



## Motivated to move on in 2011.

Elder Charles Moore

**Winter Retreat  
2011  
Nazarene  
District Center  
Howell Michigan  
February  
4, 5, 6  
Roy Gee,  
guest speaker**

**Ladies Tea  
February 26  
2 pm  
Aurine Moore,  
guest speaker**

**Check out the  
website  
Colornet.org**

Here we are in a new year! If you're like me you probably ask yourself, "I wonder what will happen in this New Year?" or "What unexpected event will take place this year?" I want to motivate you to move on in 2011! Move on and face the future with strength, security and success.

The only person who ever lived on this planet that never had any regrets was Jesus Christ! I'm sure all of us can say today that there are regrets in our past, even as recently as this past year!

You may have regrets: Because you did something in this past year that you know you should not have done! Or because you did not do something this past year that you know you should have done! Countless people wake up every morning with clouds of regrets and remorse hovering over them and everywhere they go--those clouds follow them!

If you are saying to yourself, "That's me", you're in good company. The greatest Christian to ever live is the apostle Paul. Now there was a man that had a life of

heartache, sorrow, suffering and pain! Paul is going to help us in the next two months to get out from under the cloud of guilt and move onto a crown of glory! The key we'll discover is that there are two problems that we must never accept: resting in the present or living in the past.

The first thing we must do is be dissatisfied with our present position. In **Philippians 3: 12**, Paul tells us **Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.** The good news for Paul was that he was saved, sure and sanctified, as well as a spiritual superstar, a dynamic leader and a powerful prayer warrior--he was not satisfied with that. He was eager to improve in his spiritual walk!

A question that we need to ask ourselves is: are we mature enough to realize

that we are still not mature enough? You see what made Paul such a great man was that he was more concerned with his character than he was with his reputation! And the reason he was so successful was because he never thought of himself as being successful! We all want to be successful in some way! The greatest principle of success is that success is not a destination; rather it's a never-ending process. We need to wake up every day and ask ourselves "How can I make the rest of my life better!" We must be dissatisfied with our present position--that's the starting point!

Second we must also be delivered from our past. In **Philippians 3: 13**, Paul said, **Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,**

I guarantee that you will never experience a better tomorrow if you are always thinking about yesterday, or what is called 'the good old days'! In **Ecclesiastes 7: 10**, we read, **Do not say, "Why were the old days better than these?" For it is not wise to ask such questions.** We will never be able to focus

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on the future until we get unfocused from our past! Likewise, it is worth noting that in throughout Phillippians 3:12-13, Paul uses aggressive terminology to communicate the same intensity, saying such things as, "press on" and "reaching forward".

He's using these phrases because life doesn't have to be a "rat race". Instead life can be a winning race! As with every race, the important thing is not where you've been but where you're heading! You can be assured that you will never sail the ship of your life into the seas of peace and joy if you're still anchored to your past!

May I say something that might just surprise you and liberate you from bad theology? God is not as concerned with your past as you are! Paul understood this because he was striving to move past his position in life and his life of the past! Remember that Paul had to:

Forget his past guilt. He was a murderer, a blasphemer and persecutor! The deep scar of sin and sorrow was on his heart.

Forget his past grief. Paul was beaten, jailed, mocked, shipwrecked and rejected!

Forget his past grudges. Paul was lied to, mistreated, forsaken and betrayed

You must understand that 'to forget' doesn't always mean that you stop remembering! There's no way to completely erase your past from your memory! But to forget is to "no longer be influenced or affected by our memory"!

A good example: God says that He forgets our sins! Does that mean that He has Alzheimer's? No! Rather it's God reminding us that He will never allow our sin to influence His relationship with us!

Why do people try to cope in life using drugs and alcohol? Because the reality of yesterday is influencing their vitality for today! Maybe you need to cut the rope that anchors you to your past and start sailing by your past guilt, grief, grudges. Someone once said, "There are three little words that are the key to a happy life: get over it".

In order to face the New Year take Paul's advice. Be dissatisfied with your present position, be delivered from your past, and get over whatever is holding you back.

**YOUTH CAMP 2011  
JULY 31 - AUGUST 5**

## Cyberspace News

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A very happy new year to each of you out there. We are having such warm weather (almost 60) that I am thinking we might just skip winter and go to spring! I think I am dreaming!

Christmas is a wonderful time to hear from all of you folks and this year was no exception. I love the notes and updates on your lives. Here are some updates on youth campers of old:

Lenny and Sandra Weedon still live in Myrtle Beach and are doing well. Jim and Vicky Ohle are in Baltimore and enjoying life. Candy Stevenson King and husband Tony are proud parents of twins—Emma Sydney and Elliot John born on October 19. She writes that she is very happy. I think she might be really busy also!) Congratulations, Candy and Tony.

Another very special announcement from Kane and Jennie Begeman, Jennie gave birth to daughter Ainsley Ryan on Dec. 9. She weighed in at 7 lbs. 1 oz. They still reside in Glendale, Arizona. Our oldest grandchild changed Dale and I into great-grandparents and Tim and Diane into grandparents in one swoop! We are all very happy for Kane and Jennie and looking forward to seeing them soon.

Our Christmas Eve Service brought out some outlying folks also. Laurie Eckles with sons Alex and Michael, Larry and Peggy Charles, Seth Begeman and Abbie Sylvestri, David and Rox-Ann Brugman and family and the Chapman trio, Steve, Vicky and Daran. The pictures tell some of the story of eating and new memories for that evening.

Back to catching up with folks—Dick and Ruth Slauter are enjoying life to the fullest in New Carlisle, Ohio. Ruth called one day and it was wonderful to hear from them.

David and Ruth Charles seem to be stuck in Michigan for the present. They are still at Lynn and Rob Vaughn's in the Howell area and could not have happier surroundings. The future is still not certain as they are waiting for Ruth to fully recover from her recent illness.

Dorothy Layton and family report happy holidays. She has enjoyed having grandsons Justin and C.J. home to visit. Deborah and Jim Stoner made a fast trip to South Carolina to visit family.

Please continue to pray for Rip and Norma Ripley and Sandy Baker Fine as their battles with health continues.

I feel the urge to catch up with you so please let us know how you are doing!

## Michigan Report

Aurine Moore



This December had a historical significance for those who enjoy the oddities of the cycles of the moon. In addition to December being what the Farmer's Almanac calls the Cold Moon (no explanation necessary), December 2010 gave us the darkest day the world has seen since 1638. No, it wasn't because of volcanic ash or anything like that. It was simply the convergence of a full lunar eclipse on the same day the winter solstice, or shortest day of sunlight, occurred. It was fitting that this year has also given us a time of paralyzing snow with frigid temperatures and racing winds. We are grateful to folks like David Fedor who brave the weather and plow the church parking lot.

Some very blessed events occurred this month. Jeff Schubert and Stephanie Fasbender married in a simple but beautiful ceremony at the Oakland County Courthouse this month. They are happy to have made this commitment. Diane and Tim Begeman, as well as their parents, and other extended family were excited to hear of the birth of Ainsley Ryan Begeman to Kane and Jennie Begeman.

Carrie DeHaan has been visiting various hospitals in different parts of the country as she prepares to fulfill her medical residency requirement. Now that she is expecting a child, it is perhaps even harder for her and her husband to be apart from one another. Hence, she was delighted when her husband, Joel, drove up to Marquette to be with her for a weekend there.

We were very happy to see Daran, Vicki and Steve Chapman during this month, as Vicki and Daran joined us for worship service and lunch and Steve for Christmas Eve. Steve has taken a new job which allows him the ability to work from home. Another long-time friend, Matt Smith of Gibsonburg, Ohio, was able to take his daughters and son for a visit with Joe and Kathy Smeltzer. His children are just as nice and well-behaved as ever. Matt recently had a mild stroke and they discovered a hole in his heart, which will be surgically repaired soon. Keep him in your prayers, please.

Charlie and I enjoyed seeing Handel's Messiah performed this month at the Toledo Art Museum Peristyle with Charlie's aunt, Dee Russeau. The performance made an impression on them. Bell ringing for the Salvation Army was another nice event this year. We enjoyed visiting at the mall with Erin and Pat Gill, Gabe and Riley Vargas, and Jim, Tish and Tommy Begeman, as well as ringing the bell with Sydney Begeman, the Smeltzers, Jeff and Melinda Begeman, the Fedors, and Geneva Begeman. At least one woman was grateful that Terrie Fe-

dor was on duty at the bell. The woman had dropped \$30 near Terrie and Terrie returned it promptly to customer service. The woman discovered her loss when she went to pay for Christmas gifts then found the money had been returned, she came to give Terrie a grateful thank you. I believe though that Terrie was happier knowing she helped someone avoid a holiday hardship.

Charlie and I and Nate and Joel Valentine attended the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Downriver Prayer Breakfast in Southgate, with Rev. Ed Hinson, professor of religious education at Liberty University and former Wayne County resident. I especially enjoyed visiting with Bob and Nancy Young at the breakfast. Bob has played guitar at our church several times in the past and Nancy is the director of Faith in Action, the local ministry supported by the United Church. Nate Valentine was called away this month for a Faith in Action Board event as part of his ongoing duty on their board of directors. Later in the month the same group gathered again, with two other friends, Terry and Donna Dyda, to celebrate Joel's (gasp) 52d birthday! Happy Birthday, Joel.

Relatives of Sydney Begeman and Gabe and Riley Vargas were able to see their loved ones perform at the Ida school Christmas band program. The church was also blessed to collect food and distribute food baskets to five families this year. Finally, the local Christmas program seemed especially blessed this year. We enjoyed - well, perhaps the proper words are - we endured the anxiety of play practice and preparations but the program itself was a blessing for many. Music solos by Jeff Begeman, Kathy Smeltzer (with power point by Joe Smeltzer), and me, as well as the congregational songs, were lovely. The skits with Melinda and Jeff Begeman as Mary and Joseph and Tim Begeman as an angel and with Terrie Fedor, as a skid row alcoholic, talking to Jesus (played by Tim Begeman) were realistic and touching in their messages. Melinda had a great fall, planned by the way, which left her secretly laughing, and the audience greatly amused as well. Elder Charlie Moore gave a closing Christmas message which tied up the evening's central message that Christmas is blessed because of what Jesus came to do for us.

Many people had been commenting throughout the month how good it had been to find occasions this month to reconnect with friends and family, by phone and in person. That is why it was especially great to see people at the Christmas program we don't normally get to spend time with: It truly is a blessing to share our faith and joy together and thank God for the gift of His son. Until next month!

**CHURCH OF THE  
LORD OUR  
RIGHTEOUSNESS**

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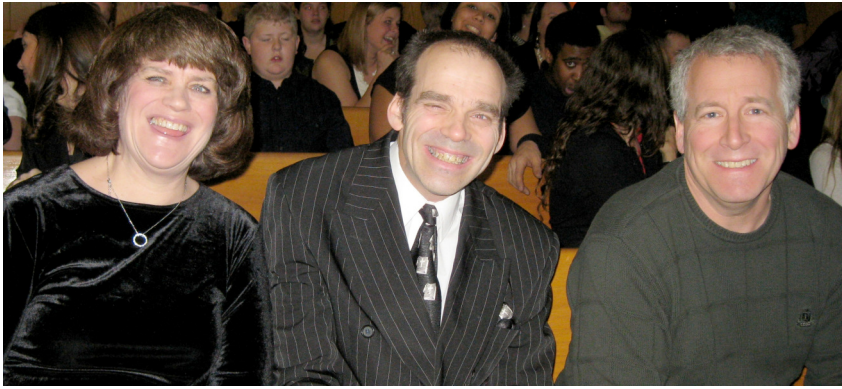
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## Great Truths that Adults Have Learned

- 1) Raising teenagers is like nailing jelly to a tree.
- 2) Wrinkles don't hurt.
- 3) Families are like fudge -- mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
- 4) Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
- 5) Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
- 6) Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.





Vicki, Daran and Steve Chapman



Alex, Laurie and Mike Eckles



Kathy at the piano



Melinda at the organ



Kane, Ainsley and Jennie Begeman

Dave, David, Elisha, Zavior, Zach & RoxAnn Brugman

