



CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



www.onalaskachurchofgod.com

APRIL, 2010

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

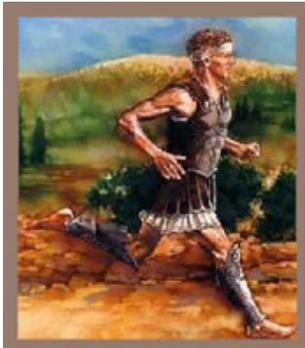
THE GREATEST REWARD

There is an old story about the Greek Marathon. Muscular, conditioned runners paced nervously near the starting line for the long-distance race. The time was near. They "shook out" their muscles, inhaled deeply, and put on their "game faces."

In the midst of it all, a young stranger took his place at the starting line. His physique was awesome. Taking no notice of the other contestants, he stared straight ahead. Two prizes would be awarded the winner of the Marathon: a magnificent bouquet of flowers and the honor of standing beside the king until the conclusion of other contests.

There seemed to be no question among the runners about who would win the prize. It is alleged that the stranger was offered money not to run. Someone else attempted to bribe him with property. Refusing the offers, he toed the mark and awaited the signal to run. When the signal was given, he was the first away. At the finish line, he was the first to cross, well ahead of the rest.

When it was all done, someone asked the young man if he thought the flowers were worth



as much as the money and property he had refused. He replied, "I did not enter the race for the flowers. I ran so that I could stand beside my king!"

Those of us who have chosen to follow Jesus Christ are "running the race" (1 **Corinthians 9:24-25**). It is a race that has a prize for those who finish (notice, not those who finish first, but all who finish). This prize, according to Paul, is an "imperishable crown." The rewards for those who enter heaven are described in scripture with a lot of terms – "many mansions", "streets of gold", "tree of life", and the list goes on and on.

All of those things are attractive. That's why God tells us about them.

But I would be willing to give up all the streets of gold and settle for a small corner of a shack as long as I can know the reward of being able to stand beside my King. That's what I look forward to more than anything else. It is the one thing that will make heaven the wonderful reward that it will be.

"...The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him." **Revelation 22:3**

Run the race with diligence. Your King is watching and waits for you at the finish line!

◆ Received from Joe Downs

WHERE IS GOD?

The book of Job asks the same question. Job did not expect to find God close at hand when his troubles multiplied. For him, prosperity signified God's presence. But, ultimately, Job had to admit that in health and prosperity, he did not know God at all. It was through suffering that Job experienced God personally.

Like Job, we prefer a God who follows our rules of fairness. From a human point of view, it seems grossly unjust that it is not ours to know "why?"

But God answers us. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways... As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8-9)

Through Job's story comes an opening in the heavens, a window for those of us who struggle with suffering. His suffering had nothing to do with his own righteousness before God. Neither was his suffering an excuse for him to forsake God's ways.

God answered Job out of the whirlwind. The Lover of Job's soul spoke words through Job's suffering that Job could not previously understand – things too wonderful, things that he did not know.

God was precisely where Job least expected to find Him. And that's where we will find Him, too.

CARROTS, EGGS & COFFEE!

A carrot, an egg, and a cup of coffee ...You will never look at a cup of coffee the same way again.

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up; she was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved, a new one arose.

Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to boil. In the first she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs, and in the last she placed ground coffee beans.. She let them sit and boil without saying a word.

In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl. Turning to her daughter, she asked, ' Tell me what you see.'

'Carrots, eggs, and coffee,' she replied.

Her mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. The mother then asked the daughter to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard boiled egg.

Finally, the mother asked the daughter to sip the coffee. The

daughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma. The daughter then asked, 'What does it mean, mother?'

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity: boiling water.

Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.

'Which are you?' she asked her daughter. 'When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?'

Think of this: Which am I? Am I the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength?

Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you. When the hour is the

darkest and trials are their greatest do you elevate yourself to another level? How do you handle adversity? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?

◆ Received from Kathleen Mulkins

THREE THINGS

Three things in life that, once gone, never come back.

**Time
Words
Opportunity**

Three things that can destroy a person

**Anger
Pride
Un-forgiveness**

Three things in life you should never lose

**Hope
Peace
Honesty**

Three things in life that are most valuable

**Love
Family and Friends
Kindness**

Three things in life that are never certain

**Fortune
Success
Dreams**

Three things that make a person

**Commitment
Sincerity
Hard work**

Three things that are consistence

**Father
Son
Holy Ghost**

◆ Received from Mary Noland

ALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

SUNDAYS

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM
 MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 AM
 EVENING WORSHIP 5:00 PM

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SATURDAYS, APRIL 3rd & 17th

YOUTH SERVICE
 6:00 PM

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SATURDAY, APRIL 3rd

ALL CHURCH BREAKFAST
 8:00 AM

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MONDAY, APRIL 5th & 19th

"PATHS OUT OF POVERTY"
 7:00 PM

~
WEDNESDAYS

BIBLE STUDY
 7:00 PM

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SATURDAY, APRIL 10th

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
 9:00 AM

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 LADIES LUNCHEON
 1:00 PM

**COMMUNITY
 EVENTS**

BEADING

Have you ever wanted to work with beads, well now's your chance. On Saturday April 3, following the All Church Breakfast there will be beading until 11:00 AM. Come and enjoy the fun.



SUNDAY, APRIL 4

SUNRISE SERVICE
 @
 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD
 7:00 AM

The men of the Community Presbyterian Church will be serving breakfast following the Sunrise Service.

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TUESDAYS

AL-ANON MEETING
 6:00 PM

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MONDAY, APRIL 12th

TEA & PRAISE
 @
 VALLEY OF BLESSINGS MINISTRIES
 10:00 AM

~
THURSDAY, APRIL 15th

AMERICAN LEGION
 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21st

SENIORS ON THE GO
 12:00 NOON

~
SATURDAY, APRIL 17th

SCRAP BOOKING
 10:00 AM

Striving to reach our community for Christ.

**PNA
 EVENTS**

Doing together what we can't do separately!

W.A.R.M.

(Western Area Regional Ministerium)

The annual **Western Area Regional Ministerium** of the Church of God will be held this year in Portland, Oregon, April 20-22. This is an excellent opportunity for inspiration, learning, fellowship and rejuvenation. More information can be obtained at: www.warmcog.org

LINNIE DOYLE CONCERT

Sunday, April 25

11:00 AM



Southern Gospel recording artist Linnie Doyle is from Boise, Idaho. As a seasoned artist of Southern Gospel music she has had the opportunity to minister throughout the Northwest and Midwest, both as a soloist and as lead singer for the trio "Melodies of Joy".

God has blessed Linnie with a heart to minister and encourage. Anyone who has had the opportunity to hear her minister will tell you that there is as much ministry between the songs as there is in the songs themselves! Her ministry will touch and uplift your hearts and spirits.

Confidence in Numbers

TGIF Today God Is First Volume 1
by Os Hillman
Tuesday, March 09 2010

"David was conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men, and he said to the Lord, 'I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, O Lord, I beg You, take away the guilt of Your servant. I have done a very foolish thing.'" 2 Samuel 24:10

It just seems to be human nature. As we grow in wealth and ability, our confidence moves from

complete trust in the Lord to trust in our resources.

King David decided one day that he needed to

know how many fighting men he had in his army. This was a grievous sin in the nation of Israel. God always made it clear to the nation that He, not their army, was their source. It was against the law of God to number the troops. David's general, Joab, knew the serious nature of such an action.

But Joab replied to the king, *"May the Lord your God multiply the troops a hundred times over, and may the eyes of my lord the king see it. But why does my lord the king want to do such a thing?"* **2 Samuel 24:3**

Joab knew that David was treading in dangerous waters when he brought up the idea to him. But David had it in his mind that this is what he was going to do. And he did. The result: God judged David for this sin by smiting the nation with a plague that resulted in the loss of 70,000

lives.

Recently, I was having lunch with a former stockbroker who lost everything in the 1987 stock crash in the United States. He made an interesting comment. "You cannot know how to fully trust the Lord in the financial area until you really have to. When I lost everything, I was forced to trust Him when I knew I could not pay my next bill unless God provided. This was the time I learned to trust God. I never had to trust God before I lost my money because I had plenty. We don't willingly enter this level of trust with God."

Ask God today to keep you from trusting in your own resources. Ask Him how to balance trust and blessing from Him this day.

♦ "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>"



I would like to share with you some of my thoughts about the future of our church. As you know we are having to level the kitchen floor in our fellowship Hall. The Iverson's Construction Company began work this week. We have received \$800.00 towards the cost and we will borrow the rest from our Building Fund. We will be having fund raisers to repay the money we borrow from the Building Fund.

We are taking beginning steps in pursuing the building of a new church on the Leonard Road property. This will be a long endeavor that will require faith and patience. There are several steps we need to take before we can begin the work itself.

First we must make sure that the County will allow us to build a church on that sight. If approved and because of the size of our property, we will be able to build a 10,000 square foot building.

We will need to find out what kind of septic system, and what kind of water (well) will be required.

The county will require adequate parking and access to and from the property. We already had access approved by the county several years ago. I am hoping that it will be approved again.

This will all have to be done before we can begin the building process. Oh, we will also have to raise the money.

As you can guess this will be very expensive. More money than we have. But we must remember, if this is God's will for us, He will provide all that we need.

For sometime I have had a dream of building this church with the thought of using it also for a Community Center. Our church is already being used by several community groups; Seniors on the Go, the American Legion, Al-Anon and Scrap Booking.

As we work with and within these different groups, it is my prayer that there will be some who when searching for a church will consider ours. We must reach out into our community to share the Gospel of Christ with those who do not attend church.

I would like to ask you to pray and seek God's will on the building of a new church and reaching our community for Christ. God is able to do things far beyond our understanding.

Q
U
I
Z



The answer to last month's quiz is found in the 19 Chapter of the 1 book of Samuel.

Michal, king Saul's daughter hid David from Saul's men when they came to take him to Saul to be killed.

Two people were able to come up with the correct answer. Pastor Jeanne Hossler of Olympia/Lacy Church and my sister Katie Jackson of Scottsdale, Arizona.

Here is the quiz for April.

*I stole this from my father
And I made him quite mad.
He came and caught up with us
Which made my husband sad.*

*He asked, "Why did you steal it?
I want it back you know.
Its very precious to me
So where it is please show.*

*But my husband didn't know
I had stolen from my father's
house*

*He said with whom you find it,
You can kill like a cat would to a
mouse.*

*So my father searched our stuff
Looking for that prize
And when he came to me
Before him I refused to rise.*

*Now tell me my name
And what I had stole
The name of my father and hus-
band
And a candy bar to you will go.*

NOT EXACTLY A BIBLICAL EXPLANATION OF LIFE

On the first day, God created the dog and said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past.



For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you

back the other ten?" So God agreed.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people, do tricks and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span."

The monkey said, "M o n k e y tricks for t w e n t y



years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?" And God agreed.

On the third day, God created the cow and said, "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have



calves and give milk to support the farmer's family.

For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years."

The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years, how about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?" And

God agreed again.

On the fourth day, God created humans and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years."

But the human said, "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back,



the ten the monkey gave back and the ten the dog gave back, that makes eighty, okay?"

"Okay," said God. "You asked for it."

So that is why for our first twenty years we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained to you.

◆ Received from Ruth Bushnell

LITTLE LARRY

A new teacher was trying to make use of her psychology courses. She started her class by saying, 'Everyone who thinks they're stupid, stand up!' After a few seconds, Little Larry stood up. The teacher said, 'Do you think you're stupid, Larry?' 'No, ma'am, but I hate to see you standing there all by yourself!

The math teacher saw that Larry wasn't paying attention in class. She called on him and said, 'Larry! What are 2 and 4 and 28 and 44?' Larry quickly replied, 'NBC, FOX, ESPN and the Cartoon Network!'