



CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



onalaskachurchofgod.com

AUGUST 2004

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

WHY ARE WE SO AFRAID?

Why are we so fearful of telling others about Jesus and the Salvation He has provided through His blood? Why are we so afraid to tell people that Hell is real and without Jesus' Salvation they will spend eternity in there?

The following story by Bob Perks speaks to us and challenges us to cast aside the fear that keeps us from sharing the Gospel message.

“DYING TO LOOK GOOD”

*By Bob Perks
Bob@BobPerks.com.*

"Would you do it again?" my friend asked me.

"Without hesitation!" I said. "But I did agonize over doing it."

My life spins around perfect strangers. My stories come from people I meet and may never see again.

I have this need to do things, say things to people simply because no one else would.

Does it always work out?

No way!

Sometimes I am very disappointed. Sometimes I deeply regret it.

This one was difficult.

There is a beautiful young girl who works at a nearby market. Early in the spring I noticed she was starting to look tan.

"When do you have time to get a tan? Didn't you tell me that you

work two jobs?"

"Well, actually I got this tan from a tanning salon," she said. "I couldn't wait until summer. I've been dying to get a tan."

"Well, you look great."

Over the next few weeks I noticed her tan getting deeper. I walked up to her one day and placed my snow white arm next to her.

"Next to you I look like I'm dying!" I said. She laughed.

Then she said, "I go to the tanning booth everyday. I'm not really sure if I'm really getting darker."

Everyday. I thought that was excessive.

"You know you really need to be careful. There's a growing problem with skin cancer," I said.

She laughed it off and walked away.

It bothered me for the next few days. She was young, beautiful and so...so twenty-something. You know. Invincible. "I've got a lifetime ahead of me. That happens to everyone else, not me."

And me? I was supposedly mature, logical and "Don't tell me! I know what I'm talking about because...well...because I'm older than you."

I was exactly like her at that age and I hated hearing things from people who were older and thought they knew it all.

Over the next few days I struggled with the idea that she could end up

with problems later on. I fought with the idea of giving her information on skin cancer possibilities.

"I don't even know her name. She just works there at the market where I shop. But if I don't do this and find out later something happened, I'd regret it," I said to my wife.

So, I researched it on the internet, copied a few pages and stuck them in my car.

I see her almost daily, but for two days I carried that information in the store and couldn't find her.

At first I thought it was a sign telling me I shouldn't intrude. Who am I, a perfect stranger, stepping into her life like that?

Then I thought, it was meant to be. If doing the right thing was always easy, it wouldn't be as rewarding.

I finally saw her. She was speaking with someone and I nervously interrupted and said, "I may be way out of line here, but I needed to give you this."

I handed it to her and walked away.

I nervously finished my shopping. I thought she might walk up to me and throw it in my face.

I didn't see her again for days.

When I did, she didn't smile that smile. Normally she would see me standing in line and make a comment before I even got to the register. When it was my turn, she



Continued on page 2

wouldn't even look at me. Finally she said, "I read that paper you gave me."

"I know I was way out of line. My wife told me I had no right to," I said.

"Hmmm," she said.

"I've lost a lot of people in my family to cancer," I said.

She gave me my change and went on with her work.

I've been avoiding going back there.

What was a friendly, fun relationship with a perfect stranger has now turned into a bad experience.

"Would you do it again?" my friend asked me.

"Without hesitation!" I said.

She may never, ever remember this, but in my mind that would be great. You see, the only thing that might remind her of it, is if she indeed developed skin cancer and remembered I told her so.

She was, "Dying to get a tan." Some will.

I might be out of line here, but..."Be careful outside. I care about you, too."

"I believe in you!"

Bob Perks

Bob@BobPerks.com

copyright 2004 Bob Perks

Please consider where you will spend eternity.

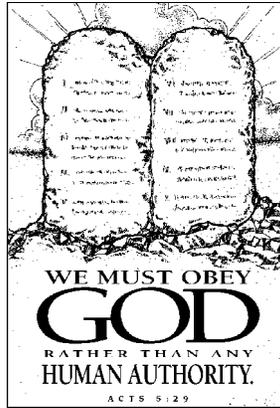
AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL?

by
Judge Roy Moore

*America the Beautiful,
or so you used to be.
Land of the Pilgrims' pride;
I'm glad they'll never see.*

*Babies piled in dumpsters,
Abortion on demand,
Oh, sweet land of liberty,
your house is on the sand.*

*Our children wander aimlessly
poisoned by cocaine,
Choosing to indulge their lusts,
when God has said abstain.*



*From sea to shining sea,
our Nation turns away
From the teaching of God's love
and a need to always pray.*

*We've kept God in our temples,
how callous we have grown.
When earth is but His footstool,
and Heaven is His throne.*

*We've voted in a government
that's rotting at the core,
Appointing Godless Judges
who throw reason out the door,*

*Too soft to place a killer
in a well deserved tomb,
But brave enough to kill a baby
before he leaves the womb.*

*You think that God's not angry,
that our land's a moral slum?
How much longer will He wait
before His judgment comes?*

*How are we to face our God,
from Whom we cannot hide?
What then is left for us to do,
but stem this evil tide?*

*If we who are His children,
will humbly turn and pray;
Seek His holy face
and mend our evil way:*

*Then God will hear from Heaven
and forgive us of our sins,
He'll heal our sickly land
and those who live within.*

*But, America the Beautiful,
if you don't - then you will see,
A sad but Holy God
withdraw His hand from Thee.*

Judge Moore was recently sued by the ACLU for displaying the Ten Commandments in his courtroom foyer. He has been stripped of his judgeship and now they are trying to strip his right to practice law in Alabama.

♦ Received from Larry & Pam Schmidt

2 CHRONICLES 7:14 *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

THE FUNERAL



A young preacher was asked by the local funeral director to hold a grave-side burial service at a small local cemetery for someone with no family or friends. The preacher started early but quickly got himself lost, making several wrong turns. Eventually, a half-hour late, he saw a backhoe and its crew, but the hearse was nowhere in sight, and the workmen were there.

The diligent young pastor went to the open grave and found the vault lid already in place. Taking out his book, he read the service. Feeling guilty because of his tardiness, he preached an impassioned and lengthy service, sending the deceased to the great beyond in style.

As he was returning to his car, he overheard one of the workmen say: "I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years and I ain't never seen anything like that."

♦ Received from Ruth Bushnell

ONALASKA'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

EVENING SING

&

PRAISE SERVICE 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAYS

MEN'S BREAKFAST

@

THE BURGER BAR 6:00 AM

SOUP & SANDWICHES 6:00 PM

BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM

"THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE"

THURSDAYS

HOME BIBLE STUDY

@

ELVA SMOOTS 10:00 AM

809 GISH ROAD

FRIDAYS

MOVIE AT THE PASTOR'S 7:00 PM

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14th

GAME NIGHT 6:30 PM

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28th

SATURDAY

PRAYER MEETING 6:00 PM

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 2004

4:30 PM

*I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the
LORD.*

PSALM 122:1

ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

Our Annual Church Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 3, 2004 following the Potluck.

This is a very important meeting as we will be electing three positions on the Church Council as well as positions for Sunday School Superintendent, Head Usher and our PNA representative.

We will also be voting on our annual budget. We will seek to keep

Special MEETING

you informed on any other items that will be address at this meeting.

Please be in prayer for this meeting and mark you calendar so you will be able to participate.

If you have attended the Onalaska Church of God for the past six months, are 18 years of age or older and have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you are eligible to vote in this meeting.

PNA ACTIVITIES

JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH YOUTH CAMP begins on Monday, August 9 and ends on Friday, August 13. This years' theme is "BREAKAWAY" An Event of Olympic Proportions. *"I can do all things through Christ Who Gives me strength"* **PHILIPPIANS 4:13**

\$ 150.00 is the cost for Junior High and for Senior High the cost is \$ 185.00

GOSPEL JUBILEE



Last year we held a Gospel Hoedown (found out later that a hoedown is a square dance). This year we are calling it a Gospel Jubilee which means celebration. It will be held once again at the Carlisle Park next to Grandma's and Grandpa's.

There will be several of the churches in our area that will be involved. Hamburgers, hotdogs and lemon aid will be provided but the rest will be picnic potluck.

There will be lots of music, fun and games. There will be a pie and cake auction and you will have a chance to throw a water balloon at your favorite Pastor and well as put a pie in his face.

last year we raised \$1,500.00, for the Cancer Support Group & the Onalaska Community Center, this year the money will go to the school to help kids that might be left out of activities because of a lack of money.

It will start at 12:00 noon, Labor Day Monday, September 6. Come and have a great time of wonderful music, good food and great fellowship.

WHY GO TO CHURCH, ANYWAY?

A Churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the preachers are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."



This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this CLINCHER: "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!!!!

♦ Received from Marilyn & Dale Schermerhorn

"When you are DOWN to nothing...God is UP to something!"

"Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!"

MAY YOUR LOVE INCREASE

By Peter Kennedy,
Copyright 2004,
Devotional E-Mail
Monday – July 12, 2004

"May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you."

– 1 Thessalonians 3:12

Dr. Paul Yonggi Cho is pastor of the largest church in the world in Korea. Several years ago, as his ministry was becoming international, he told God, "I will go anywhere to preach the gospel—except Japan." He hated the Japanese with gut-deep loathing because Japanese troops had enslaved the Korean people during WWII.

Through a combination of a prolonged inner struggle, several direct challenges from others, and finally an urgent and starkly worded invitation, Cho felt called by God to preach in Japan. He went, but he went with bitterness. The first speaking engagement was to a pastor's conference—1,000 Japanese pastors. Cho stood up to speak, and what came out of his mouth was this: "I hate you. I hate you. I hate you." And then he broke and wept. He was both brimming and desolate with hatred.

At first one, then two, then all 1,000 pastors stood up. One by one they walked up to Yonggi Cho, knelt at his feet and asked forgiveness for what they and their people had done to him and his people. As this went on, God changed Yonggi Cho. The Lord put a single message



in his heart and mouth: "I love you. I love you. I love you."

Since the moment, Paul has had nothing but love for the Japanese people.

Sometimes God calls us to do what we least want to do in order to reveal what's really in our heart. Today in prayer, give your heart to the Lord so He may have you love others for Him.

"To love another person is to help them love God."

Soren Kierkegaard

God's Word: *"We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing."*

2 Thessalonians 1:3

♦ Received from J. C. & Phyllis Sparks

HERE IS THIS MONTH'S QUIZ.

Have you ever thought of what love is made,

It's strong one day and then it begins to fade.

Your heart is burning with strong desire

And then slowly but surely out goes the fire.

That's just what happened to me my friend,

There was the time I had a strong desire to follow Him.

But another love came into my heart, And caused me from Him to depart.

I turned my back on the greatest one. To seek after wealth and worldly fun.

As you read my name in the Book, It will tell you of the road I took.

Now don't you think this can't happen to you,

You have to keep your eyes on the One that's True.

My name you'll find within the Book, But you're going to have to take a look.

GOD WILL PROVIDE

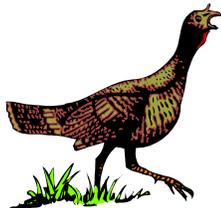
There once was a man who had nothing for his family to eat. He had an old shotgun and three shells. So, he decided that he would go out and kill something for dinner.



As he went down the road, he saw a rabbit and he shot at the rabbit and missed it. Then he saw a squirrel and fired a shot at the

squirrel and missed it.

As he went further, he saw a wild turkey in the tree and he had only one shell, but a voice came to him and said "pray first, aim high and stay focused."



However, at the same time, he saw a deer that was a better kill. He brought the gun down and aimed at the deer.



But, then

he saw a rattlesnake between his legs about to bite him, so he naturally brought the gun down further to shoot the rattlesnake.



Still, the voice said again to him, "I said 'pray, aim high and stay focused.'" So, the man decided to listen to the voice. He prayed, then aimed the gun high up in the tree and shot the wild turkey. The bullet bounced off the turkey and killed the deer. The handle fell off the gun and hit the



snake in the head and killed it. And, when the gun had gone off, it knocked him into a pond. When he stood to look around, he had fish in all his pockets, a dead deer and a turkey to eat. The snake (Satan) was dead simply because the man listened to God.

****Bottom line:** Pray first before you do anything, aim and shoot high in your goals, and stay focused on God.

Never let others discourage you concerning your past.

Live every day one day at a time. And remember that only God knows our future and that he will not put you through any more than you can bear.

Do not look to man for your blessings but look to the Lord. He can open doors for you that only He is able to open. Doors that you will not slip through but doors that only He has prepared in advance for you in your favor. Wait, and be still, patient: keep God first and everything else will follow.

P.S. When Satan is knocking at your door, simply say, "Jesus, could You please get that for me?"

◆ *Received from Susan Olsen*

The above may just be a story but the message it tells is true, God will provide as we place our trust in Him. As I look back on the past few years, I marvel at the way God has met our needs. There has been so many times that He has blessed us and I would like to remind you of a few.

All the buildings, parsonage, church and fellowship hall have new roofs with no indebtedness. We have a paved parking lot that was paid for totally by donation with no cost to the church budget. The parsonage has a paved driveway at no cost to the church. The parsonage field has been mowed at least four times with no cost to the church. Two new furnaces have

been installed, one donated the other at cost. The fellowship hall has a new floor and carpet. The parsonage property has been declared **NOT** wetlands. Our new sign is within \$2,000.00 of its goal.

We have seen our church grow from around 20 to between 50 & 60. We even reached in the 70's and 80's a time or two. We have gone from having just one service a week to having two Bible Studies, a Sunday evening service, Kid's Club, Movie at the Pastors', Game Night and other activities that allow each of us the opportunity to grow spiritually.



As we approach our Annual Church Business Meeting in October, let us continue to trust God to provide our needs as we do our part in helping our church continue to be a positive influence in our Community. Let us not put our trust in the arm of flesh that will fail us, or in the wisdom of man that will lead us away from the path God wants us to take. Remember, this is God's Church and He will meet our every need as we trust and obey Him.

*Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death.
Sorrow looks back, worry looks around, and faith looks up.
A skeptic is a person who when he sees the handwriting on the wall, claims it's a forgery.
If the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, you can bet the water bill is higher.
It isn't difficult to make a mountain out of a molehill, just add a little dirt.
The tongue must be heavy, indeed, because so few people can hold it.*