



CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



www.onalaskachurchofgod.com

JANUARY, 2009

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

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

He is the First and Last, the Beginning and the End!
He is the keeper of Creation and the Creator of all!
He is the Architect of the universe and the Manager of all times.
He always was, He always is, and He always will be ...
Unmoved, Unchanged, Undefeated, and never Undone!

He was bruised and brought healing!

He was pierced and eased pain!
He was persecuted and brought freedom!

He was dead and brought life!
He is risen and brings power!
He reigns and brings Peace!

The world can't understand him,
The armies can't defeat Him,
The schools can't explain Him,
The leaders can't ignore Him.
Herod couldn't kill Him,
The Pharisees couldn't confuse Him,
The people couldn't hold Him!
Nero couldn't crush Him,
Hitler couldn't silence Him,
The New Age can't replace Him,
"Oprah" can't explain Him away!

He is light, love, longevity, and Lord.
He is Goodness, Kindness, Gentleness, and God.
He is Holy, Righteous, mighty, powerful, and pure.
His ways are right,
His word is eternal,
His will is unchanging, and His mind is on me.

He is my Savior,
He is my guide, and He is my

peace!
He is my Joy,
He is my comfort,
He is my Lord, and He rules my life!
I serve Him because His bond is love,

His burden is light, and His goal for me is abundant life.
I follow Him because He is the wisdom of the wise,
The power of the powerful,
The ancient of days, the ruler of rulers,
The leader of leaders,
The overseer of the over-comers, and is to come.

And if that seems impressive to you, try this for size.

His goal is a relationship with ME!
He will never leave me,
Never forsake me,
Never mislead me,
Never forget me,
Never overlook me and
Never cancel my appointment in His appointment book!

When I fall, He lifts me up!
When I fail, He forgives!
When I am weak, He is strong!
When I am lost, He is the way!
When I am afraid, He is my courage!
When I stumble, He steadies me!
When I am hurt, He heals me!
When I am broken, He mends me!
When I am blind, He leads me!
When I am hungry, He feeds me!
When I face trials, He is with me!
When I face persecution, He shields me!
When I face problems, He comforts me!
When I face loss, He provides for me!
When I face Death, He carries me Home!

◆ Received from Joe & Freda Downs

CHICKEN FEATHERS

A woman repeated a bit of gossip about a neighbor. Within a few days the whole community knew the story. The person it concerned was deeply hurt and offended. Later the woman responsible for spreading the rumor learned that it was completely untrue.

She was very sorry and went to a wise old sage to find out what she could do to repair the damage. "Go



to the marketplace," he said, "and purchase a chicken, and have it killed. Then on your way home, pluck its feathers and drop them one by one

along the road."

Although surprised by this advice, the woman did what she was told. The next day the wise man said, "Now go and collect all those feathers you dropped yesterday and bring them back to me." The woman followed the same road, but the wind had blown the feathers all away. After searching for hours, she returned with only three in her hand. "You see," said the old sage, "it's easy to drop them, but it's impossible to get them back. So it is with gossip. It doesn't take much to spread a rumor, but once you do, you can never completely undo the wrong."

◆ Received from Joe & Freda Downs

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE?

Author Unknown

At a fundraising dinner for a school that serves children with learning disabilities, the father of one of the students delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all who attended. After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he offered a question: 'When not interfered with by outside influences, everything nature does, is done with perfection. Yet my son, Shay, cannot learn things as other children do. He cannot understand things as other children do. Where is the natural order of things in my son?'

The audience was stilled by the query. The father continued. 'I believe that when a child like Shay, who was mentally and physically disabled comes into the world, an opportunity to realize true human nature presents itself, and it comes in the way other people treat that child.'

Then he told the following story: Shay and I had walked past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball. Shay asked, 'Do you think they'll let me play?' I knew that most of the boys would not want someone like Shay on their team, but as a father I also understood that if my son were allowed to play, it would give him a much-needed sense of belonging and some confidence to be accepted by others in spite of his handicaps. I approached one of the boys on the field and asked (not expecting much) if Shay could play. The boy looked around for guidance and said, 'We're losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him in to bat in the ninth inning.'

Shay struggled over to the team's bench and, with a broad smile, put on

a team shirt. I watched with a small tear in my eye and warmth in my heart. The boys saw my joy at my son being accepted.

In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three.

In the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in the right field. Even though no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be in the game and on the field, grinning from ear to ear as I waved to him from the stands.

In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay's team scored again.

Now, with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base and Shay was scheduled to be next at bat.

At this juncture, do they let Shay bat and give away their chance to win the game?

Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible because Shay didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, much less connect with the ball.

However, as Shay stepped up to the plate, the pitcher, recognizing that the other team was putting winning aside for this moment in Shay's life, moved in a few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shay could at least make contact. The first pitch came and Shay swung clumsily and missed. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly towards Shay. As the pitch came in, Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball right back to the pitcher. The game would now be over.

The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could have easily thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shay would have been out and that would have been the end of the game. Instead, the pitcher threw the ball right

over the first baseman's head, out of reach of all team mates.

Everyone from the stands and both teams started yelling, 'Shay, run to first! Run to first!'

Never in his life had Shay ever run that far, but he made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled. Everyone yelled, 'Run to second, run to second!' Catching his breath, Shay awkwardly ran towards second, gleaming and struggling to make it to the base. By the time Shay rounded towards second base, the right fielder had the ball. The smallest guy on their team who now had his first chance to be the hero for his team, he could have thrown the ball to the second-baseman for the tag, but he understood the pitcher's intentions so he, too, intentionally threw the ball high and far over the third-baseman's head. Shay ran toward third base deliriously as the runners ahead of him circled the bases toward home.

All were screaming, 'Shay, Shay, Shay, all the Way Shay' Shay reached third base because the opposing shortstop ran to help him by turning him in the direction of third base, and shouted, 'Run to third!, Shay, run to third!' As Shay rounded third, the boys from both teams, and the spectators, were on their feet screaming, 'Shay, run home! Run home!' Shay ran to home, stepped on the plate, and was cheered as the hero who hit the grand slam and won the game for his team.

'That day', said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, 'the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of true love and humanity into this world'.

Shay didn't make it to another summer. He died that winter, having never forgotten being the hero and making me so happy and coming home and seeing his Mother tearfully embrace her little hero of the day!

Do we pass along a little spark of love and humanity or do we pass up those opportunities and leave the world a little bit colder in the process?

A wise man once said every society is judged by how it treats it's least fortunate amongst them.



ONALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM
MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 AM
EVENING WORSHIP 6:00 PM

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TUESDAYS

KID'S CLUB
 3:30 — 4:30 PM

~
WEDNESDAYS

BIBLE STUDY
 7:00 PM

~
SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

MEN'S BREAKFAST
 8:00 AM

~
SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
 9:00 AM

~
 LADIES LUNCHEON
 12:00 NOON

~
SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

~
FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

ALL CHURCH GAME NIGHT
 6:30 PM

~
MONDAY, JANUARY 12

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TEA & PRAISE
 10:00 AM
 VALLEY OF BLESSINGS
 MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17

SENIORS ON THE GO
 12:00 NOON

THURSDAY, DEC. 18

AMERICAN LEGION
 6:00 PM

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday, January 18 following the morning service, there will be a special **Congregational Meeting** for further review of the **Church Builder's Plus Report**. One of the very important things that will be discussed is the three options Mr. Shumate suggested for us to consider: *Do we do nothing and remain the way we are, do we seek to build the new fellowship hall here, or do we seek to build on the Leonard Road property.* It is very important that everyone who considers the Onalaska First Church of God as their home church to come and share their ideas and concerns regarding our future growth.

DAYS OF FASTING & PRAYER

The headlines scream recession, layoffs, plant closures, bailouts, record unemployment, failing economies. What is a Christian to do? What is the church to do? Church of God Ministries is taking action by bringing the concern to the Lord.

Beginning in January, the staff of Church of God Ministries (CGM) will have deliberate times of prayer and fasting to lift up the financial crisis facing the United States and other countries of the world.

We seek to rally the disciples of Jesus Christ and lift our petitions through prayer and fasting to the Lord. The staff of CGM will pray together and individually throughout the day specifically for the financial crisis facing the people of the world.

We hope others from across the country and around the world will join with us in united prayer on the **third Wednesday of each month**. The CGM employees will gather from **7:30–8:00 AM** and then again from **4:30–5:00 PM** for a period of united and focused prayer.

MISSION'S OFFERING

MISSION SUNDAY



MISSION SUNDAY

Beginning this month on the first Sunday of the month we will be receiving a second offering that will be use exclusively for Mission outreach. It will be divided six ways. Three parts will go to **FOREIGN MISSIONS**: the Tates in Trinidad, the Beisleys in New Zealand, and Horizon International (AIDS orphans), three parts will go to **HOME MISSIONS**: Love Inc., Pregnancy Crisis Center, and Onalaska Youth Center.

Time is very short and it is of vital importance that we reach beyond our four walls, into our community and the world to do what we can to reach others for Christ.

I would like to encourage everyone to set aside a little extra each month to give this Mission Love Offering as a thank you to God for all the different ways He has blessed us. Remember, we can never out give God.

THE VALUE IS IN THE OWNER

by Alan Smith

The story is told of an American tourist in Paris who picked up an amber necklace in a trinket shop. When he arrived at New York and went through customs he was shocked at the high duty he had to pay for the necklace. So when he came home, he spoke with a jeweler and the jeweler told him he would give \$25,000 for the necklace. The man was stunned and suspected that there was a reason for the offer. So he took the necklace to an expert who appraised it at an astronomical amount.

When he asked the appraiser what made the necklace so valuable, he told him to look into the magnifying glass and see for himself. When he placed his eye next to the glass, he saw an inscription which read: "From Napoleon Bonaparte to Josephine." It was the name on the necklace that gave it extraordinary worth.

We have no intrinsic value — that is to say, we are not of great value because of who we are or what we've accomplished. Our value is determined by the One who bought us and owns us. Those of us who are Christians have the name of Christ "stamped" on our lives to remind us who we are and whose we are. Knowledge of this truth causes us to rethink what we do with our lives.

For example, if you have an old pair of ragged tennis shoes, you

may think nothing of getting out in a muddy garden to do some work. But if you're wearing an expensive pair of dress shoes, you'll be hesitant to wear them in the mud. The value of what you're wearing will keep you from going certain places and doing certain things.

Paul says that's why we as Christians should avoid sexual immorality (as well as other misuses of the body). If our bodies were of little value (as some believe), we would think nothing of "dragging them through the mud." But knowing the value of our bodies, we're forced to think twice about where we go and what we do.

"For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Corinthians 6:20

Look closely at the inscription on your life. You'll notice the name of the One who bought you and owns you. Your value just went up!

Received from Joe Downs

A REFINER'S FIRE

by Os Hillman

For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap.

Malachi 3:2b

The Lord has a specific manner of preparing His people for useful service. God desires to turn His children from rough, hard-edged stones into gems of gold and silver.

He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; He will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years Malachi 3:3-4.

The refiner's fire can only accomplish its purposes when the heat is turned up to extraordinary temperatures. It breaks down the



metal in order for it to become moldable and shapeable. Only when

the temperatures reach this level can the work be fully accomplished. So it is in our lives.

Until the Lord completes His refining process, the offerings we make are not made in righteousness and cannot be acceptable. Thank God that Jesus is our righteousness and that there is no righteousness apart from Him. Still, the Lord continues to purge all that is not of His righteousness out of our lives. This comes through trials that bring each of us to the end of ourselves in order that He may only reflect that which is Himself.

When God takes you through the refiner's fire, be encouraged because it is His overriding commitment to turn you from a rough, hard-edged stone to a precious metal. He will do this through certain events in your workplace, your relationships, and other circumstances in your life. Our job is to avoid trying to blow out the fire.

"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>"

A. A. A. D. D

Recently, I was diagnosed with A.A.A.D.D. - Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder.

Thank goodness there's a name for this disorder. Somehow I feel better even though I have it!

This is how it manifests:

I decide to water my garden. As I turn on the hose in the driveway, I look over at my car and decide it needs washing. As I start toward the garage, I notice mail on the porch table that I brought up from the mail box earlier. I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car. I lay my car keys on the table; put the junk mail in the garbage can under the table and notice that the can is full.

So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the garbage first. But then I think, since I'm going to be near

the mailbox when I take out the garbage anyway, I may as well pay the bills first.

I take my check book off the table, and see that there is only one check left. My extra checks are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I find the can of Pepsi I'd been drinking.

I'm going to look for my checks, but first I need to push the Pepsi aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over. The Pepsi is getting warm, and I decide to put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold.

As I head toward the kitchen with the Pepsi, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye--they need water. I put the Pepsi



on the counter and discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning. I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers. I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water and suddenly spot the TV remote. Someone left it on the kitchen table.

I realize that tonight when we go to watch TV, I'll be looking for the remote, but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table, so I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers. I pour some water in the flowers, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor.

So, I set the remote back on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill. Then, I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day: the car isn't washed the bills aren't paid there is a warm can of Pepsi sitting on the counter the flowers don't have enough water, there is still only 1 check in my check book, I can't find the remote, I can't find my glasses, and I don't remember what I did with the car keys.

Then, when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day, and I'm really tired. I realize this is a serious problem, and I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail....

Do me a favor. Forward this message to everyone you know, because I don't remember who I've sent it to. Don't laugh -- if this isn't you yet, your day is coming!

◆ Received from James Sparks

Happy Birthday
Elsie!

I play pinochle regularly with seven other women, most of whom are age 70 or older. Recently we celebrated the birthday of our oldest member by taking her out to lunch.



When the waitress came to take our order, one of the women said to her, "This is a very special occasion. It's Elsie's ninety-second birthday."

The waitress made seven instant enemies and one fast friend by asking the question, "Which one of you is Elsie?"

◆ Received from Jim Sparks

Q
U
I
Z



Last month the only one to come up with the correct answer, King Herod and Jesus, was Dave Munro. The answer is found in the second chapter of the book of Matthew.

This months there are two quizzes, both short and sweet.

*Samson used a jawbone
David used a sling,
I used an ox goad
Isn't that an unusual thing.*

*There came a great army
As many soldiers as they could
bring.
But God gave to us the victory
When we began to sing.*