



# CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



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APRIL, 2015

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

## UP CALVARY'S MOUNTAIN

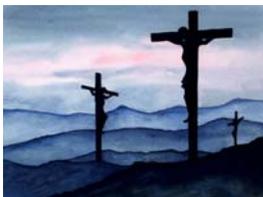
By Sara McGinty

Up Calvary's mountain one dreary morn,  
Trudged Christ our Savior weary and worn,  
They come to the mount, the place of the skull,  
It was there Jesus paid our debt in full,  
As He hung on the cross and died a cruel death,

He said, "Father forgive them," and with a fleeting breath,  
It was finished and as Jesus gave up the ghost,  
A victory's song was sung by a heavenly host,  
Jesus was laid to rest in a borrowed tomb,  
But the grace couldn't hold Him, there was not room

He arose, He arose, let's praise His sweet name,  
He loves us so; we're the reason He came,  
Salvation is free; it is a gift from above.  
God gave us His Son because of His love,  
He bought us, redeemed us and set us all free,  
As He gave His life there on Calvary.

\* Received from Jim & Pat Mulkins



## SAND OR STONE

Two friends were walking through the desert.  
During some point of the journey, they had an argument; and one friend slapped the other one in the face

The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand,  
Today my best friend slapped me in the face.



They kept on walking, until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath

The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him.

After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone:  
'Today my best friend saved my life'

The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, 'After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, you write on a stone, why?'

The friend replied 'When someone hurts us we should write it down in sand, where winds of forgiveness can erase it away.

But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it'

Learn to write your hurts in the sand and to carve your benefits in stone.



The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

~

The hardness of the butter is directly proportional to the softness of the bread.

~

I can handle pain until it hurts.

~

The Big Bang Theory; God spoke and **BANG!** It happened.

~

On the other hand you have different fingers.

## A PENNY

Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway, and cars costing more than her house.

The first day and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live. The husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely.

As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband. He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment.

Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped and a few cigarette butts still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny.

He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value.

A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for

her to see. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this?

"Look at it." He said. "Read what it says." She read the words "United States of America." "No, not that; read further." "One cent?" "No, keep reading." "In God we Trust?" "Yes!" "And?" "And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by? When I see a



coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!

When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up, and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I cannot change. I read the words, "In God We Trust," and had to laugh. Yes, God, I get the message.

It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful! and, God is patient.

**JESUS CHRIST**  
**is Lord**

The other day as I was driving along I-5 an eighteen wheeler came on the Free-way. It was pulling trailer that had on its sides and back these words, "**JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, NOT A SWEAR WORD**". Have you ever consider how it is only Jesus, God and the word Holy that is so often used as a swear terms. No other religious figure is used for swearing. This tells me how satan seeks to corrupt the Name of Jesus, blaspheme the Name of God, and use the word Holy as an adjective for something unclean.

Is the Name of Jesus, and the thought of God and the Holy Spirit precious to you? Does it hurt when you hear someone use the Name of Jesus as a swear word?

There is no greater Name than the Name of Jesus. **Philippians 2:9-11 (KJV)** "*Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*" It further states in **Acts 4:12 (KJV)** "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*"

For those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, His Name is the most precious Name there is. It should break our hearts and wound our spirit whenever we see or hear the Name of Jesus drug in the dirt.

How precious is His Name to you?

# ONALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

**MORNING WORSHIP**  
**8:15 AM & 11:00 AM**  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM**

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**WEDNESDAYS**

SOUP & SANDWICHES  
 5:45 PM

~  
 BIBLE STUDY  
 6:15 PM

BEING HELD AT THE PARSONAGE  
 221 LEONARD ROAD

~  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 11th**

MEN'S BREAKFAST: 8:00 AM  
 LISA'S DINNER

~  
 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:  
 9:30 AM

~  
 LADIES LUNCHEON: 1100 AM

~  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 19th**

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**SCRAP BOOKING**

FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH  
 10:00 AM

~  
**MONDAY, APRIL 13th**

TEA & PRAISE  
 SHOESTRING COMMUNITY  
 CHURCH  
 10:00 AM

~  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15th**

SENIORS ON THE GO: 12:00 NOON

~  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 16th**

AMERICAN LEGION: 6:00 PM  
 ETHEL GRANGE

### I TOOK YOUR PLACE."

One day, a man went to visit a church. He got there early, parked his car, and got out. Another car pulled up and the driver got out and said, "I always park there! You took my place!"

The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!"

The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing. After Sunday School, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit! You took my place!"

The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still He said nothing. Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appear-

ance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?"

The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye, "I took your place."

✠ Received from Ruth Bushnell

### QUIZ

No one was able to come up with the correct answer to last month's quiz. The story is found in the seventh chapter of Matthew, verses twenty four to twenty seven. Jesus told Peter to catch a fish and in its mouth would be the tribute money.

*This is a story that's hard to believe  
 One day I swam a heart to relieve  
 I wasn't supposed to swim that day  
 But I did it anyway.*

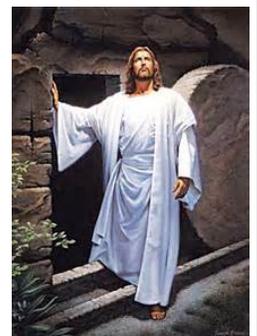
*It's not by job to swim you know  
 It's my job to take a blow  
 Now tell me my name of who I am  
 And a candy bar you might get  
 from the preacher man.*

## EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE



The annual Easter Sunrise Service will be held on Easter Sunday, April 5th at the parking lot of Carlisle Lake once again this year. It will begin at 7:00 am.

The new pastor of the Onalaska Assembly of God will be the guest speaker. Plan on coming out and help welcoming him into our community. Please bring your own chair.



## GRANDMA'S HANDS

Grandma, some ninety plus years, sat feebly on the patio bench. She didn't move, just sat with her head down staring at her hands.

When I sat down beside her she didn't acknowledge my presence and the longer I sat I wondered if she was OK.

Finally, not really wanting to disturb her but wanting to check on her at the same time, I asked her if she was OK. She raised her head and looked at me and smiled. 'Yes, I'm fine, thank you for asking,' she said in a clear voice strong.

'I didn't mean to disturb you, grandma, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands and I wanted to make sure you were OK,' I explained to her.

'Have you ever looked at your hands,' she asked. 'I mean really looked at your hands?'

I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down. No, I guess I had never really looked at my hands as I tried to figure out the point she was making.

Grandma smiled and related this story: 'Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years. These hands though wrinkled shriveled and weak have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life.

'They braced and caught my fall when as a toddler I crashed upon the floor.

They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back. As a child, my mother taught me to fold them in prayer. They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots. They held my husband and wiped

my tears when he went off to war.

'They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent. They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn son. Decorated with my wedding band they showed the world that I was married and loved



someone special. They wrote my letters to him and trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse. 'They have held my children and grandchildren, consoled

neighbors, and shook in fists of anger when I didn't understand.

They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed and cleansed the rest of my body. They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw. And to this day when not much of anything else of me works real well these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer.

'These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of life.

But more importantly it will be these hands that God will reach out and take when he leads me home. And with my hands He will lift me to His side and there I will use these hands to touch the face of Christ.'

I will never look at my hands the same again. But I remember God reached out and took my grandma's hands and led her home.

When my hands are hurt or sore or when I stroke the face of my children and husband I think of grandma. I know she has been stroked and caressed and held by the hands of God. I, too, want to touch the face of God and feel His hands upon my face.

⇒ Received from Eva Dean Stone

## TWO FROGS

A group of frogs were traveling through the woods, and two of them fell into a deep pit. All the other frogs gathered around the pit. When they saw how deep the pit was, they told the two frogs that they were as good as dead. The two frogs ignored the comments and tried to jump out of the pit with all of their might. The group of frogs kept telling them to stop because they were as good as dead.

Finally, one of the frogs took heed to what the other frogs were saying and gave up. He fell down and died. The second frog continued to jump as hard as he could. Once again, the crowd of frogs yelled at him to stop the pain and just die. He jumped even harder and finally made it out.

You see this frog was deaf, unable to hear what the others were saying. He thought they were encouraging him the entire time.

*This story teaches a lesson.... "You will have to live with the consequences of everything you say. What you say can preserve life or destroy it; so you must accept the consequences of your words" (Proverbs 18: 20-21).*

There is the power of life and death in the tongue. An encouraging word to someone who is down can lift him up and help him make it through the day. A destructive word to someone who is down can be what it takes to kill his joy. Be careful of what you say. Speak life to those who cross your path.

⇒ Received from Joe Downs

## DON'T LET THE RATS EAT YOU

PASTOR JAY WARNER

I always wonder what it is about us Christians that must fret and worry!

Let me tell you about a true story. A pilot was going to attempt an around the world flight. He planned his trip to be able to land every 4 hours to refuel and rest. He was two hours into this leg of his flight. He was remembering the small atoll he had landed on to refuel and rest. It had once been a Japanese supply point during World War two. Now just a spot on the map; with tons of rusting metal, a few buildings, a few humans and thousands of rats. It seemed that during the war many of the rats made it to the island aboard the supply vessels. With no predators they just multiplied. He thought beauty and the beast. Then he thought he heard a familiar sound, could it be? He throttled back the engines as far as he could and still maintain air speed. He listened



again and felt that chill run down his back. Could it be a familiar sound of a rat chewing on wires behind the instrument panel of the plane? But, where, what gauge would he lose, what damage would be done. Two hours left in the air and he needed each and every instrument. He began to worry; two hours each way no way out! Then he remembered the rats were built to live at

ground level or underground. So he started climbing, higher and higher hoping the rat would run out of air and die before he ran out of



air and passed out. Finally he stopped hearing any chewing or noise from behind the instrument panel. Two hours later he landed at the next appointed place, as the plane bumped the ground a very dead rat fell out of the panel and he gave a sigh of relief.

So what does this have to do with worrying you ask? My friends worry is just like a rat, if we let it, it will destroy and chew up our life. Jesus said six times in Matthew "Don't Worry" So this brings us to our verse for today. **Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)** *Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.* Doctors have proven that worry and stress can literally kill a human if it continues to long. So, you know me I have to always go to the word. Let's see what the wisest man in the world said **Proverbs 15:13 (KJV)** *A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.* Or **Proverbs 15:15 (KJV)** *All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast.* Or **Proverbs 17:22 (KJV)** *A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.* Do you now see a pattern. No worry, merry

heart is the way to have a cheerful countenance, a continual feast, and be healthy like a good medicine.

But most important of all is to remember that worry, like a rat, cannot live in the heavenly heights. As my lovely Mary will always say we must be heavenly minded. Worry cannot live up high with the spiritual; it can only survive in the low natural. Years ago when my lovely Mary was going through some tough times a wise pastor told her to make a list. On one side put problems and on the other side put blessings. Then when in prayer thank God for both sides of the List and see just how quickly He will move the problems into the blessings column. It works my friends; our God can change all our circumstances. Many time our problems come to remind us that we must be thankful to our Lord for everything. Remember heavenly minded always reminds us of our final resting place if we keep the faith. Let's see what Jesus said He that over comes will: eat of the tree of life, will not be hurt by the second death, eat of the hidden manna, have power over the nations, I will not blot our his name from the book of life, make a pillar in the temple of God, going to sit with Me on My throne, do I need to continue?

I leave you with Paul's word's **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18(NLT)** *Always be joyful. Keep on praying. No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.* Upward and onward, worry and strife cannot survive in the fresh air of the heavenly realm. No matter what is happening in your world, ministry, personal life; remember don't let the rats eat you alive. Seek higher ground and you will always be safe.