

Words... In Other

A RESEARCH SERVICE FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATORS

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ANGER: Mirra Andreeva stormed off the Indian Wells, California tennis court March 9, 2026 after being upset by unseeded Katerina Siniakova. The 18-year Russian star was the defending champion and didn't take her defeat well. She threw and smashed her racket several times during the match, and then stormed off spewing profanities at the crowd. She later stated that she wasn't proud of how she handled it and then said, "Those are the things I really need to work on soon. I don't know. Not in the future, but whenever I get the chance." Professional athletes deal with issues most of us will never understand, yet there are things to observe that can help us grow. One is, address your anger issues now, not 'whenever you get the chance.' *People.com, 3/11/26*

COMPARISON: Teddy Roosevelt said, "Comparison is the thief of joy." *The Week, 3/3/23, p.17*

HAPPINESS: Six-year-old Rona listened carefully about the hardships of others as a missionary described her work in another country. When the offering was taken, Rona took out the birthday money she had received from her grandmother the day before. Her mother whispered, "Your grandmother wanted you to use that to buy something nice for yourself." With a big smile, Rona replied, "I did, I bought happiness." Giving trumps getting. (Please join Michelle & me in buying some happiness by giving \$100 to [Compassion.com/BYM26](https://www.compassion.com/bym26)). *Reader's Digest, March 2022, p.16*

INFLUENCE: In a long-running Reader's Digest series, "My Most Unforgettable Character," contributors wrote about the person who made the biggest impact on his or her life. Plenty of these articles were recognizable like Jackie Robinson concerning Branch Rickey, Charles Edison about his inventive dad Thomas, and journalist Emma Bugbee's acclaim to the lady she reported on for 34 years, Eleanor Roosevelt. But the one that certainly caught attention was the piece by Bugs Bunny. The creative article, attributed to the famed cartoon character, let it be known that his creator, Chuck Jones, made the biggest impact on his life. Our lives are shaped by those who influence us and none should influence us more than our Creator. *Reader's Digest, Feb 2022, p.49*

MARRIAGE: A wise pastor had a ready answer for anyone who asked about the secret of a good marriage: "Two obedient Christians." *Men of the Word, Nathan Busenitz, 2011, p.134*

MONEY: When the stock market crashed in 1929, Jesse Livermore made \$100 million...and then took his life 11 years later. By shorting stocks, Livermore was the one person who made money when the market fell. When he got home on October 29, 1929, his wife was tearful and panicked because she'd heard the news. But Livermore explained, "Today was the best day I ever had in the market." He was vilified by many as the Great Bear and was dubbed the original Wolf of Wall Street. Livermore lived lavishly and recklessly, all of which took a financial toll. On November 28, 1940, he went to a favorite New York spot, the Sherry-Netherland Hotel, sat down for drinks and then nervously scribbled in his leatherbound notebook. At 5:25 pm, he went to the cloakroom and used a pistol from his collection to end his life. The note to his wife included these words: "I am a failure. I am truly sorry, but this is the only way out for me." After becoming one of the world's wealthiest men, in just over a decade he died with a net worth of negative \$361,010. He could have uniquely lived in prosperity the rest of his life after Black Thursday, but as was noted of him, "Like many gamblers, Livermore lived as much for the action as for the profits." Scripture footnotes money with caution for a very important reason. *1929, Andrew Sorkin, 2025, p.236, 427*

PARENTING: Bart Millard is the lead singer for MercyMe and the focus of a recent movie, *I Can Only Imagine 2*. He had a very challenging childhood and has faced significant adversity in adulthood as well. This film reveals the struggles that plagued him after his son was diagnosed with diabetes and his whole life changed. That ultimately led to conflict with his son and personal angst about fatherhood. In a heart-wrenching moment during the movie, Millard tells his wife, “I think God gave our kid the wrong dad.” Spoiler alert, things work out and you need to watch it all the way through the credits. In a post-production interview, Millard stated, “As far as being a parent, the best advice I was ever given was: If you ever just sit around and worry whether you’re a good parent or not, you’re probably a pretty good parent.” That’s a helpful perspective that many of us need to hear in today’s culture of parent blaming & shaming. *USA Today*, 3/6/26, B2

PEACE: *Atomic Habits* bestselling author, James Clear says, “Guilt lives in the past. Worry lives in the future. Peace lives in the present.” Sounds like Matthew 6:34. *JamesClear.com*, 6/13/24

SIN: Aldous Huxley died on the same day as C.S. Lewis (November 22, 1963) and unless he had a last-minute change of heart, the two men stepped into opposite eternities. Huxley was a famous atheist that tipped his hand for rejecting God. In his book *Ends and Means* (1937), he wrote, “I had motives for not wanting the world to have meaning...For myself, as, no doubt, for most of my contemporaries, the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation. The liberation we desired was simultaneously liberation from a certain political and economic system and liberation from a certain system of morality. We objected to the morality because it interfered with our sexual freedom.” God’s standards are frequently rejected simply because they interfere with our sinful desires. *The Unexpected Adventure*, Strobel & Mittelberg, 2011, p.163

UNCERTAINTY: February 18, 2026 marked 25 years since the tragic death of Dale Earnhardt. Much has been written and noted in remembrance of the famous stock car driver. His sudden death took place on the final lap of the Daytona 500 in which he was just 15 seconds from the finish line. It’s a harsh reminder of life’s uncertainty. *Houston Chronicle*, 2/18/2026, p.A9

WORK: While painting street lines in Memphis, Tennessee, a crew encountered a large, dead racoon. Rather than pause or think, they just painted right over it. Commuters that day saw roadkill with a white stripe down its middle. A city spokesperson’s only comment was a promise to have the racoon removed. Maybe the crew should be removed as well. *The Week*, 8/18/23, p.12

EVERYDAY HUMOR

GOLF: Gardner Dickinson (1927-1998) was a professional golfer who’d joke, “They say golf is like life, but don’t believe them. Golf is more complicated than that.” *The Week*, 1/20/23, p.17

GUIDANCE: Gerry’s friend moved from Germany to Oregon and faced signage culture shock. To compensate, she would write down the street name on which she parked her car. One day, she became frantic while lost in downtown and called to explain that so many streets had the same name. Gerry asked the street name and in a heavy German accent her friend said, “VON VAY!” Sometimes it seems like every street around us is One Way. *Reader’s Digest*, April 2022, p.16

LITTLE LEAGUE: The comical baseball legend Yogi Berra (1925-2015) said, “Little League is a very good thing because it keeps the parents off the streets.” *Reader’s Digest*, April 2020, p.25

SELF-TALK: The witty old woman quipped, “Of course I talk to myself...sometimes I need expert advice.” *Mature Living*, February 2023, p.49

SHARING: In *Family Circus*, Dolly came home from school complaining, “Kindergarten is always the same thing, sharing, sharing, sharing...” A hard lesson! *Houston Chronicle*, 3/6/26, D6

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