



CHURCH OF GOD BANNER

onalaskachurchofgod.com



JULY 2004

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

"HOW COULD I POSSIBLY FORGET?"

*by Bob Perks
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I finally found it. It was in a file drawer at the doctor's office.

I thought I lost my mind, but when I stopped by to pick up my MRI's of my back, the nurse asked me if I needed my brain.

"So, that's where it is!" I said. "I've been looking for it for years now."

I'm scheduled to see a neuro surgeon in mid-August. Just a follow up to a potential back problem my doctor discovered recently. Before I can see the surgeon I needed to pick up the MRI films. So last night I stopped by to get them. I was told to come by in early evening and they would have them ready.

They didn't.

So I sat in the waiting room across from a beautiful elderly woman. She had "Barbara Bush hair," soft, white and full. Her skin was supple and the lines around her eyes were evidence of difficult times. Perhaps a few from smiling. But tonight her face showed concern.

I know when God is setting me up. He makes appointments for me to meet people who need to talk. He knows I'm a good listener and when prompted I say what He wants me to say. I have in fact found myself arguing a bit with Him when He wants me to do or say something I'm not particularly comfortable with. But He always wins you know.

"Hello!" I said.

"Good evening to you!" she replied.

"Are you waiting for someone?" I asked.

"Yes, I'm waiting for my husband to have an MRI done," she said. She never turned to look at me. She sat with her head down looking at her shoes and nervously wiggling her feet.

"Oh, I'm here to pick up some films of the one I had done. They tell me they have my brain on file. I was looking for it all this time," I said trying to get her to smile. She said nothing.

"You know it's not a difficult procedure. They even let you listen to music," I told her.

"I know. I never had one. But my husband Bill has had a few through the years. That's what I'm worried about," she said.

"Why are you worried?" I asked.

Then picking her head up slightly and looking at me with a side glance she said, "We've been so healthy until now. We've done so many wonderful things together. What would we do if we had to stop?" she asked.

"Remember!" I said.

"What?" she asked.

"It's one of the greatest gifts God has given us. The ability to remember the good times and learn from the bad. We have this massive computer and built in Polaroid camera that stores all of those wonderful things for the times when all we can do is remember," I said.

"Mr. Perks?" the nurse said from the office window. "Your films are ready."

I excused myself for a moment as I signed the necessary papers taking responsibility for them.

"I included your films of the brain in case the doctor needed them," she said.

"I need them more than he does. Now I have proof to show my wife I do indeed have one."

Then the grandest idea came to me.

"I don't know if you'll appreciate this or not," I said to the woman in the waiting room. "But I want to share my life with you."

She suddenly picked up her head as if

to look at me like I was crazy.

I cleared the table that was in front of us and pulled out the films that showed my brain.

"Look here, that is where I first told my wife that I loved her. And here, this is where the sweet smell of my Mom's bread pudding is stored. This off to the side is the Christmas I spent in New England. Wait, I think this very spot is when the doctor said "it's a boy!" and my first son yelled "YES!" I said holding the film toward the ceiling lights.

She sat there quietly not saying a word. I continued.

"Stored within this mass is everything I ever did, said, smelled, tasted and saw. There are hundreds of rainbows. Thousands of flowers, a million laughs and yes, more tears than I can count. But when ever I need to, I can recall it and for that moment experience it again. The magic of it all is that sometimes I don't even have to try. I get a whiff of pine tree and a dozen Christmases come rushing in. I can see my Father's face and everyone of my relatives both past and present," I said. "I'll also one day remember meeting you!"

She sat up and turning toward me she said "Thank you! You are right. I really needed to hear that."

I said, "I know. That's why I was here."

Then the door opened wide and this sprite old gentleman came dancing out.

"Honey. Great news. I'm having twins!" he shouted.

Everyone laughed, including his wife.

"Now let's go home and get packing," he said "Don't forget we're visiting the kids tomorrow. Remember?"

She shook her head and looked back at me and said, "Remember? How could I possibly forget?"

"I believe in you!"

Bob Perks

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HIS FORGIVENESS

The Lord replied, "I have forgiven them, as you asked." –

Numbers 14:20

Pastor Lee Strobel shares this account: "We were doing a baptism service. We told people before they came up to the platform to be baptized to take a piece of paper, write down a few of the sins they've committed, and fold the paper. When they come up to the platform, there was a large wooden cross on the stage. Take that piece of paper, take a pin, and pin it to the cross, because the Bible says our sins are nailed to the cross with Jesus Christ, and fully paid for by his death. Then turn and come to the pastor to be baptized.



I want to read you a letter a woman wrote who was baptized in one of those services. She said: "I remember my fear. In fact, it was the most fear I remember in my life. I wrote as tiny as I could on that piece of paper the word abortion. I was so scared someone would open the paper and read it and find out it was me. I wanted to get up and walk out of the auditorium during the service, the guilt and fear were that strong.

When my turn came, I walked toward the cross, and I pinned the paper there. I was directed to a pastor to be baptized. He looked me straight in the eyes, and I thought for sure that he was going to read this terrible secret I kept from everybody for so long. But instead, I felt like God was telling me, I love you. It's okay. You've been forgiven. I felt so much love for me, a terrible sinner. It's the first time I ever really felt forgiveness and unconditional love. It was unbelievable, inde-

scribable."

Do you have inside of you a secret sin that you wouldn't even want to write down on a piece of paper out of fear somebody might open it up and find out? Let me tell you something about the Jesus I know. Not only does he want to adopt you as his child, he wants to lift the weight of guilt off your shoulders."

The forgiveness of the Lord is sure, it is the gift He offers to all who trust in Him. Today in prayer, praise the Lord for His forgiveness of your sins.

"When Christ's hands were nailed to the cross, He also nailed your sins to the cross."

– Bernard of Clairvaux

God's Word: *"Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water."* **Hebrews 10:22**

♦ Received from J. C. Sparks who received it from Bill Warner of Reno, NV

THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS AS THEY APPEAR!

We sometimes are fooled by what we think we see when in fact it may be completely false. I've have been the victim of this kind of thing and you probably have, too. This story warns us to be very careful of the facts. You may, in fact, believe what you see is absolutely true, but in fact, is completely false.

A buddy of mine was flying from Seattle to San Francisco. Unexpect-

edly, the plane stopped in Sacramento along the way. The flight attendant explained that there would be a delay, and if the passengers wanted to get off the aircraft, the plane would re-board in 50 minutes. Everybody got off the plane except one gentleman who was blind. My buddy

had noticed him as he walked by and could tell the man was blind because his seeing eye dog lay quietly underneath the seats in front of him throughout the entire flight. He could also tell he had flown this very flight before because the pilot approached him, and calling him by name, said, Keith, we're in Sacramento for almost an hour. Would you like to get off and stretch your legs?" The blind man replied, "No thanks, but maybe my dog would like to stretch his legs."

Picture this: All the people in the gate area came to a complete quiet stand still when they looked up and saw the pilot walk off the plane with the Seeing Eye dog! The pilot was even wearing sunglasses.

People scattered. They not only tried to change planes, but they were trying to change airlines! True story. Have a great day and remember things aren't always as they appear!



HEBREWS 11:1-3 *Faith assures us of things we expect and convinces us of the existence of things we cannot see. God accepted our ancestors because of their faith.*

Faith convinces us that God created the world through his word. This means what can be seen was made by something that could not be seen.

ALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

OUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED SERVICES

SUNDAYS

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM
MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 AM
Potluck First Sunday of the Month

KID'S CLUB 3:30—5:30 PM
No Kid's Club on July 4

EVENING SING & PRAISE SERVICE 6:00 PM
No Service on July 4

WEDNESDAYS

MEN'S BREAKFAST @ THE BURGER BAR 6:00 AM
SOUP & SANDWICHES 6:00 PM
"THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE" BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM

THURSDAYS

HOME BIBLE STUDY @ ELVA SMOOTS 10:00 AM
809 GISH ROAD

FRIDAYS

MOVIE AT THE PASTOR'S 7:00 PM
EVERY SECOND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
GAME NIGHT 6:30 PM
FOURTH FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

SATURDAY

PRAYER MEETING 6:00 PM

PNA ACTIVITIES

Summer months are very busy with different activities sponsored by the PNA.

1. **FAMILY CAMP** begins on Sunday, July 18 - 23, 2004 at Double K Christian Retreat Center. The Camp Speaker this year is Pastor Bob Moss. Scott Hamilton is our Worship Leader. There are many activities for the entire family. Please contact Pastor Mulkins for further detail.
2. **JUNIOR CAMP** (grades 4-6) begins on Monday, July 26 and ends on Friday 30. The cost is \$ 108.00.
3. **YOUTH CAMP** (Junior & Senior High) is from August 9 - 13. Senior High camp cost \$ 185.00 & Junior High camp cost \$ 150.00

The Church has some money available for scholarships. If you would like to go, or if you someone who would like to go, please pick up an application from the table in the back of the church. If you need help, or would like to help with scholarships please, contact Pastor Mulkins.

Just a reminder about the money bags that we have placed in the back of the church to help raise money for our Sign Project. We are still collecting them and thus far we have raised \$ 266.50 towards the sign. A hearty thank you to the congregation.



Your Sign Committee:
Sharon Bower & Mert Horrocks

We have raised a little over \$5,000.00 towards the sign. We need about \$ 3,500.00 more to be able to purchase the sign. If you are willing to help, please mark your check or envelope, "Sign Fund". God richly bless you as we seek to bring His Word into our community.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Seniors on the Go will be holding their monthly potluck on Wednesday, July 14 in our Fellowship Hall beginning at 12:00 noon. A short program will follow.



POTLUCK DINNER FOR SENIORS

The Cancer Support Group meets on the last Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. This month they will be meeting on July 29.

GETTING TO KNOW KATHLEEN (HOFFMASTER) MULKINS

I grew up in Indio, California, home of the National Date Festival. My birthday always fell during the fair days so it tended to get lost in all our involvement there. My parents, brother, two sisters and I, were not only active with the church and scout booths, we also entered baked goods and flower arrangements. There wasn't a special class for children in the baked goods area so it was fun to often place over the adults' efforts.

I guess you could say I "grew up" in a Baptist church, but it was during a Good News Club in our home that I understood my need for a savior. I think the first change Jesus made in me was to take away any fear of spending eternity in hell. This first step of faith took place at the tender age of 6.

After graduating from Indio High and attending a bit of community college, I launched out on my own by moving 2,000 miles to Indiana. Well, almost on my own – I moved with my sister, Jeanne who was starting graduate school at Indiana U in Bloomington. I moved with my horse, Heidi Ho, too.

Our parents passed away (10 months apart of unrelated causes) only four years later. With my oldest sister in the Army, my brother about to become a father and the other sister newly promoted, I found myself heading back to California to take care of things.

You need to understand that four and half years earlier, I had vowed to never return to Southern California. (I didn't realize you never tell God, "never"!) Driving back with two cats

and two horses in tow (Heidi and her son, High Hopes Ho) I reached the place where I could see those barren brown mountains in the distance. "Home!" I thought. "It will take an act of God to get me to leave."

It would be 29 years before He would remove me from the state of my birth! During those years, I worked at a lumber yard as an assistant bookkeeper, joined the staff of Campus Crusade for Christ, went on



short term mission trips to Brazil, Mexico, and the Philippines, completed a degree in Theatre Arts (acting emphasis), a Masters in Pastoral studies, started a ministry of bringing the Bible to life through drama and developed a passion for watching God work through the body of Christ.

When I was in high school, I told my mother I would get married when God wanted me to get married. I had no clue that he would have me wait until I was 53! I had become so content to be single that I really wasn't even expecting God to move me in that direction. I figured that if God didn't have me meet the man He wanted me to marry while I was involved in ministry all over the place, then He was just going to leave me single. When the thought came to mind about using the internet, I thought, "God doesn't need to use the internet" and His response was "What if I want to use it? Who are you to tell me no?"

So, expecting nothing to come of

it, I joined the Christian Café on January 29 and the rest is history.

It has been a delight to begin to get to know some of you. For those of you, I have not met yet, I'm looking forward to it.

MIGHTY IS OUR LORD

*Mary Warner 2004
Hiswillministry.com*

*The next time you are tempted to walk
the road alone,
Remember, God on High, has made for
you a home,
Trials may come in this life, it is a
surety they will,
But you do not have to climb alone,
that endless hill,*

*Mighty is Our Lord, He is so mighty to
save,
He went to Calvary, and for you His life
He gave,
Our Lord is Lord of all, He is King of
Kings,
To every situation His mighty Power He
brings,*

*You are His precious child, He died to
set you free,
Go to Him, problems in His presence
will flee,
Trust Him with everything, He cannot
let you down,
He will wipe away your tears, chase
away your frown,*

*The next time you are tempted to walk
the road alone,
Remember, God on High, has made for
you a home,
Trials may come in this life, it is a
surety they will,
But you do not have to climb alone,
that endless hill.*

***"Often we are so satisfied
with what we have that we forget
what we have been promised."***

FAITHFUL IN USING YOUR GIFTS

"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 PETER 4:10).

In her book, *Today's Good Word*, Ethel B. Sutton tells of a young British soldier who was blinded in battle. He was an accomplished musician and spent much of his time in the hospital playing the piano for the wounded. He always put his heart into his playing, hoping the music would encourage the men. One day when he finished a number, someone clapped energetically. The soldier



asked, "Who are you?" He was astonished when the man replied, "I am your king!" The king had come to encourage those who had been wounded for their country. Without realizing it, this young man had been using his talent to entertain the king.

Peter says, *"Each has received a gift."* It may not seem like much when compared with what others may possess, but utilize it "in serving one another." When it is used, we may be sure there is always an audience of at least one--our Lord. Do what you can. You may not get much attention. You may not win an award--you may not be mentioned in the bulletin, but God notices it.

When Jesus was teaching in the temple, he went and sat opposite of

the treasury and watched the people as they contributed their money (MARK 12:41-44). There was one who caught the eye of Jesus but she wasn't noticed by anyone else. The reason, her gift was too small; but in the eyes of Jesus, it was bigger than all the others.

When you use your gift faithfully--whether it is an encouraging word, a pat on the back, visiting the lonely, generous giving of money, making a phone call, providing transportation--whatever it may be, remember, you're playing for the King.

WHAT IS FAITHFULNESS?

Dag Hammarskjold once wrote: "When the morning's freshness has been replaced by the weariness of mid-day, when the leg muscles quiver under the strain, the climb seems endless, and suddenly nothing will go quite as you wish--it is then that you must not hesitate." He was unwilling to give up; he refused to quit!

The successful life prescribed by Christ requires faithfulness until death: a hand on the plow with no looking back, steadfast perseverance; racing hard for the tape, fighting the good fight of faith. The devil loves it when we simply relax our efforts. He has a good day if we become discouraged.

There are temptations to overcome, disappointments to handle, personal sins that beset us, burdens that depress us. And Satan is standing by urging that we quit trying. But wait; Christ is present. *"Consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart" (HEBREWS*



12:3).

Someone once asked James J. Corbett, at that time heavyweight champion of the world, what was the most important thing a man must do to become a champion. He replied, "Fight one more round." The Duke of Wellington said that the British soldiers at the Battle of Waterloo were not any braver than Napoleon's soldiers--but they were brave for five minutes longer.

That is about it for the Christian. A secret for success is: "fight just one more round. Be brave for five more minutes." It is the difference between defeat and victory.

FAITHFUL IN READING GOD'S WORD

A gentleman having an appointment to meet President Lincoln at five o'clock in the morning went a quarter of an hour before the time appointed. While waiting for the appointed time he heard in the next room a voice as if in grave conversation, and asked an attendant standing by, "Who is talking in the next room?" "It is the President, sir," replied the attendant. "Is anybody with him?" the gentleman inquired. "No; he is reading the Bible." "Is that his habit so early in the morning?" "Yes, sir, he spends every morning from four o'clock to five in reading the Scriptures and praying."



"Things change when your perception changes from doubt to belief. Instead of looking at the problem you look to the Problem Solver."