



# CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



[www.onalaskachurchofgod.com](http://www.onalaskachurchofgod.com)

DECEMBER, 2006

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

## BE ON YOUR GUARD

by  
Richard Innes

*"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong."* **1 Corinthians 16:13**

Back in 1911 a stuntman named Bobby Leach went over Niagara Falls in a specially designed steel drum-and lived to tell about it.

Although he suffered minor injuries, he survived because he recognized the tremendous dangers involved in the feat, and he had done everything he could to protect



himself from harm. Several years later, while walking down a street in New Zealand, Bobby slipped on an orange peel, fell, and badly fractured his leg. He was taken to a hospital where he died of complications from that fall. He received a greater injury walking down the street than he sustained in going over Niagara Falls. He was not prepared for danger in what he assumed to be a safe situation.

When it comes to life's temptations, we're very much aware of and are careful to avoid the ones that "roar around us like the

rushing waters of Niagara." But like Bobby slipped on an orange peel, it is extremely easy for us to ignore the seemingly "little" temptations that slip up on us silently but don't appear to carry any threat. However, a little drink here, a tiny taste of a drug there, a small gamble now and then, a tiny indulgence in lust, a quick look at a pornographic website... can lure us and ever so slowly, little by little, draw us closer to the edge... and we wake up and discover to our dismay that we have slipped over the line into an addiction that has us hopelessly trapped.



No wonder the Scriptures warn us to be on our guard... and *"If you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!"* (**1 Corinthians 10:12**)

◆ Received from Joe & Freda Downs

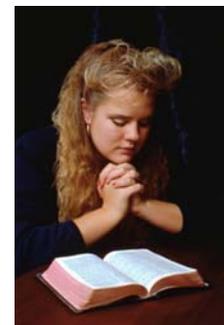
## THE GREATEST TREASURE ON EARTH

I was watching the news the other morning and they were talking about the new Seven Wonders of the World, sadly the Bible was not one of them. I for one think it should be.

I was reading recently about the persecuted church in China and a story just made me weep. This was a true story about the

house churches and their lack of Bibles. One house church had received eight boxed Bibles and the Pastor had to choose of the thirty or more members there who would get one. After the last Bible was handed out, one sister came forward and asked if she might have one of the boxes that held the Bibles. The Pastor told her that he was sorry, but it was nothing but an empty box and handed it to her. She clutched it to her bosom and said "But surely the box which cradled God's Holy word is sacred too."

When was the last time you looked upon God's Word so lovingly and reverently? The Chinese Christians hand copy the word of God and memorize it, because so often the Secret Police confiscate and destroy their Bibles. When Bibles were taken from one house church by people on the street who were not members of the Secret Police the Pastor replied: "We cannot feel bad when a Bible is taken. It is because people are so hungry for God. When bread is taken by the starving, it is no surprise and no tragedy."



◆ Mary Warner

*"Faith is not believing that God can. It is knowing that God will."*

## "THE TIME PIECE"

By Bob Perks

It was part of my regular routine. I headed down to the barbershop to have her fuss over me and pretend that I'm not really losing my hair.

"What do you want me to do with it?" she asked.

"I'd like to look like the guy in the poster hanging on that wall," I replied.

Of course he's about 18 years old, handsome and has a full head of thick, beautiful hair.

"I don't perform miracles here, Bob."

"Then give me the usual," I replied.

Just like all the other barbershops I've ever been in, we talk about life, the government and what we'd do if we were president. Nothing ever really gets resolved in these discussions. But it doesn't hurt anything either.

I said my goodbyes and headed out to my car. I was about to get in when I saw a small ring lying next to it. I picked it up and noticed it had a small cut in the ring at the bottom; I assumed it was a child's toy ring. I tossed it in my back seat and headed home.

While clearing out my car, I came across the ring I had found earlier and upon closer inspection saw that it was indeed an adult size ring of some value. It was marked 18K, white gold with what appeared to be a large ruby in the center and one small ruby on one side. The other was missing.

It also had markings engraved on the inside.

I returned to the shop and notified the owners of a few businesses nearby that I had found

a ring. All the person had to do was identify the engraving and I'd be happy to return it.

Around 10 p.m. my phone rang. "I understand you found a treasure," the elderly man said.

"Well, I believe someone treasured it," I said. "Are you calling to claim it?"

"Yes. That time piece means so much to me."

"Sir, you must be mistaken. This is not a watch, it's a ring I found."

"No, I'm not mistaken. It's mine. If it's not too late, stop by my home. I am only a few blocks away, at 52 Elmwood Drive. I'll wait."

Then he hung up.

This couldn't possibly be what he is looking for. He lost a watch. I sat playing with it wondering if he was just a bit confused. My curiosity got the best of me so I headed out the door to see the old man.

48, 50, oh, yes, 52 Elmwood Drive. It was a small, well kept home. One that you'd expect your grandpa to be living in. The light was on and the door ajar.

I cautiously approached and knocked a few times. I could hear someone fumbling to answer.

"Hello, please come in. Did you bring the time piece?"

"Sir, I tried to explain on the phone that this isn't a watch, it's a ring."

"Yes, I know. A white-gold ring, with a big ruby in it. One of the small ones is missing and the bottom had to be cut. I have arthritis now and when I went in for treatments I had to remove it. I had never taken the ring off before. So they had to cut it," he said.

"Can you tell me what's engraved on the inside of the ring?"

"1:00 MJW."

He was right. But I still didn't understand.

"Why do you keep calling it your

time piece?"

"1:00 is the hour I first ran into the love of my life, literally. I was headed back to work from lunch and running late. I came rushing out of the door of the restaurant and knocked her down. She wasn't hurt. In fact, she was laughing hysterically. I helped her up, gave her my card and asked that she send me the bill for any damage to her dress."

"Did she?"

"All she sent was her name and phone number and signed it the 'One o'clock girl.' It was then I fell in love with her."

"Is she still with you?" I asked hesitantly.

"Always in my heart and until today around my finger."

"1:00 MJW. That's why you called it your time piece."

"Yes, it was the best time of my life. Time is such a precious thing."

*"I believe in You!"*

Bob Perks

[Bob@BobPerks.com](mailto:Bob@BobPerks.com)

*This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man gloat in his wisdom, or the mighty man in his might, or the rich man in his riches. Let them boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the LORD who is just and righteous, whose love is unending, and that I delight in these things. I, the LORD, have spoken!"*  
**Jeremiah 9:23-24**

*A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"*

*His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"*

*The son replied, "I do know!"*

*"Okay, said his father. "So, son, what does the Bible mean?"*

*"That's easy, Daddy. It stands for 'Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.'"*

# ALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

## SUNDAYS

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

~

EVENING SING & PRAISE  
SERVICE  
6:00 PM

~

## WEDNESDAYS

SUP & STUDY

We will gather at 6:30 PM for a light supper and then at 7:00 PM we will have a Bible Study.

This year we will be doing studies on different characters in the Bible. We are studying the life of Moses.

~

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

CHURCH  
COUNCIL MEETING  
10:00 AM

~

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

WCG LUNCHEON  
12:00 NOON

~

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

FOOD BASKET SUNDAY  
11:00 AM

~

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

MEN'S BREAKFAST  
7:00 AM

~

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE  
6:00 PM

~

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

POT LUCK  
FOLLOWING THE MORNING  
SERVICE

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### TEA & PRAISE

MONDAY  
DECEMBER 11

@

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN  
10:00 AM

~

### SENIORS ON THE GO

WEDNESDAY,  
DECEMBER 20  
12:00 NOON

~

### AMERICAN LEGION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21  
7:00 PM

Feed your faith and  
your doubts will  
starve to death...

## SINGING CHRISTMAS TREE

The Singing Christmas Tree will be held at the **Bethel Church** on inter-state 5. You take exit # 72.

The schedule is as follows.

Sunday, December 10  
3:00 PM & 7:00PM

Friday, December 15 7:00 pm

Saturday, December 16 7:00 pm

Sunday, December 17 3:00 pm

## THE LIVING CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Living Christmas Pageant, a drive through Christmas story, will be held at the **Centralia Community Church of God, 3320 Borst Ave. Centralia**, on the following dates.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday:  
December 15th —17th  
6:00 PM—9:00 PM

## OFFICE HOURS

It has been brought to my attention that I have not posted regular office hours. I usually arrive at the office between 6:00 & 6:30 AM but I realize that most people are not up at this hour, so I am trying to set up the following schedule so that you can feel free to stop by the office.

Monday & Saturday are usually my days off.

### OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday: 8:00 AM—11:00 AM

Thursday: 9:00 AM—11:00 AM. (Pastor's Prayer 7:30 AM— 8:30 AM)

Please do not feel that this is the only time you can contact me. I am available 24/7. Twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. I am here to serve you whenever you need me.

## **OLD PATHS**

*Author unknown*

*I liked the old paths, when  
Moms were at home.  
Dads were at work.  
Brothers went into the army.  
And sisters got married BEFORE  
having children!  
Crime did not pay;  
Hard work did;  
And people knew the difference.*

*Moms could cook;  
Dads would work;  
Children would behave.  
Husbands were loving;  
Wives were supportive;  
And children were polite.*

*Women wore the  
jewelry;  
And men wore the  
pants.  
Women looked like  
ladies;  
Men looked like gen-  
tlemen;  
And children looked  
decent.*

*People loved the  
truth,  
And hated a lie;  
They came to church to get IN,  
Not to get OUT!*

*Hymns sounded Godly;  
Sermons sounded helpful;  
Rejoicing sounded normal;  
And crying sounded sincere.*

*Cursing was wicked;  
Drinking was evil;  
And divorce was  
Unthinkable.*

*The flag was honored;  
America was beautiful;  
And God was welcome!*

*We read the Bible in public;  
Prayed in school;  
And preached from house to  
house.*

*To be called an American was*



*worth dying for;  
To be called a Christian was  
worth living for;  
To be called a traitor was a  
shame!*

*Sex was a personal word.  
Homosexual was an unheard of  
word,  
And abortion was an illegal  
word.*

*Preachers preached because  
they had a message;  
And not afraid to preach the  
truth, even if it got on people's  
Toes...  
And Christians rejoiced because  
they had the VICTORY!*

*Preachers preached from the  
Bible;  
Singers sang from  
the heart;  
And sinners turned  
to the Lord to be  
SAVED!*

*A new birth meant a  
new life;  
Salvation meant a  
changed life;  
Following Christ led  
to eternal life.*

*Being a preacher  
meant you  
Proclaimed the word of God;  
Being a deacon meant you  
would serve the Lord!*

*Being a Christian meant you  
would live for Jesus;  
And being a sinner meant some-  
one was praying for you!*

*Laws were based on the Bible;  
Homes read the Bible;  
And churches taught the Bible.*

*Preachers were more interested  
in new converts,  
Than new clothes and new cars.  
God was worshiped;  
Christ was exalted;  
And the Holy Spirit was re-  
spected.*

*Church was where you found*

*Christians on the Lord's Day,  
Rather than in the garden, on the  
creek bank, on the golf course,  
Or being entertained somewhere  
else.*

*I still like the old paths the best.  
I believe it still is the only path to  
heaven.*

*Received from Curt Thompson by way of Jude  
Cooper*

## **I BELIEVE**

**I BELIEVE** - That we don't have to change friends if we understand that friends change.

**I BELIEVE** - That no matter how good a friend is, they're going to hurt you every once in a while and you must forgive them for that.

**I BELIEVE** - That true friendship continues to grow, even over the longest distance. Same goes for true love.

**I BELIEVE** - That you can do something in an instant that will give you heartache for life.

**I BELIEVE** - That it's taking me a long time to become the person I want to be.

**I BELIEVE** - That you should always leave loved ones with loving words. It may be the last time you see them.

**I BELIEVE** - That you can keep going long after you think you can't.

**I BELIEVE** - That we are responsible for what we do, no matter how we feel.

**I BELIEVE** - That either you control your attitude or it controls you.

**I BELIEVE** - That regardless of how hot and steamy a relationship is at first, the passion fades and there had better be something else to take its place.

**I BELIEVE** - That heroes are the people who do what has to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences.

◆ *Received from Joe Downs*

## **LOBSTER TALES** **\$5.00 EACH**

A seafood restaurant had a sign in the window that read, "Big Lobster Tales, \$5 each."

Amazed at the great value, a man stopped in and asked the waitress, "Five dollars each for lobster tails, is that correct?"



"Yes," she said. "It's our special just for today."

"Well," he said, "they must be little lobster tails."

"No," she replied, "it's the really big lobster."

"Are you sure they aren't green lobster tails, and a little bit tough?"

"No," she said, "it's the really big red lobster."

"Big red lobster tails, \$5 each?" he said, amazed. "They must be old lobster tails!"

"No, they're definitely today's."

"Today's big red lobster tails, \$5 each?" he repeated, astounded.

"Yes," she insisted.

"Well, here's my five dollars," he said. "I'll take one."

She took the money and led him to a table where she invited him to sit down. She then sat down next to him, put her hand on his shoulder, leaned over close to him, and said, "Once upon a time there was a really big red lobster..."

◆ Received from Joe & Freda Downs

## **HIDING BEHIND** **MASKS**

The Smiths were proud of their family tradition. Their ancestors had come to America on the Mayflower. Their relatives included

senators and Wall Street wizards.

They decided to compile a family history, a legacy for their children and grandchildren, and hired a fine author. Only one problem arose, how to handle the two black sheep of the family George, who was executed in the electric chair for murder and Sam, who was hanged for rustling cattle.

The author assured them he could handle the story tactfully.

When the book appeared, it said that great-grandfather Sam died, "taking part in a public function when the platform gave way."

As for great-uncle George, he "occupied a chair of applied electronics at an important government institution, was attached to his position by the strongest of ties, and his death came as a great shock."

I wish I could blame it all on "political correctness", but it's a problem that goes back hundreds (and thousands) of years. We want people to think well of us (or our relatives), so we paint a pretty picture of words, or we hide behind a



beautiful hand-crafted mask. But when you get behind the pretty words and the image

we have erected, there's only one thing that God wants to know what's in the heart? There's the reality.

May your focus this day not be on creating an image so that others will think well of you, but on cleansing your heart so that God will think well of you.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to

men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness."  
(Matthew 23:27-28)

◆ Joe Downs

## **QUIZ**

The first person to come up with the correct answer to last month's quiz was Stan Bushnell, my sister, Katie from Scottsdale also called with the right answer. The answer was Demas, and is found in **II Timothy 4:10**.



Here is this month's quiz.

*He looked but he wasn't there  
But those around didn't seem to care.*

*He didn't know what he would say  
To the one who had sent him their way.*

*An innocent life had to die,  
So he could cover up a lie.  
Unstable was what he was called  
Because of this sin and that's not all.*

*He was the first and not the last  
He lost it all because of his past.  
When he stood before his next of kin,*

*He was told his fate because of his sin.*

*His name is found in many of the books*

*The first and last if you care to look.*

*His story is there for you to read,  
His sin should cause your heart to grieve.*

*Tell me his name I know you can  
And a candy bar will rest in your hand.*

*So whether you're far or near  
Why not be the first this last month of the year.*