

September 2009

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Michigan News



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How Not To Sin 2

Elder Charles Moore

To refresh readers' minds, I said last month that the way not to sin is to *choose* not to sin. Easy, right? No, the truth is, it is hard to just stop doing something. The only way it is possible is if we take positive steps to fill the void that stopping leaves. I think a little advice from the Apostle Paul from Romans 13 might help. If we want to learn how not to sin we must understand that we need to:

First: Pay up the love that we owe to one another. **"Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,' and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." (Romans 13:8-10 ESV)** Love fulfills the law because love from the heart helps us to obey what the law demands.

A husband does not labor all day because the law tells him to support his family. He labors because he loves them and wants to provide for them. Where there is love there will be no murder, dishonesty, stealing, or other kinds of selfishness. Where there is love there is no sin.

Second: Wake up. **"Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. . . " (Romans 13:11 ESV)** Sleep may be either a blessing or a curse. By it the body is restored and the spirit refreshed. Sleep can also be a curse. When a person just stays in bed, it is an expression of laziness. Similarly today I fear that God's people are too often asleep. Asleep, we are unaware of the urgency of our world's needs: the hungry to be fed, peace to be made, the ignorant to be taught, the lost to be saved. Asleep, we are unconscious of our potential and our call to meet those needs. Asleep we are inactive in God's work and uninvolved in what He is doing. Asleep we lag behind others who peddle their false-solutions, quack cures, and half-truths. It is

time to wake up and do what the Lord requires, wrapped as an expression of love. If you do that there will not be time for sin.

Third: Wise up. **". . . For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed." (Romans 13:11 ESV)** Have you ever wondered why the right-hand door mirror on your car says "Objects are closer than they appear"? The reason is that the mirror is convex, allowing a much wider angle of vision. We may borrow the words, though, and say that the Second Coming may be much closer than it appears. That knowledge alone gives us a wider field of vision in this lost world! The nearness of our salvation should cause us to act with informed urgency and take the next step which is to . . .

Four: Get up. **12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. (Romans 13:12-13 ESV)** When you get up from bed you take off your sleeping attire and put on your working clothes. We are to cast off the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light. We are to strip off the darkness of this world and wrap ourselves in the light of Christ. The night is often symbolic of darkness, evil, and sin. It is under a cover of

(Continued on page 2)

darkness that evil deeds are often done. Praise God that the night is over for us. That time in our lives is passing. It is fading. The day is dawning. Therefore, it is time to get rid of the habits, behaviors, and lifestyle that we used to live and clothe ourselves in the armor of light. Take off lying and put on integrity. Take off stealing and put on charity. Take off sexual immorality and put on purity. Take off foul language and put on encouragement. Take off anger and put on love. Take off pride and put on humility. Take off anything that stands between you and God and put on a close, personal, meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ. Live your life with real meaning and purpose, and expectation of the day when you will see Him face to face. Do you want to be embroiled in sin when Jesus comes? I don't think so.

Five: Dress up. **"But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires."** (Romans 13:14 ESV) First of all, what does it mean to **"But put on the Lord Jesus Christ?"**

There's really nothing to it. We don't have to sew our own booties or stitch our own shirts that say "Christ" on them. For Paul explains in **"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."** (Galatians 3:27) We put on Christ at our baptism but we must also 'put on' Christ, as a continuing process in which we become more and more like Jesus every day. So, the longer we know Him the more we begin to look like Him in every aspect of our lives. It's kind of like it is with our children. The older they get the more they look and act like their parents. Putting on Jesus is just a matter of continuing to have faith in Jesus and the work Jesus is doing in our lives. This clothing is not itchy - like wool. It is not heavy - like the law. It isn't too big or too small. It keeps the heat of God's wrath out and protects our hearts from getting cold. It is the most comfortable clothing you could wear. People see our clothing, very seldom what is under it. If we keep putting on Jesus, people will see Jesus when they see us. If we are becoming more like Jesus, we will find ourselves sinning less and less

Six: Clean up ". . . **make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires."** (Romans 13:14 ESV) This means to leave no loopholes in your life and to close all the exits. If your weakness is drinking alcohol, you'll never clean up by keeping a can of beer in your refrigerator (just in case). If your weakness is internet pornography, you'll never kick the habit by leaving the filter off on your computer (just in case). If God reveals to you that you have a bad attitude, you'll never overcome it if you keep company with those "friends" who display the same bad attitude. Don't give yourself an avenue for sin.

Are you ready not to sin? Join me. It's time to stop pushing the snooze button in our Christian lives. It's time to pay up, wake up, wise up, get up, dress up and clean up.

September started off with Labor Day early this year. Twins Kay Nevil and Kathy Smeltzer were born on the second of September and decided to celebrate this year with a trip. They always get together for the occasion and this year they had a marvelous trip together. They left for southern Georgia to see Kay's son Josh. They stopped for a visit with Kathie and Jim Hess in South Carolina. Happy birthday, gals.

Josh Gearhart and Jessica Clark's wedding brought many outlying folks to Michigan. Kevin and Heather Lane drove from California pulling a camper and Jon, Berty, Scott, SheaLyn and friend Ashley Troxell flew here to celebrate the occasion. Jean Lane was so pleased to have her family all together for her grandson's wedding. She did not let them out of her sight!

Walter and Pam Layton became grandparents this month again. Walter's daughter Amy gave birth to twins—a boy, Chase and a daughter, Alison. They are both small, but doing okay. Congratulations to the whole Layton clan!

Our sympathy goes out this month to Lloyd and Sally Smith and family at the sudden loss of Lloyd's mother Lois Smith. She was in a tragic car accident that took her life. She is survived by her husband Herbert, 6 children and 13 grandchildren. She had trusted the Lord as her Savior so the family is comforted by the knowledge that they will see her again. Our prayers are with you all.

Dorothy Layton continues to have therapy on her leg at home. She is unable to get out alone yet. Hope to have a good report next month!

School started once more so there are some school pictures in the newsletter.

WINTER RETREAT 2010
FEBRUARY 5,6,7
NAZARENE DISTRICT CENTER
HOWELL MICHIGAN

Michigan Report

Aurine Moore

We kicked off the month with a coolly refreshing roof build for Labor Day weekend. Joe Smeltzer, Joel DeHaan, Branden Carrothers, Pat Gill, Tim, Brian, Jeff, Mike and Jim Begeman, Steve Chapman, Charlie Moore and Dave Fedor all did time on the roof as various people on the ground provided meals, ground clean-up and moral support. The shingles were completely torn off and replaced in sixteen hours over a two day period. Those who were around for the original building of the church said we were getting just a tiny taste of what the original builders experienced. Based on reports of those who participated in the roof repair, it was a good experience. Good fellowship and food, no slips off the roof and just minor injuries. Life doesn't get much better than that.

Dale and Geneva Begeman were away for their annual visit to Louisville, Kentucky for the Quartet Convention. Every time they go, they bring back background stories on songs, new music videos and leads on wonderful new songs we'll be hearing. They did well this trip and Geneva said this time around, Dale wore *her* out!

The sermon series by Elder Moore has been a thought-provoking and comforting tour through I John on love - it is what God is, it drives out fear, and it works a wondrous work in us. Meanwhile, Tim Begeman learned (and shared) a few new things this month. Tim confessed that he scours www.creation.com and recently learned that there are beneficial bacteria and that diarrhea can be a good thing for the body! While it was once believed that the appendix was a vestigial (e.g., no longer useful) organ, science has demonstrated that it remains a useful organ in helping the body process bacteria and infection. A visitor to church, Lee Krahenbuhl from Habitat for Humanity, delighted us with his application on this by saying that just as there are no vestigial organs in the human body, there are no vestigial (or useless) members in

the world!

Don Daniels has graciously and worshipfully exceeded the weekly worship service this month. The consequence of doing a good job in our church is being put on the calendar again - so get ready, Don!

School is back in session for students at our local church, including Jamesha Goins, Katie, Sydney and David Begeman, Gabe and Riley Vargas, as well as our teachers, the Smeltzers and Erin Gill. The news reports that talk about summer vacation may become a thing of the past - so let's enjoy the time children have now to do some playing, cloud studying, and camping and the annual exhilaration of back to school shopping and butterflies in the stomach from starting anew.

Jamie Carothers shared a wonderful video this month that readers can find if they search the internet for 'Adam Bender video'. It's a wonderful profile on a young boy with one leg who's an athlete and has a wonderfully joyous approach to using all God has blessed him with.

Terrie and Dave Fedor greatly enjoyed hosting visitors and Jean Lane enjoyed seeing all her children and grandchildren here for grandson Josh's wedding to Jessica Clark.

James Goins celebrated his 21st birthday at his mother's new home. Jamesha was a welcome sight as she ushered us to the right place and boy was she busy. His friends from the group home where he lives were there along with staff and scores of visitors from Marshalla and James prior church and new church, as well as high school friends of James. The day was a little rainy but the spirits were high, the decorations and food festive and good, and the company good. It was a great end for the month.

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

DON'T FORGET

C.O.L.O.R.
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
7 PM

**CHURCH OF THE
LORD OUR
RIGHTEOUSNESS**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

You'll Get Your Quilt

Sunday after church, a mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, "Don't be scared; you'll get your quilt."

Needless to say, the mom was perplexed.

Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about.

He said, "Be not afraid; thy comforter is coming."

Are You Hiring?

A woman walked up to the manager of a department store. "Are you hiring any help?" she asked.

"No," he said. "We already have all the staff we need."

"Then would you mind getting someone to wait on me?" she asked.

Everything is Wonderful

My face in the mirror
Isn't wrinkled or drawn.
My house isn't dirty,
The cobwebs are gone.

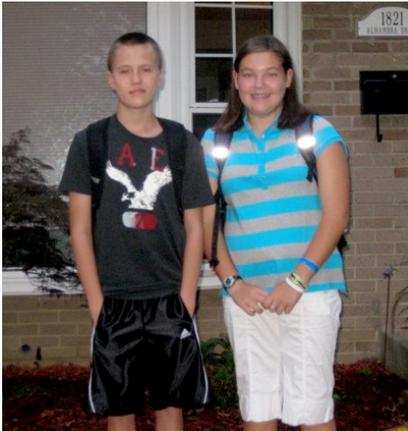
My garden looks lovely
And so does my lawn.
I think I might never
Put my glasses back on.



Shealynn & Scott Lane



Step One of the steeple removal



David Begeman & Shay Pinhey



Step Two of the steeple removal



Katie Begeman



Up pops Joel from the attic!

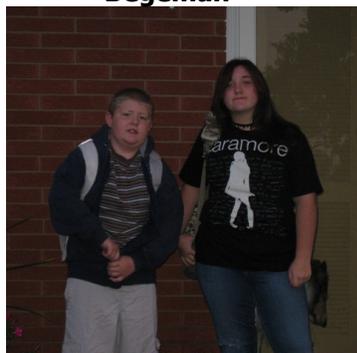
Step Three of the steeple removal



Day one. One tired crew!



Riley & Gabe Vargas



Tommy & Sydney Begeman