

January 2012



Annual Ladies Tea

Saturday  
February 18  
2 pm

COLOR Church  
1922 LaSalle Rd  
Monroe, MI

Guest Speaker—  
Geneva Begeman

CAMP 2012

WATER'S EDGE  
CAMP AND  
CONFERENCE  
CENTER  
HOWELL, MI

JUNE 17-22

Check out the  
website  
Colornet.org

## Jesus' Offer

Elder Charles Moore

Jesus has always called His followers into a life that is counter-culture but somehow at its core it is also an appealing call. Often Jesus has called people to leave the comfortable and embrace the uncomfortable. What started out as a simple invitation, "Follow me," became an incredible command. **Mark 1:16 As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." 18 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.**

Often God calls us today out of our "normal" lives to walk a radically different way, willing to follow Jesus even to the cross. If we heed the call, we don't run from adversity. We don't run when life gets hard. We carry the cross. It may be heavy but we embrace it because our Lord carried it. We accept it because it is not the devil who gives us our crosses; it is God, for it was God, who let His Son die on a cross because it was good for the whole world. Are you and

I willing to be bothered in our busy lives by carrying crosses? Are you willing to be used by God and to live like Jesus lived? We need to embrace the simple life that Jesus lived and modeled but it is not easy to answer that call.

I want to quote from Rodney Buchanan a Methodist pastor. "Let's imagine a situation where a homeless man is begging on the streets of New York. A well dressed man in a long limousine pulls up next to him and offers him a job as vice-president of his company. You might say that is ridiculous; nothing like that would ever happen. But that is exactly what God has done for us. He rescued us from the gutter. We were homeless and He gave us a new home. We were the rejects of the world, but He gave us self-respect. We had nothing, but He gave us everything. He asks us to be a part of His kingdom and work for it.

But, now, let's say that the homeless man sneers at him and rejects the offer for several reasons. First,

he will have to give up what is familiar to him. Obviously, it is a terrible life, but it is the only life he knows how

to live. Secondly, he has a few possessions which he pushes around in a cart, and the few clothes he owns are on his back. And one of the conditions the man in the limousine makes is that the man must leave everything and get into the limousine. The third reason is that the man will actually have to work and accept responsibility. Life on the street was bad, but at least no one expected anything from him. No one expected him to be any different. So he turns from the man in the expensive suit and shuffles down the street hoping for a warm grate that he can sleep on for the night.

Does the man in the story understand what he has given up? He would have had a home, a job, a purpose, a great bank account, and a high position in an important business. But he passed it up to keep what he had. How foolish. This is why Jesus said, **"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but**

*(Continued on page 2)*

whoever loses his life for me will save it" (Luke 9:23-24). Dallas Willard reminds us that if we are going to talk about the cost of discipleship, we ought to balance it by talking about the cost of non-discipleship." We need to talk about the cost of not accepting the offer to follow Jesus.

"Are you like the homeless man? When Christ comes to ask you to die to yourself and give up your old life, you refuse. You think about all the stuff in your cart that you will have to give up. You may be miserable, but at least you are used to it, and you know how to get by. You are not sure you would know what to do if you really died to your old life. Besides, you don't want to put forth the effort to change. You don't want the responsibility of living the Christian life fully. But what if you understood that you were in line to inherit the business? You were not just a partner, you were an heir. And the reason you were selected was that the man in the limousine, unknown to you, was really your father who had searched until he found you. He knew your potential. He understood what you were capable of. He wanted to call you more than vice-president'; he wanted to call you 'son'. The Bible says, **'The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory'** (Romans 8:16-17)."

Jesus makes us a great offer but what are we still trying to hang on to that keeps us from fully embracing the life, the good life, the abundant life that God longs for us to live? My prayer is that you find the courage to grab hold of all that God has for you.

Join us for

"A Long Lesson About a Brief Book"

- a new sermon series with Petersburg Church of God 7<sup>th</sup> Day

**March 10** Meeting at COLOR Church

Pastor John Schott speaks

Potluck to follow

**March 17** Elder Tim Begeman speaks at Petersburg

Petersburg

Pastor Paul Vander Horst speaks at COLOR

**March 24** Pastor Paul Vander Horst speaks at Petersburg

Elder Tim Begeman speaks at COLOR

**March 31** Pastor Charles Moore speaks at Petersburg

Petersburg  
Potluck to follow

## Cyberspace News

genevabegeman@charter.net



The year is going quickly. The end of January has come and gone so fast. I wanted to finish the picture page with some Christmas pictures as we did not have room in the last newsletter. We were thrilled to have visitors at church on that Christmas Eve morning as well as evening so they are included.

NOTE: Norma Ripley is celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday this month, February 20, and I would ask that many of you send her a birthday card. They are unable to travel to be with us anymore but I hear from Rip often and want them to know how much we love them! The address is **Norma Ripley, 4865 Glen Ivy Lane S.W., C 207, Roanoke VA 24018**. Happy Birthday, Norma. Rip wrote that he and David Charles had had a nice phone visit recently.

Jim and Deborah Stoner were able to take a cruise this month leaving from Baltimore. Hope you enjoyed the get-a-way. We have had such a mild winter that the reason for going south has not been as urgent this year.

Dorothy Layton reports that her cataract surgery is complete on both eyes now and she is glad that it is over. She is always thankful when her grandson Justin comes by and chauffeurs her around to do errands. Good work, Justin.

Ellen Momberger writes me about how much she enjoys the Phoenix weather. We are so glad you have a lovely place to live and can enjoy the warmth of Arizona, Ellen.

The Brugmans have had some bad news to overcome this month, but Rox-Ann and David keep their faith in tact and face one day at a time. The two boys are having a health issue as is Rox-Ann. Tests are being done and prayers are being said. God can take care of any problem or can show us how to go through it. We are so grateful for His watchcare over us.

Kathy and Joe Smeltzer travel north often to Traverse City to see Carrie, Joel and Caleb just to watch Caleb grow. They enjoy him so much and Kathy got to pull him around on a sled and enjoy his reactions.

Our winter retreat was the first weekend in February and I will fill you in on the activities in our next letter. Hope you have a great month!



## Michigan Report

Tim Begeman

It's January, but you wouldn't guess that looking outside and checking the weather.

Growing up in Ida I seem to remember at this time of year we always had a thick layer of snow and ice by now, but instead of seeing white and sparkling ice I see a palette prosaic in color, garnished with mud and bereft of hope for any outdoor ice-skating. This month we started off with a local business meeting in which we re-elected Dave Fedor as a dual board member position and Melinda Begeman as the local board member. Aurine, at the meeting also went through a year in review of all the accomplishments that our little church did throughout the year. We may be small in number but we are large in ardency.

We also attempted to do our bi-monthly visit to the Magnum Nursing home, but when we attempted to enter we were turned away because of a flu outbreak. All the residents were quarantined and isolated.

We got bad news this month from the New Hope congregation that rents our Church every Sunday. They announced that they are hereby disbanding because of dwindling numbers. Our hope and our prayer is all those that are left would find other churches to attend in the area.

Brian Begeman, Kate, Shay and David went on a cruise this month. I hear they enjoyed the splendor of the eastern Caribbean beautiful resort ports, ocean view sunsets, sightseeing, swimming, snorkeling, towel folding lessons, and gluttonous eating. Diane and I would love to go on a cruise but we don't want to miss a minute of a Michigan winter.

For Elder Moore's sermons this month he put his focus on portions of Ephesians 5, Mark 4, James 1 and Matthew 23. He called for us to not be just hearers but doers of God's word. We are all hypocrites in the strictest sense of the word; we all try to show ourselves to others better than we really are. We ought to practice Christianity as a religion with Christ as our focus. It's not what we do, but what Christ has done. Our job is to live in a way, individually and corporately that reflects the father's love for the son and doing that we are reflecting our love for the Father and the Son.

Also this month we have continued our Wednesday night Bible studies in various attendee's homes. We are using a series called "Book By Book" by Paul Blackham. The book of focus is Acts this time around. Each week we have food, fun, illumination, reflection, contemplation and revitalization.

We got some disturbing news this month concerning Rox-Ann Brugman. During some medical tests it turns out that she has some abnormal cells in her blood which indicates a cause for concern. As her physicians continue testing and start a course of treatments our fervent prayers and concerns are for Rox-Ann's complete and utter recovery.

Finally, my Sabbath school class has begun this month with an in-depth study of the early church fathers. I think it is crucial to understand how those early Christian thinkers developed the systematic understanding not only of the attributes of God, but also how they answered the skeptics of their day. It's interesting to see that virtually all the current anti-Christian and so called free thinkers' arguments have been dealt with hundreds of years ago. If only those who doubt the truth of Christianity would read some of the writings of these Christians who thought through these issues their doubts would be alleviated.

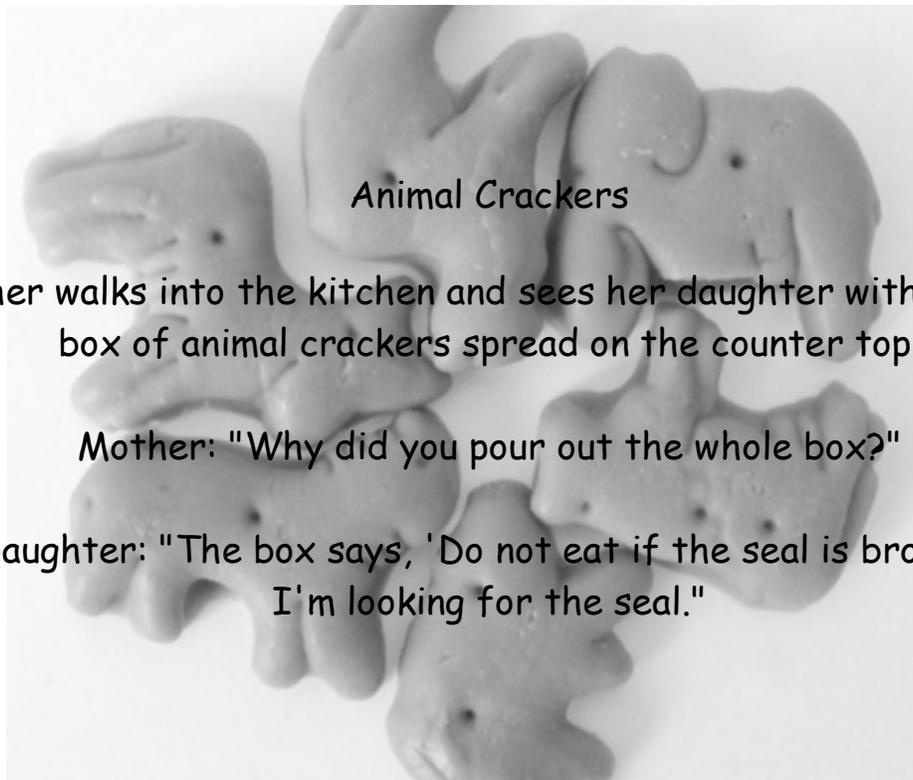
**CHURCH OF THE  
LORD OUR  
RIGHTEOUSNESS**

**1922 LaSalle Road  
Monroe, MI 48162  
Church 734-242-9511**

**Editor - Jamie Carothers**  
Jamie.Carothers@utoledo.edu

**Publisher - Diane Begeman**  
734-417-2392  
veggie@charter.net

**website**  
**colornet.org**



**Animal Crackers**

A mother walks into the kitchen and sees her daughter with the whole box of animal crackers spread on the counter top.

Mother: "Why did you pour out the whole box?"

Daughter: "The box says, 'Do not eat if the seal is broken.'  
I'm looking for the seal."



Kay & Katy Nevil, Bekah Smeltzer & Jim Nevil



Carrie, Joel & Caleb DeHaan



Dave Fedor, Diane, Jeff & Sydney Begeman



Matt Smith & his family

# CHRISTMAS EVE AT COLOR



Kay Nevil, Kathy Smeltzer, Sally & Lloyd Smith, Jim Nevil



Geneva & Dale Begeman



Darran & Steve Chapman