



## Making a Fresh Start

Elder Charles Moore

I want to share with you a formula for making a fresh start because we have all failed. Because this advice comes from scripture, you can apply it with confidence, regardless of what kind of failure you had in the past. You may have had a financial failure, maybe a failure in marriage or another important relationship, or a moral failure. You may have really blown it and you may have made some decisions you're so ashamed of and hope nobody ever finds out about. Regardless of the failure you've had in your life, here's how you start over. My thanks to Jim Mooney's sermon How to Make a Fresh Start, for his acronym, S.T.A.R.T.

Stop making excuse

Take an inventory of my life

Act in faith

Refocus my thinking

Trust God

S - Stop making excuses.

If I want a fresh start in life, I have to stop making excuses for my failures. I've got to stop blaming other people. I've got to stop seeing myself as the victim of my

circumstances. Other people can hurt us, other people can harm us, and other people can scar us. But the only person that can ruin your life is you. You have a choice, which is to choose how you're going to respond to those hurts. The Bible says that the starting point is to just be honest and accept responsibility for my part in the problem. "If you don't confess your sins, you will be a failure. But God will be merciful if you confess your sins and give them up." (Proverbs 28:13 CEV) That is why Jim Mooney says the starting point to starting over is to be honest and face up to the problems and to understand that most of the problems in my life, most of the failures, are my own fault. So, "stop making excuses".

T - Take An Inventory Of My Life. That means I need to evaluate all my experiences. I need to look at what I have left after the failure and learn from my experiences. Galatians

3:4, as translated in The Message, asks, "Did you go through this whole painful learning process for nothing? It is not yet a total loss, but it certainly will be if you keep this up!" So, learn from your mistakes. Failure can be your friend or your foe. You can choose to learn from it or choose to repeat it. If you learn from it, then it can be your friend. However, if you don't learn from it it is your foe.

A - Act in faith. The Bible tells us clearly that the key to changing anything is faith. If you want to change your circumstance, it takes faith. If you want to change your personality, it takes faith. If you want to change anything in your life, you have to have some faith. Jesus says, "It shall be done to you according to your faith." (Matthew 9:29 NASB95) That means we tend to get out of life what we expect. What are you expecting in life? Are things going to be better or worse? Are they going to be the same? If you act in faith, then you will do something positive to ensure that you don't repeat the same mistakes over and over again. In order to start acting in faith, you've got to stop

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having a pity party. You've got to stop feeling sorry for yourself. "Poor me! I'm such a victim. Life is unfair." Of course life is unfair! Whoever said it was fair? God never said that. This is a world filled with sin and because of that, life is unfair. But you have to go on with life anyway. You need to stop rehearsing and regretting the past and you need to get on with the present and the future. The more time we spend regretting our past, the more of our future is wasted.

R - Refocus. I need to refocus my thoughts if I want to change my life. What memories are you still rehashing that keep you from having a fresh start in life? The Bible says let go. Let go of those things. The more you hold on to that memory and rehearse it, the more it continues to hurt you today. It cannot hurt you without your permission. You have to change your mind and let go and get rid of those painful, hurtful memories of shame and guilt and other things. Refocus your mind on the Scriptures. Consider how William Peterson translated Psalm 1:1-3 in *The Message*: "How well God must like you— you don't hang out at Sin Saloon, you don't slink along Dead-End Road, you don't go to Smart-Mouth College. Instead you thrill to God's Word, you chew on Scripture day and night. You're a tree replanted in Eden, bearing fresh fruit every month, Never dropping a leaf, always in blossom."

T - Trust God, depend on Him. We don't need to depend on ourselves. We've already proven that we can't do it on our own. That's why we've failed. Some people just don't get it. They stumble and fall and then they get up and say, "I'll just try harder!" But Proverbs tells us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. <sup>7</sup> Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. (Proverbs 3:5-7NKJV)

God specializes in new beginnings, in second chances. In Jesus Christ we have the power to start over. "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly." (John 10:10 NKJV) God is speaking to you, "I don't want you to turn over a new leaf. I gave you a whole new life so live it."

## Cyberspace News

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We had our biggest snowstorm of the year the first of February and we wondered what would happen to our retreat on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Bennie and Roy Gee flew here on the 3<sup>rd</sup> from California and no flight delays! Praise the Lord. Sonya arrived from upper state New York on Friday and our roads had cleared up and winter retreat began. Unfortunately Aurine Moore had spent the week in California for business and she is the one that caught the flight delays. She arrived Sunday morning at 2 am, so she got to have a mini retreat for a half a day! She did report some neat visits with people at the airport she was able to witness even though they were all stressed.

Retreat was wonderful as usual with United We Stand as our theme taken from Ephesians. Roy Gee led the "Stand" Friday night with 'The Heart That Makes Friends.' Elder Moore continued Sabbath morning with 'Love's Dimensions'. Roy preached on Saturday afternoon about 'The Christ Who Includes Us'. Roy concluded the weekend with 'The Church Which Protects Us' on Sunday morning. The Echoes sang for our Sabbath School service, so we had a well-rounded time with both music and speech.

While here Roy and Bennie were able to travel to Toronto, Canada for a couple days to visit Roy's brother. He has been ill but is really doing well now. Roy became an American citizen in the fall and was able to get a passport to travel outside the USA and return home.

Dorothy Layton has finally gotten in to a senior housing facility. Her phone numbers have not changed so feel free to call and visit with her. Her new address is Dorothy Layton, 9895 Palace Hall Drive, Apt. 108, Laurel, MD 20723.

David and Ruth Charles and Norma and Rip Ripley are still struggling with their aging difficulties so please remember them in prayer. Norma celebrated her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday and is happy to be getting around a little. Gabe and Mary Padillo traveled to surprise Norma and enjoyed the celebration. You can include Dale and I in the aging category also. Life is full of change and some of these are not fun and games! The three couples have been married over 150 years combined.

There has been some activity in the Phoenix area. Jennie Begeman had to have gall bladder surgery and she asked that Grandma (Diane) Begeman come and take care of Ainsley. Diane flew there to assist and to love on Ainsley. Jon and Shealyn Lane flew to Michigan to visit Jean as she was having some health difficulties. Shealyn was on spring break so she was happy to travel with her Dad. No one will ever know how much the visit was appreciated by Mom Jean Lane.

Lynn and Rob Vaughn traveled to Phoenix to visit with son Dan who has been out there for Google for four months. Our own Aurine Moore did us all proud by speaking about different folks working at the Detroit Rescue Mission and how they have influenced her life. Her talk was wonderfully received by the ladies present at the Ladies Tea.

## Michigan Report

Aurine Moore



According to the website [www.historyorb.com](http://www.historyorb.com), the last day of February, the 28<sup>th</sup>, was a significant day in history. In 1784, John Wesley chartered the first Methodist Church in the United States. In 1827, the United States' first commercial railroad, the good old Baltimore and Ohio (we know from Monopoly) was chartered. In 1849, a steam ship (called the California) brought the first boatload of prospectors hoping to make their fortune during the gold rush. Aside from the date, it's not connected - but now you know. . .

On the local church front, the highlight was the annual winter retreat in Howell, Michigan. Your reporter got snowed out of all but the last session with Roy Gee. It was excellent as usual by all reports and a blessing to those who attended.

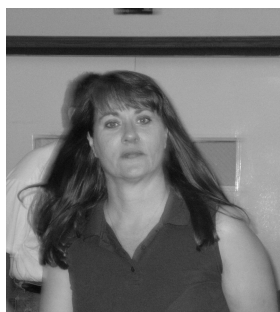
On the sermon front, we did our second annual sharing of the pulpit and congregations with our good friends from the Petersburg Church of God, Seventh Day. We kicked off the series in Petersburg with both congregations joining together to hear Elder Moore give the first of four sermons we shared on Biblical Biographical Blessings. Elder Moore spoke on David, the one the Bible refers to as 'a man after God's own heart' and why he was given that title (Clue - look at 2 Samuel Chapter 9 which talks about how David sought out someone from the household of Jonathan and Saul to whom he could show the Lord's kindness and kept that promise graciously by providing for Mephibosheth and allowing him to always eat at his own table). The next week Paul VanderHorst and Tim Begeman preached at their home congregations. Tim brought us a message on Saul, the apostle born out of time who came to be called Paul. He presented a lot of information on some of our most important doctrines that Paul contributed to the church and his passionate, life-long fight against false ideas (as well as his wisdom in knowing his audience and using the best speaking skills).

We had another special event this month, the Ladies Tea. It was beautiful, well attended and a time of good

fellowship. The speaker, me, really enjoyed the challenge and warm reception I received for my talk, illustrated with a power point presentation by my husband, about people I work with at Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries. I really enjoyed thinking about what I have seen in my co-workers and program residents' lives that show so clearly that they have listened to and applied scripture in their lives.

We were very proud to hear, and read in the Monroe Evening News, about the accomplishment of several people from church. Sydney Begeman, daughter of Jim and Tisha Begeman and granddaughter of Dale and Geneva, along with Gabe Vargas, son of Jamie Carothers and Mick Vargas, with Mick serving as the team's coach, and grandson of Dave and Terrie Fedor have won their district's 2011 MATHCOUNTS competition in Woodhaven. They and two other teammates are moving on to the State competition phase. Then come the Nationals! Congratulations on your achievements and know we'll be praying for you as you continue on in the competition.

I'll close this month's news with a mixed bag of blessings and prayer requests. Jean Lane had a very rough month in terms of her health and has moved to Monroe to live at the Magnum nursing facility this month. The news seemed very dire for a time, but antibiotics and the move may have helped. Dale Begeman has continued to have trouble walking so keep him and Geneva in your prayers for a solution. I think we all missed Diane Begeman this month, she was off to help out with granddaughter Ainsley as Jennie recovered from surgery, but no one more than Tim. Sydney Begeman severely sprained her ankle this month, while her brother Tommy had to have surgery. We enjoyed reconnecting this month with two families, one of which remembers Elder Wilkinson very well because his father and mother used to visit our church during Elder Wilkinson's time with us. Both families brought young children. Finally, Melinda Begeman will in fact begin increasing her hours of work for Oakwood Hospital where she is a published oncology research team member. Until next month may you be aware of God's presence everywhere you go!



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## How to Clean the House

1. Open a new folder on your PC.
2. Name it "Housework."
3. Send it to the Recycle Bin.
4. Empty the Recycle Bin.
5. Your PC will ask you, "Are you sure you want to delete Housework permanently?"
6. Calmly answer, "Yes," and press the mouse button firmly.
7. Feel better?





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