



CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



www.onalaskachurchofgod.com

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

NO GOD IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

They walked in tandem, each of the ninety-two students filing into the already crowded auditorium. With their rich maroon gowns flowing ... and the traditional caps, they looked almost as grown up as they felt.

Dads swallowed hard behind broad smiles, and Moms freely brushed away tears.



This class would NOT pray during the commencements---not by choice, but because of a recent court ruling prohibiting it.

The school's overseer and several students were careful to stay within the guidelines allowed by the ruling. They gave inspirational and challenging speeches, but no one mentioned divine guidance and no one asked for blessings on the graduates or their families.

The speeches were nice, but they were routine...until the final speech received a standing ovation.

A solitary student walked proudly to the microphone. He stood still and silent for just a moment, and then, it happened. All 92 students, every single one of

them, suddenly SNEEZED!!!!

The student on stage... simply looked at the audience and said, '**GOD BLESS YOU**, each and every one of you!' And he walked off stage...

The audience exploded into applause. This graduating class had found a unique way to invoke God's blessing on their future with or without the court's approval.

GOD BLESS YOU!!!!

This is a true story; it happened at the University of Maryland.

◆ *Received from Marcie Eidsmoe*

BLIND EYES

There was once a blind young woman who hated life for no other reason except that she was blind. She hated everyone, except her loving boyfriend. He was always there for her. She often said that if she could only see, she would marry her boyfriend.

One day, someone donated a



pair of eyes to her and soon she could see everything, including her boyfriend.

Her boyfriend asked her, "Now that you can see the world, will you marry me?"

The girl was shocked when she learned that her boyfriend was blind. Now, not wanting to be

burdened by a 'blind' person, she refused to marry him.

Her loving, devoted and understanding boyfriend walked away in tears, his heart obviously broken.

The girl who had been so fortunate to have the world opened up to her, continued enjoying it, day in and day out, trying to never miss a single pleasure life had to offer.

After a time, she received a letter from her ex-boyfriend, which stated simply: "Your happiness was all that ever mattered to me. I am so happy that you are enjoying life as I always hoped you could. I would like to ask one parting favor of you, my dear... please, just take care of my eyes."

This, as sad as it may seem, is how the human brain changes when our status changes. Only a few remember what life was like before and who's always been there even in the most painful situations.

MOVING SMITH

Smith goes to see his supervisor in the front office.

"Boss," he says, "we're doing some heavy house-cleaning at home tomorrow, and my wife needs me to help with the attic and the garage, moving and hauling stuff."

"We're short-handed, Smith," the boss replies. "I can't give you the day off."

"Thanks, boss," says Smith, "I knew I could count on you!"

FOUR MARINES

As I came out of the supermarket that sunny day, pushing my cart of groceries towards my car, I saw an old man with the hood of his car up and a lady sitting inside the car, with the door open.

The old man was looking at the engine.

I put my groceries away in my car, and continued to watch the old gentleman from about twenty five feet away.

I saw a young man in his early twenties with a grocery bag in his arm walking towards the old man. The old gentleman saw him coming too, and took a few steps towards him.

I saw the old gentleman point to his open hood and say something. The young man put his grocery bag into what looked like a brand new Cadillac Escalade. He then turned back to the old man. I heard him yell at the old gentleman saying: "You shouldn't even be allowed to drive a car at your age." And then with a wave of his hand, he got in his car and peeled rubber out of the parking lot.

I saw the old gentleman pull out his handkerchief, and mop his brow as he went back to his car and again looked at the engine. He then went to his wife and spoke with her; he appeared to tell her it would be okay.

I had seen enough, and I approached the old man. He saw me coming and stood straight, and as I got near him I said, 'Looks like you're having a problem.'

He smiled sheepishly, and quietly nodded his head

I looked under the hood myself, and knew that whatever the problem was, it was beyond me.

Looking around, I saw a gas station up the road, and I told the old man that I would be right back. I drove to the station and I

went inside. I saw three attendants working on cars. I approached one of them, and related the problem the old man had with his car. I offered to pay them if they could follow me back down and help him.

The old man had pushed the heavy car under the shade of a tree and appeared to be comforting his wife. When he saw us he straightened up and thanked



me for my help. As the mechanics diagnosed the problem (overheated engine), I spoke with the old gentleman.

When I shook hands with him earlier, he had noticed my Marine Corps ring and had commented about it, telling me that he had been a Marine too. I nodded and asked the usual question, 'What outfit did you serve with?'

He had mentioned that he served with the first Marine Division at Tarawa, Saipan, Iwo Jima and Guadalcanal

He had hit all the big ones and retired from the Corps after the war was over. As we talked we heard the car engine come on and saw the mechanics lower the hood. They came over to us as the old man reached for his wallet, but was stopped by me. I told him I would just put the bill on my AAA card.

He still reached for the wallet and handed me a card that I assumed had his name and address on it and I stuck it in my

pocket. We shook hands all around again, and I said my goodbye's to his wife.

I then told the two mechanics that I would follow them back up to the station. Once at the station, I told them that they had interrupted their own jobs to come along with me and help the old man. I said I wanted to pay for the help, but they refused to charge me.

One of them pulled out a card from his pocket, looking exactly like the card the old man had given to me. Both of the men told me then that they were Marine Corps Reserves. Once again we shook hands all around and as I was leaving, one of them told me I should look at the card the old man had given to me. I said I would and drove off.

For some reason I had gone about two blocks, when I pulled over and took the card out of my pocket and looked at it for a long, long time. The name of the old gentleman was on the card in golden leaf and under his name was written: '*Congressional Medal of Honor Society.*'

I sat there motionless, looking at the card and reading it over and over. I looked up from the card and smiled to no one but myself and marveled that on this day, four Marines had all come together because one of us needed help. He was an old man all right, but it felt good to have stood next to greatness and courage, and an honor to have been in his presence.

Remember, OLD MEN like him gave our FREEDOM for America. Thanks to those who served and still serve and to all of those who supported them, and who continue to support them.

Remember, Freedom IS NOT free. Thousands have paid the price, so you can enjoy what you have today.

◆ Received from Jim Sparks

ALASKA'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

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BIBLE STUDY
6:15 PM

HELD AT 221 LEONARD ROAD

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SATURDAY, JULY 11th

MEN'S BREAKFAST
AT LISA'S DINER
8:00 AM

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CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
9:30 AM

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LADIES LUNCHEON
12:00 NOON

~

SUNDAY, JULY 19th

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15th

SENIORS ON THE GO:
12:00 NOON

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THURSDAY, JUNE 16th

AMERICAN LEGION:
6:00 PM
AT ETHEL GRANGE
HWY 12 & LEONARD ROAD

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PNA EVENTS

JULY 12th — 16th
FAMILY CAMP

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JULY 17th
PASTOR'S DAY

JULY 23rd — 25th

JUNIOR CAMP
@
DOUBLE K

~

JULY 27th — 30th

YOUTH SUMMER CAMP
@
DOUBLE K

~

PROCRASTINATION

It is said that Satan once called to him the emissaries of hell and said he wanted to send one of them to earth to aid women and men in the ruination of their souls. He asked which one would want to go. One creature came forward and said, "I will go." Satan said, "If I send you, what will you tell the children of men?" He said, "I will

tell the children of men that there is no heaven." Satan said, "They will not believe you, for there is a bit of heaven in every human heart. In the end everyone knows that right and good must have the victory. You may not go."

Then another came forward, darker and fouler than the first. Satan said, "If I send you, what will you tell the children of men?" He said, "I will tell them there is no hell." Satan looked at him and said, "Oh, no; they will not believe you, for in every human heart there's a thing called conscience, an inner voice which testifies to the truth that not only will good be triumphant, but that evil will be defeated. You may not go."

Then one last creature came forward, this one from the darkest place of all. Satan said to him, "And if I send you, what will you say to women and men to aid them in the destruction of their souls?" He said, "I will tell them there is a heaven and there is a hell but there is no need to hurry." Satan said, "Go!"

CAN YOU TRUTHFULLY SAY THAT YOU ARE A PATIENT PERSON?

Robert Kearns had to be patient. In 1962, Kearns was tinkering in his shop and in the process invented a phased windshield wiper that was just the ticket for intermittent light rain. You probably enjoy his invention in your car today.

Kearns, a Detroit native, was sure that the "Motor City's" Big Three would be ecstatic over his find. But to his surprise, American cars began appearing on sales floors with his device, without his permission. Gaining no satisfaction from auto executives, in 1978 he decided to take his case to court. Twelve years later, Kearns' patience paid off when a court ruled in his favor to the tune of \$10 million (and that was just from one of the Big Three).

A prolonged ordeal is enough to test anyone's patience. However, the Christian enjoys the guarantee that one day God will not only make all things right, but also deliver an eternal payoff. Meanwhile, the Bible suggests that we: "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" (**Rom. 12:12 NIV**). That Big Three is a key to your earthly peace of mind.



I HATE RELIGION

True, Christianity is a religion, but people can be religious without being Christians. Christ condemned the religious Pharisees of his day because they hid their real selves behind a facade of religion and external morality.

It may sound odd, but God isn't into religion or external morality. He's into relationships, inspirational living, and reality. That is, he wants us not only to have a right relationship with him, but also with each other and with ourselves. And he wants us to be real—to see and admit what we truly are so he can help us.

Neither is it God's goal to make us good. It's to make us whole, for only to the degree that we are made whole will our actions, lifestyle, and relationships be wholesome!

Religion tends to want to fix us from the outside in. God wants to fix us from the inside out. The first can become an impossible burden. The latter is what brings freedom. Christianity is not a set of rules and regulations. It is experiencing divine love, divine acceptance and divine forgiveness. It helps to realize that God isn't out to zap us for the wrongs we've done. In fact, no matter what we have ever done or have failed to do, he loves us with an everlasting love and has a wonderful purpose for our lives—for this life as well as the next! As Jesus said, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

John 3:16

"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." **John 10:10**

THE POWER OF A CANDLE

Pastor Laszlo Tokes became too successful in the eyes of his Romanian government. He preached the gospel boldly and within two years saw his small church grow to 5,000. The authorities confiscated his ration book so he couldn't buy fuel or food. Then in December 1989, they decided to exile him. When the police arrived they were stopped by an unmovable crowd of people. Members of other churches and denominations stood shoulder to shoulder in protest. All day, the police tried to disperse the crowd, but they wouldn't budge. Just after midnight a nineteen-year-old Baptist student named Daniel Garva, pulled out a packet of candles. He lit one and passed it



to his neighbor. One by one the burning candles were passed through the crowd. The crowd stayed all through that night and the next. The police finally broke through and knocked in the church door. They bloodied Pastor Tokes' face, then paraded both him and his wife through the crowd. An outcry from the people led them to their city square of Timisoara, where they began a full-scale demonstration against the Communist government. Once again, Daniel Garva passed out his candles. Troops were brought in and ordered to shoot the crowd. Hundreds were shot, and Daniel's

leg was blown off. Their brave example inspired the entire population of Romania, and within days the bloody dictator, Ceausescu, was dead.

For the first time in half a century, Romania celebrated Christmas in freedom. In a world of hostile darkness, God has called us to light a candle of love. Although the presentation of God's Light may not be favorably received, such faithfulness will yield results beyond our grandest dreams.

THE NEED FOR LIGHT

Making decisions in the dark can lead to some regrettable consequences. Back in the days before electricity, a tightfisted old farmer was taking his hired man to task for carrying a lighted lantern when he went to call on his best girl. "Why," he exclaimed, "when I went a-courtin' I never carried one of them things, I always went in the dark." "Yes," the hired man said wryly, "and look at what you got!"



THE SECRET OF WAITING

Oswald Chambers advises, "Whenever God gives a vision to a saint, he puts the saint in the shadow of His hand, as it were, and the saint's duty is to be still and listen... When God gives a vision and darkness follows, waiting on God will bring you into accordance with the vision He has given if you await His timing. Otherwise, you try to do away with the supernatural in God's undertakings. Never try to help God fulfill His word."

Q
U
I
Z



The answer to last month's quiz is found in the thirtieth chapter of I Kings.

Several were able to come up with the correct answer. I can't remember them all so I won't name any. My brain has wandered away and has not returned.

I really don't know what happened

*I was fast asleep in my bed
A loud noise woke me
The rafter rattled over head*

*I knew they all had left me
That I was all alone
I'm sure not one remained
That everyone had gone*

*There was not hope for me now
I drew my sword to end it all
I was sure the room was empty
Then just in time I heard his call*

*I just couldn't believe my ears
Not one had left they all stayed
They put their trust in their God
Because of this my life was saved.*

My name is not in the book you know

*But if you want to win the prize
Just solve this quiz*

By telling me the name of those two guys

THE RETURN

After fifty years of wondering why he didn't look like his younger sister or brother, the man finally got up the nerve to ask his mother if he was adopted.

"Yes, you were, son," his mother said as she started to cry softly. "But it didn't work out and they brought you back."

PARABLE OF THE TWINS

*Adapted from Doug Murren's book,
LEADERSHIP*

Once twin boys were conceived in a mother's womb. Days and weeks passed, and the twins developed. As their awareness grew, they laughed for joy: "Isn't it great that we were conceived? Isn't it great to be alive?"

Together, the twins explored their world. When they found their mother's cord that gave them life, they sang for joy: "How great is our mother's love, that she shares her own life with us!"

As weeks stretched into months, the twins noticed how much each was changing. "What does it mean?" asked the one.

"It means that our stay in this world is drawing to an end," said the other.

"But I don't want to go," replied the first twin. "I want to stay here always."

"We have no choice," said the other, "but maybe there is life after birth!"

"But how can there be?" responded the one. "We will shed our life cord, and how is life possible without it? Besides, we have seen evidence that others were here before us, and none of them has returned to tell us that there is life after birth. No, this is the end."

And so the one fell into a deep despair, saying, "If conception ends in birth, what is the purpose of life in the womb? It's meaningless! Maybe there is not a mother after all."

"But there has to be" protested the other. "How else did we get here? How do we remain alive?"

"Have you seen our mother?" said the one. "Maybe she lives only in our minds. Maybe we made her up because the idea made us feel good."

And so the last days in the womb

were filled with deep questioning and fear. Finally the moment of birth arrived.

When the twins had passed from the only world they had every known, they opened their eyes and cried because what they saw



exceeded their fondest dreams.

1 Corinthians 2:9 *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which*

I WILL TESTIFY TO THAT

Several women, each trying to one-up the other, appeared in court, each accusing the others of causing the trouble they were having in the apartment building where they lived.

The judge, with Solomon-like wisdom decreed, "Okay, I'm ready to hear the evidence...I'll hear the oldest first."

The case was dismissed for lack of testimony.

FALL OUT!

As we stood in formation at the Pensacola Naval Air Station, our Flight Instructor said, "All right! All you dummies fall out."

As the rest of the squad wandered away, I remained at attention.

The instructor walked over until he was eye-to-eye with me, and then just raised a single eyebrow. I smiled and said, "Sure was a lot of 'em, huh sir?"