

Lo The d Ou Righteousness

The Gift of Encouragement

Elder Charles Moore



ordinary. But it isn't. Encouragement is actually quite rare (because it is seldom given) and it

For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing. (1Thessalonians 5:9-11)

Encouraging one another is supposed to be a natural response to what God has done for us. I don't know about you, but it is not a natural response for me - but I know it should be. If it is not a natural response for you as well, I want to encourage both of us to reflect on this: that encouraging and building up one another should be our thoughtful, or thinking, response to all that God has done for us in Christ Jesus and be a gift we are willing to give back to God for what he has given us.

Robert Schuller tells a story about a banker who always tossed a coin in the cup of a legless beggar who sat on the street outside the bank. But, unlike most people, the banker would always insist on getting one of the pencils the man had

beside him. "You are a merchant," the banker would say, "and I always expect to receive good value from merchants I do business with." One day the legless man was not on the sidewalk. Time passed and the banker forgot about him, until he walked into a public building and there in the concessions stand sat the former beggar. He was obviously the owner of his own small business now. "I have always hoped you might come by someday," the man said. "You are largely responsible for me being here. You kept telling me that I was a 'merchant'. I started thinking of myself that way, instead of a beggar receiving gifts. I started selling pencils -- lots of them. You gave me self-respect, caused me to look at myself differently." That is what the gift of encouragement should do. It should make people think about themselves differently, different from the glum perspective they may now have.

People seldom think of encouragement as a gift because it seems so

is so valuable (because it is so meaningful to the recipient). Encouragement makes the perfect gift, and here's why: It's free. Encouraging someone requires absolutely no cash outlay. This doesn't mean there is no cost. It may cost you time, creativity, and thoughtfulness. But all of that is what makes encouragement so appreciated. It requires something from you, not just something from your wallet.

It requires no shopping. You do not have to make a trip to the mall for this gift. Many times this gift can be delivered from the home or the office. Writing a note of support or making an encouraging phone call may be all that's necessary.

It doesn't have to be gift wrapped. Attractive wrapping adds to the appeal of a gift, but none is needed with encouragement. It is a beautiful thing all by itself.

It can be custom-designed. You don't have to worry about sizes. But you must still give some thought to making your gift of encouragement a perfect fit. You have to think about some details--what are

(Continued on page 2)

FALL BUSINESS MEETING & RETREAT

OCTOBER 5,6,7

Special presentation

Rob & Lynn Vaughn's trip to Israel.

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the best words of comfort, motivation, or support the person needs to hear.

It doesn't require batteries. So many gifts require batteries as an energy source. Not so with encouragement. It creates energy all by itself. If you don't think so, just watch the increase in activity when you motivate someone with a kind and supportive comment.

It will last a lifetime. Think about it. What other gift could you give to a child that will have value for years to come? Encouragement can do just that. A little word can make a big difference, and the results can be life changing, Oh there is one more thing about encouragement. No one ever gets too much of it. So don't be stingy. Give it often!

Patsy Clairmont tells of when she was "riding my bike down a street when I turned a corner. An endless, gray pavement that stretched out to meet the drab curb and dingy sidewalk greeted me. Running alongside the walk was a dusty patch of earth that piled up against a beige wall. Then, into this colorless picture an absurd addition intruded itself. Atop the wall and spilling down its side was a vibrant swath of fuchsia flowers."

"Suddenly the boring became breathtaking. The dismal became dynamic. The mundane became magnificent. Like a cup of cool water in a desert, a sudden breeze on a stifling night, a rainbow as the storm clouds part, the unexpected appearance of something grand caused my heart to skip a beat".

"Isn't life often like that? Think about it. You're experiencing one of those days when you're tired of yourself, and then someone steps into your landscape and plants words of encouragement. The person values you, and you begin to bloom. Or your work has become a drag, and you think if you have to file one more useless paper, change one more messy diaper, or listen to one more grumbling client, you're going to scream. Then you receive a promotion, the baby asks to go potty, and the client becomes your husband."

God tends to use blah settings to display His marvels. We mustn't give up when we experience a succession of gray days and beige encounters because some stunning surprise may just await us around the next bend.

Friends, there are always going to be "gray days" in need of fuchsia flowers. One of the highest Christian duties is the duty of encouragement. It is easy to pour cold water on enthusiasm; it is easy to discourage others. The world is full of discouragers. We have a Christian duty to encourage one another.

Many times a word of praise or thanks or appreciation or cheer has kept a person on their feet.

Cyberspace News



The month of July started out with Norma Ripley hospitalized with a broken hip. She had surgery and was moved to a rehab place close to their home so Rip can travel back and forth to visit her. Please pray for them as it has been a hard time with Rip's travel back and forth sapping his energy and Norma's not being able to be up and about.

Kerry and Kathleen Johnson traveled to MI as usual for their time at Silver Lake and to visit Mom Ethel and Kathleen's family. Everyone enjoys getting together this once a year time.

Carrie and Joel DeHaan welcomed Mom Kathy Smeltzer and Grandma Sally Smeltzer for a visit in Traverse City this month. The two ladies had an accident almost at their doorstep but thankfully only the car was damaged. Dr Carrie DeHaan had to take more board exams and needed to study. Grandma Kathy was there for an extended stay with Caleb. I think play-time was the order of each day.

On July 14 Judith Begeman's battle with Huntington Disease ended as she peacefully passed away with both daughters, Laurie and Rachel present. Laurie and Rachel live quite away from Judy's nursing home in Monroe. Kathy and Joe Smeltzer threw out the welcome mat and they lived there in the wonderful apartment that is a part of their house. We will see Judy again, Praise God. Laurie and Rachel vacated the Smeltzer apartment just in time for David Charles to move there from Howell. He will be able to attend church regularly and that is a blessing for all of us.

Sam Sottile (Rachel's husband) announced that son Anthony has accepted a full time position as a software developer with Yelp, Inc. beginning upon his graduation in May of 2013 from University of Michigan. He will be living in the San Francisco area then.

Leslie Miller writes from Kansas that the weather is hot but she is keeping her plants watered. Rebecca starts pre-kindergarten and she will be alone at home with Alexander who is 3 now. She plans on enjoying that time alone with him.

Jennie, Kane and Ainsley Begeman were happy to have a visit from Dad/Grandpa Tim in July. Grandpa had a delightful time checking up on Ainsley and making sure her dad and mom were being good to her!

We were so happy to have visitors from Phoenix in the persons of Berty and Shealyn Lane. Berty spent most of her time helping Erin and Pat Gill with the twins recently released from the hospital. They are doing well. Shealyn flew to Boston after a couple days here. Berty came by my house one day and we talked non-stop for about six hours! So great to see you, Berty.

Ellen Momberger wrote with an urgent prayer request for her daughter Karen. Ellen wrote July 12, "She had a CAT scan, and the doctors were not completely satisfied with the numbers, so she got another one recently. She got the report today, and found out it is cancer (they found cancer cells in her stomach). She will have to start on Chemo. Her veins are so small they will put a port in (instead of using her veins). This is really bad news, so she will need the prayers of the entire church. Sorry to give you such bad news." Ellen, we are all a part of the family of God and it is an honor to pray for each other.

Dorothy Layton called with news of a big birthday party at daughter Karen's this month. Bennie and Roy Gee are well and wish all of us the best during these dog days of summer!



Michigan Report

Tim Begeman

Looking out my window at home this July, I am watching our surroundings slowly turn into a flora bare, infertile, sterile, dust bowl because of the lack of rain. Even though Diane is the apotheosis of gardening her garden is almost a complete failure. Her tomato plants have turned into large tumbleweeds straight out of a Clint Eastwood spaghetti western.

During this month I had to fly to the UK for the company I work for. Our company built a steel processing line back in 1976 so I went over to be a consultant to help refurbish and get it running again. While I was there I was close to where David Charles grew up in Wales. On Sunday, July the 15th I ventured out and visited David Charles' brother and sister in-law Albert and Pearl. Pearl was above and beyond hospitable. She fixed us three a bona fide vegetarian feast. I watched as she did her kitchen magic when she announced to me she really doesn't like cooking. It's hard to believe she could be so good at something she really would rather not do. She also told me she was encumbered by an afflicted knee. However, I began to be dubious about her alleged impairment because she was literally jogging around the kitchen as she prepared our lunch. As we sat down to eat both Pearl and Albert told me about Albert's career. Albert told me his working philosophy that he had during his working career. Many people he worked with would try to get away with doing as little as possible but he always kept in mind who the real boss he was really working for and that's God, so it was your duty to always do your very best. When I talked to Albert there was some apparent dotage, but we did have a good conversation.

On my way home from England I stopped and made a quick visit in Arizona to get more acquainted with my growing grandchild Ainsley. Once she warmed up to me she showed me her growing intellect. At the ripe old age of 19 months she showed me her speed reading techniques by going through a half shelf of books in a few minutes. Wow, Impressive!

While I was in Wales I had gotten the news of Judy Begeman passing away. All through my youth Judy and Don were our closest aunt and uncle. Whenever we had a family function the Don and Judy family were always included. For many years Judy was a vital and essential cog in the machinery of the Lord Our Righteousness Church. Also, when it came to being a hostess, or a chef, or being organized Judy was the quintessential of all of these skills long before Martha Stewart made it cool. She was also the Newsletter publisher, church secretary and camp secretary which consisted of massive amounts of paperwork before computers made those jobs much easier. One of the earliest memories I had growing up around Judy is: Jeff, my brother and I were playing around at Don and Judy's house. Much of our time was spent in and around the large barn in Don and Judy's back yard. At this particular time Jeff and I were tight rope walking the tall wooden fence that circled the perimeter of the barnyard. Off to our right were very tall plants that towered about four feet tall and growing in a very tight clump. Jeff got the idea to dive into them much like the stage diving that was done in the 90s. I'm not sure what Jeff was expecting to happen, maybe the plants would support him much like crowd surfing. Unfortunately, the plants turned out to be the biggest group of Stinging Nettles I had ever seen. When Jeff emerged from these poisonous pestiferous pernicious perennials he was writhing in burning agony. We both ran to Don and Judy's house to either call the paramedics or find something to commit hara-kiri with. Judy came out of the house and said come in and I will fix you up. She immediately filled the bath tub up with warm water and a secret concoction of different white powders; I think baking soda was one of them. In a matter of minutes Jeff was completely cured of all ill effects. Judy's compassion and quick thinking stopped Jeff's agony and saved his life.

At the time of this writing my dad, Dale Begeman is suspected of having a slight stroke. Testing is being done to determine what exactly is going on. Keep him in your thoughts and prayers for his full recovery.

Also, at the time of this writing, David Charles has recently moved from being an outlying member to a local member. He has moved back to his apartment at Joe and Kathy Smelters' to keep a close eye on his youngest daughter.

Do not let what you cannot do interfere with
what you can do.

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PUNS & OTHER HUMOR

Knock, knock,
Who's there?

Yukon

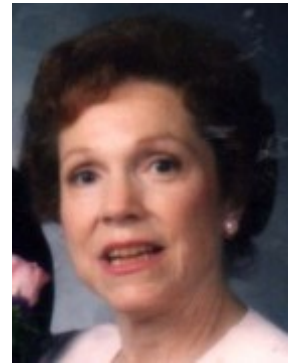
Yukon who?

Yukon never get bored of geography.

A cardboard belt would be a waist of paper.

Skipping school to bungee jump will get you suspended.

Judy was born July 6, 1939 in Akron Ohio. She was the oldest of six children. She had a different childhood than most. Her mother suffered from Huntington's Disease as well, but Judy stepped up to take care of her siblings. So while other children were playing games, Judy was busy mothering her brothers and sisters. She had a brilliant mind, which she passed along to her children - Laurie and Rachel - and her grandchildren - Anthony, Daniel, Mike, Alex, and Leah. Judy was so sharp that she skipped a grade and graduated high school at age 16, despite her added family responsibilities.



Nov. 22, 1942-July 14, 2012

Her youth was a flurry of activity, punctuated with responsibility beyond her years. As a young teenager, she played a significant role in Youth Camp. She was a certified Water Safety Instructor and supervised the campers during daily swimming and beach play. This was after leading the singing in the morning classes, with evening responsibilities of leading singing at vespers service and emceeding at Campfire. She always had a notebook in hand, organizing, planning, and supervising activities like camp skits and solo singing. Despite a firm hand that comes from the one maintaining order, she was playful, always joking and keeping a happy group. In later years she and Geneva led crafts.

Judy married Donald Begeman in 1957 in Kent Ohio. Soon their family grew, first with Laurie and then Rachel. Judy did all of the things that a mom of the 1950's and 60's might be expected to do with cooking, housework, canning vegetables, recipe cards - many of which we have in our recipe file today. She kept meticulous records of the quantity of each item canned and consumed over the course of a year to produce exactly the right amount for next year, much like large businesses try to do to plan their production on computer systems, she did on pencil and paper. She was ahead of her time and also did many of the things that one might expect of a Mother in modern times - teaching her children the value of education, encouraging them to pursue careers that previously had not been available to women, and teaching them to be strong and confident.

When Rachel and Laurie were ready for college, Judy went to work full time at Monroe County Opportunity Program to help pay for their education, and it was an investment that paid tremendous dividends.

This is not to imply that she had not been working hard during the intervening years. Don became camp director and Judy stepped up for all administrative tasks to support the camp organization as Youth Camp Secretary. She did countless things to enhance the experience for campers. One example was posters for each cabin group, with the team name and daily tallies for points earned.

When the Church of the Lord Our Righteousness was formed, Judy was appointed Board Secretary, utilizing her organizational skills to everyone's benefit. A gifted writer, she produced numerous church documents including the constitution and camp rules. For many years she was publisher of the church newsletter, a large and demanding position, particularly given the technology of that era - mimeograph machines, cutting and pasting - today we just pop up Microsoft Publisher and away we go!

In the early days, Judy was part of the Lord Our Righteousness Quartet with Don, Dale Begeman, and DuWaine Chapman, with Geneva Begeman as the pianist. Judy also taught the middle school class in Sabbath School and served as Youth Choir Director, producing some of the most memorable programs during that time!

Judy was a member of the Michigan-Ohio Concert Ministry Choir, lending her singing talents for many years and traveling extensively throughout the region to perform.

She was also famous for her baking skills, making many, many beautiful cakes for weddings and other special occasions. Judy was an exceptional cook, not only hosting many gourmet meals in her home, but extending her kindness by bringing meals to friends and family in times of need.

Her creative skills extended to photography. Not only was she the main family photographer, she created many artistic photographs, displaying a keen eye and gift for composition.

This is just a brief glimpse of her history. Judy was energetic and passionate; old-fashioned, yet modern; a leader, and a wonderful mother. Judy really lived those years of her youth! and being 50 now, I count that age as being part of one's youth. I saw that picture of her standing with her younger siblings, a child herself, but raising them because her mother was ill. I saw the pictures of her as a young woman - beautiful, vigorous, strong, and proud of who she was. I heard other stories of her teaching her daughters about women's rights and the great things that they could accomplish - and both Laurie and Rachel earned doctoral degrees. I heard of dreams of writing books. I saw the list of activities and accomplishments and know that she lived a full and active life, even if she was only at full speed for the first 50 years or so.

I learned from Judy to live fully each and every day. It is possible that she knew that she did not have as many vibrant years in her future as others might expect. So she lived those years to the max. That may be her message to us. Perhaps you only have 50 years or 30 or 70, but go full speed with those moments that you have. Live a full lifetime in however many years that you are given.

The most important fact to remember about Judy Begeman, and the thing that can comfort us as we mourn her passing, is that Judy knew the Lord Jesus Christ as her personal savior. We know that she is free and safe in the arms of God.

Lovingly written by son-in-law Sam Sottile.

