



## Motivated to move on in 2011.

Elder Charles Moore

As many of you might know, I love movies. I was surfing the other night for a movie and I landed on the movie "City Slickers" as it played one of the movie's classic scenes. John Ortberg describes the scene this way. "Billy Crystal plays a confused, dissatisfied thirty-something character with a vague sense that life is passing him by. Jack Palance—ancient, leathery, wise to the ways of the world (a saddlebag with eyes)—asks Crystal if he would like to know the secret of life. 'It's this,' holding up a single finger. 'The secret of life is your finger?' asks Crystal. 'It's one thing,' Palance replies. The secret of life is pursuing one thing.' Somehow this resonates with Billy Crystal's character. His life is scattered. He is torn between his obligation to his family and his desire for career advancement; between his need for

security and his need for excitement. He is divided somehow. His life is about many things and so he senses, it is about nothing. So what is the one thing? Jack Palance can't tell Billy Crystal. 'You have to find it for yourself.'"

As Christians we have some definite ideas on where to look for that one thing. Paul gives us some advice in **Philippians 3: 13 . . . but one thing I do: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead,** "But one thing I do" Paul learned one of the secrets of moving on is concentration! He's saying I'm going to give my life to one thing of value and purpose!

You may be asking yourself, "What was the one thing Paul did?" **Philippians 3: 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of**

the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. So Paul says I've got one thing in sight - I'm reaching for the goal in this life and the prize in the next life! This is the secret to purpose!

You can think of it this way. Take a huge river running freely through the land. If you dam it up you have now turned that river into something very powerful for the use of energy! But if that river overflows the banks, all you get is a swamp! You could say that our lives are a lot like a river with two great banks on each side, with the banks being made up of God's will and God's work in our lives. Sometimes instead of being that person who submits to God's will and work in our lives, our lives spill over the banks, turning our lives into a swamp! That is not God's will for our life!

Paul is saying that 'my life is in a full court press!' in accord with God's will. If you are in a place where you are saying, "I'm not where I want to be" - then press on! You may be

(Continued on page 2)

Ladies Tea  
February 26  
2 pm  
Aurine Moore,  
guest speaker

Check out the  
website  
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saying, "I'm discouraged in my marriage" - then press on! You may be saying, "I'm tired of my job" - then press on! You may be saying, "I've been abused most of my life" -then press on!

It will take more than aspiration, inspiration and perspiration - it takes determination! My generation, the Baby Boomer Generation struggles with determination! I agree that my Dad's generation, as Tom Brokaw says, is the "greatest generation"!

We Baby Boomers can learn a lot from the greatest generation! Because that generation has gone through more struggles, troubles and sorrow than virtually any other generation since the Civil War! Unfortunately, Baby Boomers have been raised to think that success is something easy. We don't know much about determination! We have an attitude that if the boss is unreasonable - just quit! If she burns the biscuits - just get a divorce! If the subject is too hard - just drop it! If the girl friend gets pregnant - just get an abortion! If the peer pressure is too strong - just give in and follow the crowd! Where's the determination? Someone has said that "People are like wheelbarrows, trailers, or canoes: they need to be pushed, pulled or paddled."

Lou Holtz once said, "If you don't make a total commitment to whatever you are doing then you start looking to bail out the first time the boats starts to leak. It's tough enough getting the boat to shore with everyone rowing, let along when a guy stands up and starts putting his life jacket on."

When life delivers hard blows---we need determination to fight back. When life dumps trouble on our doorstep - we need determination to shovel it away. When life destroys our dreams - we need determination to believe for new ones!

Because of the mercy of God, the grace of God and the forgiveness of God - it doesn't matter where you've been! What matters the most today is not where you've come from, but where you're going and do you have determination to get there?

Failure is never fatal; you could say that failure is never a person in life, but a place in life! Let's get past that place in 2011! Remember that you are child of God so press on! Remember that the creator of heaven and earth loves you so press on! Remember that Jesus the Christ died for you so press on! Winston Churchill echoes Paul's thought when he said, "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

## Cyberspace News

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In January I believe I bragged about what wonderful weather we had had in December and lo and behold January 2011 came marching in. It brought with it some cold and some snow. I have to say, though, that we have been more fortunate than many areas of the country. Atlanta for instance!

I was sad to hear that Laurie Eckles broke her foot again and now has a hard cast to haul around. This, too, shall pass, Laurie.

I had some good news from the Ripley's. Norma and Rip are both at home and on the mend again. Later in the month Norma fell and had a head injury, but after all the tests, found out it that was just the outside and not the inside that had injuries. Hope she is feeling well again.

Dorothy Layton is on the move again. They are packing and she is going to live in a senior housing place. I am sure that will have some fun activities. I will give you her address next month.

Ruth and David Charles made the trip back to home in Florida after a long recuperation at Rob and Lynn Vaughn's. As I am sure you remember, they came to Michigan for Thanksgiving and stayed until mid-January because Ruth became ill. They had a good trip home and are trying to get things back to normal.

Kane and Jennie Begeman entertained Tim and Diane Begeman in Arizona this month by letting them hold their new granddaughter as much as they wanted during their trip to be introduced to Ainsley. I don't think they liked leaving her to come home. Jennie has had some stomach difficulties since delivering Ainsley, and may soon have to have some surgery. Diane is looking forward to another visit to get some "holding" time in again while Jennie recovers. They were happy to see the Jon and Berty Lane family also while they were visiting.

Later in the month, Mike, Gemma and Jack Begeman also got to visit the two families on a trip to Arizona. Seems there is a regular path to the Arizona families.

We are leaving the month of January behind and we also hope, the weather! Just keep smiling, I am sure spring will be here soon.

## Michigan Report

Aurine Moore



According to the website [www.historyorb.com](http://www.historyorb.com), January 31<sup>st</sup> was a significant day in history. In 1851 Gail Borden, of Elsie the Cow Borden, announced the invention of evaporated milk. Just 20 years later in 1871 in San Francisco, millions of birds flew overhead and totally darkened the sky. A mere 25 years following that, in 1906, the strongest ever recorded earth quake (8.6) occurred in Columbia, South America. It's not connected - but now you know. . .

With the start of the New Year, a lot of good things have happened to the folks at the local Church of the Lord our Righteousness. Diane and Tim Begeman went to Phoenix to see their first grandchild, beautiful Ainsley, and of course Ainsley's parents, Kane and Jenny Begeman. The visit was short and very sweet and commemorated with many photos. Dale and Geneva Begeman have enjoyed the stress of getting Dale ready for his snowy-driving-day stress test. He passed with flying colors. Geneva, who drove, may not have! Pat Conley tells us she is being joined on her very successful diet by her husband Steve. We hope to see more of his presence and less of *him* the next time he is able to visit us with her. Meanwhile, their daughter Angie has a new job. Tim Begeman recently got a new position and a nice raise from his current boss, in addition to the part time work he is also doing for a previous employer. Melinda Begeman reports she is just blessed to keep the job she has.

Our bi-monthly sing at Magnum Nursing Home (formerly Tender Care) was the best attended ever in our recent memory. We enjoyed seeing Judy Begeman who was there, as well as the many other friends we have made there. At the local church's annual business meeting, we elected Terrie Fedor as a new local representative. This will give Diane Begeman a well-deserved break from things for a while. Congratulations to both

Terrie and Diane. The Board now consists of Aurine Moore, Tim Begeman (dual position), Dave Fedor (dual position), Terrie Fedor, and Melinda Begeman. If you have suggestions for church activities or concerns, please contact one of the local board members.

There was a Sabbath when it was noted that several members must have received a note in their dreams the night before to wear something red to church the next day. It's remarkable how often people spontaneously arrive looking as though a memo went out - wear miss-matched socks today, wear lavender, wear your coat into the sanctuary today.

This month's sermons included one on the Ten New Years Resolutions from the Wisest Man (Proverbs 3:1-31) and the church's mission statement which comes from Acts 26:18: to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.' Another good one was on I Peter 4:1 and how one of the benefits of suffering is to allow you to say, with great emphasis and determination, I can make a clean break with sin and truly say, "I'm **done** with sin!"

Ruth and David Charles visited us one last time before they returned to Florida. It was a good day for visiting and hugging them and admonishing them to take care of themselves and find someone to help out with the day to day business. We love them and hope all goes well. We heard recently from David that indeed they made it back and are taking steps to get things settled.

During their visit, we were blessed to hear Kay and Jim Nevil sing for Variety Time together and to hear Kathy Smeltzer reprise her Christmas song "It's about the Cross." The entire service was a blessing.



**YOUTH CAMP 2011  
JULY 31 - AUGUST 5**

CHURCH OF THE  
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## CAT DEFINITIONS

- Door: something a cat always wants to be on the other side of.
- Energy: the element of vitality cats always have an oversupply of until you try to play with them.
  - Human: an automatic door opener for cats.
  - Purranioia: the fear that your cat is up to something.
    - Purraphernalia: a cat's personal belongings.
    - Purrch: any favored feline napping spot.
    - Purrchase: anything bought for a cat.
    - Purrfume: the scent of an open can of tuna.
      - Purrgatory: a houseful of kittens.
    - Purrmission: a feline hunting expedition.

