

April 2007

Cyberspace News

Michigan News

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Lo^{The}d Ou^RRighteousness

Be a Great Mother

Elder Charles Moore

I could tell you the funny story about the children next door who told their mother she wasn't to lift a finger on Mother's Day. They were going to do all the cooking. Then they got out three pots, two frying pans, a double boiler, three mixing bowls, a chopping board, six measuring spoons, eight serving dishes--and Mom was delighted. She insisted it was the best instant oatmeal she ever tasted.

I could tell you the pathetic story about Postal Service worker, Helen Grant, whose job is to reroute undeliverable mail. She tells Newsweek. "It's absolutely astounding how many Mother's Day cards we get from folks who don't have the address of their mom."

I would rather tell you of Timothy and his two great mothers, Eunice, his mother, and Lois, his grandmother. They weren't great because they discovered some cure for a terrible disease or invented some time saving device. Instead, they were great because they plowed the field of the boy Timothy's heart with the words of the Old Testament so that when Paul planted the words of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, they bore fruit not only in his life, but in the life of the Ephesian church. Paul called him "**my dearly beloved son**" (2Timothy 1:2).

We know very little about these two great mothers but what we do know speaks

volumes, and it is not that they were perfect because they could not be perfect. I've never met a mother who was perfect but there are times we think of them that way. Unfortunately there are also times that we think that they are anything but perfect.

What we do see in the Bible about Eunice, Timothy's mother, is that she was a Jew who married a Gentile and even in her imperfection she raised a godly son who was chosen to go with Paul and Silas to preach the gospel. Paul in writing to his protégé says this about Timothy. **For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.** (2Timothy 1:5)

The faith that Timothy has was first in Lois and Eunice. At first perhaps their faith was in a God who was revealed through the Law but was later transformed into faith in a God who was revealed by Jesus Christ. **For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.** (John 1:17)

2 Timothy 1 links these two women together but the next passage shows the impact of their faithfulness. **And that from a child thou hast**

known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (2Timothy 3:15-17)

Timothy didn't know the Scripture because he was so precocious that he demanded to learn the Scriptures as a child. Instead, he knew them because his grandmother and mother made it their duty to teach them to him. We can be sure that Eunice and Lois knew well the Old Testament stories.

What kind of God were they able to instruct Timothy about by the Old Testament? Think with me a moment about the God of the Old Testament: the stories of creation, the parting of the Red Sea, Joshua's battle at Jericho, and Daniel in the Lion's den. In the stories of the prophets, he learned of a powerful God who moved through Israel's history, showing His steadfast love, even in the midst of their unfaithfulness. Psalms shows God's relationship with His people while Proverbs shows God's desire for people to be wise. The Ceremonial Law showed God's concern about the smallest details of a person's life and His concern that a people would have access to a Holy God. The Ten Commandments shows God's care and concern for all people. Lois and Eunice had steeped

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Timothy in the knowledge of the Word of God. You can almost hear them saying “**Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it**” (**Proverbs 22: 6**). Timothy didn’t depart from it but built upon it a faith in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.

They had given Timothy a spiritual foundation that made him wise, so that when he heard Paul’s testimony of Jesus, he knew it to be the truth and he believed. That is what made Lois and Eunice great. We don’t know who heard the Gospel first, Lois and Eunice or Timothy. Wouldn’t it have been great to learn that Lois and Eunice were rewarded for their faithfulness in imparting the wisdom and knowledge of the Scriptures to Timothy, and that it was Timothy, in turn, who brought Lois and Eunice to hear Paul speak about the Gospel and the Good News of Jesus Christ so that they could believe? We don’t know, but we do know they all came to believe in our Lord and Savior.

What does this have to say to us today? If you want to be a great mother, a great parent, first you must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. You can’t share anything you don’t possess yourself. Second, you must also work to possess the knowledge of the Scriptures that you pass on. Not that you have to be an expert, you must just know what it says and be able to convey the simple truths that are found in the Scriptures. You never have to feel inadequate, especially when you start young with your children as they can’t even read and you are miles ahead of them. Third, you must share what you know. Children are vessels waiting to be filled with something. Are you going to let the world fill up your child or are you going to fill your child with the word of God that your child can be wise unto salvation? Be a great mother, be a great parent, be a great disciple of Jesus Christ.

Mother’s Dictionary of Meanings

Dumbwaiter: One who asks if the kids would care to order dessert.

Full Name: What you call your child when you’re mad at him.

Grandparents: The people who think your children are wonderful even though they’re sure you’re not raising them right.

Independent: How we want our children to be for as long as they do everything we say.

Sterilize: What you do to your first baby’s pacifier by boiling it, and to your last baby’s pacifier by blowing on it and wiping it with saliva.

Top Bunk: Where you should never put a child wearing Superman jammies.

Whodunit: None of the kids that live in your house.

April came soft and warm, for a few days, and then a nation-wide cold spell came to make us all shovel the snow off the budding flowers and bring our coats forward to the front of the closet. During a recent chat with Pat Conley we learned that wet basements and flooding would remain our annual spring concern, as it was for her recently. The weather was a factor for many spring events. Even those who traveled to Florida for Easter break were affected. Jordan Begeman went to Florida with Erin Gill’s softball team and had a good, safe chilly trip. The Smeltzers in Daytona Beach Florida also found it chilly, but that probably helped them focus on making things for Carrie’s upcoming wedding to Joel DeHaan. Charlie and Rene Moore made a weekend visit to David and Rox-Ann Brugman’s for Easter and enjoyed Kentucky’s beautiful scenery. I don’t have the weather report for Paris but we know that Carrie Smeltzer and Kay Nevil made a long-awaited trip there together this month.

We really enjoyed a special Seder Passover/Last Supper Service held at the local church on Good Friday. A great deal of preparation (and purchases of unusual items from Jewish bookstores and Meijer’s linen department) were needed to set the stage for the evening supper. People were warned to eat before coming because a full meal was not served. However food was available to guide us through the traditional recitation of the facts on how God delivered His people from slavery, amidst tears and sweetness. The parts of the program where children looked for the hidden leaven of sin and searched for the afikomen (unleavened bread that was broken. . .buried out of sight, wrapped in linen . . . and then raised up to the plain sight of all present) were great illustrations of truths pointing so clearly to Jesus. Members of the local Board were involved as table leaders and preparers of special foods that were sampled during the dinner. Elder Moore did research and a lot of leg work to help us enjoy this learning event. Though the event took about two hours, David Begeman told his father, Brian, that ‘that didn’t take long at all!’

We’ve got a lot of people to pray for in terms of their health. Dale Begeman has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. As the month progressed, we learned it has not spread anywhere else in his body and a treatment plan is in the works. Bekkah Smeltzer has experienced a leg injury, along with many members of her team, but as they have sat out the competitive sports running, they’ve been able to enjoy supporting all the runners on the field. Tisha Begeman’s father Verle has been sick and in our prayers and is home again. Karen Zajackzkowski and Marcia Moore continue to struggle with ongoing health issues and need encouragement and prayers. On a happy health news note, Geneva Begeman (who has really struggled with respiratory problems) can now start a new career as a spokesman for the benefits of air cleaners. She really is breathing more freely (and talking less huskily) than before. Don Begeman has received visits from Geneva and Dale Begeman at his new living facility and they are happy to report that he has returned to the level of health he had before winter when he

had gotten so very sick.

Several of our young members are having wonderful times. I talked to Ben Smeltzer about an A paper he recently wrote at Monroe County Community College and he has convinced me to be properly respectful about the powers and potential dangers of the miracle drug, aspirin. He's gotten a very good grade in his schoolwork and I wonder where he will take his writing abilities. Chelsey Begeman is applying to nursing school and would like to consider pediatric nursing, in addition to continuing to consider a teaching career. She is preparing herself carefully to be prepared for a rewarding career of service. Katie Begeman and her family have recently taken on two new sheep as part of a 4-H project. She also recently volunteered with her 4-H group at a God Works meal program in Monroe. God Works prepares meals for hungry, needy people. That night, they expected 60 people but 95 came, an indication of how hard times can be. She saw many different types of people that night of service (ask her to wrap silverware in napkins sometime) and will probably understand the world in a totally different way. Seth Begeman has been named Student of the Year at his Toledo University Recreation and Leisure Department and got another award for academic achievement. Patrick Gill now has his Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. May God bless you all as you keep on doing good things with your lives!

Geneva Begeman had a scrapbooking Bible study class for ten weeks on the Fruit of the Spirit. Her class consisted of Tisha and Sydney Begeman and Katie and Melinda Begeman. The class taught them about each fruit individually and then challenged them to find pictures that told the story of that fruit. They were challenged to live each new day choosing fresh fruit from the Holy Spirit to guide them. See the picture with their completed scrapbooks. Then ask any of the class members about love, joy, peace etc. and see what they can tell you!

The sermon series we are having will take us through book of Romans. The study on Romans 1:20 had these alliterative points – the descent of a disbelieving mind: deceit, denial, darkness, delusion, depravity. Think about it.

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

Cyberspace News genevabegeman@charter.net

The month of April came and left before I knew it. We wish you all a wonderful springtime!

Dale and I were privileged to visit Don Begeman at his new digs in Troy, Mi. What a wonderful place! As you go in, you are reminded of little shops in a quaint little town. Don seems to be doing well. He walks all over by himself now and is able to eat alone and sing at the frequent sing-a-longs they have there. Of course Laurie met us and we had a nice time with her. After our visit with Don we traveled over to Laurie's following her bike. (See the picture) It is a nice ride through quieter neighborhoods up there. We got home before the rush hour erupted and were pleased with our great visit.

We were happy to visit a little with Kathleen and Kerry Johnson at Carrie and Joel's wedding. They were able to visit Kathleen's family as well as Kerry's family in their brief stay. It is so nice to get to enjoy each other at such a happy occasion.

Jean Lane is enjoying her visit to Phoenix with son Jon and Berty, Shealyn and Scott. She gets to visit school every day, as Berty works there. She is also enjoying going to Scott's hockey games.

Dorothy Layton visited with me via the phone recently. She had a difficult time with her leg just as she was going out to visit Hannah Phillips. She had to stay home that weekend but has not given up the idea of visiting her soon. Hannah still lives in New Jersey so it is a little drive for Dorothy to get there.

I was very happy this month to get an email from Ida Pease. She is feeling fine again after her surgery last month and wanted to thank folks for their cards and letters. She also let me know about Sonya and her eventful Easter weekend. She started with a terrific stomachache and ended up in surgery for an appendectomy. Ida and Arvilla were able to get there to see her, but she had already been released from the hospital. Hope you are feeling much better now, Sonya. It was good to hear about all the Pease family.

MOMISMS

- Money does not grow on trees.
- Don't make that face or it'll freeze in that position.
- If I talked to my mother like you talk to me....
- Always change your underwear; you never know when you'll have an accident.
- Be careful or you'll put your eye out.
- What if everyone jumped off a cliff? Would you do it, too?
- You have enough dirt behind those ears to grow potatoes!
- Close that door! Were you born in a barn?
- If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all.
- Don't put that in your mouth; you don't know where it's been!
- What's meant to be, is meant to be. (Mom only used this when something bad happened or when you experienced a disappointment.)
- It doesn't matter what you accomplish, I'll always be proud of you.
- I hope that when you grow up, you have kids "Just Like you"! (Also known as the "Mother's Curse")
- Because I'm your mother that's why.
- This is why we can't have nice things.
- If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times.
- If you fall out of that tree and break you leg, don't come running to me.
- Someday your face is going to stick like that.
- Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.
- Yes, I *AM* the boss of you.
- I brought you into this world and I can take you OUT !!
- Get that thing out of your mouth! (or nose)
- Honestly... You'd lose your head if it wasn't screwed on!
- Honestly, that cardigan looks great on you - the girls had better watch out with you around!
- Bored! How can you be bored? I was never bored at your age.

CHURCH OF THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

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This is for all the mothers who have sat up all night with sick toddlers in their arms, wiping up barf laced with Oscar Mayer wieners and cherry Kool-Aid saying, "It's OK honey, Mommy's here." Who walk around the house all night with their babies when they keep crying and won't stop.

This is for all the mothers who show up at work with spit-up in their hair and milk stains on their blouses and diapers in their purses. For all the mothers who run carpools and make cookies and sew Halloween costumes. And all the mothers who DON'T.

This is for the mothers who gave birth to babies they'll never see. And the mothers who took those babies and gave them homes.

This is for all the mothers who yell at their kids in the grocery store and swat them in despair when they stomp their feet like a tired 2-year old who wants ice cream before dinner.

This is for all the mothers who sat down with their children and explained all about making babies. And for all the mothers who wanted to but just couldn't. For all the mothers who read "Goodnight, Moon" twice a night for a year. And then read it again. "Just one more time."

This is for all the mothers who taught their children to tie their shoelaces before they started school. And for all the mothers who opted for Velcro instead.

This is for all the mothers who teach their sons to cook and their daughters to sink a jump shot.

This is for mothers, whose children have gone astray, who can't find the words to reach them. For all the mothers who bite their lips sometimes until they bleed when their 14 year olds dye their hair green.

What makes a good Mother anyway? Is it patience? Compassion? Broad hips? The ability to nurse a baby, cook dinner, and sew a button on a shirt, all at the same time? Or is it heart? Is it the ache you feel when you watch your son or daughter disappear down the street, walking to school alone for the very first time? The jolt that takes you from sleep to dread, from bed to crib at 2 A.M. to put your hand on the back of a sleeping baby? The need to flee from wherever you are and hug your child when you hear news of a fire, a car accident, a child dying?

For all the mothers of the victims of all these school shootings, and the mothers of those who did the shooting. For the mothers of the survivors, and the mothers who sat in front of their TVs in horror, hugging their child who just came home from school, safely.

This is for mothers who put pinwheels and teddy bears on their children's graves.

This is for young mothers stumbling through diaper changes and sleep deprivation. And mature mothers learning to let go. For working mothers and stay-at-home mothers. Single mothers and married mothers. Mothers with money, mothers without.

This is for you all. **Author unknown**

Happy Mothers Day



Tisha, Sydney, Katie and Melinda Begeman with their finished scrapbooks on the "Fruits of the Spirit."



Caralyn Kay Smeltzer and Joel Andrew DeHaan were joined together in holy matrimony on April 28, 2007 in a beautiful ceremony at Calvary Bible Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Carrie chose her sister Bekka Smeltzer for her maid of honor and her aunt Kay Nevil as her matron of honor. Joel had Ben Smeltzer (Carrie's brother) as one of his groomsmen and his cousin Brandon DeHaan was the best man.

It was a beautiful afternoon wedding and we all enjoyed the wonderful postlude music by Katie Nevil (also a bridesmaid) on the marimba, Jon Althoff on the saxophone and Carol Bos on the piano.

Carrie's grandfather David Charles welcomed everyone and presided for part of the ceremony and then turned the service over to Pastor Bryan Craddock who heard their vows. After a beautiful song "Grace Alone" by Jim and Kay Nevil as the unity candle was lit, Elder David Charles had the honor of pronouncing them husband and wife and introducing them to the congregation.

There was a long reception line and many blessings given on the new couple. After blowing bubbles to celebrate the couple we were all ushered inside for a lovely reception in the church hall.

Joel and Carrie DeHaan will reside now at 1825 Nemoke Ct. Apt 2, Haslett, MI 48840. Carrie is enrolled in medical school starting in July and Joel will finish his course in electrician school. We wish you both the very best!

Submitted by Geneva Begeman



Laurie Eckles showing Dale Begeman her motorcycle



Elder Moore and friends blooming the cross.



Celebrating your birthday with family is always fun.