



CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



www.onalaskachurchofgod.com

MARCH, 2013

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

AMANDA A TRUE FIRE DOG

During an early morning response to a house fire, firefighters were amazed... A Mother dog risked her life to save her puppies from the fire surrounding the burning house... The Mother dog, Amanda, raced back and forth between the house, putting her 10 day old puppies in the safest place she could find - a Fire Truck! ...

As an onlooker photographed it with his cell phone after she already had a few in one of the truck's equipment compartments. She didn't stop racing back into the smoke and fire until all of her puppies were safely away from the fire. The firemen on scene could not believe their eyes. Most people have never seen a dog this smart or this brave! Bringing each one out, six trips into the fire and no one could stop her.

All the firemen could do was to try to keep a little water spray on



her to keep from singing as she kept making trips running through the open door. You can see some of the singed hair on

her back end, forehead and lower legs. After rescuing all of her pups from the blaze, Amanda sat down next to them to



nurse, protecting them with her body. Onlookers called an emergency veterinary service, and she and her pups were rushed to the hospital. Aside from one puppy being treated for serious burns, the entire family is alive and well! Thanks to the bravery of Amanda! What a heroic mother! How Great!! !

◇ Received from Jim Sparks

TOO BUSY FOR CHURCH?

I am a companion of all who fear You, and of those who keep Your precepts. - (Psalm 119:63)

I believe that a Christian's desire for fellowship is, in a way, a barometer of his or her love for God. The more we love God, the more we will love to be in the church, a part of the church, loving the church. The less we love God, the

less we will want to be around other Christians.

Some people may say, "Yea, but I am so over the church. The church is so critical and judgmental. It is so full of hypocrites." To them I would say, "Well, then, come on. There is always room for one more."

I am not excusing hypocrisy. The church has its flaws because it is made up of people like me and people like you. However, Jesus started the church. He loves the church. And He died for the church.

To me, when there is a lack of fellowship with other believers, it is a sure sign that backsliding is about to begin. The Christian life is one of constant growth. We are either moving forward or moving backward. It is progression or regression. There is no standing still. So if you are suddenly withdrawing from church, backing off from your study of the Word of God, and have a pretty much nonexistent prayer life, then you are starting to backslide, whether you want to admit it or not.

You may not be overtly sinning yet, but you are already setting the stage for it. Backsliding always begins with relaxing your grip on that which you need before you take hold of that which will destroy you. So when someone says, "I am just too busy for church," or "I don't have time," or "There are other things," then that to me is an indication that something is wrong spiritually.



AFTERNOON WITH THE MASTER

Mary Warner

*A prodigal was wandering on
a lonely afternoon,
Having squandered all his riches
on a life but fit for doom,*

*Stopping on a park bench for a
short reprieve,
His life stretched before him filled
with loss and grief,*

*Thoughts of home consumed his
mind, tears ran down his face,
Did anyone know his heart in this
lonely place?*

*The last thoughts of his father filled
his troubled mind,
How he wished somehow now
that he could turn back time,*

*When you wallow with the pigs
and live among the swine,
Living with moral bankruptcy and
rejecting the divine,*

*Guilt can be pushed away but
hunger takes the front seat,
And dreams of home and loved
ones makes that longing sweet,*

*Even the servants were treated
well in those sacred halls,
Alone and dejected he heard the
Master's calls,*

*Loose women and drunken stu-
pors could not dull the ache,
No matter how hard the journey
was it was one he had to make,*

*So sitting on that park bench that
lonely afternoon,
The prodigal prayed and his pray-
ers were answered soon,*

*The Master came to sit with him
and his guilt he could not bear,
Conviction washed over him in
waves with His Master there,*

*"Let it go my
son", the
Master's
words were
so sweet,
"Give it up"
Jesus said,
the prodigal
crumpled at
His feet,*



*"Come home my son come
home", the door is open wide,
"Come home my son come
home", where peace and grace
abide,*

*Years of debauchery rolled off
his back in sweet release,
And tears came in buckets
along with a tender peace,*

*"Come home my son come
home", the Master drew him in,
Salvation was the solution for the
squandered years of sin,*

*You can go home again no
matter how far you may roam,
The Master waits faithfully and
calls every prodigal home.*

GOD'S CAKE

Sometimes we wonder, 'What did I do to deserve this?' or 'Why did God have to do this to me?' Here is a wonderful explanation!

A daughter is telling her Mother how everything is going wrong, she's failing algebra, her boyfriend broke up with her and her best friend is moving away. Meanwhile, her mother is baking a cake and asks her daughter if she would like a snack, and the daughter says, 'Absolutely Mom, I love your cake.'

'Here, have some cooking oil,' her Mother offers. 'Yuck' says her daughter. 'How about a couple raw eggs?'

'Gross, Mom!'

'Would you like some flour

then? Or maybe baking soda?'

'Mom, those are all yucky!'

To which the mother replies: 'Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves. But when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake!'

God works the same way. Many times we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times. But God knows that when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good! We just have to trust Him and, eventually, they will all make something wonderful!

◇ Received from Mary Noland

WHAT'S INSIDE YOUR EASTER EGG?

Several years ago when my brother, Stan was 7 years old, he was on an Easter Egg Hunt. Now, inside of each egg there were many prizes; candy, coins and dollar bills. Several kids found dollar bills and Stan felt cheated because he only had a silver dollar. He immediately wanted to change up for a dollar bill. He didn't know the value of a silver dollar.

Do you know the value of what you are holding? Do you want to change up? Many times we do not know the great value that we are holding onto. It may not be a silver dollar but it may be something more precious than silver and better than Gold. Know your values... you may want to keep them.



ONALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

**MORNING WORSHIP 8:15 AM
& 11:00 AM**

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM

MONDAYS

LADIES BIBLE STUDY
2:00 PM

WEDNESDAYS

SOUP & SANDWICHES
6:00 PM

BIBLE STUDY
6:30 PM

TUESDAY, MARCH 5th

LADIES LUNCHEON
12:00 NOON

SATURDAY, MARCH 9th

MEN'S BREAKFAST
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
8:00 AM

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
9:30 AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 17th

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TUESDAYS

AL-ANON MEETING
6:00 PM

SATURDAY, MARCH 2nd

SCRAP BOOKING
10:00 AM

MONDAY, MARCH 11th

TEA & PRAISE
@
ONALASKA FIRST CHURCH OF GOD
10:00 AM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20th

SENIORS ON THE GO
12:00 NOON

THURSDAY, MARCH 21st

AMERICAN LEGION
6:00 PM

THEN WHAT?

An older man was speaking to a young law student about his future plans and asked what he wanted to do once he graduated.

The young man said, "Well, I would like to get a job with a good firm, and I would like to start making some money."

The older man said, "All right. Sounds good. Then what?"

"Well, then I would like to get married," he said. "I would like to have some children, put my kids in good schools, and have enough money to eventually get a second home."

"Okay. Then what?"

"Well, then after I have worked for a while, maybe I could come

to a point where I could retire. Hopefully my health will be good, and my wife and I could travel around the world."

"All right. Then what?"

"Well, I guess just pass my money on to my children, hoping they will have as comfortable of a life as I had."

"Then what?"

"Well," the young man said, "I guess I will die."

And the older man said, "Yes. Then what?"

Then what? Then is eternity. And far too often, we think of this life as being everything, and we don't give any thought to the next life. But in reality, this is the before life. Then comes the afterlife. This is sort of like the warm-up act. There is more to come. So it is very important that we know why we are here on this earth, because if we don't, we can very easily waste our lives.

Hebrews 9:27 (NLT) *And just as it is destined that each person dies only once and after that comes judgment,*

EMBRACED BY GOD

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

11:00 AM



Please join us as award-winning singer, Marcia Whitehead, presents Embraced by God, a special multi-media worship experience that chronicles her pursuit of continuing a professional musical career, including unexpected turns as her dream detours, her desires are re-shaped and re-

defined, and as she learns to lean into and accept the embrace of God, resulting in a transformed heart and a new direction in life she could never have imagined.

(A love offering will be received for Ms. Whitehead)

A WAR MEMORIAL

A boy went to war in 1914 he left his bike chained to a small tree. He never made it home, and his family left the bike by the tree in his memory. This is that tree today.

The tree is on Vashon Island, which is between Tacoma and Seattle, Washington



THE FUNERAL MARCH

Lawrence Anthony, a legend in South Africa and author of 3 books including the bestseller *The Elephant Whisperer*, bravely rescued wildlife and rehabilitated elephants all over the globe from



human atrocities, including the courageous rescue of Baghdad Zoo animals during US invasion in 2003.

On March 7, 2012 Lawrence Anthony died. He is remembered and missed by his wife, 2 sons, 2 grandsons and numerous elephants.

Two days after his passing, the wild elephants showed up at his

home led by two large matriarchs.

Separate wild herds arrived in droves to say goodbye to their beloved man-friend. A total of 31 elephants had patiently walked over 12 miles to get to his South African House.

Witnessing this spectacle, humans were obviously in awe not only because of the supreme intelligence and precise timing that these elephants sensed about Lawrence's passing, but also because of the profound memory and emotion the beloved animals evoked in such an organized way: Walking slowly - for days - Making their way in a solemn one-by-one queue from their habitat to his house.

So, how after Anthony's death, did the reserve's elephants — grazing miles away in distant parts of the park — know? "A good man died suddenly," says Rabbi Leila Gal Berner, Ph.D., "and from miles and miles away, two herds of elephants, sensing that they had lost a beloved human friend, moved in a solemn, almost 'funereal' procession to make a call on the bereaved family at the deceased man's home."

"If there ever were a time, when we can truly sense the wondrous 'interconnectedness of all beings,' it is when we reflect on the elephants of Thula Thula. A man's heart's stops, and hundreds of elephants' hearts are grieving. This man's oh-so-abundantly loving heart offered healing to these elephants, and now, they came to pay loving

homage to their friend."

Lawrence's wife, Françoise, was especially touched, knowing that the elephants had not been to his house prior to that day for well over 3 years! But yet they knew where they were going. The elephants obviously wanted to pay their deep respects, honoring their friend who'd saved their lives - so much respect that they stayed for 2 days 2 nights without eating anything.

Then one morning, they left, making their long journey back.

CHURCH STEEPLES

During World War II American planes flew from British airbases to



missions over Germany. Finding their way home to base was often difficult because of horrible weather conditions. Churches



with tall, stately spires dotted the English landscape. On overcast days the American pilots used the churches to guide them home. As planes descended through a gray sky the churches told the pilots if they were on the right course.

Q
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Z



I am sorry once again. I can't remember who all came up with the correct answer to last month's quiz. I know my sister and brother did and I think Kathleen also had the right answer but other than that I just can't remember. Please forgive me.

The answer was; **David**, who **King Saul** wanted dead and David's wife **Michal** who helped David escape. The story is found in the 19 chapter of 1 Samuel.

Here is this month's quiz.

*I couldn't sleep a wink that night
My heart was filled with awful
fright.*

*I had to do what I had done
But I can tell you it was no fun.*

*I tossed and turned all night long
What I had done it was so wrong.
They forced me to do just what I
did.*

*My only hope was that he would
live.*

*I arose at the crack of dawn
And ran to where he had gone.
I called his name with a hope and
prayer
To see if he was still there.*

*And then I heard his strong loud
voice
Don't worry I made the right
choice.*

*I'm safe and sound as I can be
Thanks a lot for worry about me.*

*Now there are two names you
must know
Who am I and whose the other
soul*

*And if you answer really quick
A candy bar will be yours if he*

doesn't forget.

SMART LAD

My nursing colleague was preparing an intravenous line for a 15-year old male patient. The bedside phone rang, and the boy's mother reached over to pick it up. After talking for a few minutes, the mother



held the phone aside, turned to her son and said, "Your dad is asking if you've got any cute nurses."

The boy gazed at the nurse, who had the needle poised above his arm, ready for insertion. "Tell him," he replied, "they're gorgeous."

◇ Received from Jim Sparks

The Black Canyon Biker

A man decided that he was going to ride a 10-speed bike from Phoenix to Flagstaff. He got as far as Black Canyon City before the



mountains just became too much and he could go no farther. He stuck his thumb out, but after 3 hours he hadn't gotten a single person to stop. Finally a guy in a Corvette pulled over and offered him a

ride. Of course, the bike wouldn't fit in the car. The owner of the Corvette found a piece of rope lying by the highway and



tied it to his bumper. He tied the other end to the bike and told the man that if he got to going too fast to honk the horn on his bike and he would slow down.

Everything went fine for the first 30 miles. Suddenly, another Corvette blew past them. Not to be outdone, the Corvette pulling the bike took off after the other. A short distance down the road, the Corvettes--both going well over 120 mph--blew through a speed trap. The police officer noted the speeds from his radar gun and radioed to the other officer that he had 2 Corvettes headed his way at over 120 mph.

He then relayed, "And you're not going to believe this, but there's a guy on a 10-speed bike honking to pass."

◇ Received from Jim Sparks

WALKING OUT

"I hope you didn't take it personally, Pastor," an embarrassed woman said after a church service, "when my husband walked out during your sermon."

"I did find it rather disconcerting," the preacher replied.

"It's not a reflection on you, sir," insisted the church goer.

"Ralph has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child."

Received from Jim Sparks

