



CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



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

"THERE IS PLENTY OF ROOM ON THE EDGE OF A DREAM!"

by Bob Perks
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"Have you ever gone to the edge with your dream?" he asked.

I knew what he was talking about. I didn't need to ask.

"Yes, I have," I replied. "I'm there right now."

Then we both stood looking out the window.

Jim and I are both dreamers. We live in this wonderful world of happy endings. When we each come to the end of our lives, we see ourselves riding off into the sunset waving goodbye, just like in the movies.

Silly, isn't it?

But dreamers create a balance in the world. We are the opposite of the "reality people" who see life as all fact, no fantasy. They call themselves the "movers and shakers" who get things done.

Dreamers though, think outside the lines. They choose to see the good in life, even when bad is kicking them in the face.

"So, you are standing on the edge again?" I asked.

"Yes, I am. I've been there before and I hope I'll be there again," he said.

He continued, "There was a time in my life when I lived there. Right on the edge of my dreams. I stayed there because I believed that any moment they would blossom into reality. Many did. Dreams, the things I believed in, were so much a part of me. I was my dream."

"And now?"

"Now my dreams taunt me like little children wanting to come out and play. I tend to shut them out. But every once in awhile, I give in."

"Why this time?"

"Because I still believe. I still believe that those things can happen in my life. I want them so badly..."

He stopped speaking.

"Jim, are you okay?"

He didn't reply.

I reached under his arm and held him up as we turned back toward his bed.

He was weak from the battle. He was dying inside, but the dream kept him going in spite of it all.

Odds were against him. Life was slowly coming to an end for Jim. His sunshine face, matched

only by his bright outlook on life, was dimmed somewhat by the prognosis.

But he had a lot of dreaming left to do. A great deal of things he wanted to see happen. I believe it was keeping him alive.

You see, dreamers aren't weakened by reality. Dreamers are strengthened by the fact that they see life the way it should be.

The way He sees it.

Jim was standing on the edge of his dream again and oddly enough so was I.

I'll admit to you that I haven't danced to the edge much recently and I regret it.

Jim reminded me today that there's plenty of room on the edge of a dream and the view of the world is awesome.

I don't want to see him ride off into the sunset, yet. I want to see him dance on the edge of his dream. So, I'm dusting off my dancing shoes and taking a chance on me today. I'll join him there.

Could you say a prayer for both of us?

If you're a dreamer you can come along. Bring your dreams with you.

"I believe in you!"
Bob Perks

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And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:
JOEL 2:28

YOUR BANK ACCOUNT

Pretend you are given a bank account that receives a fresh deposit of \$86,400 every day. You are free to spend the money any way you want, but the unspent balance is not carried forward to the next day. Regardless of what you've spent by the end of the day, the balance is reset daily at \$86,400. What would you do with such a bank account?

Now consider the fact that each dollar represents the number of seconds in one day: 24x60x60 = 86,400 seconds. Once they are "spent," they disappear; and the balance is reset at 12:00:01 a.m. every day. Some people become slaves of what they have, living frantic lives, trying to spend time, talent, and treasure before they lose it. In so doing, they become servants of things that are supposed to serve them. Jesus said we cannot serve both God and money (things of this world). And the only way to keep our priorities straight is to have a wise, godly plan: Today I'm going to glorify God this way with my time, talent, and treasure. Do you have such a plan?



◆ Received from Joe & Freda Downs

THE WEATHERED OLD BARN

Author Unknown

A stranger came by the other day with an offer that set me to thinking. He wanted to buy the old barn that sits out by the highway. I told him right off he was crazy. He was a

city type, you could tell by his clothes, his car, his hands, and the way he talked. He said he was driving by and saw that beautiful barn sitting out in the tall grass and wanted to know if it was for sale. I told him he had a funny idea of beauty.

Sure, it was a handsome building in its day. But then, there's been a lot of winters pass with their snow and ice and howling wind. The summer sun's beat down on that old barn till all the paint's gone, and the wood has turned silver gray. Now the old building leans a good deal, looking kind of tired. Yet, that fellow called it beautiful.

That set me to thinking. I walked out to the field and just stood there, gazing at that old barn. The stranger said he planned to use the lumber to line the walls of his den in a new country home he's building down the road. He said you couldn't get paint that beautiful. Only years of standing in the weather, bearing the storms and scorching sun, only that can produce beautiful barn wood.

It came to me then. We're a lot like that, you and I. Only it's on the inside that the beauty grows with us. Sure we turn silver gray too ... and lean a bit more than we did when we were young and full of sap. But the Good Lord knows what He's doing. And as the years pass He's busy using the hard wealth of our lives, the dry spells and the stormy seasons, to do a job of beautifying our souls that nothing else can produce. And to think how often folks holler because they want life easy!

They took the old barn down

today and hauled it away to beautify a rich man's house. And I reckon someday you and I'll be hauled off to Heaven to take on whatever chores the Good Lord has for us on the Great Sky Ranch.



And I suspect we'll be more beautiful than for the seasons we've been through

here ... and just maybe even add a bit of beauty to our Father's house.

May today there be peace within you, may you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

"I believe that friends are quiet angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly."

◆ Received from Katie Jackson

What keeps a person or a church from growing in the Grace of God and fulfilling His will? I believe it is what kind of vision or dreams they have. I have chosen two articles by Bob Perks, "**There Is Plenty of Room on the Edge of a Dream!**" on page one and, "**The Way I See It**" on page four. I pray that these articles will encourage each of us to forget about our limitations and begin to look to God's potential of empowering, equipping and provisions. Those who have accomplished great things for God are the men and women who looked beyond their own limitations and saw the possibilities through the power of God.



ALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

SUNDAYS

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

~

EVENING SING & PRAISE
SERVICE
6:00 PM

~

WEDNESDAYS

MEN'S BREAKFAST
@
THE BURGER BAR 6:00 AM

~

THURSDAYS

BIBLE STUDY AT ELVA'S
1:00 PM

~

FRIDAYS

KID'S CLUB
3:30 PM — 4:30 PM

~

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4
10:00 AM

~

WCG LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11
12:00 NOON

~

FOOD BASKET SUNDAY

WE WILL BE COLLECTING
FOOD GOODS FOR THE FOOD
BANK.

SUNDAY MORNING,
FEBRUARY 19
11:00 AM

~

STUMP THE PASTOR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19
6:00 PM

~

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TEA & PRAISE
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

@

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
CHURCH
10:00 AM

~

SENIORS ON THE GO

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15
CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL
12:00 NOON

PNA EVENTS

SENIOR HIGH
WINTER RETREAT
@
DOUBLE K
FEBRUARY 17—20

MISSION REPORT

Kathleen Mulkins

Campus Crusade for Christ
-- Missions at home and abroad

Campus Crusade for Christ
started in 1951 with a handful of

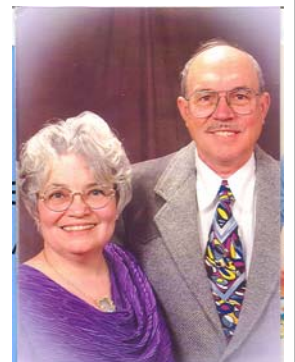
college students that were led to the Lord by Bill and Vonette Bright. Focusing on a Win-Build-Send concept, the ministry has not only

introduced millions to Christ but has trained and sent hundreds of thousands around the world in short term (1 week to 3 months) to long term (6 mo to 2 yrs) full time missions. Long ago they branched out from the college campus to include ministries at high schools, inner city, churches and even launching seminaries at four international locations. They work in partnership with local missionaries and churches throughout the world showing The Jesus Film. There is an excitement and passion about Campus Crusade for Christ for reaching those who do not know Jesus. They do not just share the gospel in words only. With their lives they help new believers grow in their faith until the babies are able to feed themselves and reproduce by telling others about Jesus with their lives and words.



HAPPY 25th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Instead of wishing Stan & Ruth Bushnell a Happy Valentine, wish them a Happy 25th Wedding Anniversary. On Tuesday, February 14, Stan & Ruth Bushnell will be celebrating 25 years of wedded bliss. They were married at the Wabash Presbyterian Church in Enumclaw, Washington on February 14, 1981. Our church has been truly blessed through their ministry, Stan is the Chairman of the Church Council and is very active on the Maintenance Committee and Ruth is Sunday School Superintendent as well as working as a volunteer secretary for Pastor.



"THE WAY I SEE IT"

by Bob Perks

Stars play a significant role in my life. It's the heavens I turn to when I am lost and feeling unimportant. But perhaps in the scheme of things it might be the worst thing I could do.

Think about it. If you wanted to look and feel taller would you head to New York City and stand next to the Empire State building? If you thought that God had given you a beautiful singing voice would you want to do a duet with Andrea Bocelli?

You would probably say, "No! Of course not! It's best to keep things in perspective. You should know your place in life, your limits."

By doing such things the building would make you feel small and insignificant and Bocelli would make you sound like you gargle with sand.

So along that line of thinking, finding significance in the vastness of the universe would certainly have the opposite result. Most people feel like a speck of dust compared to the billions of stars and millions of galaxies yet uncharted.

But there my friend is where you are wrong.

You see the key here is perspective. It's how you see it and how I see it. In my talks I refer to it as "The way it is" model. Two different viewpoints and the reality that some where in the middle of those opposing thoughts is "The way it is."

I would stand next to the Empire State Building so that I could see how big things can be. At one time someone thought that building to be an impossibility. Yet, I

have stood on top of that impossibility and it was awesome.

I would proudly sing along with Andrea Bocelli, too. First of all I do everyday as I travel by car or when just working around the house. I may not have the purity of such a well trained voice for opera, but I have and do sing professionally. Would I ever turn down the honor of actually singing with him? No way! I'd go for it. Being the professional he is he would most likely be easy on me. He'd permit me to sound good.

By some standards or perspectives he would be labeled an impossibility because of his blindness. You see once again someone would see limits when he saw potential.

His success tells me there are no limits.

As does the sky.

I'll be the first to admit that whenever I really ponder the heavens it takes my breath away. I have seen photos of stars, planets and galaxies that where taken far beyond what anyone would have imagined possible.

In life we think things must have a beginning and an end. Yet in contrast we stare into the heavens. By example we could use it to define the words "forever" and "infinity."

You would think that seeing my life as significant in this endless universe may be a challenge. But as I see it you and I are more significant then any element of the universe, known or unknown. For we were created to reign over all of this. We have the capacity to question it all and the ability to comprehend it. A galaxy may exist for millions of years and for whatever reason be destroyed without having much of an impact on the

universe as a whole.

But you and I have the ability to change the world we live in. A single act or a lifetime of dedication to humanity sends a ripple into time, forever and infinity.

If you have faith then you know that there is nothing about you that is by chance. You were created on purpose, with purpose. But you were also given the gift of choice. You can either feel small or tall. You can see possibilities or see limits.


Tonight go into the darkness and look into the heavens. They are there not to make you feel small, but to show you there are no limits.

You were created to prove it.

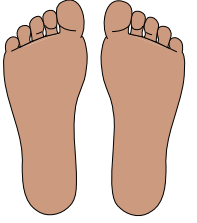
"I believe in You!"

Bob Perks


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Some find difficulty in every opportunity. Others find opportunity in every difficulty. A shoe manufacturer sent two salesmen into the heart of Africa. One called back, "Recall me immediately. No sales possibilities here. Nobody wears shoes."



The other salesman's message read: "Ship cargo of shoes immediately. Market potential unlimited. Everybody is barefooted."



The alert Christian will find opportunity for Christ anywhere, anytime and to anyone.

♦ Received from Cathedral Press, Inc.
Exchange Jan—March 2006



We all get heavier as we get older because there's a lot more information in our heads. So

I'm not fat, I'm just really intelligent and my head couldn't hold any more so it started filling up the rest of me!

That's my story and I'm sticking to it!



and she won the candy bar. She was here visiting Kathleen and Pastor. The answer was

Ezekiel.

I will try and make this quiz a little more difficult.

I told him I didn't like what he had done

I made it plain in front of everyone.

I told him that what he had done would be hard to mend

For through his actions he lead away my very best friend.

He was a good man as you all know,

But what he did was very cold.

He just couldn't seem to make up his mind

Was he for all or for one kind?

*The problem was, he wasn't very stable,
One day he would sit and eat at their table,*

But when others came he would turn away,

And wouldn't even give them the time of day.

Now tell me his name and mine if you can.

The name of my friend and a candy bar will be in your hand.

Now you have to be first, second will not do

So you better hurry, I'm waiting for you.

Have you every wondered who the Wise Men were and where they came from, well wonder no more. Here is the answer you have been waiting for.

THE WISE MEN WERE FIREMEN

In a small Southern town there was a nativity scene that indicated great skill and talent in its creation. One small feature bothered me though. The three wise men were wearing firemen's helmets. Totally unable to come up with a reason or explanation, I left. At a "Quick Stop" on the edge of



town, I asked the lady behind the counter about the helmets. She exploded into a rage, yelling at me, "You stupid Yankees never do read the Bible!" I assured her that I did, but simply couldn't recall anything about firemen in the Bible.

She jerked her Bible from behind the counter and ruffled through some pages, and finally jabbed her finger at a particular passage. Sticking it in my face she said, "See, it says right here, 'The three wise men came from afar. "

◆ Received from Lloyd Hopkins

DON'T MESS WITH OLD LADIES

An older lady gets pulled over for speeding

Older Woman: Is there a problem, Officer?

Officer: Ma'am, you were speeding.

Older Woman: Oh, I see.

Officer: Can I see your license please?

Older Woman: I'd give it to you but I don't have one.

Officer: Don't have one?

Older Woman: Lost it, 4 years ago for drunk driving.

Officer: I see...Can I see your vehicle registration papers please.

Older Woman: I can't do that.

Officer: Why not?

Older Woman: I stole this car.

Officer: Stole it?

Older Woman: Yes, and I killed and hacked up the owner.

Officer: You what?

Older Woman: His body parts are in plastic bags in the trunk if you want to see

The Officer looks at the woman and slowly backs away to his car and calls for back up. Within minutes 5 police cars circle the car. A senior officer slowly approaches the car, clasping his half drawn gun.

Officer 2: Ma'am, could you step out of your vehicle please!

The woman steps out of her vehicle.

Older woman: Is there a problem sir?

Officer 2: One of my officers told me that you have stolen this car and murdered the owner.

Older Woman: Murdered the owner?

Officer 2: Yes, could you please open the trunk of your car, please. The woman opens the trunk, revealing nothing but an empty trunk.

Officer 2: Is this your car, ma'am?

Older Woman: Yes, here are the registration papers. The officer is quite stunned.

Officer 2: One of my officers claims that you do not have a driving license.

The woman digs into her handbag and pulls out a clutch purse and hands it to the officer.

The officer examines the license. He looks quite puzzled.

Officer 2: Thank you ma'am, one of my officers told me you didn't have a license, that you stole this car, and that you murdered and hacked up the owner.

Older Woman: Bet the liar told you I was speeding, too.

◆ Received from James Sparks