



CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



www.onalaskachurchofgod.com

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

PERFECT FREEDOM

As one who has served time in prison, and has since spent most of my life working in them, I'll never forget the most unusual prison I've ever visited.

Called Humaita Prison, it is in Sao Jose dos Campos in Brazil. Formerly a government prison, it is now operated by Prison Fellowship Brazil as an alternative prison, without armed guards or high-tech security. Instead, it is run on the Christian principles of love of God and respect for men.

Humaita has only two full-time staff; the rest of the work is done



by the 730 inmates serving time for everything from murder and assault to robbery and drug-related crimes. Every

man is assigned another inmate to who he is accountable. In addition, each prisoner is assigned a volunteer mentor from the outside who works with him during his term and after his release. Prisoners take classes on character development and are encouraged to participate in educational and religious programs.

When I visited this prison, I found the inmates smiling – particularly the murderer who had the keys, and opened the gates and let me in. Wherever I

walked I saw men at peace. I saw clean living areas. I saw people working industriously. The walls were decorated with motivation sayings and Scripture.

Humaita has an astonishing record. Its recidivism rate is 4 percent, compared to 75 percent in the rest of Brazil. How is this possible?

I saw the answer when my inmate guide escorted me to the notorious cell once used for solitary punishment. Today, he told me, it always houses the same inmate. As we reached the end of the long concrete corridor and he put the key into the lock, he paused and asked, "Are you sure you want to go in?"

"Of course," I replied impatiently. "I've been in isolation cells all over the world." Slowly he swung open the massive door, and I saw the prisoner in that cell: a crucifix, beautifully carved – Jesus, hanging on the cross.

"He's doing time for the rest of us." my guide said softly.

GOD OF THE STORMS

Beth and John Catania now have proof of God's protection.

When a tornado shattered their home on Monday, Beth was hurled from a closet she was hiding in, but she thanked God she was still alive.

When the couple returned to gather up their belongings on

Wednesday, they managed to save a few things. But what she found lying on the kitchen floor was the greatest treasure of all.



It was her grandmother's Bible, lying open on the foundation

where their house once stood.

It was opened to [Psalm 75](#), and when Beth read the verse aloud, she knew it was a promise from God.

"We give thanks to you, O God, we give thanks, for your name is near; men tell of your wonderful deeds," it says.

"You say, 'I choose the appointed time, it is I who judge uprightly. When the earth and all its people quake, it is I who hold its pillars firm.'"

She says she felt its promise of God's protection explained her survival.

Now, Beth says she and her husband will "just wait and see what God has for us." She says God "has a new house for us somewhere. That's not a concern at all."

And as for her grandmother's Bible, "I'm going to read that in church from now on," she said.

"I'm alive, and circumstances say I shouldn't be," she said. "God is good, all the time, in every single circumstance."

◆ Received from Mary Warner

WORRY

Is there a magic cutoff period when offspring become accountable for their own actions? Is there a wonderful moment when parents can become detached spectators in the lives of their children and shrug, "It's their life," and feel nothing?

When I was in my twenties, I stood in a hospital corridor waiting for doctors to put a few stitches in my daughter's head. I asked, "When do you stop worrying?" The nurse said, "When they get out of the accident stage." My dad just smiled faintly and said nothing.

When I was in my thirties, I sat on a little chair in a classroom and heard how one of my children talked incessantly, disrupted the class, and was headed for a career making license plates. As if to read my mind, a teacher said, "Don't worry, they all go through this stage and then you can sit back, relax and enjoy them." My dad just smiled faintly and said nothing.

When I was in my forties, I spent a lifetime waiting for the phone to ring, the cars to come home, the front door to open. A friend said, "They're trying to find themselves. Don't worry, in a few years, you can stop worrying. They'll be adults." My dad just smiled faintly and said nothing.

By the time I was 50, I was sick & tired of being vulnerable. I was still worrying over my children, but there was a new wrinkle. There was nothing I could do about it. My dad just smiled faintly and said nothing. I continued to anguish over their failures, be tormented by



their frustrations and absorbed in their disappointments.

My friends said that when my kids got married I could stop worrying and lead my own life. I wanted to believe that, but I was haunted by my dad's warm smile and his occasional, "You look pale. Are you all right? Call me the minute you get home. Are you depressed about something?" Can it be that parents are sentenced to a lifetime of worry? Is concern for one another handed down like a torch to blaze the trail of human frailties and the fears of the unknown? Is concern a curse or is it a virtue that elevates us to the highest form of life?

One of my children became quite irritable recently, saying to me, "Where were you? I've been calling for 3 days, and no one answered I was worried." I smiled a warm smile. The torch has been passed.

◆ Received from Ruth Bushnell

THE CHURCHES BONE YARD

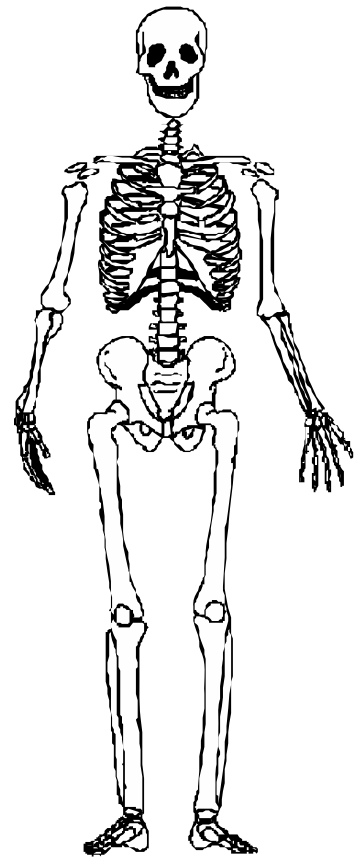
Here are a list of bones in the Church of the Valley of Dry Bones...

1. The **WISHBONE CHURCH MEMBER**. These members are too lazy to work. They always wish their church would grow, but want someone else to do the work.

2. The **FUNNY BONE CHURCH MEMBER**. Always getting their feelings hurt. The preacher must pamper and beg to these people to come to church all the time.

3. The **DRY BONE CHURCH MEMBER**. Never say amen or show emotion. These are the

same ones who will shout to the top of their lungs when their grandson hits the T-ball.



4. The **HIP-BONE CHURCH MEMBER**. Touchy about their giving. Their religion does not even reach their back pockets.

5. The **JAW-BONE CHURCH MEMBER**. Always think they are God's chosen one to tell the bad news. Would never take time out of their life to tell the good news.

6. The **KNEE-BONE CHURCH MEMBER**. This is the Wednesday night crowd. The praying type. The ones who will pay the price on their knees for revival. The ones who are the faithful ones to Christ and to the church.

7. The **BACK-BONE CHURCH MEMBERS**. Christians with real convictions, like the three Hebrew children, who will stand true to the end.

◆ Received from Joe & Freda Downs

ALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

SUNDAYS

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM

MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 AM

EVENING WORSHIP 7:00 PM

WEDNESDAYS

BIBLE STUDY
7:00 PM

FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
JULY 11 & 12

YOUTH LEADERSHIP RETREAT

SATURDAY, JULY 12

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
9:00 AM

LADIES LUNCHEON
12:00 NOON

SUNDAY, JULY 13

COOKS HILL MANOR
REST HOME SERVICE
2:00 PM

SATURDAY, JULY 19

MEN'S BREAKFAST
8:00 AM

****NOTE NEW TIME****

SUNDAY, JULY 20

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

FRIDAY, JULY 25

ALL CHURCH GAME NIGHT
6:30 PM

SATURDAY, JULY 26

CHILDREN'S DAY CAMP

JULY 4th BARBEQUE

AT THE PARSONAGE
HOT DOGS & HAMBURGERS
WILL BE PROVIDED.

@
12:00 NOON



The Singing Rosson Family & Marice Eidsmoe will be presenting a concert on Sunday night, July 20 at 7:00 PM.

Our Coffee Stop was a great success. There were so many home made goodies. We received many compliments, and those who help man the Coffee Stop were such a blessing. We raised \$1,500.06. Praise God for His wonderful blessings.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

SENIORS ON THE GO

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

12:00 NOON

AMERICAN LEGION

&

AUXILIARY

THURSDAY, JULY 17

7:00 PM

PNA CAMPING PROGRAM

SENIOR CAMP

JULY 20 - 22

CAMP MEETING

JULY 22 - 27

JUNIOR CAMP

Those entering 4, 5, & 6 grade this fall

JULY 28 - 31

JUNIOR HIGH CAMP

Those entering 7, 8 & 9 grade this fall

AUGUST 4 - 8

All these activities will take place at Double K Christian Retreat Center in Easton, Washington

THE LAW OF THE GARBAGE TRUCK

One day I hopped in a taxi and we took off for the airport . We were driving in the right lane when suddenly a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us. My taxi driver slammed on his brakes, skidded, and missed the other car by just inches!

The driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling at us. My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy; and I mean, he was really friendly.

So I asked, "Why did you just do that? That guy almost caused an accident and could have sent us to the hospital!" This is when my taxi driver taught me what I now call, "The Law of the Garbage Truck."

He explained that many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, full of disappointment and rage. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it and



sometimes they'll dump it on you. Don't take it personally. Just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. Don't pick up their garbage and spread it to other people in your life, whether at work, at home, or to people that you don't even know on the streets.

Always remember that good people do not let garbage trucks take over their day. Life's too short to wake up in the morning with regrets, so ..."Love, forgive, and pray for everyone!"

◆ Received from Jude Cooper & Jim Sparks

THE FINAL EXAM

A seminary student shared about the most unusual exam he had ever taken.

When he got to class, everybody was doing their last minute studying. The teacher came in and said he would review with them for just a little bit before the test. They went through the review, most of it right off the study guide, but there were some things the teacher was reviewing that the students had never heard before. When they questioned him about it, he said that those things were in the book and that they were responsible for everything in the book.

Realizing they were unprepared for some of the material, many of the students became anxious and worried about the soon-approaching final exam.

Finally it was time to take the test. The professor gave them the following instructions: "Leave the tests face down on the desk until everyone has one and I'll tell you to start."

When they turned them over, every answer on the test was filled in! The bottom of the last page said the following:

"This is the end of the Final Exam. All the answers on your test are correct. You will receive an 'A' on the final exam. The reason you passed the test and will receive an "A" on your exam is because the creator of the test took it for you. All the work you did in preparation for this test did not help you get the "A". You have just experienced grace!"

"But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ."
Ephesians 4:7

◆ Received from Joe Downs



Colonel Whipper-Snapper and Ruth Bushnell presenting a gift to Cara Harmanson honoring her graduation from Onalaska High School.

The WCG had a very successful Rummage and Bake Sale.



Denna checking out the goodies.



So many good things what should I buy first?



What ever goes well with coffee will be fine.

HOW IS THE PATIENT DOING?

A sweet grandmother telephoned St. Joseph's Hospital. She timidly asked, "Is it possible to speak to someone who can tell me how a patient is doing?"

The operator said "I'll be glad to help, dear. What's the name and room number?"

The grandmother in her weak tremulous voice said, "Norma Findlay, Room 302."

The operator replied, "Let me place you on hold while I check with her nurse."

After a few minutes the operator returned to the phone and said, "Oh, I have good news, her nurse just told me that Norma is doing very well. Her blood pressure is fine; her blood work just came back as normal and her physician, Dr. Cohen, has scheduled her to be discharged on Tuesday."

The grandmother said, "Thank you. That's wonderful! I was so worried! God bless you for the good news."

The operator replied, "You're more than welcome. Is Norma your daughter?"

The grandmother said, "No, I'm Norma Findlay in 302. No one tells me anything."

Received from James Sparks

Q
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Z



Last month's winner was Mert Horrocks, she was able to find the answer in the 17th chapter of II Samuel. Their names were Jona-

than and Ahimaaz, sons of the priest, Zadok and Abiathar. Pastor Jeanne Hossler from Olympia-Lacey was a close second.

Here is this month's quiz.

*I ruled the kingdom with an iron hand
But I was born too early for I was not a man.
For six long years I held the power of the throne
But I had usurped the kingdom for it was not my own.*

*Many died that I might reign
By my hand I caused much pain.
But there was one who was taken out of my home.
And in due time he reached the throne.*

*I thought that in the Temple I would be safe
But they came and drug me out of that place.
Now in the Bible you'll have to go
If my name you want to know.*

*Tell me my name, I'm sure that you know.
And the name of the one who replaced me so long ago.
And if you're first and not the last,
A candy bar will be within your grasp.*

GOAT

At a high School in Montana a group of graduating high school seniors played a prank on the school. They let three goats loose in the school.

Before they let them go they painted numbers on the sides of the goats. 1,2,4.



Local school administrators spent most of the day looking for #3.

◆ *Received from Jude Cooper*

NEED A REPAIR MAN?

We had to have the garage door repaired. The repairman told us that one of our problems was that we did



n o t have a "large" enough m o t o r on the opener. I thought for a minute, and said that we had the largest one they made at that time, a 1/2 horsepower. He shook his head and said, "Lady, you need a 1/4 horsepower." I responded that 1/2 was larger than 1/4. He said, "NO, it's not." Four is larger than two."

MAKING CORRECT CHANGE

My daughter and I went through the drive-through take-out window and I gave the clerk a \$5 bill. Our



t o t a l w a s \$ 4 . 2 5 , so I also handed her a quarter. S h e said, "you gave me too much money." I said, "Yes I know, but this way you can just give me a dollar bill back." She sighed and went to get the manager who asked me to repeat my request. I did so, and he handed me back the quarter, and said "We're sorry but they could not do that kind of thing." The clerk then proceeded to give me back \$1 and 75 cents in change.