



# CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



[www.onalaskachurchofgod.com](http://www.onalaskachurchofgod.com)

JULY, 2009

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

## SCHOOL DESKS

Back in September of 2005, on the first day of school, Martha Cothren, a social studies school teacher at Robinson High School in Little Rock, did something not to be forgotten.

On the first day of school, with the permission of the school superintendent, the principal and the building supervisor, she removed all of the desks out of her classroom.

When the first period kids entered the room they discovered that there were no desks.

'Ms. Cothren, where're our desks?'

She replied, 'You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn the right to sit at a desk.'

They thought, 'Well, maybe it's our grades..'

'No,' she said.

'Maybe it's our behavior.'

She told them, 'No, it's not even your behavior.'

And so, they came and went, the first period, second period, third period. Still no desks in the classroom. By early afternoon television news crews had started gathering in Ms. Cothren's classroom to report about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of her room.

The final period of the day came and as the puzzled students found seats on the floor of

the deskless classroom, Martha Cothren said, 'Throughout the day no one has been able to tell me just what he/she has done to earn the right to sit at the desks that are ordinarily found in this classroom. Now I am going to tell you.'

At this point, Martha Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it.

Twenty-seven (27) U.S. Veterans, all in uniforms, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. The Vets began placing the school desks in rows, and then they would walk over and stand alongside the wall. By the time the last soldier had set the final desk in place those kids started to understand, perhaps for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks had been earned.

Martha said, 'You didn't earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. Now, it's up to you to sit in them. It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens. They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education. Don't ever forget it.'



told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the back of the fence. The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence.

Over the next few weeks, as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence. Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper.

The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said, 'You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there.' A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one. Friends are very rare jewels, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share words of praise and they always want to open their hearts to us.'

Please forgive me if I have ever left a hole in your heart! Only God can repair it, but I can promise to try to never leave another.

## THE FENCE

There once was a little boy who had a bad temper. His Father gave him a bag of nails and

# ARE YOU WILLING TO CHANGE COURSE?

by Jim Liebelt

*“There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death.”—Proverbs 14:12 (NLT)*

A battleship appeared to be on a collision course with another ship one foggy evening. The battleship’s captain, radioed to the unknown ship, “Advise you change course 20 degrees to avoid collision.”



Someone on a radio replied, “Advise you change course 20 degrees to avoid

collision.” The battleship’s captain was not amused. He radioed back, “I am a ship’s captain. Change course 20 degrees, now!” Then came another reply, “I’m a seaman, second-class, and I advise you to change course 20 degrees, now!” The captain was furious, “This is a battleship! I order you to change course 20 degrees, immediately!” The seaman radioed back, “I am a lighthouse!”

Have you ever found yourself in a situation, not unlike the ship’s captain, where you just don’t want to budge on your position? Everyone is stubborn from time to time, but people who live a lifestyle of stubbornness are dangerous to their relationships and spiritual lives.

When we are overly stubborn with others we build walls that prevent relationships from growing. When those walls are high enough, they actually cause relationships to die. Relationships are based on

give and take. In successful relationships no one has their own way all of the time. Both in friendships and



in family relationships, the one who is never willing to “change course” damages those relationships.

Stubbornness in our relationship with God works much in the same way as stubbornness with friends and family. Being stubborn with God means that we really don’t want to please the Lord. We want to call our own shots and determine our own course in life. In our stubbornness, we reduce God’s role in our lives to that of a pocket genie, the “magic lamp” we rub and ask for favors when we want something for ourselves. Being stubborn with God is sin, plain and simple.

When refusing to change course we might well find ourselves, much like the battleship captain, on the verge of disaster. We may get what we want, but getting what we want can actually destroy us.

My challenge for you today, both in relationships with people and God, is that you be willing to change course if necessary, in order to build your relationships instead of tearing them down.

“Today’s HomeWord,” a daily devotional with Jim Burns. [www.homeword.com](http://www.homeword.com)

◆ Received from Joe Downs

## An Army of Two

by Jim Liebelt

*“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” — Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)*

An old lighthouse sits on the edge of the shore in Scituate, MA. At this

lighthouse a plaque memorializes what has been called “An Army of Two.” During the Revolutionary War, a British ship anchored just off shore and lowered smaller boats with British troops that headed toward the shore. Two young girls, having seen the British soldiers approaching from the lighthouse, took a drum and fife outside and played. The British troops heard the music and mistakenly assumed that the noise was coming from an American militia and quickly retreated. No one would have ever thought that two young girls could have won a decisive battle that day – all without a shot ever being fired.

If you’ve ever thought that you can’t make a difference, let this simple, true story from America’s history be an encouragement to you. Amazingly, something as simple as playing a fife and drum can make a huge difference! God has gifted you uniquely and specially and if you offer yourself to Him today – you can expect that even in some small way, He will provide you with opportunities to make a difference in someone else’s life.

How? Who knows? It may not take much. Perhaps a kind word spoken to a stranger, an e-mail to a friend, giving a hug to a family member, or helping a peer at school or work – could be just the encouragement that someone in your life needs to help them make it through a tough day.

Don’t underestimate God’s willingness to use your ordinary actions to touch the life of someone else in extraordinary ways! Today, be willing to be “An Army of One.”



◆ Received from Joe Downs

# ALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

# DIRTY LAUNDRY

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

~  
**TUESDAYS**

KID'S CLUB HAS BEEN  
 SUSPENDED UNTIL SEPTEMBER

~  
**WEDNESDAYS**

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP  
 MEET AT THE MASSEY'S  
 10:00 AM  
**JULY 8th & 22nd**

~  
 BIBLE STUDY  
 7:00 PM

~  
**SATURDAY, JULY 4**

CHURCH PICNIC & BAR-B-QUE  
 @  
 THE PARSONAGE  
 221 LEONARD ROAD  
 12:00 NOON  
 ~  
 FIRE WORKS  
 @  
 THE MASSEY'S  
 9:00 PM

~  
**SUNDAY, JULY 5th & JUNE 19th**

YOUTH MEET AT THE MASSEY'S  
 FOLLOWING COFFEE HOUR

~  
**SATURDAY, JULY 11**

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
 9:00 AM  
 ~  
 LADIES LUNCHEON  
 12:00 NOON  
 ~

**FRIDAY, JULY 17**

MOVIE NIGHT  
 @

THE MASSEY'S  
 ~  
**SATURDAY, JULY 18**

BUILDING FUND  
 DINNER & PIE AUCTION  
 5:00 PM  
 ~

Pastor and Kathleen will be attending Climb '09 on Friday and Saturday, July 24th & 25th.

**FRIDAY, JULY 31**

ALL CHURCH GAME NIGHT  
 TABLE GAMES AND SNACKS  
 FOR ALL AGES  
 6:30 PM  
 ~

**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 15**

SENIORS ON THE GO  
 12:00 NOON  
 ~

A young couple moved into a new neighborhood. The next morning while they were eating breakfast, The young woman saw her neighbor hanging the wash outside. 'That laundry is not very clean,' she said. 'She doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better laundry soap.'

Her husband looked on, but remained silent. Every time her neighbor would hang her wash



to dry, the young woman would make the same comments. About one month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband:

'Look, she has learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this.' The husband said, 'I got up early this morning and Cleaned our windows.'

And so it is with life. What we see when watching others depends on the purity of the window through which we look.

# PNA ACTIVITIES

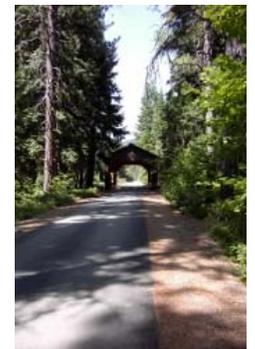
**SENIOR ADULT CAMP** July 19-21st (Sunday 3:00 PM to Tuesday noon). Speaker: Jerry Phillips. Grandchildren and other guests welcome!

The annual PNA Camp and Conference will be held this year, July 21-26 (Tuesday evening to Sunday noon), at Double K Christian Retreat Center.

**CLIMB '09** is an event for the entire family, one that provides our churches a unique opportunity for renewal, fellowship and recreation. Special attention will be given to the equipping and strengthening of church leaders.

Main Speaker: Jeff Frymire, Pasadena, CA Worship Leader: Jason Strickling, Pasco, WA.

**PNA ANNUAL MEETING**, will be held on Saturday, July 25th at 10:00 AM



## FACING THE STORMS

A pastor had been on a long flight between church conferences. The first warning of the approaching problems came when the sign on the airplane flashed on: *Fasten Your Seat Belts*. Then, after a while, a calm voice said, "We shall not be serving the beverages at this time as we are expecting a little turbulence. Please be sure your seat belt is fastened."

As the pastor looked around the aircraft, it became obvious that many of the passengers were becoming apprehensive. Later, the voice on the intercom said, "We are so sorry that we are unable to



serve the meal at this time. The turbulence is still ahead of us."

And then the storm broke....

The ominous cracks of thunder could be heard even above the roar of the engines. Lightning! lit up the darkening skies, and within moments that great plane was like a cork tossed around on a celestial ocean. One moment the airplane was lifted on terrific currents of air; the next, it dropped as if were about to crash.

The pastor confessed that he shared the discomfort and fear of those around him. He said, "As I looked around the plane, I could see that nearly all the passengers

were upset and alarmed. Some were praying. The future seemed ominous and many were wondering if they would make it through the storm.

"Then, I suddenly saw a little girl. Apparently the storm meant nothing to her. She had tucked her feet beneath her as she sat on her seat; she was reading a book and everything within her small world was calm and orderly.

"Sometimes she closed her eyes, then she would read again; then she would straighten her legs, but worry and fear were not in her world. When the plane was being buffeted by the terrible storm when it lurched this way and that, as it rose and fell with frightening severity, when all the adults were scared half to death, that marvelous child was completely composed and unafraid." The minister could hardly believe his eyes.

It was not surprising therefore, that when the plane finally reached its destination and all the passengers were hurrying to disembark, our pastor lingered to speak to the girl whom he had watched for such a long time. Having commented about the storm and the behavior of the plane, he asked why she had not been afraid.

The child replied, "Cause my Daddy's the pilot, and he's taking me home."

There are many kinds of storms that buffet us. Physical, mental, financial, domestic, and many other storms can easily and quickly darken our skies and throw our plane into apparently uncontrollable movement. We have all known such times, and let us be honest and confess, it is much easier to be at rest when our feet are on the ground than when we are being

tossed about a darkened sky.

Let us remember: Our Father is the Pilot. He is in control and taking us home. Don't worry!

◆ Received from Joe Downs

## MARY'S LAMB

*Mary! had a little Lamb,  
His fleece was white as snow.  
And everywhere that Mary went,  
The Lamb was sure to go.*

*He followed her to school each  
day,  
T'wasn't even in the rule.  
It made the children laugh and  
play,  
To have a Lamb at school.*

*And then the rules all changed  
one day,  
Illegal it became;  
To bring the Lamb of God to  
school,  
Or even speak His Name!*

*Every day got worse and worse,  
And days turned into years.  
Instead of hearing children laugh,  
We heard gun shots and tears.*

*What must we do to stop the  
crime,  
That's in our schools today?  
Let's let the Lamb come back to  
school,  
And teach our kids to pray!*

◆ Received from Marcie Eidsmoe

**John 1:29** ...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

There are two hundred and fifty-six names given in the Bible for the Lord Jesus Christ, and I suppose this was because He was infinitely beyond all that any one name could express.

*Citation:* Billy Sunday in a sermon, "Wonderful," quoted in *The Real Billy Sunday. Christianity Today*, Vol. 33, no.

Q  
U  
I  
Z



Last month's quiz was answered by several but the first one was Linda Osborn. Both Kevin Massey and Nathan Fuss were just behind Linda so they won a prize as well.

The answer is found in the 14 chapter of I Samuel verses, 49 & 50.

Here is this month's quiz.

*There are three of us,  
Our name are plain to see  
We didn't like what was happen-  
ing  
We were mad as we could be.  
What made them think they could  
do it?  
The task was just too great.  
And so we laugh and despised  
them.  
Our hearts were filled with hate.  
We wrote letters trying to stop  
them  
We sought to do them hurt.  
But they just keep right on work-  
ing  
Building and cleaning up the dirt.  
Now tell us our names,  
And the thing we tried to stop  
And a quick a candy bar is yours.  
So hurry you better hippy hop.*

**HYMN # 365**

A minister was completing a temperance sermon; with great emphasis he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river..."

With even greater emphasis he said, "And if I had all the wine in

the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river..."

And then finally, shaking his fist in the air, he said, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river..."

Sermon complete, he sat down.

The song leader stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, nearly laughing, "For our closing song, Let us sing Hymn #365, 'Shall We Gather at the River...'"

◆ Received from Esther Massey



and paper. "There are one or two extras, of course." He made a few notes and handed the paper to the dealer. Here is the final invoice:

- ◆ Basic cow: \$1,000.00
- ◆ Two-tone exterior: \$450
- ◆ Storage compartment and dispensing device: \$600
- ◆ Four spigots @ \$100 each: \$400
- ◆ Genuine cowhide upholstery: \$750
- ◆ Dual horns @ \$70.50 each: \$150
- ◆ Automatic fly-swatter: \$350
- ◆ Total: \$3,700.00

◆ Received from Jim Sparks

**PERLEY MOORE  
BUYS A TRUCK**

There was a farmer, Perley Moore, who had recently bought a truck and found that the "basic price" was only the beginning. Once the salesman had added on all the extras -- towing package, toolbox, fifth-wheel attachment, etc. -- the price was quite a bit higher.

Well, by a strange turn of fate, that same salesman stopped by Perley's farm one day to buy a cow. The dealer examined the herd,



picked out a likely specimen, and asked about the price.

"That's a one thousand dollar cow," Moore replied directly.

"That's fair enough," said the salesman. "I'll take her."

"Well, now, that's the basic price," Moore added, getting out pencil

**PRESIDENTIAL  
QUALIFICATIONS**

*By a teacher who teaches AP Government at Santa Fe High School.*

In one of Mr. Williams' classes, they were discussing the qualifications to be president of the United States. It was pretty simple - the candidate must be a natural born citizen of at least 35 years of age.

However, one girl in the class immediately started in on how unfair the requirement was to be a natural born citizen. In short, her opinion was that this requirement prevented many capable individuals from becoming president.

Mr. Williams and the class were just taking it in and letting her rant, but everyone's jaw hit the floor when she wrapped up her argument by stating, "What makes a natural born citizen any more qualified to lead this country than one born by C-section?"

**"May God save the country, for it is evident that the people will not." Millard Fillmore (1800-1874) 13th United States President**

◆ Received from Joe & Freda