



CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



www.onalaskachurchofgod.com

FEBRUARY, 2009

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

THE ROCK

A man was sleeping at night in his cabin when suddenly his room filled with light, and God appeared. The Lord told the man he had work for him to do, and showed him a large rock in front of his cabin. The Lord explained that the man was to push against the rock with all his might. So, this the man did, day after day.

For many years he toiled from sun up to sun down; his shoulders set squarely against the cold, massive surface of the unmoving rock, pushing with all of his might. Each night the man returned to his cabin sore and worn out, feeling that his whole day had been spent in vain. Since the man was showing discouragement, the Adversary (Satan) decided to enter the picture by placing thoughts into the weary mind. "You have been pushing against that rock for a long time, and it hasn't moved." Thus, giving the man the impression that the task was impossible and that he was a failure. These thoughts discouraged and disheartened the man. "Why kill myself over this?" he thought. "I'll just put in my time, giving just the minimum effort; and that will be good enough." And that is what he planned to do, until one



day he decided to make it a matter of prayer and take his troubled thoughts to the Lord. "Lord," he said, "I have labored long and hard in Your service, putting all my strength to do that which You have asked. Yet, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock by half a millimeter. What is wrong? Why am I failing?"

The Lord responded compassionately, "My friend, when I asked you to serve Me and you accepted, I told you that your task was to push against the rock with all of your strength, which you have done. Never once did I mention to you that I expected you to move it. Your task was to push. And now you come to Me with your strength spent, thinking that you have failed. But, is that really so? Look at yourself. Your arms are strong and muscled, your back sinewy and brown, your hands are callused from constant pressure, your legs have become massive and hard. Through opposition you have grown much, and your abilities now surpass that which you used to have. Yet you haven't moved the rock. But your calling was to be obedient and to push and to exercise your faith and trust in My wisdom. This you have done. Now I, My friend, will now move the rock."

At times, when we hear a word from God, we tend to use our own intellect to decipher what He wants, when actually what God wants is just a simple obedience and faith in Him. By all means, exercise the faith that moves mountains, but know that it is still God who moves mountains.

When everything seems to go wrong ... just **P.U.S.H.!**

When the job gets you down ... just **P.U.S.H.!**

When people don't react the way you think they should... just **P.U.S.H.!**

When your money looks "gone" and the bills are due...just **P.U.S.H.!**

When people just don't understand you ... just **P.U.S.H.!**

P= Pray
U= Until
S= Something
H= Happens

♦ *Received from Mary Warner*

CONTACT LENS

The teenager lost a contact lens while playing basketball in his driveway. After a fruitless search, he went inside and told his mother the lens was nowhere to be found.

Undaunted, she went outside, and in a few minutes, she returned with the lens in her hand.

"How did you manage to find it, Mom?" the teenager asked.

"We weren't looking for the same thing," she replied. "You were looking for a small piece of plastic. I was looking for \$150."

DO UNTO OTHERS

One stormy night many years ago, an elderly man and his wife entered the lobby of a small hotel in Philadelphia. Trying to get out of the rain, the couple approached the front desk hoping to get some shelter for the night.

"Could you possibly give us a room here?" the husband asked. The clerk, a friendly man with a winning smile, looked at the couple and explained that there were three conventions in town.

"All of our rooms are taken," the clerk said. "But I can't send a nice couple like you out into the rain at one o'clock in the morning. Would you perhaps be willing to sleep in my room? It's not exactly a suite, but it will be good enough to make you folks comfortable for the night."

When the couple declined, the young man pressed on. "Don't worry about me; I'll make out just fine," the clerk told them. So the couple agreed.

As he paid his bill the next morning, the elderly man said to the clerk, "You are the kind of manager who should be the boss of the best hotel in the United States. Maybe someday I'll build one for you."

The clerk looked at them and smiled. The three of them had a good laugh.

As they drove away, the elderly couple agreed that the helpful clerk was indeed exceptional, as finding people who are both friendly and helpful isn't easy.

Two years passed. The clerk had almost forgotten the incident when he received a letter from the old man. It recalled that stormy night and enclosed a round-trip ticket to New York, asking the young man to pay them a visit.

The old man met him in New York, and led him to the corner of

Fifth Avenue and 34th Street. He then pointed to a great new building there, a palace of reddish stone, with turrets and watchtowers thrusting up to the sky.



"That," said the older man, "is the hotel I have just built for you to manage."

"You must be joking," the young man said.

"I can assure you I am not," said the older man, a sly smile playing around his mouth.

The older man's name was William Waldorf Astor, and the magnificent structure was the original Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

The young clerk who became its first manager was George C. Boldt. This young clerk never foresaw the turn of events that would lead him to become the manager of one of the world's most glamorous hotels.

The Bible says that we are not to turn our backs on those who are in need, for we might be entertaining angels.

Life is more accurately measured by the lives you touch than the things you acquire...

♦ Received from Joe Downs

A TALKING DONKEY

by Os Hillman

The donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day?" ~ Numbers 22:30

Most workplace believers I know tend to be task-oriented, motivated visionaries. And they will do just about anything to make their projects successful. This great strength can, if not properly bridled by the Holy Spirit, be a great weakness in their ability to fulfill God's will in their life.

Sometimes we want something to

succeed so much that we fail to listen to that little voice inside trying to warn us by directing us on a different path. Such was the case of Balaam. He started out as a man of God, but then took the path of a "prophet-for-hire." God was not pleased with Balaam's decision to respond to a pagan king's request that he curse Israel. As Balaam rode his donkey to keep his appointment with the king, God sent the angel of the Lord to stand in the way and oppose Balaam. Although Balaam did not see the angel, his donkey did. Three times the donkey turned from the path and three times Balaam beat the animal in anger. Finally, the donkey turned around, and to Balaam's shock and amazement, began to speak to him, admonishing his master for beating him. Imagine a donkey talking to you! He warned Balaam of the angel of death who was standing in the road with a sword drawn, ready to kill Balaam if he continued.

There are times when pushing harder, trying to manipulate the circumstance, or pressing those around you is not the response to have to the roadblock. God may be trying to have you reconsider your ways. God may be doing one of four things when you are faced with an obstacle:

- 1) He's blocking it to protect you.
- 2) His timing to complete this stage is not the same as yours, and He may need you to go through a process of character refinement.
- 3) He may want other players to get in place, and the circumstances are not yet ready for them to enter.
- 4) He may be using the process to develop patience in you.

Relying on the Holy Spirit to know which one applies to your situation is the key to moving in God's timing. "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>"

ALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

IT'S ALL NEW

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

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WEDNESDAYS

BIBLE STUDY
 7:00 PM

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

MEN'S BREAKFAST
 8:00 AM

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
 9:00 AM

VALENTINE BANQUET

On Saturday, February 14th at 2:00 PM. we will be holding our Valentine Banquet that is for everyone, both singles and couples. It is a time to share our love for each other not just our sweethearts.

A wonderful meal of Roast Beef, potatoes, vegetables, salad, roll and dessert is being planned.

Our special guests, Sam & Barbara Crawford will provide a evening of laughter and fun.

Please contact the office if you would like to attend as we need to know how many will be coming so we can plan the menu.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

ALL CHURCH GAME NIGHT
 6:30 PM

COMMUNITY EVENTS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

TEA & PRAISE
 10:00 AM
 SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

SENIORS ON THE GO
 12:00 NOON

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

AMERICAN LEGION
 6:00 PM

PNA EVENTS

YOUTH WINTER CAMP 2009

DOUBLE K
 RETREAT CENTER
 FRIDAY - MONDAY
 FEBRUARY 13th - 16th
 COST: \$ 185.00

A new year has begun with new leaders that will have new and different ideas, regardless of our likes or dislikes, we as Christian are called by God to pray for those whom God has placed in leadership roles.

Romans 13:1: God establishes all government and authority.

Proverbs 21:1: God directs kings and rulers.

Daniel 2:21: God both places and disposes of all rulers and controls the times.

Acts 17:26: God determines national borders and the times set for nations.

Psalms 147:8, 15-18: God controls the weather.

Isaiah 45:7: God creates disaster and prosperity.

Proverbs 21:31: God determines the outcomes of wars.

Psalms 118:8 *It is better to trust in the Lord, than to have confidence in man.*

These truths never change!

In the New Year 2009, God, as always, rules history and gives history its meaning. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow!

◆ Received from Joe Downs

NEW DICTIONARY DEFINITIONS

WRINKLES: Something other people have. You have character lines.

REFLECTIONS OF LOVE CONCERT



Ron and Kathy Green will be with us once again to hold a concert on Saturday, February 21 at 6:00 PM. Ron and Kathy have blessed us in the past and we are looking forward to having them come again.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for you to invite your neighbors and friends as well as family members to come and enjoy the wonderful evening of music they will present.

A BABY'S HUG

We were the only family with children in the restaurant. I sat Erik in a high chair and noticed everyone was quietly sitting and talking. Suddenly, Erik squealed with glee and said, 'Hi.' He pounded his fat baby hands on the high chair tray. His eyes were crinkled in laughter and his mouth was bared in a toothless grin, as he wriggled and giggled with merriment.

I looked around and saw the source of his merriment. It was a man whose pants were baggy with a zipper at half-mast and his toes poked out of would-be shoes. His shirt was dirty and his hair was uncombed and unwashed. His whiskers were too short to be called a beard and his nose was so varicose it looked like a road map.

We were too far from him to smell, but I was sure he smelled. His hands waved and flapped on loose wrists. 'Hi there, baby; hi there, big boy. I see ya, buster,' the man said to Erik.

My husband and I exchanged looks, 'What do we do?'

Erik continued to laugh and answer, 'Hi.'

Everyone in the restaurant noticed and looked at us and then at the man. The old geezer was creating a nuisance with my beautiful baby. Our meal came and the man began shouting from across the room, 'Do ya patty cake? Do you know peek-a-boo? Hey, look, he knows peek-a-boo.'

Nobody thought the old man was cute. He was obviously drunk.

My husband and I were embarrassed. We ate in silence; all except for Erik, who was running through his repertoire for the admiring skid-row bum, who in turn, reciprocated with his cute comments.

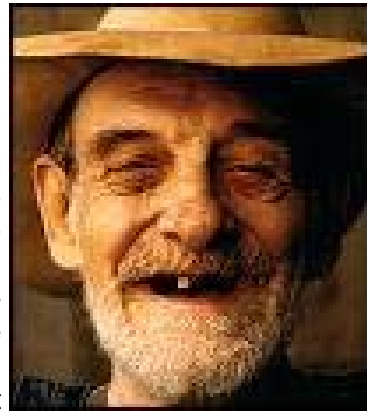
We finally got through the meal and headed for the door. My husband went to pay the check and told me to meet him in the parking lot. The old man sat poised between me and the door. 'Lord, just let me out of here before he speaks to me or Erik,' I prayed. As I drew closer to the man, I turned my back trying to sidestep him and avoid any air he might be breathing.

As I did, Erik leaned over my arm, reaching with both arms in a baby's 'pick-me-up' position. Before I could stop him, Erik had propelled himself from my arms to the man.

Suddenly a very old smelly man and a very young baby consummated their love and kinship. Erik in an act of

total trust, love, and submission laid his tiny head upon the man's ragged shoulder. The man's eyes closed, and I saw tears hover beneath his lashes. His aged hands full of grime, pain, and hard labor, cradled my baby's bottom and stroked his back. No two beings have ever loved so deeply for so short a time.

I stood awestruck. The old man rocked and cradled Erik in



his arms and his eyes opened and set squarely on mine. He said in a firm commanding voice, 'You take care of this baby.'

Somehow I managed, 'I will,' from a throat that contained a stone.

He pried Erik from his chest, lovingly and longingly, as though he were in pain. I received my baby, and the man said, 'God bless you, ma'am, you've given me my Christmas gift.'

I said nothing more than a muttered thanks. With Erik in my arms, I ran for the car. My husband was wondering why I was crying and holding Erik so tightly, and why I was saying, 'My God, my God, forgive me.'

I had just witnessed Christ's love shown through the innocence of a tiny child who saw no sin, who made no judgment; a child who saw a soul, and a mother who saw a suit of clothes. I was a Christian who was blind, holding a child who was not. I felt it was God asking, 'Are you willing to share your son for a moment?' when He shared His for all eternity.

The ragged old man, unwittingly, had reminded me, 'To enter, we must become as little children.'

Sometimes, it takes a child to remind us of what is really important. We must always remember who we are, where we came from and, most importantly, how we feel about others. The clothes on your back or the car that you drive or the house that you live in does not define you at all; it is how you treat your fellow man that identifies who you are.

◆ Received from Marcie Eidsmoe



Q
U
I
Z



Last month there were several who were able to come up with the correct answer to the quiz. But all of them were from out of town so I can't give them the candy bar. Lucky me.

The quiz had two parts, the first answer was **Shamgar**, his story is found in the third chapter of Judges. The second answer was **King Jehoshaphat** and his story is found in the twentieth chapter of Second Chronicles.

*We wanted to please him,
This is the story we tell.
We got him a drink
From a particular well.*

*And so through the night we
quickly did go.
We got him his drink
Its true don't you know.*

*But what do you know
It was a great surprise,
He poured it all out
Right in front of our eyes.*

*He didn't take any
Not one little sip,
Not one single drop
Went past he lips.*

*Now tell us our names
We're three don't you know
Tell us his name
And to what town we did go.*

*Now if your first
And close by that you live.
It's a candy bar
To you I'll give.*

HOW TO STAY SAFE IN THE WORLD TODAY.

- ◆ *Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.*
- ◆ *Do not stay home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.*
- ◆ *Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.*
- ◆ *Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.*
- ◆ *Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in Hospitals. So, above all else, avoid hospitals.*

BUT, you will be pleased to learn



t h a t only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are usually

related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at church! And Bible study is safe too. The percentage of deaths during Bible study is even less.

So, for SAFETY'S sake - Attend church, and read your Bible IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

◆ *Received from Joe Downs*

INNOCENCE IS PRICELESS

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it. The six-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor

walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, 'Good morning Alex.'

'Good morning Pastor,' he replied, still focused on the plaque. 'Pastor, what is this?'

The pastor said, 'Well son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service.'

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked, 'Which service, the 8:30 or the 10:30?'

◆ *Received from David Chilson*

TEA PARTY

One day my mother was out and my dad was in charge of me and my brother, who is four years older than I am. I was maybe one and a half years old and had just recovered from an accident in which my arm had been broken, among other injuries. Someone had given me a little tea set as a get-well gift, and it was one of my favorite toys.

Daddy was in the living room engrossed in the evening news and my brother was playing nearby in the living room when I brought Daddy a little cup of "tea," which was just water. After several cups of tea and lots of praise for such yummy tea, my mom came home. My dad made her wait in the living room to watch me bring him a cup of tea, because it was "just the cutest thing!"

My mom waited, and sure enough, here I came down the hall with a cup of tea for Daddy and she watched him drink it up. She then asked, "Did it ever occur to you that the only place that baby can reach to get water is the toilet?"

◆ *Received from James Sparks*