



# CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



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

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

## PLANTING SEED

A successful business man was growing old and knew it was time to choose a successor to take over the business. Instead of choosing one of his Directors or his children, he decided to do something different. He called all the young executives in his company together.

He said, "It is time for me to step down and choose the next CEO. I have decided to choose one of you. "The young executives were Shocked, but the boss continued. "I am going to give each one of you a SEED today - one very special SEED. I want you to plant the seed, water it, and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from the seed I have given you. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next CEO."

One man, named Jim, was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly, told his wife the story. She helped him get a pot, soil and compost and he planted the seed. Every day, he would water it and watch to see if it had grown. After about three weeks, some of the other executives began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow.

Jim kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew, three weeks, four weeks, five weeks went by, still nothing.

By now, others were talking about their plants, but Jim didn't have a plant and he felt like a failure.

Six months went by -- still nothing in Jim's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed.

Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing Jim didn't say anything to his colleagues, however, he just kept watering and ferti-

lizing the soil - he so wanted the seed to grow.

A year finally went by and all the young executives of the company brought their plants to the CEO for inspection.

Jim told his wife that he wasn't going to take an empty pot. But she asked him to be honest about what happened. Jim felt sick to his stomach, it was going to be the most embarrassing moment of his life, but he knew his wife was right. He took his empty pot to the board room.

When Jim arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other executives. They were beautiful - in all shapes and sizes. Jim put his empty pot on the floor and many of his colleagues laughed, a few felt sorry for him!

When the CEO arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted his young executives.

Jim just tried to hide in the back. "My, what great plants, trees and flowers you have grown," said the CEO. "Today one of you will be appointed the next CEO!"

All of a sudden, the CEO spotted Jim at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered the Financial Director to bring him to the front. Jim was terrified. He thought, "The CEO knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me fired!"



When Jim got to the front, the CEO asked him what had happened to his seed, Jim told him the story.

The CEO asked everyone to sit down except Jim. He looked at Jim, and then announced to the young executives, "This is your next Chief Executive Officer! His name is Jim!"

Jim couldn't believe it. Jim couldn't even grow his seed.

"How could he be the new CEO?" the others said.

Then the CEO said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone in this room a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds; they were dead - it was not possible for them to grow.

All of you, except Jim, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. Jim was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new Chief Executive Officer!"

- \* If you plant honesty, you will reap trust
- \* If you plant goodness, you will reap friends
- \* If you plant humility, you will reap greatness
- \* If you plant consideration, you will reap perspective
- \* If you plant perseverance, you will reap contentment
- \* If you plant hard work, you will reap success
- \* If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation

So, be careful what you plant now; it will determine what you will reap later.

◇ Received from Jim Sparks

## TO KNOW THE HEART OF THE PILOT

Three passengers share a row of seats in an airplane. As the plane is taxiing for takeoff, their conversation turns to the topic of the airplane pilot. Stunningly, passenger "A" doesn't believe one exists. "No one flies the plane.

We are guided by a computer system in the terminal. This



plane is an occupied drone. Why should I believe otherwise? The cockpit door is closed. Who can know? There is no pilot."

Passenger "B" disagrees. "Oh, there is a pilot. Someone sits at the controls of the plane. But, once we take off, he takes a nap. He gets the plane in the air and then goes to sleep."

The third passenger is shocked by what she hears. "You don't know what you are talking about. First, there is a pilot. Second, the pilot is alert, competent and kind. I know; he is my husband. He is seasoned and sensitive and has every intention of a successful



flight. We are in good hands."

Three passengers, three opinions: A plane with no pilot, a plane with a disengaged pilot, and a plane with a seasoned and concerned pilot.

Fast forward a few minutes. Turbulence shakes the plane like popcorn in a paper bag.

Will the three passengers experience the flight in the same way? Of the three travelers, which is most prone to stay calm?

Nothing is more important than the right view of God. Nothing. I've seen the wealthy and highly educated crumple like cowards at the face of death. I've seen the simple and humble take their final breath with a smile and a song. The difference? They knew the Pilot.

You need to know the heart of the pilot. That is why the story of Jesus is in the Bible. He is the only picture of God ever taken. To know Jesus, is to know God. To know God is to know: this flight gets bumpy, but the Pilot? He knows how to get us home.

## OUR NEEDS

*Dr. Charles Stanley*

**Philippians 4:19 (NLT)** *And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.*

Jim saved for a long time to take an Alaskan cruise. At last he was on board with two carefully packed suitcases. The first evening, when he heard "Dinner is served" announced over the loudspeaker, he took peanut butter crackers from his suitcase and sat at the table in his small cabin. Every day at mealtime, he repeated the ritual. It wasn't that Jim didn't like the ship's tasty banquets.

He simply didn't know that his



meals were included in the price of the ticket. For two weeks he enjoyed beautiful scenery off the decks but ate dry, stale food in his cabin.

This sad story is a metaphor for how some believers live the Christian life. God has promised to meet every need of His children—His riches are included in the price Christ paid for their salvation (Eph. 1:18). Yet many folks are trying to live out of their own resources. They don't know that the wealth of God's love, power, and provision is on their menu.

A believer's relationship with the Lord is one of complete unity. Jesus is our life. His Spirit lives through us. Therefore, everything that is available to Him is also available to the brothers and sisters in Christ—all power, strength, and endurance, as well as whatever is required to fulfill physical and emotional needs.

Jim didn't know he had the right to satisfy his hunger in an extravagant way. Learn from this exaggerated example. Read your Bible to learn what riches you are entitled to through faith. God offers believers everything required for living well and wisely. Trust Him for all your needs.

# ALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

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

**MONDAYS**

LADIES BIBLE STUDY  
 2:00 PM

**TUESDAYS**

AL-ANON MEETING  
 6:00 PM

**WEDNESDAYS**

SOUP & SANDWICHES  
 6:00 PM

BIBLE STUDY  
 6:30 PM

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13th**

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

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
 9:30 AM

LADIES LUNCHEON  
 12:00 PM

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14th**

ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS  
 MEETING  
 FOLLOWING THE 11:00 AM  
 WORSHIP SERVICE

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21st**

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31**

HARVEST FESTIVAL  
 5:00 PM

**COMMUNITY  
 EVENTS**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER  
 17th**

SENIORS ON THE GO  
 12:00 NOON

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18th**

AMERICAN LEGION  
 6:00 P.M.

**PNA EVENTS**

PASTOR'S RETREAT  
 OCTOBER 14th—16th  
 @  
 LEAVENWORTH

**THE ELEVATOR**

A fifteen year old backwoods boy and his father were in a mall for the first time. They were amazed by almost everything they saw, but especially by two shiny, silver walls that could move apart and then slide back together again.

The boy asked, 'What is this Father?'

The father (never having seen an elevator) responded, "Son, I have never seen anything like this in my life, I don't know what it is."

While the boy and his father were watching with amazement, a fat old lady in a wheel chair moved up to the moving walls and pressed a button. The walls opened, and the lady rolled between them into a small room. The walls closed and the boy and his father watched the small numbers above the walls light up sequentially.

They continued to watch until it reached the last number... and then the numbers began to light in the reverse order. Finally the walls opened up again and a gorgeous 24-year-old blond stepped out.

The father, not taking his eyes off the young woman, said quietly to his son, "Go get your Mother."

**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.

We are asking that those who wish would bring sandwiches or finger food.

## TAKING RISKS

*"The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it."*

**1 Thessalonians 5:24 (NIV)**

How true it is, as someone (with tongue-in-cheek) said, "Blessed be he who aimeth at nothing for he shall surely hit it!" Or as another said, "Better to aim at the clouds and hit the tree tops than to aim at the tree tops and hit the ground."

To have meaningful goals in life is to risk failure. Not to have any goals may keep one feeling safe and comfortable, but it is to guarantee failure.



"Equally comfortable," writes Peter Wagner, "is to define your goals in terms of what you happen to be doing at any given time. If you shoot first, then draw the target around the bullet hole, you'll never miss the bull's eye. If someone looks later, he might even call you a good marksman." Then you can brag about your accomplishments!

But this is not success. It is allowing life to shape you rather than you shaping your life and deciding how you want to invest it.

True success is to discover what God's purpose for your life is and then give life everything you've got to achieve that purpose.

Whatever that is, it's not failure that is a crime, but to have such a low aim that there is no chance of failure. Or, as somebody else put it, "Not to have a goal is more to be feared than not reaching it." If you tried and did your best, even if you failed to achieve all of your goal, you are already a success. All God requires is that we do our best.

Remember, however, if your goals are in harmony with God's purpose for you, he has already equipped you with the wherewithal to be able to achieve them. It's up to us to get well trained and learn how to effectively use these abilities. So, don't waste your life. Invest it in a worthwhile God-given life purpose—a noble cause into which you can put your best efforts and be excited about it.

Suggested prayer: "Dear God, please give me the desire to find and the insight to discover my God-given life purpose and goals and, with your help, the courage and determination to pursue and reach them, and do so for your glory. May they always be in harmony with your will and be a part of what you are doing in the world today. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. Gratefully, in Jesus' name, amen."

## SENIORS GOLF

Beverly is 90 years old. She's played golf every day since her retirement 25 years ago. One day she arrives home looking sad.

"That's it," she tells her hus-



band, Gus, "I'm giving up golf. My eyesight so bad, once I hit the ball I can't see where it goes."

Her husband makes her a cup of tea, and says, "Why don't you take me with you and give it one more try."

"That's no good" sighs Beverly, "you're a hundred and three. You can't help."

"I may be a hundred and three", says Gus, "but my eyesight is perfect."

So the next day Beverly and Gus head for the golf course.

Beverly tees up, takes a mighty swing, and squints down the fairway. She turns to Gus and asks, "Did you see the ball?"

"Of course I did!" Gus said, "I've got perfect eyesight".

"Where did it go?" Beverly asks.

"I don't remember."

◇ Received from Joe Downs

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Last month I goofed and my sister Katie from Scottsdale, Arizona was the first to let me know.

The answer to August quiz was King Asa. His story is found in the 14 and 16 chapters of 2 Chronicles.

The quiz about the ax head was in the July issue. And all this time you all thought I was perfect. Sorry about that.

The answer to September's quiz is Jeremiah and he was taken into Egypt by his own people who refused to obey God's Word. The answer is found in the 43 chapter of Jeremiah.

Here is this month's quiz.

He was sick and laid in bed,  
He didn't know if He would live  
or be dead.

The man of God just came to  
town

He sent to the prophet the an-  
swer to be found.

Will he live or will he die  
That is the message that I  
cried.

The sickness he said was not to  
death  
Yet he would soon take his last  
breath.

I told him what the prophet  
said  
His sickness would not leave

him dead.  
The next morning according to  
the prophet's cry  
I made sure that my king would  
die.

Now tell my name and my king's  
name too.

The name of the prophet, it up  
to you.

And if you get it right today,  
A candy bar will come your  
way.

### BRAN FLAKES

Tony and Mary were 85 years old and had been married for sixty years. Though they were far from rich, they managed to get



by be-  
c a u s e  
they care-  
f u l l y  
watched  
their pen-  
nies. Though not young, they were both in very good health, largely due to Mary's insistence on healthy foods and exercise for the last decade.

One day, their good health didn't help when they went on yet another holiday vacation and their plane crashed, sending them off to Heaven.

They reached the pearly gates, and St. Peter escorted them inside. He took them to a beautiful mansion, furnished in gold and fine silks, with a fully stocked kitchen and a waterfall in the master bath. A maid could be seen hanging their favorite clothes in the closet. They gasped in astonishment when he said, 'Welcome to Heaven. This will be your home now.'

Tony asked Peter how much all this was going to cost. 'Why,

nothing,' Peter replied, 'remember, this is your reward in Heaven.'

Tony looked out the window and right there he saw a championship golf course, finer and more beautiful than any ever built on Earth.

'What are the greens fees?' grumbled Tony.

'This is heaven,' St. Peter replied. 'You can play for free, every day.'

Next they went to the clubhouse and saw the lavish buffet lunch.

'Don't even ask,' said St. Peter to Tony. This is Heaven, it is all free for you to enjoy.'

Tony looked around and nervously asked Mary 'Well, where are the low fat and low cholesterol foods and the decaffeinated tea?'

'That's the best part,' St. Peter replied. 'You can eat and drink as much as you like and you will never get fat or sick. This is Heaven!'

'No gym to work out at?' said Tony

'Not unless you want to,' was the answer.

'No testing my sugar or blood pressure or...'

'Never again'

Tony glared at Mary and said, 'You and your Bran Flakes. We could have been here ten years ago!'

◇ Received from James Sparks

