



## God is in Control—part 2

Elder Charles Moore

conceive, you can achieve" and "Visualize your dream and it will come to pass". But let me tell you that

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This month we continue on the theme that God is in control of this life and especially the life to come, despite what we see all around us. My mind has been captured by the repeated refrain in the Isaiah 45 "I am the Lord and there is no other." How many of life's concerns, and desires could be answered by remembering this fact, that God is the Lord and there is no other. God continues to speak to us in **Isaiah 45: 20** "Gather together and come; assemble, you fugitives from the nations. Ignorant are those who carry about idols of wood, who pray to gods that cannot save. 21 Declare what is to be, present it— let them take counsel together. Who foretold this long ago, who declared it from the distant past? Was it not I, the Lord? And there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me.

Hear Him calling - Israel - gather together, come forth! Come forth out of your captivity! Come forth from your place of slavery to sin and death! Come forth - and experience the salvation of

your God! Those whom you serve in your captivity don't have what you have. They may pray to their gods of earth, wood and stone, but those are no gods at all and they cannot hear nor answer, they cannot save. But you have a living God who can answer and will answer and who has the future in His hands!

That's the Word of the Lord to every sinner on the face of the earth right now! Come now and join yourself to the only living God, the only God who can hear your prayer and give you an answer; the only God who cares; the only God capable of love, mercy and grace; and the only God who reigns over the affairs of man!

Where else is there hope for your lost soul, or hope for your sickness and pain, or hope for a better tomorrow? There is no hope in this world. The sinful heart of man is ever driving this world deeper into the pits of despair. Man's wisdom will try to tell you that "You are the Master of your Destiny", "Whatever you can

the only way that can come true is if you sell out to the ways of the world, forget God and go chasing after the things that this world calls "Success". In the process, that success will become your god, that dream will become your master, and when it's all said and done, what you have said and done will doom you to an eternity without God.

You can be the master of your destiny for sure, for which path you choose to follow will certainly determine your eternal destiny. There is a shred of truth in "conceiving and achieving" as well. Sin begins in the mind and grows until it fills the heart. It is conceived in the mind and birthed in actions that bring it to pass. And the seeds of conception that begin the whole process are created in the lusts of our heart for things that this world has to offer. But what have we really achieved when it's in our hand? Have we obtained that which we really want, or have we sold out what we really want most of all peace, joy love, for what we can have right now, the world's poor

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substitutes of wealth, power and prestige? Any person that makes wealth, power and prestige their god find that it is a god that is never satisfied until its pursuit leads to death. **Isaiah 45: 21** "...And there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me."

Jesus says in, **Mark 8:34** "... If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me." **35** "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it." **36** "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?" **37** "For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Do you love sports? That's great! Sports can be a wonderful thing! But is scoring one more run, one more touchdown, or one more field goal worth risking your soul? Do you love to travel? So do I, but traveling around the world with the jet-set, won't give you peace with God if you do so at the expense of having a relationship with him and forsaking the call of God to do a work for Him? Do you want more money, a better car, a bigger retirement or a better home? Those are worthy goals to be sure, but at what cost? Are the pleasures of this life and the lifestyle that money can bring worth the risk of losing out with God?

**Matthew 6: 33** "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Name your dream, write down you goal, visualize your greatest desires, but don't forget to include your relationship with Jesus Christ and the salvation of your soul! Don't forget to put him first, and his will for your life, and everything else will fall into its proper order, and you will find a life that is more fulfilling than anything you could have ever dreamed of before.

God has bigger dreams for you than you can imagine! God has a bigger vision and better goals set before you than you could ever visualize! God has conceived greater accomplishments and bigger successes for you than anything this world could ever offer. Some of it will be in this life, but much of it lies in the life to come. What we have here is very temporary and will one day burn away, but what waits on the other side will last forever!

**Edited and adapted from a sermon called "God's Ultimate Plan" by Pastor Jim May**

## Cyberspace News

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September was a busy month for our church family. School started and that always has many activities involved. I always take the grandchildren's pictures on the first day and that was difficult to do this time. I told you in last month's newsletter about my sister, Jean Lane, dying on September 2. We are so thankful to family members and friends for their kind condolences. Enclosed in the newsletter is a piece I wrote for the funeral. She was so instrumental in the ongoing newsletter and she did a great job of publishing it for quite a few years. She is at peace now awaiting the resurrection of believers. We are thankful for her life of faith.

The Kevin Lane's and Jon Lane's from California and Phoenix traveled here for their Mom's funeral and we had some time to visit with all of them. Many others of our church family traveled to be with us also. It was wonderful to feel the love from all these folks.

The first weekend in September was an exciting time for our grandson, Seth, who was married to the love of his life, Abby Silvestri. A lovely private wedding ceremony was held at Squires Castle, a park in Cleveland Ohio. Seth's father Tim officiated at the wedding and his brothers, Kane and Nick were the groomsmen. There was a celebration reception at a local community center for the couple and family and some friends from that area. (Picture next month.) The Begeman's were all happy to add Abby to the family and to get to see Kane, Jennie and Ainsley again as they traveled from Phoenix to be here with Seth and Abby. It is always fun to see Ainsley and how she has grown. She is 9 months old now.

We are happy to report that David and Ruth Charles are settled in their beautiful senior apartment in Howell, MI. We were so pleased to visit with them the last day of the month. Rob and Lynn Vaughn live close by and Mama Ruth is sure pleased with the loving care Lynn lavishes on her. David is still unpacking office boxes but takes time out each day for socializing over meals in the dining room there. There is a beautiful grand piano in the lobby and Kathy Smeltzer has visited Mom Ruth and played for the residents who gathered around. The Echoes even had a concert for all the interested residents!

There is much prayer needed for Leah Sottile, 16 year old daughter of Sam and Rachel Begeman Sottile, as the doctors have discovered a macroadenoma on her pituitary gland measuring 1.44 cm, about half an inch.

Leah has been having quite a few headaches and this tumor may explain what is going on. She is seeing a neurosurgeon this month and they will decide how to proceed. Please remember to pray for the whole family.

Remember to love your neighbors this month! We all need those beautiful smiles of kindness.

## Michigan Report

Aurine Moore



September 30 is a very significant date in history for we Christians who have been abundantly blessed with numerous copies of the Bible. It was on this date in 1452, 40 years before the sailing of the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria, that the first European book printed by movable type was published - the Gutenberg Bible. To book collectors, any one of the surviving 21 copies are worth perhaps \$25 to \$35 million. To sinners like us, that Book is priceless, beyond value and the very word of God.

We greatly miss Imogene "Jean" Lane who died early in September. She was a bright light in many lives and will be missed greatly. Those who knew and loved her are very glad that she died secure in Jesus Christ and saved for all eternity. Her children and grandchildren, sister and friends, were able to honor her life at a wonderful service. It was nice to see Kevin and Heather Lane and Jon, Bert, Scott and Shea Lynn Lane, Kathy and Corky Gearhart and their family and to be able to gather with Terrie and Dave Fedor.

We heard an answer to the question that is often asked, "Where was God on 9-1-1?" (September 11, 2001) Elder Moore said, "In the same place as when Adam sinned and God already had a plan ready for our redemption". Joseph told his brothers, in the book of Genesis, "You meant it (selling Joseph into slavery) for harm but God meant it for good." It is worth remembering that the difficult things in life can and are used by God to bring about His plans and our good.

Talking about good things, Seth and Abby (Silvestri) got married in Cleveland, Ohio and are now Seth and Abby Begeman. It was a beautiful and happy wedding and we pray for God's rich and joyful blessings on the couple's married life. While down there for the wedding, Diane Begeman's daughters-in-laws, Jenny, Brittanie and Abby, surprised her by organizing a beautiful surprise birthday party for her. Diane has a lot to be tickled about these days, including chances to visit with her granddaughter, Ainsley.

The Echoes recently performed at a fundraiser in Ann Arbor to help our dear friends Sally and Lloyd Smith to raise money for a deserving student to attend the Seventh Day Adventist school where they teach. The performance and evening was a real blessing to Terrie Fedor and Geneva Begeman who were able to attend together.

Melinda and Jeff Begeman recently returned from a wonderful vacation in Alaska where they motored and saw the wonderful sights with their daughter Katie. Then Melinda returned to inspire your writer about the possibility of travelling to a Polish salt mine - a huge salt mine that was worked from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century in Wieliczka, Poland. Melinda shared pictures of it at church recently and it truly is a wonder. The mining profession was dangerous then, as now, and so chapels and religious art work were carved out of salt deep below the surface of the earth so miners could attend church before descending deeper yet into the earth.

Dale and Geneva Begeman travelled again to the Southern Gospel Music Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. They were happy to have experienced the music and even had the pleasure of seeing sisters Kathy Smeltzer and Kay Nevil from afar as they mingled and enjoyed the music.

Until next month, continue your journey with God.

"In the garden, Autumn is, indeed the crowning glory of the year, bringing us the fruition of months of thought and care and toil. And at no season, save perhaps in Daffodil time, do we get such superb colour effects as from August to November."

- Rose G. Kingsley, *The Autumn Garden*, 1905

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## List of Chores

I was going away for a few days and left my husband a list of chores. For fun, I put down as Item 5: Think about your wife a lot.

After I returned, my husband proudly reported that he had completed every job. When I saw the list, however, each item except No. 5 had been crossed off. "What's this!" I exclaimed. "Didn't you think about me while I was gone?"

My chagrin vanished when he replied cheerfully, "I started to, but just never finished."

## Imogene Hamilton Lane (Jean)

Jean has been my big sister all my life so I met her when I was born. She always showed such love to me even though sometimes I am sure she didn't like me! Being a little sister gives one special rights to pester I think!

Our parents were Alvis and Clora Mae Hamilton. Our dad was a coal miner in eastern Kentucky and that made us a coal miner's daughters. We moved many times especially in Jean's young life. She was born in Fleming County in a period of time when Alvis was making moonshine to keep the family going. I am sure there was some pleasure involved also. When Jean was about 9 we moved back to Floyd County, Kentucky and our dad went back to the coal mines. Jean's parents were movers so I guess the move to Springfield, Ohio when she was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade was no surprise. We moved to New Carlisle, Ohio in 1946 and we settled in there for our real 'growing up' time. (Jean entered Olive Branch High School as a junior.)



Jean wrote about Dick, the love of her life, when he died and I will include her writings as much as possible. Jean wrote: "At the very first basketball game in the fall, after I started school at Olive Branch High, I met Dick Lane. I looked across the gymnasium and saw him entering the door. Many people seemed to want to talk to him. I asked a girl next to me who this was and she replied 'oh, that is just Dick Lane'. She wasn't one of his fans. He ended up sitting right behind me on the bleachers, where the student body always sat. He quickly tapped me on the shoulder and asked who another new girl down in front was. He did talk to me through the game and asked to take me home afterward but I told him I had to take my sister home and also would have to ask my mother before I could go anywhere. He took both of us home.

The cheerleaders at the game had wanted Dick to come down and cheer with them, but he refused. He had been the first boy cheerleader in the county, which caused some excitement his last two years of high school. Dick ended up pitching soft ball around the county also and when he joined the Air Force had pitched wherever he was stationed around the country." End of quote. Jean and Dick dated off and on while she was in school and they were married in January of 1950. The reason I am telling you so much about Dick is that he was the pivot her life revolved around as long as he lived. He had joined the Air Force so that was a big factor in their life because they moved so often to a new base and Jean became a good service wife. Jean was always really appreciative of the wonderful family members she gained in the Lanes' and Gibsons' when she married Dick.

Jean was not a real extrovert but made herself fit in with all the moves very well. (She had had a lot of practice in her childhood.) Terrie and Kathy were born before they left that New Carlisle area of the country. In 1956 Jean had a stillborn daughter, Robin Rae, in Saint Mary's Ohio and it was such a blow to Jean that she suffered that loss for years. Kevin was born in 1958 at Saint Mary's also, and Jean finally put the memories of that hard time to rest. Our father died in 1964 which was another hard blow to her. Jean gave birth to Jonathan Alvis in 1965 in Colorado Springs, CO and completed their family of 2 daughters and 2 sons.

Dick spent at least 3 different service years in foreign places the family could not go with him. Jean would pack up her children and go home to her loving father and mother and the kids would benefit from having Grandma and Grandpa there. She was so accepting of these difficult

times that I looked on in amazement. Being in the Air Force can be very hard for a wife as well as a husband. Jean amazed us all with her adjustment to these situations.

Finally in 1970 Dick decided to retire from the Air Force and with some pleading from me, they moved to Michigan to begin a totally new life.

Here, Jean and Dick's life was centered in Christ and the church. Dick studied under his mentor Walter M. Wilkinson and was ordained in the ministry. Jean became a wife who shared a lot of ideas with her husband for church events. Jean had wonderful ideas and Dick was a great one to carry out these ideas. Jean also started writing our church Newsletter and proved herself a wonderful communicator. One of Jean's talents was listening to others share their problems. It was said many times she could visit on the phone an hour to a wrong number. Truly, she was listening to their problems. She always stayed in the background and I feel many times folks did not realize her talents. In 1992 Jean started a Hamilton Family Newsletter and loved hearing from all the Hamiltons and then putting it in the mail to keep us all in touch with each other.

Dick was plagued with heart problems shortly after retiring from the service and had 4 different by-pass surgeries from 1973 to 1987. His final surgery was in 1987 and he had a heart attack right after surgery. He lived about a month in the hospital and finally passed away September 25, 1987. Jean accepted his death so well as a Christian and went on to live another whole life alone. She wrote, "Dick represented the sunshine in my life and even to others." He truly was that to many of us and we look forward to that wonderful reunion in the future.

One of the real delights of Jean and Dick was their children and their families. Terrie and her husband Dave, Kathy and husband Corky, Kevin and wife, Heather, and Jonathan and wife, Berty. Adding to this was the joy of grandchildren. Terrie has two daughters, Jamie (husband, Branden Carothers) and Erin (married to Pat Gill). Kathy has two sons, Josh (wife, Jessica) and Jacob (wife, Danielle). After Dick's passing Jean was delighted to have Jon's children come along. Shealyn and Scott welcomed many visits from Grandma Jean in Dayton OH, Charlotte NC, Reno, NV and now Phoenix AZ. Kevin and Heather have always lived in CA so she had a lot of fun visiting these two families out west and we were privileged to travel with her to these places many times! She had to make many plane trips alone, though. Perhaps her travels in the Air Force years helped her in these years. On one trip she had to stay overnight in Chicago in a snowstorm both ways. This would have scared me, but she did fine!

In recent times Jean was blessed by the addition of five great-grandchildren who all called her G.G. Jamie's children, Gabe and Riley Vargas and Klohie and Zohlie Carothers, and Maya Gearhart (Jake's daughter). She loved holding the little ones and watching them play and they loved visiting with their G.G.

Jean and I shared many interests in our life and one was reading. We spent many hours reading together when we were at home as youngsters. (We put a quilt over the windows so Mother would not catch us as we read all night.) Dick, Jean, Dale and I traveled a lot with the Michigan Concert Choir—memorable trips to Toronto, Hawaii and Nashville. After Dick's death, Jean, Dale and I became avid southern gospel music fans and had great times attending concerts together in many different cities. The Gospel Music Convention was the highlight of our vacation every year. We loved traveling to our Hamilton aunts and uncles' and cousins' homes to catch up on them. We were indeed blessed to have church family in various locations to visit. I am so thankful Dale and I had a sister and brother-in-law to share life with.

While dementia and a stroke robbed Jean of a full life these past several years, she accepted her limitations with grace and her faith in our Savior and His Sovereignty never wavered. We will meet again according to His promise.

Geneva Hamilton Begeman