



CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



www.onalaskachurchofgod.com

APRIL, 2007

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

EMPTY TOMB

Mary Warner

*I wonder on that glorious morn,
when the rock was rolled away,
What those guards were think-
ing, before they ran away,
Did they realize that You were
the son of Almighty God,
And hallowed was the ground
that your feet had trod?*

*When Mary first arrived her heart
was filled with doom,
She didn't realize the
significance of that
empty tomb,
She stood outside
and wept, her heart
so full of fears,
It was then the angel
asked her about her
tears,*

*"Woman, why are you
crying, who are you
looking for?"*

*He said, as he stood
inside the open door,
She trembled and inquired about
her Rabboni,
Then Jesus stood before her and
said, "Mary, it is I,*

*"Go and tell my brothers, they
have nothing to dread,
I have risen, I have risen, I am
not among the dead,"
Mary swiftly ran, on winged feet
how she soared,
Breathlessly announcing,
"I have seen the Lord,"*

*On the evening of the first day in
the upper room,*



*The disciples were together dis-
cussing the empty tomb,
The doors were locked down
tight, for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood among
them, "Peace be with you,"*

*And then again Jesus said,
"Peace be with you,
As the Father has sent me, so I
am sending you,"
With that He breathed on them,
the comforter was given,
Then he spent time with them
before returning unto heaven,*

*No tomb could ever
hold him, no grave
could quite contain,
The Savior of the
world, Oh! let us
bless His holy name,
Jesus, is our hero,
our
conqueror, our friend,
He knows no begin-
ning, and he knows
no end,*

*Praise him in the
morning, praise him from your
bed,
Jesus saved the world by
rising from the dead.*

SAND & STONE

Two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey, they had an argument; and one friend slapped the other on in the face.

The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand: "Today my

best friend slapped me in the face."

They kept on walking, until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him.



After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone: "Today my best friend saved my life."

The friend who has slapped and saved his best friend asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, you write on a stone. Why?"

The friend replied: "When someone hurts us we should write it down in sand, where winds of forgiveness can erase it way. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it.

Learn to write your hurts in the sand and to carve your benefits in stone.

They say it takes a minute to find a special person, and hour to appreciate them a day to love them, but than an entire life to forget them.

Do not value the things have in your life, but value who you have in your life!

◆ Received from Joe & Freda Downs

LIGHTHOUSE OIL

God has blessed each of us with such wonderful gifts, talents, and abilities. Each of us is unique, called by God for different tasks and ministries.

The story is told of a lighthouse keeper who worked on a rocky stretch of coastline and who received his new supply of oil once a month to keep the light burning.



Not being far from shore, he had frequent guests. One night a woman from the village begged some oil to keep her family warm. Another time a father asked for some to use in his lamp. Another needed some to lubricate a wheel. Since all the requests seemed legitimate, the lighthouse keeper tried to please everyone and granted them all.

Toward the end of the month he noticed that the supply of oil was very low. Soon, it was gone, and the beacon light went out. That night several ships were wrecked and lives were lost. When the authorities investigated, the man was very repentant. To his excuses and pleading their reply was: "You were given the oil for one purpose, to keep that light burning!"

Just as the lighthouse keeper was given oil for a singular purpose, you too are endowed with gifts by the Lord for a specific reason. The talents and abilities you have are not yours to do with as you wish. You are a steward of what the Lord has entrusted to you. As good stewards, we must gratefully serve Him with all that we have, for His glory, and for His purpose!

◆ Received from Joe & Freda Downs

A CALL TO WORSHIP

by
Os Hillman

...but they did not listen to him because of their discouragement and cruel bondage. ~ Exodus 6:9

It is very difficult to lead when those you are leading believe they have been mistreated and have lost all hope. Such was the case when God called Moses to bring the people of Israel out of Egypt. They had lived under many years of oppression and slavery. Yet God heard their cry. He sent someone to bring them out of slavery "so that they might worship God" (see Ex. 8:1). Interesting that God didn't say, "to serve Him." Above all else, God desires our worship. A person cannot enter into true worship of God while still in slavery and bondage.

In Proverbs, the writer tells us "*hope deferred makes the heart sick...*" (**Proverbs 13:12a**). There is a place in life where life becomes so discouraging and hopeless that we lose all hope, and it can actually make us sick. I have been at this place; it is a scary condition. It brings you to the edge of despair.

The people would not listen to Moses. Yet God did not deliver immediately. In fact, it would be many plagues later before ultimate deliverance would take place. Why does God withhold deliverance at times? It is in order to bring greater glory from the situation. It isn't because He doesn't care. It is because His plan for mankind is resting in these events. It is a finely tuned plan that involves many people and situations—all operating at the same time. It can seem cruel at times. But God knows that His children cannot

worship Him if they are in bondage and lose all hope. He won't allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear, so He has a plan of deliverance for each of us. This plan is not always the kind of deliverance we might think is best. It sometimes has pain surrounding the deliverance. When a mother gives birth, that child is delivered into this world through much pain. But with that pain comes great joy on the other side. Every mother will say the pain was worth it because of the exceeding joy that child brought in the midst of the pain.

What are you in bondage to today? What keeps you from entering true worship? Work can keep us in bondage if we fail to



enter into freedom in Christ during our workday. Today, ask God to show you the areas of bondage that you are living in so that you may worship Him.

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Jews for Jesus
CHRIST IN THE PASSOVER



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4 @ 6:30 PM
MOSSYROCK ASSEMBLY OF GOD

ALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

SUNDAYS

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM
MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 AM

~

**EVENING SING & PRAISE
SERVICE**
6:00 PM

~

WEDNESDAYS

SUP & STUDY

We will gather at **6:30 PM** for a light supper and then at **7:00 PM** we will have a Bible Study.

We are studying the life of Moses.

~

SATURDAY, APRIL 7

WCG LUNCHEON
12:00 NOON

~

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

**CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING**
10:00 AM

~

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

MEN'S BREAKFAST
7:00 AM

~

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

FOOD BANK SUNDAY
11:00 AM

COMMUNITY EVENTS

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 8

**SUNRISE SERVICE
AT THE FOOTBALL STADIUM**
7:00 AM

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST
AT HIGH SCHOOL GYM**

TEA & PRAISE

MONDAY, APRIL 9
SHOESTRING CHURCH
10:00 AM

~

SENIORS ON THE GO

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18
12:00 NOON

~

AMERICAN LEGION

THURSDAY, APRIL 19
7:00 PM

PNA EVENTS

WARM

Western Area Regional Ministerium

Of the Church of God

NATIONAL PREACHING CLINIC

April 17, 18 & 19

A VIEW FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

We are currently working on updating the By-Laws, expecting the first draft to be presented at our next Council meeting.

The insurance representative from Guide One, our current carrier, will be at our next meeting to explain some of the curiosities of the policy that covers the three buildings owned by the congregation.

We have requested and anticipate the WCG will have all of the items in the Fellowship Hall inventoried and photographed as an aid in determining proof of ownership for our insurance coverage. This is something everyone with any insured possessions needs to do.

It was voted upon to have a business meeting after services on April 29th to amend the budget.

The next meeting of the Church Council will be **April 14, 2007 at 10:00 A. M.**, please feel free to attend our meetings and add to the decision making process by voicing your feelings on topics that come before the Council. If you have any concerns with how things are being addressed, please come and discuss ways we can do them better.

Susan Olsen

THE EVENTS THAT LED UP TO EASTER

THE SINFULNESS OF MAN: *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Romans 3:23 (KJV)*

THE LOVE OF GOD: *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 (KJV)*

THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE: *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 (KJV)*

THE DEFEAT OF SIN & SATAN: *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; Hebrews 2:14 (KJV)*

THE HOPE OF OUR REDEMPTION: *And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come. 1 Thessalonians 1:10 (KJV)*

THE SOAP MAKER

A minister and a soap maker went for a walk together. The soap maker said, "What good is religion? Look at all the trouble and misery of the world! Its still there, even after years, thousands of years, of teaching about goodness and truth and peace. Its still there, even after all the prayers and sermons and teachings. If religion is good and true, why should this be?"

The minister said nothing. They continued walking until he noticed a child playing in a mud puddle.

Then the minister said, "Look at that child. You say that soap makes people clean, but see the dirt on that youngster.

Of what good is soap? With all the soap in the

world, over all these years, the child is still filthy. I wonder how effective soap is, after all"

The soap maker protested. "But, Pastor, soap cannot do any good unless it is used!"

"Exactly!" replied the minister.

◆ Received from Eva Dean Smith

WE ARE NOT ABANDONED

by Rick Ezell

God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5 NIV).

I heard Steve Brown on the radio telling about the ugliest car he had ever seen. It had a large gash on its side; the door was held together with bailing wire; many places on the car were rusted out.

The muffler was loose and, with every bump, was hitting the street sending sparks in every direction. It was hard to tell the original color of the car. The rust had eaten away much of the original paint, and so much of the car had been painted over with so many different colors that any one of them, or none of them, could have been the first coat. The most interesting thing about the car was the bumper



sticker. It read: "This is not an abandoned car."

We live in a fallen world. It is ugly and depressing. Everywhere we turn we find tragedy and heartache. We are sitting on the verge of disaster. But it is not just the world. It's us. Sometimes the effort to keep on keeping on doesn't seem worth it. Guilt, loneliness, hurt and fear become constant companions. One wonders sometimes if any of it makes any difference. One wonders if anyone, especially God cares. But a long time ago, in a manger, a baby was born. It was a sign. It read: "This is not an abandoned world."

When Jesus came, God gave us the assurance that he had not abandoned us. He visited our planet letting us know that he was involved and that he cared. What the angel said to the shepherds was the same thing God is saying to us today, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will

be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11 NIV).

Even though we may not understand all that is happening to us and to our world, we are in good hands. God is not in a panic; he is still in control of our world. While circumstances may indicate panic at every turn, God came to us to say that he can understand the complexities of humanity and will touch people where they hurt the most.

from Sightings of the Savior, © 2003
Rick Ezell, sighted in Rick's "Minute Uplift" weekly email devotional of
March 1, 2007

AN IRISH BLESSING FROM ME TO YOU



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;
Love your neighbor as much as yourself.
Love God most of all.

◆ Received from Eva Dean Stone

GREAT BIBLE SALESMAN

A minister concluded that his church was getting into serious financial trouble. While checking the church storeroom, he discovered several cartons of new bibles that had never been opened or distributed.

So, at his Sunday sermon he asked for three volunteers from the congregation who would be willing to sell the bibles door-to-door for \$10 each to raise the desperately needed money for the church.

Peter, Paul and Louie all raised their hands to volunteer for the task.

The minister knew that Peter and Paul earned their living as salesmen and were likely capable of selling some bibles. But he had serious doubts about Louie who was a local farmer, who had always kept to himself because he was embarrassed by his speech impediment.

Poor Louie stuttered badly. But, not wanting to discourage Louie, the minister decided to let him try anyway. He sent the three of them away with the back seat of their cars stacked with bibles.

He asked them to meet with him and report the results of their door-to-door selling efforts the following Sunday.

The next Sunday, anxious to find out how successful they were, the minister immediately asked Peter, "Well, Peter, how did you make out selling our bibles last week?" Proudly handing the reverend an envelope, Peter replied, "Using my sales technique, I was able to

sell 20 bibles, and here's the \$200 I collected on behalf of the church."

"Fine job, Peter!" the minister said, vigorously shaking his hand "You are indeed a fine salesman and the church is indebted to you."

Turning to Paul, "And Paul, how many bibles did you sell for the church last week?" Paul, smiling and sticking out his chest, confidently replied, "I am a professional salesman, I sold 28 bibles on behalf of the church, and here's \$280 I collected."

The minister responded, "That's absolutely splendid, Paul. You are truly a professional salesman and the church is also indebted to you."

Apprehensively, the minister turned to Louie and said, "And Louie, did you manage to sell any bibles last week?"

Louie silently offered the minister a large envelope. The reverend opened it and counted the contents. "What is this?" the minister exclaimed. "Louie, there's \$3,200 in here! Are you suggesting that you sold 320 bibles for the church, door-to-door, in just one week?"

Louie just nodded.

"That's impossible!" both Peter and Paul said in unison. "We are professional salesmen, yet you claim to have sold 10 times as many bibles as we could."

Yes, this does seem unlikely," the minister agreed. "I think you'd better explain how you managed to accomplish this, Louie."

Louie shrugged. "I-I-I re-re-really do-do-don't kn-kn-know f-f-f-for sh-sh-sure," he stammered.

Impatiently, Peter interrupted. "For crying out loud, Louie, just tell us what you said to them when they answered the door!"

Louie replied, "A-a-a-all I-I-I- s-s-said wa-wa-was, w-w-w-would y-y-y-you I-I-I-like t-t-to b-b-b-buy th-th-th-this b-b-b-b-bible f-f-for t-t-ten b-b-b-bucks, o-o-o-wo-wo-would yo-you j-j-j-just I-I-like m-m-me t-t-to st-st-stand h-h-here and r-r-r-read it t-t-to y-y-you?"

◆ Received from Carol Haun



BIBLE



Q U I Z

Last month only my sister, Katie Jackson came up with the correct answer, Joshua. His story is found in the 10 chapter of Joshua. Here is this month's quiz.

*I wanted to keep just what I had,
But instead I gave it away and it
made me glad.
There were many others who had
nothing to give.
But what I had I wanted to be his.*

*What I had was very small,
But I loved him so I gave it all.
What I gave him I'm sure you know
He gave away, his grace to show.*

*What I had was not very much
But he took what I had and made a
bunch.
He gave to others that they might
live,
I'm so glad I have learned to give.*

*Now my name is not within the Book
I don't care how hard you look.
But tell me the story if you think
you can
And a candy bar I'll place within
your hand.*