digest)***

**Skeleton of a 160-pound man weighs about 29 pounds, if typical. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**How far down does a tree’s tap root go? Farthest I’ve read was 400 feet, on an enormous fig tree in South Africa. Understand most only go down about as far as the trees go up, hardpan permitting. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A Southern Californian, who says he lives in Mud Slide Manor, reports his home now conforms to the famous dictum of architect Frank Lloyd Wright: “A house should be of the hill, not on the hill.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

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