

August 2007

Cyberspace News

Michigan News

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Lo^{The}d Ou^RRighteousness

Dying to Live

Elder Charles Moore

Dying To Live by Elder Charlie Moore

Life is a valuable commodity. All of us want to be alive. But not everyone who is alive really lives. In fact, everywhere you go you encounter people who are desperately attempting to really live. Many believe that life is to be found in material possessions, so they set themselves to acquire them. Others believe life is to be found in pleasure, so they set out to indulge themselves. Still others believe that life is to be found in career, money, or social standing. They become workaholics, greedy, and class conscious. And the thing that all these groups have in common is a relentless and desperate, even frantic, pursuit of these things. The sad reality of it all is that, even when they attain a measure of these things, they find that they are still unfulfilled.

Christians want to really live, too. We know life is centered in Christ, but how do we live in Christ? We don't want to know how to merely exist as a Christian, we want to know how to really *live* as a Christian. Paul realistically recognizes that real Christianity will make us face things about ourselves that convict us, embarrass us and frighten us. Sometimes that is hard to take. A story is told of a dentist who took X-rays of every patient who came in and then made a special proposition to them. He said, "For ten dollars I

will fill these cavities that you have here, but, if you don't want to pay that much, for five dollars I will retouch the X-rays." Religion retouches the X-ray -- the cavity is still there. However, Christianity doesn't just fill the cavity, but it gives us new teeth.

We need that kind of cure for our souls. We could be fooled into thinking that if we could only find a way to keep the law, that would save us. The catch is, the law cannot bring life, for no one but Jesus has ever fulfilled it. Law brings death, for by it all stand condemned. In doing this, the law performs its true function. For in the very act of destroying all hope for salvation by human works, the law actually opens the way to discovering new life in God. It is only when a man will die to his own efforts to achieve salvation that he will receive the gift of salvation that God offers that gives life. **Galatians 2:19** tells us "**Through the law I died to the law that I might live to God**".

Paul continues, in **Galatians 2:20** "**I have been crucified with Christ;** God, in His wisdom, has solved the problem of our old self. When we accept Jesus Christ and the sacrifice He made for us, everything changes. You see, the answer for us is not to be

found in reformation or renovation of the old self. You can clean up the old self, perfume it, put new clothes on it, educate it, and otherwise seek to improve it, but in the end, all you have is the old self! What we need is not the old self, but a new self. The way God has chosen to deal with our old self is not to reform it, but to *kill* it. That is what it means "to be crucified with Christ". We are now under no obligation to the old life. We have been set free from it. Sin no longer has any control over us. Satan no longer has any right to us. We are no longer who we were. All that has been done away with. We are crucified with Christ.

God did away with the old life so that He could give us a new life. Paul says, "**I have been crucified with Christ: and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.**" I'm dead, yet alive! This is what God has done for us. Out of death comes life, but not our life. It is the life of Jesus Christ being lived in us. Someone has called this *the exchanged life*. We exchange our life for His. What a deal! Now we can quit struggling to live by our own strength and begin to learn how to depend on His life in us. It is like a glove, a glove cannot do anything by itself. It needs a hand to fill it. When the glove has a hand inside, it is enabled to do all sorts of things. We are like that glove. What we need is the Lord to fill us with His power. Then we will be able to do all things through Christ, who is living in us.

The key that helps me

(Continued on page 2)

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understand this verse is not so much the opening words but the statement at the end, "**The life which I now live, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.**" The thing that so overwhelmed Paul was the love of Jesus Christ for him. Our Lord gave himself up, delivered himself up, and he did it freely; no one took his life from him. "He gave himself for me." Paul is saying, "For once in my life I found someone who cared enough for me to know me for who I am and to do something about it. The disease and self-condemnation that I have felt all my life has been taken away because of what Christ has done for me. The law never loved me; Judaism never loved me; the church never loved me; but Jesus loved me, loves me, and will always love me."

Yet Christ does not operate automatically in a believer's life; it is a matter of living God's divine power to live the Christian life. This faith, Paul stated at the conclusion of this single, wonderful verse, builds on the sacrifice of Christ **who loved us and gave Himself for us**. In essence Paul affirmed, "If He loved me enough to give Himself for me, then He loves me enough to live out His life in me."

If we begin to see ourselves as those who are empowered by the living, resurrected Christ, Who is alive in us, we will never be the same. When we begin to expect the Lord to live in us and through us, our lives will then begin to reach the potential God has always had for us. We will have a richer, fuller life. Amen!

Michigan Report

Aurine Moore

On a cool August evening that followed a muggy day, some of our church members attended an evening garden party at an elegant old Monroe home. They were invited by Nate Valentine, who serves on the Board of Directors for Faith in Action (a volunteer group that Nate explains 'helps the old folks with chores and things'). Terrie Fedor, Jean Lane, Geneva Begeman, and I joined him for a cool and refreshing evening in a garden by a pool side, eating little sandwiches and listening to soothing live guitar music. I really enjoyed how lovely all the ladies looked but especially Geneva and Jean, who wore beautiful hats that matched their feminine and floral dresses. It's fun to be among those who have dressed up, just for fun.

Tim Begeman had an interesting turn at the Church's weekly Variety Time segment. He did a book review on Misquoting Truth by Timothy Paul Jr. The book is a response to an earlier New York Times best-seller by Bart Erhman called "Misquoting Jesus". Tim is quite good at exhorting church members to stay up to date on what is being taught in the mainstream that runs counter to the truth about God and Christ so that we can have *intelligent* discussions that persuade people to take a clear and honest look at Jesus.

Nate and Joel Valentine had a month of medical treatment but for different reasons. Nate had some long-standing skin problems removed from his face, including a rather sizable skin cancer.

Your reporter urged him to tell people the scar resulted from a dramatic rescue attempt that involved a grazing bullet but, alas, he is opting for the truth. Joel Valentine has been ill from his recurring migraine attacks. At this time, he seems back on the mend and hopefully will not have a new attack anytime soon. Marcia Moore (finally) was able to have surgery to relieve the pain from stomach adhesions. We hope and pray she has some pain-free years ahead of her.

The Monroe County Fair was a great one for some of our church's young 4-H members (as well as some 2007 Youth Campers who won awards for crafts they made while at Camp). Sydney Begeman, 10, won a blue and purple ribbon for a basket she wove under the tutelage of Aunt Diane Begeman. Her workmanship was excellent and one of the Fair officials offered to buy it. Mom, Tisha Begeman, declined the offer. Katie Begeman won a blue ribbon for the lamb that she had raised over the past year. It is encouraging to see young people focus on a long-term goal with excellence, all while learning valuable lessons.

Dave and Terrie Fedor were pleased to travel with daughters Erin Gill and Jamie Vargas and Jamie's two children, Riley and Gabriel. They went to Mammoth Cave in Kentucky. It was a long trip down and back but they had a good visit as well as an informative trip to the cave itself. Jeff, Melinda and Katie Begeman went camping in the Washington D.C. area, combining downtown Washington excursions with camping.

Our hearts and prayers remain with the family of Don Begeman, who died this month after several months of illness. He leaves his wife of 50 years, Judy and daughters Rachel Sottile and Laurie Eckles.

The funeral service was particularly beautiful because it brought to remembrance Don's love of Christ and His full and complete payment for our sins and Don's joyful love of music. The visitation time allowed those who came to be with family to see many photos and memorabilia that reflected his life with family.

Don helped found the United Church of the Lord Our Righteousness and was a life-time Camp Staffer as well as Camp Director for many years. He was loved and will be remembered with gratitude.

We are asking newsletter readers hold up in special prayer a man we have known through his past attendance at our church and his days as a camper. The past two summers, he volunteered at Youth Camp. James Goins, son of Pastor Jim and Marshala Goins, is an 18 year old man who fell asleep while driving to work at 5:00 in the morning. He has been in a drug induced coma since his accident and his family is still waiting for the time he will waken, pain-free, to begin the process of rehabilitation. Please pray for him and his family. Cards can be sent in care of his parents at 525 Riverview, Monroe, Michigan 48162.

Dale and Geneva Begeman had to miss one of our great Church potlucks recently. We wished them well, however, as they had to leave to attend a 60th high school class reunion in Dundee Michigan. Think what it must be like to have friends whose lives you have watched progress through those many years, many memories, and many changes. That's perspective!

Don Daniels, our linguistically gifted cellist, has a new address: 1201 North Macomb Street, Apt. 103, Monroe, Michigan 48162. We hope he likes his new digs. Diane Begeman has been using her influence as Sabbath School Superintendent to encourage us to perform random acts of kindness (as an alternative to random acts of violence). It's fun. The only catch is, you can't tell people what you did or it doesn't count. You can, however tell people if someone has done a random act of kindness for you! Please share! Finally, Leslie (Arquette) Miller was in the area for a baby shower – hers! We were able to see her at her parent's home where the outdoor, co-ed shower was well-attended by guests who are anxious to get to meet this little girl someday.

Until next month, may God be with you and you with Him.

Cyberspace News genevabegeman@charter.net



This month has been a really eventful one and I hope I can relate all the events as they happened.

August started with a beautiful wedding. Andrea Lauren Charles (daughter of Larry and Peggy Charles) married Jeffrey Paul Malburg in a beautiful church ceremony in Howell, MI. There were several attendants including Brad, Brent and Julie Charles. Annie's dad Larry proudly walked her down the aisle to her waiting groom. There was beautiful music provided by her Aunt Pat Putz (Peggy's sister), Aunt Kay and Uncle Jim Nevil, Aunt Kathy Smeltzer and friend Rebecca Kovacs. Rebecca also led the congregation in a chorus of Amazing Love. It was a faith inspiring wedding. Grandfather David Charles had the welcome and opening prayer for the ceremony and Dr. Paul Patton (Annie and Jeff's professor at college) had the message and vows. The reception was held at a golf course club house and everyone had good food, fellowship and fun. Jeff and Annie, we wish you the best! Annie will return to teaching in Grass Lake and Jeff has employment in Jackson, MI.

Don Begeman was admitted to the hospital that same weekend and Laurie and Rachel spent the month of August at Don's side comforting him in any way they could. He quietly passed away in his sleep August 18. He will be sadly missed by his family and his church.

David and Ruth Charles headed back to Florida the first part of the month and were able to visit Rip and Norma Ripley on the way down. David and Ruth had to fly north for Don's funeral a week after arriving in Florida so they have had a busy traveling month. They were able to be here a week and celebrated David's birthday (August 19) during their stay.

Rip and Norma Ripley enjoyed their time with the Charles'. Rip has had partial knee surgery this past week and is home from the hospital. He reports pain but hopes to be well soon and on the golf course. Please pray for both the Ripleys as Norma suffers from back pain all of the time. She wants to take care of her dear husband and finds it is hard on her back.

Some news from the Pease family--Arvilla has sold her home and has moved into an apartment temporarily while she waits for senior housing. Her new address is Arvilla Pease, 65 Central Avenue, Apt. # 10, Cortland, NY 13045.

Jeff and Melinda and Katie Begeman visited the nation's capitol this month and were so happy to spend time with the Layton family. A get together was held at Mark and Karen Dorsey's and the whole family was there. On the weekend Jim and Deborah Stoner had a party and the Begemans got to attend that as well. It was so nice for them to catch up on each other's lives and just fellowship. Dorothy is still contemplating a knee surgery. We would like to encourage you to get going on that project, Dorothy.

One night I got a delightful phone call from Kevin Lane in California. He was sad about Don's passing as he fondly remembers all the things he learned while young from his Uncle Dale and honorary Uncle Don. He and wife Heather are well and enjoy their work at UCLA, Irvine Branch. He was proud to say he uses his uncles' work ethics and ability of figuring out how to do jobs. We are proud of you also, Kevin.

We were so happy to have Kane and Jennie Begeman at church one Sabbath this month. They flew home for a brief visit and this time Tim and Diane were so delighted to have them stay at their house. When our kids fly the coop, we are always glad to gather our chicks in for brief visits! They seem to love Arizona even though the temperature is high but--remember the humidity is low.

Hope you all had a great summer.

**CHURCH OF THE
LORD OUR
RIGHTEOUSNESS**

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I Am Thankful.....

...for the taxes that I pay because it means that I am employed.

...for the mess to clean after a party because it means I have been surrounded by friends.

...for the clothes that fit a little too snug because it means I have enough to eat.

...for my shadow who watches me work because it means I am out in the sunshine.

...for a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning and gutters that need fixing because it means I have a home.

...for all the complaining I hear about the government because it means we have freedom of speech.

...for the spot I find at the far end of the parking lot because it means I am capable of walking.

...for the lady behind me in church who sings off key because it means that I can hear.

...for the piles of laundry and ironing because it means I have clothes to wear.

...for weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day because it means I have been productive.

...for the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours because it means that I am alive.



Chris Bonn, Rachel Sottile and Laurie Eckles



Newlyweds
Jeff & Annie Malburg



Geneva Begeman & Jean Lane



Jean Lane, Terrie Fedor, Aurine Moore and Nate Valentine

