



# CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



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JANUARY, 2018

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

## FATHER MAKE US ONE

“A Story of Two Women”

Submitted by Debra Stitt

When the Old and New Cities of Jerusalem were reunited in 1967, a recently widowed Arab woman, who had been living in Old Jerusalem up to 1948, wanted to see once more the house in which she formerly lived.

Now that the city was one, she searched for and found her old home. She knocked on the door of the apartment, and a Jewish widow came to the door, and greeted her. The Arab woman explained that she had lived there until 1948, and wanted to look around. She was invited in, and offered coffee.



The Arab woman said, “When I lived here, I hid some valuables. If they are still here, I will share them with you, half and half.”

The Jewish woman refused. “If they belonged to you, and are still here, they are yours.” After much discussion back and forth, they entered the bathroom, loosened the floor planks, and found a hoard of gold coins.

The Jewish woman said, “I shall ask the government to let you keep them.” She did and permission was granted

The two widows visited each other again, and again, and one

day, the Arab woman told her, “You know, in



the 1948 fighting here, my husband and I were so frightened that we ran away to escape. We grabbed our belongings, took the children, and each fled separately. We had a three-month-old son. I thought my husband had taken him, and he thought I had him. Imagine our grief when we were reunited in Old Jerusalem to find that neither of us had taken the child.”

The Jewish woman turned pale, and asked the exact date. The Arab woman named the date and the hour, and the Jewish widow told her: “My husband was one of the Israeli troops that entered Jerusalem. He came into this house, and found a baby on the floor. He asked if he could keep the house and the baby, too. Permission was granted.”

At that moment, a twenty-year-old Israeli soldier in uniform walked into the room, and the Jewish woman broke down in tears. “This is your son,” she cried.

This is one of those incredible tales we hear. And the aftermath? The two women liked each other so much that the Jewish widow asked the Arab mother: “Look, we are both widows living alone. Our children are grown up. This house has brought you luck. You have found your son, or our son. Why don't we live together?” And they did!

◇ Author Unknown

## WALKING TOGETHER

Mary Warner

We walk together, my Lord and I  
Where clouds drift and eagles fly,  
He talks to me, I talk to Him  
Until daylight begins to dim,

Time passes too quickly by  
As we walk there, my Lord and I,  
The sun highlights autumn's gold  
Oh, what a sight to behold,

The wild geese wing on high  
As we walk on, my Lord and I,  
He guides me with His gentle hand  
Across the fields and rugged land,

Majestic peaks make me sigh  
As we walk on, my Lord and I,  
The trees are dressed in gold and red,  
It is hallowed ground that we tread,

I watch the clouds wisp on by,  
As we walk on My Lord and I,  
The gentle birds sing His Praise,  
And so do I, exalt His Ways,

We both grow quiet by and by  
As we walk on, my Lord and I,  
Words grow weary and weak  
It is not necessary that we speak,

He knows my heart and every sigh  
As we walk there, my Lord and I,  
He knows me through and through  
He knows my love for Him is true,

I love Him more as we draw nigh  
And we walk on home, my Lord and I,  
The world grows dim as does the sky,  
And we walk on home, my Lord and I.

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## GET A GRIP ON THE WORD

### "SHOTGUN STUDIES"

KATHLEEN A. MULKINS

No, not the study of shotguns – but studies that have the effect of using a shotgun, scattered touches that may or may not have the right effect on your relationship with Jesus. I also call it "the vitamin pill study".



There are some real possible dangers to using the shotgun method. There's the story of a man who decided that how he was going to find out what God wanted him to do so he opened his Bible and pointed randomly. The verse read "and Judas went out and hanged himself" (Matt 27:5). Whoa, the man thought, that can't be right. So he again opened his Bible and pointed at random. This time it read, "Go thou and do likewise" (Luke 10:37b). Oh no. That can't be right either, the man thought. Well, third time's a charm and so for the third time, he opened his Bible and pointed at random – right at the verse that said "whatever you do, do quickly" (John 13:27).

We laugh, but sadly a lot of people open their Bibles and read at random, a verse here and there and hoping they'll get good direction. They may or may not.

Once, when I was really struggling, a friend offered to help. I refused to tell her the details because so often those conversa-

tions ended up their opinions and me defending myself and my actions. I wanted to know what Jesus had to say, so I told her, "just point me to Jesus." She paused and silently prayed and then proceeded to open her Bible, that to her, seemed like random passages and verses. It worked. Although she never knew what I was struggling with, the passages she pointed out, first humbled me, convicted me and then helped me to relinquish my situation to Jesus until I had peace.

So, while this method can be helpful, I do not recommend it until you have a good enough grip on the whole Word so that when you're stuck, you can ask God, "where do I go, what scripture should I claim in this situation?" Once you have a solid grip, God delights in directing you to specific stories or passages or stories that are more "life preservers" than "vitamin pills".

The biggest danger is what the first man experience – taking scripture out of context. Satan loves to do that because while God's Word is true, out of context it can be a half truth. Half-truths are lies. Satan is the king of lies. He even tempted Jesus with scripture taken out of context. Fortunately, Jesus knew the Word.



If reading only one verse a day and thinking about it, is all you can get yourself to do, it's a start. But like trying to live on vitamin pills instead of a good healthy diet, you can end up with a sick spirit, mind and body.



If you're using a concordance to look up specific issues (such as "love", "worry", "fear") be sure you read the surrounding parts (context). Ask questions. What's the setting? To whom is the author speaking? How does it fit with other passages? And finally, can it, does it apply to your or your specific situation?

Bible study is not just finding out information, or what God wants you to do. Always keep in mind, God wants you to know **HIM** and yourself better as a result. By learning and knowing God more, you'll be able trust Him more and desire to obey Him more.

## I ASKED GOD TO BLESS YOU

*Author unknown*

*I asked the Lord to bless you  
As I prayed for you today  
To guide you and protect you  
As you go along your way...*

*His love is always with you  
His promises are true,  
And when we give him all our  
cares  
You know he will see us through*

*So when the road you're  
traveling on  
Seems difficult at best  
Just remember I'm here praying  
And God will do the rest.*

# 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: DANIEL: 1:00 pm

### MONDAY, JANUARY 8th

TEA & PRAISE: 10:00 am  
@  
FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

### SATURDAY JANUARY 13th

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:  
9:30 am

LADIES LUNCHEON: 11:00 am

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 21st

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17th

SENIORS ON THE GO: 12:00 NOON

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 18th

AMERICAN LEGION: 6:00 pm  
@  
COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)**

## CALLING GOD

*Inspirational Christian Stories*



Hello God, I called tonight  
To talk a little while.  
I need a friend who'll listen  
To my anxiety and trial.

You see, I can't quite make it  
Through a day just on my own.  
I need Your love to guide me,  
So I'll never feel alone.

I want to ask You please to keep  
My family safe and sound.  
Come and fill their lives with confidence  
For whatever fate they're bound.

Give me faith, dear God, to face  
Each hour throughout the day  
And not to worry over things  
I can't change in any way.

I thank you God for being home  
And listening to my call,  
For giving me such good advice  
When I stumble and fall.

Your number, God, is the only one  
That answers every time.  
I never get a busy signal,  
Never had to pay a dime.

So thank you, God, for listening  
To my troubles and my sorrow.  
Good night, God, I love You too,  
And I'll call again tomorrow!



## KING OF THE JUNGLE



A lion was stalking through a jungle looking for trouble. Seeking to pick a fight with a passing tiger, he grabbed the tiger's tail and demanded, "Who's the king of the jungle?"

The tiger answered meekly, "You are, O mighty lion."

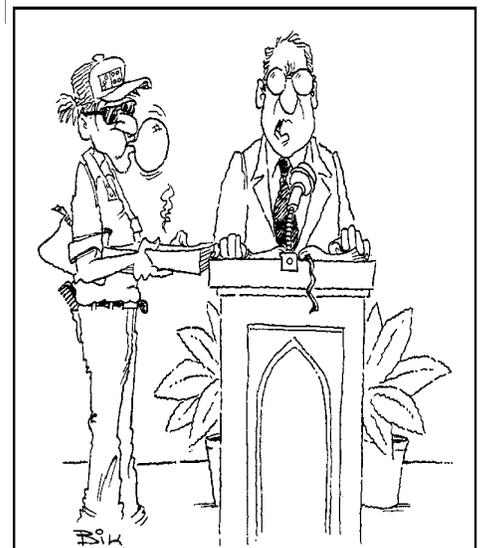
Next, the lion grabbed a monkey, asking, "Who do you say is the king of the jungle?"

"You, O mighty lion," the monkey humbly replied.

Then the lion met an elephant and asked, "Who is the king of the jungle?"

The elephant grabbed him with his trunk, whirled him around, and threw him up against a tree, leaving him bleeding and broken. The lion got up slowly and licking his wounds, addressed the elephant:

"Just because you don't know the answer is no reason for you to get so rough."



"I REALIZE WE'VE RUN INTO THE LUNCH HOUR, AND I'M SORRY. NOW, WHO'S THE WISE GUY WHO ORDERED PIZZA?"

## DEAD OF RECKONING

EVERYONE'S SAYING  
*Only God Can Judge Me*  
FORGETTING THAT  
ONE DAY HE WILL



It is said in the scriptures "It is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment." This being true, why is it that so few people think about the judgment while they are planning and committing sins.

Judston was planning to do someone harm that had wronged him earlier in the day. He plotted and planned how he could get even without getting caught and having to pay a price for his sins. He was a fellow moved by his emotions and feelings and needed to satisfy himself on every whim.

As he lay in bed with his hands behind his head, he wondered what he was going to do to feel better about the situation that caused him so much anger. He began to drift off to sleep and as he did, he saw images of clouds and bright sunlight, fresh air and blue skies. Then suddenly, the sky began to burn and flames were leaping out in every direction.

Judston began to feel hot and wanted to wake up from his dream, but could not. He was afraid for his life and was astonished by what he was dreaming. Suddenly, he saw the face of Satan in the fiery sky and fear gripped his entire body.

He screamed, "God help me!" and then he woke up. He sat up on the bed for a moment and

then he heard inside his spirit, "As fast as the fire consumed the heavens is like unto the speed that retribution burns the soul." He thought to himself, "Maybe I should square this with God and let him handle it."

And God did! Judston and his enemy became like brothers.

## CONSISTENT LOVE AND KINDNESS

Adapted From: "A Focus On The Family Radio Broadcast"

One day a young man was walking along an isolated road when he heard something like a crying sound. He couldn't tell for sure what the sound was but it seemed to be coming from underneath a bridge. As he approached the bridge, the sound got louder and then he saw a pathetic sight. There, lying in the muddy river bed, was a puppy about two months old. It had a gash on its head and was covered with mud. Its front legs were swollen where they had been tightly bound with cords.



The young man was immediately moved with compassion and wanted to help the dog, but as he approached, the crying stopped and the dog snarled his lip and started to growl. But the young man did not give up. He sat down and started gently talking to the dog. It took a long time but eventually the dog stopped growling and the man was able to inch for-

ward and eventually touch the dog and begin unwrapping the tightly bound cord. The young man carried the dog home, cared for its wounds, gave it food and water and a warm bed. Even with all of this, the dog continued to snarl and growl every time the young man approached. But the young man did not give up.

Weeks went by and the man continued caring for the puppy. Then one day, as the young man approached, the dog wagged its tail. Consistent love and kindness had won and a lifelong friendship of loyalty and trust began.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we shall reap a harvest if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9 NIV)

Two gas company service men, a senior training supervisor and a young trainee, were out checking meters in a suburban neighborhood.

They parked their truck at one end of the alley and worked their way to the other end. At the last house an older woman was looking out her kitchen window watching the two men as they checked her gas meter.

Finishing the meter check, the senior supervisor challenged his younger coworker to a foot race down the alley and back to the truck to prove that an older guy could outrun a younger one.

As they came running up to the truck, they realized the lady from that last house was huffing and puffing right behind them.

They stopped and asked her what was wrong.

Gasping for breath, she replied, "When I see two gas men running as hard as you two were, I figure I'd better run too!"



Q  
U  
I  
Z



*The answer to last month's quiz is found in the book of Ruth. Naomi is the correct answer.*

*My mother lost her money  
At least she thought she had  
But I had taken and hid it  
And when I told her she was glad.*

*She took some of the money  
I had returned to her  
She had it made into two images  
Of this I am very sure*

*I have a house of idols  
And this I'm sad to say  
I made my son a priest  
This was not God's way*

*Now tell me my name if you can  
Its there for you to see  
If there is three who and answer  
this  
How happy I will be.*

## THE KING AND HIS FOUR WIVES

Once upon a time there was a rich King who had four wives. He loved the 4th wife the most and adorned her with rich robes and treated her to the finest of delicacies. He gave her nothing but the best.

He also loved the 3rd wife very much and was always showing her off to neighboring kingdoms. However, he feared that one day she would leave him for another.

He also loved his 2nd wife. She was his confidante and was always kind, considerate and pa-

tient with him. Whenever the King faced a problem, he could confide in her, and she would help him get through the difficult times.

The King's 1st wife was a very loyal partner and had made great contributions in maintaining his wealth and kingdom. However, he did not love the first wife. Although she loved him deeply, he hardly took notice of her!

One day, the King fell ill and he knew his time was short. He thought of his luxurious life and wondered, "I now have four wives with me, but when I die, I'll be all alone."

Thus, he asked the 4th wife, "I have loved you the most, endowed you with the finest clothing and showered great care over you. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?" "No way!", replied the 4th wife, and she walked away without another word. Her answer cut like a sharp knife right into his heart.

The sad King then asked the 3rd wife, "I have loved you all my life. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?" "No!", replied the 3rd wife. "Life is too good! When you die, I'm going to remarry!" His heart sank and turned cold.

He then asked the 2nd wife, "I have always turned to you for help and you've always been there for me. When I die, will you follow me and keep me company?" "I'm sorry, I can't help you out this time!", replied the 2nd wife. "At the very most, I can only send you to your grave." Her answer came like a bolt of lightning, and the King was devastated.

Then a voice called out: "I'll leave with you and follow you no matter where you go." The King looked up, and there was his first wife. She was so skinny as she suffered from malnutrition.

Greatly grieved, the King said, "I should have taken much better care of you when I had the chance!"

In truth, we all have 4 wives in our lives: Our 4th wife is our body. No matter how much time and effort we lavish in making it look good, it will leave us when we die.

Our 3rd wife is our possessions, status and wealth. When we die, it will all go to others.

Our 2nd wife is our family and friends. No matter how much they have been there for us, the furthest they can stay by us is up to the grave.

And our 1st wife is our Soul, often neglected in pursuit of wealth, power and pleasures of the ego. However, our Soul is the only thing that will follow us wherever we go. So cultivate, strengthen and cherish it now, it is your greatest gift to offer the world.

⇒ *Received from C J McKnight*

## UNFOLDING THE ROSEBUD

*It is only a tiny rosebud,  
A flower of God's design;  
But I cannot unfold the petals  
With these clumsy hands of mine.*

*The secret of unfolding flowers  
Is not known to such as I.  
GOD opens this flower so sweetly,  
When in my hands they fade and  
die.*

*If I cannot unfold a rosebud,  
This flower of God's design,  
Then how can I think I have  
wisdom  
To unfold this life of mine?*

*So I'll trust in Him for His  
leading  
Each moment of every day.  
I will look to Him for His  
guidance  
Each step of the pilgrim way.*

*The pathway that lies before me,  
Only my Heavenly Father knows.  
I'll trust Him to unfold the  
moments,  
Just as He unfolds the rose.*