

January 2010

Cyberspace News

Michigan News

Youth Camp  
June 20-25, 2010  
Nazarene District  
Center Howell  
Michigan



## We Need A Focus

Elder Charles Moore

In order for us to appreciate the new identity we explored last month, that we are dead, risen and hidden in Jesus, we must develop a new focus.

**Colossians 3: 1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.**

What this is telling us is that we must learn to concentrate our attention on what matters, eternal realities.

Instead, we focus on money and we allow money to define who we are and how we see ourselves. The kind of work we do defines us as well. We identify ourselves as an engineer, lawyer, doctor, contractor, businessman or steelworker. Now that may be what we do, but is that who we are? Family heritage is important to some. The level of education attained is important to others. We allow

these things to define us, but we should not.

The problem with all these things is that they are not secure; therefore, they can't be our security. None of these earthly things will last. They are all temporary. Our investments can and do fail. Even though the market has rebounded somewhat, we could all easily be like the Enron employee who had over \$1 million invested for his retirement. In a matter of a few weeks it was worth less than \$8,000. He was a millionaire one day and starting over the next. All of these earthly things are temporary. Nick Vujicic said, "If you put your happiness in temporary things your happiness will be temporary." We need an eternal hope.

The other problem with all these things is that they don't ultimately fulfill us. Yes, they do give us pleasure. But they don't ultimately give us the kind of fulfillment that provides security and true peace.

You see, you can have all these things and more, but it is all just window dressing, nothing more.

This is why we must have a new focus based on our new identity, that we are dead, risen and hidden in Jesus. Our text says that **your life is now hidden with Christ in God**. In other words, something has happened to us in the spiritual dimension of our lives that has placed us *in* Jesus. More than this, there is a certain sense in which we are now dwelling in heavenly places. We are identified with Jesus. Therefore, we identify with Him in our journey through our earthly existence and we do this in light of our heavenly citizenship. This world is not our home. Our true dwelling place is with Christ in God. Remember, we must always see ourselves as joined to Christ. Never see yourself apart from Jesus. He is your life.

Because of this, we are exhorted to seek Him. In our text, Paul says it twice: **set your hearts on things above; set your minds on things above**. In other words, concentrate your attention on eternal realities. Don't simply look at what's happening around you. If you do, you will miss the big picture. You have

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a new focus; concentrate on that which does not pass away. The call is to seek Jesus with all of our heart and mind. We must seek him earnestly and actively. And the implication of the command here is that we are to seek him continually.

So what are these **things above** we are to seek? Well, they are our spiritual blessings in Jesus. They are the spiritual blessings that enable us to live a life characterized by His nature and power. These include things like the fruit of the spirit found in **Galatians 5: 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.**

You would also include the blessings that you receive from daily and intimate fellowship with Jesus, by spending time with Jesus everyday in prayer and meditation upon His word. It is through these that you develop a strong sense of communion with Him that cannot be gotten in any other way. By doing so, you begin to reflect his character. You begin to look and act like Him. You focus on His grace and mercy and become more gracious and merciful yourself. You focus on His love and humility and become more loving and humble yourself.

One more thing, when He comes again in glory, **we will appear with him in glory.** Not only does He include us in His life, He will include us in His ultimate victory. He loves us. He has made a place for us . . . with Him . . . forever.

We are seated with Jesus in a place that is above all that is on earth. Jesus has received us to Himself and holds us close. We are loved. We are accepted. We can boldly proclaim that we are His children. That is what we need to focus on. Open our eyes, Lord! We want to see Jesus! Amen!

Save this date:

Ladies Dessert and Salad Bar  
Saturday April 17, 2 pm

January has brought a lot of snow to some of you out there. Don't worry, the sun will shine again. We have a little less than usual, but we have a couple more months to catch up!

I have talked to the Ripley's this month and they are limping along like the rest of us old folks. They enjoy seeing Rob, their son, who has to stay in town frequently to be close to the hospital. Mom and Dad's place is very convenient to the hospital, so they both enjoy the time spent together.

The Layton's report that Jim and Deborah Stoner are in Hawaii at present. At least someone is enjoying the weather. Dorothy said she had several inches of snow and she was enjoying the warmth of the fireplace. The picture of Dorothy holding one of her great grandchildren reminds me of Myrtle, her Mom. Also Walter Layton is holding his twin grandbabies. He has a boy and girl there.

I have decided to focus the pictures this month on outlying folks. We got the beautiful picture of the Lanes at Christmas. They are spending quite a bit of time on the road these days at hockey tournaments that Scott plays in, and Berty is managing the team.

Ellen Momberger enjoys spending a lot of time with her son and their whole family. She lives in the Phoenix area and loves the dry heat. She keeps very busy these days.

The pictures of the big snow come from Kansas and the Millers enjoying their wonderful children at Christmas. Rebecca and Alexander are growing up so fast! Tom and Leslie are very blessed.

I wanted to include a picture of Laurie Eckles and Rachel Sottile because I know you all are praying a lot for them. Rachel is still in the midst of chemotherapy and Laurie is still suffering for her sister. Please continue to pray for both of them and their families.

I hope you have enjoyed your trip around the country with our outlying folks. Please keep in touch by sending me notes or pictures. I love to get them and pass them on to all of you.

Astronaut [John H. Glenn, Jr.](#), became first American to orbit the earth, February 20, 1962.

Thomas A. Edison patented the phonograph, February 19, 1878.

A FEW FABULOUS FACTS ABOUT FEBRUARY

## Michigan Report

Aurine Moore

This was a cold month in which we all, in many ways, got back to 'business as usual'. The holidays were over and Bible studies, jobs and family routines got to feeling like old familiar friends. Thanks to the lack of clouds, we had a spectacular moon this month and then Diane Begeman, serving as Sabbath School Superintendent, explained why. January is the month when the moon looks especially big and bright because the moon is at its closest point to the earth. When Diane asked who knew what the moon was called by the American Indians (the 'wolf moon') Riley Vargas was perhaps the only one in attendance who knew.

Lots of things were happening in people's personal lives. Dale Begeman had cataracts removed from both eyes. Pat Conley was recovering well from surgery, while Vicki Velasco missed her planned surgery in Michigan due to an illness that arose while she visited daughter Elizabeth and granddaughter Desiree in California. Elizabeth Goins was under the weather and Jordan Begeman injured her arm in a fall. On the other hand, it was a good month for Jordan because she started a new job at the Ida Kids Center. Sydney Begeman has made the Girls 7<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team for the Ida. Marie Canales, a friend who had visited our church years ago, has moved in with RoxAnn and David Brugman and is providing good company to their busy family of six. Nate Valentine sojourned a week in Gainesville, Florida with a good friend of his son Mark's and escaped some cold weather here. Many prayers are going up for Rachel Sottile as she undergoes grueling (is there any other kind?) and an especially intense schedule of chemotherapy. Tim and Diane Begeman were pleased to announce the engagement of their son Nick to his girlfriend Brittanie Good. They really like her and are happy Nick brought her into their lives.

Kim Trouten, wife of Tim and part of one of the missionary families we support, recently spent time in East Asia along China's eastern coastal area. She had to fly to China alone because she missed a flight to link up with her two team members from Reformed

Theological Seminary. Her time was spent teaching Campus Crusade for Christ staff counseling skills to use in their work. She was impressed with how they work in the midst of concerns about daily safety and security and help people face life and death.

God continues to use Jeff Begeman's auto skills to help fellow church members like Marshala Goins who had some brake issues. During the rest of the month, his household faced a furnace failure and replacement challenge. They also spent time glorying in Michigan's fine Upper Peninsula's cold and snow, getting in time of snowmobiling and enjoying the woods. Jeff spent one weekend doing this with some of his long-time male buddies and spent another three-day weekend doing the same with Melinda. Jeff and Melinda chose their college town because of their mutual love of the outdoors - and there is a lot of it up there. For her part, Marshala Goins reported enjoying the challenge and successes of having her son James stay overnight. She's worked long and hard to get things ready and she and her family mastered all the tasks needed for a successful visit.

We held our Annual Local Business Meeting and re-elected Dave Fedor to the dual local and United Church position and Melinda Begeman to the local position. We were happy to learn that we paid our bills another year and were also able help people in the area through offerings for the Salvation Army Bed and Bread, God Works, and Christmas baskets. Pastor Moore is giving a series of sermons on various crowns we have in Christ Jesus. So far we've covered the imperishable crown and the crowns of exultation and righteousness.

Finally, Geneva Begeman hosted our breakfast this month and remarked that it's easier serving 100+ campers than our little group. It has something to do with having all the right utensils and knowing just how many to plan for - and the fact that she's got large quantity cooking down pat! So, until next month, may you be aware of God's abounding presence, wherever you walk this month!

Torrential rainstorms were knocking down power lines all over town. That meant, as a customer service rep for the electric company, I was dispatching repairmen right and left.

When one lineman called a customer to get her exact address, he was told, "I'm at Post Office Box 99."

The weary lineman replied, "Ma'am, I'll be coming to you in a truck, not an envelope."

**CHURCH OF THE  
LORD OUR  
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### How to Clean the House

1. Open a new folder on your PC.
2. Name it "Housework."
3. Send it to the Recycle Bin.
4. Empty the Recycle Bin.
5. Your PC will ask you, "Are you sure you want to delete Housework permanently?"
6. Calmly answer, "Yes," and press the mouse button firmly.
7. Feel better?

Some of our Outlying Members



Rachel Sottile,  
Laurie Eckles



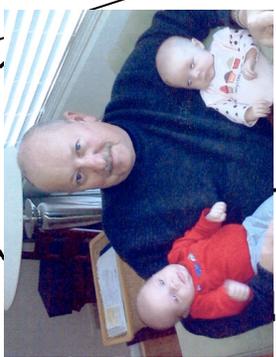
Michigan

Rip & Norma Ripley



Virginia

Maryland



Walter Layton



Dorothy Layton

Tom & Leslie Miller



Kansas

Berty, Shealyn,  
Scott & Jon Lane



Ellen Momberger

Arizona