



# CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



[www.onalaskachurchofgod.com](http://www.onalaskachurchofgod.com)

JANUARY, 2017

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

## AN APOLOGY OFFERED

Many of you failed to receive the December, 2016 Newsletter. I have had some health issues and by the time I was able to finish the Newsletter, the month was half over. I ask your forgiveness and patience, I hope I will be able to send out the January, 2017 Newsletter at the appropriate time.

## STOLEN CAR

The proud owner of a magnificent 1956 Chevrolet convertible, wrote to say he had restored the car to perfection over the last few years, and sent this: On a very warm summer afternoon he decided to take his car to town. It needed gas, as the gauge was practically on empty, but he wanted ice cream, so he headed first to his favorite ice cream shop.

He had trouble finding a parking space and had to park the car down a side street. He noticed a group of young guys



standing around smoking cigarettes and eyeing the car rather covetously. He was a bit uneasy leaving it there, but people often

take interest in such an old and well-preserved car, so he went off to enjoy his ice cream.

The line at the ice cream shop was long and it took him quite a while to return to his car. When he did, his worst fears were realized... his car was gone.

He called the police and reported the theft and then went back and bought a quart of pistachio ice cream. About ten minutes later the police called him to say they had found the car abandoned near a gas station a few miles out of town.

It was unharmed and he was relieved. It seems just before he called, the police had received a call from a young woman who was an employee at a self-service gas station. She told them that three young men had driven in with this beautiful old convertible. One of them came to the window and prepaid for 20 dollars' worth of gas.

Then all three of them walked around the car. Then they all got in the car and drove off, without filling the tank.

The question is, why would anybody steal a car, pay for gas that they never pumped and then abandon the car later and walk away?

They couldn't find where to put the gas! **Go to page 5 to find out why.**

◆ Received from Ruth Smoots

## A CHILD'S POINT OF VIEW

A little boy opened the big and old family Bible with fascination,

and looked at the old pages as he turned them. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible, and he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that had been pressed in between the pages.



"Momma, look what I found," the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" His mother asked. With astonishment in the young boy's voice he answered: "I think it's Adam's suit!"

## THE LIVING SERMON

"I'd rather see a sermon  
Than hear one any day,  
I's rather one would walk with me  
Than merely tell the way;  
The eye's a better pupil and  
more willing than the ear,  
Fine counsel is confusing,  
But example's always clear;  
The best of all the preachers are  
The men who live their creeds,  
For to see good put in action is  
what everybody needs

I soon can learn to do it,  
If you'll let me see it done,  
I can watch your hands in  
actions,  
Your tongue too fast may run;  
The lectures you deliver may be  
very wise and true,  
But I's rather get my lesson by  
observing what you do;  
I may not understand  
The high advice you give,  
But there's no misunderstanding  
How you act and how you live."

◆ Received from Elizabeth Sullivan

## ARE YOU A REASON, A SEASON, OR A LIFETIME?

People come into your life for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. When you figure out which one it is, you will know what to do for each person.

When someone is in your life for a **REASON**... It is usually to meet a need you have expressed. They have come to assist you through a difficulty, to provide you with



guidance and support, to aid you physically, emotionally, or spiritually. They may seem like a godsend, and they are! They are there for the reason you need them to be.

Then, without any wrongdoing on your part, or at an inconvenient time, this person will say or do something to bring the relationship to an end.

Sometimes they die. Sometimes they walk away. Sometimes they act up and force you to take a stand.

What we must realize is that our need has been met, our desire fulfilled, their work is done. The prayer you sent up has been answered. And now it is time to move on.

When people come into your life for a **SEASON**. Because your turn has come to share, grow, or learn. They bring you an experience of peace, or make you laugh. They may teach you something you have never done. They usually give you an unbelievable amount of joy. Believe it! It is real! but only for a season.

**LIFETIME** relationships teach you lifetime lessons; things you must

build upon in order to have a solid emotional foundation. Your job is to accept the lesson, love the person, and put what you have learned to use in all other relationships and areas of your life. It is said that love is blind but friendship is clairvoyant.

Thank you for being a part of my life.

### THE LAST TRACT

Every Sunday afternoon, after the morning service at their church, the Pastor and his eleven year old son would go out into their town and hand out Gospel Tracts. This particular Sunday afternoon, as it came time for the Pastor and his son to go to the streets with their tracts, it was very cold outside as well as pouring down rain.

The boy bundled up in his warmest and driest clothes and said--"OK dad, I'm ready."

His Pastor dad asked - "Ready for what?"

"Dad, it's time we gather our tracts together and go out."

Dad responds - "Son, it's very cold outside and it's pouring down rain."

The boy gives his dad a surprised look, asking - "But dad, aren't people still going to Hell, even though it's raining?"

Dad answers - "Son, I am not going out in this weather."

Despondently the boy asks - "Dad, can I go, Please?"

His father hesitated for a moment then said - "Son, you can go. Here are the tracts. Be careful son."

"Thanks Dad!!! " And with that he was off and out into the rain.

This eleven year old boy walked the streets of the town going door to door and handing everybody he met in the street a Gospel Tract. After 2 hours of walking in the rain he was soak-

ing bone chilled wet and down to his VERY LAST TRACT. He stopped on a corner and looked for someone to hand a tract to



but the streets were totally deserted. Then he turned toward the first home he saw and started up the sidewalk to the front door and rang the door bell.

He rang the bell-but nobody answered. He rang it again and again but, still no one answered. He waited but still no answer. Finally this eleven year old trooper turned to leave but something stopped him. Again, he turned to the door and rang the bell and knocked loudly on the door with his fist. He waited, something holding him there on the front porch. He rang again, and this time the door slowly opened.

Standing in the doorway was a very sad looking elderly lady. She softly asked-" What can I do for you son?"

With radiant eyes and a Smile that lit up her world this little boy said - "Mam, I'm sorry if I disturbed you, but I just want to tell you that JESUS REALLY DOES LOVE YOU, and I came to give you my very last Gospel Tract which will tell you all about JESUS and His great LOVE." With that he handed her his last tract, and turned to leave.

She called to him as he departed - "Thank you son! And God Bless You!"

Well, the following Sunday Morning in Church, Pastor Dad was in the Pulpit and as the service began he asked - "Does anybody have a testimony or want to say anything?"

Slowly, in the back row of the Church, an elderly lady stood to her feet. As she began to speak a

Continued on page 4 (tract)

# ALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

## SUNDAYS

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

## MONDAY'S

BIBLE STUDY: REVELATION  
1:00 PM

## WEDNESDAYS

BIBLE STUDY: HEBREWS  
2:00 PM

## SATURDAY JANUARY 14th

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

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:  
9:30 AM

LADIES LUNCHEON:  
11:00 AM

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 15th

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 29th

CHURCH POTLUCK  
FOLLOWING 11:00 AM SERVICE

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

## MONDAY, JANUARY 9th

TEA & PRAISE @  
MORTON CHURCH OF GOD  
10:00 AM

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18th

SENIORS ON THE GO  
12:00 PM

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 19th

AMERICAN LEGION  
6:00 PM  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## PUMPKIN BAPTISM

A lady had recently been baptized and one of her co-workers asked her what it was like to be a Christian. She was caught off guard and didn't know how to answer but when she looked up and she saw a jack-o-lantern on the desk and answered: It's like being a pumpkin.

The worker asked her to explain and she said well, God picks you from the patch and brings you in and washes off all the dirt on the outside that you got from being around all the other pumpkins. Then he cuts off the top and takes all the yucky



out from inside.

He removes all those seeds of doubt, hate, greed etc. Then he carves a new smiling face and puts his light inside of you to shine for all to see.

**Psalm 130:3-4 (KJV)** *If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.*

**Psalm 103:12 (KJV)** *As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.*

# REFLECTIONS OF LOVE CONCERT

WITH  
RON AND KATHY GREEN



Ron and Kathy Green will be sharing their love for Jesus Christ with us, on Sunday, January 15, 2017 at both the 8:15 and 11:00 am services. This would be a good time to invite your family, friends and neighbors to come and enjoy the blessings God has for us.

**Tract** look of glorious radiance came from her face as she said - "None of you in this church know me. I've never been here before. You see, before last Sunday I was not a Christian. My husband passed on, some time ago, leaving me totally alone in this world.

Last Sunday, being a particularly cold and rainy day, it was even more so in my heart as I came to the end of the line where I no longer had any hope or will to live. So I took a rope and a chair and ascended the stairway into the attic of my home. I fastened the rope securely to a rafter in the roof then stood on the chair and fastened the other end of the rope around my neck. Standing on that chair, so lonely and brokenhearted, I was about to leap off when suddenly the loud ringing of my doorbell downstairs startled me.

I thought - 'I'll wait a minute, and whoever it is will go away.' I waited and waited, but the ringing doorbell seemed to get louder and more insistent and then the person ringing also started knocking loudly. I thought to myself again - "Who on earth could this be?! Nobody ever rings my bell or comes to see me." I loosened the rope from my neck and started for the front door, all the while the bell rang louder and louder.

When I opened the door and looked I could hardly believe my eyes for there on my front porch was the most radiant and Angelic little boy I had ever seen in my life. His SMILE, Oh, I could never describe it to you!!! And the words that came from his mouth caused my heart, that had long been dead, TO LEAP TO LIFE as he exclaimed with cherub like voice - 'Mam, I just came to tell you that **JESUS REALLY DOES LOVE YOU.**' Then he gave me this Gospel Tract that I now hold in my hand. As the little Angel disappeared

back out, into the cold and rain, I closed my door and read slowly every word of this Gospel Tract.

Then I went up to my attic to get my rope and chair. I wouldn't be needing them any more. You see, I am now a Happy Child of the KING, and since the address of your Church was on the back of this Gospel Tract I have come here to personally say Thank you to God's little angel who came just in the nick of time and, by so doing, spared my soul from eternity in Hell."

There were now no dry eyes in the Church. And as Shouts of Praise, and Honor to THE KING, resounded off the very rafters of the building, Pastor Dad descended from the pulpit to the front pew where the little Angel was seated; He took him in his arms and sobbed uncontrollably.

Probably no Church has had a more glorious moment. And probably this universe has never seen a Papa that was more filled with love & honor for his son - EXCEPT for one - this FATHER also allowed His Son to go out into a Cold & Dark World. He received His Son back with Joy unspeakable, and as all of Heaven Shouted Praises and Honor to THE KING, The FATHER sat HIS BELOVED SON on a Throne far above all Principality and Power....and every name that is named...

There may be SOMEONE, reading this, who is also going through a Dark, Cold, Lonely time in your soul. You may be a Christian, for we are not without problems, or you may not yet know THE KING. Whatever the case, and whatever the problem or situation you find yourself in, and no matter how DARK it may seem, I want you to know that I just came to tell you - **JESUS REALLY DOES LOVE YOU.**

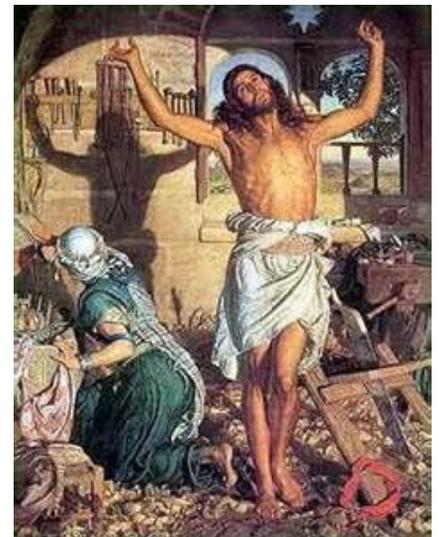
◆ "The Story of Encouragement"

## "THE SHADOW OF DEATH"

The painting, "The Shadow of Death" by Holman Hunt, depicts the inside of the carpenter's shop in Nazareth. Stripped to the waist, Jesus stands by a wooden trestle on which he has put down his saw. He lifts his eyes towards heaven, and the look on his face is one of either pain or ecstasy or both. He also stretches, raising both arms above his head. As he does so, the evening sunlight streaming through the open door casts a dark shadow in the form of a cross on the wall behind him, where his tool-rack looks like a horizontal bar on which his hands have been crucified. The tools themselves remind us of the fateful hammer and nails.

In the left foreground a woman kneels among the wood chip-pings, her hands resting on the chest in which the rich gifts of the Wise men are kept... She looks startled (or so it seems) at her son's cross-like shadow on the wall...

From Jesus' youth, indeed from his birth, the cross cast its shadow ahead of him. His death was central to his mission. (*THE CROSS OF CHRIST*; John R. W. Stott pg 17)



Q  
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*I thought I had stumped everyone, but Mert Horrocks once again came up with the correct answer. The answer to the quiz is found in the eleventh chapter of the book of Acts. The names of the three are Agabus, Paul and Barnabas.*

*Here is the quiz for January.*

*He was a king of royal birth  
He knew the Word for all its worth  
He could have said, "Yes I believe"  
But he didn't and for that I grieve  
He came so close that fateful day  
But from the Truth he turned away  
His wife was there and heard the news  
Of the one who had been accused  
Now tell me the name of that foolish king  
And the name of his wife that he did bring  
The name of the man they heard that day  
And congratulations will come your way*

**HEARING GOD THROUGH DREAMS**

When the subject of hearing God, the thoughts of dreams and visions comes up. The idea of God communicating especially to us with a special message is

attractive. Some deny God will communicate that way today however the Bible does say that there will be those who dream (God given dreams) and have visions in the last days.

Personally, having experienced both, I believe He will sometimes communicate through dreams and visions. The tricky part of dreams and visions is that they are usually in metaphors or similes. These can easily be misinterpreted.

If you think you have received a dream or vision from God, check it out. I do not have the space here to go into interpretation. I'm mostly concerned with how to know if the dream or vision is from God. Always keep in mind, Satan can mimic every method God uses to communicate. He's not as great as God, but he's tricky, sneaky and don't ever underestimate the enemy.

Dreams and visions can be warnings, instruction, encouragement or of future things. They do not have to be about deeply spiritual issues. Here are just a few guidelines if you think you've experienced a dream or vision for God.

Study up on metaphors and similes. Think of all the possible ways something could be interpreted. I had a dream when I was instructed not to enter the land of fantasy without taking my cat "Cautious" with me. Daydreaming was an escapism for me. The dream clearly warned me to be careful about my fantasy life.

Think about the "take away" feelings. Was it disturbing like the one King Nebuchadnezzar had? Or encouraging? Did you awaken with a "knowing" something in particular was going to happen? If the dream was especially memorable, it may be God trying to tell you something.

Visions are like dreams, only you're awake at the time.

Please note that no drugs are needed for God given visions or

dreams, so unlike certain people who "seek visions or dream worlds" using drugs, don't do it. Don't try to force God to communicate with you in any one way.

If a dream is memorable or has a strong "take away feeling" then it is worth asking God for confirmation and help in understanding what his message to you is to be. Always ask Him first what he means if you're not clear. Our loving Father wants to communicate with you. He may or may not use dreams and visions.

God doesn't need to use visions or dreams. He doesn't need the internet to get two people together but that's the method He used with Lloyd and me. If you long to hear from God, be open to any method He wants to use.

Remember, any vision, dream or communication you receive must line up with the Word of God if it violates the Holy Scriptures it is not from God.

**A WIFE'S BAD HABIT**

I overheard a friend telling his pal, "I can't break my wife of the habit of staying up until 5 in the morning."

"What is she doing?", the pal asks.

"Waiting for me to get home."

