

# Lo The d Ou Righteousness

## For Our Mothers and Grandmothers

Elder Charles Moore



pondered about that for a while, then asked, "So how come all of Grandma's hairs are white?"

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Telephone companies tell us that Mother's Day is by far their busiest day of the year. It is a day for greetings and expressions of love. It is also a day for remembering. I do not believe that anything has ever been said or ever will be said that is eloquent enough or expressive enough to articulate the true value of a mother.

To her children, a mother has the angelic voice of a member in the celestial choir as she sings the Brahms's lullaby to a babe she holds lovingly in her arms. Yet this same voice can dwarf the sound of an amplifier when she calls the children for supper or cheers them on at a game.

And mom can be tough when she needs to be. A drill sergeant was frustrated in his efforts to make a soldier out of a certain recruit. The trainee lagged behind on marches, used any excuse to go on sick call, grumbled constantly about the food, and never made his bunk properly. But one day, a noticeable change took place in the young man's attitude. When asked to what he attributed the

soldier's change in attitude, the drill sergeant explained, "Threats and punishment didn't work, so I had to resort to the ultimate weapon: I called his mother!"

A mother is considered "old fashioned" to her teenager; just "Mom" to her third-grader; and simple "Mama" to the little two-year old. But there is hardly a thrill in life that can compete to pointing to that wonderful woman and be able to say to all the world, "That is my mother!"

One day, a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?" she asks. Her mother replied, "Well, every time you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white." The little girl

Grandmothers can be extra special too. In "What is a Grandmother?" a third grader wrote, "A grandmother is a lady who has no children of her own. She likes other people's little girls and boys. Grandmothers don't have to do anything except be there. They are old so they shouldn't play too hard and they shouldn't run. It is enough if they drive us to the market where the pretend horse is and have a lot of quarters ready. If they take us for walk, they should slow down past things like pretty leaves, butterflies and caterpillars. They should never say, "Hurry up!" Usually grandmothers are fat, but not too fat to tie your shoes. Grandmothers don't have to be smart, only answer questions like, "Why isn't God married?" and "How come dogs chase cats?" Grandmothers don't talk baby talk like visitors do, because it is hard to understand. When they read to us they don't skip parts of the story or mind reading the same story over again. Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if

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you don't have television, because they are the only grown-ups who..... have time.

Many scriptures speak of the importance of recognizing and acknowledging the gift your mother and father are to you. **Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: 3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.**

Almost all of us have fond memories of our mothers, grandmothers and of home. Few things are more powerful than the tears and prayers of a mother. Few things are more tender than a mother's hug or compassionate touch. It just may be true - what Napoleon said, "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." I would like to close with this poem,

My Mother by Ann Taylor

Who sat and watched my infant head  
When sleeping on my cradle bed,  
And tears of sweet affection shed?  
My Mother.

When pain and sickness made me cry,  
Who gazed upon my heavy eye,  
And wept for fear that I should die?  
My Mother.

Who taught my infant lips to pray  
And love God's holy book and day,  
And walk in wisdom's pleasant way?  
My Mother.

And can I ever cease to be  
Affectionate and kind to thee,  
Who wast so very kind to me,  
My Mother?

Ah, no! the thought I cannot bear,  
And if God please my life to spare  
I hope I shall reward thy care,  
My Mother.

When thou art feeble, old and grey,  
My healthy arm shall be thy stay,  
And I will soothe thy pains away,  
My Mother.

## Cyberspace News



Hello from the great state of Michigan, where one day its 80 and the next its 30! This is Diane Begeman filling in for Geneva who is under the weather at this time. I have talked to her and have heard what some of you have been up to. So I'll rattle around in the hole, as Elder Wilkinson was wont to say.....

We heard from Arvilla Pease and she is doing well.

Rjp and Norma continue plodding along. Rjp sees Norma daily and is keeping her fairly content.

Roy and Bennie Gee took a trip of a lifetime...a trip back to England for them and to see Roy's old stomping grounds. I heard that they had a great time. Roy doesn't think that he'll go back again. I can't wait to hear and see the pictures that they took. We look forward to November when you will be back here in Michigan.

Elder David Charles reports that his brother Albert has moved to assisted living and that Pearl just has to catch the bus as it goes right past their house to visit him. Tim had such a great time catching up with the both of them when he was there. I know that David and Kathy enjoyed their visit when they were there also this year.

Vicki, Steve and Daran Chapman went for a time to visit with their dad Dewey and spent some great time with him.

Rachel and Sam Sottile saw their eldest son graduate from the University of Michigan on May 4th. They held a going away party for Anthony on May 11th as he moves to San Francisco to work for YELP. Congratulations and good luck Anthony.

If I have forgotten or repeated some news please forgive me.

Geneva has enjoyed the phone calls and cards that she has gotten. We are awaiting a date for the port to be put in and the chemo to start.

We know that God is in control and that we are not. Please continue to keep all of the family in your thoughts and prayers as we minister to both Dale and Geneva.



## Michigan Report

Tim Begeman

As another month passes into memory it's advantageous to reflect occasionally on our earthly temporal existence. We all are only here for a very short time and should make every opportunity count. When I talk about opportunities, I'm talking about doing what we were designed to do and that is to know God and to make him known. As our culture has for the most part marginalized Christians and Christian thought it makes our aforementioned task much more difficult. As Christians we are ambassadors for Christ and a good ambassador always are alert for what might turn out to be a divine appointment. Here are eight rules we should always try to remember:

1. Look for opportunities.
2. When you get an opportunity, don't overcomplicate things. Keep it simple.
3. Try to stay away from religious language, terminology, and religious affect.
4. Focus on the truth, not personal benefits of Christianity.
5. Give evidence.
6. Stay Calm.
7. Let them walk away if they want.
8. Leave them with something or give them something (e.g. Gospel of John).

This month we had our yearly pastor exchange with the Petersburg Church of God Seventh Day. We decided to focus on parables found in the New Testament. The series was entitled "Parable Precept Persuasions". Pastor John Schott broke the ice with a sermon dubbed "Life's Riches" which was an exegetical talk on the Parable about avaricious behavior. Paul Vander Horst spoke the next week at our Church and I spoke at the Petersburg Church of God Seventh Day. Elder Moore finished off our pastor exchange series at the Petersburg Church on the 27<sup>th</sup> with a talk on the parable of lost things.

We got some bad news and some good news about my mom (Geneva) this month. She had a MRI on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April because of some severe back pain she has been experiencing. The test detected a mass touching her spine which prompted a CT scan which she had on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The CT scan confirmed that the mass was consistent with the growth of cancer. On the 30<sup>th</sup> she went in for a biopsy to determine the type of cancer the doctors are dealing with. This is where we get to the good news, the cancer turns out to be a commonly called non-hodgkins (sp) lymphoma, which is one of the best and easiest to respond to treatment. She has an upcoming appointment to find out what type of treatment she has to undergo. Please, keep her in your thoughts and prayers for the next weeks that her treatment would be as painless and effective as humanly possible.

Speaking of prayers, Nate Valentine who has been a regular resident of the fourth pew left side has missed church for the past few weeks. He's been experiencing some pain in his back and shoulder and was not able to attend church. He has been going to the doctor for tests and we pray that we see him at church very soon. Nate is in a rehab facility at this time and is working on getting his strength built back up so he can go home. You are in our prayers Nate.

Make it a rule never to give a child a book you  
would not read yourself.

George Bernard Shaw

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**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**

### The Penny

My husband and I had just finished tucking our five young ones into bed one evening when we heard sobbing coming from three-year-old Billy's room. Rushing to his side, we found him crying hysterically. He had accidentally swallowed a penny and was sure he was going to die. No amount of talking could change his mind.

Desperate to calm him, my husband palmed a penny that he happened to have in his pocket and pretended to pull it from Billy's ear. Billy was delighted. In a flash, he snatched it from my husband's hand, swallowed it and demanded cheerfully, "Do it again, Dad!"

