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THE
COLOR
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BUSINESS
MEETING
AND
RETREAT
WEEKEND
October
7,8,9

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Ten Things Every Christian Should Know

Elder Charles Moore

Mike at camp has his own Top Ten list that is a big hit for staff and campers alike. Here is another Top Ten list to answer the question "What are the top ten things a Christian should know?" Ten things that I thought any Christian should sink deep into his or her heart, head, and hands as he or she travels with Jesus:

1. The one thing that the Bible emphasizes more than us loving God and people is that God loves us. He loves us first and most. God isn't in heaven plucking a daisy saying, "I love you" when you obey and "I love you not" when you sin. He loves you, despite you, He proved it, **"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."** (Romans 5:8)

2. Your motivation for and the purpose of learning, serving, worshipping, giving, reaching, reading, praying,

etc. is to grow more in love with God and people **"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22: 36-39)**

3. Love your neighbors—your literal neighbors—the ones you have, not the ones you wish you had. Do this because you are a Christian, not just because you want them to be Christians.

4. Don't trample all over the Great Commandment (love God, love people) trying to obey the Great Commission (go and make disciples). Christians can do this. Instead, lead people to Jesus by loving

people to Jesus. If they ask you why live the way you do, humbly and simply share

with them why you put your hope in Jesus.

5. You not only are saved by grace, but you grow by it, too. A common trap for Christians is trying to clean up their lives without God's help. This is a false equation: The less you sin = the less you need God's grace. You can't sin less and love more without the strength of God's grace.

6. Focus on Jesus, His cross, His resurrection, and His kingdom. When you confessed Jesus as the living Lord and Messiah, you never said—and will never say—anything more meaningful. Jesus is God with skin. No other "religious leader" (Moses, Buddha, Muhammad) is His equal. They were mere men; Jesus is God who became a man. He is the center and circumference—the hub and rim of all of life and creation. All of the world's greatest gifts—love, life, truth, grace, etc.—have a

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name. Jesus.

7. God cares about your whole life, not just your "spiritual life." It is a mistake to think that God is only concerned about a section of your life called "your soul" or "your spirit." God cares about and is to be Lord of all of your life—personal, emotional, social, familial, financial, physical, vocational, sexual, intellectual, and so on.

8. Love other Christians who go to different churches (or no church at all) and who aren't like you. Unfortunately, many Christians and churches view their "brand" of Christianity as the only true or most true type of Christianity. They may not think they are the only Christians, but they do think they are the best or most right ones. This is a prideful and sinful attitude that grieves Jesus and dismembers His body. Strive for unity in the body of Christ by praying humbly and thankfully for other Christians.

9. Pray with your Bible open. There are many different spiritual exercises (fasting, solitude, serving, etc.), but the two most important ones are communicating and communing with God through prayer and listening to and learning about God through the Scriptures.

10. Find a Christian mentor. You will need help and encouragement in this journey with Jesus. Ask an older Christian (of the same gender as you) to mentor you. Look for someone who displays the attitudes and actions that were described above. Be a blessing to them in return.

Christianity is not a list, but a life; it's not a chart, but a charter. Christians will learn new things. Some of those things will be true but not important. Some things will be off by degrees that can lead them astray. Other things will be just plain wrong. Help all Christians learn to follow Jesus by being their best at what matters most to Him not to you. Amen!

I edited and adapted this from an article that I found on the internet, 10 Things Every New Believer Should Know by [Brian Mavis](#) of Eternally Focused Network

Cyberspace News

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The big news in the east is that Dorothy Layton sold her home. Our church folks had wonderful times in that home through the years. Sometimes it happens—downsizing can be good! I gave you her address in February as she settled in senior housing at 9895 Palace Hall Dr., Laurel MD. Selling a home these days is no small feat though, so the celebration dinner included her grown children, Deborah, Walter, Karen and Lisa. We received news this month that Thelma Gilbert from the Berrien Springs area is in a battle with cancer. She is having radiation and has a positive attitude, which will be so good for her in this situation. You are in our prayers, Thelma, and we are looking forward to seeing you at retreat in February!

Many folks met at Silver Lake, MI for our annual golf outing on July 4. We are always so glad to catch up with Kerry and Kathleen Johnson, who travel there from New Jersey. This year we were so happy to have David Charles with us also. Many of his family traveled a long ways for the day. David was our oldest golfer at almost 87. His great-granddaughter, Claire Isabel, (daughter of Brent and Julie Charles) was our youngest participant at 5 weeks. It is an amazing day with much competition and good-natured kidding. (35 golfers I think and about 20 more golf cart riders.) Lloyd Smith and Kerry Johnson's team won so they did the over 50 crowd proud!

July 24 was chosen to celebrate Daniel Sottile's graduation from high school this year. Everyone descended on Sam and Rachel's home to eat and play. (Rachel is Don and Judy Begeman's daughter.) It was a hot day with no rain was in sight. There was a variety of food and a very popular freezer stocked with ice cream treats of every nature. Congratulations, Daniel!

I received a wonderful letter this month from Michael Moss, son of Carol Moss and grandson of Violet Chapman. He and his wife, Doreen, have settled in Alexandria, VA and are enjoying their wonderful daughters. We are so happy for your whole family, Michael. The letter; "I am sending you some pictures of my beautiful girls Mary Louise and Kaitlin Anne born 17 March 2011. I am so proud and wanted everyone there to see them. I see so much of everyone back home because of the COLOR newsletter, and hope they will be just as happy to see a bit of the happiness the Lord has seen fit to grant me as well. I hope camp went well and look forward to seeing the pictures in the next newsletter!"

Youth camp started the 31st of July so I have a few camp pictures this month but you will have to wait until next month to hear the rest of the wonderful details.

Michigan Report

Aurine Moore



Most notable for your reporter was the birth of Dorothy Jane Woerner in 1920. An accomplished craftswoman who was once recognized as the Ohio artist of the year and also served as the President of the *Men's Garden Club* of Toledo, she also gave birth to six children, one of whom is your very own reporter. Happy Birthday Mom! Hey, I can do this - she's my mom! It's not connected, but now you know. . .

The Hamilton/Begeman tribe had traveled out of town for the annual Hamilton reunion and Silver Lake Outings. However, they left behind the 'league of red cars' to carry on - the Valentines, Moores, and Smeltzers. Later in the month, the Smeltzers went to Branson, Missouri with their Echoes singing team as *friends* and not co-ministers. A good time was had by all and they even found time to make hats.

Our many prayers for traveling mercies were met throughout the month, Tim Begeman was called upon to lead a memorial service at the Hamilton Family Reunion, which was held in memory of Aunts Stella Howell and Draxie Newsome. On another front, Diane and Tim Begeman celebrated 35 years of wedded bliss by going on a trip to western Michigan. During the outing, Diane was given - and opened - a Pandora's (jewelry) box and found a beautiful bracelet waiting for a life-time of charms. While out there, they stopped by Jim and Kay Nevil's and missed seeing David and Ruth Charles by THAT MUCH. You have to be quick to catch David and Ruth, who had travelled on to Howell Michigan to be with Lynn and Rob Vaughn.

Various church friends were ill this month: Tom Begeman is recuperating very well from open heart surgery, Matt Lozano experienced alarming heart symptoms, and Carol Fruchey and Elizabeth Pifer's family made an emergency trip to Flordia to be with Carol's son, Richard, who has entered hospice. Many prayers were answered as the entire family gathered to be with Richard, who is much loved by his family. Winds blew and Dale Begeman avoided a falling tree limb by a very narrow margin.

Sermons focused on preaching and evangelizing the church and unchurched. The principles learned were "Keep it simple. Let people know our creator God doesn't need a thing and gives us everything, judgement is coming, point people to Christ who was raised from the dead and lives, use scripture, know and share what turned you to the gospel, and have realistic expectations. Not eve-

ryone will accept gospel - but some will. On a local level, Monroe County has 120,000 residents. Typically only 13% of the population in any American community goes to church. Thus, we know there are about 100,000 people in Monroe who still need a church family. We can be that family!

Our very own Tolkien/COLOR connection, Bekah Smeltzer, as part of the evangelism of focused Athletes in Action, safely travelled 'There and Back Again' from the Australia/New Zealand region of the world. The Tolkien connection is that New Zealand is where the Lord of the Rings movie trilogy was filmed (which of course, was based on the work by J.R.R. Tolkien that followed "The Hobbit - There and Back Again"). The Athletes in Action program allowed Bekah to complete college credit while learning about the athletic training program in Australia.

We are delighted to announce that Kim Trouten, wife and co-minister with Tim Trouten, is expecting a child. Kim has completed her education and works at a Christian college campus in registration and providing counseling, while Tim is completing his theology studies and lining up interviews for his post-schooling career.

I greatly enjoyed the opportunity to be the guest speaker and singer for the Downriver Women's Christian group that Judy Chuhran belongs to. This group provides an impressive ministry to many, many women in the downriver community and it was an honor to be with them. The annual Faith in Action garden party in Monroe was, as usual, a lovely event, especially in light of the hard rain experienced just prior to the event that drove the initial activities indoors. The sun came out and the rains let up, allowing Cheryl Lymond, Geneva Begeman, Terrie Fedor and I to meet outdoors (while Nate Valentine held down the socialization fort indoors).

On the job front, David Brugman has traveled many, many miles for Swift Trucking Company during his internship. At the same time, we feared Tim Begeman was going to permanently relocate to Harvey, Illinois. His job required him to spend many weeks living in a hotel with co-workers as they worked on a major project for a customer. Diane really missed him. It appears he can live back home now, but he was working out of town full tilt during the weeks leading up to summer camp. Because most of camp itself occurred in August, I will save most of my camp news for next months' issue. More to follow next month. Until then, go with God, only with Him.

**CHURCH OF THE
LORD OUR
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Middle Age Texting Codes

ATD = at the doctor

BFF = best friend fell

BTW = bring the wheelchair

BYOT = bring your own teeth

FWIW = forgot where I was

GGPBL = gotta go, pacemaker battery low

GHA = got heartburn again

IMHO = is my hearing aid on?

LMDO = laughing my dentures out

OMMR = on my massage recliner

ROFLACGU = rolling on floor laughing and
can't get up



Doreen, Michael and Carol Moss



Mary and Kaitlin Moss



Back row—Jeff Begeman, Lynn Vaughn, Mary, Geneva Begeman, Dave Fedor & Trent Begeman
Front row — Dale Begeman, Kristin Vaughn, Sally Smeltzer and Terrie Fedor.



Back row—Karla Coll, Kay Nevil, Marretta Kneiding
Front row—Kathy Smeltzer, Sally Smith



IN THE NEWS



David and Claire Charles



HECKLERS!