

March 2011



The Dreadful Will of God

Elder Charles Moore

A Peanuts cartoon shows Charlie Brown lying in bed, dreading another crisis that he knows has to be faced the next day. He offers a universal lament when he exclaims "When something bad is going to happen, there shouldn't be a night before!"

Sometimes dreadful things happen suddenly, without warning but there are other times when you know it's coming, and you know you can't stop it. Your heart skips a beat when you hear things like: report cards come out tomorrow...your bill will be sent to a collection agency this week...it looks like you will have to have surgery...we're just going to have to start letting some people go...she might not make it through the night. These are situations we can all relate to.

Now add one more ingredient to the mix-- whatever you are dreading is not an accident. God has allowed something into your life as part of His will for you; something that you dread; somewhere you do not want to go; something you do not want to do; something you cannot

escape. How do you handle it when God is leading you to a place where you don't want to go?

It's not always easy to be brave when you face something dreadful. The best way would be to handle it like Jesus did.

The setting was the night that Jesus was to be captured to be led away to His death for all mankind. **Mark 14: 32 "And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." 33 And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. 34 And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch."** Hard as it is to fathom, in this passage we see that Jesus is scared. He knows the plan of God, and is in full agreement with this plan that will result in the saving of mankind from their sin, death, and eternal separation from God. But now that this plan

is about to become reality, it fills Him with dread. That is the sense we get from the phrase that says He was "greatly distressed and troubled." Perhaps nowhere is Jesus' humanity more clearly shown than here, where the Son of God is terrified thinking about the Cross ahead of Him that He must endure.

Jesus was not a coward, but the things that would soon happen to Him were almost too much for Him to bear emotionally. Know this: Jesus' reaction was not an act; it was real and what it teaches us by example is that in our own hours of dread, it is no sin to be scared. Being frightened in the face of pain, death or separation is part of what being human means. What we need to notice though is that even though Jesus was scared, His fear did not paralyze Him or send Him into dizzying efforts to justify getting out of the situation or plotting ways to avoid the necessity for going through it. Instead, He did what you and I should do when we get scared: He let His fear drive him to His Father. We should run to our Father whenever we fear, just as He went to the Garden to seek His Father's help to face His

(Continued on page 2)

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coming death. Needing His Father's comfort, His Father's guidance, and His Father's assurance to strengthen Him, He went to the one Person in the entire universe Who had the answers and the power He needed to face this situation posed by His Father's dreadful, redemptive will.

We often try to be brave in the face of danger. Don't be scared of the needle; this shot will make you better. Don't be scared of the dark; there's nothing there. No need to worry about these tests; they will probably come back negative. There's been a wreck, but nobody seems hurt. But you can't always run from fear. In the back of your mind, you know that when what you dread happens, God has allowed it to come into your life. And some of those things, no matter how brave you are, are going to scare you. If it was OK for Jesus to see what was coming and be scared, it's all right for you to be scared, too.

Kim Sherer writes, "One night, while my young son, Ryan, was sleeping, a storm began brewing outside. After a loud clap of thunder, I heard Ryan wake up and run to find me. When I tucked him back into bed, he asked me to stay with him until he fell asleep. As I lay there with him, I realized Ryan hadn't asked me to make the storm go away, but to stay with him. How many times, I wondered, have I asked God to take away the storms of life, when instead, I need to ask Him to stay with me and help me weather the storms more peacefully!" Are you facing a storm in your life right now? I encourage you to go to the garden and pray to your heavenly Father. Tell Him what you are feeling, ask Him for His wisdom to know what He wants you to do and ask for His strength to see the situation through. He is faithful and will be with you through your storm.



Cyberspace News

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March has flown by and we are happy to put that cold month behind us and look for spring weather in April!

Dorothy Layton called and reported that she had had pneumonia but was on the mend. She is still trying to get adjusted to her surroundings in her new apartment.

Lynn Vaughn flew to Florida early in the month to visit with her mom Ruth while her dad David flew to Wales to visit his brother Albert and sister-in-law Pearl Charles. Lynn and Ruth had a lovely extended visit with good weather to take walks. David also had a good visit with his family in Wales. Albert is in his nineties and is getting more frail.

Laurie Eckles has abandoned the cast that was on her foot for so long and is wearing regular slippers. Even the crutches are gone!

Katy Nevil is getting close to graduation from college and has been chosen to speak at their Baccalaureate Service at Spring Arbor, May 13. She is going to do her student teaching in Bordeaux, France starting in August.

Bennie and Roy Gee report snow in their area. They are still trying to move into their new home.

There were two baby showers this month in the Charles family. Sarah Charles' little girl is due soon and Carrie DeHaan's little boy is a little later. The showers were lovely and gave all of us ladies a part in the celebration of these new lives. These will be David and Ruth's great-grandchildren.

Seth Begeman and Abby Sylvestri flew to Arizona to see Kane, Jennie and Ainsley Begeman. They had a lovely time with 3-month old Ainsley especially because they introduced swings and slides to her young life.

The pictures this month are still from February retreat and March happenings. We wish you a really blessed Easter.

YOUTH CAMP 2011 JULY 31 - AUGUST 5



Michigan Report

Aurine Moore



According to the website www.historyorb.com, March 31st, was another significant day in history. On that date the first black citizen of the United States, Thomas P. Mundy of Perth Amboy, New Jersey, voted in the election of 1870. 10 years later, in 1880 in Wabash, Indiana, the first town in America was illuminated with electric lights. Then in 1918, the first daylight savings time in the United States was put into effect. Aside from the date, there's no connection - but now you know. . .

The month was spent by many across the country grieving for the Japanese people as they coped with the aftermath of a terrible earthquake, tsunami and subsequent nuclear radiation issues. Many of us felt our hearts break with theirs and a renewed concern and admiration for the ordinary people of that part of the world, people in need of a savior and precious in His sight. We also remembered, as pointed out by Jeff Begeman, God's is great and mighty, even when the earth quakes, tsunamis rage, and radiation leaks. For a thoughtful Christian perspective on disasters such as this, check out a blog he shared with us from www.adrianwarnock.com.

Paul Vanderhorst had a great message for us on Jacob the deceiver, who felt he needed to help God along in fulfilling all His promises. We enjoyed lunch with him and his wife Jean, following the service, as well as seeing and Marshala and James Goins who joined us that day at church. It was wonderful to see and hug them.

The Petersburg church joined us on March 12 for the last combined service on Biographical Biblical Blessings. Following the sermon by Pastor Schott on the qualifications of a leader, as displayed in the life of Moses, we were challenged by the question, "Would you have stood, as Scout was encouraged in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, as Atticus Finch passed by, for Moses - that stealer of life, the converted sinner?" We then went to the Magnum Nursing home for the bi-monthly sing and our first visit with Jean Lane who is now a resident there, as well as Judy Begeman.

The Smeltzers and Nevils went to Canada to be with the family of one of our former campers, Mathew Lutz, who died recently. Please pray for his family as they continue to cope with their loss.

When the series formally ended, Elder Moore felt compelled to do at least one more biographical sermon on Simon "Rocky" Peter whose highs and lows came amazingly close together. His name Simon means 'the one who hears' and as Peter, he was the rock who understood Christ's mission and identity. He fell morally and sank in the sea, but was able to keep on getting up as long as he looked at Jesus and cried, "Save me, Lord". Following the service, we enjoyed sharing a lunch with Brian, Jordan, and David Begeman and Chelsey Connor.

Diane Begeman was off enjoying the mild weather of North

Carolina for her job while Tim held down the Monroe fort. As she returned, he was off to Chicago for his work. During the latter part of the month he also ably took the pulpit, subbing for Elder Moore who was off to Mexico for our semi-annual vacation. Later that week Terrie and Dave Fedor took off for a vacation in sunny Florida

Jeff Begeman was gone as Sabbath School Superintendent and though he ran out of snow snowmobiling up to Pictured Rocks, Michigan, it took two people, Geneva Begeman and I, to fill his spot as worship leader.

March is the month the local church has declared an official war on the Box Elder bugs that have taken up residence in our building. Pray for us as we establish dominion over our church building and consign them to the out of doors where they may live in peace.

Zacharias Moore wrote his first letter to Grandma and Papa Moore, in cursive handwriting no less. Due to their poor penmanship, he had trouble reading the reply but was successful. Terrie Fedor and Geneva Begeman were both pleased to run into Pat and Steve Conly's daughter, Angela, at Magnum Nursing Home, where she works in the recreational therapy department.

The Echoes of Happiness had a weekend of singing in Monroe for the Seventh Day Adventist Church and New Hope Christian Church. Then they joined with the many ladies of this area in celebrating the upcoming birth of Carrie and Joel DeHaan's baby boy. The shower in the church basement was well attended, beautifully presented, a bountiful feast, and joyous occasion for friends and family who joined with them. Joe Smeltzer made a beautiful hand-made keepsake cradle which will be treasured.

Kathy Smeltzer made a comment during a recent Bible study on spiritual fitness that an *easy* run for her daughter, Bekah the track athlete, is 16 miles in one day. The class was then encouraged by Geneva Begeman that just as Bekah is physically fit, we should work out to become spiritually fit. She assigned an exercise regimen to help us do this - memorizing four of the ABC's of Faith each week. Let the 'reps' begin!

Numerous members of the church this month were laid low by the flu for up to a week at a time. Dale Begeman has been having therapy and tests to help him walk better and suffering vertigo as a result of the testing and treatment. Dave and Terrie had an eventful month as first SheaLyn and Jon Lane and then Kevin and Heather Lane came this way for family visits and time with Jean who has moved to Magnum. Virginia Begeman was happy to announce that she will now manage the Monroe SVS store, a position she has worked 20 years to attain. If accepted, Sydney Begeman has a chance through a special college/hospital/high school collaboration, to attain a college associate's degree by the time she finishes high school. You go, Sydney!

**CHURCH OF THE
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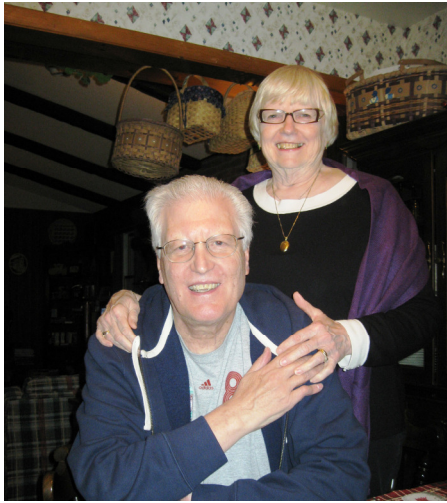
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A Senior Citizen Speaks Out.....

A college student at a recent football game challenged a senior citizen sitting next to him, saying it was impossible for their generation to understand his.

"You grew up in a different world," the student said loud enough for the whole crowd to hear. "Today we have television, jet planes, space travel, man has walked on the moon, our spaceships have visited Mars, we even have nuclear energy, electric and hydrogen cars, computers with light-speed processing ... and uh...."

Taking advantage of a pause in the student's litany, the old geezer said, "You're right. We didn't have those things when we were young; so we invented them, you little twit! What are YOU doing for the next generation?"



Roy & Bennie Gee

COLOR WINTER RETREAT



L to R—Tim, Jeff Begeman, Charlie Moore, Joel Valentine, Dave Fedor, Joe Smeltzer & Brian Begeman



MATH COUNTS!
WINNERS



Sarah Charles



Carrie DeHaan & Kathy Smeltzer