



CHURCH OF GOD BANNER

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MARCH 2004

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD: 3RD. AVE. & HWY. 508 ONALASKA, WASHINGTON 98570

GOD IS THERE

By Bob Perks

"Poppa, how big is the world?" the child asked.

"It's getting smaller everyday," Poppa replied.

"But how big is it?" the child persisted.

"It depends on which world you are referring to," he said.

"There's more than one world?"

"Yes, there is," he replied.

"Where in the world is God?" she asked.

Then he asked the child to bring him a piece of paper and a few of her crayons.

"Come here and let me show you."

Then drawing a small circle in the middle of the page he said, "This is your world. It's

where you live. It includes all the people you know and love. It's right here in this neighborhood. God is there.

Within that world is the world within your mind. The places and things you make up and believe. They call it your imagination. God is there.

Next there's the world you live in. The whole world with all the people God has created. With all the new ways of communicating the world has gotten closer. I can call my brother in Australia, or my uncle in England. I can email friends who have computers anywhere in the

world.

God is there.

Now remember, like you, each of the people in the world have a world of their own," he said as he began drawing many small circles.

"Like a gazillion?" she asked.

"Well, somewhere around there. God is there," he said.

Now drawing a bigger circle around the whole thing Poppa said, "This is the biggest world. We call it the universe, but we have no real idea how big that is. God is there."

The child then took a crayon and drew a tiny heart within the biggest circle.

"What's that?" Poppa asked.

Not answering, the child kept looking at the picture.

Poppa waited for a moment for her to respond.

"That's Grandma. She's in God's heart, right?"

He was quiet now.

Then pointing to the heart, she said, "Is that where heaven is, Poppa?"

"Yes, and there's a little bit of heaven right here, too," he said as he hugged her.

Everything we have, everything we are, everything we will ever need, comes from the Earth we live in. The chair you are sitting on, the elements that created the computer you are using, the light, the house, the food, the medicine... everything. It all comes from the

Earth. The only thing we must add to it is a belief in the One who created it all.

If your world appears to be troubled, if you are finding today a challenge, God is there. Where in the world would you be without him?

"I believe in you!"

Bob Perks

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THE WIND'S NOT ALWAYS AT OUR BACK

by

Clay Harrison

*The wind's not always at our back
The sky is not always blue.*

*Sometimes we crave the things we
lack*

And don't know what to do.

*Sometimes life's an uphill ride
With mountains we must climb.*

*At times the river's deep and wide
And crossing takes some time.*

*No one said that life is easy
There are no guarantees.*

*So trust your God continually
On calm or stormy seas.*

*The challenges we face today
Prepares us for tomorrow.*

*For faith takes our fears away
And peace replaces sorrow.*

◆ Received from Joe Downs

WORDS TO LIVE BY

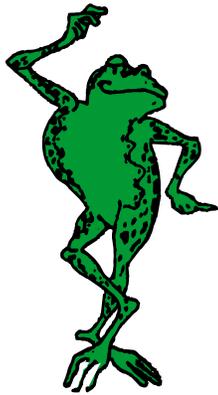
*Always keep your words soft and
sweet, just in case you have to eat
them.*

*Happiness comes through doors you
didn't even know you left open.*

THE RACE OF THE TINY FROGS

There once was a bunch of tiny frogs that arranged a running competition. The goal was to reach the top of a very high tower. A big crowd had gathered around the tower to see the race and cheer on the contestants

The race began, but honestly: No one in the crowd really believed that



the tiny frogs would reach the top of the tower. You heard statements such as: "Oh, WAY too difficult!! They will NEVER make it to the top." or: "Not a chance that they will succeed. The tower is too high!"

The tiny frogs began collapsing, one by one. The crowd continued to yell, "It is too difficult!!! No one will make it!" More tiny frogs got tired and gave up. But ONE continued higher and higher and higher. This one wouldn't give up!

At the end everyone else had given up climbing the tower. Except for the one tiny frog who, after a big effort was the only one who reached the top!

THEN all of the other tiny frogs naturally wanted to know how this one frog managed to do it?

A contestant asked the tiny frog how the one who succeeded had found the strength to reach the goal? It turned out, that the winner was DEAF!!!!

The wisdom of this story is:

Never listen to other people's tendencies to be negative or pessimistic cause they take your most wonderful dreams and wishes away from you. The ones you have in your heart! Always think

of the power words have. Because everything you hear and read will affect your actions!

Therefore: ALWAYS be POSITIVE! And above all, be DEAF when people tell YOU that YOU cannot fulfill YOUR dreams!

Always think: I can do this!

◆ Received from Jim Sparks

THE PUSH

A man and his wife are awakened at 3 o'clock in the morning by a loud pounding on the door.

The man gets up and goes to the door where a drunken stranger, standing in the pouring rain, is asking for a push.

Not a chance," says the husband, "it is 3 o'clock in the morning!" He slams the door and returns to bed.

Who was that?" asked his wife. "Just some drunk guy asking for a push," he answers.

"Did you help him?" she asks. "No, I did not, it is 3 o'clock in the morning and it is pouring out there!"

"Well, you have a short memory," says his wife. "Can't you remember about three months ago when we broke down and those two guys helped us? I think you should help him, and you should be ashamed of yourself!"



The man does as he is told, gets dressed, and goes out into the pouring rain. He calls out into the dark, "Hello, are you still there?"

"Yes" comes back the answer. "Do you still need a push?" calls out the husband.

"Yes, please!" comes the reply from the dark.

"Where are you?" asks the husband.

"Over here on the swing!" replies the drunk.

◆ Received from Ruth Bushnell

The following poem is quoted from "Audrey Hepburn" by Barry Paris, (c)1996 Putnam.

For attractive lips, speak words of kindness.

For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people.

For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry.

For beautiful hair, let a child run his fingers through it once a day.

For poise, walk with the knowledge you'll never walk alone.

People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed and redeemed and redeemed ...

Never throw out anybody. Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you'll find one at the end of your arm.

As you grow older you will discover that you have two hands. One for helping yourself, the other for helping others".

CHURCH SIGNS

"People are like tea bags-you have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are."

"God so loved the world that He did not send a committee."

"When down in the mouth, remember Jonah. He came out alright."

"Fight truth decay-study the Bible daily."

"Where will you spend eternity- Smoking or Non-smoking?"

"Do not wait for the hearse to take you to church."

ALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM



Kid's Club begins at 3:30 every Tuesday afternoon, when there is a full day of school. We are blessed with kids

of all ages who gather for a time of singing, story telling, crafts and refreshments.

Wednesday morning the men in our community meet at the Logger Burger Bar for breakfast and a time of sharing their faith. This begins a 6:00 AM and ends at 7:00AM.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

We have truly been blessed with our Soup, Sandwich & Study on Wednesday evenings. We have added Salads to go with the soup



Soup & Sandwich Lunch

and sandwiches. We are studying the book "The Purpose Driven Life" and it has been a real blessing.

Each week there are more added to the group. If you have not attended, why not come and join us this week.

Thursday morning Elva Smoots opens her home the a Home Bible Study Group, led by Stan Bushnell. It begins at 10:00 AM and ends at 11:00 AM. They are studying the Gospel of Luke.

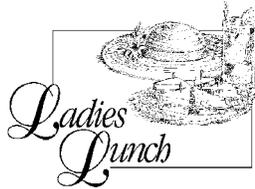


Our monthly potluck will follow

our morning service on Sunday, March 7. This is a wonderful time for us to sit down and share a good meal and fellowship with others in the Body of Christ. There is always plenty of good food, so plan on digging in the first Sunday in March.



The ladies all had a wonderful time at the Valentine Luncheon, February 14. There were 19 ladies present.



Special thanks to Paul and Annette for all the work they did to provide such a wonderful meal. And thanks to the men who help serve. The next WCG luncheon will be on Saturday, March 13. It begins at 12:00 noon.

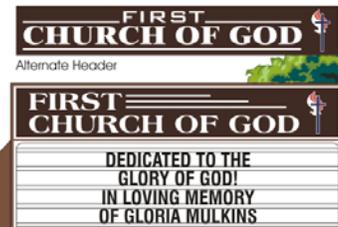
COMMUNITY EVENTS



A community revival will begin on Sunday, March 14 at the Shoe-string Community Church. The revival services will last one week, ending on Friday night. It is held in several of the different churches in our community. The special guest speaking is John W. Dyer from Manchester, England. All services will begin at 6:30 and a time of refreshment and fellowship will follow.

CHURCH MEETING RESULTS

In the special Church Business Meeting on Sunday, February 1, the congregation voted to purchase a Reader Board Sign. The total cost of the sign, permits and installation will be around \$10,000. We have already \$3,000.00. None of the money for the sign will come out to the church treasury, it will come from donations earmarked for the sign. If you wish to donate towards the sign, please mark your donation "Sign". Please do not divert any of your tithe to the sign.



The congregation also voted to replace the floor in the fellowship hall and that has been completed.

The third thing the congregation voted on was the purchase of a new furnace for the church sanctuary. They directed the Church Council to choose which bid was the best. The Council chose the bid from Thrifty Supply. It will be installed soon.

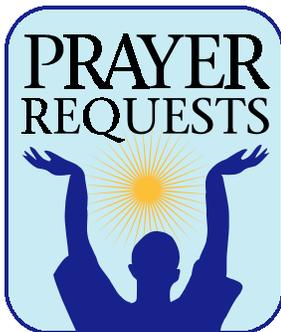
I would like to thank everyone who took part in this special meeting.

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Here is a special prayer request from a dear friend of mine. I know the situation and can verify that this is an urgent need.

Pastor Mulkins

Scott Keeler was injured on the job almost 4 years ago (in March). He has 5 ruined discs, has had surgery on one, which made matters worse. He can't stand, sit, lie down, walk or do



anything without intense pain. He is on Oxycontin, which is a very strong medicine (the same one that Rush Limbaugh became addicted to). There is fear that it has ruined his liver, even though he withholds it for just as long as he can, due to his fear of addiction.

Workmen's Comp. is trying to avoid any payments or settlement. Scott is at present receiving no financial income. He has also applied for Social Security Disability at the direction of his doctors, but S.S. has said that he will have to wait another 24 to 36 months for a court date with their Disability Judge...and if he is awarded his S.S., it will take another 6 months for the benefits to begin.

His wife, D. D. works all the extended hours that she can get, but her income is just not sufficient to pay mortgage, utility bills, schooling & feeding of a household of 5, etc. My sister and I have contributed just about all that we can. Bob and I are going to try to find jobs to be able to

contribute more, to keep them afloat.

Would you please make it a matter of daily prayer, and ask for the prayers of your church? Please also pray that through this, Scott will turn to the Lord in a stronger way and will lead his family in worship and walking with the Lord.

I will appreciate your prayers. We still serve a mighty God and know that He is able.

Thanks so much.

Reva

If you would like to send Scott a card you can send it in care of, Reva Sparks 51 Lakeshore Garnett, KS 66032

I would also like to encourage you to pray for Doreen Lampert who is continuing to battle cancer and is having to have blood transfusions quite often.

If you would like to send her a card her address is, P. O. Box 358 Onalaska, WA 98570

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Six -year-old Brandon decided one Saturday morning to fix his parents pancakes.. He found a big bowl and spoon, pulled a chair to the counter, opened the cupboard and pulled out the heavy flour canister, spilling it on the floor. He scooped some of the flour into the bowl with his hands, mixed in most of a cup of milk and added some sugar, leaving a floury trail on the floor which by now had a few tracks left by his kitten. Brandon was covered with flour and getting frustrated. He wanted this to be something very good for Mom and Dad, but it was



getting very bad...He didn't know what to do next, whether to put it all into the oven or on the stove and he didn't know how the stove worked!. Suddenly he saw his kitten licking from the bowl of mix and reached to push her away, knocking the egg carton to the floor. Frantically he tried to clean up this monumental mess but slipped on the eggs, getting his pajamas white and sticky.

And just then he saw Dad standing at the door. Big crocodile tears welled up in Brandon's eyes. All he'd wanted to do was something good, but he'd made a terrible mess. He was sure a scolding was coming, maybe even a spanking. But his father just watched him. Then, walking through the mess, he picked up his crying son, hugged him and loved him, getting his own pajamas white and sticky in the process.

That's how God deals with us. We try to do something good in life, but it turns into a mess. Our marriage gets all sticky or we insult a friend, or we can't stand our job, or our health goes sour. Sometimes we just stand there in tears because we can't think of anything else to do. That's when God picks us up and loves us and forgives us, even though some of our mess gets all over Him. But just because we might mess up, we can't stop trying to "make pancakes" for God or for others. Sooner or later we'll get it right, and then they'll be glad we tried.

◆ Received from Susan Olsen

***"Who is a God like You,
Who pardons sin and forgives the
Transgression of the remnant of
His inheritance?
You do not stay angry forever but
delight to show mercy."***

MICAH 7:18



There was no quiz last month so I will try and make this month's

quiz real easy.

*I brought good news that made her heart so glad,
Before I came I know that it had been so sad.*

*It was a very special day because of the news that I did bring,
The news I shared with her caused her heart to sing.*

She never asked me from where I came

*Nor did she ask me for my name.
She told her husband what I had to say,*

And then he prayed that I would come back again some day.

*Again I came to her while in the field
She ran and told him I was real.*

*He came as fast as he could run
And I told him he would have a son.*

A son who would do some mighty deeds

If only they would follow my guiding leads

*They offered to fix me a meal that day
But I informed them that I could not stay.*

He asked me my name but I would not tell

*For it is wonderful and it is swell.
When they offered a sacrifice to God
I went away but I did not trod.*

*To win the candy bar today
You have to tell what I had to say
Tell to whom I spoke the words
And the story that you have heard.*

*So if you want the candy bar this time
You must be the first to solve this rhyme*

*And if you can you need to know
A candy bar you will hold.*

AN EXERCISE PROGRAM

Here is something to consider for the new year. For those who are getting along in years, here is a little secret for building arm and shoulder muscles.

You might want to adopt this regimen! Three days a week works well.

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side. With a 5-lb. potato sack in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides, and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, then relax. Each day, you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a few weeks, move up to 10-lb. potato sacks and then 50-lb. potato sacks, and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb. potato sack in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute.

After you feel confident at that level, start putting a couple of potatoes in each of the sacks, but be careful not to overdo it.

◆ Received from Susan Olsen

THE REST OF YOUR LIFE

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office. "Is it true," she wanted to know, "that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?"

"Yes, I'm afraid so," the doctor told her.

There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied, "I'm wondering then, just how serious is my condition. This prescription is marked **'NO REFILLS.'**"



A first grade teacher collected well-known proverbs. She gave each child in her first grade class the first half of a proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb.

Don't bite the hand that...
looks dirty.

No news is...
impossible.

A miss is as good as a...
Mr.

You can't teach an old dog new...
math.

If you lie down with dogs, you'll...
stink in the morning.

The pen is mightier than the...
pigs.

An idle mind is...
the best way to relax.

Happy the bride who...
gets all the presents.

A penny saved is...
not much.

Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and ...
you have to blow your nose.

Children should be seen and not...

spanked or grounded.

When the blind leadeth the blind...
get out of the way.