

January 2007

# Lo The d Ou Righteousness

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## Rest for the Weary

Elder Charles Moore

Think back with me if you will to a time when you were about 6 years old. Can you remember playing all day, not a worry in the world? Can you remember the feel of your pillow at the end of the day? You just had a bath, got on your PJ's, put your head on the fresh pillowcase and slid under your fresh sheets as your mother rubbed your head and put you to sleep. Do remember what it felt like to go to bed and not wake up until morning?

Contrast that image with this one, you just had your third child, you have been laid off from work, you do not know how you're going to look for another job because your suit is at the cleaners and you don't have the money to pick it up. When you lay down to go to bed your head hits a freshly drooled-on pillow, you have one of your kid's feet in your face, someone has just wet the bed and you and your spouse are fighting about who's going to clean it up. When you finally do fall asleep you wake up every hour on the hour with plenty of worries and not enough covers.

We can be like the child spiritually speaking or we can be like the adult. We can be completely rested spiritually or we can be weary, burdened and heavy laden.

Jesus says to us, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and

you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11: 28-30)

Jesus' plea to us, "Come to me". Jesus makes a plea to those who are burdened by the law. To those who in their own strength are trying to please God. Yet at the same time Christ is speaking to us. We who say we understand God's grace and yet often wonder if He loves us, we who constantly in our wrong-doing feel as if we are no good. We who fall so short each day we have to ask God how He could possibly love us.

We have been called from labor to rest. Are you looking for rest? Is there a place down deep in your soul that is searching for rest? Do you long to have a peace with God even when you have fallen short? Christ says, "Come to me"!

But you say, "How? How do I come to Christ?" We come to Him by yielding, surrendering, giving up on our plan for our life and having no conditions. In order to come to Christ you must realize two things: Christ does not need you and yet He invites you as people who are weary, burdened, and heavy laden to Himself.

Jesus not only invites us. He promises us, "I am gentle and humble in heart, and

you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:29-30) Jesus says, "I am gentle" – Not harsh or severe. Jesus also says, "You will find rest for your souls". Christ is not a slave driver nor should anyone tell you that He is. Christ says when you come to me regardless of your situation, regardless of your failures, regardless of your sin; you will find rest for your souls. The reason for that is "For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:30)

"For My yoke is easy" – In the old days, the piece of wood that connected an ox to the plow was called a yoke. The yokes were often heavy, Christ promises His yoke to be easy and the burden behind easy to pull. Why? Because what God asks you to do, He does not expect you to do alone! He is your strength, therefore your burden is light. These are Christ's promises to all who will come to Him!

Have you ever tried to clean out a fish tank using soap? If not, that's good! But if you have, you found out that the fish often die. The same is true for those who try to clean you up with condemnation, guilt and burdens! They use the law of God and guilt as a type of soap that will clean you up but in the end it only kills.

Jesus promises that He will be gentle with you and patient with you. He promises rest, an easy yoke and a light burden if you will simply come to Him. Remember that image I painted at the beginning of this article of the 6-year-old little child

*(Continued on page 2)*

resting? Today you can be that child, right now you can simply rest in Christ knowing that He loves you; He has things under control and that all He wants from you is to come to Him. Amen? Amen!

## Michigan Report

Aurine Moore

What a month. It began with spring-like weather in the 50's and only dipped to wintry weather in the teens at the end of the month. New Year's Eve presented a mixed face to various church members. Don Begeman was admitted to Mercy Hospital. Various members of the local church had the opportunity to visit with his daughters Rachel Sottile and Laurie Eckles who kept watch over their dad in the hospital as he recovered from pneumonia. At this writing at the end of the month, he is still very weak and needs our prayers. New Years Eve also saw Geneva and Dale Begeman, Kathy and Joe Smeltzer attending a church music program together, while Nate and Joel Valentine went to our house for a simple dinner and conversation.

We were very happy to hear that Jamie Vargas' biopsy results from her thyroid surgery showed there was no cancer or need to take thyroid medicine. Meanwhile, during this month, Nate Valentine struggled with a leg problem while Marsha Moore broke her foot when she dropped a can of carrots on it. She is suffering from the teasing perhaps more than the pain from that one. Stephanie Fasbender had her tonsils removed in order to improve her nighttime breathing. Karyn Zajackowski continues to need our prayers this month as she copes with various health problems.

The annual business meeting was held at the church with the election of Diane Begeman and myself to the local board. There was also a brief presentation by me on my research on *very* small churches and their status and virtues in America. It was encouraging to learn that one out of five Christians who attend weekly services belong to small churches and that they also donate about forty percent of the money that is given to support missions work. The week following the business meeting, Mick Vargas' uncle, Ric Vargas (a pastor in Long Island, New York) came to give a report on some of his excellent missions work overseas. He shared information on his recent missionary visits to Laos, Malaysia, China and Vietnam and earlier visits to Columbia, South America. His photo

presentation and the items he brought were very interesting and his talk was inspirational.

Charlie and I took two weeks off to re-visit Mazatlan, Mexico. We spent one week with long-time friends, Sue and Ron Cogar and one week simply relaxing alone. We loved seeing whale tracks in the ocean (very much up close), watching cutter ants do their work decimating bushes, and walking on the beach.

While we were gone, the pulpit was ably filled by faithful Tim Begeman, who preached the Biblical view of evil and solving the problems of evil. Geneva Begeman was asked by Katie Begeman and is greatly enjoying the opportunity to spend time doing a scrap-booking Bible study with her granddaughters, Katie and Sydney Begeman, (along with participation by their moms, Melinda and Tisha Begeman).

The second annual Salad and Dessert Bowl for the ladies was held this month with lovely table arrangements, good food and a wonderful talk from Lynn Charles of Hartland Michigan (daughter of David and Ruth Charles). Lynn shared the story of the goodness and direction of God that she saw when they foster-parented two boys who grew to be very dear to them and helped the boys transition to their permanent "forever" family. It was a wonderful story and day for those who were able to attend.

One of Pastor Charlie Moore's sermon encouraged members to Get PFATT in 2007 (Show Prayerfulness, Faithfulness, Availability, Teachability and Thankfulness. He also alliterated W.O.R.S.H.I.P. for the congregation: **W**orship God properly; **O**verflow with God's praise; **R**ecognize God's greatness; **S**ubmit to God; **H**ear God's proclamation; **I**mplement God's plan; and **P**raise and Worship to prepare your heart.

Kathy and Joe Smeltzer have passed a major milestone in the lives of parents – meeting the parents of their daughter's intended husband, Joel DeHaan. It was also really nice this month to see Anita Collins with her daughter, sweet Cassie, and her brand new baby boy Jacob. Love, marriage, babies, in-laws – such is the stuff of life!

Until next month, may God be with you and you with Him.

Greetings this month from the Begeman household. I wanted to let you know that my email address has changed and is now genevabegeman@charter.net. Please use that as often as you can because I love mail!

Katy Nevil was crowned Miss Baroda this month and we were able to see her at a luncheon at church and she beamed as she told us about the wonderful night. Remember the story I had in the newsletter a year ago when she was crowned Miss Baroda and the girl that was putting on the crown had made a mistake and it had to be taken back. Well, there was no mistake this year—it was for real. We do congratulate you, Katy, but most of all we are very proud of you and your attitude.

Many of us traveled north to the home of Kristin Vaughn for a baby shower for Melissa, her sister-in-law. Melissa's baby is due in February. What a wonderful occasion and a beautiful party. Lynn and Rob Vaughn are very happy with one darling baby girl about six months old (Kristin and Doug's) and another due anytime. I guess twins Doug and Dave Vaughn are that way—they think alike.

One of our outlying members was gracious to us this month and spoke at our ladies luncheon at our church. Lynn Vaughn shared the story of their family taking two young boys in for six months and how the Lord orchestrated each event. She let us know that

if we are willing vessels the Lord can use us. Sometimes the Lord does not need our ability as much as our availability and he can do the rest. What a story the Vaughns have with a wonderfully happy ending because the boys found a permanent home with a wonderful family.

Kay Nevil drove over from the western part of the state to hear her sister, Lynn. Kay and Kathy sang a beautiful song for the opening. At this point I should say I took a picture of the three of them but I missed that photo opportunity. We are so blessed with the talent they bring to our events.

Ellen Momberger writes that she is enjoying the beautiful 80 degree weather as she reads about our cold snap. She is very content in Arizona and we are very happy for her.

Ida Pease is to have thyroid surgery the first part of February so please remember her in prayer. We have several hurting folks in our outlying family. Dorothy Layton has been experiencing a lot of pain in her legs. I know that Hannah Phillips also has been struggling with her knee replacements. We all need to keep praying for one another.

Take a look at the pictures this month of all our beautiful tables and smiling faces around them as we enjoyed the Salad Bowl luncheon together.

January started off a new year and we hope that each of you is finding unique ways to serve our Lord. Look around you and practice a lot of love to your neighbors and family!

### **IMMUTABLE LAWS**

When one wishes to unlock a door but has only one hand free, the keys are in the opposite pocket.  
(Von Fumbles Law)

A door will snap shut only when you have left the keys inside. (Yale Law of Destiny)

Most problems are not created or solved; they only change appearances. (Einstein's Law of Persistence)

The probability that one will spill food on one's clothes is directly proportional to the need to be clean.  
(Law of Campbell Scoop)

After discarding something not used for years, you will need it one week later. (Law of Fatal Irreversibility)

**CHURCH OF THE  
LORD OUR  
RIGHTEOUSNESS**

**1922 LaSalle Road  
Monroe, MI 48162  
Church 734.242.9511  
Elder Moore 734.242.7674**

**Editor** – Jamie Vargas  
Jamie.Vargas@utoledo.edu

**Publisher** – Diane Begeman  
734.269.6098  
veggie@toast.net

**Church website  
colornet.org**

**The Cat's New Year Resolutions**

I will not eat large numbers of assorted bugs, then come home and throw them up so the humans can see that I'm getting plenty of roughage.

I will not lean way over to drink out of the tub, fall in, and then pelt right for the box of clumping cat litter. (It took FOREVER to get the stuff out of my fur.)

I will not use the bathtub to store live mice for late-night snacks.

We will not play "Herd of Thundering Wildebeests Stampeding Across the Plains of the Serengeti" over any humans' bed while they're trying to sleep.

I will not play "dead cat on the stairs" while people are trying to bring in groceries or laundry, or else one of these days, it will really come true.

When the humans play darts, I will not leap into the air and attempt to catch them.

I will not swat my human's head repeatedly when they are on the family room floor trying to do sit ups.

I will not puff my entire body to twice its size for no reason after my human has watched a horror movie.  
I will not perch on my human's chest in the middle of the night and stare until they wake up.