



CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



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MARCH, 2006

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

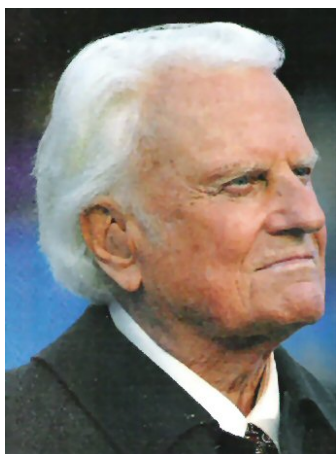
BILLY GRAHAM

In January 2000, leaders in Charlotte, North Carolina, invited their favorite son, Billy Graham, to a luncheon in his honor.

Billy initially hesitated to accept the invitation because he struggles with Parkinson's disease. But the Charlotte leaders said, "We don't expect a major address. Just come and let us honor you." So he agreed.

After wonderful things were said about him, Dr. Graham stepped to the rostrum, looked at the crowd, and said, "I'm reminded today of Albert Einstein, the great physicist who this month has been honored by Time magazine as the Man of the Century. Einstein was once traveling from Princeton on a train when the conductor came down the aisle, punching the tickets of every passenger. When he came to Einstein, Einstein reached in his vest pocket. He couldn't find his ticket, so he reached in his trouser pockets. It wasn't there, so he looked in his briefcase but couldn't find it. Then he looked in the seat beside him. He still couldn't find it.

The conductor said, "Dr. Einstein, I know who you are. We all know who you are. I'm sure you bought a ticket. Don't worry about it."



Einstein nodded appreciatively. The conductor continued down the aisle punching tickets. As he was ready to move to the next car, he turned around and saw the great physicist down on his hands and knees looking under his seat for his ticket.

The conductor rushed back and said, "Dr. Einstein, Dr. Einstein, don't worry, I know who you are. No problem. You don't need a ticket. I'm sure you bought one."

Einstein looked at him and said, "Young man, I too, know who I am. What I don't know is where I'm going."

Having said that Billy Graham continued, "See the suit I'm wearing? It's a brand new suit. My wife, my children, and my grandchildren are telling me I've gotten a little slovenly in my old age. I used to be a bit more fastidious. So I went out and bought a new suit for this luncheon and one more occasion.

You know what that occasion is? This is the suit in which I'll be buried. But when you hear I'm dead, I don't want you to immediately remember the suit I'm wearing. I want you to remember this:

I not only know who I am ... I also know where I'm going."

Billy Graham is now 86 years old with Parkinson's disease.

◆ *Received from Kellie Garner-Mitchell*

FIGHTING FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

The Onalaska First Church of God will be hosting a marriage seminar; "Fighting for Your Marriage". This seminar will be lead by Robert S. Shope, M.A., L.M.H.C. of Cascade Counseling of Tumwater, Washington. Robert S. Shope is a Christian Counselor who is licensed by the Washington State Department of Health. He received a Master of Arts degree in Counseling Psychology from Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. He received a Master of Arts degree in Theology from the Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California.

The seminar will be held on Saturday, March 18 at the church, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. A lunch will be provided by the church. **There is no cost to attend this seminar.** The semi-



nar is limited to twenty-five (25) couples. If you would like to attend this seminar, please contact the church office at **(360) 978-4161**.

DID GOD CREATE EVERYTHING?

Did God Create Everything? Did God create everything that exists? Does evil exist? Did God create

evil? A University professor at a well known institution of higher learning challenged his students with this question. "Did God create everything that exists?" A student bravely replied, "Yes he did!"

"God created everything?" The professor asked.

"Yes sir, he certainly did," the student replied.

The professor answered, "If God created everything;

then God created evil. And, since evil exists, and according to the principal that our works define who we are, then we can assume God is evil."

The student became quiet and did not respond to the professor's hypothetical definition. The professor, quite pleased with himself, boasted to the students that he had proven once more that the Christian faith was a myth.

Another student raised his hand and said, "May I ask you a question, professor?" "Of course", replied the professor. The student stood up and asked, "Professor does cold exist?"

"What kind of question is this? Of course it exists. Have you never been cold?"

The other students snickered at the young man's question.

The young man replied, "In fact sir, cold does not exist. According to the laws of physics, what we

consider cold is in reality the absence of heat. Everybody or object is susceptible to study when it has or transmits energy, and heat is what makes a body or matter have or transmit energy. Absolute zero (-460 F) is the total absence of heat; and all matter becomes inert and incapable of reaction at that temperature. Cold does not exist. We have created this word to describe how we feel if we have no heat."



The student continued, "Professor, does darkness exist?" The professor responded, "Of course it does." The student replied, "Once again you are wrong sir, darkness does not exist either. Darkness is in reality

the absence of light. Light we can study, but not darkness. In fact, we can use Newton's prism to break white light into many colors and study the various wavelengths of each color. You cannot measure darkness. A simple ray of light can break into a world of darkness and illuminate it. How can you know how dark a certain space is? You measure the amount of light present. Isn't this correct? Darkness is a term used by man to describe what happens when there is no light present."

Finally the young man asked the professor, "Sir, does evil exist?" "Now uncertain, the professor responded, "Of course, as I have already said. We see it everyday. It is in the daily examples of man's inhumanity to man. It is in the multitude of crime and violence everywhere in the world. These manifestations are nothing else but evil. To this the student replied,

"Evil does not exist, sir, or at least it does not exist unto itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is just like darkness and cold, a word that man has created to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God's love present in his heart. It's like the cold that comes when there is no heat, or the darkness that comes when there is no light." The professor sat down. The young man's name -- Albert Einstein a true story!

◆ Received from Pat Kahahanie by way of Joe Downs

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS JESUS DOING?

Wayne and Kathy Sellers,
Church of God Missionaries
in Cost Rica

The Sellers have been planting a new Church of God in Linotype, Nicaragua. Through seeds of prayer and visiting door to door God took the courage of the Guillermo Herrera family and the efforts the Sellers and grew up a church. This church has been able to build a home for the pastor and is now working on a church building. The amazing thing is that the NICE foundation has offered to match funds for the building of this church. God is doing remarkable things in Nicaragua, lives are being changed for the better. People are experiencing God's love, grace and provision. If you'd like to help this "plant" grow your prayers are appreciated and any financial gift to Church of God Ministries (P.O. Box 2420, Anderson, IN 46018) mentioning project 42.40123 NICE GRANT will be matched for instant multiplication.

ALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

SUNDAYS

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

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EVENING SING & PRAISE
SERVICE
6:00 PM

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WEDNESDAYS

MEN'S BREAKFAST

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THE BURGER BAR 6:00 AM

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THURSDAYS

BIBLE STUDY AT ELVA'S
1:00 PM

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FRIDAYS

KID'S CLUB
3:30 PM — 4:30 PM

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CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

SATURDAY, MARCH 4
10:00 AM

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WCG LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, MARCH 11
12:00 NOON

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FIGHTING FOR YOUR MARRIAGE SEMINAR

SATURDAY, MARCH 18
10:00 AM—3:00 PM

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FOOD BASKET SUNDAY

WE WILL BE COLLECTING
FOOD GOODS FOR THE FOOD
BANK.

SUNDAY MORNING,
MARCH 19
11:00 AM

YOUTH NIGHT

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
6:00 PM

This will mark the beginning of a new program in our church. On the fourth Sunday evening of every month, our Youth will be in charge of the Evening Sing & Praise Service.

The Youth will take turns in leading the Worship Service, there will be a time for a Bible Drill and a Bible Quiz, a short sermon will follow.

We would like to encourage all the adults to come and be in support of our great Youth group.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

SENIORS ON THE GO POTLUCK

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15
12:00 NOON

GOD IS LOVE

Charles Spurgeon, a noted English clergyman, was troubled when he noticed that the weather vane on the roof of a farm building bore the phrase "**GOD IS LOVE.**" "Do you think God's love is as changeable as the weather vane?" he asked the farmer.

"You miss the point, sir," replied the farmer. "It is on the weather vane because no matter which way the wind is blowing, God is still Love."

LOVE

Nick Kenny

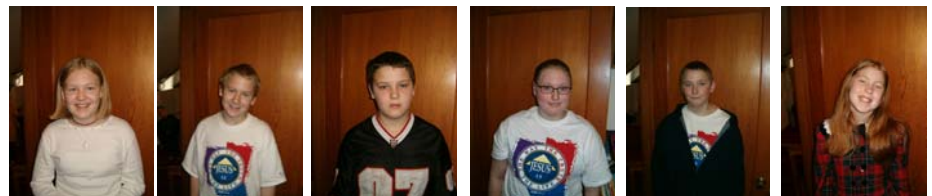
*Just saying the "I love you"
Doesn't mean a thing at all,
For loving words fly like the birds,
When they hear the winter's call.*

*Love is a thing that proves itself
A thousand times a day,
In the simple little things you do,
And the little things you say.*

*Love is a thing called sacrifice,
A tonic, when you're blue
Love is the joy of doing things
For someone dear to you.*

RITE OF PASSAGE

On Sunday, March 19 in the morning service we will be holding our first Rite of Passage Service. This is a very special service where we as a church recognize the Young People of our church who are beginning the passage from childhood to adulthood. We commonly call this the teenage years. This is a very important time in the life of our Young People. In the next few years they will be making some of the most important decisions in their lives. They will be faced with many choices and it is important that we as their Church Family support them through prayer and encouragement. Please plan on attending this very special event in the life of our Youth.

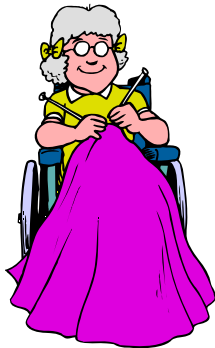


THE POWER OF LOVE

Mary Warner

There is truly nothing more powerful than loving people with the love of Christ. Right before Jay and I came to Wyoming to work in the oil field we were both working in a Nursing home in Colorado. I was the activities director in this particular nursing home and I had many opportunities to share Christ's love with others there. One time a fellow worker told me "Mary, I don't know how you can always be so happy when you are dealing with some of these residents, especially Edna, she is just hateful, I don't know how you put up with her." Now Edna was a cantankerous woman, and to make matters worse, years before she had been the head nurse of this same facility, so she loved to tell all the nurses how they should do their jobs. Edna would park her wheelchair right in front of the nurses station and not only watch their every move, but report on them as well. But Jesus loved the unlovable and He expected me to do the same, so I set out to win Edna over.

It was almost impossible for me to pry Edna away from her perch at the front desk to take part in any of the activities. One thing she enjoyed almost as much as spying on the nurses and reporting their 'wrongdoing' was playing word games. So, once a week I was successful in getting her to an activity. None of the other residents enjoyed Edna's participation in the word games because she would never let anyone else answer the trivia questions. You see Edna knew quite a



bit about everything except how to love others. Once I got to know her story my heart went out to her. Her only son had brought her to the nursing home and left her there against her will, up until this time he had been her only caretaker and Edna berated him constantly. It was not uncommon for them to have 'loud' discussions whenever he came in for a visit.

Another of Edna's peculiarities was that she didn't ever want anyone to go into her room. From her perch at the nurses desk she could look straight down the hallway to watch her room, and anyone who went in there was accosted by her at the door in her wheelchair. I think she must have set

some speed records in that chair a few times getting to her room. One day as I was doing room visits on Edna's hallway, I noticed Paul in her room. Paul was a resident who had Alzheimer's disease. I escorted Paul out of Edna's room just as she arrived lickety split in her chair. "Get him out of there" Edna said a little too loudly, while trying to hit him. I stood between Paul and her and took the blow. "Why are you protecting him," she snapped at me. "Well," I said, "because he cannot protect himself." "What are you talking about, look at how big he is, he can protect himself." I explained to her that he really didn't know what he was doing and that she should take that into consideration before hitting him.

Well, she would have none of that, and so she 'reported me.' It seems that I was guilty of keeping some of the residents

up too late on two Friday's a month for movie night. Jay and I always brought in popcorn and a video to show on a Friday evening for anyone who wanted to stay up past seven to watch it. So, because of protocol, I had to receive a reprimand concerning movie night. Later that week I went to see if Edna would like to come and play word games. She said, "Don't you know that I turned you in for movie night, why would you even want to talk to me now?" I told her that I did know that she had turned me in, but I had already forgiven her. She looked up at me, "You forgave me," she asked. "Yes, I did, if Jesus can forgive me for all my sins, surely I can forgive you." Edna then did something that I suspect she had not done in a long while, she started crying. I kneeled next to her wheelchair and hugged her, and wonder of wonders she didn't push me away! What a sight we were there in front of that nurses station, both of us crying! I think that Edna had been holding those tears in for a very long time, after a few minutes Edna did something else I don't think she had done in a long time, she told me she was sorry for turning me in. I assured her I wasn't holding any grudges, and then I wheeled her into the dining room for a lively round of word games.

I am sure you all know someone like Edna, or you have known someone like her. Keep in mind that Jesus reached out to even those who were unlovable, He forgave, and He loved. Oh, how He loved, and still loves. Let us learn from Him brothers and sisters, because there is no finer teacher than He. Glory to God! What a Savior we serve. Let's go love the world for His Glory!

TICKET PLEASE

Three women and three men are traveling by train to the Super Bowl. At the station, the three men each buy a ticket and watch as the three women buy just one ticket.

"How are the three of you going to travel on only one ticket?" asks one of the men.

"Watch and learn," answers one of the women.

They all board the train. The three men take their respective seats but all three women

cram into a toilet together and close the door. Shortly after the train has departed, the conductor comes around collecting tickets. He knocks on the toilet door and says, "Ticket, please?"

The door opens just a crack, and a single arm emerges with a ticket in hand. The conductor takes it and moves on.

The men see this happen and agree it was quite a clever idea; so, after the game, they decide to do the same thing on the return trip and save some money. When they get to the station they buy a single ticket for the return trip but see, to their astonishment, that the three women don't buy any ticket at all!

"How are you going to travel without a ticket?" says one perplexed man.

"Watch and learn," answer the women.

When they boarded the train, the three men cram themselves into a toilet, and the three women cram into another toilet just down the way.

Shortly after the train is on its

way, one of the women leaves her toilet and walks over to the toilet in which the men are hiding.

The woman knocks on their door and says, "Ticket, please."

I'm still trying to figure out why men ever think they are smarter than women!

◆ Received from Jude Cooper

Only two people were able to come up with the correct answer to last month's quiz. Kathleen and my brother Jim, who lives in Scottsdale. The answer had three parts and they both only answered two parts at first, but with a little more research they were able to come up with the complete answer.

The story is found in the second chapter of the book of Galatians, verses 11-13. The answer was, Paul, Peter and Barnabas.

Here is the quiz for March.

*I hear you knocking
But you can't come in.
I hear you knocking
Go back where you've been.*

*I know that it's not you
That you can't be here
We've been praying all night
Hoping our prayers God would
hear.*

*I hear you knocking
But I know that it's not you
I hear you knocking
We just don't know what to do.*

*Now tell me my name
And his name too
A candy bar will be yours
That's all you have to do.*

THE PRAYER OF A CHILD

Never underestimate the power of a child's prayer. Jesus told us that we must come to Him with the faith of a child, **Luke 18:17 (NLT)** "*I assure you, anyone who doesn't have their kind of faith will never get into the Kingdom of God.*" Children have such simple faith. They are not hindered like adults with doubts and unbelief. I remember when I was Youth Pastor at Bethel Temple and there was a man who came every Sunday, drunk. All of the ministers on staff thought that it would be one of their sermons that would sober Joe up and cause him to come to Christ.

One Sunday following the morning service, Gloria, Reva and Marlana were singing some of the old hymns. Joe came up and asked if he could join them. After singing with them for several minutes, Joe look at Marlana and ask her to pray for him. Marlana looked to her mother for direction. Gloria encouraged her to pray for Joe. That evening Joe came back to church sober and never took a drop of drink again. It wasn't some great sermon, it was a prayer from a little girl, five years of age, that helped Joe turn his life over to Jesus.

