

March 2008

Cyberspace News

Michigan News

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Lo^{The}d Ou^RRighteousness

April Fools

Elder Charles Moore

April Fools day or All Fools day as it once was called is one day of the year when it is considered proper to play harmless jokes upon our friends to make them out to be the fool. In France the person fooled is known as 'poisson d' avril, the "April Fish". Being fooled is one thing, for we can all be fooled, but being a fool is another thing altogether different. The Bible has much to say about the fool and most of it is negative.

"The fool has said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that does good." (Psalm 14:1) The supreme act of foolishness for the fool is to say there is no God. We often think of the fool as harmless, but the Bible says they are corrupt; their foolishness leads them into sin.

"Fools, because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted." (Psalm 107:17) Their sin causes them to be afflicted and they bear the pain of their sin

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." (Proverbs 1:7) The fear of the Lord would end their foolishness, but rather than honor the wisdom and instruction that the Lord can give, they despise it - in part because it is not tangible and does not create immediate

results. Too often the fool wants instant gratification. It follows that if there is no God, why wait?

"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes" (Proverbs 12:15).

Fools are not circumspect; they assume that if they're doing something and it has no immediate downside, then it must be alright to do. They are unable to look ahead to future consequences.

He that trusts in his own heart is a fool (Proverbs 28:26). The person who only looks inside himself for guidance is a fool. Jeff Bridges says, "If Eve in a state of innocence could believe a serpent before her maker, if saints of old Israel could worship a golden calf, if a man after God's own heart, David, could wallow in adultery, murder and deceit, what do you think we are going to do if we are left only to trust in ourselves; surely all men are liars."

1Corinthians says much about wisdom of the world versus the foolishness of Christianity. The message of the cross is foolishness to those who do not receive it as truth **"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish, foolishness; but to us which are saved it is the power of God."** (1Corinthians 1:18) "But to us" (don't you just love that phrase?) "it is the power of God".

Paul puts the wisdom of the world in its place when he says, **"Let no man deceive himself. If any**

man among you seems to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, (in the world's eyes) that he may be wise (in God's eyes) For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God: For it is written, He takes the wise in their own craftiness. And again, The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain. (1Corinthians 3:18-20)

Paul teaches that it is OK to be a fool in the world's eyes and gives us his example, **"For I think that God has set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle to the world, and to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are honorable, but we are despised. Even to this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place; And labor, working with our own hands:"** (1Corinthians 4:9-12)

In what ways is Paul saying that he is being a fool for Christ's sake? He is appointed to death and willing to be a spectacle; suffering hunger, thirst, nakedness, abuse and no stable place to live, **"...being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: Being defamed, we entreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the off scouring of all things to this day."** (1Corinthians 4:12-13)

All these things seem foolish, but they are truly wise because they show that we are looking beyond the here and now to a

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new reality. The fool looks to today. The wise one in God looks to the things to come, willing to suffer today for a greater reward tomorrow. When Paul said he was a fool for Christ's sake, he was only a fool in the world's eyes and to some of the Corinthians, but he was wise in God's eyes. Jim Eliot echoes Paul's sentiment when he wrote in the flyleaf of his Bible, "A man is no fool who gives up what he can not keep to gain what he can not lose." **"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;" (2Corinthians 4:17)** If our afflictions last a lifetime they are only a moment compared to eternity and our afflictions actually work for us rather than against us in God's eyes. When Bruce Jenner would interview world class athletes for television, he would ask "How do you handle the pain?" He knew that to get where they were at necessitated pain. Growth in every worthwhile endeavor involves pain of one sort or another and we can get past the pain and excel if we are looking to the future reward with wisdom. **"Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21)**

Michigan Report

Aurine Moore

Despite the foolish optimists who thought spring was in the air, there was nothing this month but snow, beautiful snow. Snow like people from other parts of the country think Michigan gets all the time, but which had become a distant memory. Those with new snow plows, snow blowers, snowmobiles or four wheel drive vehicles had cause to be delighted. The others prayed for spring or were thankful they had already moved to warmer climates. This is the first year daylight savings began during the month of March. Some missed the extra hour of sleep and thought it was awfully dark driving to work in the morning.

Many, many of our members were able to travel during the month of March. Most went to Florida – Erin Gill traveled with the Bedford softball team while Jeff, Melinda and Katie Begeman traveled for a week of sun and relaxation. Kathy and Joe Smeltzer visited with David and Ruth Charles. Dave and Terrie Fedor traveled with lifetime friends, Bob and Barb Scheich. Diane Begeman went on a short work-related excursion, selling basket kits made by her employer at a convention in North Carolina. When people needed things from outside, Diane was Johnny on the Spot and happy to enjoy the beautiful weather outdoors.

We had a really nice Good Friday Service and enjoyed the company of Bill Welch of the New Hope Christian church. Tim Begeman spoke as the thief on the cross and Charlie Moore spoke as the centurion who came to realize that surely, Jesus was the son of God. Aurine Moore sang "Via Dolorosa" beautifully.

Once again with Bill Welch's help we nailed our sins to the cross. The same cross that we would have bloomed the next day with flowers, but were unable to due to the large snowfall, 10 inches that we had Good Friday night.

After finishing up a six week series of Bible studies on the book of Jonah, led by Elder Tim Begeman, a new series of Bible Studies on the Book of John has begun. We have enjoyed rotating from house to house and the variety of snacks and goodies. For those who may want to join us but don't know 'the location of the week', please call Elder Moore at 734-652-3964 on his cell phone. All are welcome.

We were blessed by the annual Dessert and Salad Bowl with Kay Nevil speaking. Her theme ("God is good but I am slow – He loves me") resonated with many who were present. The tables were a delight, the guests even better. There were about 45 ladies in attendance. Several of the men, who were left rootless for the day, gathered at China Buffet restaurant in Monroe for a good meal and male fellowship.

We were saddened at the passing this month of Rev. James Goins of Monroe. Jim and his wife, Marshala, had begun visiting our church about twelve years ago. He was a student at William Tyndale University and began pastoring at Monroe churches after completing his Biblical studies and being ordained. Over the years, we came to be acquainted with his children James Jr., Elizabeth and Jamesha, who have attended the COLOR Youth Camp. Our prayers are with his wife and family.

There have been other prayer concerns as well this month: Joel Valentine was hospitalized for a series of painful migraines, Terrie Fedor's sister, Kathy Gearhart, is having physical therapy for discs in her neck, and Marcia Moore has had a very difficult time breathing (COPD) this month. She also asks for prayer for her mother, Hazel Harvey, who is weak from a bout with the flu.

Several members had reason to be thankful this month. Pat Conley discovered that some pain in her lungs was treatable and short-term and Geneva Begeman has begun to experience relief from back spasms that have been fatiguing and bothersome. David Begeman's hockey team won the Division B hockey league competition and Katie Begeman's school choir medaled in a competition.

Ila Baker has a new address and has a phone in her room: You can reach her at 248-426-7055. We will miss Sue Trueman, who has moved back north and look forward to visits in the future with her, either in Monroe or Farwell. Ila's new home is close to her daughter Sandy Fine and Sandy's children. Those who would like to drop Ila a card can write her in care of Arden Courts, Country Lane 32550 7 Mile Road Livonia MI 48512

There was a documentary in the 80's called "The Thin Blue Line". Those at church may have thought of that as they watched the screen upon which we project bible verses, song lyrics and pre-service thoughts. We progressively watched a thin blue line progress to a thick blue line and finally to a generalized blue haze. Thus, with joy we can announce that the church has recently replaced the projector. We thank all who bore with us or helped replace it. Until next month, may God be with you.

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Cyberspace News genevabegeman@charter.net

March has come and gone again. It is an important month in our household as Dale's birthday is the 6th. He is 78 now and we enjoyed a family dinner at Tim and Diane's, so I included a picture in the newsletter. I couldn't resist! If you have important pictures like this, please send them so we can enjoy with you.

Easter was in March this year so many visits resulted in our church family travels. Kathy and Joe Smeltzer traveled to Florida with some neighbors and were able to spend time with David and Ruth Charles. I spoke to David and they had enjoyed their company. (Smeltzers were in a condo in Port Charlotte.)

Peggy Charles is trying to adjust to her new job in downtown Detroit. She has gone back to nursing and the stress factor is great as our nurses have our lives in their hands. Peggy, we wish you the best and salute all our dedicated nurses. I am always amazed at youth camp at what an important job Melinda Begeman and Kathie Hess do for us! We appreciate you all!

I received a card from Hawaii where Jim and Deborah Stoner traveled this month for Deborah's job. I know it is hard but someone must do it. They were enjoying the warmth as I am sure most of us would. They continued the vacation with a cruise around Hawaii and then traveled on to Mexico. Jim says everyone should do this!

Dorothy Layton's surgery on her hip had to be postponed three weeks due to an infection so, she has more anticipation. Pray for her good health so this can be behind her this month. (The former date was March 31.) Dorothy, we are all looking forward to this being a thing of the past!

I had a pleasant phone visit with the Rip and Norma Ripley a couple of weeks ago. They both sounded chipper and happy to do the things they can do. Norma did have some news about the Robert Ripley's. They are moving a little ways into the country there in Roanoke. Their granddaughter Demi (the youngest) is graduating from high school this year and Brett (the oldest) is graduating from college. Dana (the middle one) is still enjoying being in college in Roanoke. It is always amazing how our young people grow up so much faster than we did. I think the years are shorter these days.

We had our annual Salad/Dessert Bowl this month. It was beautiful as usual. I wanted to do a group picture (there were 40 ladies present) and just could not get the group together, so I have something to strive for next year! Kay Nevil gave a wonderful testimony of her life and some of the difficulties she has encountered. All the ladies present could sure relate to her view on life. Thanks, Kay and Katie, for your faithfulness to drive and support our church events. Looking forward to next year!

Thanks for keeping in touch as we need to know about each other so "our love may abound". Please let us know if we can help you in your life's journey.

**CHURCH OF THE
LORD OUR
RIGHTEOUSNESS**

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ONLY IN AMERICA...

...do banks leave the front doors open and chain the pens to the counters.

...do we leave expensive cars in the driveway and keep useless junk in the garage.

...can pizza get to your house quicker than an ambulance.

...do drugstores make sick people walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions filled.

...do people order double cheeseburgers, extra large fries, dessert, and a diet drink.

...do we use answering machines to screen phone calls and then have call waiting so we don't miss a call from someone we might have not wanted to talk to in the first place.

Received from Marilyn Suydam



DAD IS HOW OLD???

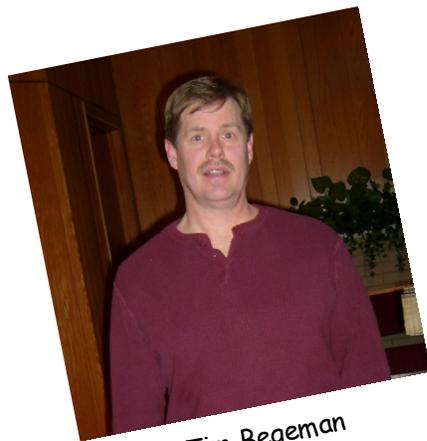
DESSERT/SALAD BOWL



Kay Nevil



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE



Tim Begeman



Bill Welch



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