



# CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



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

SEPTEMBER, 2012

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

## **A DOG'S PURPOSE?**

*(from a 6-year-old).*

Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife Lisa, and their little boy Shane, were all very attached to Belker, and they were hoping for a miracle.

I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family we couldn't do anything for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home.

As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for six-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away.



The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's Death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives.

Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why."

Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation. It has changed the way I try and live.

He said, "People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life -- like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?" The Six-year-old continued, "Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."

- Live simply.**
- Love generously.**
- Care deeply.**
- Speak kindly.**

Remember, if a dog was the teacher you would learn things like:

- ◇ **When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.**

- ◇ **Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.**
- ◇ **Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure Ecstasy.**
- ◇ **Take naps.**
- ◇ **Stretch before rising.**
- ◇ **Run, romp, and play daily.**
- ◇ **Thrive on attention and let people touch you.**
- ◇ **Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.**
- ◇ **On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.**
- ◇ **On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.**
- ◇ **When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.**
- ◇ **Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.**
- ◇ **Be loyal.**
- ◇ **Never pretend to be something you're not.**
- ◇ **If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.**
- ◇ **When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.**
- ◇ **ENJOY EVERY MOMENT OF EVERY DAY!**



## OPEN EYES

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him."

I have read how, when William Montague Dyke was a child, he was blinded in an accident, but he never allowed this handicap to deter him. He graduated with high honors from an English university and, while a student,



fell in love with the daughter of a high-ranking British naval officer whom he was to marry.

Before the wedding he had an eye operation in the hopes that it would restore his eyesight. However, he didn't want the bandages removed from his eyes until his wedding day when he stood before his bride to be. If the surgery failed, he would remain blind for the rest of his life. If successful, the person he wanted to see first was to be his bride.

The wedding day arrived. The dignitaries and guests waited in anticipation as the organ played the wedding march and the bride, accompanied by her father and the groom's surgeon, slowly walked the aisle to the altar. As William's sweetheart stood before him, the surgeon took a pair of scissors from his pocket and removed the bandages.

The entire party and all the guests held their breath for a brief moment until they heard the words of William which echoed throughout the cathedral as he said to his soon-to-

be bride, "You're more beautiful than I ever imagined!"<sup>2</sup>

In one sense this gives us a faint glimpse as to what it will be like when we get to heaven and stand face to face with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. When we see him in all his majestic beauty—the God of all creation—no words this side of heaven could ever describe, nor any imagination ever perceive, what this experience will be like.

As a hymn we used to sing with great enthusiasm in my childhood days expressed it, "When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be. When we all see Jesus, we'll sing and shout the victory!"

Just make sure that your name is written in God's book of life and that you, too, are on your way to heaven.

◇ *Received from James Sparks*

## THE PLEASURE OF AN ICY CARESS

*Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.*

**Ephesians 5:14 (KJV)**

The man huddled on the cabin floor was slowly freezing to death. It was high in the Rockies in southwestern Alberta, and outside a blizzard raged. John Elliott had logged miles that day through the deep snows of the mountain passes. As he

checked for avalanches and as dusk and exhaustion overcame him he had decided to "hole-up for the night."

He made it wearily to his cabin but somewhat dazed with fatigue, he did not light a fire or remove his wet clothing. As the blizzard blasted through the cracks in the old cabin walls, the sleeping forest ranger sank into oblivion, paralyzed by the pleasure of the storm's icy caress.

Suddenly, however, his dog sprang into action, and with unrelenting whines, finally managed to rouse his near-comatose friend. The dog was John's constant companion, a St. Bernard, one of a long line of dogs famous for their heroics in times of crisis.

"If that dog hadn't been with me, I'd be dead today," John Elliott says. "When you're freezing to death you actually feel warm all over, and don't wake up because it feels too good."<sup>2</sup>

Life can be like that too. Millions of people, whose lives are filled with the pleasures and occupied with the pursuits of the world, are lulled to sleep spiritually, warm and cozy in their complacency, oblivious to the fact that they are heading pell-mell towards a lost eternity without God and without hope.\*

Suggested prayer: "Dear God, please use me to help awaken those who are spiritually asleep and unaware that they are on their way to a lost eternity without you. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. Gratefully, in Jesus' name, amen."

# ONALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

EARLY WORSHIP 8:15 AM  
 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM  
 MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 AM  
 SUNDAY EVENING 5:00 PM

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**MONDAYS**

LADIES BIBLE STUDY  
 2:00 PM

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**TUESDAYS**

AL-ANON MEETING  
 6:00 PM

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**WEDNESDAYS**

SOUP & SANDWICHES  
 6:00 PM

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 BIBLE STUDY  
 6:30 PM

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**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th**

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
 9:00 AM

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 LADIES LUNCHEON  
 12:00 PM

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**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th**

MEN'S BREAKFAST  
 AT  
 KIMBERLY ELLEN'S  
 8:00 AM

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**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th**

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

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**ANNUAL CHURCH  
 BUSINESS MEETING**

Our Annual Church Business Meeting will be held on **Sunday, October 14** following the 11 AM Worship Service. We will be

electing church officers, setting the budget for the coming year and sharing our thoughts and dreams for our church.



Everyone is invited to attend and if you are 18 years of age and over, have accepted Jesus as your Savior, and have been attending the church for the passed six month, you are eligible to vote in this meeting.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 19th**

SENIORS ON THE GO  
 12:00 NOON

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**THURSDAY, SEPT. 20th**

AMERICAN LEGION  
 @ THE ELEMENTRY SCHOOL  
 6:00 P.M.

## PNA EVENTS



**SEPTEMBER 14th & 15th**

**WOMEN'S RETREAT**

Our regional Christian Women Connection is holding their annual fall retreat, September 14-15, at Double K Christian Retreat Center.

## NOTE IMPORTANT CHANGES

Starting the first Sunday in September, September 2nd the early morning service will begin at 8:15 A.M. instead of 8:00 A.M. This will help elevate the long period of time between the end of the early service and the beginning of Sunday School.

Also on September 9th we will resume our Sunday Evening service. It will begin at 5:00 P.M. and be held in the Sanctuary.



## POTATO CHIPS

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with a bag of potato chips and a six-pack of root beer and started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old man. He was sitting in the park, just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and

opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old man looked hungry, so he offered him some chips. He gratefully accepted it and smiled at him.

His smile was so pretty that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer. Again, he smiled at him. The boy was delighted!

They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As twilight approached, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave; but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old man, and gave him a hug. He gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was sur-

prised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? He's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked,

"Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied "I ate potato chips and drank root

beer in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime! Embrace all equally!

Have lunch with God...bring chips.

God still sits on the throne. You may be going through a tough time right now but God is getting ready to bless you in a way that only He can, if you will let Him.



## PART OF THE FAMILY

*For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.* **Romans 12:4-5**

Sometimes people treat churches like they treat restaurants. They take on a consumer mentality. I want to go to this restaurant. Oh, we went there two weeks ago. Let's go to this other one. . . .



But the church is not a restaurant. The church is a family, and you need to be a part of the family.

You also need to engage. Maybe one of the reasons some people feel as though they are not getting enough out of church is because they attend intermittently and don't commit themselves. But if they would settle in and become a part of what God is doing, it would change for them.

If you have been attending a church for more than a couple of years, then you ought to be involved in a ministry of some kind. You may not be called to preach, but there are lots of other things to do. There is something for everyone. The Bible tells us, "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them . . ." **Romans 12:5-6**

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The first three people to come up with the correct answer to last month's quiz was Kathleen Mulkins, Bernice Lax, and Sarah Frase. The answer is found in the sixth chapter of 2 Kings, verses 1-7. The Prophet Elijah cause the iron ax to swim. I finally stumped my sister Katie Jackson.

Here is this month's quiz.

*The die is cast and I have failed  
I preached the truth and ended in jail.  
I warned them of the coming day  
When God would take them all away.  
Yet at me they laughed and scorned  
I wish that I had never been born.  
I tried my best to stay up beat  
But it was hard with shackles on my feet.  
They told me that they would obey if I told truth  
But I'm afraid it was just a ruse  
They put me in chains and took me away  
To a far away land where I had to stay.  
Now tell me my name its in the Book  
And the name of the land to which I was took.  
And if you're right I'm glad to say  
A candy bar will come your way.*

**SHERLOCK HOLMES**

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson go on a camping trip. After a good dinner and a bottle of wine, they retire for the night, and go to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes wakes up and nudges his faithful friend. "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see."

"I see millions and millions of stars, Holmes" replies Watson.

"And what do you deduce from that?"

Watson ponders for a minute. "Well..."

Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies



and potentially billions of planets.

Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo.

Homologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three.

Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow.

Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful, and that we are a small and insignificant part of the universe. But what does it tell you, Holmes?"

Holmes is silent for a moment. "Watson, you idiot!" he says. "Someone has stolen our tent!"

◇ Received from John Lax

**NEVER ASSUME**

His request approved, the CNN News photographer quickly used a cell phone to call the local airport to charter a flight.

He was told a twin-engine plane would be waiting for him at the airport.



Arriving at the airfield, he spotted a plane warming

up outside a hanger.

He jumped in with his bag, slammed the door shut, and shouted, 'Let's go'.

The pilot taxied out, swung the plane into the wind and took off.

Once in the air, the photographer instructed the pilot, 'Fly over the valley and make low passes so I



can take pictures of the fires on the hillsides.'

'Why?' asked the pilot. 'Because I'm a photographer for CNN', he responded, 'and I need to get some close up shots.'

The pilot was strangely silent for a moment, finally he stammered, 'So, what you're telling me, is . . . You're NOT my flight instructor?'

◇ Received from Jim Sparks