



CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



www.onalaskachurchofgod.com

NOVEMBER, 2008

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

FIRE DRAWS A CROWD

by
John Newton
Church Multiplication
September 30, 2008

But if I say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot. (Jeremiah 20:9 NIV)

I love a good fire! I love watching fires. I love sitting by fires. Actually, I love starting fires, but that is a whole other story. (Sorry, Dad and Mom!) There is something about a fire that has always drawn me towards it. And I don't think I am all that different from most people. Fire draws a crowd. That is just what fires do.

A few weeks ago, I was driving back into Anderson, Indiana, after returning from an out-of-state trip. It must have been about one o'clock in the morning. It was cold and dark, and I was ready to be in my bed for the night. Off in the distance, on the southeast side of Anderson, I saw a glow in the night sky. It was a fire! It lit up everything around it. Inside, I wanted to scream out like Tom Hanks in the movie *Castaway*, "FIRE!"

At that moment, I wasn't tired. In fact there wasn't even a

thought of the warmth of my bed. Instead, I went out of my way to see what was causing the fire. It was a mobile home, fully engulfed in flames. Everyone had safely exited, and emergency equipment was on hand to help put the fire out. I sat there in a nearby church parking lot, mesmerized by the sight. I wasn't the only one. Car after car began to arrive. That's because fire draws a crowd.



In the past few years, I have had opportunity to visit many congregations around the country. Just last weekend, I visited a church in Louisville, Kentucky. As I listened to their joy, heard their testimonies, read of their plan to take food baskets to needy families, watched youth respond to God's call by filling the altar, and witnessed a first-time visitor recommit her life to Christ, I wanted to stand and yell, "FIRE!"

Some churches are full, exciting, and relevant. Others are mostly empty, dull, and disconnected. I have come to a conclusion. It isn't a scientific conclusion. It is mostly just personal observation: Fire draws a crowd.

So let's pray for fire! Let's pray for a fire in the Church of God. Let's pray that every individual, every church, and every agency might ignite everything we touch because of a fire that burns deep within our bones, a desire to fulfill that Great Commission spoken by our Lord so long ago

when he said: *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matt 28:19-20 NIV).*

Dirty Laundry

A young couple moves into a new neighborhood. The next morning, while they are eating breakfast, the young woman sees the neighbor hang up the wash outside.

"That laundry is not very clean," she said. "She doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs another laundry soap.

The husband looked on, but remained silent.

Every time her neighbor would hang out the wash, the young woman would make the same comment.

About one month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband, "Look! She has learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this?"

Her husband said, "I got up early this morning and washed the windows."

And so it is with life: What we see while watching others depends on the purity of the window through which we look!

◆ Received from Joe & Freda Downs

A CHILD'S VIEW OF THUNDERSTORMS

A little girl walked to and from school daily.

Though the weather that morning was questionable and clouds were forming, she made her daily trek to the elementary school.

As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up, along with lightning.

The mother of the little girl felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school and she feared the electrical storm might harm her child. Full of concern, the mother quickly got into her car and drove along the route to her child's school.

As she did, she saw her little girl walking along. At each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up, and smile. Another and another flash of lightning followed quickly and with each, the little girl would look at the streak of light and smile.

When the mother's car drew up beside the child, she lowered the window and called to her 'What are you doing?'

The child answered, 'I am trying to look pretty because God keeps taking my picture.'

May God bless you and grant you strength and peace, today and everyday as you face the storms that come your way.

◆ Received from James Sparks

MY FATHER IS ON DECK

In the days of the sailing vessels, a certain captain from Liverpool

commanded a ship sailing to New York. On one voyage, his family went with him. During the night, when everyone was asleep, a storm arose and struck the vessel, throwing her over on her side. Everything inside the ship tumbled and crashed. The passengers

awoke in great fear and in imminent peril. Everyone on board was alarmed. Many of the passengers sprang from their berths and began to dress so that they might be ready for the worst.

The captain's eight-year-old daughter was on board, and awoke with the other passengers. "What is the matter?" the frightened child pleaded.

They told her that a storm had struck the ship. "Is my father on deck?" she asked.

"Yes, your father is on deck." The little girl dropped back on her pillow and, without a fear in the world, in just a few moments was again sleeping soundly in spite of the wind and the waves – because her father was on deck.

Never forget that our Father is on deck. Whatever the storm of life or the storms of this world may bring, God is in charge. Our Father is on deck.

◆ Received from Joe & Freda Downs

MAY YOU HAVE A B.A.D. DAY

While shopping at a local store, I spotted a man with an acronym on his shirt that had B.A.D.

Me, being the person that I am, curious, I stopped the man and asked, "What does B.A.D. stand for?" And trust me, you'll be

amazed at what his response was.

He replied, B.A.D. stands for: "Blessed And Delivered". That thought stuck with me as I finished doing my shopping that day.

So I came up with a little advice for you today.

When the enemy tries to attack you, be B.A.D.

1. ***When things don't seem to be going right on your job, be B.A.D.***
2. ***When things are not looking good in your marriage, be B.A.D.***
3. ***When folks scandalize your name, just be B.A.D.***

May God bless you and may you have a real B.A.D. Day!

◆ Received from Eva Dean Stone

JESUS

Jesus had no servants, yet they called Him Master.

Had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher.

Had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer.

Had no army, yet kings feared Him....?

He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world.

He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him.

He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today.

Feel honored to serve such a Leader who loves us.

◆ Bob & Reva Sparks

PSALM 130:3-4 (NLT)

Lord, if you kept a record of our sins, who, O Lord, could ever survive? But you offer forgiveness, that we might learn to fear you.



ALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

**AMERICAN LEGION
6:00 PM**

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM
MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 AM
EVENING WORSHIP 6:00 PM

THE HAM & TURKEY
WILL BE PROVIDED
@
THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
1:00 PM

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

OLAN MILLS PICTORIAL
SETTINGS
3:30 — 8:30 PM

TUESDAYS

KID'S CLUB
3:30 — 4:30 PM

WEDNESDAYS

BIBLE STUDY
7:00 PM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
9:00 AM

LADIES LUNCHEON
12:00 NOON

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

MEN'S BREAKFAST
8:00 AM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

ALL CHURCH GAME NIGHT
6:30 PM

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 26

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

FIFTH ANNUAL
THANKSGIVING DINNER
WITH THE PASTOR &
HIS FAMILY

COMMUNITY EVENTS

HORIZONS

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TO
REDUCE POVERTY
HIGH SCHOOL COMMONS
MONDAYS: NOV. 3, 10, 17 &
DEC. 1 @ 5:30 PM
DINNER AND CHILD CARE ARE
PROVIDED

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

SCRAP BOOKING
10:00 AM

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

SENIORS ON THE GO
12:00 NOON

In her book, *Today's Good Word*, Ethel B. Sutton tells of a young British soldier who was blinded in battle. He was an accomplished musician and spent much of his time in the hospital playing the piano for the wounded. He always put his heart into his playing, hoping the music would encourage the men. One day when he finished a number, someone clapped energetically. The soldier asked, "Who are you?" He was astonished when the man replied, "I am your king!" The king had come to encourage those who had been wounded for their country. Without realizing it, this young man had been using his talent to entertain the king.

When you use your gift faithfully—whether it is an encouraging word, a pat on the back, visiting the lonely, generous giving of money, making a phone call, providing transportation—whatever it may be, remember, you're playing for the King.

THANKSGIVING DINNER



We will be having our fifth annual Thanksgiving Dinner with the Pastor and his family in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, November 26. The pastor will provide the turkey and ham, the rest of the meal



will be potluck. A clipboard will be passed around so those who wish to participate can sign up and let others know what they will be bringing. The dinner will begin at 1:00 PM. If you are going to be having Thanksgiving alone, please come and join us. This is opened to everyone in the community. If you are unable to sign the sign up sheet, or if you have any questions, you may call Pastor Mulkins at 978-4161.

SCARS OF LIFE

Some years ago, on a hot summer day in South Florida, a little boy decided to go for a swim in the old swimming hole behind his house. In a hurry to dive into the cool water, he ran out the back door, leaving behind shoes, socks, and shirt as he went. He flew into the water, not realizing that as he swam toward the middle of the lake, an alligator was swimming toward the shore.

His father, working in the yard, saw the two as they got closer and closer together. In utter fear, he ran toward the water, yelling to his son as loudly as he could.

Hearing his voice, the little boy became alarmed and made a U-turn to swim to his father. It was too late. Just as he reached his father, the alligator reached him. From the dock, the father grabbed his little boy by the arms just as the alligator snatched his legs. That began an incredible tug-of-war between the two. The alligator was much stronger than the father, but the father was much too passionate to let go.

A farmer happened to drive by, heard his screams, raced from his truck, took aim and shot the alligator.

Remarkably, after weeks and weeks in the hospital, the little boy survived. His legs were extremely scarred by the vicious attack of the animal. And, on his arms, were deep scratches where his father's fingernails dug into his flesh in his effort to hang on to the son he loved.

The newspaper reporter who

interviewed the boy after the trauma, asked if he would show him his scars. The boy lifted his pant legs. And then, with obvious pride, he said to the reporter, 'But look at my arms. I have great scars on my arms, too. I have them because my Dad wouldn't let go.'

You and I can identify with that little boy. We have scars, too. No, not from an alligator, but the scars of a painful past. Some of those scars are unsightly and have caused us deep regret. But, some wounds, my friend, are because God has refused to let go. In the midst of your struggle, He's been there holding on to you.

The Scripture teaches that God loves you.. You are a child of God. He wants to protect you and provide for you in every way but sometimes we foolishly wade into dangerous situations, not knowing what lies ahead. The swimming hole of life is filled with peril - and we forget that the enemy is waiting to attack. That's when the tug-of-war begins - and if you have the scars of His love on your arms, be very, very grateful. He did not and will not ever let you go.

◆ Received from Jeanne Hossler

THE BUZZARD, BAT AND BEE

THE BUZZARD:

If you put a buzzard in a pen that is 6 feet by 8 feet and is entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of its ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is

that a buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a run of 10 to 12 feet. Without space to run, as is its habit, it will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top.

THE BAT:

The ordinary bat that flies around at night, a remarkable nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and, no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. Then, at once, it takes off like a flash.



THE BUMBLEBEE:

A bumblebee, if dropped into an open tumbler, will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself.



PEOPLE:

In many ways, we are like the buzzard, the bat, and the bumblebee. We struggle about with all our problems and frustrations, never realizing that all we have to do is look up!

Sorrow looks back, Worry looks around, but faith looks up!

Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly and trust in our Creator who loves us.

◆ Received from Susan Olsen



Q
U
I
Z



Pastor Jeanne Hossler was the first to come up with the correct answer to last's month quiz and Pastor Al DeHaven was a close second, my sister, Mert Horrocks and Mary Yoder-Fast also came up with the correct answer. This is the best response I have received for the quiz.

The answer, Micah, can be found in chapter 17 of Judges. Here is this month's quiz.

*I was married to a mighty king,
But my son did some evil things.
My husband was a true man of
God*

*But my son felt God's judgment
rod.*

*If only my husband had accepted
God's plan*

*Then maybe none of this would
have happened to our land.
But he prayed real hard to change
God's mind.*

*So my son was born in a matter of
time.*

*It's not my fault I want you to
know.*

*Each one chooses which way
they go.*

*So the choices we make may
seem real small,
But in the end they might be big
after all.*

*Now tell me my name it's in the
Book you know.*

*The name of my husband the
Book will show.*

*The name of my son if you think
you can,
And a candy bar will rest in your
hand.*

TWO DIFFERENT DOCTORS' OFFICES

Two patients limp into two different medical clinics with the same complaint. Both have trouble walking and appear to require a hip replacement.

The FIRST patient is examined within the hour, is x-rayed the same day and has a time booked for surgery the following week.



The SECOND sees his family doctor after waiting 3 weeks for an appointment, then waits 8 weeks to see a specialist, then gets an x-ray, which isn't reviewed for another week, and

finally has his surgery scheduled for a month from then. Why the different treatment for the two patients?

The FIRST is a Golden Retriever. The SECOND is a Senior Citizen. Next time take me to a vet.

◆ Received from James Sparks

PAUL NEWMAN

A Michigan woman and her family were vacationing in a small New England town where Paul Newman and his family often visited. One Sunday morning, the woman got up early to take a long walk. After a brisk five-mile hike, she decided to treat herself to a double-dip chocolate ice cream cone. She hopped in the car, drove to the center of the village, and went straight to the combination bakery/ice cream parlor.

There was only one other patron

in the store: Paul Newman, sitting at the counter having a doughnut and coffee. The woman's heart skipped a beat as her eyes made contact with those famous baby-blue eyes. The actor nodded graciously, and the star-struck woman smiled demurely. Pull yourself together! She chided herself. You're a happily married woman with three children; you're forty-five years old, not a teenager! The clerk filled her order, and she took the double-dip chocolate ice cream cone in one hand and her change in the other. Then she went out the door, avoiding even a glance in Paul Newman's direction.

When she reached her car, she realized that she had a handful of change but her other hand was empty.

Where's my ice cream cone? Did I leave it in the store? Back into the shop she went, expecting to see the cone still in the clerk's



hand or in a holder on the counter or something. No ice cream cone was in sight. With that, she happened to look over at Paul Newman.

His face broke into his familiar warm friendly grin and he said to the woman: "You put it in your purse."

◆ Received from James Sparks

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.

"Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.