



CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



www.onalaskachurchofgod.com

OCTOBER, 2017

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

TODAY A TEAR MAY FALL

*In Loving Memory of Lynnette
Storms*

Of the things she possessed were beautiful penmanship, a loving heart, and the most beautiful chocolate brown eyes I ever saw with a natural set of lush lashes that would do a Maybelline commercial proud; an easy laugh, and a Mother's pride in her children.

She was incapacitated by a body that trapped her and squeezed the very breath from her. Beyond that people would have to look to see her real self. When they did, they would see a person who loved children, animals, and her family. She wrote letters, sent cards, and by phone or in person shared her love for Jesus with one and all. That is when they would be touched by her inner radiant spirit. She was my friend and Heaven has gained what we have lost. She, at the feet of Jesus, is there rejoicing.

Today I will weep with those that weep. For my heart aches and needs to grieve the loss of a voice I shall no longer hear, of special letters, timely cards, and smiling eyes! Today I choose to grieve for the passing of my special friend, with full knowledge that on a future day I will meet her again. We are not forsaken. Our hope lies in Christ who conquered death and the grave. Never-the-less, in memory

of my friend, today a tear may fall.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

I recently attended a showing of 'Superman 3' here at LSA Anaconda. We have a large auditorium we use for movies, as well as memorial services and other large gatherings. As is the custom back in the States, we stood and snapped to attention when the National Anthem began before the main feature. All was going as planned until about three-quarters of the way through The National Anthem the music stopped.

Now, what would happen if this occurred with 1,000 18-22 year-olds back in the States? I imagine there would be hoots, catcalls, laughter, a few rude comments; and everyone would sit down and call for a movie. Of course, that is, if they had stood for the National Anthem in the first place.

Here, the 1,000 Soldiers continued to stand at attention, eyes fixed forward. The music started again. The Soldiers continued to quietly stand at attention. And again, at the same point, the music stopped. What would you expect to happen? Even here I would imagine laughter, as everyone finally sat down and expected the movie to start.

But here, you could have heard a pin drop. Every Soldier continued to stand at attention. Suddenly there was a lone voice, then a dozen, and quickly the

room was filled with the voices of a thousand soldiers, finishing where the recording left off: "And the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. Oh, say does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave, o'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave."

It was the most inspiring moment I have had here in Iraq. I wanted you to know what kind of Soldiers are serving you here. Remember them as they fight for you!

Pass this along as a reminder to others to be ever in prayer for all our soldiers serving us here at home and abroad. For many have already paid the ultimate price.

Written by Army Reserve Chaplain Jim Higgins who, when he is not deployed, is Senior Pastor of McEachern Memorial United Methodist Church, located in Powder Springs, Georgia.

This event took place in May, 2007 while he was stationed at Camp Anaconda, which is a large U.S. base near Baghdad, one of the largest airbases in Iraq.

For those who are unaware, at a military theater, the National Anthem is played before every movie.

⇒ Received from Lee Rosson



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WHAT I VALUE MOST

A young man learns what's most important in life from the guy next door.

It had been some time since Jack had seen the old man. College, girls, career, and life itself got in the way. In fact, Jack moved clear across the country in pursuit of his dreams. There, in the rush of his busy life, Jack had little time to think about the past and often no time to spend with his wife and son. He was working on his future, and nothing could stop him.

Over the phone, his mother told him, "Mr. Belser died last night. The funeral is Wednesday." Memories flashed through his mind like an old newsreel as he sat quietly remembering his childhood days.

"Jack, did you hear me?"

"Oh, sorry, Mom. Yes, I heard you. It's been so long since I thought of him. I'm sorry, but I honestly thought he died years ago," Jack said.

"Well, he didn't forget you. Every time I saw him he'd ask how you were doing. He'd reminisce about the many days you spent over 'his side of the fence' as he put it," Mom told him.

"I loved that old house he lived in," Jack said.

"You know, Jack, after your father died, Mr. Belser stepped in to make sure you had a man's influence in your life," she said.

"He's the one who taught me carpentry," he said. "I wouldn't be in this business if it weren't for him. He spent a lot of time teaching me things he thought were important...Mom, I'll be there for the funeral," Jack said.

As busy as he was, he kept his word. Jack caught the next flight to his hometown. Mr. Belser's funeral was small and uneventful. He had no children of his own, and most of his relatives had passed away.

The night before he had to return home, Jack and his Mom stopped by to see the old house next door one more time.

Standing in the doorway, Jack paused for a moment. It was like crossing over into another dimension, a leap through space and time. The house was exactly as he remembered. Every step held memories. Every picture, every piece of furniture...Jack stopped suddenly.

"What's wrong, Jack?" his Mom asked.

"The box is gone," he said.

"What box?" Mom asked.

"There was a small gold box that he kept locked on top of his desk. I must have asked him a thousand times what was inside. All he'd ever tell me was 'the thing I value most,'" Jack said.

It was gone. Everything about the house was exactly how Jack remembered it, except for the box. He figured someone from the Belser family had taken it.

"Now I'll never know what was so valuable to him," Jack said. "I better get some sleep. I have an early flight home, Mom."

It had been about two weeks since Mr. Belser died. Returning home from work one day Jack discovered a note in his mailbox. "Signature required on a package. No one at home. Please stop by the main post office within the next three days," the note read.

Early the next day Jack retrieved the package. The small box was old and looked like it had been mailed a hundred years ago. The handwriting was difficult to read, but the return address caught his attention. "Mr. Harold Belser" it read. Jack took the box out to his car and ripped open the package. There inside was the gold box and an envelope. Jack's hands shook as he read the note inside.

"Upon my death, please for-

ward this box and its contents to Jack Bennett. It's the thing I valued most in my life." A small key was taped to the letter. His heart racing, as tears filling his eyes, Jack carefully unlocked the box. There inside he found a beautiful gold pocket watch.



Running his fingers slowly over the finely etched casing, he unlatched the cover. Inside he found these words engraved:

"Jack, Thanks for your time! - Harold Belser."

"The thing he valued most was...my time"

Jack held the watch for a few minutes, then called his office and cleared his appointments for the next two days. "Why?" Janet, his assistant asked.

"I need some time to spend with my son," he said.

"Oh, by the way, Janet, thanks for your time!"

"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away,"

◇ Received from Katie Jackson

As of September 28, 2017 we have raised \$ 7,830.57 towards purchase of a Heat Pump. The new Heat Pump will save us between \$700.00 and \$1,000.00 in propane cost.



ALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP AND SERVICE

SUNDAYS

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

MONDAY'S

BIBLE STUDY: REVELATION: 1:00 pm

SATURDAY OCTOBER 14th

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:
9:30 am

LADIES LUNCHEON: 11:00 am

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15th

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29th

POT LUCK

COMMUNITY EVENTS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9th

TEA & PRAISE: 10:00 am
@
SALKUM CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18th

SENIORS ON THE GO: 12:00 NOON

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19th

AMERICAN LEGION: 6:00 pm
@
COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LEARNING TO COUNT

Author unknown

Count your blessings instead of your crosses.

Count your gains instead of your losses.

Count your joys instead of your woes.

Count your friends instead of your foes.

Count your smiles instead of your tears.

Count your courage instead of your fears.

Count your full years instead of your lean.

Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.

Count your health instead of your wealth.

Count on God instead of on yourself.

⇒ Received from: "Katie Jackson"

"ONE"

Author unknown

One song can spark a moment,
One flower can wake the dream.
One tree can start a forest,
One bird can herald spring.

One smile begins a friendship,
One handclasp lifts a soul.
One star can guide a ship at sea,
One word can frame the goal.

One vote can change a nation,
One sunbeam lights a room.
One candle wipes out darkness,
One laugh will conquer gloom.

One step must start each journey,
One word must start each prayer.
One hope will raise our spirits,
One touch can show you care.

One voice can speak with wisdom,
One heart can know what's true.
One life can make the difference,
You see it's up to YOU!!!

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Sunday, October 15th following our 11:00 am Worship Service we will be holding our Annual Business Meeting. We will be voting on the different positions in our church leadership and the budget for 2018.

If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior, are at least 18 years old and have worshiped with us for six months, you are eligible to vote in this meeting.



HE WASHED MY FEET

By Mary Warner

My husband Jay and I live in the high mountain deserts of Wyoming on an oil field location. During the extremely cold winters (sometimes -35 below zero) everything freezes up, and when it is this cold our pipes freeze in the trailer that we live in. This was the case one winter morning when I went to take a shower. In this instance we still had running water, but our main sewage pipe was frozen solid. By now you can probably guess what happened. I got in the shower turned the water on and had just begun to shampoo my hair when an overpowering stench alerted me that something was terribly wrong. I looked down and noticed I was standing in about four inches of raw sewage; believe me when I say this was not a good thing.

I screamed in fact, much to Jay's dismay, he came running in there and immediately saw the problem, by this time I had shampoo in my eyes and had turned the water off and I was crying. I had never stood in raw sewage before and I am sure most of you haven't either. To say I was mortified would be putting it mildly, my sweet husband knows how much I love everything clean and sparkling and he understood why I was crying. He quickly got some paper towels and wiped my feet off enough for me to stand on the



floor. All the while he kept telling me "Honey, it will be okay, it will be okay." He put a robe

on me, a towel on my head and took me into the office area where he had a sample sink to clean his samples. The sample sink drained straight out into the snow and never froze up. Jay put my feet in the sink and washed them tenderly and dried them, before he went and cleaned the shower out.

Most of us will never have to stand in raw sewage but we have had to be cleansed of our filthiness by Jesus, all of us have had to go to Him just as we are covered in the sewage of our sinful lives and be washed by His Righteousness. I love how the word of God puts it: We will be as white as snow when Jesus is done with us.

Jay not only cleaned my feet, and anointed them with good smelling oil, he cleaned the rest of the mess up too, the filth on my feet and the filth of the environment. He truly loved me as Christ loves the church and he served me on the deepest level. As much as this story is about the depth of the love my darling husband has for me it is also about the love that Christ has for us, our Savior who knelt down with a basin of water and washed each of the disciples feet, feet that had walked in animal dung and dust, but Jesus humbled Himself to wash every foot there including the feet of those who would deny Him and betray Him.

Oh what a Savior we serve, and what an example of love. While washing their feet Jesus taught them to wash each other's feet, to serve each other with that same humble love. May we all learn to serve each other like Jesus to wash each others feet, to humbly serve each other and to give ourselves in love and service as Christ did for the church. Jesus not only cleanses us of our filth, He can

clean up our environments too if we let Him, He will show us the things in our hearts that aren't pleasing to Him, the things in our environments that are not pleasing to Him. Let Him have His wonderful way in your lives today Brothers and Sisters and He will make everything as white as snow. In his Love and Service, Mary

POLICE DOG

It was the end of the day when a policeman parked his police van in front of the station. As he gathered his equipment, his K-9 partner was barking and he saw a little boy staring in at him.

"Is that a dog you got back there?"

"It sure is" he replied.

Puzzled, the boy looked at him and then towards the back of the van.

Finally he said, "What'd he do?"

⇒ Received from Lulla Greer



HEADACHE

A little girl come to her mother one day while holding her stomach saying, "Mommy, my stomach hurts." Her mother replied, "That's because it's empty, you have to put something into it".

Later that evening when the pastor and his wife come to dinner. The pastor began to have a headache, holding his head he said, "I have a terrible headache!"

The little girl looked up at him giving him her sweetest smile a child could give. Then she said, "That's because it's empty, you have to put something in it."

⇒ Received from Lulla Greer

Q
U
I
Z



There were three who were able to come up with the correct answer to last month's quiz. The first was Todd, the son of Suzi Bergfalk, my sister Katie and Mert Horrocks also were able to identify **Gamaliel** as the answer to the quiz. His story is found in **Acts 5:34-40**.

*I was told to take a pen
And write the vision clear,
So the ones who read this mes-
sage
Would have no reason to fear.*

*He set me on a tower to hear
what he would say
He said don't be discourage it
will truly come some day.*

*It may be slow in coming but it
will not delay
You need to place your faith in
what I have to say.*

*There is just one name you
need to know
Who it that saw this vision so
many years ago.*

GET A GRIP ON THE WORD

*Understanding what you're
Reading*

KATHLEEN A. MULKINS

A lot of people think they need to get a commentary or a Study Bible with commentary in order to do good Bible study or even understand what they're reading. Not true. When I hear people say,

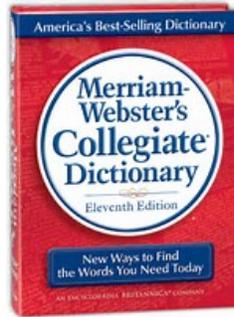
"I don't understand what I'm reading" I ask two questions: "Do you understand the individual words?" And "are you struggling to understand the sentence (or paragraph)?"

If you are struggling to understand the words themselves, I recommend using a dictionary. Not a Bible dictionary, just a plain old' ordinary dictionary. The reason you want a good dictionary is that translators have worked hard to find the modern words that will give the closest meaning or connotation of the original words and thoughts. (Translation is not a word for word activity, more thought to thought. Key words may or may not be translated directly) so, if you're wondering what a word means, look it up in a dictionary. Sometimes it's good to look up words you think you know ... like "faith" or "love" or "hope".

If you're using the King James Bible to study with, the modern dictionary won't help as much. For example, the word "charity" has a completely different connotation than it did 400 years ago. Languages change, which is why it's a good idea to use a good modern translation for study.

Understanding the sentence (especially in Paul's letters in the New Testament) can be challenging. The easiest way to discover what the sentence is about is look for the verbs (action words). Highlight or underline it. Then ask yourself, who /what is doing the action (subject)? Then ask, who or what are they doing the action to or for (direct object). Basic English. All sentences have a subject and a verb.

I was describing this to a class and someone said they wanted to



learn to study the Bible, not study English. Well, the Bible has been translated into English (and if you learn Greek or Hebrew, guess, what, they contain the same basic components) and sometimes we get lost in all the "extra" information. The "extra" is important because it provides clarification of the basic stuff. So, find the basic and build on it. Author Kay Arthur uses the same basic idea in her "precepts" study.

If you're still left with questions, good - write them down. Write down the "who" questions: Who is the writer speaking to? Who are the people involved? Write down the "what" questions. What happened? What effect will there be doing this action have? Write down the "When", "where", "how" and even your "why" questions. The more questions you write down, the more discoveries you will make. If you practice looking at a paragraph or story and write down all the questions you can think of asking (even the ones with obvious answers), you discover a lot more and have the added benefit of remembering what you read better. The more you remember, the more God can use in your life.

If you want to get a grip on the Word to find out what God wants you to know about Him and what He wants you to do about it start with as few study aids as possible. While commentaries have their place in study, trust the Holy Spirit to aid your understanding. If you start with the writing of questions as you read you will discover a lot of the answers are revealed in the Word itself. And learning to live with questions is as important as seeking answers to them. Great scholars have questions they've never found the answer to. In the right time, God will reveal the answer **He** wants **you** to know.