

March 2010

Cyberspace News

Michigan News

Youth Camp
June 20-25, 2010
Nazarene District
Center Howell
Michigan



Our Name: Church of the Lord Our Righteousness

Elder Charles Moore

Our church name tells you almost everything that you really need to know about our church. We firmly believe that we have no righteousness apart from what we receive by faith through Jesus Christ our Lord. Some people think that we are legalistic because we worship on Saturday. The fact is, we keep the Sabbath commandment, just like the rest of the orthodox Christian world keep all the other commandments imperfectly, even the commandment such as "You shall not kill". We understand that Isaiah's declaration applies to all of us, the best and the worst, "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; (Isaiah 64: 6) Isaiah isn't calling our sin or our depravities "filthy rags" but "our righteous acts". He is talking about the things that we do that are good, that would earn us a gold star or an "A" on anybody else's report card. On God's report card, He says they "are like filthy rags". What do we do with filthy rags? We might try to

wash them but we know filthy rags never come completely clean. Our best efforts are never pure or clean; they are always tainted by pride or some level of self interest so they are never clean enough. We usually just throw filthy rags away. As far as salvation is concerned that is what we must do with our righteous acts because no matter how good they are or how good we think we are, we will never be good enough to save ourselves. Being good is just not good enough.

Being a Pastor, I have been to a lot of funerals. Perhaps you have noticed like I have that it seems that everybody is going to heaven. Conventional wisdom seems to lead some to believe that no matter how bad the person was, unless they were a devout atheist or a child killer, they will go to heaven and certainly, the more good things a person does, the more certain that outcome will be. It would be

something to fervently hope for, that everyone would be saved, but the truth is, the default position in death is not heaven but hell and it is not everlasting life but the second death. So we must find a way so that we can go to heaven.

To do that we must echo Paul's words in Philippians "Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, *not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;*" (Philippians 3: 8-9) We must count all our righteous acts as the filthy rags that they are and by faith accept the righteousness that comes from God through faith in Christ.

The following two passages from Jeremiah gives us the Biblical basis for the name of our church, "Behold, *the days are coming,*" says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and

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righteousness in the earth. 6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this *is* His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." (Jeremiah 23: 5-6) The emphasis here is that the righteous branch is called "THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS"

Jeremiah 33: 15-16 offers very similar language when it says, "In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David A Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In those days Judah will be saved, And Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this *is the name* by which she will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." The emphasis here is that the reign of the righteous branch will bring righteousness to His people so that she is called "THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."

We believe that Jesus Christ is our righteousness. When Jeremiah spoke of "A Branch of righteousness" from the line of David, he was pointing to Jesus who is THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS and to a people of God that can claim that name, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

This exalted name applies only to Jesus Christ and His people. According to Paul, "Now all things *are of God*, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ . . . For He (God) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin *to be sin* for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:18, 21) When we put our faith in Jesus Christ, His righteousness is put into our account and we are declared righteous before God. What a joy it is to know that God has given us His righteousness. So that it is not about what we do whether good or bad, pure or evil, but what we believe in our heart about Jesus. Do we hang on to our righteous acts and claim that they can save us or do we cling to Jesus who died on the cross for our sin so that we can have everlasting life? Do what is truly a righteous act and trust in Jesus for life everlasting so that when you die, we can all say, "See you later", as members of the universal Church of the Lord Our Righteousness.

YOUTH CAMP 2010
JUNE 20-25
CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR
ON-LINE REGISTRATION

I know most of you are acquainted with March madness. I learned to appreciate that term in several ways this month. I watched a lot of basketball and suffered with hip pain (sciatica) and had madness about that! March ended with sunshine and my pain has diminished a lot so I am a lot happier.

The pictures in the newsletter this month are to complete Diane's map of the USA from before. Some pictures are old and some new. Hope you enjoy the families represented here. I do get a lot of responses from pictures. If you want to get in one of the pictures in the newsletter, please send me some. We love to hear from you.

Deborah Stone and I have enjoyed talking this month because she is home recouping from surgery. She is recovering fine and has tried to cheer up her granddaughter who broke her leg this month. Rebecca is in a cast and is looking forward to gifts from Grandma Deborah. Hope both of you are fine soon!

Rox-Ann and David Brugman live in Hillsdale, Michigan and are doing well at this time. Grandpa Charlie and Grandma Aurine Moore enjoy the kids being close enough to spend time with them. They come over in our area so we see them at church occasionally.

Lloyd and Sally Smith and Ethel Johnson traveled to California to visit daughter Emily and family over their spring school break. They had the bonus of getting together with Roy and Bennie Gee for dinner one evening. How wonderful Christian friendships are!

Leslie Miller (Kansas) wrote this month to share the joy she had of praying with her daughter Rebecca, the Lord's Prayer. Rebecca wanted to pray with Mama so Leslie said each phrase and she repeated each phrase. What a joyful time for Leslie!

Katy Nevil traveled to Haiti this month on a missions trip with some other college students. She attends Spring Arbor College and is planning another trip to France in the summer. She is the daughter of Kay and Jim Nevil.

Rachel Sottile finished her first session of chemotherapy and writes on Facebook that she is feeling better each day. Please keep praying for her! Her sister Laurie Eckles made her annual trip to Rochester, New York for her usual physical check-up and was able to spend some time with Sonya Pease again. Glad you two can get together.

May the Lord bring April blessings to you and yours this month!

Michigan Report

Aurine Moore

Besides being the month of the Worm Moon (or more aesthetically pleasing the month of the Robin Moon), March was an amazingly full month in terms of our church life and our members and friends lives outside of church. Many of our members were able to attend a special event at the Monroe Expo Center to see Nick Vujicic whose ministry, *Life without Limbs*, powerfully witnesses to God's special love and power in a believer's life. Then we enjoyed a very special birthday party at church for Dale Begeman's 80th birthday. Many family and church friends came to celebrate with cards, cake, food and love and to see some displays and a special 'life of Dale' book that Geneva and family completed under his nose, without tipping him off to who it was for. Also this month, many of our members and church friends made a jaunt to Toledo to enjoy the Gaithers' concert there. While there, they ran into the Tedrows of the Perrysburg Church of God Seventh Day and enjoyed a good reunion visit which we hope will lead to others.

We also truly enjoyed the opportunity to share congregations and pastoral sermons on the 'hard sayings of Jesus' with our good friends from the Petersburg Church of God Seventh Day. We brought the two congregations together to kick off the four week series and switched pastors for two of the weeks. John Schott was to have been our first speaker but his dear mother died and he and his family travelled east for the funeral service. The Monroe congregation enjoyed hosting the Petersburg church instead for a sermon by Pastor Charlie Moore, on the first of four "difficult sayings of Jesus" when he spoke of the consternation of Jesus' followers when He said His followers must eat of His body and drink of His blood. The next week Tim Schott came to Monroe and preached on the need to love our enemies (ouch), which means to wish for and act upon what is best for our enemies, simply because we are commanded to and that's what Jesus showed us to do. While Tim Schott was doing that, Tim Begeman took a message to

Petersburg that he brought the next week to us in Monroe, *Are You Blind?* In this talk he gave us some interesting scientific information from a website called ted.com about the brain's neurology in order to illustrate some biblical mysteries about sight. One interesting thought was that the more you know biblically and spiritually about Jesus, the more you will see because the more your mind can bring to the task.

Joe Smeltzer was a hit facilitating Sabbath School Superintendent and Nate Valentine as our gracious Worship Emcee. Bible studies this month allowed us to focus on Jonah, Ruth and Paul's letters to Timothy.

Tommy Begeman and Grandpa Dale both had surgery at the same hospital on the same day by the same doctor - fortunately not at the same time - Tommy for tonsils and Dale to remove a skin tumor. Geneva Begeman got to be there not only for Dale's birthday party which she organized but both her men's recovery following surgery. Maybe it was too much fun because she spent the latter part of the month really suffering with sciatica. Please pray for her full recovery. Ben Smeltzer got a new job doing something he is absolutely gifted at and passionate about - evaluating and testing video games. Way to go, Ben! Katie Begeman passed her driver's exam, Marshala Goins is thankful that all the redesign and rehab of her home is complete and James is with her five days a week. Sisters Jamesha and Elizabeth have been wonderful in helping to provide for his care. By the way, Jamesha is now a forward on her school's soccer team. Sydney Begeman finished her first season of basketball successfully. Riley Vargas won the principal's award at school for something that doesn't surprise anyone who knows her - an award for being a helpful and caring person. Jeff Begeman survived 12 hours on his feet at an auto show in St. Louis Missouri and even got to talk to some people who hadn't been transfixed by the attractive models stationed next to his location.

Until next month, may you be aware of God's abounding presence, wherever you walk this month!

Amish Computer Virus

My heart sank as I read the spam that began, "By opening this e-mail, you have activated the Amish computer virus."

Then I realized that not only was my computer in jeopardy, so was my reputation as it continued, "Since the Amish don't have computers, this works on the honor system. Please delete all your files. Thank you."

Submitted to Reader's Digest by Tracie Walker.

**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

Did Noah Go Fishing?

A Sunday school teacher was teaching her young students about Noah and the ark. She asked them what they thought Noah may have done to pass the time in the ark for forty days.

After waiting a few moments, the teacher suggested, "Maybe he did a lot of fishing. How about that?"

One little boy gave her a funny look and said, "I don't think so. It's kinda hard to fish with just two worms!"

Received from Doc's Daily Chuckle.



Bennie & Roy Gee



Mick & Wanda Arquette



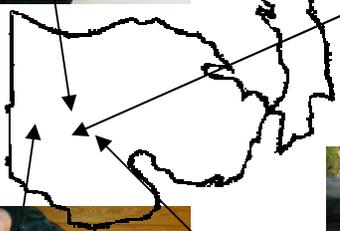
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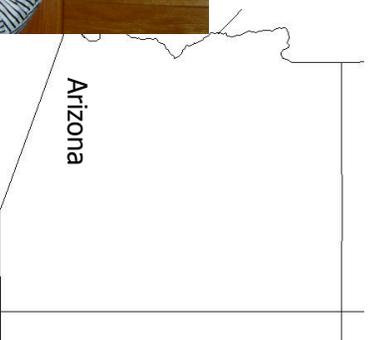


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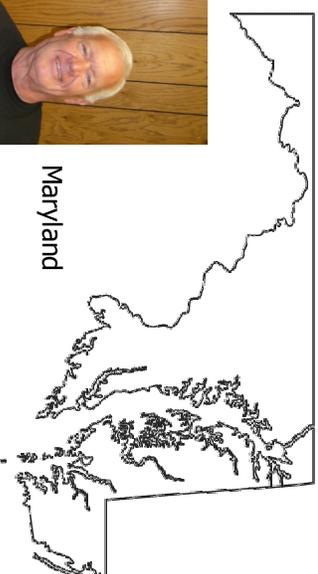


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