

April 2008

Cyberspace News

Michigan News

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# Lo<sup>The</sup>d Ou<sup>R</sup>Righteousness

## Day of Prayer

Elder Charles Moore

May 1st, the National Day of Prayer, is a special opportunity for Christians to pray for our nations. I was able to attend a prayer service where men and women offered up prayers for our government, our military, the educational system, the media and the family. But why did we come together to pray for our nation? One reason is that God desires us to pray. Paul wrote, "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." (1Timothy 2:1-4)

We are called to pray for our nation, to pray for those we have elected into office and it is to our benefit if we do, "that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior" (1Timothy 2:2b-3)

The following is part of Abraham Lincoln's proclamation for a day of prayer, in the midst of the dark days of the Civil War in 1863: "We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity.

We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God.

"We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; And have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us! It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray to the God that made us!"

Lincoln's words are still fitting for us today, in many ways even more so. Our nation has been blessed with enormous bounty but we too have forgotten God. Lincoln's remedy mirrors the sentiments of the writer of 2 Chronicles, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (2Chronicles 7:14) As we look at the myriad problems that face our nation, the solution is for us to humble ourselves, pray, and turn from our wicked ways. Then God promises to forgive our sins and heal our land. The

solution begins with the people of God. Don't decry the sins of our nation unless you are willing to cry out to God for the nation. Don't complain about politicians unless you are willing to pray for them.

But isn't the task of praying for an entire nation much too big for mere individuals? And can our meager prayers really have an impact on our nation and its leaders? Moses had a similar reaction when the Lord confronted him at the burning bush. "Who am I," asked the great hero of faith, "that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?" (Exodus 3:11)

"Who are we," we ask, "that we should help to bring about the healing of a nation through our prayers?" We are the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world." Without our light, how great will be the darkness on the land in which God has called us to shine for Jesus Christ's sake!

We sometimes think that the task is too great for us and we think that our prayers are too puny. Leonard Ravehill wrote "Prayer is as vast as God because He is behind it. Prayer is as mighty as God, because He has committed Himself to answer it. God pity us that in this noblest of all employments for the tongue and for the spirit, we stammer so. If God does not illuminate us in the closet, we walk in darkness. At the judgment seat the most embarrassing thing the believer will face will be the smallness of his praying."

Here is a majestic passage from the venerated Chrysostom, an early church

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theologian: "The potency of prayer hath subdued the strength of fire; it hath bridled the rage of lions, hushed anarchy to rest, extinguished wars, appeased the elements, expelled demons, burst the chains of death, expanded the gates of heaven, assuaged diseases, repelled frauds, rescued cities from destruction, stayed the sun in its course, and arrested the progress of the thunderbolt." Wow!

Another person wrote, "Prayer is an all-sufficient panoply, a treasure undiminished, a mine which is never exhausted, a sky unobscured by clouds, a heaven unruffled by the storm. It is the root, the fountain, the mother, of a thousand blessings."

We have the privilege to pray. God in His infinite wisdom has chosen to grant us the honor of participating in His works through prayer. May we be found praying so that this nation can be healed! "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" Psalm 33:12

**"The Prayer of Cyrus Brown":**

"The proper way for a man to pray," Said Deacon Lemuel Keyes,

"And the only proper attitude Is down upon his knees."

"No, I should say the way to pray," Said Reverend Doctor Wise,

"Is standing straight with outstretched arms And rapt and upturned eyes."

"Oh, no, no, no," said Elder Slow, Such posture is too proud.

A man should pray with eyes fast-closed And head contritely bowed."

"It seems to me his hands should be Austerely clasped in front

With both thumbs pointing toward the ground," Said Reverend Doctor Blunt.

"Last year I fell in Hidgekin's well Headfirst," said Cyrus Brown,

"With both my heels a-stickin' up And my head a-pointin' down.

"And I made a prayer right then and there, The best prayer I ever said, The prayingest prayer I ever prayed, A-standin' on my head."

When Minister Joe Wright was asked to open the new session of the Kansas Senate, everyone was expecting the usual generalities, but this is what they heard in 1996: "Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask Your forgiveness and to seek Your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, "Woe to those who call evil good" but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.

We confess that we have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and called it Pluralism;

We have worshiped other gods and called it multiculturalism;

We have endorsed perversion and called it alternative lifestyle;

We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery;

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare;

We have killed our unborn and called it choice;

We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable;

We have neglected to discipline our children and called

it building self-esteem;

We have abused power and called it politics;

We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition;

We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression;

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, Oh, God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent to direct us to the center of Your will, we ask it in the name of Your Son, the living Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen"

The response was immediate. A number of legislators walked out during the prayer in protest. Commentator Paul Harvey aired this prayer on "The Rest of the Story" on the radio and received a larger response to this program than any other he has ever aired. With the Lord's help, may this prayer sweep over our nation and wholeheartedly become our desire so that we again can be called one nation under God.

Michigan Report

Aurine Moore

The month has kept us all in suspense as we waited for flowers to bloom and for warmth to return to Michigan. The good thing about waiting for good Spring weather is how grateful we truly are when it arrives. If it were nice all year long, I'm pretty sure we wouldn't stand outside just to enjoy the weather the way we do.

We have been enjoying a new activity this month as a church. Charlie and Aurine Moore and Tim Begeman each took a turn taking about 10 students through a tutorial program called Unlocking the Secrets of Microsoft Word in the church basement. We've been enjoying the company of fellow classmates, who include Cheryl Lymond, Frances Berry and Gary Moore – all Charlie Moore's siblings – and two area residents. It has been a lot of fun and quite a bonding experience, listening to class members share tips and seeing satisfaction on people's faces as they realize they just learned something new, and even sympathizing as we hear mutual groans of frustration. It seems that these days we all are required to enjoy the opportunity to do creative things on the computer and it's been nice to get together to learn.

Tim Begeman, as Sabbath School M.C., has begun his time with "What I Learned This Week". Thanks to his continuous reading and study, he is well-equipped to perspicaciously share apologetics and the sheer good sense (or logic) of the Bible. Our sermon series with Elder Moore continues to take us through the Book of Romans with tea bags (to remind us we are in a hot water world) and reminders that we need to renew our minds and serve as living sacrifices.

Don Daniels and brothers, Kane, Nick & Seth Begeman, all celebrated birthdays this month. We hear that Seth has started a new job at the Boys and Girls Club of Toledo, in addition to life-guarding at the YMCA. Congratulations! Katie Begeman is testing out her lungs by singing in the school choir; she has already had a concert at a church in Carleton. Maybe we all will be able to hear her voice sometime during

variety time. Jordan Begeman is looking forward to graduating at the end of this school year. She recently shared stories with us about Fred Rogers at variety time that were thought-provoking, even giving us a literal minute to think about the wonderful people in our lives who influenced or cared for us and made us different people because of their touch.

Nate Valentine has been serving on the local Faith in Action Board of Directors. Between his volunteer work and commitments to return from time to time to his home community near Hartford, Kentucky to honor Wesley Phelps a Medal of Honor winner, he stays busy, interested, and interesting. Dave Cleveland, who has visited the local church with his wife, Diane and their unofficial family members Stephanie and David Fasbender, was recently honored by his employer. A dinner was held which they were able to attend and they saw him receive a "Life Award" honoring him for the contributions and achievements he has made by his conduct. It was something they were all touched by and we congratulate him.

Several of our church friends continue to need prayer. Karyn Zacjackowski and Marcia Moore continue to have health problems. Harold Hamilton, cousin to Geneva Begeman and Jean Lane passed away; Gleneva Gibson, sister-in-law of Jean Lane, passed away. Please remember each one who suffers illness, loss and concern for loved ones in your prayers. Until next month, may you remain in God's love and He in yours.

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The month of April has treated us a little kinder than March. Those 70 degree days were so welcome. Spring is a wonderful renewal time as the trees and flowers wake up and we all get to start over anew. I have not mentioned Dewey Chapman in awhile so we got caught up with a phone call recently. He is still doing pretty well. Jigsaw puzzles are his specialty and I know he is good at it. He recently had cataract surgery and is happy with the results. Right after we talked to him, he had a wonderful visit from his daughter Vicki and sons, Steve and Daran. Steve and Vicki drove down to visit Daran and Dewey. They had a good visit and were able to stay with Daran as he does not have an apartment mate at this time. They found everything good in Tennessee.

I found a video tape of the first 50 years of camp that Mike (my son) produced for the big reunion we had in 2000. Such memories on there! I sent a few out to shut-ins and hope they all enjoy it as much as we did. If you would like one, let me know and I will try to send you one also.

In the Phoenix area birthdays seem to be the theme. Kane Begeman celebrated his 30th with a party given by his wife Jennie. Congratulations, Kane. Now you can watch the years fly by! Another big milestone this month was Shealyn Lane (Jon and Berty's daughter) as she celebrated her sweet 16th birthday. I remember that one well because that is the driver's license birthday! Have a safe year, Shea.

Hope you are remembering Dorothy Layton in prayer this month as she is having hip surgery. We certainly are looking forward to reporting great news about your recovery, Dorothy. I talked to Dorothy after I wrote the first part of this and she is in the rough stage of recovery. Those therapy times are killers, I think. She is very happy to have it over with and is looking forward to getting out again in the next few months.

Sonya and mother Arvilla Pease made a trip to New Hampshire this month. Sonya went to quilting classes and Arvilla hung around the hotel and enjoyed herself. They both liked their 3 or 4 day vacation and I am sure

we will get to see some of the things Sonya learned there at camp, as she always brings quilts to give us a show. I hope Arvilla got a nice suntan! An addition to this news-- Laurie Eckles and Rachel Sottile were able to spend a few hours with Sonya and were able to see her quilts and get a fast visit in. Laurie and Rachel had a good visit with each other on their flying trip to Rochester for a medical check-up for Laurie. It is always a bonus to get to see Sonya.

Late News: We send our heartfelt sympathy out to Bennie and Roy Gee as Bennie's brother passed away. She was able to travel down to be with the family and him. They put him on hospice and the family was together during his passing. It is a four hour trip to see him, but Bennie went often and then was there for the last few days of his life. Bennie and Roy, we love you both and send you our deepest sympathy.

Brad Charles' bride to be, Sarah Brownsey, was honored with a bridal shower at the church this month. (See pictures.) The basement was lit by candle light with candles adorning each table which was just beautiful. The wedding is the first of June so that was the talk of the day! Christy Reeves Taylor (a good friend and former youth camper) gave an inspirational talk about marriage. It is wonderful to see these young people latching on to God's Word and applying it to their lives. Brad is the son of Larry and Peggy Charles and has settled in a home around the lake from his parents in Highland, MI. Sarah is looking forward to adding her touches to this home.

My Aunt Stella Howell celebrated her 94th birthday this month with visits from her children. She lives in Blacksburg, VA now, but used to live down the road from Rip and Norma Ripley in Roanoke. She is doing well and we would all like to wish you a great year, Stella.

Dick Lane's only sister, Gleneva Gibson, died late this month and Terrie Fedor, Jean Lane, Kathy Gearhart and I were able to get down to the funeral home at New Carlisle, Ohio. She was a wonderful 'big sis' to Dick and the whole Lane family. She lived in the Lane homeplace all her 92 years. She will be sorely missed by one and all.

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\* \* \* **Things Mom Would Never Say** \* \* \*

1. "How on earth can you see the TV sitting so far back?"
2. "Yeah, I used to skip school a lot, too."
3. "Just leave all the lights on ... it makes the house look more cheery."
4. "Let me smell that shirt -- Yeah, it's good for another week."
5. "Go ahead and keep that stray dog, honey. I'll be glad to feed and walk him every day."
6. "Well, if Timmy's mom says it's OK, that's good enough for me."
7. "The curfew is just a general time to shoot for. It's not like I'm running a prison around here."
8. "I don't have a tissue with me ... just use your sleeve."
9. "Don't bother wearing a jacket - the wind-chill is bound to improve."



Katie Begeman after her concert.



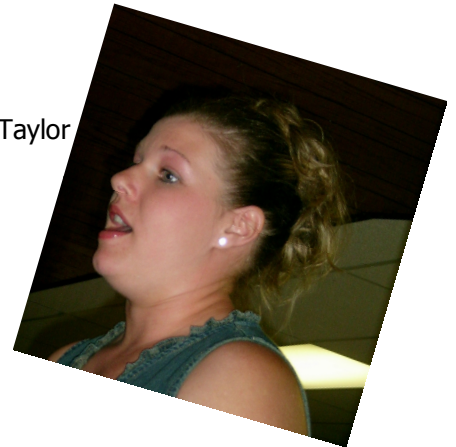
Steve, Janelle Edmiston, Jennie & Kane Begeman  
Steve & Janelle were able to visit for Kane's 30th birthday party.



Jon & Shealynn Lane. Shealynn now is 16!



Shealynn got a limo ride as part of her birthday present.



Kristy Taylor



Dorothy Layton

Peggy Charles, Sarah Brownsey, Annie Malburg, Nancy Brownsey

