

January 2009

Cyberspace News

Michigan News

2009 Camp Dates
June 14-19
Nazarene District
Center
Howell MI

Sermons
available on
DVD now
Call
734-242-7674
For more
Information

Check out the
updated website
Colornet.org



Trusting God in the Storms of Life

Elder Charles Moore

Do you ever wonder, "Can I trust God even when my life gets stormy? Can I trust Him even when things go unexpectedly wrong? Can I trust Him even when my situation is so discouraging that I see no way out? Will I trust Him even when things seem hopeless?"

That was the situation on Apostle Paul's boat as he headed for Phoenix. The storm was raging. The wind was blowing. The rain was pouring down; the boat was being battered and beaten by the storm. After many days in this storm, with the crew doing all that they knew to do to save the ship, the morale of the 276 people on board sank to an all time low. The Bible says, "When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved." (Acts 27: 20)

We all have moments where we feel just as battered and beaten and discouraged as the people on that ship. Perhaps there's a storm brewing over your life right now. Maybe it's a stormy marriage. Maybe you're married to someone who argues and fights with you all the time. Or maybe you're the one who does the arguing and the fighting. Some days, you feeling like nothing will ever change! That your marriage is shipwrecked and there's no hope at all.

Or maybe there's another type of storm brewing in your house. Maybe it's a stormy relationship with a child, who rebels against your authority. Who says, "It's my life! You can't tell me what to do anymore! I'll do what I want!" And after many days and nights of dealing with this, you're not sure if there is anything more you can say. You feel like throwing your hands up in frustration. You feel like giving up.

Or maybe you feel battered and storm tossed and you have no idea why you feel that way. You can't put a finger on it. All you know is that you feel despair and discouragement and hopelessness. Things seem so bleak that there's no way out.

The good news is that in the middle of our own personal storm, God gives us a word of hope; a message of encouragement! Paul said to the people, "But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail

with you.' So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me." (Acts 27:22-25) God said it; I believe it; that settles it!

We might never receive a message of hope from the mouth of an angel. But you can have in your hand a message of hope for all mankind. You have, in the Word of God, a message of hope for a storm tossed world; a message of hope for people who have lost all hope. God says to us, "Do not fear, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10) God also says to us, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze." (Isaiah 43:1-2) God is not missing in action when our lives get stormy. God is here; encouraging us; helping us; orchestrating every situation and circumstance in accordance with the purpose of His will.

Paul had a word from God to help him through the storm and so do we. You ask me, "Where is my hope when I feel hopeless? Where is my encouragement when I feel discouraged? Where is my help when I can see no help?" It's right in the precious word of

(Continued on page 2)

God. The Psalmist says, "I lift up my eyes to the hills— where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD watches over you— the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. (Psalm 121:1-8) God gives us a message of hope for the storms of life. You only have to read it, believe it; trust your life to it and God will get you through the storms of life. I will leave you with the words of Jeremiah, "Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:21-23)



Ladies Dessert/Salad Bowl
 Saturday March 28 2 pm
 Church of the Lord
 Our Righteousness
 1922 LaSalle Road
 Monroe Michigan
 Katy Nevil - Speaker
 734-269-6098 for reservations

Cyberspace News genevabegeman@charter.net

Josh Nevil and Ben Smeltzer (cousins-good friends) cooked up a surprise for the family and they all loved it. Josh is in the Navy and stationed in Jacksonville Florida and got a surprise week off and flew home. Ben did not tell why he had to go to the airport, that was his part of the surprise. Kathy and Joe were January can sure be called the frozen month this year. We have had so much snow and cold that Dale and I have been at home a lot. We have lots of things to entertain us with videos and sports 24/7 for Dale. Today was beautiful and we heard so many comments about how nice it is as we shopped.

surprised as he walked out of the airport on this mysterious trip. Josh proceeded to go see his sister Katie at Spring Arbor College and then on to surprise Mom Kay and Dad Jim at school. He had a lot of fun and they were soooo happy to see him. They ended their week with a super bowl party at the Smeltzers' and Dad and Mom taking him to the airport.

Larry Charles spent the final week with David, since he still needed someone to drive him around. Things in the David Charles household are back to normal now though. David reports that he tires more easily yet but is getting stronger all the time. What wonderful answers to prayer the whole family has experienced.

There is a new happy chapter in Dorothy Layton's moving story. She has decided to stay in her familiar home and not pack everything up yet. We just need you to take care of yourself, Dorothy.

I visited with Rip and Norma Ripley on the phone this week and they were doing okay. Rip did say that he thinks he can hear better than he had been. He is very grateful for that.

Lynn Vaughn and Geneva Begeman had a long lunch this month. They were seen going into Bob Evan's Restaurant at lunch and coming out at supper time. Dale shopped every Lowe's and building supply place in the surrounding district along with reading the daily papers. Out of that conversation came a commitment to read God's Word more. Lynn had listened to a lady named Judy Reamer from Atlanta Georgia who travels around and gives seminars about simply reading God's Word. If you read

it one half hour a day you can read the Bible in 4 months. It becomes the background for your life. If you are interested in pursuing this idea contact Lynn or me. Judy Reamer is a wonderful motivational speaker and gets you all revved up to commit to do this. What a blessing all these young women of the church are to me.

I was sorry to hear that Jim and Deborah Stoner are going to be unable to come to retreat this year. It seems that Jim is having some health issue and it is not wise for them to travel right now. We will miss you both and will pray that you feel up to par very soon, Jim.

February means a lot more cold weather to most people, but to the church in Michigan it means retreat, retreat, retreat. Tell you all about it next month.

Michigan Report

Aurine Moore

Need I tell you that this month has been snowy, blowy and br-r-r-iskly cold? Our area got more than 21 inches of snow in January and so far this winter, we've had almost 42 inches of snow. Those with new snow blowers no doubt felt vindicated and those with mittens, face shields and super downy coats were grateful. Dave Fedor, faithful plower of the church parking lot, perseveringly completed several significant snow removal jobs this month. The snow was so bad one Sabbath that we had to cancel church service, our church dinner, our monthly singing session at Tender Care and the annual Local Business meeting. Due to the church dinner cancellation, food was plentiful, especially at the Smeltzer residence. After the rescheduled business meeting the next day, Charlie and I and Nate Valentine went over to their house to help them eat and vastly enjoyed Joe's white chili and chicken and sliders. Charlie mentioned to Joe that his chicken and sliders are good, but not as good as his mother Sally's.

At the business meeting, Tim Begeman was again elected to serve the dual position (representing the local church at the United Board meetings) and Diane Begeman and I were again elected to serve as local representatives. We also had a short presentation on giving characteristics of American Christians, drawn from a recent article in Christianity Today, which in turn was drawn from a research book called Passing the Plate.

Our Bible studies on the book of Peter rotated from home to home, with snacks, safe travel, good studies, and fellowship. The sermon series has been on *Trusting God*, a topic that is worthy of study at the beginning of a new year. When Jeff Begeman was appointed to serve as Sabbath School Superintendent, we overlooked his commitments that would keep him away this month but his wife Melinda filled in ably. We were all truly delighted when the engagement of Brian Begeman to Kate Pinhey was announced. For those who haven't had the pleasure of meeting Kate, she is easy to talk to, down to earth, likes hockey and other sports, has a wonderful daughter, Shay, who has been to camp, and is a well-respected physical therapist. Brian and her seem to have had one opportunity to meet and meet they did. The rest is history. We are also looking forward to Chelsey Begeman and

Jason Conner's upcoming marriage August 8th. Chelsey is really enjoying her studies in speech therapy. She had been looking for the right career to use her talent in helping others, and it sounds like she has done so.

Michigan is being hard hit with the recent economic worries and we have two church members who we've been praying for. Branden Carothers is working as a cook at Cabela's restaurant but wants more full time work. Brian Begeman has been working for Auto Alliance and their plant is shut down. He is number 17 on a list of people to be called to work at a plant in Saline, close to where his fiancé Kate lives and works. Several people from Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries where I work have been laid off. Please pray that each of these people will find rewarding work where they can use their talents.

Rox-Ann and David Brugman celebrated their wedding anniversary this month while Charlie and I got to have a wonderful visit with their children, Elisha, Zacharias and Zavier. Following church, we went to Splash Universe in Dundee (borrowing towels from the Schotts, that John graciously delivered to us at the hotel). Don Daniels has been enjoying getting recipes off of the Whole Foods web site and faithfully remembers the people in his church and apartment building who need company or prayers. Marshalla Goins reports that her son, James, has successfully made the move to an assisted living program (run by the same company that provided his rehabilitation services) and her daughter, Elizabeth, gave birth to a daughter, Emoni, this month.

Some folks on our prayer lists have included Marcia Moore (who thanks God recent tests show no cancer), Richard Brown who continues to recover, and Tisha Begeman who has had some painful bouts with kidney stones. Finally, Geneva and Dale thought that the end had finally come for their faithful 54 year old water heater. However, it turned out that it was the electricity leading to the house, and not the heater, that had failed. They have enjoyed telling the story of the heater's dependability for it is a symbol, just a symbol, of God's faithfulness and care. If the heater failed, God would still be faithful. However, we share their joy with them that the little heater is still going strong. So until next month, may God be with you and you with Him.

**WE'VE UPDATED THE CHURCH WEBSITE. CHECK IT OUT.
COLORNET.ORG**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAVE PAPER AND POSTAGE YOU CAN VIEW THIS
NEWSLETTER FROM THE CHURCH WEBSITE. YOU WOULD RECEIVE NOTIFICATION
WHEN THE NEWSLETTER IS POSTED ON-LINE. PLEASE EMAIL DIANE BEGEMAN AT
VEGGIE@CHARTER.NET**

**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
734.269.6098
veggie@charter.net

website
colornet.org

HABITS OTHER PEOPLE HAVE THAT REALLY BOTHER ME.

1. When someone points at his wrist while asking for the time. I know where my watch is, pal; where is yours?
2. Someone who is willing to get off the couch to search the entire room for the TV remote because he refuses to walk to the TV and change the channel manually.
3. When people say while watching a movie at the theater, "Did you see that?" No, I paid \$12 to come to the cinema and stare at the floor.
4. People who ask, "Can I ask you a question?" Didn't really give me a choice there, did ya, sunshine?
5. When something is "new and improved." Which is it? If it's new, then there has never been anything before it. If it's an improvement, then there must have been something before it, so it couldn't be new.
6. When people say, "Life is short." What are they talking about?? Life is the longest thing anyone ever does and still remembers! What can you do on earth that's longer?
7. When you are waiting for the bus and someone asks, "Has the bus come yet?" If the bus came, would I be standing here?