

The following are actual church bloopers found either in the Church bulletin or on the Church bulletin board:

"Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on 'It's a Terrible Experience'."

"Due to the Rector's illness, Wednesday's healing services will be discontinued until further notice."

"Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM. Please use large double door at the side entrance."

"Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community."

"Today's Sermon: 'How Much Can a Man Drink?' with hymns from a full choir."

"Potluck supper: prayer and medication to follow."

"Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones."

A new loudspeaker system has been installed in the church. It was given by one of our members in honor of his wife.

Several years ago Reader's Digest carried an article
About a woman named May Lempke.

May cared for young orphans that no one else would care for.

One day she got a call from a Milwaukee hospital
asking her to care for a young baby.

The baby was blind, had cerebral palsy and was mentally retarded.

She was told that he would probably die very soon.

She said she would take him, but she added,

"And if I take him, I guarantee you he won't die very soon."

May took the infant into her home and named him Leslie.
Every day she would massage his entire body...
She would pray over him, cry over him and she loved him.
She would tell him stories about Jesus,
although he never seemed to understand.
May loved Leslie with a deep and faithful love.

The years passed and the child grew.
Accomplishments, though minimal, were always celebrated.
At age 16, Leslie, if helped up,
could stand alone without anyone holding on to him.

One day, May noticed Leslie playing with a package.
It had a string tied around it,
and Leslie was plucking at the string.
May wondered: could he be interested in music?

So she surrounded him with music.
Music would play all the time in the house.
She and her husband even brought an old piano
And put it in Leslie's room.
She would sit him at the piano and try to teach him how to make music.
She would take his fingers and place them on the keys,
But Leslie seemed oblivious to it all.

One night, May woke to the sound of classical music.
The clock read 2:00 AM; she asked her husband to go shut off the radio
which she was sure was left on in Leslie's room.

However, when he went to Leslie's room, it wasn't the radio at all.
It was Leslie sitting at the piano playing Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto #1.

It was almost too amazing to be true.
Leslie had never gotten himself out of bed on his own.
He had never seated himself at the piano.
He had never even struck a key without someone's help.
May dropped to her knee's when she saw this and said a quiet prayer.
"Thank you dear God for not forgetting about Leslie."

Leslie is what is called an autistic savant.

A person who is mentally retarded from some form of brain damage,

But who possesses an extreme talent in some other way.

It's a phenomenon still searching for an explanation.

But May Lemke has an explanation:

It is the power released by God's love.

May doesn't understand how it happens.

She just knows it's God's love.

Jesus knew about the power of God's love, too.

In our Gospel today, he instructs us "Remain in my love."

That's what makes this story perfect for today:

It reminds us of the power of God's love...

But more than that it reminds us of the power of God's love
as it is found in one another.

You see, God could do it on his own if God wanted to,

But God chose to make us co-creators.

God relies on people like May to show his love in action.

God relies on people like us to show his love in action.

Remain in my love.

And the key to this is that we **remain** in that love.

The key to this is that we never give up on that love.

May remained confident in her love for Leslie and in God's love for Leslie.

It seems to me that it is easy at times to give up on the power of love.

It's easy to give up on one another, maybe even on God.

But Jesus reminds us to remain in God's love.

And he makes us a promise.

Do this, and my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete.