

Admitting Mistakes

The Guardian, a major newspaper in England, has a daily column called “Corrections and Clarifications.”

It is edited by Ian Mayes, associate editor of *The Guardian*. The column breaks the stodgy English tradition of rarely admitting error.



Sometimes done with humor at the paper’s own expense, the column averages about five corrections a day, ranging from typographical errors and simple misspellings to substituting “ex-patriots” for “expatriates,” and “having insight” for “having incited.”

Thinking that more people read the corrections than the original story, Mayes began working the columns into a book of his favorite mishaps. It is entitled *Only Correct: The Best of Corrections and Clarifications*.

If a newspaper has learned that confession expands readership rather than turning people away, perhaps human beings can catch on, too. Neither newspapers nor men and women can avoid making mistakes.

It is candor in admitting them and taking responsibility for them that is unique.

A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance (Proverbs 28:13 TLB).

– Beecher Hunter