

October 2008

Cyberspace News

Michigan News



You Will Be My Witnesses part 3

Elder Charles Moore

WINTER RETREAT
FEBRUARY 6,7,8
2009

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The Book of Acts shows us how normal, authentic Christianity should be lived. We need to have our eyes, our ears and our hearts opened up to see and hear what God is doing among us. We need to realize that we are filled with the resurrected Jesus Christ; we are part of His plan of redemption, moving out into the community as salt and light, under the power and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Last month we saw a captive slave girl set free when Paul cast out a demon of divination that had filled and possessed her. We pick up at this point in this month's reflection on how Satan now moves from this visible, overt tactic of using a demon possessed slave girl to using the hearts of evil men. Paul demonstrates for us, witnessing in the midst of persecution **"But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone."** You see, the slave masters are not rejoicing over the fact that this woman was healed, nor are they curious about the power which Paul used to cast out the demon, because they are not open to the gospel of Jesus Christ. They are angry, in fact, because their meal-ticket is gone, so **"they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities."** (Acts 16:19b) We don't know where Luke and

Timothy were. They probably were where I would have been, behind a chariot somewhere, watching the whole thing. Paul did no wrong, he did a good work but he is going to suffer for the Gospel's sake. Listen to the phony charges, **"and when they had brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, 'These men are throwing our city into confusion, being Jews, and are proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for us to accept or to observe, being Romans.'" (Acts 16:20-21)**

The real motive of the slave masters, of course, was that they had lost their livelihood when Paul had cast out the demon. The result of the phony charges however, was gratifying to the evil men. **"And the crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them, and proceeded to order them to be beaten with rods. 23 And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely; 24 and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison, and fastened their feet in the**

stocks." (Acts 16:22-24) They didn't think to ask Paul if he was a Roman citizen, which he was, and which meant that he could not be beaten legally.

You just don't know what the resurrected Lord will do with you if you happen to walk down by the river one day! You may think you are going from point A to point B, but God sometimes has planned a little detour, called prison. Don't sign on if you do not understand that the gospel means that you might have to suffer. So Paul and Silas were beaten and then put into stocks. They couldn't move; they couldn't touch each other to even scratch their noses or relieve an itch. It was Paul's first prison experience, but not his first riot.

"But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;" (Acts 16:25) Notice the first word in that sentence, "But". Whenever you see that word in Scripture, just stop, pause, because it means that a change is coming. It's midnight. Paul and Silas are in the stocks. There's no TV, no late show to watch, it's midnight, a fearful time, a time of emptiness, a time when you can start thinking, "Where is God? Has He deserted me?" **"But"** they start **"praying and singing hymns of praise to God."** They're not praying, "Lord, get me out of this mess," they're praising the Lord. And guess who is listening intently? A captive audience, the other prisoners!

Then there is an earthquake, **"and suddenly there came a**

(Continued on page 2)

great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains were unfastened. I wonder who caused that. **"And when the jailer had been roused out of sleep and had seen the prison doors" opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Do yourself no harm, for we are all here!' And he called for lights and rushed in and, trembling with fear, he fell down before Paul and Silas, and after he brought them out, he said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' And they said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household.' And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house." (Acts 16:26-32)** The very foundation of the prison was shaken, the doors opened, and the prisoners are set free. Imagine this. This is a very exciting time if you happen to be on God's side, but a very fearful time if you're not. The earthquake woke up the jailer and he is just about to kill himself, but Paul yells out, **"We are all here."** Why is this important? In those days, a jailer who allowed prisoners to escape faced a very painful, slow, and torturous death. It would have seemed inevitable to the jailer that prisoners with an opportunity to flee *would* flee and death by his own hands would be swifter and more merciful than the one his superiors would dole out to him. Think about the absolute astonishment that must have flooded the jailer. Then the jailer bows down before Paul and Silas and brings them out of the prison but then he asked this incredible question, **"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"**

What was it about Paul and Silas that made this man ask a question about salvation? Is he asking for political or for spiritual deliverance? What kind of salvation was he seeking? I believe He is asking for a method, a mode, or a plan to secure a temporary solution to his immediate problem but Paul and Silas instead give him a Person who will provide him with permanent security, safety and salvation. They give him the Person of Jesus. **"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household."** he is told. Place your faith in Jesus, Paul and Silas tell the jailer, **the Savior who demonstrated by his death on the cross that he was the Lamb of God who would take away sin of the world.** He is the One who saves people from the power of sin. The disciples tell him, "Place your faith in Jesus, who demonstrated by his resurrection from the dead that he is the only One who can fill your emptiness with his wholeness, his peace and his joy. Place your faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; Believe in Jesus the One who died for you, **"There is salvation in no one else,"** they tell him, **"for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."** (Acts 4:12) Some of you too may be asking, "What must I do to be saved?" The answer is the same today as it was in that first century day. **Believe in the Lord Jesus,** who is the Christ, the Son of God, Savior of the world, who was raised from the dead and now sits at the right hand of the Father.

Christians are to be "Jesus' witnesses," so that God can call out a people for His namesake. This will involve suffering for the sake of the gospel at times but also great rejoicing. Both are aspects of our Lord's plan of salvation. Our attitude should be one of knowing that he is in total control of our lives. We are to rest in him, regardless of the outward circumstances, and join with Paul and Silas in praise and hymns even in the midst of trouble. **"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you shall be my witnesses"** down by the river, in the marketplace, in the midst of persecution, in prison and every where you go. May we be found faithful!

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October retreat started the month off right! It was a beautiful weekend inside and out. It is always a thrill to see those Maryland and New York cars roll in. Debbie and Jim Stoner and Dorothy Layton came from Maryland, and Sonya Pease came from New York. They all reported good trips here. We were glad to see Dorothy Layton getting around pretty well with the aid of her "Cadillac" walker. She also uses her cane a lot, since having her knee surgery. Sonya brought a homemade wedding gift that she had finished, for Carrie and Joel DeHaan. Ellen Momberger has long been known for her beautiful sewing and painting gifts. Ellen says, "The first quilt is of "The Little Brown Bird". I did the applique and my daughter-in-law, Sherry, did all the embroidery (which was extensive). It took us almost a year to complete. The second one is "The Baltimore Album" and the third one is a quilt I did for my granddaughter, Sarah. She loves pansies and I hand-painted all the pansies in acrylics and then quilted it." Every time I have been at Ellen's I love all the samples of quilting she showed me. Thanks, Ellen.

I talked recently to Rip and Norma Ripley and found that they were having some difficulties. Rip is weak and having problems with his sciatic nerve going down his leg. He is also having difficulty with hearing. He is to have an MRI soon so please pray that they find the problem and can fix it soon.

David Charles completed his medical tests and they tell him he must have a valve fixed in his heart. At this time he is waiting on the date for the heart surgery. Please remember him and Ruth in prayer.

Laurie Eckles fell down some steps at her sister Rachel's and ended up in the emergency room. She broke a rib and was nursed back to health by her sister. She was thankful that she had a thick jacket on that padded her fall. Glad you are on the mend, Laurie.

Remember this next month is Thanksgiving so give thanks every day for all your blessings! We are really thankful here in Michigan for the wonderful baptism service on retreat weekend.

Michigan Report

Aurine Moore

The month was a beautiful, typical fall month, with the real weather being interrupted by what is being called a perfect storm of financial disaster. Conversations in restaurants, the work-place and grocery stores have been punctuated by discussions of how people's savings funds have gone down the drain, questions of whether we have hit the bottom yet, and how long people's retirements will be postponed. Thus it was pertinent when we had an interesting variety time presentation that recapped David Wilkerson's prophecies from the 1970's and 1980's on a coming financial crisis, with his present-day encouraging reminder that God's main desire at times such as this is that we simply trust him to continue to provide and care for us.

Our fall retreat was held at the beginning of the month. During it, we enjoyed a special walk down memory lane with a video compiled by Tim Begeman of past variety time, Christmas Eve programs and youth night skits. We laughed with delight at one that featured Dale and Don Begeman as Joe Friday and Officer Bill Gannon. Dale played a great straight man to Don's Officer Gannon, who drove the police car, which consisted of a metal chair and steering wheel improvised from a kitchen pot lid. On Sabbath, we had a wonderful sermon on baptism – and after a wonderful lunch, we then witnessed eight baptisms, seven planned (Drew, David, Katie, and Sydney Begeman, Butch Lymond, and Gabe and Riley Vargas), and one by spontaneous conviction (Frances Berry). We pray each newly baptized believer continues to grow in the knowledge of their Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, and continues a life enjoying the fellowship and encouragements of the redeemed. After the baptisms, we went down for cake and beverages and heard the tale of 'a cake that wasn't meant to be'. Melinda Begeman had made not one but two cakes that suffered mishaps, but she was able to save the day and cake by creativity and adaptability. That evening, we enjoyed a coffee house with Bob Young, President, and Kenny Lang, member of the East River Folk Society. We enjoyed the variety of their folk, spiritual and blue grass music and good fellowship. On Sunday morning, we had our business meeting, chaired by President Jeff Begeman. We are so blessed to be able to continue to maintain missionary support for our current missionaries, increase support for Kevin and GINETTE Young, and add a new missionary, Tim Schott, son of John and Sue Schott, who will serve with Campus Crusade for Christ in the Detroit metro area. In addition, we re-elected Jeff Begeman to serve as President of the United Board. The meeting formally closed with Brother Don Daniels making a formal presentation of an award to Brother Joe Smeltzer from the Society for the Preservation of Mental Anomalies. It's a great group to be inducted into, even though Joe's inclusion into the group may seem to the uninformed to be perhaps irregular, incongruous and at variance with that group's purpose. (Please note, those adjectives are all synonyms for anomaly!)

Fall Bible studies resumed, kicking off at our home of with a taped study by R.C. Sproul on the books of James and Peter. Studies will rotate weekly throughout the year at member's homes. If you would like to attend on a Wednesday night, call Elder Moore at 734-242-7674 for the current week's location and topic. Since then we have begun continuing our studies of the book of James by Paul Blackham and moderated by Richard Bewes. The series has been a 'bit of fun' as the leaders are English and have some nice ways of speaking. At every session, they begin to conclude by 'rounding off' the topic. The studies are well done, thought provoking and easy to apply to everyday life.

The Microsoft Excel program was led by Elder Tim Begeman and very helpful. We have had several visitors, including a teacher from a local school (St. Patrick's in Carleton) and several of Charlie Moore's siblings, Frances, Gary and Cheryl. No day is wasted when you can learn a new skill, enjoy learning with friends, and enjoy a few snacks together.

Kate Pinhey has been bringing her daughter Shea to church and she has been a delight in classes and in the congregation. Sydney Begeman has been a joy to see more often now that the family is living in Dundee at the Don and Judy homestead (with Jim and Tisha and brother Tommy). She has accompanied her aunt and uncle, Tim and Diane, for post service lunches and is a lot of fun to get to know. Katie Begeman has been enjoying her school lessons this year and is definitely growing up to be a nice young lady. David Begeman is back at hockey and is doing quite well at it. Gabe and Riley have continued to do well as they re-enter the Ida school system and engage in scouting and sports activities in their spare time.

James Goins' older brother needs prayer as he deals with the passing of his mother, Darlene Brinson. We have reason to believe that Marcia Moore may in fact have had her last foot surgery, which went well and was much more extensive than prior surgeries. Dale Begeman is recovering from his final eye surgery to address glaucoma pressure. I has completed my thyroid removal and radioactive iodine treatment regime to kill the bad cells in my thyroid. The prognosis is good and I am grateful to be on thyroid replacement hormones.

All in all, it's been a wonderful month, with God continuing to bless and guide His people. Until next month, may God be with you and you with Him.

Ponder This

A bus station is where a bus stops.

A train station is where a train stops.

On my desk I have a work station

**CHURCH OF THE
LORD OUR
RIGHTEOUSNESS**

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Potato Jokes

Why did the potato cross the road?
He saw a fork up ahead.

How do you describe an angry potato?
Boiling Mad.

Why didn't the mother potato want her daughter to marry the famous newscaster?
Because he was a commontater.

Why wouldn't the reporter leave the mashed potatoes alone?
He desperately wanted a scoop.

What do you say to an angry 300-pound baked potato?
Anything, just butter him up.

What does a British potato say when it thinks something is wonderful?
It's mashing!

What do you call a baby potato?
A small fry!



Baptisms on October 4th



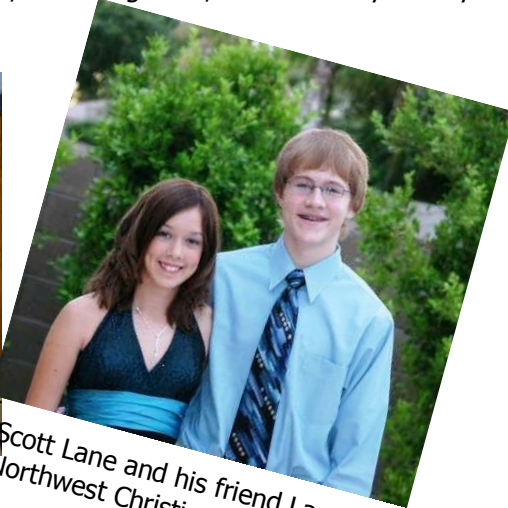
Riley, Gabe Vargas, David, Sydney, Katie, Drew Begeman, Frances Berry and Byron Lymond



Dave Fedor welcoming Sonya Pease to the Fall Retreat



Sonya Pease & Carrie DeHaan
Carrie's wedding present from Sonya



Scott Lane and his friend Lauren.
Northwest Christian Homecoming



Ellen Mombergers quilts. These pictures don't do the quilts justice.



Shealyn Lane and her friend Alanna.
Northwest Christian Homecoming



Don Daniels & Joe Smeltzer



Deborah & Jim Stoner



Dorothy Layton

