



CHURCH OF GOD BANNER

www.onalaskachurchofgod.com



MAY, 2009

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

THE DATE

After 21 years of marriage, my wife wanted me to take another woman out to dinner and a movie. She said I love you but I know this other woman loves you and would love to spend some time with you.

The other woman that my wife wanted me to visit was my MOTHER, who has been a widow for 19 years, but the demands of my work and my three children had made it possible to visit her only occasionally. That night I called to invite her to go out for dinner and a movie.

"What's wrong, are you well," she asked? My mother is the type of woman who suspects that a late night call or a surprise invitation is a sign of bad news. "I thought that it would be pleasant to be with you," I responded, "just the two of us."

She thought about it for a moment, and then said, "I would like that very much."

That Friday after work, as I drove over to pick her up I was a

bit nervous. When I arrived at her house, I noticed that she, too, seemed to be nervous about our date. She waited in the

door with her coat on. She had curled her hair and was wearing the dress that she had worn to

celebrate her last wedding anniversary. She smiled from a face that was as radiant as an angel's.

"I told my friends that I was going to go out with my son, and they were impressed," she said, as she got into the car. "They can't wait to hear about our meeting". We went to a restaurant that, although not elegant, was very nice and cozy. My mother took my arm as if she were the First Lady. After we sat down, I had to read the menu...Large print. Half way through the entries, I lifted my eyes and saw Mom sitting there staring at me. A nostalgic smile was on her lips.

"It was I who used to have to read the menu when you were small," she said.

"Then it's time that you relax and let me return the favor," I responded.

During the dinner, we had an agreeable conversation – nothing extraordinary, but catching up on recent events of each other's life. We talked so much that we missed the movie.



As we arrived at her house later, she said, "I'll go out with you again, but only if you let me invite you." I agreed.

"How was your dinner date?" asked my wife when I got home. "Very nice, much more so than I could

have imagined," I answered.

A few days later, my mother died of a massive heart attack. It happened so suddenly that I did not get to do anything for her.

Some time later, I received an envelope with a copy of a restaurant receipt from the same place mother and I had dined. An attached note said: "I paid this bill in advance. I wasn't sure that I could be there; but nevertheless, I paid for two plates - one for you and the other for your wife. You will never know what that night meant for me. I love you, son."

At that moment, I understood the importance of saying in time: "I LOVE YOU!" and to give our loved ones the time that they deserve. Nothing in life is more important than God and your family. Give them the time they deserve, because these things cannot be put off till "some other time."

Received from James Sparks

WELCOME PASTOR ESTHER

We welcome Pastor Esther & Dale Massey and their family to our church. Pastor Esther will be involved in developing our Worship Service, working with the youth and doing visitation. She will be leading a Grief Support Group that will begin meeting in June. Pastor Esther will be available whenever Pastor Lloyd is out of town. If you are unable to reach Pastor Lloyd, you may contact her at **978-4832**, her cell number is **880-8287**.

JOY

Rev. C. Joe McKnight

Circumstances do not determine the joy that is to be found in the Christian heart. Joy, real joy, ever existing joy is the blessing and the presence of the Lord in our hearts. Circumstances do not dictate the spiritual emotions of the life dedicated to the Lord Jesus. Adversities will come. They are a factor in the learning process of growing up, in Christ. The Apostle James urged us to count it all joy under difficult situations. **James 1:2**

The Apostle Paul listed a number of circumstances which arise in life. He listed them in a series where he stated, "we are," troubled, perplexed, persecuted, cast down, "but not" distressed, not in despair, not forsaken, not destroyed. **2 Corinthians 4:8-9** These things are common in the world in which we live, for all things happen alike to all of mankind. By the abundant mercy and grace of the Lord Jesus we are destined to be more than conquerors through Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. **Romans 8:37**

The presence of the Lord in our life is the assurance of the fullness of joy. With His help and benefit we find ourselves traveling the true path of life, a life which leads to eternal life. Furthermore, the thing which mankind seeks after most often, that is pleasure of some sort or another, is to be found at His right hand. Pleasures which supersede all the pleasures of this world. A pleasure which may be found in the Lord Jesus and in none other. **Psalms 16:11** His place in the everlasting heavens is at the right hand of the Majesty on high.



Matthew 16:19

The wells of salvation are filled with the abundant waters of life eternal. Joy is the portion of all who come to draw and drink of their waters. Like the Samaritan women at the well, Jesus offers to all who will come living waters, thirst quenching waters, which spring up like an artesian well. Waters of eternal life. **John 4:14** At the time of the feast of Tabernacles, on the last day, there had been added the pouring out of waters as a memorial of the supply of water in the wilderness, from the rock. Jesus stood in Jerusalem on the last day of the feast and declared that there was water, which those coming to Him, would receive which would flow from them as rivers of living water. Thus pointing to the day when the Spirit would come upon the church. **John 7:37-39** The Feast of Tabernacles is the one which has not yet seen its fulfillment in the church age. It is significant of a true last day revival which will precede the time of the coming of Christ. It is a last day manifestation of the joy of the Lord.

ARE YOU STARTING TO FORGET?

by Alan Smith

There's a beautiful story about a little boy who couldn't wait for his new baby sister to come home from the hospital. He couldn't wait to be near her, to talk to her. But his parents didn't want him to be left alone with her. After all he was only four years old, so they wanted to supervise his visits. He kept begging to be alone with her, so one night his parents finally relented. The boy tiptoed into her room, stood next to his sister's crib and said: "Tell me about God – I'm

starting to forget."

There are times when we as adults get so caught up in the "rat race" and all of our responsibilities. Perhaps we need to go to the children around us and say, "Tell me about God — I'm starting to forget."

There are weeks when we've been dealing with irate customers and heavy traffic. We need to fellowship with the saints and worship God together because "I'm starting to forget."

There are weeks when we've had to focus on crying babies, the paying of bills and doctors' appointments. We need the reminder of the Lord's Supper to see God's love and grace because "I'm starting to forget."

There are days when we're so caught up in deadlines at work and getting the kids to soccer practice, days when we need to slow down a bit and spend time with God in prayer because "I'm starting to forget."

"Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life." (**Deuteronomy 4:9**)

Are you starting to forget? Ask someone to tell you about God once more.

This article by Alan Smith, Senior Pastor of the Helen Street Church of Christ in Fayetteville, North Carolina. You can visit his site at <http://www.TFTD-online.com>

The devil tells us the truth sometimes so that we will believe him when he tells us a lie.

Kevin Massey

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, MAY 2

MEN'S BREAKFAST
 8:00 AM

~
SATURDAY, MAY 9

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
 9:00 AM

~
 MOTHER'S DAY BANQUET
 12:00 NOON

~
SUNDAY, MAY 10

MOTHER'S DAY

~
FRIDAY, MAY 29

ALL CHURCH GAME NIGHT
BIBLE SMUGGLE
 7:00 PM

@
 KATIE NEDERLANDER'S

COMMUNITY EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

SENIORS ON THE GO
 12:00 NOON

~
THURSDAY, MAY 21

AMERICAN LEGION
 6:00 PM

PNA EVENTS

SATURDAY, MAY 2

WCG SPRING RALLY
 @
 FAIRVIEW CHURCH
 SEATTLE

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Have you suffered a loss in your life that is causing you grief? You are welcome to come and share so that you may be encouraged and receive hope from a Christian perspective. Meetings will be BEGINNING IN JUNE, on the 10th & 24th, the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Pastor Esther &

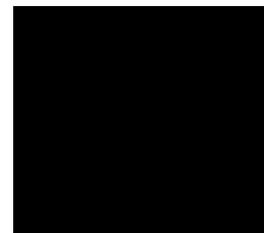


Dale Massey's 747 Deggle Road, Onalaska (long gravel driveway, just a ¼ mile from the elementary school). For more information, please call the church office at (360) 978-4161 or Pastor Esther Massey at 880-8287.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CAR WASH



&



BAKE SALE

SAT. MAY 30th

10:00 am—2:00 pm

BABY BOTTLES



Once again this year our ladies will be involved with the Care Center's Baby Bottle Boomerang project. This project helps fund the Care Center's Pregnancy Resources ministry. They provide education, support, and the hope of Jesus Christ to young girls facing an unplanned pregnancy. They offer educational programs in pre-natal care, parenting, relationships, abstinence, adoption, STS's and post-abortion recovery. They also offer counseling to the fathers

that are involved.

The bottles will be passed out on Mother's Day, May 10 and will be collected on Father's Day, June 21.

THE SPARROW AT STARBUCK'S

By John Thomas Oaks
(The song that silenced the cappuccino machine)

It was chilly in Manhattan but warm inside the Starbucks' shop on 51st Street and Broadway, just a skip up from Times Square. Early November weather in New York City holds only the slightest hint of the bitter chill of late December and January, but it's enough to send the masses crowding indoors to vie for available space and warmth.

For a musician, it's the most lucrative Starbucks' location in the world, I'm told, and consequently, the tips can be substantial if you play your tunes right. Apparently, we were striking all the right chords that night, because our basket was almost overflowing.

It was a fun, low-pressure gig - I was playing keyboard and singing backup for my friend who also added rhythm with an arsenal of percussion instruments. We mostly did pop songs from the '40s to the '90s with a few original tunes thrown in. During our emotional rendition of the classic, 'If You Don't Know Me by Now,' I noticed a lady sitting in one of the lounge chairs across from me. She was swaying to the beat and singing along.

After the tune was over, she approached me. 'I apologize for singing along on that song. Did it bother you?' she asked.

'No,' I replied. 'We love it when the audience joins in. Would you like to sing up front on the next selection?'

To my delight, she accepted my invitation.

'You choose,' I said. 'What are you in the mood to sing?'

'Well, Do you know any hymns?'

Hymns? This woman didn't know who she was dealing with. I cut my teeth on hymns. Before I was even born, I was going to church. I gave our guest singer a knowing look. 'Name one.'

'Oh, I don't know. There are so many good ones. You pick one.'

'Okay,' I replied. 'How about 'His Eye is on the Sparrow?'

My new friend was silent, her eyes averted. Then she fixed her eyes on mine again and said, 'Yeah. Let's do that one.'

She slowly nodded her head, put down her purse, straightened her jacket and faced the center of the shop. With my two-bar setup, she began to sing.

"Why should I be discouraged? Why should the shadows come?"

The audience of coffee drinkers was transfixed. Even the gurgling noises of the cappuccino machine ceased as the employees stopped what they were doing to listen. The song rose to its conclusion. "I sing because I'm happy; I sing because I'm free. For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me."

When the last note was sung, the applause crescendos to a deafening roar that would have rivaled a sold-out crowd at Carnegie Hall. Embarrassed, the woman tried to shout over the din, 'Oh, y'all go back to your coffee! I didn't come in here to do a concert! I just came in here to get somethin' to drink, just like you!' But the ovation continued. I embraced my new friend.

'You, my dear, have made my

whole year! That was beautiful!'

'Well, it's funny that you picked that particular hymn,' she said.

'Why is that?'

'Well...' she hesitated again, 'that was my daughter's favorite song.'

'Really!' I exclaimed.

'Yes,' she said, and then grabbed my hands. By this time, the applause had subsided and it was business as usual. 'She was 16. She died of a brain tumor last week.'

I said the first thing that found its way through my stunned silence. 'Are you going to be okay?'

She smiled through tear-filled eyes and squeezed my hands.

'I'm gonna be okay. I've just got to keep trusting

the Lord and singing his songs, and everything gonna be just fine.' She picked up her bag, gave me her card, and then she was gone.

Was it just a coincidence that we happened to be singing in that particular coffee shop on that particular November night? Coincidence that this wonderful lady just happened to walk into that particular shop? Coincidence that of all the hymns to choose from, I just happened to pick the very hymn that was the favorite of her daughter, who had died just the week before? I refuse to believe it.

God has been arranging encounters in human history since the beginning of time, and it's no stretch for me to imagine that he could reach into a coffee shop in midtown Manhattan and turn an ordinary gig into a revival. It was a great reminder that if we keep trusting him and singing his songs, everything gonna be okay.

◆ Received from Joe & Freda Downs



Q
U
I
Z



The first one to come up with the correct answer to last month's quiz, was, Linda Osborn. The answer is found in the ninth chapter of 2 Kings. The man who wrote the letter was Sennacherib and he wrote the letter to Hezekiah. Here is this month's quiz.

*I shot an arrow into the air
It fell to earth and I know just
where.*

*I told the lad that was with me
It's just a little further can't you
see.*

*Bad news I learned from where I
had been
And so I came to tell my hidden
friend.*

*If it was short then he could stay
But if it was long he must go
away.*

*And so I shot the arrow long
Because someone wanted to do
him wrong.
They wanted him dead I'm sad to
say*

And so my friend had to go away.

*It broke my heart to see him go
He's my dearest friend you know.
One day he'll become what I
should have been
But that's all right for he's my
friend.*

*The story you have heard me tell
I hope you know it very well
Now tell our names if you think
you can
And a candy bar will rest within
your hand.*

DOG TIRED

An older, tired-looking dog wandered into my yard. I could tell from his collar and well-fed belly that he had a home and was well taken care of.



He calmly came over to me, I gave him a few pats on his head; he then followed me into my house, slowly walked down the hall, curled up in the corner and fell asleep.

An hour later, he went to the door, and I let him out.

The next day he was back, greeted me in my yard, walked inside and resumed his spot in the hall and again slept for about an hour. This continued off and on for several weeks.

Curious I pinned a note to his collar: 'I would like to find out who the owner of this wonderful sweet dog is and ask if you are aware that almost every afternoon your dog comes to my house for a nap.'

The next day he arrived for his nap, with a different note pinned to his collar: 'He lives in a home with 6 children, 2 under the age of 3 - he's trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?'

◆ Received from Jerry Phillips

OLE HAD A CAR ACCIDENT.

In court, the trucking company's lawyer was questioning Ole. "Didn't you say, sir, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine,'" asked the lawyer."

Ole responded, "Vell, I'll tell you vat happened. I had just loaded my favorite mule, Bessie, into the..."

"I didn't ask for any details, the lawyer interrupted. Just answer the question. Did you not say, at the scene of the accident,

"I'm fine!"?

Ole said, "Vell, I had just got Bessie into the trailer and I was driving down the road..."

The lawyer interrupted again and said, "Judge, I am trying to establish the fact that, at the scene of the accident, this man told the Minnesota Highway Patrolman on the scene that he was just fine. Now several weeks after the accident he is trying to sue my client. I believe he is a fraud. Please tell him to simply answer the question."

By this time, the Judge was fairly interested in Ole's answer and said to the lawyer, "I'd like to hear what he has to say about his favorite mule, Bessie."

Ole thanked the Judge and proceeded. "Vell as I vas saying, I had just loaded Bessie,



my favorite mule, into da trailer and vas driving her down da highway ven dis huge semi-truck and trailer ran da stop sign and smacked my truck right in da side. I vas trown into one ditch and Bessie vas trown into da other. I vas hurting real bad and didn't vant to move. However, I could hear Bessie moaning and groaning. I knew she was in terrible shape just by her groans. Shortly after da accident da Minnesota Highway Patrolman came to da scene... He could hear Bessie moaning and groaning so he vent over to her. After he looked at her, and saw her fatal condition, he took out his gun and shot her right 'tween da eyes.

Then the Patrolman came across da road, gun still in hand, looked at me and said, "How are you feeling?"

"Now vat vould YOU say?"

◆ Received from James Sparks