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The Gospel Blimp

WE CAN'T CHRISTEN IT WITH CHAMPAGNE!!!

WHAT ABOUT COKE ???

WAIT.

SEVEN IS THE PERFECT NUMBER...

WE'LL USE SEVEN-UP!!

IGBI

Hooray!!!

FOLKS ALL OVER TOWN WILL BE LOOKING UP!

There she goes!
AND IF THEY DON'T LOOK UP...

---WE'LL DROP THE GOSPEL MESSAGE RIGHT WHERE THEY LIVE!

BOMBS AWAY!!!

LOOK, GEORGE...

YOUR NEIGHBOR'S REALLY GETTING THE MESSAGE!

REPE...PRAY FOR HIM...

---THAT HIS HEART WILL BE TOUCHED.

IT'S ONLY FAIR, GEORGE...

---YOUR NEIGHBOR INSPIRED THE BLUMP...

---REMEMBER???
WE HAD A PICNIC IN YOUR BACKYARD LAST SUMMER!

LOOK AT GEORGE'S NEIGHBORS...

YOU CAN TELL THEY'RE NOT CHRISTIANS!!!

HMMM... HOW COULD WE SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH THEM?

KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN, HERM...

--- DO YOU WANT THEM TO HEAR YOU?

WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME THEY HEARD!!!

HERM'S RIGHT... THEY GO TO CHURCH ON CHRISTMAS AND EASTER...

--- AND DRINK AND PLAY CARDS EVERY OTHER SUNDAY!

WELL, AS I WAS SAYING...

HOW CAN WE GIVE THEM THE GOSPEL???
LOOK

THERE'S

THE

ANSWER

GOOD YEAR

FANTASTIC

YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN

A BLIMP WITH BIBLE VERSES.

OH, COME DOWN TO EARTH!

WE CAN'T AFFORD A BLIMP!!!

IT'S TOO WILD!

THE WHOLE IDEA WOULD HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR HERM!

I LIKE IT!

HERM'S A GOOD ORGANIZER.... AND HE PLUGGED THE IDEA AT OUR WEEKLY BUSINESSMEN'S LUNCHEON!

THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY!!!

HERM'S REALLY EXCITED ABOUT THIS!
AND SO I SUGGEST WE APPOINT A COMMITTEE.

YOU OUGHT TO BE CHAIRMAN HERM!

THIS IS GOING TO TAKE WORK, FELLOWS...

LOTS OF IT!!!

THAT WAS THE UNDERSTATEMENT OF THE YEAR...

MAYBE THE CENTURY!!!

JOE, OUR LAWN LOOKS LIKE A JUNGLE!

I'M SORRY, AGNES... --- BUT YOU KNOW HOW BUSY I'VE BEEN...

--- GETTING THE BLIMP OFF THE GROUND!

THE KIDS ONLY SEE YOU AT BREAKFAST !!!

SIGH... I MISS THEM TOO...

--- BUT THIS IS THE LORD'S WORK... --- AND THERE ARE SO MANY DETAILS!

...
HERM: EVEN QUIT HIS JOB AT THE MEAT-PACKING PLANT.

HE’S GOING INTO THIS FULL-TIME.

YOU’RE KIDDING!

YOU’VE ALL GONE BANANAS!

I’VE GOT TO RUN, AGNES—

THE BLIMP COMMITTEE IS MEETING AT GEORGE’S.

OKAY, FELLOWS...

WE’re FINALLY INCORPORATED...

...AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION.

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, GEORGE...

...THE WIFE AND I ARE GOING TO OUR PLACE AT THE SHORE FOR THE WEEKEND...

...WOULD YOU AND ETHEL CARE TO JOIN US?

SORRY, DAN—

I’VE GOT ANOTHER COMMITTEE MEETING ON SATURDAY...
--- AND A PRAYER MEETING ON SUNDAY.

WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF GEORGE'S NEIGHBOR IS SAVED THROUGH THE BLIMP?

WE'LL MAKE HIM A SPECIAL TARGET FOR TOMORROW'S MISSION.

BRING IT DOWN A LITTLE LOWER...

--- SO THEY DON'T HAVE TO STRETCH THEIR NECKS.

VERY WELL, SIR.

IT'S GETTING DARK ???

WHAT'S GOING ON ???

I'LL OPEN THE WINDOW AND LOO...

FOOOOOSH!
WE WERE ABLE TO REPAIR THE BLIMP.

AND THEN WE HIRED A NEW PILOT!

--- A FINE YOUNG MAN WHO HAD BEEN CONSIDERING THE MISSION FIELD!!!
OUR NEW PILOT ADDED A MISSIONARY EMPHASIS EVERY SATURDAY!

AND SPEAKING OF SATURDAYS---

IT WAS AwFUL! OH, THAT HORRIBLE BLIMP.

SLAM!

I WAS NEVER SO EMBARRASSED. WHAT ??? WHAT HAPPENED ???

WE WERE AHEAD AT HALF TIME---

--- AND THEN THAT STUPID BLIMP CAME ALONG !!!

BOMBS AWAY !!!

SAVES
Look! Bubble gum!!!

It's... it's not bubble gum.

All us Christian kids were mocked out!

Salvation by International Gospel Blimps Inc.

But hundreds may come to the Lord!!!

Or be turned off!!!
WELL, WE'RE TRUSTING THE LORD FOR REVIVAL IN THIS TOWN!
AND I HOPE IT STARTS WITH GEORGE GRISCOM'S NEIGHBOR!

THAT REMINDS ME...
I'VE GOT TO RETURN THIS ELECTRIC DRILL TO GEORGE.

THANKS FOR THE DRILL, GEORGE...
...AND BY THE WAY...

...HOW'S YOUR NEIGHBOR COMING ALONG?

NOTHIN'S NEW...
...BUT I THINK HE TOOK HIS WIFE TO THE HOSPITAL TWO OR THREE DAYS AGO.
WE SEE HIM EATING ALONE AT NIGHT...--- ALWAYS A BOTTLE OF BEER...--- SOMETIMES TWO!

WHAT HOSPITAL IS SHE IN? BEATS ME!

BY THE WAY... HOW'S THE SOUND SYSTEM COMING?

IT'LL BE READY TOMORROW NIGHT!

THE NEXT NIGHT...

ROLLED AWAY

ROLLED AWAY

EVERY BURDEN OF MY HEART ROLLED AWAY
NOW HEAR THIS
ALL YOU PEOPLE!

THE NEXT MORNING---
LOOK!
WE MADE THE FRONT PAGE!
YEAH---

NOW IS THE TIME TO REPENT!

NOW LOOK AT THE EDITORIAL PAGE!

Editorial Opinion
The Right to Peace
An airborne litterbug is bad enough—an airborne sound truck is too much! The patience of our good city has been taxed beyond and it...
The board of directors called an emergency meeting!!!

And before we even got started...

Someone broke into the hanger!

The p.a. system's been sabotaged.

We'll have it fixed.

The enemy won't stop us!!!

We hired a P.R. man...

You'll handle fund-raising, too...

...our budget is five thousand a month!

Cool baby!!!
OUR NEW P.R. MAN WAS A REAL FIRECRACKER!!! AND HE GOT RESULTS!!!

THIS TOWN IS GONNA LOVE THE BLIMP, BABY!!!

SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEACHER GIVEN FREE BLIMP RIDE

LOCAL CHURCH ADDS BLIMP TO MISSIONARY BUDGET

BLIMP DROPS "FIRE BOMBS"

TRACTS TO RAIN "FIRES OF REVIVAL" ARE BEING DROPPED ALL OVER THIS TOWN.

INTERNATIONAL "PEOPLE BLIMP"

NEW BLIMP DROPS "FIRE BOMBS"

WE BEGAN TO GET A BRAND-NEW IMAGE---BUILT AROUND HERM!!!

BEAUTIFUL, BABY---BEAUTIFUL.

FIRST HE GREW A BEARD

THEN HE WAS MADE "COMMANDER" OF I.G.B.I.

AND GIVEN A SNAPPY UNIFORM.
SOON PEOPLE BEGAN TO TAKE PRIDE IN THE GOSPEL BUMP!

AFTER ALL, NO OTHER TOWN HAD ONE.

REPDENT

HOW DOES THIS GRAB YOU, BOYS...

--- WE'LL REACH OUT TO THE ETHNIC GROUPS ---

I.G.B.I.

EACH NIGHT WE'LL USE A DIFFERENT LANGUAGE:

I LIKE IT!

CHRIST DER RETTER IST DA

GUTEN ABEND MEINE HERRN UND DAMEN ---

GULP! IT WAS ON CHINESE NIGHT THAT ALL OUR GOOD WILL WAS WIPE OUT!!!
FOLKS HAD JUST SETTLED DOWN IN FRONT OF THE TUBE... --- AND: GASP: IT HAPPENED!!!

T.V. VIEWERS ALL OVER TOWN FRANTICALLY SWITCHED CHANNELS... --- BUT THE SOUND WAS THE SAME!!!

AFTER THE SERMON IN CHINESE ENDED, THE BLIMP TRANSMITTED SOME GOOD OLD FAMILIAR HYMNS... --- BUT THE ELECTRONIC SCRAMBLE CONTINUED!

ZSA ZSA GABOR IS SINGING "DWELLING IN BEULAH LAND"!!!
THIS IS WORSE THAN THE CENTRAL GAME!!!

I CANT GO TO SCHOOL TOMORROW!!!

HE'S DUE TO STAY UP THERE FOR TWO MORE HOURS!!!

THE ENTIRE TOWN TRIED EVERY POSSIBLE WAY TO GET THE BLIMP PILOT'S ATTENTION---
BUT HE DIDN'T CATCH ON UNTIL HE LANDED !!!

LET'S HAVE THE BUM !!!

BURN THE BLIMP !!!

THE POLICE DID A GREAT JOB THAT NIGHT ---

-- BUT ALL OF US REALIZED THAT THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR OUR BELOVED BLIMP !!!

AND POOR GEORGE SEEMED TO TAKE IT THE WORST ---

MY NEIGHBORS ---

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THEM NOW ???
THE COMMANDER DIDN'T HELP THINGS AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE!

UNFORTUNATELY, HARRUMP! I WAS OUT OF TOWN DURING LAST NIGHT'S; AHM? FIASCO!!!

BUT NOW THAT I AM BACK, AHM? I PLEDGE THAT ANY IRRESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS IN I.G.B.I, WILL BE PURGED!!!

WHAT COULD HE HAVE DONE LAST NIGHT?

HE WOULD HAVE BEEN AS HELPLESS AS THE REST OF US!

LISTEN, GEORGE BABY...

--- THE COMMANDER IS OUR IMAGE...

--- HE'S GOT TO LOOK GOOD!

EVERYBODY ELSE IS EXPENDABLE!

THAT'S NOT THE CHRISTIAN WAY!!!
GEORGE SORT OF DROPPED OUT OF THINGS AFTER THAT...

--- AS A MATTER OF FACT WE DIDN'T SEE THE COMMANDER MUCH EITHER...

--- HE WAS BUSY AT THE COUNTRY CLUB WITH P.R. WORK!

SAY...

I TOLD THEM NOT TO FLY OVER HERE!!!

IT'S TOO DISTRACTING!

ISN'T THAT YOUR BUMP, HERM?

Uh... yes, it is.

EVER THINK OF REACHING OUT WITH THAT THING, HERM?

Well, uh... that's the idea!
I MEAN THERE ARE MANY SOCIAL ISSUES...

OH, OUR SUPPORTERS WOULDN'T GO ALONG WITH THAT!

WELL, YOU COULD GET NEW SUPPORT...

BIG SUPPORT... MY FIRM FOR EXAMPLE!

LATER... AT OUR I.G.B.I. BOARD MEETING...

GOD RAISED UP THE BLIMP! WE SHOULDN'T CHANGE THINGS.

THIS ISN'T A CHANGE...

---IT'S JUST A NEW EMPHASIS!!!

BEAUTIFUL, COMMANDER BABY!

WE WON'T TAKE A VOTE TONIGHT...

---YOU BOYS THINK IT OVER...

---PRAY ABOUT IT...

JUST BEAUTIFUL!!!
ON THE WAY HOME, I STOPPED TO VISIT GEORGE...

GEORGE ISN'T HOME, JOE...

HE WENT TO THE SHORE WITH THE MAN NEXT DOOR... --- THE ONE WE'VE BEEN PRAYING FOR!

WELL, TELL GEORGE WE COULD USE HIS HELP ON THE BLIMP IF HE GETS ANY FREE TIME.

I'LL TELL HIM, JOE...

... IT'S EASY TO GET OUT OF THE WORLD ON A BLIMP, ISN'T IT?

A FEW WEEKS LATER, THE BLIMP CARRIED THE NEW EMPHASIS!

ALL HAVE SINNER
DON'T BE A LITTERBUG

THE ECOLOGISTS BEGAN TO SUPPORT US!
PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD
FASTEN YOUR SAFETY BELTS

CONSUMER GROUPS GET ON THE BAND-WAGON!

I AM THE WAY AND MY WAY’S THE AMERICAN WAY

BIG BUSINESS LOVED US!

IN FACT, THE WHOLE TOWN LOVED US !!!

YE ARE THE SHEEP OF THE EARTH
DON'T FORGET TO VOTE
THE COMMANDER BROUGHT HIS COUNTRY CLUB CRONIES ON THE BOARD...

NOW WE WERE REALLY ORGANIZED!

WE HAD CHARTS...

MARKET SURVEYS...

COMPUTER ANALYSIS...

BEAUTIFUL, COMMANDER BABY...

BEAUTIFUL!!!

WE ADDED ONE LUMP OF LEAVEN AFTER ANOTHER!

AND THEN GEORGE INVITED US ALL OVER TO HIS HOUSE FOR A SURPRISE!!!

THAT'S GEORGE'S NEIGHBOR...

THE ONE WHO SMOKES AND DRINKS!
THREE YEARS AGO TONIGHT, THE GOSPEL BLIMP WAS BORN RIGHT HERE!!!

I’VE INVITED MY NEIGHBORS BECAUSE THEY WERE REALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BLIMP!!

I REMEMBER THAT NIGHT... I CAN STILL SEE THEM OVER THE FENCE... 

...UH... DRINKING BEER!

WELL, GOD ANSWERED OUR PRAYERS! THEY’VE BECOME CHRISTIANS!!!

Y - YOU’RE SAVED ???

THAT’S RIGHT !!!!
Was it a verse on the blimp?

Day or night??
I mean was the verse in electric lights??

No... it wasn't the blimp at all!!

In fact, the blimp irritated me!

The P.A. system was noisy...

And the fire bombs cluttered my lawn and rain gutters!!!
But we were praying you'd be saved through the blimp.

Well, God answered... but not by the blimp!

He used George and Ethel.

At first we thought they were poor neighbors...

--- They never had time for us.

But things are different now.

It started when I went into the hospital the second time.

Ethel visited me every day... --- and made Jesus so real to me!!!
AND GEORGE AND ETHEL HAD ME OVER FOR SUPPER EVERY NIGHT!!!

AFTER SUPPER GEORGE READ THE BIBLE AND PRAYED --- AND IT ALL MADE SENSE!

MY WIFE AND I REALIZED JESUS WAS ALIVE IN THESE PEOPLE... --- IT WASN'T AN ACT!!!

IF THEY HAD JUST TALKED JESUS --- INSTEAD OF LIVING HIM... --- WE PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE CHRISTIANS TONIGHT!!!

BUT THERE WAS A LOVE AND A POWER IN THEIR LIVES THAT WAS IRRESISTIBLE!!!

AND WE WANTED IT IN OUR LIVES, TOO!!!
SO WE GOT DOWN ON OUR KNEES...

AND PRAYED TO GOD.

AND THROUGH CHRIST HE'S FORGIVEN OUR SINS!!

WE GAVE GOD OUR OLD LIVES...

AND HE'S GIVEN US BRAND-NEW LIVES!
Well, it's been quite a night.

It's always great to see God at work!

And I've got to get to work early tomorrow.

Say, Dan... Would you like to work on the blimp with me in the morning?

Sorry, Joe...

George and I are helping the guy across the street plant some trees.
Y'KNOW, HE'S GOT THE RIGHT IDEA!

THE WORLD NEEDS TO SEE A LIVING WITNESS...

...NOT A GAS BAG!

JESUS CHRIST DIDN'T COMMIT THE GOSPEL TO AN ADVERTISING AGENCY...

HE COMMISSIONED DISCIPLES !!!!

IT'S TIME WE CHANGED THE EMPHASIS...

FROM WHAT WE DO AND DON'T DO...

TO WHAT WE ARE !!!!

JESUS SAID: YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES IF YOU LOVE EACH OTHER !

OUR BLIMPS ONLY REFLECT US....

OUR LOVE REFLECTS CHRIST !!!!

BABY THAT IS BEAUTIFUL !!!!

LET'S NOT JUST SAY WE LOVE PEOPLE, LET'S REALLY LOVE THEM AND SHOW IT BY OUR ACTIONS

SEE 1 JOHN 3:18
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