



CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



www.onalaskachurchofgod.com

SEPTEMBER, 2008

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

A DEACON'S PRAYER

Every time I am asked to pray, I think of the old deacon who always prayed, Lord, prop us up on our leanin' side.

After hearing him pray that prayer many times, someone asked him why he prayed that prayer so fervently.

He answered, 'Well sir, you see, it's like this...I got an old barn out back. It's been there a long time, it's withstood a lot of weather, it's gone through a lot of storms, and it's stood for many years.



It's still standing. But one day I noticed it was leaning to one side a bit.

So I went and got some pine poles and propped it up on its leaning side so it wouldn't fall.

Then I got to thinking about that and how much I was like that old barn. I've been around a long time.

I've withstood a lot of life's storms. I've withstood a lot of bad weather in life, I've withstood a lot of hard times, and I'm still standing too. But I find myself leaning to one side from time to time, so I like to ask the Lord to prop us up on our leaning side, cause I figure a lot of us get to leaning, at times.

Sometime we get to leaning to-

ward anger, leaning toward bitterness, leaning toward hatred, leaning toward cussing, leaning toward a lot of things that we shouldn't. So we need to pray, 'Lord, prop us up on our leaning side, so we will stand straight and tall again, to glorify the Lord.

◆ Received from Ruth Bushnell



see you believe in yourself." he said. "You all have "A's."

Too often, we're content to settle for second

Don't Settle for Second Best

by Alan Smith

The story is told of a professor who stood before his class of 20 senior organic biology students, about to hand out the final exam.

"I want to say that it's been a pleasure teaching you this semester. I know you've all worked extremely hard and many of you are off to medical school after summer. So that no one gets their GPA messed up because they might have been celebrating a bit too much this week, anyone who would like to opt out of the final exam today will receive a "B" for the course."

There was much rejoicing amongst the class as students got up, passed by the professor to thank him and sign out on his offer. As the last taker left the room, the professor looked out over the handful of remaining students and asked, "Anyone else? This is your last chance." One final student rose up and took the offer.

The professor closed the door and took attendance of those students remaining. "I'm glad to

best. A lot of students would be thrilled to settle for a "B" ("That's better than I usually get." "That's doing better than most of the others I know."). And most students, I think, would rather get a "B" with little time spent studying, than to make the effort it takes to get an "A".

A lot of us are content to settle for second best in our spiritual lives as well. We're close to God (at least closer than many people we know), but we aren't willing to take the time and the effort to have the kind of relationship we know God wants us to have.

The biggest problem with settling for second best is that we miss out on that which is best.

◆ Received from Joe & Freda Downs

"Good is the enemy of Best."

WORDS TO GROW ON

"Don't tell God how big your troubles are; tell your troubles how big your God is."

One thing you can give and still keep: is your word.

The heaviest thing you can carry is a grudge.

A FLAT TIRE

One day a man saw an old lady, stranded on the side of the road, but even in the dim light of day, he could see she needed help. So he pulled up in front of her Mercedes and got out. His Pontiac was still sputtering when he approached her. Even with the smile on his face, she was worried. No one had stopped to help for the last hour or so. Was he going to hurt her? He didn't look safe; he looked poor and hungry.

He could see that she was frightened, standing out there in the cold. He knew how she felt. It was those chills which only fear can put in you.

He said, "I'm here to help you, ma'am. Why don't you wait in the car where it's warm? By the way, my name is Bryan Anderson."

Well, all she had was a flat tire, but for an old lady, that was bad enough. Bryan crawled under the car looking for a place to put the jack, skinning his knuckles a time or two. Soon he was able to change the tire. But he had to get dirty and his hands hurt.

As he was tightening up the lug nuts, she rolled down the window



and began to talk to him. She told him that she was from St. Louis and was only just passing through. She couldn't thank him enough for coming to her aid.

Bryan just smiled as he closed

her trunk. The lady asked how much she owed him. Any amount would have been all right with her. She already imagined all the awful things that could have happened had he not stopped. Bryan never thought twice about being paid. This was not a job to him. This was helping someone in need, and God knows there were plenty, who had given him a hand in the past. He had lived his whole life that way, and it never occurred to him to act any other way.

He told her that if she really wanted to pay him back, the next time she saw someone who needed help, she could give that person the assistance they needed, and Bryan added, "And think of me."

He waited until she started her car and drove off. It had been a cold and depressing day, but he felt good as he headed for home, disappearing into the twilight.

A few miles down the road the lady saw a small cafe. She went in to grab a bite to eat, and take the chill off before she made the last leg of her trip home. It was a dingy looking restaurant. Outside were two old gas pumps. The whole scene was unfamiliar to her. The waitress came over and brought a clean towel to wipe her wet hair. She had a sweet smile, one that even being on her feet for the whole day couldn't erase. The lady noticed the waitress was nearly eight months pregnant, but she never let the strain and aches change her attitude. The old lady wondered how someone who had so little could be so giving to a stranger. Then she remembered Bryan.

After the lady finished her meal, she paid with a hundred dollar bill. The waitress quickly went to get

change for her hundred dollar bill, but the old lady had slipped right out the door. She was gone by the time the waitress came back. The waitress wondered where the lady could be. Then she noticed something written on the napkin.

There were tears in her eyes when she read what the lady wrote: "You don't owe me anything. I have been there too. Somebody once helped me out, the way I'm helping you. If you really want to pay me back, here is what you do: Do not let this chain of love end with you."

Under the napkin were four more \$100 bills.

Well, there were tables to clear, sugar bowls to fill, and people to serve,

but the waitress made it through another day. That night when she got home from work and climbed into bed, she was thinking about the money and what the lady had written. How could the lady have known how much she and her husband needed it? With the baby due next month, it was going to be hard... she knew how worried her husband was, and as he lay sleeping next to her, she gave him a soft kiss and whispered soft and low, "Everything's going to be all right. I love you, Bryan Anderson."

There is an old saying "What goes around comes around." Today, I put this story in our Newsletter and I'm asking you to pass it on... Let this light shine.

◆ Received from David Chilson
(Gloria's brother)

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Matthew 25:40



ONALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM

MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 AM

EVENING WORSHIP 6:00 PM

~
WEDNESDAYS

BIBLE STUDY
7:00 PM

~
THURSDAYS

LADIES BIBLE STUDY &
FELLOWSHIP
1:00 PM

@
ELVA SMOOTS
809 Gish Road

~
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
9:00 AM

~
LADIES LUNCHEON
12:00 NOON

~
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

75th ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

On Sunday, **September 14** we will be celebrating serving the Onalaska Community for over 75 years. Following our 11:00 AM we will gather for a dinner in our fellowship hall. At **2:30** we will gather with friends for a Celebration Service.

We are hoping to have many who have attended Onalaska First Church of God in the past come and help us celebrate. If you know those who use to attend please contact them and let them know what is happening. Following the afternoon celebration we will gather in our Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

75

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

~
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

ALL CHURCH GAME NIGHT
6:30 PM

~
**COMMUNITY
EVENTS**

COMMUNITY MEN'S
RETREAT

@
FALLS CREEK CHRISTIAN
RETREAT CENTER

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 12 & 13

Dr. Alvin VanderGriend will
be the guest speaker.

First session Friday 7:00 PM

Cost is \$ 120.00

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 17

SENIORS ON THE GO
12:00 NOON

~
THURSDAY, SEPT. 18

AMERICAN LEGION
7:00 PM

PNA EVENTS

"SHAPED BY GOD'S HEART"

Conference
With Milfred Minatrea

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

**PNA ANNUAL
MEETING**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4
9:00 AM

PRAYER SUMMIT

OCTOBER 21 - 23

ALL THESE EVENTS WILL TAKE
PLACE AT DOUBLE K CHRISTIAN
RETREAT CENTER
EASTON, WASHINGTON

BLUE GRASS FESTIVAL



and Alder Creek; The Carpenter Family are tentative, as is local **Debbie Blankenship**. The Festival will held in Carlisle Park beginning at 10:00 AM. We will be serving Hamburgers and Hotdogs and invited everyone to come and bring a picnic lunch to share with those who gather. Bring a chair and enjoy good music, great food and wonderful fellowship.



CLEAN TAXI

Harvey Mackay, tells a wonderful story about a cab driver that proved this point.

He was waiting in line for a ride at the airport.

When a cab pulled up, the first thing Harvey noticed was that the taxi was polished to a bright shine.

Smartly dressed in a white shirt, black tie, and freshly pressed black slacks, the cab driver jumped out and rounded the car to open the back passenger door for Harvey.

He handed my friend a laminated card and said: 'I'm Wally, your driver. While I'm loading your bags in the trunk I'd like you to read my mission statement.'

Taken aback, Harvey read the card. It said: Wally's Mission Statement: To get my customers to their destination in the quickest, safest and cheapest way possible in a friendly environment.

This blew Harvey away. Especially when he noticed that the inside of the cab matched the outside. Spotlessly clean!

As he slid behind the wheel, Wally said, 'Would you like a cup of coffee? I have a thermos of regular and one of decaf.'

My friend said jokingly, 'No, I'd prefer a soft drink.' Wally smiled and said, 'No problem. I have a cooler up front with regular and Diet Coke, water and orange juice.'

Almost stuttering, Harvey said, 'I'll take a Diet Coke.'

Handing him his drink, Wally said, 'If you'd like something to read, I have The Wall Street Journal, Time, Sports Illustrated and USA Today.'

As they were pulling away, Wally handed my friend another laminated card. 'These are the

stations I get and the music they play, if you'd like to listen to the radio.'

And as if that weren't enough, Wally told Harvey that he had the air conditioning on and asked if the temperature was comfortable for him. Then he advised Harvey of the best route to his destination for that time of day. He also let him know that he'd be happy to chat and tell him about some of the sights or, if Harvey preferred, to leave him with his own thoughts.

'Tell me, Wally,' my amazed friend asked the driver, 'have you always served customers like this?'

Wally smiled into the rear view mirror. 'No, not always. In fact, it's only been in the last two years. My first five years driving, I spent most of my time complaining like all the rest of the cabbies do. Then I heard the personal growth guru, Wayne Dyer, on the radio one day.

He had just written a book called 'You'll See It When You Believe It'. Dyer said that if you get up in the morning expecting to have a bad day, you'll rarely disappoint yourself. He said, 'Stop complaining!

Differentiate yourself from your competition. Don't be a duck. Be an eagle. Ducks quack and complain. Eagles soar above the crowd.'

'That hit me right between the eyes,' said Wally.

'Dyer was really talking about me. I was always quacking and complaining, so I decided to change my attitude and become an eagle. I looked around at the other cabs and their drivers. The cabs were dirty, the drivers were unfriendly, and the customers were unhappy. So I decided to make some changes. I put in

a few at a time. When my customers responded well, I did more.'

'I take it that has paid off for you,' Harvey said.

'It sure has,' Wally replied. 'My first year as an eagle, I doubled my income from the previous year.

This year I'll probably quadruple it. You were lucky to get me today. I don't sit at cabstands anymore. My customers call me for appointments on my cell phone or leave a message on my answering machine. If I can't pick them up myself, I get a reliable cabbie friend to do it and I take a piece of the action.'

Wally was phenomenal. He was running a limo service out of a Yellow Cab. I've probably told that story to more than fifty cab drivers over the years, and only two took the idea and ran with it. Whenever I go to their cities, I give them a call. The rest of the drivers quacked like ducks and told me all the reasons they couldn't do any of what I was suggesting.

Wally the Cab Driver made a different choice. He decided to stop quacking like ducks and start soaring like eagles.

How about us?

Smile, and the whole world smiles with you.....The ball is in our hands!

Galatians 6:7-10 ... God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up... let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

♦ Received from Joe & Freda Downs

Q
U
I
Z



The answer to last month's quiz is found in Number 27 and Joshua 17. The five daughters of Zelophehad of the tribe of Manasseh. Their names were, Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah and Tirzah. The first person to come up with the correct answer was Mary Yoder-Fast, the wife of the late AJ Fast, of Centralia. Pastor Jeanne Hossler was a close second and my sister Katie Jackson was third.

Here is this month's quiz.

*I knew that he had lost his reasoning
for he had lost his heart,
I knew that I could make a profit if
I played it smart.*

*I made to him a promise I knew I
wouldn't keep,*

*He wouldn't know the trick I
played until he woke from sleep.*

*And so he told me what he
wanted the price that he would
pay.*

*Yet when he found that I had
conned him, with me he was
willing still to stay.*

*And so he got what he wanted but
paid the double price.*

*I knew what I could get for love is
a mighty vice.*

*I asked him to stay with me,
I was sure that I would win.*

*But when he left me
He took away my kin.*

*And so my friend I say to you
Don't try to be too smart*

*Never seek to trick a man
Who has love within his heart.*

*Now tell me my name and his
name if you can,
And if you're first a candy bar will
be place within your hand.*

DON'T STEP ON THE DUCKS

Three women die together in an accident and go to heaven.

When they get there, St. Peter says, 'We! only have one rule here in heaven: don't step on the ducks!'

So they enter heaven, and sure enough, there are ducks all over the place. It is almost impossible not to step on a duck, and although they try their best to avoid them, the first woman accidentally steps on one.

Along comes St. Peter with the ugliest man she ever saw.

St. Peter chains them together and says, 'Your punishment for stepping on a duck is to spend eternity chained to this ugly man!'

The next day, the second woman accidentally steps on a duck and along comes St. Peter, who doesn't miss a thing. With him is another extremely ugly man. He chains them together with the same admonishment as for the first woman.

The third woman has observed all this and, not wanting to be chained for all eternity to an ugly man, is very, VERY careful where she steps.

She manages to go months without stepping on any ducks, but one day St. Peter comes up to her with the most handsome man she has ever laid eyes on ... very tall, long eyelashes, muscular, and thin.

St. Peter chains them together without saying a word.

The happy woman says, 'I won-

der what I did to deserve being chained to you for all of eternity?'

The guy says, 'I don't know about you, but I stepped on a duck!'

◆ Received from Jude Cooper

HELP FROM OUR NEW CONVERTS

He was not well-educated and rather rough and crude around the edges but he was recently converted and now on fire for the Lord.

He was constantly pestering the pastor to give him some work that would be helpful to the church. Finally the pastor agreed. He gave the man a list of ten people who hadn't been in church for years nor made any financial contribution. Some of these were quite prominent in the community.

The pastor said, "What I want you to do is get these people back to church, however you can. You can use church stationery if you want, but get these people back to church."

Three weeks later the pastor got an envelope in the mail from a prominent doctor whose name had been on the list, along with a check for \$10,000 and a note that read, 'Dear Pastor, Please excuse my inactivity at church. I really have no excuse. Accept this check as a partial contribution for all the Sundays I've missed, and be assured I will never, by choice, miss worship again.'

Sincerely,

J. B. Jones, M.D.

P.S. - Will you kindly tell your secretary that there is only one "t" in dirty and no "c" in skunk?

◆ Received from James Sparks

