



NEW SERVICE LOCATION(S) IN 2011 !!

NEXT MONTH, May 1st, 2011, the NTCOF's monthly first-Sunday services will be held at the Westin Hotel right on the other side of 114 "catty-corner" from the Sheraton Grand Hotel. NO CHANGE in the time at 10:30 AM and, please, come early for coffee and conversation and join us afterwards at the Golden Corral on East Grapevine Mills Circle near Grapevine Mills Mall. We will meet at the Sheraton Grand again beginning in June except for the September 4th service when we will be back - for that one month only - at the Westin. (Same time, etc)

GEORGE CARLIN ON GOD AND PRAYING

(slightly abridged and edited)

I want you to know something, this is sincere, I want you to know, when it comes to believing in God, I really tried. I really, really tried. I tried to believe that there is a God, who created each of us in His own image and likeness, loves us very much, and keeps a close eye on things. I really tried to believe that, but I gotta tell you, the longer you live, the more you look around, the more you realize, something is messed up.

Something is wrong here. War, disease, death, destruction, hunger, filth, poverty, torture, crime, corruption, and the Ice Capades. Something is definitely wrong. This is not good work. If this is the best God can do, I am not impressed. Results like these do not belong on the résumé of a Supreme Being. This is the kind of stuff you'd expect from an office temp with a bad attitude. And just between you and me, in any decently-run universe, this guy would've been out on his all-powerful keister a long time ago.

So, if there is a God, I think most reasonable people might agree that he's at least incompetent, and maybe, just maybe, doesn't give a shit. Doesn't give a shit, which I admire in a person, and which would explain a lot of these bad results.

I've often thought people treat God rather rudely, don't you? Asking trillions and trillions of prayers every day. Asking and pleading and begging for favors. Do this, gimme that, I need a new car, I want a better job. And most of this praying takes place on Sunday his day off. It's not nice. And it's no way to treat a friend.

But people do pray, and they pray for a lot of different things, you know, your sister needs an operation, your brother was arrested. And I say, fine. Pray for anything you want. Pray for anything, but what about the Divine Plan? Remember that?

The Divine Plan. Long time ago, God made a Divine Plan. Gave it a lot of thought, decided it was a good plan, put it into practice. And for billions and billions of years, the Divine Plan has been doing just fine. Now, you come along, and pray for something. Well suppose the thing you want isn't in God's Divine Plan? What do you want Him to do? Change His plan? Just for you? Doesn't it seem a little arrogant? It's a Divine Plan.

And here's something else, another problem you might have: Suppose your prayers aren't answered. What do you say? "Well, it's God's will." "Thy Will Be Done." Fine, but if it's God's will, and He's going to do what He wants to anyway, why bother praying in the first place? Seems like a big waste of time! Couldn't you just skip the praying part and go right to His Will? It's all very confusing.

You know who I pray to? Joe Pesci. Two reasons: First of all, I think he's a good actor, okay? To me, that counts. Second, he looks like a guy who can get things done. In fact, Joe Pesci came through on a couple of things that God was having trouble with.

So I've been praying to Joe for about a year now. And I noticed something. I noticed that all the prayers I used to offer to God, and all the prayers I now offer to Joe Pesci, are being answered at about the same 50% rate. Half the time I get what I want, half the time I don't. Same as God, 50-50. Same as the four-leaf clover and the horseshoe, the wishing well and the rabbit's foot, same as the Mojo Man, same as the Voodoo Lady, it's all the same: 50-50. So just pick your superstition, sit back, make a wish, and enjoy yourself.

And for those of you who look to The Bible for moral lessons and literary qualities, I might suggest a couple of other stories for you. You might want to look at the Three Little Pigs, that's a good one. Has

a nice happy ending, I'm sure you'll like that. Then there's Little Red Riding Hood, although it does have that X-rated part where the Big Bad Wolf actually eats the grandmother. Which I didn't care for, by the way. And finally, I've always drawn a great deal of moral comfort from Humpty Dumpty. The part I like the best? "All the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't put Humpty Dumpty back together again." That's because there is no Humpty Dumpty, and there is no God. None, not one, no God, never was.

One day a young Buddhist on his journey home, came to the banks of a wide river. He pondered for hours on just how to cross such a wide barrier. Just as he was about to give up he saw a great teacher on the other side of the river. The young Buddhist yelled over to the teacher "Oh wise one, can you tell me how to get to the other side of this river?"

The teacher pondered for a moment, looked up and down the river, and yelled back "My son, you are on the other side!"

Q: What did a Buddhist say to the hot dog vendor?

A: Make me one with everything!

Q: How many Zen Buddhists does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Three -- one to change it, one to not-change it and one to both change- and not-change it.

Q: Why are there so few Buddhist rhythm and blues bands?

A: Because Buddhists don't have any soul.

A monk was driving in India when suddenly a dog ran across the road and was hit and killed. The monk looked around and, seeing a temple, went and knocked on the door. A monk opened the door. The first monk said: "I'm terribly sorry, but my karma ran over your dogma"

**COMING NEXT MONTH:
"MOTHERING
AND FATHERING"**

and more! MAY 1, 2011 !!

**AT THE WESTIN HOTEL AT 114 AND
ESTERS ("CATTY-CORNER" FROM
TODAY'S SERVICE AT THE SHERATON)**

**YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS TO THE
NTCOF ARE NEEDED, APPRECIATED,
AND TAX-DEDUCTIBLE!!**

All NTCOF events can be found through our website calendar (yes, website needs and will get an update!), or through our meetup page, from which you can RSVP, at: www.meetup.com/church-of-freethought - JOIN THE NTCOF MEETUP GROUP to get email updates too!

Social Luncheon: Today, immediately after our Service, join us for lunch and discussion at the Golden Corral Buffet and Grill in Grapevine, located just across from the Grapevine Mills Mall, at 2605 E. Grapevine Mills Circle, phone (972) 874-7900. To reach Golden Corral from the Sheraton, cross over the freeway and make a left onto John W. Carpenter Freeway (114) going west. Then take the first exit RIGHT onto International Parkway (121), then Grapevine Mills Parkway exit. Turn LEFT on Stars and Stripes Way, continuing on to E. Grapevine Mills Circle.

Freethought Salon: Get together to discuss today's service topic or other conundrums of interest to Freethinkers. Second Sunday monthly, over breakfast, at the Hilton Vineyard in Grapevine this month; see the meetup site!

Game Night: The regular game night crew meets nearly every Friday night at the IHOP on 2310 Stemmons Trail (I-35), near Northwest Highway (Loop 12). Plan to arrive at about 7:30 PM, and stay late playing Risk, Rummikub, and other fun games!

Secular Singles: Freethinkers have met their life-partners with whom they have begun families through the Secular Singles group. Check the meetup site for the next date, time and location!

**My theology, briefly, is that the
universe was dictated but not signed.**
- Christopher Morley



DFWCOR

Dallas-Fort Worth Coalition of Reason

The North Texas Church of Freethought
The Fellowship of Unbelievers

Presenter:

Tim Gorski

Music (usually) by

"Faithless Companions"

Jay Purrington, Ed McGuire,

Cathy & Kevin Smith and Scott Williams

Welcome Coordinator

Mark Barnick

Equipment Wrangler:

"Wild" Bill Holloway

Videographer:

John Gauthier

Minister:

Dr. Tim Gorski

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