

“Please HOLD ...”



By Aub Warren

"Hello, and thank you for calling God.

"If your call is urgent, please press 1. If you have a request, press 2. If you have a complaint, press 3. If you would like God to explain something, press 4. If you would like to confess sin, press 5."

Four.

"Thank you for calling God's explanations line. God is very busy with many other calls right now, but your call is important so please hold. God will be with you shortly."

Harps begin to play softly. The music is one of Vivaldi's "Four Seasons".

"Thank you for holding. Did you know God has recorded many of his explanations in a book? It's available in hundreds of languages and styles. This book took hundreds of years to write, involved more than 40 human authors and addresses many of the issues human beings face in today's world. It's available from all good bookstores. Just ask for *The Book*."

The harps return. The season has changed.

"Thank you for holding. God's explanation line is one of the busiest services he provides. Last year he handled more calls than McDonald's sold hamburgers. This growing volume of requests for explanations

is why around 2000 years ago God created the church. The church is now established around the world and was established to share the good news of what God has done. Check out the church today."

More harps. It's now Spring.

"We're sorry God hasn't been able to respond to your call. But please don't hang up. Your call has been placed in a queue. Did you know God invented queues? They've proved very useful through the ages. Remember the animals going on to Noah's ark? That was God's idea. The Israelites' exodus from Egypt? Marching around Jericho? Next time you visit a theme park, remember God invented queues. God will be with you in a moment."

Harps. Summer.

"Hello."

A real voice!

"This is God's office. Please clearly state your name. If you have a frequent caller number, please state

that first. God will be with you in a moment."

0-0-3-1-7-7-1-4-6-9-3-3-8-0-6-3-5-7-5-9-1-2-4-8-7-3-4-8-3

"Hello?"

"God?"

"Yes."

"Look, this might be more of a complaint first, but what's the deal with the automated prayer line?"

"Do you like it?"

"Are you kidding? No way! Whoever heard of being put on hold by God?"

"So you don't like it?"

"No! It's ridiculous! God doesn't put people on hold!"

"Oh. I thought it might be good way to relate to people."

"What? How do you figure that?"

"Well, they put me on hold all the time."