

August 2011



God is in Control

Elder Charles Moore

going to bring this all about for good?"

What most of Israel didn't understand, and what much of the

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God is in control of all things and let us never forget that. In a world where our daily newspapers and our cable news channels are filled with one catastrophe after another and each day brings new and greater tragedies around the world, it is easy for us to get caught up in the events of these last days and to wonder if the world has gone completely mad and out of control.

The answer of course is that sin reigns in the hearts of men and that sin, coupled with the hatred of Satan toward all of mankind, drives sinful men ever deeper in the depths of depravity. As we draw nearer and nearer to the coming of the Lord, we must expect that the deeds of sinners will only become darker and more sinister. With each passing day, mankind attempts to cast off any vestige of a Holy God and to forget that he has a Maker and to discredit the fact that, one day, each of us must stand before our Creator to give an answer for the things we have done while we walked this earth. But in the midst of all that chaos and uncertainty, we must rest assured in the

immutable fact that God has the "chaos" under control. **Isaiah 45: 7 I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things.** Why would He do this? Know this. The Lord even uses the chaos to bring people to Himself.

I'm certain that most of the children of Israel would have wondered if things were out of control when they were slaves in Babylon and Persia. Had God left them to their destruction at the hand of their enemies? Had God turned his back on them and forgotten that they were His chosen people? How could any good thing come of this captivity? The worship of the true God of Israel had nearly been forgotten as a whole generation passed away while in captivity. I wonder how many days they would wake up, or how many times they would lay their head upon the pillow at night, and wonder, "God, Do you really care? Are you really

church today has forgotten, is that God hasn't forgotten his promises and that He still has all things in His control. Though the world seems to be falling apart at the seams, it is still well in His hand. He is bringing about a master plan that will fulfill every word that He has spoken and not one word will fail!

In Isaiah 44:24 and 28, it is recorded, **"I am the Lord . . . who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please; he will say of Jerusalem, 'Let it be rebuilt,' and of the temple, 'Let its foundations be laid.'"** **45:1** "This is what the Lord says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut. . . ." We see that God is the one who has anointed this heathen king to be used as an instrument to bring about the will of God. It is God who appointed Babylon, and now Persia, to be both the rod of correction upon the backs of

(Continued on page 2)

God's wayward children and to be the source of their deliverance as well. God put Cyrus in the right place, at the right moment in history and upon the throne of the most powerful nation on earth, just to bring about God's plan for his chosen people and bring them home again

The first 17 verses of this chapter are devoted to giving a message to Cyrus, reminding him that it is the God of Israel who has given him the power to rule and reign and that God has not forgotten His people. A repeated refrain is "I am the Lord and there is no other." We come to the 18th verse. **Isaiah 45: 18 For this is what the Lord says— he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited— he says: "I am the Lord, and there is no other. 19 I have not spoken in secret, from somewhere in a land of darkness; I have not said to Jacob's descendants, 'Seek me in vain.' I, the Lord, speak the truth; I declare what is right.**

What a word this is to the people of God! God speaks and the world trembles! God speaks and love bursts forth upon his people! God speaks and every rock, every tree, every star in the heavens, every planet in the universe, every insect upon the ground and every heart that strains to hear his voice, comes to attention, waiting upon his every word! We know the power of God's words! We know that He is omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent. Our God knows all, is all, has all power and is everywhere at the same time. Nothing is hidden from Him. Though men may try to hide their deeds done in the darkness as they slink through the shadows of the midnight, God sees what they are doing.

God did not speak the world into existence, create all things including man, whom he created in his own image, and then give the breath of life, only to allow the devil to steal it all and to kill every man. That was never God's plan or intent, and it still isn't! God has not sold out all that he created to be utterly destroyed, but he has a plan of redemption, a plan to buy back with a ransom price that which the devil has taken by deception.

God wants you to remember that! He is the God of Life! He is the God of wonder! He is the God of love, mercy and grace! God didn't do all of that in vain. He didn't give creation a perfect order out of chaos only to allow it to revert to chaos again under the influence of Satan. God's perfect order is still there and it won't be long before it is restored once again and will be forever. Jesus is coming back, get ready.

Adapted from a sermon called God's Ultimate Plan by Pastor Jim May.

Cyberspace News

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My mind is so full of the last few days that it is hard to think back to August. Some of you probably do not know that my sister Jean Lane died Sept. 2. We thank you for the support of prayers and notes. I know that the news has not reached many of you and I am sorry I did not call. It is amazing how you do not think of every person you should notify. There will be more about this when I write September's news.

August started off with a bang as we were deep into youth camp activities. We had fewer campers this year, but had a great group and things went well. We want to thank many of our young staff for the work they did for us. We love having you come back and pitching in to help the new group of campers have fun and enjoy the week.

Our teachers and devotion leaders along with the vespers speakers were all in one accord in teaching about Jesus and his love for us. The theme this year involved trees and how we all need to be like that tree in Psalms planted by the water and unmovable in our faith.

We had very warm weather, so swim time was greatly appreciated. The kids played a lot of soccer in sports time this year and softball and volleyball were popular as always.

Check out the picture of Sonya Pease with Kay (Nevil) and Kathy (Smeltzer) Charles with a quilt Sonya made each of them because they are twins. What a wonderful gift! Of course Sonya being a twin with Ida makes her especially appreciative of those ties.

For crafts Rachel Sottile led the kids in making beautiful copper pictures in a frame and Diane Begeman had them making baskets. There is also a whole crew of helpers for these two leaders in crafts, no job at camp is completed without much help from staff.

The kitchen was well-staffed this year and I want to thank Trent Begeman for the wonderful job he does with KP. He had some special help this year with young-staffers Josh Nevil, Ben Smeltzer and the Bemus boys.

We are also thankful for Christina Allyn and Jenna Boyd keeping the kool-aid in full supply!

Shortly after camp a crew of the Charles family along with David drove to Florida and packed up the necessities and brought them back to Howell for David and Ruth's move into a lovely new apartment. They have settled in well there now. Their new address is 9501 East Highland Road, Apt. 232, Howell MI 48843. Their home phone is 810-991-1312. I know they love mail!

Rob and Lynn Vaughn rented a cabin for the family and they enjoyed a week's vacation in the dunes area of Michigan. Swimming and games kept them busy!

Michigan Report

Aurine Moore



August 31 was another significant day in history. The 1st major earthquake was recorded in the U.S in Charleston SC. in 1886. In 1914 in Bloomingdale, Michigan there was (for Michigan and many other states as well) a record 9.76 inch rainfall. None of it is related, but now you know.

The really, really big news for the month was Summer Camp 2011. What a hot, hot, hot week. What wonderful kids, what a great 'young staff group' (A.K.A. 'anyone under, say, 35 years of age'). It was the year of planking (laying stiff as a board in weird places) and the one to one staff to camper ratio (46 staff to 44 campers). It really was a wonderful week with significant spiritual development of campers and staff alike. It was also a great encouragement to older staff who felt blessed to see the high quality of young staff who are coming up to guide the next generation of campers. The post camp wrap up at church in Monroe, led by Kathy Smeltzer and Kay Nevil, was a great reminder of the lessons taught and learned, as teachers used 'trees' as a focal point of learning. Please visit the www.colornet.org web site and the camp facebook page for pictures.

Following Camp, several staff caught up on deferred tasks or tackled exciting adventures. Jeff and Melinda Begeman and daughter Katie headed off for a motor home tour of Homer, Wasilla and other parts of Alaska. They even met the mother of one of the Ice Road truckers. By the time they returned, they raced from the airport in Chicago to a wedding outside Cleveland, Ohio. More on *that* next month. The Echoes had a busy time of it too. Almost immediately after camp, they went to perform at a music venue in Bear Creek, Indiana. As Kathy shared with the local church, it was a ministry opportunity that challenged the group who had already worked hard at moving David & Ruth north but was a blessing to the Echoes themselves as well as the audience. The Echoes have always ministered the word, the Gospel, and musically by sharing what God mercifully does in their daily lives. Dave Fedor shouldered a fair amount of pain through the summer with his knee and right after camp had surgery on it. He was a bit sore at month's end but looking forward to a full recovery.

Dr. K. D. Nasir, of the Pioneers Mission group out of Orlando Florida stayed overnight with Charlie and I this month and spoke the next day to the shared congregations of the Petersburg Church of God 7th day and the Michigan church. Dr. Nasir gave a great testimony about the work he'll be doing in Kazakhstan soon - at the young age of 70. Mike Heil, pastor of the church that rents our building on Sundays, had been a missionary to Pakistan about the time Dr. Nasir's family, one of the few Christians in that country, was coming to America. Mike joined us that day and enjoyed discussing how he and K.D. might have met once, in Pakistan. Until next month, may you continue to always Go With God.

Special note: many of you know, Jean Lane, beloved member of our congregation died in early September. For those who may not have heard, we apologize. There will be more news about this in next month's issue.

Summer Camp 2011 Honor Roll of Volunteers!

Admin & Licensing

Tim Begeman

Diane Begeman

Cabins

Katy Nevil

Shane Snider

Campfire

Mike Begeman

Crafts

Rachel Sottile

Diane Begeman

Daniel Sottile

Laurie Eckles

Sally Smith

Sonya Pease

Tonya Johnson

Devotions

Charlie Moore

Lloyd Smith

Tim Begeman

Rene Moore

Dirt Balls

Teresa Jackson

Cole Cousino

Jamie Carothers

Lori Nevil

Melissa Vaughn

Virginia Begeman

Everywhere & wherever

Alex Verros

Garrett Bemus

Chandos Bemus

Kitchen

Geneva Begeman, cook

Jeff Begeman, cook

Dave Fedor, cook

Christina Allyn

Dale Begeman

Jenna Boyd

Kristin Vaughn

Lynn Vaughn

Mary Begeman

Sally Smeltzer

Terrie Fedor

Trent Begeman, KP

Music

Jim Nevil

Kathy Smeltzer

Kay Nevil

Lloyd Smith

Mark Nevil

Sally Smith

Charlie Moore (tech support)

Nature

Alyssa Riddle

Amy Schlorrff,

Cole Cousino

Michael Morris

Nurse

Melinda Begeman

Sports

Josh Nevil

Trent Begeman

Teachers

Rob Vaughn

Doug Vaughn

Kathy Smeltzer

Joe Smeltzer

Kay Nevil

Waterfront

Brian Begeman

Tim Begeman

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Smart Phone Terminology

A mother was determined to break through the generation gap and have a meaningful conversation with her pre-teen about her first day back at school.

The mother asked, "Did you have a good day?"

The daughter responded with, "Yeah."

Trying to prod a more detailed response, the mother inquired, "Do you like school this year?"

The daughter said, "Well, sort of."

Again pressing the point, the determined mom asked, "Well, how much did you like it?"

As a sign of the way smart phones have changed the way young people think, the daughter replied,
"I like it. But, I only like it about two bars."



Kathy, Sonya and Kay



Laurie, Sal, Melinda, Sonya

A GLIMPSE OF COLOR CAMP 2011



Trent



Dirtballs



Rachel



Daniel Sottile & Sonya Pease



Rob's class