



# CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



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

## STRATEGIES FOR 2008



Here are three great strategies from **Philippians 4:6-13 (NLT)** for each of us for this New Year.

### 1. PRAYER STRATEGY: Pray about everything.

**Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)** *Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*

### 2. THINKING STRATEGY: Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

**Philippians. 4:8-9 (NLT)** *And now, dear brothers and sisters, let me say one more thing as I close this letter. Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned from me and heard from me and saw me doing, and the God of peace will be with you.*

### 3. LIVING STRATEGY: Learn how to be content.

**Philippians 4:10-13 (NLT)** *How grateful I am, and how I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but for a while you didn't have the chance to help me. Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to get along happily whether I have much or little. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need.*

## THE SECRET

One day, one friend asked another, "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, she said, "I know the Secret."

"What secret is that?"

To which she replied, "I'll tell you all about it, but you have to promise to share the Secret with others. 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 to 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 has never let me down. Since I learned that 'secret', I am happy."

The questioner's first thought was, "That's too simple!" But upon reflecting over his own life he recalled how he thought a bigger house would make him happy, but it didn't! He thought a better paying job would make him happy, but it hadn't.

When did he realize his greatest happiness? Sitting on the floor with his grandchildren, playing games, eating pizza or reading a story, a simple gift from God.

Now you know it too! We can't depend on people to make us happy. Only GOD in His infinite wisdom can do that. Trust HIM!

YOU should tell someone the Secret, too! That GOD in His wisdom will take care of YOU!

But it's not really a secret... We just have to believe it and do it... Really trust God!

◆ Received from Joe & Freda Downs

## IN 2008

May you have  
Enough happiness to make you  
sweet,  
Enough trials to make you  
strong,  
Enough sorrow to keep you  
human,  
Enough hope to make you  
happy.  
Enough love so you can share it  
with others.

# THE VALUE OF BEING A FRIEND

One day, when I was a freshman in high school, I saw a kid from my class was walking home from school. His name was Kyle. It looked like he was carrying all of his books. I thought to myself, 'Why would anyone bring home all his books on a Friday? He must really be a nerd.'

I had quite a weekend planned (parties and a football game with my friends tomorrow afternoon), so I shrugged my shoulders and went on. As I was walking, I saw a bunch of kids running toward him. They ran at him, knocking all his books out of his arms and tripping him so he landed in the dirt. His glasses went flying, and I saw them land in the grass about ten feet from him.

He looked up and I saw this terrible sadness in his eyes. My heart went out to him, so, I jogged over to him as he crawled around looking for his glasses, and I saw a tear in his eye. As I handed him his glasses, I said, 'Those guys are jerks.' They really should get lives. He looked at me and said, 'Hey thanks!' There was a big smile on his face. It was one of those smiles that showed real gratitude.

I helped him pick up his books, and asked him where he lived. As it turned out, he lived near me, so I asked him why I had never seen him before. He said he had gone to private school before now. I would have never hung out with a private school kid before.

We talked all the way home, and I

carried some of his books. He turned out to be a pretty cool kid.

I asked him if he wanted to play a little football with my friends. He said yes. We hung out all weekend and the more I got to know Kyle, the more I liked him, and my friends thought the same of him.

Monday morning came, and there was Kyle with the huge stack of books again. I stopped him and said, 'Boy, you are gonna really build some serious muscles with this pile of books everyday!' He just laughed and handed me half the books. Over the next four years, Kyle and I became best friends.

When we were seniors we began to think about college. Kyle decided on Georgetown and I was going to Duke. I knew that we would always be friends, that the miles would never be a problem. He was going to be a doctor and I was going for business on a football scholarship.

Kyle was valedictorian of our class. I teased him all the time about being a nerd. He had to prepare a speech for graduation. I was so glad it wasn't me having to get up there and speak Graduation day, I saw Kyle. He looked great. He was one of those guys that really found himself during high school. He filled out and actually looked good in glasses. He had more dates than I had and all the girls loved him. Boy, sometimes I was jealous! Today was one of those days. I could see that he was nervous about his speech. So, I smacked him on the back and said, 'Hey, big guy, you'll be great!' He looked at me with one of those looks (the really grateful one) and smiled.' Thanks,' he said.

As he started his speech, he cleared his throat, and began 'Graduation is a time to thank those who helped you make it through those tough years. Your parents, your teachers, your siblings, maybe a coach...but mostly your friends...I am here to tell all of you that being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them. I am going to tell you a story.'

I just looked at my friend with disbelief as he told the story of the first day we met. He had planned to kill himself over the weekend. He talked of how he had cleaned out his locker so his Mom wouldn't have to do it later and was carrying his stuff home.

He looked hard at me and gave me a little smile. 'Thankfully, I was saved. My friend saved me from doing the unspeakable.'

I heard the gasp go through the crowd as this handsome, popular boy told us all about his weakest moment. I saw his Mom and dad looking at me and smiling that same grateful smile. Not until that moment did I realize its depth.

Never underestimate the power of your actions. With one small gesture you can change a person's life.

◆ Received from Jim Sparks



## **POLITICALLY CORRECT** **BIBLICAL HEADLINES**

On Red Sea crossing:

**WETLANDS TRAMPLED IN  
LABOR STRIKE**

*Enforcement Officials Killed While Pursuing Unruly Mob*

~

On David vs. Goliath:

**HATE CRIME KILLS BELOVED  
CHAMPION OF RELIEF TROOPS**

*Psychologist Questions Significance of Rock Used as Weapon*

# ONALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

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

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

~  
**TUESDAYS**

**KID'S CLUB**  
**3:30 — 4:30 PM**

~  
**WEDNESDAYS**

**BIBLE STUDY RESUMES**  
**JANUARY 9**  
**7:00 PM**

~  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 12**

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**9:00 AM**

~  
**THE LADIES LUNCHEON**  
**12:00 NOON**

~  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 19**

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**  
**7:00 AM**

~  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 20**

**FOOD BANK SUNDAY**

~  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 25**

**ALL CHURCH GAME NIGHT**  
**6:30 PM**

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**SATURDAY, JANUARY 26**

There are some who are interested in having a Saturday evening service for those who are unable to attend on Sundays. We will be having a planning meeting on Saturday, January 29 for those who would like to be involved. The service would be on more of a contemporary style. If you would be inter-

ested in such a service, please come to the planning meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 PM.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 10**

**AMERICAN LEGION 40 & 8**

**6:00 PM**

~  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16**

**SENIORS ON THE GO**

**12:00 NOON**

~  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 17**

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

**1:00 PM**

~  
**AMERICAN LEGION**

**7:00**

## **PASTOR'S THOUGHTS**

Its hard to believe that ten years have passed since I returned from Colorado, to be your pastor. With adding the seven years I served before I went to Colorado, I have served this congregation for seventeen years and it seem only like yesterday that my family and I came to Onalaska in 1981. I have truly enjoyed my ministry of serving this church and I am looking forward to many more years as God leads.

It is my desire to see our church grow spiritually and nu-

merically. In the past couple of years we have seen new families come into our fellowship and we have experienced a growth in younger families. We must be willing to open our hearts to each and everyone who enters our doors and do what we can to meet their spiritual needs. But in order for us to continue experiencing growth we must be willing to accept change.

Change can be very difficult at times. I am one that does not like change. I like things the way they are and I am comfortable doing things the way they have always been done. I have often said the only time change is easy is when we want the change. What we often fail to recognize is that we are all a product of change. We have all experienced change and have come to appreciate the results of that change.

The question we must ask ourselves is; "Am I willing to accept change if it will help our church to grow and reach those who do not know Christ as their Savior?"

One of the big changes that we are facing is the overcrowding of our Fellowship Hall. We are needing to enlarge our present Fellowship Hall. We have two avenues of direction to choose from. We can build a new church and fellowship hall on the Leonard

Road property or remodel our present fellowship hall.

At this time we are considering remodeling the present Fellowship Hall. We do not know for sure how much this will cost but we have a little over \$ 10,000.00 already in the Fellowship Hall

Fund.

Please pray for myself and the Church Council as we seek to provide leadership in accordance to the will of God.



## Tested for Abundance

by Os Hillman

*We went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance. ~ Psalm 66:12b*

It is nice to hear that God desires to bring us into abundance. In fact, many a preacher has promoted the goodness of the Lord and His ability to prosper His children. Alas, my experience is that this gospel of material abundance has little to do with the gospel of the Kingdom as our Lord works in the realm of the sanctified soul. The passage above tells us that God does in fact bring us into places of abundance. However, upon further study of the entire passage, we learn the route to this abundance.

"For you, O God, tested us; You refined us like silver. You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs. You let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but You brought us to a place of abundance" (Psalm 66:10-12).

God's economy of abundance often has little to do with material blessing. In God's economy, abundance is often measured in wisdom and knowledge of Himself. It is then that we are truly blessed. Wisdom cannot be gained through intellectual pursuits. Wisdom comes only through experience. Real wisdom comes from the kinds of experiences that come only through the deepest tests. Lessons of refinement, including prison accompanied by burdens, lead us through the fire and water.

This is the territory that must be traveled to reach that place of abundance. It would seem strange that a loving God would use such means with His children.

What we often fail to realize is that God's measuring stick is the character and likeness of Jesus Christ Himself in each of us. This cannot be gained through a life of ease and pleasure. Ease and pleasure fail to refine.

Is God using your workplace to refine you today? Has He placed you in a prison or laid burdens on your back? Take heart if this is the place you find yourself, and realize that if you are faithful through the tests, you will enter a place of abundance that few will ever attain. The darkest hour is just before daybreak.

"Reprinted by permission from the author. Os Hillman is an international speaker and author of more than 8 books on workplace calling. To learn more, visit <http://www.MarketplaceLeaders.org>"

## THE WOODEN BOWL

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law, and four-year



old grandson. The old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered. The family ate together at the table.

But the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating difficult. Peas rolled off his spoon onto the floor. When he grasped the glass, milk spilled on the tablecloth.

The son and daughter-in-law became irritated with the mess. "We must do something about father," said the son. "I've had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor."

So the husband and wife set a small table in the corner. There, Grandfather ate alone while the

rest of the family enjoyed dinner. Since Grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a Wooden bowl!

When the family glanced in Grandfather's direction, sometime he had a tear in his eye as he sat alone. Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food.

The four-year-old watched it all in silence. One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on the floor. He asked the child sweetly, "What are you making?"

Just as sweetly, the boy responded, "Oh, I am making a little bowl for you and Mama to eat your food in when I grow up." The four-year-old smiled and went back to work.

The words so struck the parents so that they were speechless. Then tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no word was spoken, both knew what must be done.

That evening the husband took Grandfather's hand and gently led him back to the family table. For the remainder of his days he ate every meal with the family. And for some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled, or the tablecloth soiled.

### WORDS TO GROW ON

*If you want your dreams to come true, you mustn't oversleep.*

**Ideas won't work unless 'we' do.**

*One thing we can't recycle is wasted time.*

**It is never too late to become all God can make you to be.**

Q  
U  
I  
Z



Diana Wolf was the first person to come up with the correct answer to last month's quiz. The answer is found in the 36 chapter of Jeremiah. The names were; Baruch who wrote the book for the prophet Jeremiah, and it was King Jehoiakim who burned the book.

Rev. Jeanne Hossler and my sister Katie Jackson also came up with the correct answer only a little late.

Here is this month's quiz. I used it several years ago but I thought it was quite fitting for the time.

*I saw him there among the crowd,  
Brought by his parents who were  
so proud.*

*I held him in my own hands,  
Yet who he was I didn't under-  
stand.*

*I knew that one day he would  
come,  
But I didn't know that he was the  
one.*

*I held him high so all could see,  
Yet he didn't seem so special to  
me.*

*Many came to me that day,  
Just how many I can not say,  
His mother stood close to my  
side,  
I heard her sob, I knew she cried  
When I placed him back into her  
arms.*

*A sense came over me of alarm.  
I stood and watched them walk  
away from me.*

*I began to wonder, "Who was  
he?"*

*Now I know my name you can not  
share,  
For in the Book it isn't there.  
But who am I, don't look too far.  
And you might win the candy bar.*

## **189 PIECES**

A grandfather bought a hobby horse by mail order as a birthday present for his granddaughter. The toy arrived in 189 pieces. The instructions said that it could be put together in an hour. However, it took the grandfather two days to assemble the toy. Finally, when it was all put together, he wrote a check, cut it into 189 pieces, and mailed it off to the company. He sent an accompanying note stating that the check should clear the bank with-in 24 hours – after reassembly.

## **BRAN MUFFINS**

The couple were 85 years old, and had been married for sixty years. Though they were far from rich, they managed to get by because they watched their pennies.

Though not young, they were both in very good health, largely due to the wife's insistence on healthy foods and exercise for the last decade.

One day, their good health didn't help when they went on a rare vacation and their plane crashed, sending them off to Heaven.

They reached the pearly gates, and St. Peter escorted them inside. He took them to a beautiful mansion, furnished in gold and fine silks, with a fully stocked kitchen and a waterfall in the master bath. A maid could be seen hanging their favorite clothes in the closet.



They gasped in astonishment when he said, "Welcome to Heaven. This will be your home now."

The old man asked Peter how much all this was going to cost. "Why, nothing," Peter replied, "remember, this is your reward in Heaven."

The old man looked out the window and right there he saw a championship golf course, finer and more beautiful than any ever built on Earth. What are the greens fees?," grumbled the old man.

"This is heaven," St. Peter replied. "You can play for free, every day."

Next they went to the clubhouse and saw the lavish buffet lunch, with every imaginable cuisine laid out before them, from seafood to steaks to exotic deserts, free flowing beverages.

"Don't even ask," said St. Peter to the man. This is Heaven, it is all free for you to enjoy."

The old man looked around and glanced nervously at his wife.

"Well, where are the low fat and low cholesterol foods, and the decaffeinated tea?," he asked.

"That's the best part," St. Peter replied. "You can eat and drink as much as you like of whatever you like, and you will never get fat or sick. This is Heaven!"

The old man pushed, "No gym to work out at?" "Not unless you want to," was the answer.

"No testing my sugar or blood pressure or..."

"Never again. All you do here is enjoy yourself."

The old man glared at his wife and said, "You and your bran muffins. We could have been here ten years ago!"

◆ Received from Ruth Bushnell