

May 2010

Cyberspace News

Michigan News

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



Our Mission: To Love God Back

Elder Charles Moore

We saw last month that the mission of the church is to love God and people but how exactly does loving God look? **Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'** (Matthew 22: 37)

Certainly it is good to tell God that you love Him. But our mission statement says, "We show our love: By worshipping Him in Spirit and in truth (John 4:24)" **John 4: 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.**" The worship of God can be done only through Jesus who is the truth and expresses God's invisible nature and by virtue of the Holy Spirit who opens to a believer the new realm of the kingdom.

Our first purpose in life is to worship God. It is our primary objective, our highest priority. **Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. (Romans 12: 1)**

The key word here is

"offer". Worship is all about offering ourselves to God. Why do we worship? It says here that we offer ourselves to God **in view of God's mercy.** Worship is our response to God's love. God made the first move. We love because he first loved us.

What does it mean when it says offering ourselves is our "spiritual act of worship"? The word in the Greek for "spiritual" is "logikos" which means reasonable and is where the word "logical" comes from. In other words, worship makes sense - it is the logical response to God's love. What do we offer God? We offer Him our love. How do we do that? Going back to Matthew 22:37, God wants us to love Him 3 ways:

a. God wants us to love Him passionately; we are told to love God with our heart and soul. This means that worship engages our emotions. I know that for many this is difficult. I find it funny that people can yell and scream and get

worked up at a meaningless baseball game but then come to church before the God of eternity and spend the whole time looking lifeless and asleep. I think that sometimes in the church we have sacrificed joy on the altar of reverence. God doesn't want our duty. He wants our desire. God doesn't want - "Oh, okay. It's Sabbath so I had better go worship." And we get there and sing "Oh, I love you, Jesus" with no emotion and our brain switched off. God doesn't want ritual and religion and rules and regulations. He wants a relationship. He's passionate about it and about you!

b. God wants us to love Him thoughtfully - with our minds. Worship is focusing our mind and thoughts and our attention on God. In many religions the idea of worship is to put your mind into neutral, sort of lose your mind to the universe. However, the truth is that God wants us to worship Him thoughtfully. That takes energy. That means not just going through the motions but really thinking about what you are saying and doing and that isn't easy.

Martin Luther had a puppy that was at the table looking for some food from his

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master, and watched with open mouth and motionless eyes. Luther said, "Oh, if I could only pray the way this dog watches the meal! All his thoughts are concentrated on the piece of meat. Otherwise he has no thought, wish or hope." God wants us to focus our heart and our attention on Him but that's difficult for us. Like steering a car it requires constant effort but that is what He wants of us.

c. From the book of Mark's parallel account God wants us to love Him practically as well - with all our strength. **Mark 12: 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'**

God wants us to see Him with our minds and sense Him with our heart and soul but he also wants us to serve Him with our strength. One of the ways I express my love to my wife is by doing things for her. Remember that the word "offer" is the essence of worship. We offer our lives to God. This includes everything we do. This isn't just in church. It happens in the ordinary, routine, mundane, things of real life where you say, "God, I'm going to do this for You" whether that is taking out the garbage or making beds or milking a cow. Everything can be turned into an act of worship if you do it with all your heart and soul as though you were working for the Lord.

Get this one truth, because it will revolutionize your life. In life it is not what you do that matters; it is who you do it for. **Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,** You say, "I'm going to do this as if I'm doing it for you, God and no one else"

You were made to know and love God. So I challenge you to make as the No 1 goal of your life before everything else "to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." Westminster Short Catechism.

Two Kinds of People

Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

Which are you?

Today is the first day of June, which means May has gone and I must write about the happenings for that month.

We have had wonderfully warm weather and loads of rain. The flowers are blooming and the strawberries are ripe. They are both great treats.

SheaLyn Lane graduated this month from high school in Phoenix, AZ and they had a small family gathering for Berty's family from Ohio who were able to attend along with Kane and Jennie Begeman who live nearby. She is going to have a couple of June parties also, one will be in Michigan and one at home in Cave Creek. We do send congratulations your way, SheaLyn.

We send our deepest sympathies this month to Leslie Arquette Miller from BelAire, Kansas, whose mother Wanda Arquette passed away quite suddenly. Leslie's parents were still living here in Belleville.,Michigan. Wanda was only 53 and many of you will remember her as a great favorite of Elder and Myrtle Wilkinson. When the trump' of God shall sound there will be some wonderful reunions in that land where we never will grow old!

In Maryland at the Layton's home place there is a lot of activity. They are in the midst of packing up memories and finding a new smaller place for Dorothy to live. Many church members have visited this home place and enjoyed wonderful reunions there. We are looking forward to visiting you at your new home, Dorothy. We need to pray that Dorothy will find the perfect place to live.

We ended May with a shower for Isaac Harwell Smith at church hosted by Grandpa (Lloyd) and Grandma (Sally) and enjoyed by everyone who could come by. They served a delicious breakfast. Isaac enjoyed being passed from one set of loving arms to another.

Tim and Diane Begeman were happy to hear from eldest son Kane and wife Jennie that they will get to welcome a grandchild into their family in December. The miles between Glendale, Arizona and Michigan will be crossed many times soon!

June is a great month to write notes to family and friends and tell them you love them!

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

Michigan Report

Aurine Moore

May is said to be the month of the Flower Moon, the Bud Moon or the Hare Moon. Why, you may well ask? Because there are an awful lot of flowers in the ground, buds on the trees and bushes and wild bunnies in our yards. There were other traditional spring events occurring this month - track events, graduations, and even a baby shower. Becka Smeltzer suffered an injury while running in an MSU track event in Indiana, but by month's end, we heard the good news that her injury will heal with rest. Two of our Michigan members graduated from institutions of higher learning this month. Ben Smeltzer graduated from Monroe County Community College. He also has been in demand working at the Monroe Country Club, especially since he knows how to treat the ladies on Mother's Day. Chelsey Begeman Connor celebrated her graduation from the University of Toledo with family and friends and has been accepted into a Master's level program (against stiff competition) to do language therapy with children. Brian & Kate Begeman celebrated their 1 year anniversary. Another annual event, the Spring Clean -up day was postponed, not for weather reasons but because too many of the cleaners were called away for family and community obligations. However, as Dave Fedor said, "It's on the calendar" - so off went the Fedors and son-in-law Pat Gill to do the bushes and yard work on a glorious spring day. The following week was well attended as well by the rest of the cleaning crew and rounded off by Kathy Smeltzer going a week later to clean and wax the floors. The place is looking spiffy.

Carrie DeHaan completed the second of three tests she has to take during her residency that will be required to get her doctor's degree. We know it's a heavy work load but to us on the outside looking in, it looks like the time is just flying by. Before you know it, she'll be figuring out where she wants to do her medical practice and hang her degree on the wall.

Don Daniels and Geneva Begeman have both struggled this month with back and leg pains. Don made Geneva a special contraption like his own for back support to ease the pain. Between that and much prayer and careful nurturing, we are praying they both recover well. Butch Lymond, husband to Cheryl, has been having a lot of pain and illness so we pray for his recovery as well.

The Echoes of Happiness had an opening on their schedule and arranged to do a special performance on a Saturday evening this month. The Echoes sang beautifully, as usual. What a special treat. We especially enjoyed seeing members of Sally and Lloyd's families that evening.

Tim Begeman was just a tad bereft to be without his Diane for a time. She had traveled to Glendale Arizona by plane to travel back home on a great 'road trip' to Michigan with Kane and Jennie. While there Kane and Jennie told Diane that she and Tim were going to be Grandparents.

Marshala Goins reports doing very well following her lengthy stay in the hospital with an infection. She is grateful for all the help and peace of mind she had with Elizabeth and Charles providing such good care for James and how proud she is of her daughter Jamesha as well.

Some nice community wide events were held in Monroe this month, including a time of prayer and praise at Loranger Square on Pentecost Sunday, with about 500 participants from a dozen or so churches in Monroe, including ours. There was also a great performance done by the Jefferson drama club where Kathy and Joe Smeltzer teach, of the musical Godspell. The seniors at Tendercare Nursing Home made special efforts to let everyone know how much they look forward to the monthly services. An employee asked a member of our group to pray with the father of one of the terminally ill patients (Jennifer) while another simply appreciated having prayer said for her over the loss of her husband.

We enjoyed having Stephanie Fasbender in Monroe and having her worship with us. She has moved back to Pontiac to be closer to resources she needs but has already been visited by her friend Jeff at her new location.

The sermon themes focused on the New Testament, like the Man with Two Mothers (Moses), an actor in a Passion Play who carried a real wooden cross (not a hollow styrofoam one) so that he could "feel the weight of the cross", and how to become free - by being Christ's slave.

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

**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

Seven Words to Live by—Comments Gathered from a few of our Folks.

Dave Fedor -- Always do your best and be satisfied.

Joel Valentine -- Think positive, live positive all the time.

Charlie Moore -- To live life with simplicity, humility, honesty.

Aurine Moore -- Born lost, heard, believed, found and thankful.

Jeff Begeman -- Lovin' God and lovin' each other.

Kathy Smeltzer -- Wherever I am a missionary I'll be.

Nate Valentine -- Captains and kings depart, ancient sacrifice stands!

Geneva Begeman -- Grace will always be greater than sin.

Melinda Begeman -- Live life as an example to others.

Don Daniels -- Lord, please have more of my heart.