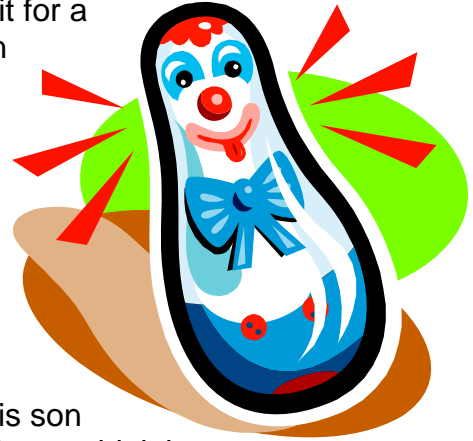


The Balloon Man

When hard times come and life seems to be bowling you over, remember this incident from *The Pastor's Story File*, published by Sarasota Press in Platteville, Colo.

A father took his boy into a toy shop. The boy got away from his Dad and found a statue of a man made of balloons. The boy looked at it for a minute, and then drew back his fist and hit the balloon man just as hard as he could.



The man fell over, and then popped right back up.

The confused boy backed off and studied the figure in front of him, and then stepped forward and hit him again as hard as he could. Once more, the man fell over, and, again, he popped right back up.

The boy's father walked around the corner and saw his son hit the balloon man. The father asked his son, "Why do you think he comes back up when you hit him and knock him down?"

The boy thought for a minute and said, "I don't know. I guess it's because he's standing up on the inside."

That is a very thoughtful answer – and true.

Each one of us is flattened from time to time by what life throws at us. Our true measure is how the man (or woman) stands up on the inside.

– Beecher Hunter