

May 2011



Wisdom from above for living here below.

Elder Charles Moore

have to deeply desire to have wisdom and go after it. That's how valuable wisdom is! It's a treasure! But

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When times are tough as they are now... our country at war, many people laid off from their jobs, uncertainty about the future...we need hope for these difficult times. How can we make it through? How can we ride out the storm? One way is with wisdom. Wisdom is a very powerful and at times elusive quality that only a few seem to possess in large amounts. The word "wisdom" is clearly a main theme throughout Proverbs, occurring 41 times throughout the book. Wisdom has been defined and described in many different ways. The American Heritage Dictionary defines "wisdom" as "understanding of what is true, right, or lasting; common sense; good judgment; learning". The word that is used for "wisdom" in both the Old and New Testaments carries with it the meaning of having a "skill in living, following God's design and avoiding moral pitfalls". The Bible Knowledge Commentary defines wisdom as "being skilled in godly living". Here's what the Bible says about the importance and value of heavenly wisdom. **Proverbs 8:**

11 ... for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.

So we should search for wisdom like a precious gem. Our search for wisdom should be an exhaustive one. Solomon's advice, **"My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God."** (Proverbs 2: 1-5) **"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."** (Proverbs 9:10)

Solomon gives us action words like, accept, store up, turning, applying, call out, cry aloud, look for, and search for wisdom. We

where will we go in the hunt for wisdom? We will scour books, listen to tapes, and listen to anyone who sounds remotely wise. One of our biggest problems is that we look for heavenly wisdom in the wrong places. Our search for wisdom, heavenly wisdom, will lead us ultimately to one place: God.

The source of wisdom, **"For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."** (Proverbs 2: 6) If you are searching for heavenly wisdom, you should go straight to the heavens, straight to God. There are a couple of different ways that God gives us wisdom: **"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind."** (James 1: 5-6) God gives it to us when we ask in faith, not doubting His promise to make us wise.

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God gives us wisdom through His Word. The Bible is not just a book that's full of history and stories. It is how God reveals Himself to us. It is how God reveals His plans to us. It is how God has revealed His son Jesus to us who were not alive when Jesus lived on the earth. If wisdom is being skilled in godly living, then the Bible is our handbook for how to live. It is said that when the famous missionary, Dr. David Livingstone, started his trek across Africa he had 73 books in 3 packs, weighing 180 pounds. After the party had gone 300 miles, Livingstone was obliged to throw away some of the books because of the fatigue of those carrying his baggage. As he continued on his journey his library grew less and less, until he had but one book left -- his Bible. I am not so sure that most of us would pack, or unpack in the same way!

True wisdom, heavenly wisdom serves as a guide to earthly living. God has warned us. He has given us instructions on how to live, things to embrace and things to avoid. God's wisdom has been made clear to us if we will only listen. Wisdom protects us from foolishness. Wisdom guards us from going down the wrong road in life. One way that we find hope in the difficult times of life is to acquire wisdom. The writer of Proverbs wants people to pursue God, like an enterprising treasure hunter who is willing to spend all he has....in effort and passion in knowing God, living this life with His wisdom!

I find it very interesting that Paul gives Jesus the description of being our wisdom. **"It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. (1 Corinthians 1: 30)** Wisdom was perfectly personified by God's own Son, Jesus. He showed us what it means to live a godly life. Our victory comes in the form of our redemption and salvation bought for us by Jesus. Wisdom is found when you decide to give your life over to Jesus and follow Him. It's the wisest decision that you can make. Then the reality of your life whether good or bad, hard or easy can be summed up in Paul's words, **"we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ... For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,"**(2 Corinthians 4:8-9,17)

Cyberspace News

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As our country has experienced this May weather we must just rest in the promises of God and realize that he controls all things. We have been fortunate in Michigan to only have rain (buckets and buckets) and some flooded basements. Nothing life-threatening. We need to pray for these folks that are suffering such hard times.

Ruth Charles had to spend some time in the hospital this month. She has now been transferred to a rehab place. Lynn traveled to Florida and spent some time there with her mom and dad. Please pray for Ruth and David as they have to make decisions about their future.

The Larry and Peggy Charles family chose May to grow. May 1 Brad and Sarah Charles had a baby girl named Hannah and then Brent and Julie Charles had a beautiful daughter on May 31. Claire Isabella weighed 7 lbs 11 ounces and looks a lot like her big sister Charlotte. Julie is home from the hospital and her mom from Canada is staying with her to help out. Congratulations to the whole clan. Carrie and Joel DeHaan (Kathy and Joe's daughter) had a son the 17th of May and he has attended church twice already. David and Ruth added 3 babies in one month to their crew so be careful or they will outnumber all of us!

Carrie DeHaan had a big month. She graduated from med school, became a mom and bought a first house. They are leaving Monroe soon to occupy that home in Traverse City MI and Carrie will start her internship and residency at the hospital there. The road between Monroe and Traverse City will stay busy with all the grandparent's trips. (Joe and Kathy Smeltzer)

I got a note from Thelma Gilbert from Berrien Springs this month telling me how much she had enjoyed Charlie's article on facing adversities. It seems she and her son had been very ill in March-April and she needed that word of encouragement. Thelma attends winter retreat each year and has become a member of our church family!

Katy Nevil graduated from Spring Arbor College this month. She was chosen to speak at graduation and I have it from everyone who attended that she did really well! She found out recently that she is going to be doing her student teaching in Bordeaux, France (Southern France) this next year starting in August and ending in the middle of December.

Michigan Report

Aurine Moore



As those following weather.com know, the United States experienced many record setting severe weather episodes this month: the nation's deadliest single tornado since the late 1940s, the "Great Flood of 2011"

and snow and cold that just wouldn't quit in the West. Historyorb.com tells me that several events occurred throughout history on the last day of May: In 70 AD Rome, under the leadership of Titus, captured the first wall in Jerusalem. (By Sept 20, Jerusalem and its walls would be totally destroyed.) Then in true prophet-like expression Lady Godiva rode naked in 1678 through Coventry in a protest of taxes. In 1911, the R.M.S. Titanic launched. Then, in 1986, 41 tornadoes in the north-east killed 88 people. None of these events are connected, but now you know.

On a more local basis, the Michigan Church of the Lord Our Righteousness enjoyed many routine events and experienced many special events. Perhaps the most notable were the celebration of Nate Valentine's birthday on the actual birthday of beautiful Caleb Joel DeHaan, son of Joel and Carrie DeHaan. Nate is 88! Caleb is beautiful. And all is well with our church family. Nate got to get rained on at a Tigers game for his birthday and an extremely nice Tigers jacket. Caleb made his first visit to church this month and was well-fussed over.

One of the regrets of earth is that we cannot be in two places at one time. Thus I cannot report on what is taught by Elder Tim Begeman in the weekly Sabbath School lesson that is taught in the church basement, though reports have it that his lessons are thought provoking and edifying. However, I can report that Geneva Begeman has been particularly inspired and inspiring in her teaching on what it may be like to worship God in heaven. She has brought scripture, articles, dvds and her heart as she has worked through passages in Reve-

lation and in the New Testament. Thanks for your faithfulness.

Thought for the month from a sermon: Jesus sent the apostles into the storm from which He later saved them. So if you are in a storm, rest assured, though He may lead you into it, He will call you safely out of it, and you may even be helped to walk on water.

One of the things our Sabbath School Superintendent Diane Begeman learned that she shared with us is that she really does dislike the unrelenting rain we've been having and the poison ivy she contracted recently. Antihistamines helped with the poison ivy but the rain, as mentioned, continued unrelentingly this month.

Jeff Begeman shared a story at Sabbath School recently told by Dr. M. L. Rossvally about Charlie Coulson, "the Christian Drummer Boy". It is a Civil War era story about a Jewish surgeon who treated a young Christian drummer boy on the battlefield of Gettysburg. The boy died of his injuries but Dr. Rossvally later became a Christian, in part due to the boy's testimony and prayers for the doctor.

We experienced an unusually wet and rainy spring cleaning day this year, which is perhaps why the indoors and garage got especially tender treatment this year, right down to a firm floor scrubbing by Kathy and Joe Smeltzer, with Kathy having her wonderful knee pads strapped on. Kathy and Joe also celebrated her final retirement from Jefferson schools, with many wonderful memories of getting to tell teachers exactly why they are so important in their students' lives and with many wonderful letters in hand from students who thanked Kathy for remaining one extra year to teach them, and Joe, just for being wonderful. Now it's on to retirement, grandmothering and maybe even waiting on Joe! Congratulations on a wonderful career and life of service to thousands of young people over the past thirty some years.

Until next month.

MI News Cont.

David Brugman (Charlie Moore's son-in-law) has enrolled in truck driving school and will have to be in Tennessee for awhile. Keep Rox-Anne in your prayers as she will be alone with the four children. It is a great opportunity for David.

This month at church we had a card party with a beautiful cake celebrating birthdays, graduations, retirements and all other festive events. We were happy to have the Nevil family join us for church that day. Kathy and Kay played a duet on the piano like they used to! The next week we were able to go to the nursing home for singing and a brief sermon by Tim. Judy Begeman and Jean Lane were both able to join us and we had a lovely time.

Please pray for Tom Begeman (Elt and Gerry's son) this month as he is having open heart surgery June 7.

Remember as the days and months fly by to 'not grow weary in well-doing'. Folks need cards from you to cheer them up.

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Baseball

I was pondering a baseball. I was wondering "Why is it
getting larger and larger?"

Then it hit me.



Back row—Geneva, Tim, Charlie, Aurine, Dale, Terrie
 Front row—Judy Begeman, Jean Lane

Kathy, Joel, Carrie, Dave, Brian
 The Celebrants



Kay & Katy Nevil

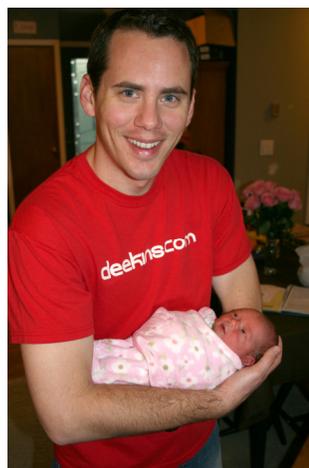


Joel and Dr. Carrie DeHaan

Babies, Babies, Babies



Brings back memories!
 Kathy & Kay at the piano



Brad and Hannah Charles



Carrie, Joel and Caleb DeHaan



Julie, Claire, Brent & Charlotte
 Charles