



# CHURCH OF GOD BANNER

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MAY, 2005

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

## LOOK BEYOND THE PACKAGE

A young man was getting ready to graduate from college. For many months he had admired a beautiful sports car in a dealer's show-room, and knowing his father could well afford it, he told him that was all he wanted.

As Graduation Day approached, the young man awaited signs that his father had purchased the car.

Finally, on the morning of his graduation, his father called him into his private study. His father told him how proud he was to have such a fine son, and told him how much he loved him. He handed his son a beautiful wrapped gift box.



Curious, but somewhat disap-

pointed, the young man opened the box and found a lovely, leather-bound Bible, with the young man's name embossed in gold. Angrily, he raised his voice to his father and said, "With all your money you give me a Bible? and stormed out of the house, leaving the Bible.

Many years passed and the young man was very successful in business. He had a beautiful home and wonderful family, but realized his father was very old, and thought perhaps he should go to him. He had not seen him since that graduation day.

Before he could make arrangements, he received a telegram telling him his father had passed away, and willed all of his possessions to his son. He needed to come home immediately and take care of things. When he arrived at his father's house, sudden sadness and regret filled his heart. He began to search through his father's important papers and saw the still new Bible, just as he had left it years ago. With tears, he opened the Bible and began to turn the pages. His father had carefully underlined a verse, Matt 7:11, "And if ye, being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Heavenly father which is in heaven, give to those who ask Him?" As he read those words, a car key dropped from the back of the Bible. It had a tag with the dealer's name, the same dealer who had the sports car he had desired.



On the tag was the date of his graduation, and the words...**PAID IN FULL.**

How many times do we miss God's blessings because they are not packaged as we expected? Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not; but remember that what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for...

**IF YOUR GIFT IS NOT PACKED THE WAY YOU WANT IT, IT'S BECAUSE IT IS BETTER PACKED THAT WAY!**

♦ Received from Ruth Bushnell

## CHRISTIANS

By Maya Angelou

*When I say... "I am a Christian,"  
I'm not shouting "I'm clean living!"  
I'm whispering, "I was lost,  
Now I'm found and forgiven."*

*When I say... "I am a Christian"  
I don't speak of this with pride.  
I'm confessing that I stumble  
And need Christ to be my guide.*

*When I say... "I am a Christian"  
I'm not trying to be strong.  
I'm professing that I'm weak  
And need His strength to carry on.*

*When I say. "I am a Christian"  
I'm not bragging of success.  
I'm admitting I have failed  
And need God to clean my mess.*

*When I say... "I am a Christian"  
I'm not claiming to be perfect,  
My flaws are far too visible  
But, God believes I am worth it.*

*When I say... "I am a Christian"  
I still feel the sting of pain.  
I have my share of heartaches  
So I call upon His name.*

*When I say... "I am a Christian"  
I'm not holier than thou;  
I'm just a simple sinner  
Who received God's good grace,  
somehow.*

♦ Received from Carol Haun

**PSALM 32:1-2 Blessed is the person whose disobedience is forgiven and whose sin is pardoned. Blessed is the person whom the LORD no longer accuses of sin and who has no deceitful thoughts.**

**"LAST"**

By Bob Perks  
Bob@BobPerks.com

I was the last one to wake up today. When I came downstairs I reached for a box of cereal and used the last of it.



I grabbed the milk and finished the last few drops.

I made my coffee and poured half and half in it. Yes, it was the last of

it, too.

Obviously it got me thinking.

Win!

Why do so many people want to win, to be first? Losing is not an option for those who see first prize as the only way. After awhile they become so driven that they will do anything to win.

Anything.

Last. I looked it up in the dictionary and discovered four uses of the same word.

1. "Occurring or coming after all others."
2. "To go on or continue in time."
3. "A wooden or metal model of the human foot."
4. "Any of various large units of weight, often equivalent to 4000 lbs."

"Last." The same word, different meanings. Or are there?

I once saw a t-shirt produced by a popular clothing line that said, "Second is first loser!"

But I thought no matter where you finished you were in a group of people who at least tried. That's a winner to me.

By definition #1. I see the "Last" as one who tried to do their best!"

How bad can that be?

Definition #2. "To last" means to go

on. I'll bet those who come in last keep trying.

Definition #3. That "last" reminds me even if I am the last one, I'm still standing tall. I can walk away knowing I was in the race to win, but finished it with pride anyway.

Finally definition #4. Now you are probably wondering, "where will he go with that one?"

That last tells me that winning isn't everything. Coming in last still carries a lot of weight with those who believe in you. You see, when you believe in someone you always see the winner first, who will out last all those who never even try, who can stand up to any challenge, no matter how big it is.

"Last" is always better than not trying at all.

You're first in my book, my friend, because... **I BELIEVE IN YOU!**

**"I believe in you!"** Bob Perks  
Bob@BobPerks.com  
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## FIVE FINGER PRAYER

1. Your thumb is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."

2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.

3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's

guidance.

4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It



should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.

5. And lastly comes our little finger; the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

◆ Received from Joe Downs

### CLIMB THE WALLS:

*"Oh, I sure am happy to see you," the little boy said to his grandmother on his mother's side. "Now maybe daddy will do the trick he has been promising us."*

*The grandmother was curious. "What trick is that?" she asked.*

*"I heard him tell mommy that he would climb the walls if you came to visit" the little boy answered.*

### SUPPORT A FAMILY:

*The prospective father-in-law asked, "Young man, can you support a family?"*

*The surprised groom-to-be replied, "Well, no. I was just planning to support your daughter. The rest of you will have to fend for yourselves."*

◆ Received from Susan Olsen

# ALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

## SUNDAYS

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

Potluck Sunday  
MAY 1

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 & YOUTH 7:00 PM

## THURSDAYS

HOME BIBLE STUDY

@

ELVA SMOOTS 1:00 PM  
809 GISH ROAD

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

FRIDAY, MAY 6  
1:00 PM

## WCG LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, MAY 14  
12:00 PM

*FUN, LAUGHTER AND SURPRISES.  
COME AND JOIN US.*

*If you have any questions please  
call Mert at 978-4380*

## ECHOES OF PRAISE QUARTET

SUNDAY EVENING,  
MAY 22  
6:00 PM

## RUMMAGE, BAKE & PLANT SALE

You still have time to gather the things you want to put in the sale. The dates are June 3 & 4.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER  
BREAKFAST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 5

6:30 AM

SENIOR'S ON THE GO  
LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18  
12:00 NOON

## MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The missions committee met to discuss "why missions" and why we should care about missions. Jesus told his disciples that they would "be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." (Acts 1:8 (NASB)) (the local community, their home country, neighboring country and the rest of the world). Jesus placed great importance on missions therefore it should be important to us. That's why there is a world map now in the Fellowship Hall.

Missions results in changed lives. Jesus is the difference. The missions committee will be highlighting missionaries and mission agencies we know -- home missions, US missions and foreign missions. Check out the world map in the fellowship hall to see letters and photos of some of these missionaries and mission agencies.

If you have friends or families that are missionaries or are going on short term missions, please contact Kathleen Mulkins so we can add them to the board.

## PNA NEWS

The PNA's Men's Retreat, "THE ULTIMATE FISHING CHALLENGE - GOING PUBLIC WITH OUR FAITH" will be held at Double K Christian Retreat Center on Friday, May 13 and 14. The guest speaker will be Jim Grassi with Roger Patterson the worship leader. The cost of the retreat is \$ 55.00 if paid by May 5 and \$ 60.00 if paid later. For further details please see Pastor Mulkins.



The PNA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE will be held on Saturday, May 28 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Olympia Lacey Church of God. The theme for this years conference is, "Making Disciples" Grant Fall will be the quest speaker and Scott Hamilton will be the worship leader. If you would like to attend, please let Pastor Mulkins know so he can make the necessary reservations.

## MOTHERS

Author Unknown

For those who are lucky to still be blessed with your Mom, this is beautiful. For those who aren't, this is even more beautiful.

The young mother set her foot on the path of life. "Is this the long way?" she asked.

And the guide said "Yes, and the way is hard, and you will be old before you reach the end of it. But the end will be better than the beginning."

But the young mother was happy, and she would not believe that anything could be better than these years. So she played with her children, she fed them and bathed them, taught them how to tie their shoes and ride a bike, and reminded them to feed the dog and do their homework and brush their teeth. The sun shone on them and the young Mother cried, "Nothing will ever be lovelier than this."

Then the nights came, and the storms and the path was sometimes dark, and the children shook with fear and cold, and the mother drew them close and covered them with her arms and the children said, "Mother, we are not afraid, for you are near, and no harm can come."

And the morning came, and there was a hill ahead, and the children climbed and grew weary, and the mother was weary. But at all times she said to the children, a little patience and we are there."

So the children climbed and as they climbed they learned to weather the storms. And with this, she gave them strength to face the world. Year after year she showed them compassion, understanding, hope, but most of all unconditional love.



And when they reached the top they said, "Mother, we would not have done it without you."

The days went on, and the weeks and the months and the years, and the mother grew old and she became little and bent. But her children were tall and strong, and walked with courage. And the mother, when she lay down at night, looked up at the stars and said, "This is a better day than the last, for my children have learned so much and are now passing these traits on to their children."

And when the way became rough for her, they lifted her, and gave her their strength, just as she had given them hers. One day they came to a hill, and beyond the hill they could see a shining road and golden gates flung wide.

And Mother said: "I have reached the end of my journey. And now I know the end is better than the beginning, for my children can walk with dignity and pride, with their heads held high, and so can their children after them."

And the children said, "You will always walk with us, Mother, even when you have gone through the gates."

And they stood and watched her as she went on alone, and the gates closed after her.

And they said: "We cannot see her, but she is with us still. A Mother is more than a memory. She is a living presence. Your Mother is always with you. She's the whisper of the leaves as you walk down the street, she's the smell of certain foods you remember, flowers you pick and perfume that she wore, she's the cool hand on your brow when you're not feel-

ing well, she's your breath in the air on a cold winters day. She is the sound of the rain that lulls you to sleep, the colors of a rainbow, she is your birthday morning. Your Mother lives inside your laughter. And she's crystallized in every tear drop. A mother shows every emotion, happiness, sadness, fear, jealousy, love, hate, anger, helplessness, excitement, joy, sorrow... and all the while hoping and praying you will only know the good feelings in life. She's the place you came from, your first home, and she's the map you follow with every step you take. She's your first love, your first friend, even your first enemy, but nothing on earth can separate you. Not time, not space not even death!

**MAY WE NEVER TAKE OUR MOTHERS FOR GRANTED**

◆ Received from Ruth Bushnell

### THE WATER PISTOL:

*When my three-year-old son opened the birthday gift from his Grandmother, he discovered a water pistol. He squealed with delight and headed for the nearest sink.*

*I was not so pleased. I turned to mom and said, "I'm surprised at you. Don't you remember how we used to drive you crazy with water guns?"*

*Mom smiled and then replied... "I remember."*

### PALM SUNDAY:

*It was Palm Sunday and, because of a sore throat, five-year-old Johnny stayed home from church with a sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm branches. The boy asked what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by."*

*"Wouldn't you know it," the boy fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go, He shows up!"*

# THREE TREES

Author Unknown

Once there were three trees on a hill in the woods.

They were discussing their hopes and dreams when the first tree said, "Someday I hope to be a treasure chest. I could be filled with gold, silver and precious gems. I could be decorated with intricate carving and everyone would see the beauty."

Then the second tree said, "Someday I will be a mighty ship. I will take kings and queens across the waters and sail to the corners of the world. Everyone will feel safe in me because of the strength of my hull."

Finally the third tree said, "I want to grow to be the tallest and straightest tree in the forest. People will see me on top of the hill and look up to my branches, and think of the heavens and God and how close to them I am reaching. I will be the greatest tree of all time and people will always remember me."

After a few years of praying that their dreams would come true, a group of woodsmen came upon the trees.

When one came to the first tree he said, "This looks like a strong tree, I think I should be able to sell the wood to a carpenter," and he began cutting it down.

The tree was happy, because he knew that the carpenter would make him into a treasure chest.

At the second tree the woodsman said, "This looks like a strong tree, I should be able to sell it to the shipyard."

The second tree was happy because he knew he was on his way to becoming a mighty ship.



When the woodsmen came upon the third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down his dreams would not come true.

One of the woodsmen said, "I don't need anything special from my tree, so I'll take this one", and he cut it down.

When the first tree arrived at the carpenters, he was made into a Feed box for animals. He was then placed in a barn and filled with hay.

This was not at all what he had prayed for.

The second tree was cut and made into a small fishing boat. His dreams of being a mighty ship and carrying kings had come to an end.

The third tree was cut into large pieces and left alone in the dark.

The years went by, and the trees forgot about their dreams. Then one day, a man and woman came to the barn. She gave birth and they placed the baby in the hay in the feed box that was made from the first tree. The man wished that he could have made a crib for the baby, but this manger would have to do.



The tree could feel the importance of this event and knew that it had held the greatest treasure of all time.

Years later, a group of men got in the fishing boat made from the second tree. One of them was tired and went to sleep. While they were out on the water, a great storm arose and the tree



didn't think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. The men woke the sleeping man, and He stood and said "Peace" and the storm stopped.

At this time,

the tree knew that it had carried the King of Kings in its boat.

Finally, someone came and got the third tree. It was carried through the streets as the people mocked the man who was carrying it. When they came to a stop, the man was nailed to the tree and raised in the air to die at the top of a hill.

When Sunday came, the tree came to realize that it was strong enough to stand at the top of the hill and be as close to God as was possible, because Jesus had been crucified on it.

The moral of this story is that when things don't seem to be going your way, always know that God has a plan for you. If you place your trust in Him, He will give you great gifts. Each of the trees got what they wanted, just not in the way they had imagined. We don't always know what God's plans are for us. We just know that His ways are not our ways, but His ways are always best.

◆ Received from Susan Olsen



A very short quiz this month. Last month's winner was Mildred Dunham who called me Sunday afternoon the day she got the newsletter and told me the answer Reuben & Joseph. The story is found in the 37 chapter of Genesis.

*There is no mention of me in the book  
You'll never find me no matter how hard you look.  
But in the rest you will find My name so many times.  
Now tell me who I am  
And in which book I cannot be found.  
A candy bar will be yours  
If you're first in this round.*