



# 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**

## FREEDOM ISN'T FREE

*Author unknown*



*I watched the flag pass by one day...*

*It fluttered in the breeze.  
A young Marine saluted it,  
And then he stood at ease.*

*I looked at him in uniform;  
so young, so tall, so proud.  
With hair cut square and eyes  
alert,  
he'd stand out in any crowd.*

*I thought how many men like him  
had fallen through the years.  
How many died on foreign soil;  
how many mothers' tears?*

*How many pilots' planes shot  
down?  
How many died at sea?  
How many foxholes were soldiers'  
graves?*

***No, freedom isn't free.***



*I heard the sound of Taps one  
night,  
when everything was still.  
I listened to the bugler play  
And felt a sudden chill.*

*I wondered just how many times  
That Taps had meant 'Amen.'  
When a flag had draped a coffin  
of a brother or a friend.*

*I thought of all the children,  
of the mothers and the wives,  
of fathers, sons and husbands  
With interrupted lives.*

*I thought about a graveyard  
At the bottom of the sea.  
Of unmarked graves in Arlington  
**No, freedom isn't free.***

## PERFECT FREEDOM

*Charles W. Colson, Washington D.C.*

As one who has served time in prison, and has since spent most of my life working in them, I'll never forget the most unusual prison I've ever visited.

Called Humaita Prison, it is in Sao Jose dos Campos in Brazil. Formerly a government prison, it is now operated by Prison Fellowship Brazil as an alternative prison, without armed guards or high-tech security. Instead, it is run on the Christian principles of love of God and respect for men.

Humaita has only two full-time staff; the rest of the work is done by the 730 inmates serving time for everything from murder and assault to robber and drug-

related crimes. Every man is assigned another inmate to who he is accountable. In addition, each prisoner is assigned a volunteer mentor from the outside who works with him during his term and after his release. Prisoners take classes on character development and are encourage to participate in educational and religious programs.

When I visited this prison, I found the inmates smiling – particularly the murderer who had the keys, opened the gates and let me in. Wherever I walked I saw men at peace. I saw clean living areas. I saw people working industriously. The walls were decorated with motivation sayings and Scripture.

Humaita has an astonishing record. Its recidivism rate is 4 percent, compared to 75 percent in the rest of Brazil. How is this possible?

I saw the answer when my inmate guide escorted me to the notorious cell once used for solitary punishment. Today, he told me, it always houses the same inmate. As we reached the end of the long concrete corridor and he put the key into the lock, he paused and asked, "Are you sure you want to go in?"

"Of course," I replied impatiently. "I've been in isolation cells all over the world." Slowly he swung open the massive door, and I saw the prisoner in that cell: a crucifix, beautifully cared – Jesus, hanging on the cross.

"He's doing time for the rest of us." My guide said softly.

## SERMON WITHOUT A WORD

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the preacher decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The preacher found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his preacher's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace

and waited. The preacher made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the preacher took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth, all alone, then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The preacher glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow; once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the preacher reached the door to leave, his host said, with a tear running down his cheek, 'Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday.'

⇒ Received from Joe Downs

## A STORMY FLIGHT

A pastor had been on a long flight from one place to another. 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 he looked around the aircraft, it became obvious that many of the passengers were becoming apprehensive. Later, the voice of the announcer 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 it 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 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.

⇒ Received from Joe & Freda Downs

# ONALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM**

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## WEDNESDAYS

SOUP & SANDWICHES  
6:00 PM

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BIBLE STUDY  
6:30 PM

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## TUESDAY, JULY 2nd

LADIES LUNCHEON  
12:00 NOON

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## SATURDAY, JULY 13th

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

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CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
9:30 AM

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## SUNDAY, JULY 21st

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### TUESDAYS

AL-ANON MEETING  
6:00 PM

## THURSDAY, JULY 18th

AMERICAN LEGION  
6:00 PM

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## PNA EVENTS

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### DOUBLE K FAMILY CAMP

Plans are well underway for this year's Family Camp, and **pre-registration is now available.** Family Camp is going through some exciting changes this year, and is now under the direction of Double K. The event will begin on Sunday evening, July 14th and conclude Thursday even-

ing, July 18th. All ages are invited to come for a time of refreshment and spiritual growth! (Note that a special day for senior citizens will be on Monday). Our guest speaker this year is **Jeannette Flynn**, a former PNA pastor now ministering in Florida.

### PASTOR'S DAY

This year the PNA is launching an annual gathering of PNA credentialed ministers (senior pastors, associate pastors, retired ministers, etc.) and their spouses. Pastors' Day will take place immediately following Double K Family Camp, on **Friday, July 19th**, and will be a tremendous occasion of fellowship, support, equipping, and visioning.



### JUNIOR CAMP

The 2013 PNA Junior Camp will take place this year **July 25-28**, at Double K Christian Retreat Center. This camp is for children ages 9-11 (i.e. entering grades 4-6 in the fall). Registration information is now available for download on PNA's website.

### JUNIOR HIGH CAMP

The 2013 PNA Junior Camp will take place this year **July 29—August 1** at Double K Christian Retreat Center



### DOUBLE K'S HISTORY

Double K Christian Retreat Center was originally a boy's home known as Kamp Kachess. It was located near Lake Kachess at the Stampede Pass exit on I-90. When they moved to this location, the name was changed to Double K Ranch.

In 1987, the [Pacific Northwest Association of the Church of God \(PNA\)](#) acquired the ranch with the goal in mind to develop the property into a camp and retreat center with outstanding accommodations and recreation opportunities for year-around use. Our location is now fondly known as Double K Christian Retreat Center.

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The PNA is comprised of 49 churches, in Washington, northern Idaho and northeastern Oregon. Every year, the PNA conducts several camp programs at Double K. The remainder of the year is occupied by various rental guest groups, ranging from youth groups to schools, to churches, to government agencies, and other qualifying non-profit organizations.

## ARE YOU JESUS?

*This is really powerful and makes you think...Could I be mistaken for Jesus?*

A few years ago a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention in Chicago. They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night's dinner. In their rush, with tickets and briefcases, one of these salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table which held a display of apples. Apples flew everywhere. Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time for their nearly missed boarding, all but one. He paused, took a deep breath, got in touch with his feelings, and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple stand had been overturned. He told his buddies to go on without him, waved goodbye,



told one of them to call his wife when they arrived at their home destination and

explain his taking a later flight. Then he returned to the terminal where the apples were all over the terminal floor. He was glad he did. The 16 year old girl was totally blind! She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the crowd swirled about her, no one stopping and no one to care for her plight.

The salesman knelt on the floor with her, gathered up the apples, put them back on the table and helped organize her display. As he did this, he noticed that many of them had become battered

and bruised; these he set aside in another basket. When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here, please take this \$40 for the damage we did. Are you okay?" She nodded through her tears. He continued on with, "I hope we didn't spoil your day too badly." As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, "Mister....." He paused and turned to look back into those blind eyes. She continued, "Are you Jesus?"

He stopped in mid-stride, and he wondered. Then slowly he made his way to catch the later flight with that question burning and bouncing about in his soul: "Are you Jesus?"

Do people mistake you for Jesus? That's our destiny, is it not? To be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the difference as we live and interact with a world (shopping, working, reacting to others that are serving us) that is blind to His love, life and grace. If we claim to know Him, we should live, walk and act as He would. Knowing Him is more than simply quoting Scripture and going to church. It's actually living the Word as life unfolds day to day.

You are the apple of His eye even though we, too, have been bruised by a fall. He stopped what He was doing and picked you and me up on a hill called Calvary and paid in full for our damaged fruit. Let us live like we are worth the price He paid.

⇒ *Received from Jannell Skinner*

## BURNED BISCUITS

When I was a little boy, my mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. And I remember one night in particular when she had

made breakfast after a long, hard day at work. On that evening so long ago, my mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed! Yet all my dad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my mom and ask me how my day was at school.

I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that biscuit and eat every bite!

When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said: "Baby, I love burned biscuits."

Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and I asked him if he

really liked his biscuits burned.



He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Your Momma put in a hard day at work today and she's real tired. And besides - a little burnt biscuit never hurt anyone!"

You know, life is full of imperfect things, and imperfect people. I'm not the best housekeeper or cook. What I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each other's faults - and choosing to celebrate each other's differences - is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship.

And that's my prayer for you today. That you will learn to take the good, the bad, and the ugly parts of your life and lay them at the feet of God. Because in the end, He's the only One who will be able to give you a relationship where a burnt biscuit isn't a deal-breaker!

⇒ *Received from Jude Cooper*

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Last month only three people were able to come up with the correct answer to the quiz. The answer is found in the tenth chapter of Joshua. Joshua fought against the Amorites.

Here is this month's quiz.

*There were two kings who went to war one day*

*They called me and ask what I would say.*

*I told one king "You've turned from God now you what His help, how odd.*

*The other king was a godly man, He did his best to cleanse the land Because of him that very day I told them how victory would come their way.*

*There was no water in that place They thought they would die in disgrace*

*But in the morning water filled the land*

*They won the battle through God's hand.*

*Now name me the name of the two kings*

*And how the water God did bring.*

*Give me my name if you can And a candy bar will fit in you hand.*

### AMEN PHARAOH

A visiting minister was very long-winded. Worse, every time he would make a good point during his sermon and a member of the congregation responded with "Amen" or "That's right, preacher" he would get wound up even

more and launch into another lengthy discourse.

Finally, the host pastor started responding to every few sentences with "Amen, Pharaoh!" The guest minister wasn't sure what that meant, but after several more "Amen, Pharaohs" he finally concluded his very lengthy sermon.

After the service concluded and the congregation had left, the visiting minister turned to his host and asked, "What exactly did you mean when you said "Amen, Pharaoh?"

His host replied, "I was telling you to let my people go!"

⇒ Received from Joe Downs

## AFRAID OF THE DARK

A little boy was afraid of the dark. One night his mother told him to go out to the back porch and bring her the broom.

The little boy turned to his mother and said, "Mama, I don't want to go out there. It's dark."

The mother smiled reassuringly at her son. "You don't have to be afraid of the dark," she explained. "Jesus is out there. He'll look after you and protect you." The little boy looked at his mother real hard and asked, "Are you sure he's out there?"

"Yes, I'm sure. He is everywhere, and he is always ready to help you when you need him," she said.

The little boy thought about that for a minute and then went to the back door and cracked it a little. Peering out into the



darkness, he called, "Jesus? If you're out there, would you please hand me the broom?"

### A CHILD'S HEART

A nurse on the pediatric ward, before listening to the little ones chests, would plug the stethoscope into their ears and let them listen to their own hearts. Their eyes would always light up with awe, but she never got a response equal to four-year old David's comment.

Gently she tucked the stethoscope into his ears and placed the disk over his heart. 'Listen', she said 'What do you suppose that is?' He drew his eyebrows together

in a puzzled line and looked up as if lost in the mystery of the strange tap - tap - tapping deep in his chest.



Then his face broke out in a wondrous grin and he asked, "Is that Jesus knocking on my door?"

### 189 PIECES

A grandfather bought a hobby horse by mail order as a birthday present for his granddaughter. The toy arrived in 189 pieces. The instructions said that it could be put

together in an hour. However, it took the grandfather two days to assemble



the toy. Finally, when it was all put together, he wrote a check, cut it into 189 pieces, and mailed it off to the company. He sent an accompanying note stating that the check should clear the bank within 24 hours - after reassembly.