

February 2007

Cyberspace News

Michigan News

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Who Is This?

Elder Charles Moore

Rev. Edwin D. Peterman wrote, "There was once a man who had for some time suffered from various illnesses. He had seen a number of doctors who had performed countless tests on him and had prescribed lots of medicine. But his condition did not improve. He tried home remedies, drank herbal tea, and took mega-doses of vitamins along with his prescriptions. Still he did not feel any better than before. Then he heard of a physician who was said to be an outstanding diagnostician. Hundreds of people reported that this doctor could cure diseases others could not. The man called her and made an appointment. "At last," he said to himself, "I will be completely well again."

The day of the appointment arrived. After the doctor had thoroughly examined the man and had reviewed his tests, she sat down with him and said, "My friend, you are not a healthy man. But you can be well again if you will follow my advice. What you need to do is lose about sixty pounds, get involved in a regular program of exercise, and eat more grain, fruit, and vegetables. You don't need to take any more of the medicine that has been prescribed for you. And you don't need all those vitamin pills."

When the man heard this, he was indignant. He demanded that the doctor prescribe some new medicine for him, possibly

some experimental drug not yet on the market, which would cure his illness. The doctor smiled patiently and repeated her advice. "You don't need medicine," she said. "You need to change your lifestyle." At this the man cursed the doctor and stomped out of the office. For the rest of his sickly life, he hated her and told everyone that she was a hoax who didn't deserve the title of doctor at all.

Once there was a small nation that was deeply troubled. For centuries the people had been oppressed by foreign armies that controlled and dominated it. Many of the citizens of this nation had become cynical about life, and as a result they cheated even their own friends and neighbors in the marketplace. It was a dog-eat-dog society. There was no peace, no prosperity, no integrity in the land. Reform movements came and went. But then there appeared a tiny ray of hope in the midst of the darkness. Little by little, people began to talk of the coming of a Messiah who would fix everything for them; a Messiah who would overthrow the foreign army, establish a strong, independent government, and bring peace and prosperity to the nation.

Suddenly word came that there was a man from

Nazareth, a carpenter's son, who was able to heal people, cast out demons, and even change water into wine. He drew large crowds of people when he spoke. And He stood against the scribes and Pharisees when they confronted him. "At last," the people said among themselves. "Could this be the Messiah who will lead an army against Rome and reestablish Israel as a strong and prosperous nation; the Messiah who will fix everything for us; economically, politically, and religiously?" The people were primed, ready to embrace this man.

"And when they had approached Jerusalem and had come to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, " Say to the daughter of Zion, ' Behold your King is coming to you, Gentle, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden." And the disciples went and did just as Jesus had directed them, and brought the donkey and the colt, and laid on them their garments, on which He sat." (Matthew 21:1; 5-7) This Jesus rode a donkey into the capital city of Jerusalem. The people poured into the streets and cheered his arrival. **"And most of the multitude spread their garments in the road, and others were cutting branches from the trees, and spreading them in the road. And the multitudes going before Him, and those who followed after were crying out, saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is He who**

(Continued on page 2)

comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest!" And when He had entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, "Who is this?" And the multitudes were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee." (Matthew 21:8-11) That was on Sunday; then came Monday.

By Monday things were going downhill. This man had not even begun to recruit an army. He gave no speeches to rouse the rabble and unite them against Rome. He had announced no program for economic recovery. Everyone waited. Nothing happened. People were disappointed. Several days later they grew angry. And on Friday when they learned that this man was facing death at the hands of the Romans for treason, they filled the streets and shouted, Crucify him! Crucify him! Whether he had betrayed Rome or not, they did not know. But one thing they did know: he had betrayed them!

The people got their wish. This man from Nazareth in whom all the hopes of the people had been invested, this man from Nazareth whom everyone expected to be the one who would fix everything for them, this man from Nazareth who was supposed to be the Messiah, the Savior, this man was forcefully and decisively executed. And when he died, all hope for a magical, mystical, presto-chango, quick-fix Messiah died as well.

The world has a history of denouncing and killing Messiahs who don't deliver what it wants. Moreover, the world does not want a God who is God over the world. Rather, the world wants a lapdog god, one it can domesticate and control, a sweet god who indulges and blesses the sickness, the selfishness; in other words, the sinfulness of the world. The world does not want a Messiah, or for that matter, doctors or pastors or parents who give people what they need. The world wants a Messiah and doctors and pastors and parents who give people what they want.

There are many sins, but there is really only one sin. And that is the sin of substituting another god for the only true God. When you devise a Messiah of your own desire and imagination and then you worship that Messiah rather than God, you sin. The only way you can be delivered from that sin is to have your false expectations destroyed, once and for all. And that is precisely what happened between what is called Palm Sunday and Good Friday. Jesus drew the false, sinful expectations of the world to Himself, absorbed them, and bore them on the cross. His death was the death of all of our false expectations, and therefore his death was the death of sin itself. The false piety of Palm Sunday is crucified on Good Friday and buried that night, in order that true faith in God might be created through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Who Is This? Is Jesus just a good man, a good teacher, a good moral example, a buddy to you or is He your Lord and Savior, the one who gives your life meaning and hope. It is your choice. **Revelation 3:20** **'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.** Open the door of your heart and receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, and you can cry with the multitude, "... **"Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest!" (Matthew 21:9)**

Michigan Report

Aurine Moore

February came in with a frigid and powerful arctic blast. The winter retreat at the Nazarene District Center was a challenge to get to (what with cold weather and reports of pending blizzards) and bitter chill. Our guest speaker and his lovely wife from California, Roy and Bennie Gee, MUST love us to keep coming to Michigan at the coldest time of year. We really missed Jim and Debbie Stoner and Dorothy Layton who couldn't risk the interstate drive but we enjoyed hearing Tall Tales from Jesus (via Roy).

Geneva Begeman, who has served as local president "for at least six years *this* time around" is on a well-deserved hiatus. She has worked ceaselessly to plan many memorable church events. Now, when she gets drafted for these events, it will be as a valued member of the congregation! Thanks, Geneva, for always being willing to serve, your devotion to the church and its members, and your love. I will serve as chairman of the local board during the coming term and ask for everyone's help and input so we can continue to be the 'best little church we can be'.

Jeff and Melinda Begeman spent a nice weekend in St. Joseph Michigan, a half-way point for Melinda to meet with her family. They are a family that knows how to enjoy each other and the winter wonderland of Michigan. Kathy and Joe Smeltzer had a wonderful, wonderful visit in Florida during the school winter break with David and Ruth Charles. We were very happy to see that Leslie Miller was able to join her mother Wanda Arquette for church recently, though sorry the occasion for her visit was the death of Wanda's uncle. Dale and Geneva Begeman recently enjoyed going to see 'the girls' play volleyball for the Ida BlueStreaks, the girls being granddaughters, Jordan and Ashley Begeman

Byron Lymond, is recovering very well after having his knee totally replaced this month. Nate Valentine has been struggling with knee pain but is hopeful upcoming physical therapy will help. Marcia Moore has continued to have a great number of health problems this month, as has Karyn Zajackjowski. Both need our constant prayer support. Little Zacharias Moore down in Kentucky had a hernia repair operation and *greatly* appreciated getting a quarter from the recovery room nurse for being a brave little boy.

Babies, babies, babies. . . Dave & Melissa Vaughn, part of our extended church family, had their baby daughter Ava on Feb. 14th. Members of the local church reached out to pray when she developed bleeding in her bowels from a milk allergy and all are thankful the problem has been identified. Church of God 7th Day friends, Jean and Paul Vanderhoorst have a new granddaughter, Zoe Jean Hutchinson. Jean got to travel out to her daughter to be there.

Tim and Nick Begeman were both mightily blessed on the job front this month. Nick, who had been working at Detroit Metro Airport now has a more secure job there. He's one of those guys that keeps your plane safe behind the scenes. Tim Begeman accepted a new job with Meldrum Mechanical Services and will be doing things he really likes doing and is gifted to do for an employer who feels lucky to have found someone with his skills and personality. It doesn't get much better. Pat Conly is happy to be working again at Oakwood Hospital and on a schedule that will let her come to church more often. Vicki Chapman is praising God on the web. For her testimony on how God helped her with an everyday problem, go on the web to joycemeyer.org and then look for the 'Everyday Answers' page and select Testimonies. We received a really nice note this month from Vaneda Friddle, a member of the Petersburg Church of God Seventh Day whom we have known for years through fellowship meetings. Her testimony is one worth sharing, "I miss being able to go out to church but I never feel alone as Jesus is always near." Thanks for sharing that word of encouragement with us, Vaneda. Until next month, may God be with you and you with Him.



Don and Judy Begeman had two enormous milestones this month Don turned 80 and they celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. I am using this newsletter to bring them to everyone's attention and to celebrate in this way. We send Don and Judy and the family our best wishes.

Donald Howard met Judith Anna Vasil at youth camp. She was the daughter of our church members Joe and Marian Vasil. She lived in the Kent, Ohio area but as soon as Judy graduated high school the two became engaged and had a February 10, 1957 wedding. They began their married life close by the Albert-Clara Begeman farm. The farm house burned in the early 60's and Don and Judy built their current home on the remains of the farm house. Judy and Don have two daughters, Laurie Eckles and Rachel Sottile. Laurie and Rachel both graduated from University of Michigan, Laurie with a degree in dentistry and Rachel with a Doctor of Pharmacy. Judy served the church as secretary from 1966 to the early nineties. She had to resign due to health problems and currently resides at Tender Care Nursing Home, 1215 N Telegraph Road, Monroe MI

48161. Judy was a stickler for producing flawless paperwork. Judy was also publisher of the newsletter for all those years. Those were the days of the mimeograph machine and stencils. With today's computers it's very easy to correct mistakes but those former years were difficult. We will always be in her debt for her many years of service. They both served at youth camp through those years also. Don was director and Judy was the secretary, campfire director and lifeguard. They each did a number of other things. I find that it is hard to believe we can still function without their tireless efforts.

On February 4 Don celebrated his 80th birthday He has used his 80 years to faithfully serve the Lord. Through all of his life Don's faith has gotten him through some really tough times, his trial as a conscientious objector and being sentenced to 5 years in prison. It seemed such a tragic time in his life in 1952 but he served his time joyfully because he knew he was doing what the Lord would have him do. Don has served in different capacities in the church. We formed a new church in 1966-67 and Don served on the committee to write the by-laws. Judy was the secretary at that time and worked tirelessly to write the constitution. Later—about 1968 we decided to build the current Michigan church on LaSalle Road and he once again served on the building committee. That duty was dissolved when we moved into the completed church in January of 1970. In the past few years memory loss has crippled Don and he is currently in a beautiful assisted living facility in Troy, MI.

Don and Judy, we appreciate you and all the years of service to us and we wish you many more years.

Cyberspace News genevabegeman@charter.net

This month started off with a bang with outlying members. Our winter church retreat brings the outlying people in. Sonya Pease made the usual flight from New York and had run into a delay but got here in plenty of time for Melinda to pick her up at the airport and them to get to the retreat on time. David and Ruth Charles came in on Tuesday and spent some time at the Smeltzer's before retreat. Both of them were well and we all enjoyed some time with them. They flew home after visits with all of their family.

Jim and Deborah Stoner and Dorothy Layton ended up canceling their trip to retreat at the last minute due to bad weather forecasts. They drive across the Pennsylvania-Ohio Turnpikes and one never knows how they will be in winter weather. We really missed you all! Roy and Bennie Gee came in from Auburn, California early and enjoyed Howell and vicinity until the retreat started. We appreciate the Roy and Bennie coming to be with us so much and wish you could be there to hear Roy's wonderful messages and fun we enjoy with both them. We decided once a year is not enough.

We were also privileged to have the Echoes of Happiness sing Friday night for us. We love having the Rob Vaughn and Larry Charles family there--we always say we take church to them at least a couple of times a year.

I hear from Ellen Momberger that she really enjoys the winters in the Phoenix area. I can understand why as January hit Michigan with a heavy hand. Just enjoy yourselves, all you warm weather lovers, and think about us with picturesque snow falling.

Rachel and Sam Sottile are enjoying their son Anthony's participation on the high school ski team. Anthony is captain and has improved his skiing ability quite a bit this year. Both Daniel and Anthony continue playing the violin. Just ask Rachel how many miles a week she has to travel for these activities!

Laurie Eckles had spent quite a bit of February in Monroe at the hospital with Dad Don Begeman. He had a low-grade temp and he had many tests. Laurie and Rachel decided to move Don to a facility closer to them and it's working out well. Laurie is happy that she can drop in on him frequently and I know Don is enjoying seeing both girls! It's over an hour trip for both Laurie and Rachel to get to Monroe to visit Dad and Mom.

We enjoy hearing from you from time to time that receive the newsletter. I received a letter from Russ Borrows, a former youth camper. He says he is doing well. He has ten years of a great marriage behind him and two beautiful children, William and Hannah. Russ has a great job and just wanted to catch up with us. He came to camp for 10 years so he is a part of our family. I would love to hear from some of you other campers. I know that quite a few get the newsletter and they keep informed that way. Please write and let us know how you're doing.

Good-bye for another month and may God bless each of you.

CHURCH OF THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

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Words that really should exist

Abacadabblers: an amateur magician.

Badaptation: a bad movie version of a good book.

Carbage: the trash found in your automobile.

Dadicated: being the best father you can be.

Ecrastinate: checking your e-mail just one more time.

Faddict: someone who has to try every new trend that comes along.

Gabberflasted: the state of being speechless due to someone else talking too much.

Hackchoo: when you sneeze and cough at the same time.

Iceburg: an uppity, snobbish neighborhood.

Jobsolete: a position within a company that no longer exists.

Knewlyweds: second marriage for both.

Lamplyfy: turning on (or up) the lights within a room.

Mandals: sandals for men.

Nagigator: someone who constantly assists with driving directions in an overly critical manner.

Obliment: an obligatory compliment.

Pestarrific: adjective describing a particularly pesty person.

Qcumbersome: a salad that contains too many cucumbers.

Ramdumbious: a rowdy, energetic person who's not too bright.

Testimoney: fees paid to expert witnesses.

Umbrella: an umbrella that the wind has turned inside-out.

Miss Baroda 2007
Katy Nevil

Pastor Ric Vargas & Mick



2nd Annual Salad/Dessert Bowl