

December 2007

Cyberspace News

Michigan News

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Why Do We Go To Church

Elder Charles Moore

Why Do We Go to Church? Part 1

Why do we go to Church? Not why do we go to church on Saturday rather than another day but why do we go at all? There are many reasons why we go to church. I am going to list a few to get us started. 'My family expects me to be there'. 'I have a job to do at church'. 'There is a dinner after church'. 'Habit' (and though it is a good habit, if all it is is a habit, it is not good enough). 'We have a date to go somewhere after church with some of the people at church and it would be awkward if we didn't go'. 'I always feel better after I get there', and 'Honoring the Sabbath is easier if I go to church, to learn, to worship, to pray'. There are many more reasons we go, some good, some bad. Probably for many of us our reasons may be mixed. On different days we may have different reasons. In the coming months through a series of newsletter articles, I will be giving some good reasons for why it is important to go to church and to be a committed part of a church family. I will be covering only two reasons this month.

The first reason is: We meet Christ in a special way in church. In the book of Matthew we read these familiar words: **"For where two or three have gathered together in My**

name, there I am in their midst." (Matthew 18:20)

Jesus is present in a unique way when believers are gathered together. He is here with us every time we gather in His name, not in the name of a church or a denomination but in His name, his promise to us is that He is here.

Have you ever heard the excuse, 'I don't have to go to church to be a Christian'? Kent Hughes writes, "It is true that one does not have to go to church to be a Christian. He does not have to go home to be married either. But in both cases if he does not, he will have a very poor relationship."

Our times of corporate worship heighten our encounter with God. That's not hard to understand. If you are a lover of music you might love to listen to CDs with your headphones. You can hear the music clearly and the lyrics more precisely. However, if you are like most people you would most like to hear the music where? In a live concert and in person. Why? The music is generally not as clear. We can be jostled and distracted by other people. We enjoy these concerts because of the excitement and enthusiasm that is generated by the crowd. There is clapping,

singing along and even a little dancing. It enhances our enjoyment to enjoy the music with others.

The same is true of our worship. Celebrating the goodness of the Lord in the company of His people makes the music richer and the teaching fuller. God is present in a unique way in the gathering of His people. May we cherish those moments with Him in the company of other believers.

The second reason is that in Church is where we find completeness. Paul writes, **For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.** (Romans 12:4-5) Paul's point is clear. We are incomplete when we are in isolation. We are whole when we are together. God designed the Christian community to be interdependent. God wants us to need each other and cherish the gifts that He has given us, as well as, and more importantly, cherish the gifts of others.

Super Bowl time is coming up. A super bowl team is a team that knows that it must act as a team to win. The blockers need to make their blocks so there is a place to run or so the quarterback has time to throw. The runners have to depend on the blockers to open a path for them. The receivers need to catch the ball. The quarterback needs to throw and hand off with accuracy. If any one of those players does not do his

(Continued on page 2)

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job, the play is broken and usually there is a loss on the play.

We don't all do the same jobs. But we are all important. We may not be the people in the spotlight but we matter. Our service is incomplete without the others. Their service is incomplete without us. You can be the best blocker in the world but if you aren't blocking for anyone it doesn't mean a thing. The only way we can win is to be part of a team . . . our team is the church.

But are we faithful to our team? A pastor was once asked to define "Faithful Attendance at Worship," and this was his reply: "All that I ask is that we apply the same standards of faithfulness to our church activities that we would in other areas of our life. Consider these examples: If your car started one out of three times, would you consider it faithful? If you didn't show up at work two or three times a month, would your boss call you faithful? If your refrigerator quit a day now and then, would you excuse it and say, "Oh, well, it works most of the time." If you miss a couple of mortgage payments in a year's time, would your bank say, "Oh, well, ten out of twelve isn't bad"? If you miss worship and attend meetings only often enough to show you're interested but not often enough to get involved are you faithful?"

The clear answer is, "No." We must remember that the Church is God's idea and God's ideas for us are typically for our good not His. May we faithfully attend the local Church that we are drawn to by His Spirit and share the gifts He has given us, as well as enjoy the gifts of others in the Church.

Perhaps you have heard
"The Psalm of Summer."

"Now it came to pass that spring turned to summer
 again.

God's people raised their voices and said:

"Recreation is my shepherd, I shall not stay at home;

He maketh me to lie down in a sleeping bag;

He leadeth me down the Interstate each weekend.

He restoreth my sultan; He leadeth me to State

Parks for comfort's sake.

Even though I stray on the Sabbath Day,

I will fear no reprimand, for Thou art with me;
 my rod and reel they comfort me.

I anointest my skin with oil, my gas tank runneth
 over;

Surely my trailer shall follow me all the weekends
 this summer,

and I shall return to the House of the Lord this fall."

But then it is hunting season and that's another
 psalm."

Michigan Report

Aurine Moore

Because of the Christmas season, December, a month of snow and fog, wind and sun, was a month of many activities. Jamie Vargas has been Sabbath School Superintendent and sharing thoughtful reflections with members of the church to help them enter into worship and study for the day. We enjoyed our usual bell ringing to raise money for the Salvation Army this year at the Frenchtown Mall. We had shorter shifts to work, as we only had one door to cover this year, but the night was cold and the people passing by were friendly. The local church also collected food for baskets to distribute to people in the Monroe area. Charlie Moore and Dave Fedor paired up to distribute them and report that they were received with thanksgiving and smiles.

Bekah and Ben Smeltzer, Katy and Josh Nevil were able to have a good visit with James Goins at the care facility where he is receiving neurological physical therapy for the injuries he suffered in a car accident last summer. Marcia Moore continues to desire readers' prayers for the various illnesses she deals with on a daily basis.

The snowy season made its presence felt this month. Jeff, Melinda and Katie Begeman traveled north to try out their snowmobiles while Kathy and Joe Smeltzer traveled to Ken and Karla Colls' for a New Year's Eve program and were snowed in the following morning. Charlie and Aurine Moore had the Brugmans' for a week, while they waited for their Hillsdale apartment. The children and their dog, Bo, enjoyed the first real snow storm they've seen in quite some time.

Diane and Tim Begeman had a shock this month in the middle of their preparations for the Christmas program and gatherings with family. Diane left home to do morning errands for a brief time. She returned home to a door that had been kicked in and discovered that area thieves had broken into their home and stolen her wallet. The door is fixed and all is well, but it was an unsettling reminder that Christians who trust God still must cope in a world where some steal and live by other morals.

We had an especially nice letter from Pat and Earl Bell from Wayne County (friends we met through Elder David and Ruth Charles) this month sending Christmas greetings and news updates. They remain dear friends. A bright and happy announcement was made that Chelsey Begeman and Jason Connor, her boyfriend, are engaged to be married. Jason and Chelsey are very compatible and it is a nice thing to see them together.

The Christmas Eve program was well attended. Besides the musical selections, we enjoyed Terrie Fedor's class with Gabe and Riley Vargas and Katie, David and Sydney Begeman as they put on a quiz show skit. There was also a skit by Jamie Vargas and Tim Begeman about Joseph trying to get a hotel reservation in Bethlehem and a play with Charlie Moore, Tim Begeman, Jamie Vargas, Erin Gill, Aurine Moore and Riley Vargas (who shows great promise for being an actress in our next generation of church plays). The play included a video production as well as a live 'Scene 2' and was based on a book recommended last year by Kay Nevil – The Christmas Letters. Elisha Brugman did a wonderful job reciting a Christmas poem called the Hills of Judah. The Christmas snack following the program was a wonderful

time of fellowship. We are especially pleased at how many years Ethel Johnson and her extended family have celebrated the birth of Christ with us (including the Browns, the Smiths, and Echo and her family).

By month's end several members were exchanging books to read, on topics ranging from intelligent design to biblically based historical novels. During the last Sabbath School lesson, Geneva Begeman passed out envelopes to the adult class which members had completed at the close of the 2006 Sabbath School season when they wrote down what their prayer for 2007 was. We may have forgotten our prayers, but as we reflected, we saw God had not. While not all prayers were completely answered, we could see the changes God had made in circumstances and hearts. Later that night, many folks gathered at the home of Charlie and Aurine Moore for snacks and a viewing of the movie *The Nativity Story*. All in all, it was a blessed month. Until next month, may God be with you and you with Him.

You will never find time for anything. If you want
the time, you must make it.
- [Charles Buxton](#)

Cyberspace News genevabegeman@charter.net

Arvilla Pease made another move this month and hopes it will be her last. She was waiting to get in some senior housing and then of course had to move in when it came up. She had lots of help from Sonya and Ida and then when everyone is gone there are more boxes to unload. Arvilla, we wish you the best in your new digs and are very glad that now you do not have to worry about mowing grass! (Maybe I should mention shoveling snow as the Pease family seem to live in the snow belt in upper New York state.) Her address is 1 Valley View Drive, Tully, NY 13159.

David and Ruth Charles are doing their share of visiting doctors' offices these days as Ruth continues to have problems that are unsolved. We wish you the best as we begin another year and hope your problems are soon at an end.

On the Sabbath before Christmas, Kathy and Joe Smeltzer were privileged to have their whole family together for church. Carrie and Joel DeHaan came from Lansing as did Bekah. Bekah is a freshman at Michigan State and Carrie has completed her first semester in medical school there. Carrie's husband Joel is still nursing a broken ankle which is preventing him from going back to work. They were able to stay over until Christmas and were joined by Kay and Jim Nevil with Katy from Spring Arbor College and Josh who was home from Saint Marys, Georgia. Katy played the marimba for us and Carrie played the flute. We were truly blessed with wonderful music as Kathy Smeltzer and Kay Nevil accompanied them on the piano. Vocally, Gemma Begeman and Aurine Moore, also treated us with songs.

We were so happy to have many outlying guests at our Christmas Eve service. Our two servicemen were, Josh Nevil, Saint Mary's, GA and Chandos Bemus, from Fort Jackson, NC. We are very proud of these young men.

The Jon Lane family had driven from Phoenix Arizona to be with family for Christmas. They had a rough trip with many miles of black ice and were very happy to arrive safely. They had a much better trip home again. They visited Berty's family in Ohio, Jon's Aunt Gleneva and family (the Lanes) in New Carlisle, friends in Dayton and the Creation Museum in Petersburg Kentucky. We were indeed happy to see you, Lanes! In the area for family outings were Kane and Jennie Begeman also from the Phoenix area. They managed to skip the black ice part of the trip, as they were a day ahead of the Lanes.

The Larry Charles family was with us with big news from son, Brad. He announced his engagement and pending June marriage to a lovely girl named Sarah Brownsey. Brent and Julie Charles also had written Christmas cards to announce that they are expecting a baby July 22. Congratulations, Brent and Julie and Grandpa Larry and Grandma Peggy Charles also. Daran and Vicki Chapman were present Christmas Eve also. Daran had flown north from Cleveland, TN to spend the holidays with Vicki and Steve. He is always a joy to have because his enthusiasm never waivers. Jon Lane was particularly happy to see him because it had been a long time. There are no friends like old friends.

I talked to Dorothy Layton this week and she had a holiday gathering at her home with over 30 people present. She loves the little ones playing around her. She was thankful for her family bringing food and daughter Lisa decorating. She reports her knee is not totally well, but she is progressing some. Keep her in your prayers.

Rox-Ann and David, Elisha, Zack and Xavier Brugman have changed residences this month. They have left Kentucky and come back to Michigan! They are settled in the Hillsdale area. With help from Dad Charlie Moore they arrived with everything in tow just before Christmas. Everyone was very happy that the move was over and they are looking forward to the new school and getting acquainted with that beautiful area.

I think the newsletter is a marvelous way to keep in touch and I would welcome news from you and yours with pictures also. We pray that the Lord truly blesses you this 2008 year and that in turn you pass those blessings on to others.

**CHURCH OF THE
LORD OUR
RIGHTEOUSNESS**

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**Church website
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What is represented by this BrainBat?

Earth
Earth
→ Earth
Earth
Earth

Middle Earth or Third World.

What is represented by this BrainBat?

DEEF

Feedback

What is represented by this BrainBat?

TTTTTTIIIIIIIMMMMMEEEEEE
ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ

Long time no see

What is represented by this BrainBat?

W O R K
S E E S A W S

Overseas work

What is represented by this BrainBat?

NOMMAG

Backgammon

What is represented by this BrainBat?

G G E
G E G

Scrambled eggs

They finally popped the question!!!



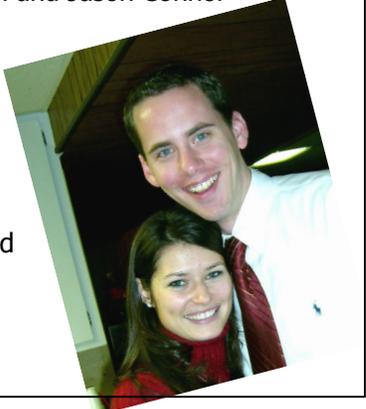
Chelsey Begeman and Jason Connor



Singing on Christmas Eve



Tim Brown came from Florida!



Sarah and Brad Charles



Darren & Vicki Chapman



Peggy, Sarah and Mrs. Baldwin



Servicemen - Josh Nevil- Navy; Chandos Bemus-Army



Katie Begeman



Sydney, David Begeman and Gabe Vargas



Tim Begeman, Jamie, Riley Vargas, Charlie, Aurine Moore and Erin Gill



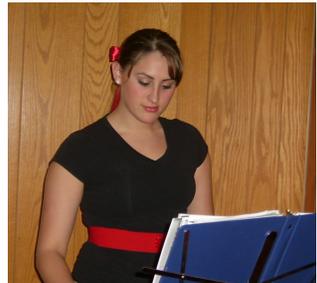
Carrie DeHaan



Elisha Brugman



Shealyn, Jon, Scott, Jean and Berty Lane came from Arizona!



Katy Nevil