



CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



www.onalaskachurchofgod.com

MARCH, 2009

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

ONE ARMED BOY

A 10-year-old boy felt as though he had lost his identity when he lost his left arm in a devastating car accident. After six months of adjusting to his handicap, he decided to study judo despite the fact that he had but one arm.

The boy began lessons with an old Japanese judo master. The boy was doing well, so he couldn't understand why, after three months of training, the master had taught him only one move.

"Sensei," the boy finally said, "Shouldn't I be learning more moves?"

"This is the only move you know, but this is the only move you'll ever need to know," the sensei replied. Not quite understanding, but believing in his teacher, the boy kept training.

Several months later, the sensei took the boy to his first tournament. Surprising himself, the boy easily won his first two matches. The third match proved to be more difficult, but after some time, his opponent became impatient and charged; the boy deftly used his one move to win the match.

Still amazed by his success, the boy was now in the finals. This time, his opponent was bigger, stronger, and more experienced.



For a while, the boy appeared to be overmatched. Concerned that the boy might get hurt, the referee called a time-out. He was about to stop the match when the sensei intervened. "No," the sensei insisted, "Let him continue."

Soon after the match resumed, his opponent made a critical mistake: he dropped his guard. Instantly, the boy used his move to pin him. The boy had won the match and the tournament. He was the champion. On the way home, the boy and the sensei reviewed every move in each and every match.

Then the boy summoned the courage to ask what was really on his mind: "Sensei, how did I win the tournament with only one move?"

"You won for two reasons," the sensei answered. "First, you've almost mastered one of the most difficult throws in all of judo. And second, the only known defense for that move is for your opponent to grab your left arm."

The boy's biggest weakness had become his biggest strength! Your greatest weakness is an opportunity for God to come in and give you the greatest strength you ever could imagine.

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in

weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

(2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

◆ Received from Joe Downs

QUILT & SILENT AUCTION

The Care Center's 8th Biennial Quilt & Silent Auction, "Quit for Life!" will be a wonderful evening filled with hope for the unborn baby and his or her mother. Come and bid on exquisite quilts in our live auction, find treasured items in the silent auction, participate in fun raffles, and listen to the uplifting music of the Voetbergs.

The auction is a benefit to raise money for the Care Center. The Care Center serves our community by providing education support and hope for young women facing unplanned pregnancies since 1993.

The auction will be held on Saturday, March 7th at the Centralia Christian School, located at 1315 S. Tower Ave. Centralia, Washington. The doors will open at 5:30pm, the auction begins with a mini-concert at 6:00pm to 9:00pm.

The cost is \$5.00 per person and need to be purchased in advance by calling the Care Center at 360-330-2229 or you can purchase tickets from the church office.

YOU ASK WHY I FOLLOW THIS JESUS?

Author Unknown

*You ask why I follow this Jesus?
Why I love Him the way I do?
When the world's turned away from
His teachings
And the people who serve Him are
few.*

*It's not the rewards I'm after
Or gifts that I hope to receive
It's the Presence that calls for
commitment
It's the Spirit I trust and believe.*

*The Lord doesn't shelter His faithful
Or spare them all suffering and
pain,
Like everyone else I have burdens,
And walk through my share of rain.*

*Yet He gives me a plan and a
purpose,
And that joy only Christians have
known,
I never know what comes
tomorrow,
But I do know I'm never alone.*

*It's the love always there when you
need it;
It's the words that redeem and
inspire,
It's the longing to ever be with Him
That burns in my heart like a fire.*

*So you ask why I love my Lord
Jesus?
Well, friend, that's so easy to see,
But the one thing that fills me with
wonder is
Why Jesus loves someone like me.*

◆ Received from Joe Downs

***If God brings you to it - He will
bring you through it.***

**Duct Tape or
a Nail?**

A man dies and goes to heaven. St. Peter meets him at the Pearly Gates and says, "Here's how it works. You need 100 points to make it into heaven. You tell me all the good things you've done, and I give you a certain number of points for each item, depending on how good it was. When you reach 100 points, you get in."

"Okay," the man says, "I was married to the same woman for 50 years and never cheated on her, not even in my heart."

"That's wonderful," says St. Peter, "that's worth two points!" "Two points?" he says. "Well, I attended church all my life and supported its ministry with my tithe and service."

"Terrific!" says St. Peter. "That's certainly worth a point." "One point? I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for homeless veterans."

"Fantastic, that's good for two more points," he says. "Two points?"

Exasperated, the man cries. "At this rate the only way I'll get into heaven is by the grace of God."

"Bingo! 100 points! Come on in." We often try to fix problems with WD-40 and duct tape. God did it with a nail.

◆ Received from Marcie Eidsmoe



HEAVEN AND HELL

A man was having a conversation with God one day and said, "God, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like."

God led the man to two doors. He opened one of the doors and the man looked in.

In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew, which smelled delicious and made the man's mouth water.

The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished.

They were holding spoons with very long handles, that were strapped to their arms and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful.

But because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths.

The man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering.

God said, "You have seen the likeness of Hell."

They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one.

There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the man's mouth water.

The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking.

The man said, "I don't understand."

"It is simple," said God. "It requires but one skill. You see they have learned to feed each other, while the greedy think only of themselves."

***Who are you willing to share
your spoon with?***

◆ Received from Marcie Eidsmoe

***When Jesus died on the cross,
he was thinking of you!***

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

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WEDNESDAYS

BIBLE STUDY
7:00 PM

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SATURDAY, MARCH 7

MEN'S BREAKFAST
8:00 AM

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SATURDAY, MARCH 14

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
9:00 AM

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LADIES LUNCHEON
12:00 NOON

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SUNDAY, MARCH 15

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

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FRIDAY, MARCH 27

ALL CHURCH GAME NIGHT
6:30 PM

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**COMMUNITY
EVENTS**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

SENIORS ON THE GO
12:00 NOON

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THURSDAY, MARCH 19

AMERICAN LEGION
6:00 PM

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

We are facing a critical time at the Onalaska First Church of God. We have seen our attendance grow and then as our sanctuary becomes full we have seen it drop back down. This has happened several times in the eighteen years that I have pastored this church. I truly believe the reason we can not grow is that there is no room at our present location in which we can grow.

We voted to begin the process of building a new Fellowship Hall but we found that we could not add to the sanctuary with the present parking capacity and needed to add at least 22 parking spaces. If we were to just build a new fellowship hall it would do nothing to add to the capacity of our sanctuary.

If we are to grow we need to have a larger sanctuary, more Sunday School rooms and space for the youth. I would also like to see our church be more involved in the community and a new facility could be used for community outreach.

In the February Church Council meeting, the Council voted to present to the congregation a motion to begin the process of considering the building of a new church at the Leonard Road property. The congregation's response to the Church Builders Plus recommendations was that there were far more positive reasons to consider the Leonard Road property over staying in our present location.

- ◆ Lack of potential growth at present location.
- ◆ There is no indebtedness at the Leonard Road property.
- ◆ It would cost less to build at Leonard Road than to purchase additional property at the present location needed for expansion.
- ◆ Possibility of selling present church to help pay for New church.

We will present this motion at the Special Meeting scheduled for March 8, 2009, following the morning service.

We encourage everyone who considers the Onalaska First Church of God as their home church to come and participate in this important meeting.

All qualified members of this Congregation shall have the right of vote in all business meetings. The qualifications are listed below.

- ◆ ***They have accepted Jesus Christ as their LORD and Personal Savior.***
- ◆ ***They shall have worshipped regularly with this congregation for a period of at least six (6) months immediately preceding any meeting at which they exercise rights of membership.***
- ◆ ***They shall have lived during this period of six months in harmony with the statement of faith of the ONALASKA FIRST CHURCH OF GOD and in harmony with the General Assembly of the Church of God, Anderson, Indiana.***
- ◆ ***They shall be eighteen (18) years of age or older.***

FORGIVENESS

One day, a man, his heart heavy with grief, was walking in the woods. As he thought about his life this day, he knew many things were not right. He thought about those who had lied about him back when he had a job.

His thoughts turned to those who had stolen his things and cheated him. He remembered family that had passed on. His mind turned to the illness he had, that no one could cure. His very soul was filled with anger, resentment, and frustration.

Standing there this day, searching for answers he could not find, knowing all else had failed him, he knelt at the base of an old oak tree to seek the one he knew would always be there. And with tears in his eyes, he prayed:

'Lord- You have done wonderful things for me in this life. You have told me to do many things for you, and I happily obeyed. Today, you have told me to forgive. I am sad, Lord, because I cannot, I don't know how. It is not fair Lord, I didn't deserve these wrongs that were done against me and I shouldn't have to forgive. As perfect as your way is Lord, this one thing I cannot do, for I don't know how to forgive. My anger is so deep Lord, I fear I may not hear you, but I pray you teach me to do the one thing I cannot do: Teach me to forgive.'

As he knelt there in the quiet shade of that old oak tree, he felt something fall onto his shoulder. He opened his eyes. Out of the corner of one eye, he saw something red on his shirt. He could not turn to see what it was



because where the oak tree had been was a large square piece of wood in the ground. He raised his head and saw two feet held to the wood with a large spike through them.

He raised his head more, and tears came to his eyes as he saw Jesus hanging on a cross. He saw spikes in His hands, a gash in His side, a torn and battered body, deep thorns sunk into His head. Finally he saw the suffering and pain on His precious face. As their eyes met, the man's tears turned to sobbing, and Jesus began to speak.

"Have you ever told a lie?" He asked?

The man answered - 'Yes,

Lord.'

'Have you ever been given too much change and kept it?'

The man answered - 'Yes, Lord.' And the man sobbed more and more.

'Have you ever taken something from work that wasn't yours?' Jesus asked?

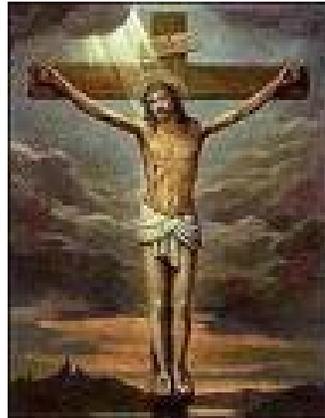
And the man answered, 'Yes, Lord.'

'Have you ever sworn, using my Father's name in vain?'

The man, crying now, answered - 'Yes, Lord.'

As Jesus asked many more times, 'Have you ever?' The man's crying became uncontrollable, for he could only answer - 'Yes, Lord'.

Then Jesus turned His head from one side to the other, and the man felt something fall on his other shoulder. He looked



and saw that it was the blood of Jesus. When he looked back up, his eyes met those of Jesus, and there was a look of love the man had never seen or known before.

Jesus said, 'I didn't deserve this either, but I forgive you.'

It may be hard to see how you're going to get through something, but when you look

back in life, you realize how true this statement is.

◆ Received from Marcie Eidsmoe

SHARING ADVANTAGE PROGRAM

If you are considering purchasing a new home or refinancing your present home you might want to consider the "**Sharing Advantage**" program that Wells Fargo Bank has to offer.

Through their "**Sharing Advantage**" program, each time someone closes a home purchase or refinances a loan with them, they will make a \$300.00 contribution to the faith-based or non-profit organization of your choice.

This is one way we can add to our building fund.

If you would be interested or would like more information, please contact the Church office or Holly Mencke at the Wells Fargo Bank (360) 740-8565.

If you would like to receive the monthly prayer guide, please let Kathleen Mulkins know. This guide will help you know how and what to pray for as we seek God's guidance for our church.

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Z



Last month's winner was Pastor Jeanne Hossler once again. I believe she was the only one to come up with the correct answer.

The story is found in the 23 chapter of 2nd Samuel. The name of the three men who went to get the water was; Adino, Eleazar and Shammah. The person they got the water for was David and the well was located in Bethlehem.

Here is this month's quiz.

*My name only appears in the
Book one time,
But because of me people like to
rhyme.
They like to sing and play the
harp,
For I was the one who gave it, its
start.*

*A candy bar is waiting for you
If you can come up with the name
that's true.
Now think real hard and as fast as
you can,
And if you're right a candy bar I'll
place in your hand.*

**AIR FORCE
RECRUITER**

The chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force decided that he would personally intervene in the recruiting crisis affecting



all of our armed services. So, he directed that a nearby Air Force base be opened and that all eligible young men and women be invited. As he and his staff were standing near a brand-new F-15 Fighter, a pair of twin brothers who looked as if they had just stepped off a Marine Corps recruiting poster walked up to them.

The chief of staff walked up to them, stuck out his hand, and introduced himself. He looked at the first young man and asked, "Son, what skills can you bring to the Air Force?"

The young man looked at him and said, "I'm a pilot!"

The general got all excited, turned to his aide, and said, "Get him in today, all the paperwork done, everything, do it!" The aide hustled the young man off.

The general looked at the second young man and asked, "What skills do you bring to the Air Force?"

The young man said, "I chop wood!"

"Son," the general replied, "we don't need wood choppers in the Air Force. What do you know how to do?"

"I chop wood!"
"Young man," huffed the general, "you are not listening to me. We don't need wood choppers; this is the 21st century!"

"Well," the young man said, "you hired my brother!"

"Of course we did," said the general. "He's a pilot!"

The young man rolled his eyes and said, "But I have to chop it before he can pile it!"

◆ James Sparks

**GETTING RID OF
THE GOOF BALLS**

Feeling it was time for a shakeup; a company hired a new CEO. The new boss was determined to rid the

company of all slackers.

On a tour of the facilities, the CEO noticed a girl just standing around and leaning against a wall. The room was full of workers and he wanted to let them know that he meant business. He asked the girl, "How much money do you make a week?"

A little surprised, the young lady looked at him and replied, "I make \$400 a week. Why?"

The CEO told him, "Wait right here." He then walked back to his office, came back in two minutes and handed the girl \$1,600 in cash and screamed, "Here's four weeks' pay, now GET OUT and don't come back."

Feeling pretty good about himself, the CEO looked around the room and asked, "Does anyone want to tell me what that goof-ball did here?"

From across the room a voice said, "Pizza delivery girl from Domino's."

◆ 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