

# In Other Words...

A RESEARCH SERVICE FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATORS

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**DEATH:** Chuck Norris enjoyed celebrity status in multiple generations through television, movies, and the Internet sensation of “Chuck Norris Facts” jokes (Chuck Norris got bit by a snake...after five days of agonizing pain the cobra died. Chuck Norris’ tears cure cancer...too bad he never cries. If Chuck Norris fought himself in an alternate reality...they’d both win. Chuck Norris doesn’t wear a watch...he decides what time it is. Chuck Norris doesn’t turn the lights on...he turns off the dark. When Chuck Norris does push-ups, he doesn’t lift himself up...he pushes down the earth. If Chuck Norris misspells a word...Oxford dictionary will change the spelling. Chuck Norris had a staring contest with the sun...and won). Norris turned 86 on March 10, 2026 and posted an Instagram video of him sparring to mark the occasion. His caption stated, “I don’t age. I level up” (a term for advancing to a higher belt level in martial arts). He died nine days later on March 19, 2026. NASCAR racer Kyle Busch had a similar experience. Just six days before he died on May 21, 2026 at age 41, the driver known as “Rowdy” won his 69th and final race at Dover Motor Speedway. He told reporters he was celebrating “because you never know when the last one is.” Regardless of who we are or what we do, death has an uncanny way of surprising us. *Beaumont Enterprise*, 3/23/26; *USA Today*, 3/23/26, p.A4; *USA Today*, 5/22/26, p.NS06

**EVANGELISM:** Most people have never heard of Jim Moylan so his death at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit on December 11, 2025 went mainly unnoticed. But what he did in life is seen by most of us every day, even if we don’t notice. He had a 35-year career as an engineer for Ford and retired in 2003. In 1986, he was driving a borrowed company car on a rainy day and pulled in for gas, but went to the wrong side of the pump. He got soaked but came up with an ingenious idea. What if there was a small indicator on the dash that showed driver’s which side of the car has the gas cap? Unlike many such suggestions, his idea was immediately embraced. Moylan’s Arrow was located by the fuel gauge in new cars to help drivers know, or remember, if they were filling up on the passenger’s or driver’s side. He never asked for a patent and didn’t seek financial compensation or recognition, so his idea became universal. A lot of us wouldn’t even know what that small arrow by the gas pump icon is for...but it’s quietly pointing us in the right direction. Evangelism can work the same way. We don’t have to be a blaring banner, just a clear indicator to help those who are interested in getting to the right side. *Wall Street Journal*, 1/3/2026, p.B2

**FATHERHOOD:** Wintzell’s Oyster House in Mobile, Alabama has advertised a standing offer for nearly 100 years: “Free Oysters to Any Man 80 Years Old Accompanied by His Father.” They didn’t have any qualifiers until February 2026 when Jimmy Rush, 80, brought his dad James Rush, 99, for a dozen free oysters. The family has been talking about this moment for 30 years, and because of James’ good health...they plan to do it again in 2028 when younger brother Carl Rush turns 80. It’s always fun to hear about unique father-son memories. *Examiner*, 3/26/2026, p.21B

**FATHERHOOD:** Guys tend to focus on the bottom-line and that line just hit a new threshold. On average, it now costs \$303,418 to raise a child in America. *USA Today*, 4/28/2026, B1

**FOCUS:** Babe Ruth was asked what he thought about when he struck out and he replied, “I think about hitting home runs.” Focus should be on goals, not failures. *Bits & Pieces*, Vol T No 6, p.2

**INFLUENCE:** During a wedding reception, my wife and I spoke to the bride’s niece about her job in law enforcement. She explained how our community would be so much better off “if everyone left their light on.” The nighttime illumination of an outside light is a good deterrent that

becomes exponentially more powerful when everybody does it. Jesus said as much about Christian influence in Matthew 5:16 – it makes everything better. Deputy Heather Stutes died in the line of duty on April 24, 2026 and she was a believer who left her light on. *Editor's Personal Experience*

**PRIORITIES:** The internal name for Netflix was “Kibble” before it launched publicly. The creators leaned on old business folklore about a company that sold bad dog food. They had great advertising, a powerful sales team, and impressive packaging...but poor sales. Leadership was furious so they probed the ranks and discovered that dogs didn't like their food. Netflix didn't want a glitzy company void of customers. They wanted people to “like” what they were selling so they embraced the dog food name of Kibble as a reminder to create a coveted product. Priorities help us focus on the things that matter most. *Beaumont Enterprise, 5/31/2026, p.B3*

**PURPOSE:** During its mission from April 1-10, 2026, Artemis II became the first human flight to the moon in over 50 years. At their post-splashdown news conference, Christina Koch said, “This is a relay race. We have batons that we bought to symbolize that physically. We plan to hand them to the next crew. Every single thing that we do is with them in mind.” It's a picture of purpose that goes beyond ourselves, which it always should. *Houston Chronicle, 4/11/2026, p.A1*

**SALVATION:** In the Sight & Sound movie *A Great Awakening*, George Whitefield is shown preaching to a group of hostile coal miners. They pelt him with rocks and yell, “You're not wanted!” With blood running down his face and spewing from his mouth, Whitefield replied, “Not wanted, but needed.” He persevered, shared the Gospel anyway, and revival came to those miners caked in black coal. For many people, salvation is not wanted but we must remember it's needed...to wash away the black residue of sin that stains us all. *A Great Awakening, 2026*

**SUCCESS:** Eli Manning won two Super Bowls and was the MVP both times (2008 & 2012). In retirement, he's proven to be a very good golfer. It's not unusual for a golfer of his caliber to have at least one hole-in-one and his came over a decade ago. He pulled it about 50 yards left but the ball bounced off of a tree and went into the cup. It wasn't pretty but Manning carded a 1 and says he's still waiting for his first “real one.” Our success doesn't always look like what we'd expect, or even hope, but we can still celebrate those ugly wins. *Wall Street Journal, 5/30/26, p.R10*

## EVERYDAY HUMOR

**FATHERHOOD:** Ed stood in amazement as he watched his two identical twin sons get mad at each other and both kept shouting to one another, “You're ugly!” *Reader's Digest, May 2022, p.19*

**FATHERHOOD:** Actor & comedian Steve Martin has regularly said, “A father carries pictures where his money used to be.” *The Week, 7/1/2022, p.17*

**FATHERLY AVICE:** While discussing their pastor's sermon about the Second Coming, Jay told his family, “The best way to prepare for our Lord's return is simply to live each day as if it were your last.” His son replied, “I tried that once and you grounded me for a month.” *SeminaryPlus.org*

**GOLF:** Sergio Garcia won the Masters in 2017 but hasn't finished in the top 20 since then. He got so mad about his tee shots in the 2026 tournament that he destroyed his driver after the second hole in his final round. He slammed his driver on the ground then finished it off by hitting a cooler. Later, on the 520-yard par-4 11th hole, one spectator asked another if Garcia actually had a 3-wood in his hands. His friend quipped, “Well, it's not his driver.” After finishing at 8-over, Garcia was asked about his lack-luster performance and he replied, “Bad golf.” When asked to elaborate, Garcia said, “Bad shots.” When asked again, he explained, “Unfortunately, a lot of bad shots.” His description could easily apply to many of us who play the game. *USA Today, 4/13/2026, p.NS3*

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