



CHURCH OF GOD



BANNER

JANUARY 2005

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

FAMILY

*I ran into a stranger as he passed
by,
"Oh excuse me please" was my
reply.*

*He said, "Please excuse me too;
I wasn't watching for you."*

*We were very polite,
This stranger and I.
We went on our way
And we said good-bye.*

*But at home a different story is told,
How we treat our loved ones, young
and old.*

*Later that day, cooking the evening
meal,
My son stood beside me very still.*

*When I turned, I nearly knocked him
down.*

*"Move out of the way, "I said with a
frown.*

*He walked away, his little heart
broken.*

*I didn't realize how harshly I'd
spoken.*

*While I lay awake in bed,
God's still small voice came to me
and said,*

*"While dealing with a stranger,
common courtesy you use,
But the family you love, you seem to
abuse.*

*Go and look on the kitchen floor,
You'll find some flowers there by the
door.*

*Those are the flowers he brought for
you.*

He picked them himself: pink,

yellow and blue.

*He stood very quietly not to spoil
the surprise,
You never saw the tears that filled
his little eyes."*

By this time, I felt very small,



*And now my tears began to fall.
I quietly went and knelt by his bed;
"Wake up, little one, wake up," I
said.*

*"Are these the flowers you picked
for me?"*

*He smiled, "I found 'em, out by the
tree.*

*I picked 'em because they're pretty
like you.*

*I knew you'd like 'em, especially the
blue."*

*I said, "Son, I'm very sorry for the
way I acted today;*

*I shouldn't have yelled at you that
way."*

*He said, "Oh, Mom, that's okay.
I love you anyway."*

*I said, "Son, I love you too,
And I do like the flowers, especially
the blue."*

FAMILY

Are you aware that if we died to-
morrow, the company that we are

working for could easily replace us
in a matter of days, but the family
we left behind will feel the loss for
the rest of their lives.

And come to think of it, we pour
ourselves more into work than into
our own family, an unwise invest-
ment indeed, don't you think? So
what is behind the story?

*Do you know what the word
FAMILY means?*

FAMILY =

Father

And

Mother

I

Love

You

***We need the riches of His glory not
the riches of this world***

◆ *Received from Rev. C. Joe McKnight*

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*The most important things in your
home are the people.*

*Surviving and living your life
successfully requires courage. The
goals and dreams you're seeking
require courage and risk-taking.
Learn from the turtle -- it only
makes progress when it sticks out its
neck.*

*Growing old is inevitable,
growing up is optional.*

THE W IN CHRISTMAS

Each December, I vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience. I had cut back on nonessential obligations - extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating, and even overspending. Yet still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moments, and of course, the true meaning of Christmas.

My son, Nicholas, was in kindergarten that year. It was an exciting season for a six year old. For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant." I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the production. Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher. She assured me there'd be a dress rehearsal

the morning of the presentation. All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to

come then. Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise.

So, the morning of the dress rehearsal, I filed in ten minutes early, found a spot on the cafeteria floor and sat down. Around the room, I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats. As I waited, the students were led into the room. Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross-legged on the floor. Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song.

Because the public school system

had long stopped referring to the holiday as "Christmas," I didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment - songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer. So, when my son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love," I was slightly taken aback by its bold title.

Nicholas was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright snowcaps upon their heads. Those in the front row - center stage - held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song. As the class would sing, "C is for Christmas," a child would hold up the letter C. Then, "H is for Happy," and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, "Christmas Love."

The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed her; a small, quiet, girl in the front row holding the letter "M" upside down - totally unaware her letter "M" appeared as a "W". The audience of 1st through 6th graders snickered at this little

one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her "W". Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and we all saw it together. A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen. In that instant, we understood the reason we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place, why even in the chaos, there was a purpose for our festivities.

For when the last letter was held

high, the message read loud and clear: "CHRIST WAS LOVE"

And, I believe, He still is.

◆ Received from Norm & Velma Chilson

THE YEAR OF 2005

The years are passing all too swiftly.

Time, it just seems to fly.

A year has come and gone so quickly

And 2005 will also rush on by.

We live in a world filled with sorrow.

So many live as if there were no tomorrow.

Hope for the future is found in Christ alone.

For His own, He has prepared a heavenly home.

2005 will have its share of skirmishes and war

Be assured that we have not seen the end, by far.

Earthquake and tsunami will visit again

For these are signs of the end.

2005 is not His year

For signs must be given far and near.

*The warning will be loud and clear
That the marriage of Christ is near.*

◆ Received from C. Joe McKnight

WORDS TO LIVE BY

Give God what's right -- not what's left.

Man's way leads to a hopeless end -- God's way leads to an endless hope.

Don't put a question mark where God puts a period.

When God ordains, He sustains.

ONALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

SUNDAYS

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM
MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 AM

Potluck Sunday
January 2

EVENING SING & PRAISE
SERVICE
6:00 PM

TUESDAYS

KID'S CLUB
3:30 - 4:30 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"
DRAMA PRACTICE

THURSDAYS

HOME BIBLE STUDY

@

ELVA SMOOTS 1:00 PM
809 GISH ROAD

WCG LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8
12:00 PM

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14
1:00 PM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

SINGSPIRATION
6:00 PM

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Monday, January 10
Tea & praise

@

Community
Presbyterian church
10:00 am

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

SENIOR'S ON THE GO
LUNCHEON

12:00 NOON

JAKE'S ORANGE

Jake lived in an orphanage with nine other young boys. Times were hard especially in the wintertime, when any extra money went for coal to heat the old buildings. At Christmas each boy received a special gift. A sweet juicy orange. It was the only time of the year such a rare treat was provided.

How the boys looked forward to that orange! It was coveted like nothing else they ever received. Each boy

would save his orange for several days, admiring it, feeling it, smelling it, loving it, and contemplating the moment he would eat it. Some would even save it until New Year's day, or later, much like many



of us relish saving our Christmas trees and decorations until New Year's just to remind us of the joy of Christmas. This particular Christmas Day, Jake had started a fight. As punishment for breaking the rules, the orphanage's mother told him that he would not receive his orange. Jake spent Christmas Day empty and alone.

Nighttime came and Jake went to bed, but could not sleep. Silently, he sobbed into his pillow. This year he would not have an orange to savor like all the other boys. Jake was startled when a small hand was placed on his shoulder. He felt an object being quickly shoved into his hands. The Child then disappeared into the dark.. Jake looked down to find an odd shaped gift, crudely wrapped in a piece of cloth. To his amazement, he discovered a strange looking orange....an orange made from segments of nine other oranges....nine highly prized oranges from nine boys who knew all too well what it meant to be alone.

◆ Received from The Story of Encouragement 12/30/2000

MEMORIAL SIGN

Our Memorial Sign should be up sometime this month. We have received the money for the sign and ordered it several days ago. We have been truly blessed by those who have generously supported this endeavor and for this we are very thankful. We have been helped by those within the community, Mark Myhre, of Onalaska Electric, dug the hole for the base. The concrete foundation has been donated by Mud Slingers, and Mark Myhre has offered to perform all the electrical requirements.



Our prayer is that as the **WORD OF GOD** is placed on the sign, those driving by will read the it, and the **WORD** will turn their hearts to Jesus Christ.

WHEN JESUS LOOKS

by Chick Velasco

*When Jesus looks upon my life,
What picture does He see.
Does He see His own reflection,
Or does He just see me.*

*Does He see His likeness,
The product of His hand.
Or just another Christian,
Who never took a stand.*

*Does He see a child of God,
A child that He made free.
Living life to honor Him,
Or does He just see me.*

*What about the other folks,
I meet along the way.
Do I show them Jesus,
To brighten up their day.*

*When someone looks into my eyes,
Can they truly see.
That calm and gentle peace of God,
That dwells inside of me.*

*When I reach out and shake a hand,
Is He right there in my grip.
Can they feel that strength from God,
That steadies when I slip.*

*When folks are in my presence,
Do they know His Spirit's there.
Can they see that He's the one,
Who guides me everywhere.*

*When other people think of me,
What is on their mind.
Do they think of Jesus Christ,
So gentle and so kind.*

*I try to be like Jesus,
Every single day.
Spreading love and kindness,
All along my way.*

*I'm afraid that I have failed,
I could not pass the test.
Deep inside my heart I know,*

I haven't done my best.

*I have had to fight my flesh,
Since the day that I was born.
It's always causing trouble,
And being such a thorn.*

*That's why His Spirit dwells in me,
He's helping me to learn.
In every situation,
Where I need to turn.*

*He knew I'd never pass the test,
That's why He took my place.
He gave His life to save my soul,
He suffered my disgrace.*

*Now I try to be like Him,
I must represent Him well.
So other folks will want His gift,
And turn their backs on hell.*

*Other folks should see the joy,
That Christ has given me.
They should want to have it too,
Especially since it's free.*

*They should begin to ask me,
What is it they must do.
Just how it is they go about,
Getting Jesus too.*

*Then I get to tell them,
This wondrous gift is free.
It only takes a humble heart,
A prayer on bended knee.*

*Someday when I'm face to face,
With the Lord who made me free.
Will He see His own reflection,
Or will He just see me.*

◆ Received from Carol Haun

FAMILY TIME

A man came home from work late again, tired and irritated, to find his 5 year old son waiting for him at the door.

Oh, Daddy, may I ask you a question? Yeah, sure what is it? Replied the man. Daddy how much money do

you make an hour? That is none of your business. What makes you ask such a thing? The man says angrily. I just want to know. Please tell me how much do you make an hour, pleaded the little boy. If you must know, I make \$20.00 an hour. Oh, the little boy replied, h e a d b o w e d . Looking up, he said, Dad, may I borrow \$10.00 please? The father was furious. If the only reason you wanted to know how much money I make is just so you can borrow some to buy a silly toy or some other nonsense, then you march yourself straight to your room. You do not need anymore toys! Go play with the ones you already have. I work long, hard hours everyday and don't have time for this.



The little boy quietly went to his room and shut the door. The man sat down and started to get more angry about the little boys questioning. How dare he ask such questions only to get some money. After an hour or so, the man had calmed down, and started to think he may have been a little hard on his son. Maybe there was something he really needed to buy with that \$10.00 and he really did not ask for money very often. The man went to the door of the little boys room and opened the door. His son was lying on the bed. Are you asleep, son? He asked.

No, Daddy, I'm awake. Replied the boy. I've been thinking, maybe I was too hard on you earlier, said the man. It's been a long day and I took my aggravation out on you. Here's that \$10.00 you asked for.

The little boy sat straight up, beaming. Oh, thank you, Daddy, he yelled. Then, reaching under his pillow, he pulled out some more crumpled up bills. The man, seeing that the boy already had money, started to get angry again. The little boy slowly counting out his money, looked up at his father. Why did you want more money if you already had some? The father grumbled. I didn't have enough, but now I do, the little boy replied. Daddy, I have \$20.00. Now can I buy an hour of your time?

MAMA & HER
BIBLE

Four brothers left home for college, and they became successful doctors and lawyers and prospered.

Some years later, they chatted after having dinner together.

They discussed the gifts they were able to give their elderly mother who lived far away in another city.

The first said "I had a big house built for Mama."

The second said "I had a hundred thousand dollar theater built in the house."

The third said "I had my Mercedes dealer deliver an SL600 to her".

The fourth said, "You know how Mama loved reading the Bible and you know she can't read anymore because she can't see very well. I met this preacher who told me about a parrot that can recite the entire Bible. It took twenty preachers 12 years to teach him. I had to pledge to contribute \$100,000 a year for twenty years to the church, but it was worth it. Mama just has to name the chapter and verse and the parrot will recite it." The other brothers were impressed.



After the holidays Mom sent out her Thank You notes.

She wrote: "Milton, the house you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house.

Thanks anyway.

"Marvin, I am too old to travel. I stay home; I have my groceries delivered, so I never use the Mercedes.

The thought was good.

Thanks.

"Michael, you gave me an expensive theater with Dolby sound, it could hold 50 people, but all my friends are dead, I've lost my hearing and I'm nearly blind.

I'll never use it.

Thank you for the gesture just the same.

"Dearest Melvin, you were the only son to have the good sense to give a little

thought to your gift. The chicken was delicious.

Thank you.

◆ Received from David Chilson via of Marlena Mulkins

THE PRAYER

After starting a new diet I altered my drive to work to avoid passing my favorite bakery. I accidentally drove by the bakery this morning and as I approached, there in the window were a host of goodies. I felt this was no accident, so I prayed: "Lord, it's up to you...if you want me to have any of those delicious goodies, create a parking place for me directly in front of the bakery." And sure enough, He answered my prayer: on the eighth time around the block, there it was!



GOD IS SO GOOD!

◆ Received from Susan Olsen

CHURCH FOOTBALL
Author Unknown

Quarterback Sneak - Church members quietly leaving during the invitation.

Draw Play - What many children do with the bulletin during worship.

Half-time - The period between Sunday School and worship when many choose to leave.

Benchwarmer - Those who do not sing, pray, work, or apparently do anything but sit.

Backfield-in-Motion - Making a trip to the back (restroom or water fountain) during the service.

Staying in the Pocket - What happens to a lot of money that should be given to the Lord's work.



Two-minute Warning - The point at which you realize the sermon is almost over and begin to gather up your children and belongings.

Instant Replay - The preacher loses his notes and falls back on last week's illustrations.

Sudden Death - What happens to the attention span of the congregation if the preacher goes "overtime".

Trap - You're called on to pray and are asleep.

End Run - Getting out of church quickly without speaking to any guest or fellow member.

Flex Defense - The ability to allow absolutely nothing said during the sermon to affect your life.

Halfback Option - The decision of 50% of the congregation not to return for the evening service or Bible study.

Blitz - The rush for the restaurants following the benediction.

◆ Received from Jan Skinner

BE CAREFUL FOR WHAT YOU WISH

A man left for work one Friday afternoon. But, being payday, instead of going home, he stayed out the entire weekend partying with the boys and spending his entire paycheck.

When He finally appeared at home, Sunday Night, he was confronted by a very angry wife and was barraged for nearly two hours with a tirade befitting his actions.

Finally his wife stopped the nagging and simply said to him. "How would you like it if you didn't see me for two or three days?"

To which he replied. "That would be fine with me."

Monday went by and he didn't see his wife. Tuesday and Wednesday came and went with the same results.

Come Thursday, the swelling went down just enough where he could see her a little out of the corner of his left eye.

◆ Received from Ruth Bushnell

