

May 2009

Cyberspace News

Michigan News



Wanted: Willing Laborers

Elder Charles Moore

In the book, "Every Believer, A Minister," Dr. Rex D. Edwards graphically paints the pathetic picture of far too many Christians today. "We sing the words of the hymn 'Onward Christian Soldier,' and wait to be drafted into His service. We sing 'Oh, For a Thousand Tongues,' but don't use the ones we have. We sing: 'Serve the Lord with Gladness,' yet we complain when someone asks us to do something." To prevent ourselves from falling into this category, we need to change our mindset about the church. It's time that we, as the church of the Lord Jesus Christ who died and rose again, move in a new direction.

God has called the church to do more than survive! God has called the church to do more than exist! He wants us to move from a place of survival to a place of Revival.

In order for us to be successful, there are some concepts that we must grab hold of. Jesus shows us in this text that there is a job to be done. **Matthew 9: 35 And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages,**

teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Know this, there is a need that must be fulfilled. What Jesus is telling us here is that there is a need for laborers. There is a need for folks who are willing to get their hands dirty for the cause of Christ.

We live in a world today where everybody is looking for somebody. Major corporations are looking for college graduates with marketable skills. The Marines are looking for The Few, the Proud. The

Army is looking for those who are willing to "Be All That They Can Be". The Navy is looking for those who want not just "A Job, But an Adventure." The Air Force is looking for those who want to "Aim High!" Everybody is looking for somebody and because we're living in such perilous times; because we're living in such a messed up world; because there's much to be done, our text tells us that the Lord is also looking for someone who is willing to give their all. The Lord is looking for someone who is willing to help in the harvest of the lost. The Lord is looking for someone who is willing to labor for the Kingdom.

But what constitutes a willing laborer? What separates him or her from everyone else? "How do I make sure that I'm doing my part?" The first thing we must do is recognize the reality of what the situation is. Notice what the real issue is here. He says in verse 37: **"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few"** In other words, there is much work to be done, but there aren't enough workers to do it.

What kind of work? The word "harvest", refers to the

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crop; the produce; the product. However, in our context 'harvest' refers to people; the lost, the hurting, the unloved. You don't need to be an agricultural major to know that harvesting is done outdoors and not indoors in the church. Harvesting is done in the fields.

That suggests we have got to go outside of the four walls of the church and into the fields if we are going to reach others. As Kirk DeVine says, "We've got to get off our 'blessed assurance' and go into the highways and byways and compel men, women, boys, and girls to come to Christ".

Some of us have the "Martha Mentality" (Luke 10:38-42) Martha was so worried about her housework that she didn't recognize that Jesus was there in the house. Likewise, we can be so worried about getting church work done that we miss out on getting Kingdom work accomplished for the body of Christ.

Not only must we recognize and realize that the harvest is Kingdom work, not church work. We also need to recognize the fact that it is a full-time job. So many think that it's a Sabbath morning, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. job, with maybe an hour or two thrown in on Wednesday nights. But the Bible lets us know "that Satan the adversary is roaming to and fro as a lion seeking whom he may devour..." If you know anything about lions, you know that they are always on the prowl. They are always on the hunt. They are always seeking their prey.

So if the enemy is always on his job, we should be on ours too. There's no such thing as a time clock when it comes to soul winning. A laborer ought to always be ready to share the plan of salvation with others and help lead them to Christ. A laborer ought to always be ready to witness to others about the goodness of God. A laborer ought to always be ready to go out of his or her way to tell a dying world that Jesus lives. As opportunities arise to share Christ with others on the job, at school, or just in general conversation, we should always be ready to share the availability of God's love for all mankind. God is looking for some willing laborers for the harvest. For God's sake be one. Amen!

The above is a condensation of a sermon by Kirk DeVine, Trinity Missionary Full Gospel Church titled, "Wanted: Willing Laborers for the Kingdom" found on SermonCentral.com

Greetings to all of you out there. Hope you are having fun gardening and mowing the lawn. I know you Phoenix folks enjoy looking at your pebble lawn and thinking about all those lawns you do not have to mow!

May 1 was an exciting day for the Begeman family because we welcomed two new members to our family. Brian (my son) married Kate Pinhey from nearby Ann Arbor. She is a physical therapist, so she can help Brian when he runs and gets those aches and pains. The second family member is her daughter, Shay who is 10. Their new family is 3 daughters and a son. Blending a family together is a praying matter, so I am sure they could use your prayers.

David and Ruth Charles' apartment was the perfect solution for living quarters for Joel & Carrie DdHaan during this time. Don't worry though, the Floridians will be welcomed home to Monroe—they will just sleep in a different place.

Shealyn and Scott Lane are out of school in Arizona and we received a picture of Dad, Jon, and Shea on prom night at school. We watch the temperatures in Phoenix and have to admit that their air may be dry, but it has been extra warm there already this spring. Hope all of you have a great summer.

Check out the picture of this great-grandbaby of Jim and Vicky Ohle. They report is that Nate still needs our prayer, but is improving all the time. He is off the ventilator and is over 3 pounds now.

Leslie and Rebecca Miller enjoyed Easter morning with an egg hunt. Rebecca is really growing up and Leslie awaits a baby boy very soon. We wish you and the baby all the best, Leslie and Tom.

Rip and Norma Ripley are enjoying things that don't require much walking nowadays. Rip is contemplating a hip replacement surgery and Norma is still recovering from her fall a couple of months ago.

Dorothy Layton is doing well these days. She is firing up the internet to get on line, so I am looking forward to some emails. It takes a whole host of help to keep us seniors going sometimes.

I would like to send birthday greetings to my Uncle Elmer Hamilton this month. He will be 80 on the 14th of June and is an avid reader of our newsletter.

The coming month will be a busy one with camp coming very soon—June 14-19. Please pray for camp that we may present Christ in such a way that the kids flock to Him. Bless you each and everyone.

Michigan Report

Aurine Moore

May was a busy, cool, fragrant and happy month. It began with a beautiful orange-themed and intimate wedding for Brian Begeman and Kate Pinhey. The wedding was held at the church and followed by a wonderful meal in the basement which Kate's new sisters-in-law, Diane and Melinda Begeman, hosted. Because of the swine flu precautions, their honeymoon plans for Cancun Mexico were cancelled. They soldiered on with smiles on their faces to Maui, Hawaii. They returned home to move Brian and his household out of his home in Ida and into Kate's home in Ann Arbor Michigan. Many blessings to you both and your new blended family consisting of Shay Pinhey and Chelsey, Jordan and David Begeman.

We had a real treat this month when Marsha Moore, who has been missing from church services due to multiple illnesses and health problems for some time, surprised us when she came to church with no orthopedic boot on her foot but a smile on her face. She misses church and told us, "The devil didn't want me to come, but I said, NO! I'm going to church!" Welcome back Marsha, we need your spunk!

Camp may not start until June, but May was the time of passing water safety exams for Tim Begeman. The tests have to be updated so the waterfront activities can continue. We had our annual camp pre-service accompanied by dessert and new staff application forms. We are now required to officially clear all staff for protective service complaints (which, thankfully, I passed). By month's end, about 60 campers have signed up. We'll miss some of our regulars who won't be able to come because their school doesn't get out on time. We're asking our readers to take time to think if there are any young people who need to be at camp and to pray that God helps us have a camp that makes a lifetime and eternal difference for our kids.

Brian's daughter, Chelsey Begeman, enjoyed a beautiful wedding shower in the church basement for her

upcoming wedding to Jason Connor. The number in attendance was phenomenal and we saw many familiar and new faces for the day. Chelsey was a gracious guest of honor and we pray for her upcoming marriage.

We have been collecting a special offering throughout the year to repair our badly curling roof. The fund went 'through the roof' this month, thanks to a very unexpected and generous gift from New Hope Christian Church, our renting fellow church. Their pastor, Pastor Mike Heil, and his wife Dodi also came to our annual Spring Cleaning Day and helped as we trimmed bushes (Dave Fedor), picking up hard debris (Terrie Fedor and Dodi Heil), oiled the church (Mike Heil and Charlie Moore), reinforcing the wheelchair ramp (Tim Begeman), cleaning the garage (Joe Smeltzer) and cleaning the indoors thoroughly (Geneva and Dale Begeman, Don Daniels and Aurine Moore).

We have been missing Richard Brown, one of our newest members. He and his wife, Carol, are staying in Belleville, Michigan. Carol recently had surgery on her shoulder. We pray for their healing and happiness and wish them the best until we see them again.

Thanks to a newly installed wheelchair ramp at his mother Marshala's new home, James Goins recently paid a home visit to his mother and sister Jamesha (who has been busily training to run a 5 K race this month). The visit was to see how he can get around in the new trailer Marshala bought and went very well.

Carrie and Joel DeHaan have moved to Monroe with Kathy and Joe Smeltzer. Carrie is in the midst of preparing to take her long awaited medical board exam. It is a very difficult exam but we believe if anyone can pass it, Carrie can. The Monroe church really enjoys seeing her husband Joel a little more. We won't bother Carrie until exams are over and she starts her residency at South Shores Hospital (the renamed Seaway Hospital) in Trenton.

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

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Potato Jokes

These are some bad campfire jokes!

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

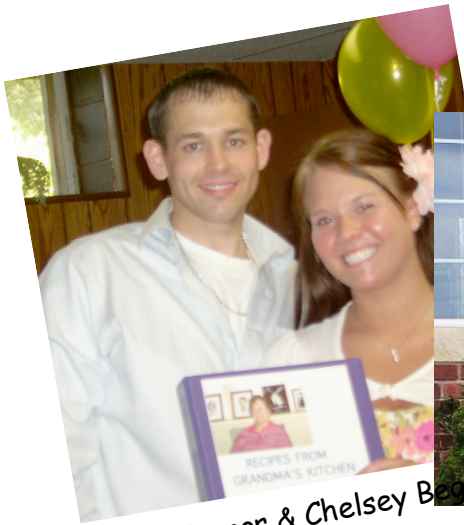
How do you describe an angry potato?
Boiling Mad.

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

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!



Jason Connor & Chelsey Begeman

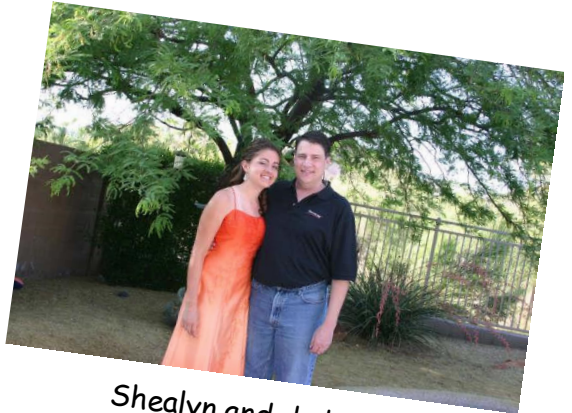
Mom Leslie, Rebecca and a neighbor hunting for Easter eggs.



Great-Grandma holding Nate.



Kate and Brian Begeman



Shealyn and dad Jon.
Jr. Sr. Banquet Northwest
Christian School



Good Times at the Pre Camp meeting



Chelsey, Shay Brian, Kate, David, Jordan



Another of Melinda's famous
"talks"