

April 2010

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Michigan News

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June 20-25, 2010  
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## The mission of the Church

Elder Charles Moore

Have you ever thought about the mission of the church, what it is supposed to do and what it is supposed to stand for? We did a few years ago and we developed a mission statement. Some guidelines in writing a mission statement include, "A mission statement is a succinct statement that conveys your organization's reason for being. A mission statement should be more than a series of hokey buzz words strung together or a stiff, bland dictum. Instead, a mission statement's purpose is to convey your organization's reason for being to your staff, board, and members of the community. The statement should be clear, powerful, and broad enough to guide your decision-making and help explain your organization's efforts to potential funders." From [http://nonprofitmanagement.suite101.com/article.cfm/writing\\_a\\_mission\\_statement](http://nonprofitmanagement.suite101.com/article.cfm/writing_a_mission_statement)

The Church of the Lord Our Righteousness' Mission Statement misses the mark of being "succinct" but I do believe it does fulfill the later criteria "clear, powerful, and

broad enough to guide your decision-making and help explain your organization's efforts to potential funders." Read the following and see what I mean.

### **The Church of the Lord Our Righteousness' Mission Statement**

**To Love God with all  
our heart, soul, and  
mind. (Mat. 22:37) We  
show our love:**

**By worshipping Him** in Spirit and in truth (John 4:24), by lifting up our voices to Him in praise (1Chron. 16:23-36; Heb. 13:15), by calling upon His name in prayer (Ps. 145:18-19) and by keeping His commandments (John 14:15).

**To Love our neighbor as  
ourselves. (Mat. 22:38) We  
show our love:**

**By fulfilling the Great  
Commission,**  
providing authentic  
Christian voices as  
shining lights in a

wilderness of religious confusion and discouragement, holding fast the Word of Life so that seekers may find a straight, well-lit path to the foot of the Cross and His throne of grace, proclaiming the Good News that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son to die for it so that no one must suffer the wrath to come, but all can call upon the name of Jesus and be saved (Mat, 28:19-20; Phil. 2:15-16; John 3:16; 1Thess. 1:10, Rom. 10:10).

**By upholding God's  
commandments,** which serve as a schoolmaster to lead them to Jesus Christ but after they receive Jesus as our Savior, the commandments leads them into a present-day freedom from the bondage of sin (Gal. 3:22-26; Rom. 6:15-23).

**By serving our  
community** with food, drink, shelter, clothing, visiting the sick and the

*(Continued on page 2)*

imprisoned and showing God's love for all the people not in word only but in loving acts of mercy and caring (Mat. 25: 34-40; 1John 3:18).

**To Love one another.** (John 15:12) We show our love:

**By gathering around the cross** in a community of shared lives, laying down our lives for one another (1John 3:16), serving one another (Gal. 5:13), praying for one another and confessing our faults to one another (James 5:16), exhorting one another (Heb. 3:13), admonishing one another (Rom. 15:14), building up one another (1Thess. 5:11), comforting one another (2 Cor. 1:3-6), forbearing one another (Col. 3:13), bearing one another's burden (Gal. 6:2), forgiving one another (Eph 4:32), provoking one another to love and good deeds (Heb. 10:24), and offering one another a temporary haven of rest from the sins of the world.

The reason that you want your mission statement to be succinct is so that it is easy to remember and convey to others. The beauty of this mission statement is that it can be succinctly stated as: Our mission is to Love God with all our heart, soul, and mind. Love our neighbor as ourselves. Love one another. If that is still too long for you to remember it can even be more succinctly stated as: Our mission is to Love God and Love people.

This statement may be easy to remember and convey to others but it is not easy to do. Our love is so puny and self-centered. Fortunately God does not call us to love Him and other people without His help **"Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."** (Romans 5: 5) We are called to love God and to love people with God's love, not our love. The mission of the church is fulfilled when we allow God to love through us by the work of the Holy Spirit in us. There will more on this in future

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

April in Michigan this year has been better than most. We have had sunshine and warmth followed by cool and cloudy. I think the sun has outdone the cool anyway! First year for many years that we have had no snow.

On the last day of March I got a call from a proud grandfather, Lloyd Smith, that son Kenny and wife Jennie had a beautiful baby boy whom they named Isaac Harwell. Congratulations, you two!

Ellen Momberger wrote that she had enjoyed a visit recently from her daughter Karen. She flies out from Maryland and they have some good time together. She even had a new quilt to keep her company on her trip home.

Rip and Norma Ripley are getting along by keeping mentally active. Norma isn't doing so well these days. Rip and I had a wonderful long visit on the phone. Reminiscing is a great way to visit with us old folks!

Dorothy Layton reports that Walter's twin granddaughters were dedicated in the Adventist Church recently and they celebrated with a wonderful dinner out afterward. Family times can't be beat. Deborah Stoner has recovered from surgery and her granddaughter Rebecca will get the cast off her leg soon. Last month I told you she had broken it.

Kathy and Joe Smeltzer and Kay and Jim Nevil traveled to Florida to visit Dad and Mom Charles, David and Ruth, over Easter break. They had a wonderful time together. On the way home they visited Dewey Chapman and Kenny and Jennie Smith and their new baby Isaac. Dewey has been on a diet and lost quite a bit of weight. It has perked him up physically. Way to go, Dewey!

We are so sorry that this month Dale's sister Ila Baker passed away. At the funeral we were able to see some family. It was so nice to see Rachel Sottile and Laurie Eckles. They are both looking good. Rachel is now going through radiation treatments so we wish you well, Rae. Laurie and sons had just gotten back from Florida where they celebrated her father-in-law's birthday.

May is here so get out your summer clothes and put the winter boots away!

There are no mistakes. The events we bring upon ourselves, no matter how unpleasant, are necessary in order to learn what we need to learn; whatever steps we take, they're necessary to reach the places we've chosen to go.

## Michigan Report

Aurine Moore

April lived up to its folklore name of the *Growing Moon*, *Planter's Moon*, *Seed Moon*, *Flower Moon*, and *Awakening Moon*. The flowers by the entrance of the Monroe church bloomed just in time for the annual Salad and Dessert Bowl and are vibrantly purple and beautiful. The phlox is flocking, the buds are popping on the trees, and though it be coolish, the sun is good.

The month began with a service on Good Friday night that some of our members went to that was hosted by the Evangelical Association. It didn't follow a Good Friday theme, but instead focused on the need for Christians in Monroe, regardless of denomination, to be brothers and sisters in Christ - what we call 'gathering around the foot of the cross'. Later in the month, Pastor Moore was quoted in the Monroe Evening News as a part of an article on how pastors from different churches in Monroe have been coming together to pray for revival in Monroe.

The next day, we enjoyed the final shared sermon series on the hard sayings of Jesus by a sermon at the Petersburg Church of God Seventh Day. Pastor John Schott spoke on "The Heart of the Matter", based on Matthew 5:21-22 and helped us think about how important it is that we give people respect because they are made by God. Pastor Moore spoke about the resurrection. We enjoyed our Bible study with them as well as a wonderful lunch and hugs and catching up with friends. We even got to see Victor Burford who commuted home for the weekend from his New York City job. Jean Vanderhorst, one of their members, has been in a lot a back pain and needs our prayers.

Later, we began a four-week Bible study series called "Live Like You Were Dying", because we actually are you know, which is helping us use our time well. It's practical and loaded with 'practice it' homework assignments.

The Ladies' Salad and Dessert Bowl was wonderful and well-attended. Diane Begeman's friend from the basket shop, Nanci Poling, gave a really practical and uplifting talk, based on her own experiences as she recovered from rotator cuff surgery, about how to proactively help a friend or loved one who is going

through an illness. Just one of the good ideas was to call your friend daily, ask if they'd like to talk that day, and if not, just let them know you are thinking of them and will call again soon - and then call again! Later that day, we learned that Ila Baker, oldest of the Begeman siblings who were so instrumental in founding our present day church, our "Little General" had taken a turn for the worse. Several church members were able to make it up to the hospital and be with her and her daughters, Sue Trueman and Sandy Fine, in the hours before she died. Ila's funeral service, held that Monday, was well attended by the relatives and friends who were able to come to be with each other as they remembered her.

A lot of folks traveled this month as part of the Easter week vacation periods, including the Jeff and Melinda Begeman family, New York City to see a Broadway Show and the World Trade Center memorial and Kathy and Joe Smeltzer, down "South" to, among other things, visit Dewey Chapman, who's looking good after having lost a lot of weight, and the Kenny Smith family. I mistakenly reported last month Ben Smeltzer got a job in the internet game testing field but learned he is having success, rather, in the competitive game circuit and loving it. Still not bad. . .

Tim Begeman was a guest speaker at Elizabeth Pifer's youth group class, helping the students to learn how to evaluate the claims of different religions. Diane was gone for an annual basket convention where she works to sell conventioners products her company sells. Pastor Moore shared that the song, "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" was one of his pre-Christian "seven touches of the gospel" that brought him to faith in Jesus.

The month ended with Geneva being back in the swing of things, after suffering with sciatica pain; our friend Bob Young, giving us three songs for variety time and reprising one of them as part of our communion service; learning that Marshala Goins was laid up in the hospital (but safely home by now); and the annual Summer Camp staff training program.

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

Be not angry that you cannot make others as you wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself as you wish to be.

CHURCH OF THE  
LORD OUR  
RIGHTEOUSNESS

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What the Bible Means

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly,  
"I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you know what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy," the young boy replied excitedly.  
It stands for "Basic Information Before Leaving Earth."

# LADIES TEA



Mary Ann Allyn, Melinda Begeman,  
Christina Allyn, Katie Begeman



Connie Lozano, Aurine Moore, Virginia, Hannah Begeman,  
RoxAnn Brugman, Mary Begeman, Cheryl Lymond,  
Francis Berry



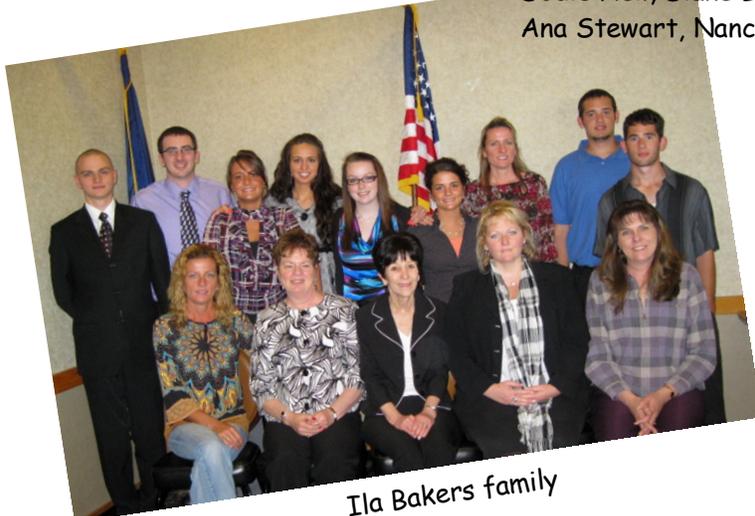
Geneva Begeman, Marilyn Suydam,  
Ethel Johnson, Sally Smith



Jennie, Carol Moss, Terrie Fedor, Riley Vargas,  
Jamie Carothers, Erin Gill, Jean Lane



Dodie Heil, Diane Begeman,  
Ana Stewart, Nanci Poling



Ila Bakers family



Tim & Renee Schott