

May 2008

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## Living a Life of Prayer

Elder Charles Moore

It has been said that there are no atheists in foxholes or on crashing planes. In those situations, even unreligious people will resort to prayer. But we Christians should really know about prayer, because we know the power of God. We know the provision of God. We know that when we pray things begin to happen. We know what the Bible says about the importance of prayer. And you would think knowing what we know about the power of prayer, the efficacy of prayer, and the power of Christ, that we would be praying and seeking God much more than we do. But, the sad reality is, we don't. I know I've been disappointed in myself that I don't pray like I should.

What about you? Why don't you pray more? There are a thousand excuses why. And one excuse is as good as another. I remember an old story of the guy who was out fishing on Sabbath morning with his friend. He was on the lake in a boat bass fishing. And they were having a good time for a while until one of the guys said to the other, "I'm starting to feel a little guilty. Here I am out on a Sabbath morning when I'm normally in church and I'm feeling guilty because I should be in church." His friend said, "Oh don't worry about that! I don't feel guilty. As a matter of fact, if I wasn't fishing this morning I couldn't go to church

anyway." His guilty friend asked why, and the guiltless friend replied, "Because my wife's sick!" You see, when you need an excuse, any excuse will do!

I know we're busy people. We don't have time to pray, but are we busier than Jesus at the height of his ministry, ministering to multiplied thousands of people every single day? Yet he found time to pray. He slipped away, sometimes a great while before daylight and found a quiet place to pray. Jesus was a man of prayer, as strange as that may sound to you. Think about it. Why would Jesus need to pray? I have lots of stuff to pray about. I have sins I need to confess, don't you? I have problems in my life that I'm facing. I need wisdom. But why would Jesus need to pray for that? Did Jesus have sins to confess? No, Jesus was perfectly holy in word, thought, and deed. Yet, Jesus had the desire and need to pray, and he prayed a lot, sometimes spending the entire night in prayer. How many entire nights have you spent in prayer? If Jesus needed to pray that much doesn't it tell us that we need to pray even more?

**Prayer must be a Life Priority! "Devote yourselves to prayer,**

**keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;" (Colossians 4:2)** Prayer is vital to the church. When Jesus threw the money changers out of the Temple Jesus said, "My house shall be called a house of... entertainment." No? "My house shall be called a house of... preaching." Better, but No. "My house shall be called a house of... worship." No, He didn't even say that. He said, "My house shall be called a house of **prayer**." But we've made it a house of everything else but prayer.

Prayer is so important that we must make prayer a life priority. We're told in the book of James **"You have not because you ask not."** (James 4:2) I sometimes wonder what would I have if I had only asked. I wonder how much we have missed out on because we have never asked God for it. What do we **"have not"** because we have **"asked not"**? Well, you say, "God know all things. He knows everything I think and desire. Why should I have to ask for everything? But if you follow that logic, you'd never pray. God knows everything you want before you ask, but he wants us to ask! You see, prayer is not to inform God of something he already knows, prayer is for our sake — to do something in our lives that we need. And I'm not talking about getting the thing for which we pray. It is for us to know that what we pray for is coming from God, not by luck or chance or coincidence but from God.

Through prayer, we come to know and understand what God

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is doing. You see, prayer is essentially talking to God. Prayer is building a relationship with Jesus Christ. That's how we build relationships with one another, isn't it? That's how we build a relationship with our spouse or our children – we talk to them. We spend time with them. We communicate and in that communication we discover exactly who they are and how they think. And the same is true for our relationship with God. The very act of praying — the very discipline of praying allows God to work in our lives in ways that he could not do otherwise. It connects us with him. It tunes us to the right frequency. Remember the old dial radios where you would turn the dial to the appropriate setting in order to receive the strongest signal? You had to play with it a little bit. You would get to the station and go a little past it and then back up a little, continuing to tweak it a little until you got the very best reception. That's what God is doing for us in prayer. He's dialing us in. Through the process of prayer we learn how to connect to God. We learn how to listen. We learn how to respond when he speaks. We learn how to be more like Jesus because he responds to us as we are praying. He speaks to our hearts. Prayer is for us. It's not for God. It's not to inform him of something he already knows. It's for us so that we can have a growing, loving relationship with the God of the Universe. What are you waiting for? Pray. Devote yourself to pray.

## Michigan Report

Aurine Moore

May flowers have arrived, even if the cooler weather of March and April was more evident this year. Clouds and wind and sun half the time and travel were the themes of the month. While out east on a number of visits to friends, Terrie and Dave Fedor and Charlie and I were able to visit Deb and Jim Stoner and had the privilege of attending Locust Grove Church of the Brethren in Mount Airy. Following a great brunch, we were off to see Dorothy Layton recovering in the hospital from hip replacement repair surgery. While at the lovely wedding for Jon and Leann Huang, we really enjoyed seeing Steve and Jamie (Canales) Johnson, former youth campers.

Hilario Albertterr, a long time youth camper and new youth camp staff member suffered the loss of his father overseas this month. Please keep him in your prayers. Chelsey Begeman, who went in for wisdom teeth extraction recently, had a reaction to the anesthesia. Hopefully, they will find a way to return to the task of taking those teeth out.

While Elder Moore was traveling, faithful Tim Begeman preached and also ably led a class through the final Microsoft Word session. The class was a wonderful opportunity to meet a few new people and enjoy learning among the presence of long-standing friends.

Kate Pinhey has recently been attending church and Bible studies with Brian Begeman. She is a physical

therapist in Ann Arbor, shares Brian's passion for hockey, sports in general, and even is able to help out when family members like David Begeman experiences pain in his feet. We are enjoying her presence tremendously.

We were blessed by an unplanned presentation by the Echoes of Happiness, who found an open spot on their schedule. As usual, they were wonderful. After grabbing a quick lunch following church, they and the members of the church then went over together to sing at Tender Care nursing home with our good friends from the Petersburg Church of God Seventh Day. Judy Begeman was able to come down for the program and was heard happily singing along with everyone. It was a wonderful day in every way.

Pat Conley has at least two reasons for happiness this month. Her house, which has been under construction for two years, is almost done. Anyone who has carried on daily life in the midst of tools, open walls, cans of paint, drywall dust and or spackling compound and other hardware solutions can imagine the relief and sense of freedom she feels. Secondly, her mother, Marie Mayville, has come back for the season from her new home in Hawaii. Her mother is enough of a joy, all by herself and we're all glad to see her again.

Seth Begeman will be working for the Lake Metropark system in Cleveland, Ohio teaching and guiding visitors through a variety of outdoor experiences in his chosen field. Josh Nevil has received a special commendation from his naval ship commander when he passed his Qualification in Submarines" and was presented with his "Dolphins."

It is camp pre-service time and we were happy to have two new staff join us for the training, Nanette Traynor and Sarah Madden.

Elder Charlie Moore has begun a new series of sermons on the necessity and power of prayer as our lead-up to summer camp. We are halfway to maximum enrollment as of this writing and looking forward to seeing who will be with us this year.

Several high schools in the area, including Ida, Monroe and Bedford High Schools had Baccalaureates this month. Jordan Begeman is completing high school this month and looking forward to the task of making her career choice as she anticipates starting college in the fall.

Jamie Vargas and Branden Carothers married at the end of this month with a wonderfully warm and intimate ceremony. Gabriel and Riley Vargas participated as best man and maid of honor, scripture readers, and holding their new twin siblings, Zohlie and Klohie Carothers, who were wheeled by Gabriel to the front of the church for their part in the commitment and exchange of vows. The twins have been a joy to be with during church services and are perfectly content to be held for long periods of time by GG (Great Grandma), Jean Lane.

All in all, it was a wonderful month. Until next month, may God be with you and you with Him.

Greetings from Michigan. Time flies and here we are starting another summer again. Our temperatures have been up and down this month but each 'up' day was surely welcome!

The first of the month started out with a big wedding. This one was in New Jersey. Mom Kathleen Johnson is going to tell you about it.

"On May 3, 2008 Leanne Johnson and Jonathan Huang were wed. They looked so happy together. They honeymooned on a Mediterranean cruise. Leanne and Jon are now living in an apartment in Roseland, New Jersey, about two hours from us.

Kerry and Kathleen were glad that quite a few people from Michigan were able to come to the wedding. Kathy and Joe Smeltzer, Kay and Jim Nevil, Jim and Kathie Hess and Grandmother Ethel Johnson with Kerry's sisters Sally and Lloyd Smith and Jane and Mike Brown were able to enjoy a brief visit after the wedding.

Dave and Terrie Fedor and Charlie and Aurine Moore attended the wedding and then stopped by Maryland for a couple of nights with Debbie and Jim Stoner. During their time there they were able to visit Dorothy Layton in the hospital as she was having repair done on her hip replacement. Dorothy had had a rough time because they had to do surgery twice. She is home now and is out and about with her walker. She is getting better every day and the doctors give her good reports on her recovery. Dorothy was sorry that she had to miss the usual big bash at Karen and Mark Dorsey's for Mother's Day and granddaughter Cora's birthday. She assured me the family spent lots of time at the hospital with her though.

David and Ruth Charles arrived in Michigan mid-month and stayed two nights and then left for an Alaskan cruise. They report a lovely time, but not as good of weather as they had hoped for. They came back from Alaska and

promptly both of them got bronchitis and other ailments and are at present trying to get back to normal. Sometimes our bodies yell 'time out' and we fail to hear it!

Ellen Momberger had a lovely Mother's Day celebration with her son and his family.

Leslie and Tom Miller sent pictures from Kansas with Rebecca celebrating her 6 month birthday. Thanks, Leslie, and what a beautiful family you make!

Marie Mayville (mother of Pat Conley) has arrived back in Monroe after a four-month stay with another daughter in Hawaii. She and I talked it over and she said Monroe Michigan wins hands down for the place to be. I was glad to hear that one can get too much of beautiful flowers and 80 degree days. I am not sure everyone would agree with Marie! Welcome back, Marie!

Sue Trueman has moved back home to Farwell, Michigan. She had lived with her mother Ila Baker for a couple of years in Trenton, Michigan. Ila is happily settled in an assisted living facility near her other daughter Sandy Fine. I know the Trenton widow's club misses you very much, Sue. Hope you enjoy being home again in the north.

Ethel Johnson had some very good news recently. Sally and Lloyd Smith have been hired to teach at a Seventh Day Adventist School in Ann Arbor, Michigan for this next school year. They are very excited about the move from the Mt. Pleasant area and Mom is very excited about them being a lot closer than they have been in years. Happy movin', kids.

Our month ended with a Nevil family member visiting from Baroda, Michigan. Katy had two weddings to attend and we welcomed her sunny presence in our midst. Mom Kay, Dad Jim and Aunt Kathy were off rehearsing for the second wedding. You are welcome any Sabbath, Katy!

Robert E. Lee. 1864—"Knowing that intercessory prayer is our mightiest weapon and the supreme call for all Christians today, I pleadingly urge our people everywhere to pray. Believing that prayer is the greatest contribution that our people can make in this critical hour, I humbly urge that we take time to pray—to really pray. Let there be prayer at sunup, at noonday, at sundown, at midnight—all through the day. Let us pray for our children, our youth, our aged, our pastors, our homes. Let us pray for our churches. Let us pray for ourselves, that we may not lose the word 'concern' out of our Christian vocabulary. Let us pray for our nation. Let us pray for those who have never known Jesus Christ and redeeming love, for moral forces everywhere, for our national leaders. Let prayer be our passion. Let prayer be our practice."

**CHURCH OF THE  
LORD OUR  
RIGHTEOUSNESS**

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**Broken Bone**

While leading a tour of kindergarten students through our hospital, I overheard a conversation between one little girl and an x-ray technician.

"Have you ever broken a bone?" he asked.

"Yes," the girl replied.

"Did it hurt?"

"No."

"Really? Which bone did you break?"

"My sister's arm."



# the Echoes



Sally Smith singing a song the Echoes were singing



Sally Smith, Kathie Hess, Kay Nevil, Lloyd Smith, Ken Coll, Karla Coll, Jim Nevil and Kathy Smeltzer



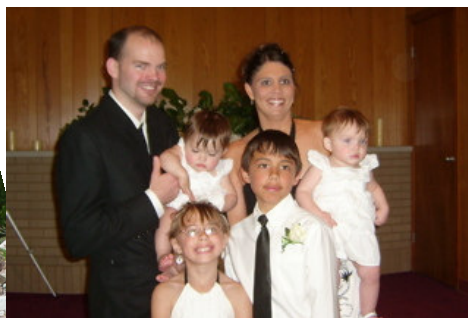
**A visit with the Stoner's**  
Aurine & Charlie Moore, Terrie & Dave Fedor and Deborah & Jim Stoner



Ethel Johnson & Kathy Smeltzer at Tender Care



Tom, Rebecca and Leslie Miller



Mr. & Mrs. Branden Carothers  
And family



Kerry, LeAnne and Kathleen



Sister & Brother—LeAnne & Casey



Last month I incorrectly identified Sarah's mom. Sorry, Diane  
Peggy Charles, Sarah Brownsey, Annie Malburg, Nancy Brownsey