



# CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



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## LEARNING TO TRUST GOD

A man named Jack was walking along a steep cliff one day when he accidentally got too close to the edge and fell. On the way down he grabbed a branch, which temporarily stopped his fall. He looked down and to his horror saw that the canyon fell straight down for more than a thousand feet.



He couldn't hang onto the branch forever, and there was no way for him to climb up the steep wall of the cliff. So Jack began yelling for help, hoping that someone passing by would hear him and lower a rope or something. "HELP! HELP! Is anyone up there? HELP!" He yelled for hours, but no one heard him. He was about to give up when he heard a voice.

"Jack, Jack. Can you hear me?"

"Yes, yes! I can hear you. I'm down here!"

"I can see you, Jack. Are you all right?"

"Yes, but . . . Who are you, and where are you?"

"I am the Lord, Jack. I'm everywhere."

"The Lord? You mean, GOD?"

"That's Me."

"God, please help me! I promise if You'll get me down from here, I'll stop sinning. I'll be a really good person. I'll serve You for the rest of my life."

"Easy on the promises, Jack. Let's just get you down from there; then we can talk. Now, here's what I want you to do. Listen carefully."

"I'll do anything, Lord. Just tell me what to do."

"Okay. Let go of the branch."

"What?"

"I said, let go of the branch. Just trust Me. Let go."

There was a long silence. Finally Jack yelled, "HELP! HELP! IS ANYONE ELSE UP THERE?"

Have you ever felt like Jack? We say that we want to know the will of God, but when we find out what it is, we can't handle it. It sounds too scary, too difficult. We decide to look elsewhere. When He says, "Let go of the things that stand between you and Me, and trust Me with your life," It sounds pretty scary. But when we let go, we find freedom and safety in His hands.

**Deuteronomy 33:27 (KJV)** *The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms...*

## AN IMPORTANT LAWYER

Joe grew up in a small town, then moved away to attend col-

lege and law school. He decided to come back to the small town because he could be a big man in this small town. He really wanted to impress everyone. He opened his new law office, but business was very slow at first.

One day, he saw a man coming up the sidewalk to his office. He decided to make a big impression on this new client when he arrived. As the man came to the door, Joe picked up the phone. He motioned the man in, all the while saying, "No. Absolutely not. You tell those clowns in New York that I won't settle this case for less than \$1 million. Yes. The appeals court has agreed to hear that case next week. I'll be handling the primary argument, and the other members of my team will provide support. Okay. Tell the DA that I'll meet with him next week to discuss the details."

This sort of thing went on for almost five minutes. All the while,



the man sat patiently as Joe rattled instructions. Finally, Joe put down the phone and turned to the man.

"I'm sorry for the delay," he said, "but as you can see, I'm very busy. What can I do for you?"

The man replied, "I'm from the phone company. I came to hook up your phone."

## IT'S A SECRET TELL IT

A woman named Frances once knew a young person at church named Sandra.

Sandra always seemed effervescent and happy, although Frances knew she had faced struggles in her life. Her long-awaited marriage had quickly ended in her husband's death. She had struggled to get a grip on her single life. She hadn't chosen it, but she decided she would live it with utmost enjoyment and satisfaction.

Sandra was active in Sunday school, in the choir, as a leader of the junior high girls' group, and in the church renewal movement. Frances enjoyed knowing Sandra. Sandra's whole face seemed to smile and she always greeted Frances with a hug.

One day she asked Sandra "How is it that you are always so happy-you have so much energy, and you never seem to get down?"

With her eyes smiling, Sandra said, "I know the secret!"



"What secret is that? What are you talking about?"

Frances asked.

Sandra replied, "I'll tell you all about it, but you have to promise to share the secret' with others."

Frances agreed, "Okay, now what is it?"

"The secret is this: I have learned there is little I can do in my life that will make me truly happy. I must depend on God to make me happy and meet my needs. When a need arises in my life, I have to trust God to supply according to HIS riches. I have learned most of the time I don't need half of what I think I do.

HE (JESUS) has never let me down. Since I learned that secret-I am happy."

Frances' first thought was, "That's too simple!" But upon reflecting over her own life she recalled how she thought a bigger house would make her happy-but it didn't! She thought a better-paying job would make her happy-but it hadn't. When did she realize her greatest happiness? Sitting on the floor with her grandchildren, enjoying family, friends, and enjoying herself. Marveling at God's natural beauty. Simple gifts from God. Sandra knew the secret, Frances learned the secret, and now you know it too! So pass it on!

*I'm a witness that the secret is true*

*And now I pass the secret on to you.*

*So once you get it, whatcha gonna do*

*YOU have to tell someone the secret, too!*

## Were You Colder Than This?

It was Christmas Eve in Korea. An expectant mother walked through the snow to the home of a missionary friend where she knew she could find help. A short way down the road from the mission house was a deep gully spanned by a bridge. As the young woman stumbled forward, birth pains overcame her. She realized she could go no farther. She crawled under the bridge.



There alone between the tres-

ties she gave birth to a baby boy. She had nothing with her except the heavy padded clothes she was wearing. One by one she removed the pieces of her clothing and wrapped them around her tiny son around and around, like a cumbersome cocoon. Then, finding a discarded piece of burlap, she pulled it over herself, and lay exhausted beside her baby.

The next morning, a missionary drove across the bridge in her Jeep to take a Christmas basket to a Korean family. On the way back, as she neared the bridge, the Jeep sputtered and died, out of gas. Getting out of the Jeep she started to walk across the bridge, and heard a faint cry beneath her. She crawled under the bridge to investigate. There she found the tiny baby, warm but hungry, and the young mother frozen to death.

The missionary took the baby home and cared for him. As the boy grew, he often asked his adopted mother to tell him the story of how she had found him. On Christmas Day, his 12th birthday, he asked the missionary to take him to his mother's grave.

Once there he asked her to wait a distance away, while he went to pray. The boy stood beside the grave with bowed head, weeping. Then he began to disrobe. As the astonished missionary watched, the boy took off his warm clothing, piece by piece, and laid it on his mother's grave.

Surely he won't take off all his clothing, the missionary thought. He'll freeze! But the boy stripped himself of everything, putting all his warm clothing on the grave. He knelt naked and shivering in the snow. As the missionary went to him to help him dress again, she heard him cry out to the mother he never knew: Were you colder than this for me, my mother? And he wept.

# 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

~  
BIBLE STUDY  
6:15 PM

HAS MOVED BACK TO THE  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

~  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 9th**

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

~  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
9:30 AM

~  
LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON  
11:00 AM

~  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 17th**

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

~  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 31st**

POT LUCK SUNDAY

~  
SINGSPIRATION  
AT NAPA VINE ASSEMBLY OF GOD  
6:00 PM

~  
**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20th**

SENIORS ON THE GO:  
12:00 NOON

~  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 21st**

AMERICAN LEGION:  
6:00 PM  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
288 CARLISLE

## "EAGLES IN A STORM"



Did you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks? The eagle will fly to some high spot and wait for the winds to come. When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it. The eagle does not escape the storm. It simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the winds that bring the storm.

When the storms of life come upon us, and all of us will experience them, we can rise above them by setting our minds and our belief toward God.

The storms do not have to overcome us. We can allow God's power to lift us above them. God enables us to ride the winds of the storm that bring sickness, tragedy, failure and disappointment in our lives. We can soar above the storm.

Remember, it is not the burdens of life that weigh us down; it is how we handle them.

*"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."*

Isaiah 40:31 (KJV)

◇ Received from Katie Jackson

## THE VOICE OF INNOCENCE

While walking through the woods one day, I was surprised to hear a child's voice. I followed the sound, trying in vain to understand the child's words. When I spotted a boy perched on a rock, I realized why his words had made no sense: He was repeating the alphabet. "Why are you saying your ABC's so many times?" I asked him.

The child replied, "I'm saying my prayers."

I couldn't help but laugh. "Prayers? All I hear is the alphabet."

"Patiently the child explained, "Well, I don't know all the words, so I give God the letters. He knows what I'm trying to say."

◇ Received from Sandra January



A police recruit was asked during the exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" He said, "Call for back-up."

Adam and Eve had an ideal marriage. He didn't have to hear about all the men she could have married, and she didn't have to hear about the way his mother cooked.

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "They couldn't get a baby-sitter."

A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon. "How do you know what to say?" he asked. "Why, God tells me." "Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"

## LOST KEYS

Quite a few years ago some friends of mine went interstate for a combined holiday and church convention. Their destination was Australia's Gold Coast, an area famous for its fabulous miles of golden beaches, with broad expanses of sand, and a terrific climate. (If you don't believe me, come and see for yourself! You will be glad you did.)

Colin, Jan and the family arrived after a long (10 hours or more) drive, checked into their accommodation, changed their clothes, and immediately headed down to the beach, to enjoy a refreshing swim in the bracing breakers. With the three children, they drove down to the beach in the late afternoon, locked the car, grabbed their beach towels, and headed for the water.

To be certain that the car keys and the keys to their flat were safe and not stolen from their towels and thongs left on the beach,



Colin pinned securely the bunch of keys to his swimming costume.

The family enjoyed their swim, and as usual, finally extracted the children with difficulty from the surf. As the shadows lengthened on the beach, they headed back to their beach towels, footwear and headed for the car.

Colin reached for the bundle of keys, and to his dismay, found they were missing. They must have dropped into the surf during all the jostling with those breakers! What could he do now? The family was in a new and different state of Australia, and where they did not know the address of anybody (without consulting some information that was in their

locked accommodation.) The only keys to their car and accommodation had disappeared. They didn't have any money in the car, and they couldn't even make a phone call to the motorist's association who could open their car in this emergency. But, even if they opened their car, they still needed keys for their accommodation. They were starting to get cold, and all their clothes were...you know where! And, were the children hungry? You know that, too!

They really needed to find that missing bunch of keys. But, just where? The beach they were on extends for literal miles, and the broad and gently sloping sands meant that the breakers started quite some distance from the beach, and washed up to the water's edge: a vast area of breaking waves. With the ceaseless action of these waves stirring the sand, a bundle of keys would quickly sink, and work their way down too deep to ever be found. Maybe, in the years to come, the rusted remnants might be washed ashore by a storm, but waiting for this was hardly an appealing thought.

Colin could try wading around in the water, hoping in vain that he could tread on and discover the keys. But, if ever anyone would be attempting to find the needle in the haystack, this futile action would have about as much probability of succeeding.

As they were Christians, Colin and the family prayed. Pretty fervently, I would imagine. Still, confused at precisely what options they could pursue, the family wandered up and down the beach. It was now rapidly becoming deserted and darkening, except for the occasional fisherman, with their lines far out in the surf, away from the areas

set aside for swimming.

As Colin walked by one fisherman, he was winding in his line with some anticipation. He had caught something on his line. As the fisherman brought the hook out of the water, a collection of keys were dangling. And whose keys were they? Those who are



mathematically inclined might like to try to calculate the possibilities of such a recovery, but many of us would not like to bank on such an eventuality ever returning our keys.

You can only guess to some extent how thrilled the family was, and how excitedly they shared with many others the story of their swim!

## LESSONS I HAVE LEARNED

I've learned that our dog doesn't want to eat my broccoli either. Age 7

I've learned that just when I get my room the way I like it, Mom makes me clean it up again. Age 12

I've learned that if you want to cheer yourself up, you should try cheering someone else up. Age 14

I've learned that when I wave to people in the country, they stop what they are doing and wave back. Age 9

Q  
U  
I  
Z



*My sister, Katie was the only one who came up with the correct answer to last month's quiz.*

*The story is found in the fourth chapter of the book of Judges. The man's name was Sisera the captain of the nation Canaan. He met his end by the hand of Jael.*

*Here is the quiz for this month.*

*Who was this that lead the revolt  
He said the king us just a joke  
He sought to lead Israel astray  
That's what he did that fateful day*

*He sought to hide in a city strong  
But I'm glad to say that he was wrong.*

*The army came against the wall  
The city knew that it would fall*

*A woman wise and oh so smart  
Asked the army why they would part*

*There is a man inside your gate  
Send him out and don't be late.*

*And to the council she did go  
And they agreed to make it so  
And so his head they threw out-side*

*It made the invading army satisfied.*

*If you only name the man who led the attack*

*Have of the answer you still do lack*

*Now name the headless man who died that day*

*And a candy bar might just come your way.*

## One Glass Of Milk

One day, a young man who was selling goods from door to door to pay his way through school, found he had only one thin dime left, and he was hungry. He decided he would ask for a meal at the next house. However, he lost his nerve when a lovely young woman opened the door. Instead of a meal, he asked for a drink of water. She thought he looked hungry and so she brought him a large glass of milk. He drank it slowly, and then asked, "How much do I owe you?"

"You don't owe me anything," she replied. "Mother has taught us never to accept pay for a kindness."

He said, "Then I thank you from my heart."

As the young man left that house, he not only felt stronger physically, but his faith in God and man was strengthened also. He had been ready to give up and quit.

Years later, that young woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled. They finally sent her to the big city, where they called in specialists to study her rare disease. Dr. Howard Kelly was called in for the consultation. When he heard the name of the town she came from, he went down the hall of the hospital to her room. Dressed in his doctor's gown, he went in to see her. He recognized her at once. He went back to the consultation room determined to do his best to save her life. From that day, he gave special attention to the case.

After a long struggle, the battle was won. Dr. Kelly requested the business office to pass the final billing to him for approval. He looked at it, and then wrote something on

the edge, and the bill was sent to her room. She feared to open it, for she was sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for it all. Finally she looked, and something caught her attention on the side of the bill. She read these words: "PAID IN FULL WITH ONE GLASS OF MILK

(Signed) Dr. Howard Kelly."

Tears of joy flooded her eyes as her happy heart prayed: "Thank You, God, that Your love is shed abroad through human hearts and hands."



One summer evening during a violent thunderstorm a mother was tucking her small boy into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he asked with a tremor in his voice, "Mommy, will you sleep with me tonight?"

The mother smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't, dear," she said. "I have to sleep in Daddy's room."

A long silence was broken at last by his shaky little voice: "The big sissy."

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School. "Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge, and all the people walked across safely. He used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters and call in an air strike. They sent in bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joey, is that REALLY what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked.

"Well, no, Mom, but if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"