

April 2012

Lo The d Ou Righteousness

Free to serve one another

Elder Charles Moore



beachhead at Normandy, used it as a base of operations to push the Germans back, and eventually won

CAMP 2012

**WATER'S EDGE
CAMP AND
CONFERENCE
CENTER
HOWELL, MI**

JUNE 17-22

**Online
registration is
now open**

**Check out the
website
Colornet.org**

A pastor in Kansas City, Kansas was organizing opportunities for people in his church to do small acts of kindness as a demonstration of Christ's love in the community. He phoned several neighborhood grocery stores and Laundromats for permission to do specific services.

In one call, the employee who answered the phone hesitated, then said, "I'll need to ask the manager, but first, let me make sure I understand: You want to clean up the parking lot, retrieve shopping carts, hold umbrellas for customers, and you don't want anything in return?"

"Yes, that's right," the pastor replied. After disappearing for a moment, the employee returned to the phone. "I'm sorry. He said, 'we can't let you do that because if we let you do it, we'd have to let everyone else do it, too!'"

How silly. Why not let everyone else do it? Wouldn't that be wonderful if everyone found ways to serve? It would be a little like heaven on earth. Do you want to find a little heaven in your home? Do you want to find a little

heaven in your work? Do you want to find a little heaven in all your relationships? Then learn to serve. It's the reason why Christ set us free.

Galatians 5:13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. God called us to freedom so we could love not lust. God called us to freedom so we could serve one another, not be in bondage to our sinful natures. So since you are free, don't serve yourself. Don't indulge your sinful nature. Literally, do not let your freedom become a base of operations (or a beachhead) for the flesh.

In the early morning of June 6, 1944, 5,300 ships carrying 153,000 American and Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy, France. It was D-Day, and the Allied Forces knew that if they could establish a beachhead at Normandy, they would eventually win the war, and that's exactly what they did. They established that

the war.

That's the picture we have here in verse 13. God is saying to us, "Don't let your freedom become a beachhead for selfish indulgence. Instead, let it become a beachhead for selfless service." God set us free so we could genuinely serve one another. Literally, so we could be slaves to one another through love.

There is a particular kind of love here that sets us free to serve, and that's the unconditional love of God demonstrated on the Cross of Jesus Christ. There is no way in our own human strength that we would ever serve one another, unless we knew first that God loved us and accepted us unconditionally. On a much higher level, the Holy Spirit within gives us the love that we need **Romans 5:5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.**

But now that we know we don't have to earn God's love, now that we know we don't have to prove ourselves. we

(Continued on page 2)

are free to humble ourselves and become slaves to one another. God set us free from the pressure to perform. Aleida Huissen, 78, of Rotterdam, Netherlands, had been smoking for 50 years. And for 50 years, she tried to give it up, but never could. Nothing she tried was successful - that is until Leo Jansen, 79, came into her life. He proposed marriage, but refused to go through with the wedding until Aleida gave up smoking. After 50 years of trying, she was finally able to give up her cigarettes, cigars, and pipes. How come? This is how she put it: "Will power never was enough to get me off the tobacco habit. Love did it." That's the power of love. It does what will-power alone cannot do. It does what the law could never do. It motivates us to be all that God wants us to be.

Have you heard the little ditty, "Free from the law, oh happy condition. Now we can sin for we have permission?" No! That's not it at all. We are free from the law, so we can better keep God's law through God's love at work in our hearts. You see, God's love does for us what His law could never do. It motivates us to full, complete, and wholehearted obedience.

And it's not so much our love for God that motivates us. Rather, it's His love for us, as we respond to His unconditional love. You see, our love is fickle. It's hot and cold and lukewarm often all in the same day. On the other hand, God's love never changes. It is always constant, and as **1 John 4:19** tells us, **We love, because He first loved us.**

Hear **Galatians 5:14** - **The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."** In other words, if we concentrate on loving others as we love ourselves, then we find ourselves doing all that God has commanded us to do.

Accept His love for yourself. Then through the power of that love, serve one another. Through the power of God's love, satisfy the whole law.

I am loved, I am loved;
I can risk loving you.
For the One who knows me best loves me most
I am loved, you are loved;
Won't you please take my hand?
We are free to love each other;
We are loved. (William J. Gaither, 1978)

Adapted from a sermon by C. Philip Green called Free to Serve

Cyberspace News

genevabegeman@charter.net



Diane Begeman expressed gratitude to Kane in Arizona as he fixed a problem she had with her computer. (Yes they had to ship it back and forth.) She flew out to see Kane, Jennie and Ainsley later in the month—maybe that was her personal thank you! Kane's little brother Seth had a significant 30th birthday this month. Congratulations, Seth.

Zach Brugman won a service award for a science project this spring. The project was "How do colors absorb heat?" Congratulations Zach, we are glad you like science! Roxanne is so happy with a new car now that is very reliable. It is a Matrix XR and she is so happy that David is so thoughtful to provide her with this. He is on the road a lot with the truck driving. Please pray for them as they rely on phone conversations to keep everything going.

We were so happy to have Elder David Charles in our congregation one Sabbath this month. We had a lovely lunch and visit. He reports that Ruth is struggling with health issues. You and Ruth are in our prayers, David.

I was happy to get a note from Sue Trueman this month as she was enjoying the old camp pictures from last month's newsletter. She was looking at one lady who had a blouse just like she used to have and suddenly said "Wait a minute, that's me!" I sometimes wonder if those pictures are really me. Our lives are fashioned from our childhood memories so it never hurts to look back.

I get a note each month from the Ripley's and from Ellen Momberger and I also hear from Dorothy Layton. I am happy to report that each of them is still getting along okay. I can't say great or fantastic, but some of us are living those 'golden' years that we have found are tarnished somewhat. We are grateful for family, safe driving and pretty good health. Eating out is a treat also. We all love the Lord and are grateful for these years. Contentment is a wonderful thing. (You notice I have lined up Dale and I along with them too.) I would like to recommend a book I have just finished by Billy Graham entitled "Nearing Home". It gives pointers about our older years and how we can still be that witness for Christ and offer vital values to others. We are all one day nearer home today than yesterday!

MANDATORY CAMP PRE-SERVICE MEETING

If you are thinking of coming to camp as staff you

must attend this meeting.

Saturday May 12, 12:30

1922 LaSalle Road Monroe, MI

We will have a picnic during the meeting.

Questions, call Diane at

734-417-2392



Michigan Report

Tim Begeman

As most of you have heard Chuck Colson passed away on the 21st of this month. About eight years ago I heard a talk by Chuck and he said: "I am 72, my years are numbered, and I want to dedicate all of my remaining efforts, everything, 100% of my time to building the kingdom of God". Here is a man that was going full force and he said I'm not doing enough, I want to give everything, I only have a few more years left and I want to make them count. Then he threw himself, with even more vigor into multiple efforts of making disciples that would be Christian leaders through his "Centurions Program" which multitudes have gone through and have been trained by. Captains of industry, politicians, and people of significant position in our culture he trained through his program to be ambassadors for Christ from their authority and influence. His public speaking, world-view enterprises, and building coalitions helped followers of Christ to be salt and light to the world. He was trying to get people to act in a synergistic way to make an impact in the cause of Christ. He wanted to leave behind a legacy not for his own sake, but that of Jesus Christ. His passing has left an enormous hole in the cause of Christ.

During our Good Friday service Elder Moore presented a video entitled "Resurrection" which is Max Lucado's notable short story that depicts Claudius, a Roman guard who finds himself in the middle of a cover-up of the turbulent events following Christ's crucifixion. As he searches for the truth, Claudius discovers that the Roman government, the Pharisees, and even his closest companions are determined to veil something from him and the world. In the end, his unrelenting quest for the answers to his increasing questions jeopardizes his position and even his life, but it also leads to his restoration. All in all, Resurrection is an arresting saga that not only provokes viewers to put themselves in the place of a Roman soldier assigned to Christ's execution, but also reminds them how any life can be changed by seeking truth and understanding.

Our group had many travelers this month. Brian, Kate, David Begeman, and Shay Pinhey went to the Big Apple to experience the sights, sounds and smells of that historically rich city. They went from having a deluxe rickshaw ride which cost about a dollar per yard to feeling what it was like to be part of the huddled masses at Ellis Island the gateway for millions of immigrants to the United States.

Joe and Kathy Smeltzer have a hard time keeping gas in their car between visiting Joel, Carrie and their only grandchild Caleb, trying to keep up with Bekah's running itinerary and being the vital cogs in the singing machinery called the "Echoes of Happiness".

My lovely wife Diane has crisscrossed the country side this month. She joined an aggregation of basket weaving enthusiasts in Richmond Indiana for three days of learning, laughing and looking good. She stayed home for about a half hour and flew off to Glendale Arizona to visit her favorite grandchild, Ainsley for five days. She had a wonderful time being entertained by the precocious little 16 month old visiting zoos, taking train rides and restaurant hopping.

My employer sent me this month to the United Kingdom to be a consultant on the refurbishment of some equipment that our company manufactured during the mid-1970s. I flew into Heathrow Airport in London and had to drive into Newport Wales which is about a two hour drive from London. Driving in the UK was a learning experience. If any of the UK natives were watching me constantly trying to get in the wrong side of the car and muttering to myself while I was driving the mantra I had to remember "keep left, keep left, keep left" I'm sure they would have said: look at that poor bloke, they let him out of the mental sanitarium way before he was ready. He is probably going to hurt himself or someone else.

All this month Elder Moore's sermons focused on the fact, implication and application of the resurrection of Jesus. It is the Risen Christ who is our righteousness. "Christianity begins at the resurrection." The work of the cross of course made Christianity possible; but true Christianity is all on the resurrection side of the cross. "He is not here, but is risen," the angel said.

"Dream as if you'll live forever, live as if you'll die today."

James Dean

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
734-417-2392
veggie@charter.net

website
colornet.org

Shampoo Alert!

As I was conditioning my hair in the shower this morning, I took time to read my shampoo bottle. SHOCK---The shampoo that runs down my entire body says "for extra volume & body." Seriously, why have I not noticed this before?

Now I understand why I am so "full-figured."

Tomorrow I am going to start using "Dawn" dish soap. It says "dissolves fat that is otherwise difficult to remove."