

September 2007

Cyberspace News

Michigan News

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## The Roman Road

Elder Charles Moore

Maybe you've heard the saying, "All roads lead to Rome." It comes from the fact that Rome built straight, durable roads connecting most of Europe and parts of Asia to Rome. The Roman Road is also a simple way to present the Gospel, using scriptures only from the book of Romans. In the book of Romans, Paul gave us a great road map that leads to salvation.

We'll start down the Roman Road by looking at two verses in chapter 3 that describe our condition. **"It is written, 'There is no one righteous, not even one.' (Romans 3:10) and 'All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.' (Romans 3:23)** Most people don't think of themselves as sinners. People tend to think of a sinner as someone who is morally depraved, dangerous and violent or just plain disgusting. Using that standard, they figure they are not that bad. On the other hand, nobody in their right mind thinks they're perfect.

The truth is however, that to be accepted by God (A.K.A. "saved") that is exactly what you must be. If we were talking about sports, we could say it this way: You must be the basketball player who never fouls and makes every free throw. You must be the baseball player who hits a homerun every time he comes up to bat. You must be the football player who makes a

touchdown every time he gets the ball. You must be the golfer who makes a hole-in-one every time he tees off. Not even Tiger Woods can make that claim. But, here, we are not talking about sports. We are talking about our souls and how we measure up on the 'goodness' scale. And again we confront this truth: 'There is no one perfect, no not one'. Everyone is flawed. Everyone is a sinner. It is worse than that, for it is not just the things that we have done wrong that condemn us. We are also condemned by the good things that we fail to do as well, falling **"short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)**

The next stop on the Roman Road is Romans 6:23. Look at what it says about the consequence of sin: **"The wages of sin is death..."** The deadliest killer in this world isn't heart disease or cancer or AIDS or War. Sin is the epidemic that no one can avoid. Sin sickness is always terminal. There are no exceptions. The right and proper wage for the sin that we commit is death. It doesn't matter if it's the grossest sin the human heart can conceive of and the demons of hell would applaud or the sin that we excuse in our own hearts

day by day. The just wage for either is the same: death

If we stopped there, the Roman Road would indeed be a dead end. But Romans 6:23 immediately takes a life-saving turn. **The wages of sin is death BUT THE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. (Romans 6:23)**. Our sin condemns us to death but God offers us eternal life but it can only be received in Christ Jesus.

Now, I want you to put yourself in the middle of a 'disaster movie'. Pretend you've just learned that a giant meteor will destroy the Continental United States next week. All transportation is out of commission. The government can't help. The military can't help. It's every man for himself. And there is only one way to be saved: swim to Hawaii. Everyone lines up on the coast. Olympic swimmers stand next to people from the Seaside Retirement Home. Some start out strong. Others can barely totter into the surf before going under. But no one is going to make the 2,500 mile swim on their own. In the end the strongest will be just as dead in the water as the weakest. Someone might say, 'let us build a bridge to Hawaii,' but that would be impossible, and we all know that, but that doesn't mean that someone wouldn't try.

In the same way, people try building a bridge to God; in fact all the religions of the world do that except Christianity. Christianity teaches that we can not make it to God on our own. That's why Jesus had to come

*(Continued on page 2)*

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to save us. When Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He built the bridge that can get us to God. This bridge is available for anyone and everyone; free of charge. But it does no good unless you choose to walk across it. A response is required; each person must put his trust in God's Son, Jesus Christ; which brings us back to our Roman Road.

The next stop on the Roman Road is Romans 10, Paul tells us **"That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."** (Romans 10:9-10) Let's pick it apart. What do we have to do?

**Confess** that Jesus is your Lord; that He can tell you what to do. Confession is to salvation what vows are to a wedding. Have you ever been to a wedding where the Minister said, "Will you take this woman to be your lawfully wedded wife?" And the Groom answered, "Hey, that's none of your business. This is a private thing between me and her." That would never do. No VOWS, no Wedding. When you take Christ as Savior, you can't keep it a secret. With your heart you believe, and with your mouth you confess, resulting in salvation. Confession turns thought into action. Confession lets others know what has been happening inside our minds and hearts. Confession is a public commitment to the Lordship of Christ.

**Believe** that God raised Jesus from the dead. The resurrection was proof that Jesus is the Son of God with power (read Romans 1:4). People have said, "I believe in Jesus but I don't believe He rose from the dead." Paul answers, **"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless, you are still in your sins."** (1Corinthians 15:17) An unrisen Savior is no savior at all.

**Call** upon the name of the Lord. Paul quoting Joel writes, **"Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved!"** (Romans 10:13) Not might be, or could be, but will be saved if you call upon the Name of the Lord. Anybody can call at any time and God will always answer, "Savior." The Roman Road leads to God; follow it and be saved.

## Michigan Report

Aurine Moore

Melinda Begeman has been our Sabbath school emcee and has been opening the program reading snippets from "You Can't Curl Your Hair with Holy Rollers". She's had fun reminding us of things like "Church Nightmares" – the things that church-goers wake up sweating over, like realizing you put your grocery list in the offering plate (I made that one up!).

The nice thing about vacations is that we can keep sharing memories for months after. Some are even worth sharing. For example, when Jeff, Melinda, and Katie Begeman visited Washington in August, they actually saw the Gutenberg Bible. It was old. How old? It was published in Latin. Amazing that God's Word goes back to

the beginning of recorded history and is just as true today as it was when it was first written. It is amazing that a copy is available in our nation's capital and an evidence of how its distribution in writing has changed all of society since then.

Geneva Begeman has been teaching the upstairs adults on Thessalonians and Timothy. We recently had a heartfelt lesson, while studying I Thessalonians Chapter 4, on the real hope we have of seeing Jesus. Having recently lost our brother in Christ, Don Begeman, that lesson was a wonderful reminder.

September was a truly beautiful month in Michigan. It started with Labor Day family outings and time to sit back and enjoy the last of summer and the beginning of fall. The colors of the trees and day time sky have been vibrant and the nighttime moon and stars have been startlingly clear. Many folks have gone traveling. Did you know there was a reunion of Michigan believers in Kentucky? It was kind of like these impromptu gatherings where people visiting the same internet web-site got summoned to meet at a common destination, except this one was occasioned by the annual Gospel Quartet convention in Louisville. Those who went from this area included Dale and Geneva Begeman, Terrie Fedor and Jean Lane, Kay and Jim Nevil, Rob and Lynn Vaughn, and Linda Reeves who all traveled, rendezvoused and enjoyed the wonderful music. We had Dale Begeman on a prayer alert because while he was down there, he experienced chest pains. (Follow-up with his doctor in Michigan has resulted in him getting scheduled for a procedure this coming November to put in a defibrillator.) But in the meantime, he got permission to leave the hospital and went back to enjoy more of the convention. Tim and Diane Begeman took a much belated anniversary celebration trip to Benton Harbor to walk the beach and dine at their favorite restaurant. They awoke on their second day to learn they needed to return home because a wind storm tore an electrical connecting wire from the side of their house, leaving a gaping hole in the siding.

Many members enjoyed the annual fall clean-up day. The outside steps have new carpeting, the new bushes make it easier to wash the downstairs windows and the garage is clean, all accomplishments above and beyond the usual tasks that are done at this time of year.

We have enjoyed our fellowship meetings with the Church of God Seventh Day in Petersburg for years. We were blessed that they could join us at month's end for a shared day of worship, study, dinner and an afternoon program. The afternoon program, orchestrated by God Himself, seemed to be designed to bless us all with a sweet reminder of God's love and our fellowship as believers who are united as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Leslie (Arquette) and husband Tom Miller were in Michigan for a baby shower for their little one who is coming in October. It was a beautiful outdoor shower at her parents and based on the people there, this baby is going to be well-loved. Marsha Moore was able to visit church after a long, long absence occasioned by her health problems. She was happy and praising God for the surgery she recently underwent to remove adhesions that had been causing her much pain. She feels pretty good! Praise God!

*Mich. News Cont.* Please continue to pray for Karyn Zajackowski who continues to deal with serious health issues, Sally Fruchey who is fighting infections in ICU and the family of Urby Ault who has died. Also lift up Joel DeHaan, recently married to Carrie (Smeltzer), whose company closed and who is in need of new employment. May this be an opportunity for him to get a job closer to home.

Sermons this month have been taking us down the Roman Road. Elder Moore has been teaching the congregation to wholeheartedly say "amen" whenever he recites Romans 8:1: There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." AMEN! Until next month,

**Cyberspace News** genevabegeman@charter.net

The month of September has given us such beautiful weather that it makes me dread the cold that is sure to come soon. Temperatures in the 80s are ideal and we have all enjoyed these days.

The children are back in school and in order for you to see the changes in them I have again gotten some for the picture page. We missed a picture of Justin Bishop when he graduated from high school in June but I have obtained one now and it is there. Justin is the grandson of Dorothy and Dick Layton and the son of Lisa Layton Bishop. (Thanks for the picture, Lisa.)

In a conversation with Norma and Rip Ripley I learned that Rip is gradually getting stronger. He had a partial knee replacement in the past month and is having therapy to exercise. He regretfully says he is not up to golf yet. Norma tells me that they purchased a new car and are trying to learn what all the buttons are for. I'm sure we have all been there. Norma is still suffering with her back but manages to have some good days also!

School started for the Arizona Lanes in August but we waited until September to get all the pictures at once. SheaLyn and Scott have both grown so much! At least the pictures give you some idea how we all change through the years.

Deborah and Jim Stoner had a cruise this month to New England and some northern parts of the world. Of course they were in the Atlantic all the time so the water was not as blue. They enjoyed the interesting sites. Deborah still loves the south cruises and warm beaches.

This month we were able to meet Lynn and Rob Vaughn and Kay and Jim Nevil in Louisville, Kentucky for a few days. We were at the National quartet convention but there are trios and other Christian entertainers there also. The messages and music are inspiring and we all hope we can remember half of what we learned and heard.

A good friend to our church and me, Gennettie Ault, lost her husband this month to a long illness of diabetes and a few strokes, etc. Our sympathy goes out to the Urby Ault family and especially Gennettie as she adjusts to living alone. We decided we have been friends for 53 years as we met them shortly after moving to our home on Jackman Road in Ida. Thank God for dear friends!

As I write this we are preparing for our fall retreat. We are so glad to see some of our outlying folks over this weekend. All of you take care and remember to write and catch me up on your lives.



## The Roman Road to Salvation

When the Romans first came to this Britain they needed to move vast bodies of troops across the country as quickly as they could. So the Romans, being the great engineers that they were, decided to build roads, and due to the fact that the shortest route between any two points is a straight line, they built their roads in that manner. Now the Romans didn't have a whole lot of high tech surveying equipment to help them make their roads straight. So what they would do was to get a group of workers to walk to a distant point on the horizon and there they would build a beacon fire. Now that fire would be kept burning bright, day and night, so that the crew who were building the road just had to keep their eyes on the light. It they did that, they knew that they were building the road in a straight line. When they came to a river they would build a bridge so that the line of the road was always kept true.

*Once you have started on the Roman road to salvation yourself, keep your eyes on the Light (Jesus) and you'll keep walking straight on His Roman road.*

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RIGHTEOUSNESS**

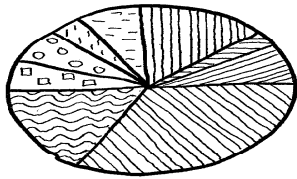
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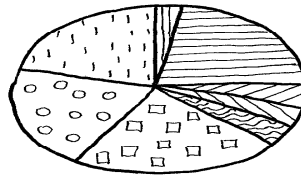
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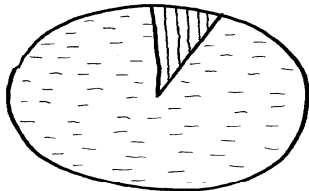
**WHAT THE CLERGY DO ALL WEEK**



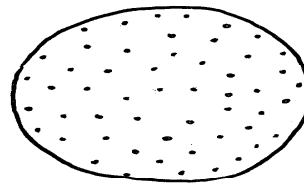
WHAT THE CLERGY DO








WHAT THE PARISHIONERS THINK THE CLERGY DO








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WHAT THE PARISHIONERS THINK THE CLERGY THINK THE PARISHIONERS THINK THE CLERGY DO

-  GO TO CHURCH, PRAY ETC
-  PREPARE SERMONS
-  GO TO MEETINGS
-  VISIT THE SICK
-  HELP PEOPLE BE BORN, GET MARRIED AND DIE

-  SURF THE INTERNET
-  PLAY GOLF
-  KEEP UP TO DATE WITH POPULAR CULTURE (TV, MUSIC ETC)
-  NOTHING
-  TO BE HONEST IT IS NOT SOMETHING I HAVE SPENT MUCH TIME THINKING ABOUT

# color kids go back to school.....again



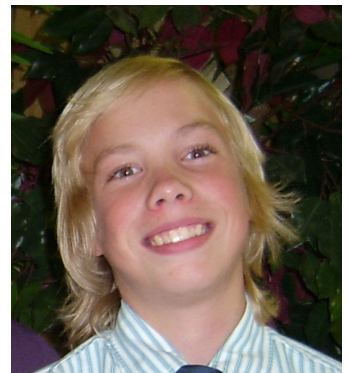
Gabe Vargas



Scott & SheaLyn Lane



Mike Eckles



Alex Eckles



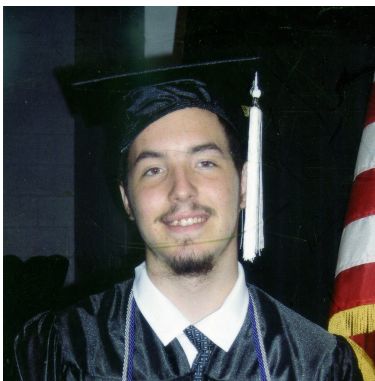
Drew & Ashley Begeman



Katie Begeman & Megan



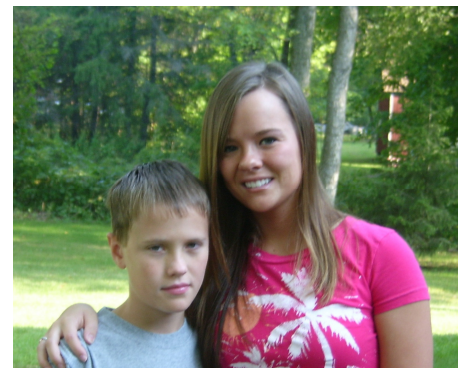
Tommy & Sydney Begeman



Justin Bishop now attending Lincoln Tech



Riley Vargas



David & Jordan Begeman