



CHURCH OF GOD BANNER

www.onalaskachurchofgod.com



AUGUST, 2007

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

THINGS YOU NEVER HEAR IN CHURCH

- ◆ Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front pew.
- ◆ *I was so enthralled, I never noticed your sermon went 25 minutes over time.*
- ◆ Personally I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf.
- ◆ *I've decided to give our church the \$500 a month I used to send to TV evangelists.*
- ◆ I volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the Junior High Sunday School class.
- ◆ *Forget the denominational minimum salary, let's pay our pastor so he can live like we do.*
- ◆ I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!
- ◆ *Since we're all here, let's start the service early.*
- ◆ Pastor, we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas.
- ◆ *Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual stewardship campaign!*
- ◆ Thanks to Karen in Malden, Missouri

THE SPIRITUAL REALM

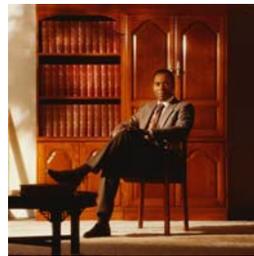
by Os Hillman

So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray

with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. ~ 1 Corinthians 14:15

How real is the spiritual realm? My lawyer friend from Nigeria tells a personal story of how he was preparing for an important case. He knew that he must be prepared to argue five separate points. He was to appear before his country's supreme court, so it was a very important case.

As he neared the time in which he was to go to court, he began to pray about how he was to argue the case. He spent much time in legal preparation and intercessory prayer.



As he went to court, the Spirit spoke to him and said, "Do not argue point one, point two, point three, or point four. Only argue point five." Imagine my friend's struggle of faith. If he were reading this wrong, the shame and professional fallout would be devastating.

The time had come to present the case before the judge when my friend said, "Judge, I wish to withdraw points one through four. I wish to argue only point five."

The opposing counsel stood up and objected. "Your honor, he cannot do that!"

"Objection overruled, counsel," said the judge.

My friend went on to present

his case around point five only, and then sat down. When the opposing counsel stood to present his case, he stood speechless for 12 minutes. He could not get a word out of his mouth. He finally mumbled a few words and complained to the judge that he was going to have to yield. It seems that the opposing counsel had prepared to argue only point's one through four, but failed to prepare for point five. The judge ruled in favor of my friend.

The unseen Lord wants to help us in the physical realm of our work life. We must acknowledge His presence and tap into this incredible resource He has given to each of us. Seek Him today and ask Him to reveal His perfect plan for you this day.

"Reprinted by permission from the author. Os Hillman is an international speaker and author of more than 8 books on workplace calling. To learn more, visit <http://www.MarketplaceLeaders.org>"

CAN YOU FIGURE THIS OUT?

See If You Can Figure Out What These Words Have In Common...

**Banana
Dresser
Grammar
Potato
Revive
Uneven
Assess**

Answer: Is found on page 4

APRONS

I don't think our kids know what an apron is.

The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, but along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven.



It was wonderful for drying children's clothes. It was even used for cleaning out dirty ears.

From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids.

And when the weather was cold, Grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove.

Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls.

In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that

will replace that "old-time apron" that served so many purposes.

◆ Received from Ruth Bushnell

WHISPERING TO YOU

by Alan Smith

Not long ago I heard a story about a young man and an old preacher. The young man had lost his job and didn't know which way to turn. So he went to see the old preacher.

Pacing about the preacher's study, the young man ranted about his problem. Finally he clenched his fist and shouted, "I've begged God to say something to help me. Tell me, Preacher, why doesn't God answer?"

The old preacher, who sat across the room, spoke something in reply so hushed it was indistinguishable. The young man stepped across the room. "What did you say?" he asked.

The preacher repeated himself, but again in a tone as soft as a whisper. So the young man moved closer until he was leaning on the preacher's chair. "Sorry," he said. "I still didn't hear you."

With their heads bent together, the old preacher spoke once more. "God sometimes whispers," he said, "so we will move closer to hear Him." This time the young man heard and he understood.

The next time you think that God is ignoring you, it may be that He is whispering to you, with the knowledge that it will draw you closer to Him.

In Psalm 73, the psalmist struggles with the fact that the wicked are prospering, and he is

tempted to conclude that it doesn't do any good to do what is right (if

you're struggling with the same thing, this is a great chapter to read and meditate on).

But, in the end, the psalmist concludes that he is being "foolish and ignorant" (73:22). When it seemed that God was nowhere to be found, the psalmist was led by God's whispering to draw near"

GROWING IN CHRIST

by Charles Swindoll

"But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, That I may declare all Your works." (Psalm 73:28)

We know we are growing in our spiritual relationship with Christ when:

We become increasingly aware of our sinfulness and inadequacies.

Our response to sin is quick and followed by genuine repentance. Spiritual battles are more fierce but we are still rejoicing.

We begin to see trials and temptations as opportunities for growth.

We begin service to Him as a high honor not a burden.

We are able to view everything that happens to us as coming from God.

We sense our faith is growing stronger.

We desire to spend more time in genuine praise and worship.

Our desire to obey Him is more intense and sin becomes less and less attractive to us.

We are eager to share with others what Christ is doing in our lives.

We are experiencing an increasing awareness of His presence.

We jealously guard our private time of prayer and Bible reading.

We prefer to spend more time with Him above all others.

◆ Received from Joe Downs



ONALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

SUNDAYS

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

~

EVENING SING & PRAISE
SERVICE
6:00 PM

~

WEDNESDAYS

BIBLE STUDY
7:00 PM

~

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7

THE LADIES LUNCHON
HAS BEEN CANCELED.

~

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
10:00 AM

~

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

~

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31

ALL CHURCH GAME NIGHT
6:30 PM

PNA EVENTS

MONDAY—FRIDAY

AUGUST 6 — AUGUST 10
PNA JUNIOR HIGH CAMP

COMMUNITY EVENTS

SENIORS ON THE GO

WEDNESDAY
JULY 18
12:00 NOON

AMERICAN LEGION

THURSDAY
AUGUST 16
7:00 PM

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY AUGUST 2

VOLUNTEER DAY
AT THE
SALVATION ARMY

~

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

WILD WAVES

~

JUNIOR HIGH CAMP

MONDAY — FRIDAY
AUGUST 6 — 10

~

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

FAIR DAY

~

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

A DAY AT THE BEACH
&
THE MARINE MUSEUM
IN
ASTORIA, OREGON

A VIEW FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

This month we have some good news and some not so good news. After many years of struggle our Pastor finally has a new bathroom. We are most grateful to all of the folks who made the event a success. Thank you for all the hard work that went into this task.

At the same time, new problems were discovered that could be quite serious. Structural floor beams appear to be infested with termites, thus weakening the integrity of the entire house. We are currently having a pest inspection carried out to determine exactly how significant this problem might be.

Our youth groups have four fun trips planned for the summer. Ruth and Kathleen are to be commended for attracting more young people to the congregation. Your Council continues to work on updating and restructuring the By-Laws that will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Our next Council meeting will be August 18, 10:00 a.m. at the Fellowship Hall. Please come out and provide your input on how you would like our church to be lead.

Susan Olsen

FINANCIAL UPDATE

God has blessed us and as we review the first half of our year we are pleased to announce we are in the black. We are very grateful for God's faithfulness and the generosity of His people.

Please continue to pray for the Church Council that they will follow the leading of the Holy Spirit as they oversee the finances and physical properties of the church.

ANNUAL BUDGET	\$ 52,630.00	11/01/2006 — 10/30/2007
YTD REVENUE	\$ 37,458.75	11/01/2006 — 06/30/2007
YTD EXPENSES	\$ 33,431.99	11/01/2006 — 06/30/2007

WHITE LIE CAKE

Have you ever told a white lie? You are going to love this, especially the ladies who bake for Church events.

Alice Grayson was to bake a cake for the Church Ladies' Group but forgot to do it until the last minute. She remembered it the morning of the bake sale and after rummaging through cabinets, found an angel food cake mix and quickly made it while drying her hair, dressing, and helping her son pack up for Scout camp.

When Alice took the cake from the oven, the center had dropped flat and the cake was horribly disfigured. She said, "Oh dear, there isn't enough time to bake another cake." This cake was important to Alice because she did so want to fit in at her new church, and in her new community of friends.

So, being inventive, she looked around the house for something to build up the center of the cake. She found it in the bathroom, a roll of toilet paper. She plunked it in and then covered it with icing. Not only did the finished product look beautiful, it looked perfect.

Before she left the house to drop the cake by the church and head for work, Alice woke her daughter and gave her some money and specific instructions to be at the bake sale the moment it opened at 9:30 and to buy the cake and bring it home.

When the daughter arrived at the sale, she found the attractive, perfect cake had already been sold. Amanda grabbed her cell phone and called her mom. Alice was horrified; she was beside herself. Everyone would know! What would they think? She would be ostracized, talked about, ridi-

culed!

All night, Alice lay awake in bed thinking about people pointing fingers at her and talking about her behind her back.

The next day, Alice promised herself she would try not to think about the cake and would attend the fancy luncheon/bridal shower at the home of a fellow church member and try to have a good time. Alice did not really want to attend because the hostess was a snob and more than once had looked down her nose at the fact that Alice was a single parent and not from one of the founding families, but having already sent her RSVP, she couldn't think of a believable excuse to stay home.

The meal was elegant, the company was definitely upper crust, old South and to Alice's horror, the cake in question was presented for dessert! Alice felt the blood drain from her body



when she saw the cake! She started out of her chair to tell the hostess all about it, but before she could get to her feet, the Mayor's wife said, "What a beautiful cake!"

Alice still stunned, sat back in her chair when she heard the hostess (who was a prominent church member) say, "Thank you, I baked it myself."

Alice smiled and thought to herself, "God is good."

◆ Received from James Sparks

STELLA AWARDS

The Stella Awards are named after 81 year-old Stella Liebeck who spilled hot coffee on herself and successfully sued McDonald's (in NM). That case inspired the Stella Awards for the most frivolous, ridiculous, successful lawsuits in the United States.

Here are this year's winners:

Kathleen Robertson of Austin, Texas, was awarded \$80,000 by a jury of her peers after breaking her ankle tripping over a toddler who was running inside a furniture store. The owners of the store were understandably surprised at the verdict, considering the misbehaving little toddler was Ms. Robertson's son.

19-year-old Carl Truman of Los Angeles won \$74,000 and medical expenses when his neighbor ran over his hand with a Honda Accord. Mr. Truman apparently didn't notice there was someone at the wheel of the car when he was trying to steal his neighbor's hubcaps.

Terrence Dickson of Bristol, Pennsylvania, was leaving a house he had just finished robbing by way of the garage. He was not able to get the garage door to go up since the automatic door opener was malfunctioning. He couldn't re-enter the house because the door connecting the house and garage locked when he pulled it shut. The family was on vacation, and Mr. Dickson found himself locked in the garage for eight days. He subsisted on a case of Pepsi he found, and a large bag of dry dog food. He sued the homeowner's insurance claiming the situation caused him undue mental anguish. The jury agreed, to the tune of \$500,000.

Answer: In all of the words listed, if you take the first letter, place it at the end of the word, and then spell the word backwards, it will be the same word

BLONDES AND LAWYERS

A lawyer and a blonde woman are sitting next to each other on a long flight. The lawyer asks if she would like to play a fun game. The blonde is tired and just wants to take a nap, so she politely declines and tries to catch a few winks. The lawyer persists, that the game is a lot of fun. "I ask you a question, and if you don't know the answer, you pay me only \$5; you ask me one, and if I don't know the answer, I will pay you \$500."

This catches the blonde's attention; and, to keep him quiet, she agrees to play the game.

The lawyer asks the first question. "What's the distance from the earth to the moon?" The blonde doesn't say a word, reaches into her purse, pulls out a five-dollar bill, and hands it to the lawyer.

Now, it's the blonde's turn. She asks the lawyer, "What goes up a hill with three legs, and comes down with four?" The lawyer uses his laptop, searches all references. He uses the Air phone; he searches the Net and even the Library of Congress. He sends e-mails to all the smart friends he knows, all to no avail.

After one hour of searching he finally gives up. He wakes up the blonde and hands her \$500. The blonde takes the \$500 and goes back to sleep.

The lawyer is going nuts not knowing the answer. He wakes her up and asks, "Well, so what goes up a hill with three legs and comes down with four?"



The blonde reaches into her purse, hands the lawyer \$5 and goes back to sleep.

◆ Received from Jim Sparks

THE BATHTUB TEST

During a visit to the mental asylum, a visitor asked the Director what the criterion was which defined whether or not a patient should be institutionalized.



"Well," said the Director, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a tea-

spoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," said the visitor. "A normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No," said the Director, "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

◆ Received from Jude Cooper

CAR FOR SALE

Judi tried to sell her old car. She was having a lot of problems selling it, because the car had 250,000 miles.

One day, she told her problem to a friend she worked with at a salon. Her friend told her, "There is a possibility to make the car easier to sell, but it's not legal."

"That doesn't matter," replied Judi, "if only I can sell the car."

"Okay," said Judi's friend. "Here is the address of a friend of mine. He owns a car repair shop. Tell him I sent you and he will turn the counter in your car back to 50,000 miles. Then it should not be a problem to sell your car anymore."

The following weekend, Judi made the trip to the mechanic. Two weeks later the friend asked Judi, "Did you sell your car?"

"No," replied Judi, "why should I? It only has 50,000 miles on it!"

◆ Received from James Sparks



Q
U
I
Z

We were not afraid
No fear was in our hearts
We never told the king
When from his camp we did part.

We put our trust in God
We knew He would see us
through.
It doesn't matter with Him
Whether we're many or only few.

They invited us to come
And they would show to us a
thing,
And so we climbed on hands and
knees
And within our hearts the victory
we did sing.

Now there were many of them
there
And we were only two
But God to us gave the victory
And we killed not just a few.

Now one name you know
It's easy to say
But my name you'll never find
Even if you look all day.

Tell us his name
And the roll that I did play
And a candy bar will be yours
That is all that I can say.