



CHURCH OF GOD BANNER

onalaskachurchofgod.com



MARCH 2005

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

SMILE

Author Unknown

I am a mother of three (ages 14, 12, 3) and have recently completed my college degree. The last class I had to take was! Sociology. The teacher was absolutely inspiring with the qualities that I wish every human being had been graced with. Her last project of the term was called "Smile." The class was asked to go out and smile at three people and document their reactions.

I am a very friendly person and always smile at everyone and say hello anyway, so, I thought this would be a piece of cake, literally. Soon after we were assigned the project, my husband, youngest son, and I went out to McDonald's one crisp March morning. It was just our way of sharing special playtime



with our son. We were standing in line, waiting to be served, when all of a sudden everyone around us began to back away, and then even my husband did. I did not move an inch... an overwhelming feeling of panic welled up inside of me as I turned to see why they had moved. As I turned around I smelled a horrible "dirty body" smell, and there standing behind me were two poor homeless men. As I looked down at the short gentleman, close to me, he was "smiling". His beautiful sky blue

eyes were full of God's Light as he searched for acceptance. He said, "Good day" as he counted the few coins he had been clutching. The second man fumbled with his hands as he stood behind his friend. I realized the second man was mentally challenged and the blue-eyed gentleman was his salvation. I held my tears as I stood there with them.

The young lady at the counter asked him what they wanted. He said, "Coffee is all Miss" because that was all they could afford. (If they wanted to sit in the restaurant and warm up, they had to buy something. He just wanted to be warm). Then I really felt it - the compulsion was so great I almost reached out and embraced the little man with the blue eyes. That is when I noticed all eyes in the restaurant were set on me, judging my every action. I smiled and asked the young lady behind the counter to give me two more breakfast meals on a separate tray. I then walked around the corner to the table that the men had chosen as a resting spot. I put the tray on the table and laid my hand on the blue-eyed gentleman's cold hand. He looked up at me, with tears in his eyes, and said, "Thank you." I leaned over, began to pat his hand and said, "I did not do this for you. God is here working through me to give you hope."

I started to cry as I walked away to join my husband and son. When I sat down my husband smiled at me

and said, "That is why God gave you to me, Honey, to give me hope." We held hands for a moment and at that time, we knew that only because of the Grace that we had been given were we able to give.



That day showed me the pure Light of God's sweet love.

I returned to college, on the last evening of class, with this story in hand. I turned in "my project" and the instructor read it. Then she looked up at me and said, "Can I share this?" I slowly nodded as she got the attention of the class. She began to read and that is when I knew that we as human beings and being part of God share this need to heal people and to be healed. In my own way I had touched the people at McDonald's, my husband, son, instructor, and every soul that shared the classroom on the last night I spent as a college student. I graduated with one of the biggest lessons I would ever learn: UNCONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE !.

Much love and compassion is sent to each and every person who may read this and learn how to **LOVE PEOPLE AND USE THINGS - NOT LOVE THINGS AND USE PEOPLE.**

Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.

*To handle yourself, use your head.
To handle others, use your heart.*

◆ *Received from Bob & Reva Sparks*

"BUTTERFLY COURAGE"

Walking down a path through some woods in Georgia in 1977, I saw a water puddle ahead on the path. I angled my direction to go around it on the part of the path that wasn't covered by water and mud.

As I reached the puddle, I was suddenly attacked! Yet, I did nothing, for the attack was so unpredictable and from a source so totally unexpected. I was startled as well as unhurt, despite having been struck four or five times already. I backed up a foot and my attacker stopped attacking me. Instead of attacking more, he hovered in the air on graceful butterfly wings in front of me.

Had I been hurt I wouldn't have found it amusing, but I was unhurt, it was funny, and I was laughing. After all, I was being attacked by a butterfly!

Having stopped laughing, I took a step forward. My attacker rushed me again. He rammed me in the chest with his head and body, striking me over and over again with all his might, still to no avail.

For a second time, I retreated a step while my attacker relented in his attack. Yet again, I tried moving forward. My attacker charged me again. I was rammed in the chest over and over again. I wasn't sure what to do, other than to retreat a third time. After all, it's just not everyday that one is attacked by a butterfly. This time, though, I stepped back several paces to look the situation over. My attacker moved back as well to land on the ground. That's when I discovered why my attacker was charging me only moments earlier.

He had a mate and she was dying.

She was beside the puddle where he landed. Sitting close beside her, he opened and closed his wings as if to fan her. I could only admire the love and courage of that butterfly in his concern for his mate. He had taken it upon himself to attack me for his mate's sake, even though she was clearly dying and I was so large. He did so just to give her those extra few precious moments of life, should I have been careless enough to step on her.

Now I knew why and what he was fighting for. There was really only one option left for me. I carefully made my way around the puddle to the other side of the path, though it was only inches wide and extremely muddy. His courage in attacking something thousands of times larger and heavier than himself just for his mate's safety justified it. I couldn't do anything

other than reward him by walking on the more difficult side of the puddle. He had truly earned those moments to be with her, undisturbed.

I left them in peace for those last few moments, cleaning the mud from my boots when I later reached my car. Since then, I've always tried to remember the courage of that butterfly whenever I see huge obstacles facing me. I use that butterfly's courage as an inspiration and to remind myself that good things are worth fighting for.

♦ *Received from Jim Sparks*

THE PASTOR'S PLIGHT

The pastor of a church is in a precarious position; he can't please everyone! It has been said:

If he is young, he lacks experience; if his hair is gray, he's too old for the

young people. If he has several children, he has too many; if he has no children, he's setting a bad example.

If he preaches from his notes, he has canned sermons and is too dry; if he doesn't use notes, he has not studied and is not deep.

If he is attentive to the poor people in the church, they claim he is playing to the grandstand; if he pays attention to the wealthy, he is trying to be an aristocrat.

If he suggests changes for improvement of the church, he is a dictator; if he makes no suggestions, he is a figurehead.

If he uses too many illustrations, he neglects the Bible; if he doesn't use enough illustrations, he isn't clear.

If he condemns wrong, he is cranky; if he doesn't preach against sin, he's a compromiser.

If he fails to please somebody, he's hurting the church and ought to leave; if he tries to please everyone, he is a fool.

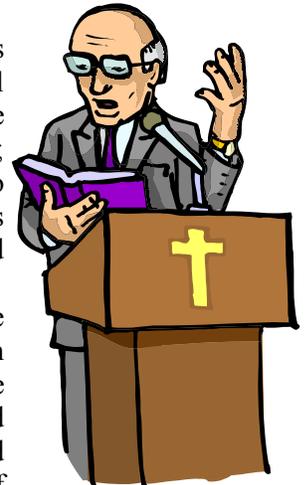
If he preaches about money, he's a money grabber; if he doesn't preach spiritual giving, he is failing to develop the people.

If he drives an old car, he shames his congregation; if he drives a new car, he is setting his affection on earthly things.

If he preaches all the time, the people get tired of hearing one man; if he invites guest speakers, he is shirking his responsibility.

If he receives a large salary, he's mercenary; if he receives only a small salary, well-it proves he isn't worth much anyway.

♦ *Received from Jim Sparks*



ONALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

SUNDAYS

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

Potluck Sunday
March 6

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

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

FRIDAY, MARCH 4
1:00 PM

WCG LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, MARCH 12
12:00 PM

All the ladies of our church are invited to come and join together to find ways in which they can help our church grow and fulfill the plans that God has for us. If you have any questions please call Mert at 978-4380

COMMUNITY EVENTS

SENIOR'S ON THE GO
LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16
12:00 NOON

BIG FEET BIGGER HEART

It was an unseasonably hot day. Everybody it seemed was looking for some kind of relief, so an ice cream store was a natural place to stop.

A little girl, clutching her money tightly, entered the store. Before she could say a word, the store clerk sharply told her to get outside and read the sign on the door, and stay out until she put on some shoes. She left slowly, and a big man followed her out of the store.

He watched as she stood in front of the store and read the sign: No Bare Feet. Tears started rolling down her cheeks as she turned and

walked away. Just then the big man called to her. Sitting down on the curb, he took off his size-12 shoes, and set them in front of the girl saying, "Here, you won't be able to walk in these, but if you sort of slide along, you can get your ice cream cone."



Then he lifted the little girl up and set her feet into the shoes. "Take your time," he said, "I get tired of moving them around, and it'll feel good to just sit here and eat my ice cream." The shining eyes of the little girl could not be missed as she shuffled up to the counter and ordered her ice cream cone.

He was a big man, all right. Big belly, big shoes, but most of all, he had a big heart.

◆ Received from Jim Sparks via Jerry Phillips

And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

MATTHEW 10:42

SIGN DEDICATION

On Sunday, April 3, 2005, following our monthly potluck, we will be dedicating our new sign. There are many we wish to thank for all they did in helping make the sign possible.

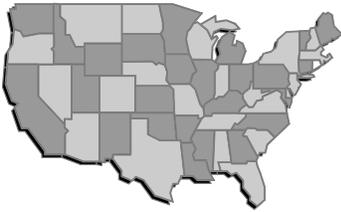
- ◆ For those who had a vision for the sign, prayed and gave for the purchase of the sign in memory of Gloria Mulkins.
- ◆ For Mark Myhre of Onalaska Electric who dug the hole for the sign's foundation, lifted the sign into place, and provided all the electrical work.
- ◆ For Mud Slingers who donated their time, concrete and labor in providing the sign's foundation.
- ◆ For the High School Students who helped unload the sign.



THE MAP

A father wanted to read a magazine but was being bothered by his little girl, Shelby. She wanted to know what the United States looked like. Finally, he tore a sheet out of his new magazine on which was printed the map of the country.

Tearing it into small pieces, he gave



it to Shelby, and said, "Go into the other room and see if you can put this together. This will show you our whole country today."

After a few minutes, Shelby returned and handed him the map correctly fitted together. The father was surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly.

"Oh," she said, "On the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus. When I got all of Jesus back where He belonged, then our country just came together."

◆ Received from David Chilson

WINTER YEARS

Author Unknown

You know, time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years.

It seems just yesterday that I was a young girl, just married and embarking on my new life with my husband.

And yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all... And I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams...

But, here it is...the winter of my life and it catches me by surprise...How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my babies

go? And where did my youth go?

I remember well...seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like...

But, here it is...husband retired yesterday and he's really getting gray...he moves slower and I see an older man now. He's in much better shape than me...but, I see the great change...

Not the one I married who was dark and young and strong... but, like me, his age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore...

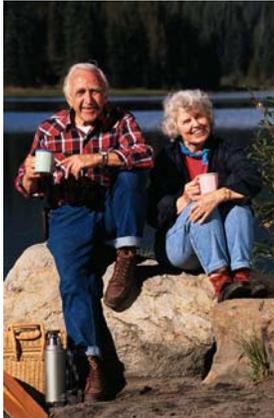
it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will...I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so, now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared

for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things.

But, at least I know, that though the winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last...This I know, that when it's over...I will enjoy the Spring in the arms of my loving Father...and wait for my loved ones to come when their winter is over too...

So, if you not in your winter yet...let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it



quickly!

For remember that scripture? ...*"Our life is but a vapor, it vanished away"*...So, do what you can today, because you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not!

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life... so, live for the Lord today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember.

TO LOVE LIKE HE LOVES

By
Mary Warner
2005

I want to love like Jesus loves I want to learn His way,
A love that seeks the other's best, and is not on display,

I want to turn the other cheek when wrong is done to me,
I want to love like Jesus does with peace and harmony,

I want to love like Jesus loves, a love that does not bind,
A love that is not rude or cruel, a love that's always kind,

I want to keep no records of wrongs that come my way,
I want to love like Jesus loves I want to learn His way,

I want a love that protects, trusts, and always fosters hope,
A love that will endure to the end of every rope,

A love that is patient, that does not envy or boast,
I want to love like the One, who always loved the most,

I want to love like Jesus loves where self can never rule,
I want to learn His secrets, and be taught in His school,

Oh, if only I can be like Him, how happy I will be,
If others see a bit of Him, when they look at me.

◆ Received from Hiswillministry.com

I WAS SHOCKED



I was shocked, confused,
bewildered
As I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
By the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven
Who made me sputter and gasp--
The thieves, the liars, the sinners,
The alcoholics, the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh
grade
Who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbor
Who never said anything nice.

Uncle Bill, who I always thought
Was rotting away in hell,
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
Looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, "What's the deal?
I would love to hear Your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake.

And why's everyone so quiet,
So somber? Give me a clue."
"Hush, child," said He. "They're all in
shock.
No one thought they'd see you."

◆ Received from Dan Bourassa via of
Dave Chilson

**BREAKING THE
SILENCE**

Brother John entered the
'Monastery of Silence' and the Chief
Priest said, "Brother, this is a silent

monastery, you are welcome here as
long as you like, but you may not
speak until I direct you to do so."

Brother John lived in the monastery
for a full year before the Chief Priest
said to him: "Brother John, you have
been here a year now, you may speak
two words."

Brother John said, "Hard Bed."

"I'm sorry to hear that" the Chief
Priest said. "We will get you a better
bed."

The next year, Brother John was
called by the Chief Priest. "You may
say another two
words Brother John."

"Cold Food." said
Brother John, and the
Chief Priest assured
him that the
food would be better
in the future.

On his third anni-
versary at the monas-
tery, the Chief Priest
again called Brother
John into his office. "Two words you
may say today."

"I Quit." said Brother John.

"It is probably best." said the Chief
Priest. "All you have done since you
got here is complain."

◆ Received from Jim Sparks



Last month the
only one who
came up with the
correct answer
for the quiz was
my sister in
Scottsdale. The
answer is found
in the tenth chap-
ter of Second

Samuel, when David sent his servants
to mourn the death of King of Ammon.

Let's see if someone closer to Ona-
laska can come up the this months an-
swer.

*Ah my friend I wish you knew,
All the trouble I have been through.
The days were short the nights were
long.*

I fought against both right and wrong.

*I led the army of my king,
For him my sword did truly sing.
I fought for him with loyal pride,
And cried bitter tears when he died.*

*I led the army of his son,
Until he accused me of what I hadn't
done.
He blamed me for something I didn't
do,
And I want you to know that it wasn't
true.*

*I was mad it was plain to see,
That he no longer trusted me.
I had never done him dirt,
The words he said brought pain and
hurt.*

*And so I headed out the door,
What he said had made me sore.
I never looked back I'm glad to say,
And I went to the enemy not far
away.*

*I came to the enemy that day,
And told him that I would like to stay.
He told me that it was OK with him,
And with my help I knew he'd win.*

*But there was one who hated me,
And in his hand the sword I didn't
see,
And so he stuck me in my rib,
For something long-ago I did.*

*Now tell me the name of the king I
left that day,
And the name of the man who put me
away,
The name of the enemy and mine if
you can
And if you're first, a candy bar will
be placed in your hand.*

**CHILDREN'S SCIENCE
EXAM ANSWERS**

Q: Name the four seasons.

*A: Salt, pepper, mustard and
vinegar.*

**Q: How can you delay milk
turning sour?**

A: Keep it in the cow.

**Q: Name a major disease
associated with cigarettes.**

A: Premature death.