

# Lo The d Ou Righteousness

## Encourage One Another

Elder Charles Moore



means - to put heart into someone. You need someone to put heart into you. To cause you to stand up when

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In the movie "Facing The Giants" the team is discouraged about their prospects of having a winning season so the coach challenges one of the players to give his best effort. The young player says that he will - but the coach pushes him to promise to give it everything he's got. The player promises that he will give his best effort. To ensure that he will "give it all he's got" the coach puts a blindfold on the player. The task is to move down the football field on all fours (the player's hands and feet) while carrying another player on his back. As the player starts moving down the field the other players are laughing and shouting. The player moves slowly but steadily along. One step at a time. One move at a time. Soon the laughing of the other players turns to silence as the player continues down the field. He believes he has moved past the 10 yard line and perhaps past the 20. The coach keeps yelling words of encouragement - "Don't give up. Keep on going. You can do it." The young player starts saying that his muscles are hurting and that he is becoming exhausted. The

coach starts yelling - "Just ten more steps." When the player gives him ten the coach yells - "Just five more steps." They continue down the field. "Give me just two more." He keeps going. Then the coach yells, "Give me one more." When the player does it, the coach yells, "One more you're almost there." Finally the player is exhausted. He believes that he might have made it to the fifty yard line. When the young athlete finally stops and removes the blindfold he finds that he has gone end zone to end zone. The coach had given him encouragement the entire way.

Folks we are to be encouragers. The game that we play in is called life. The fact is that it is not a game at all. So the Bible tells us to: **Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.** Our English word "encouragement" comes from the French word "Coeur". It literally

you are about to fall! So many folks are dis-couraged (without courage) and need someone to en-courage (to put heart into) them. We need folks that will give us heart to continue, to press on, to finish, to win!

Today I want us to look at three aspects of encouragement from this one verse.

We are to be people of encouragement. Look at our verse again. "encourage one another" is what Hebrews 3:13 tells us. We all need encouragement, but God has placed us here to encourage one another, to cheer each other up, to pat each other on the back and to push each other so that we can reach God's goal line. Like two burning hot coals within a fireplace each gives off heat and each receives heat from the other. Separate the two coals and they both go out very quickly but keep them together they flame brightly.

The time of encouragement is now! Have you ever had the experience of being out someplace and the car won't start because the battery is

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dead? How many of you want someone telling you - "wait till tomorrow," for that jump. Hebrews 3:13 does not tell us to wait until tomorrow it tells us to encourage each other today. Let's read it again. **Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, ...** The word "encourage" is in the present tense. It means that we are to encourage others now. It is also in the active voice so we are not to wait for others to encourage us - we are to take the initiative. We must encourage others even if others will not encourage us. Even if others don't give you a pat on the back, encourage one another today anyway. Mark Twain once said, "I can live for two months on one good compliment." Encouragement made him feel good. But encouragement is to do much more than make us feel good. Let's look at text again and see what the purpose of encouragement is.

The purpose of encouragement is overcoming sin. **Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.**

When a person is discouraged sin can deceive and harden his heart. Someone wrote, "People live by encouragement. Without it they die. Slowly... Sadly... Bitterly." Satan wants us to be discouraged. God doesn't. God wants us to be encouraged. God wants us to, "encourage one another." Satan wants us to be self-centered. God has given us the "Good News." Satan would have us think there is no "Good News" in this world. Satan has a number of tools that he will use against you. If he can't puff you up with pride, he will try to dampen your spirit by discouragement. It's one of his best tools! If he can get your soul "under the weather," he wins.

William Barclay, has written, 'One of the highest of human duties is the duty of encouragement. . . . It is easy to laugh at (human) ideals; it is easy to pour cold water on their enthusiasm; it is easy to discourage others. The world is full of discouragers. We have a Christian duty to encourage one another. Many a time a word of praise or thanks or appreciation or cheer has kept a (person) on his feet. Blessed is the one who speaks such a word.'

William Arthur Ward once said:- Flatter me, and I may not believe you. Criticize me, and I may not like you. Ignore me, and I may not forgive you. Encourage me, and I will not forget you.

**There is something about encouragement that, although we may find hard to believe or accept, never leaves our hearts or minds. As a warm knife can slide through butter - so words of encouragement can slide through a hard heart. I want to encourage you to become an encourager today for your good and the good of others.**  
**Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.**

## Cyberspace News



Late newsflash: Norma Ripley fell and broke her hip at the end of the month and they need much prayer because she will be unable to walk on it for two months. She had surgery and all is going okay with that, but it is hard for her to understand not being able to walk. Please pray for both Rip and Norma. Address: Jerome and Norma Ripley, 4865 Glen Ivy Lane S.W., C207, Roanoke Virginia 24018.

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, before camp, a baby shower was held for Annie Malburg (daughter of Larry and Peggy Charles) at Julie and Brent Charles' lakeside house. It was a beautiful day and we ate by the lake. She received many beautiful gifts. Baby Malburg is due in September.

June was a very busy month, so it passed by very swiftly. Another camp is over and it was a very successful one. Everyone reported a good time and the review of camp on June 23rd at church left everyone with sweet memories of lessons learned and successes in every area. I always want to tell the numbers at camp so here it goes. There were 61 campers, 12 dirtballs (under camp age), 10 to 12 young staff and about 30 adults present. Music was a hit as always.

In class the kids learned about holidays, Christmas, Easter, Independence Day and birthdays (Everyone should have two of those—your birth date and then your born again date.). Different teachers taught different holidays, but they all centered around Christ. It is amazing how many ways salvation can be brought to us. We are so blessed with our teachers—Rob Vaughn teaching the youngest, Doug Vaughn the next age up, Kay Nevil assisted by sister Kathy the next ones and then the oldest by Joe Smeltzer. Our dirtballs had a new teacher this year in Sally Smith (Yes, she is a teacher also) Teresa Jackson took a year off to just enjoy camp after 10 years of being the dirtball teacher. Most of us realize that that is the most difficult age (2 years -7 years).

Kitchen duty was a real pleasure this year. We have our own crew and really enjoy working together. I remember Elder Wilkinson saying, "There goes my people, I must hurry to catch up with them." I feel that way most of the time. Everyone knows what to do and it is done! We enjoyed Kenny Smith coming home to camp after having to miss 7 years. He led KP for us and did a wonderful job. He was always wondering what other job he could help with. He and his wife Jenny live in Ooletwah, TN and he is a sports teacher there. They have a little one, Isaac, who is 2 and a baby on the way.

We had a new sports director this year in Abby Begeman (Seth's wife) who works in that same capacity for the YMCA. It was a really warm week so she had lots of water balloon games which the kids loved getting wet.

I have not mentioned our regular workers that are so faithful to come year after year. Each one does a remarkable job and each year I know what a miracle we have. Our first camp was in 1951 and we have already had our 2012 camp so that makes 62 camps, I believe. I would love to hear from some of you former campers because we enjoy keeping in touch. We do have quite a few second-generation campers and probably third.

We were so glad to have Sonya Pease at camp once more. She started driving home right away after our last get-together there because she had a wedding to attend. Hope all went well on your trip, Sonya.

David Charles is still living in Howell and was able to visit camp a couple of days. He is doing pretty well and really appreciates all your prayers and concern. He has travel and moving plans for the future, so I will keep you updated. David, Kay Nevil, and Joe and Kathy Smeltzer vacationed the first part of June in Virginia and enjoyed a great afternoon with Mary and Gabe Pedillo. Mary is Norma Ripley's sister and we have all enjoyed their friendship for years.

Laurie Begeman Eckles and Rachel Begeman Sottile have been faithful visitors for Mom Judy at the Magnum Nursing home facility this month. What faithful daughters to be there when Mom needs them. She has been a resident there for ten years now. Remember the family in prayer and with cards if possible. Judith Begeman, 1215 N. Telegraph, Room D-403, Monroe, MI 48162.

I have tried to show you pictures of camp in different modes. The picture of the handwriting is everyone's comments at lunch. Another month has drawn to a close and we hope you have wonderful vacations this month of July! May God bless each of you.



## Michigan Report

Tim Begeman

June, for us is all things camp, making sure we have all our ducks in a row in the weeks leading up to camp. This includes personal preparations such as: mentally, physically, logistically and spiritually. To help us prepare Elder Moore presented sermons the weeks leading up to camp on prayer. He reminded us of the importance and a biblical template for effective and meaningful prayer.

Our youth camp was in-between June 17 to the 22<sup>nd</sup> and was a great success this year. We ended up with 61 campers. The theme in the classes that propelled the lessons we decided on was holidays including Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, Independence Day among others. Personally, my goal in my vesper talks every year is to give the kids a foundation that show Christianity is much more rational than any alternative schools of thought. I want to prepare them in an infinitesimal way to face the growing antagonistic criticisms they will face in their everyday life at school and in their social life. There is an old saying: "hearts cannot accept things for very long that their heads reject". This year on the first night of camp I tried to point out that faith is such a misunderstood word in Christian and non-Christian circles. A lot of people think that faith is now understood as a blind act of will, a decision to believe something that is either independent of reason or that is a simple choice to believe while ignoring the paltry lack of evidence for what is believed, or a kind of a religious wishful thinking, which all is nothing close to what the Bible means by faith. Biblically, faith is a power or skill to act in accordance with the nature of the kingdom of God, a trust in what we have reason to believe is true. Understood in this way, we see that faith is built on reason. We should have good reasons for thinking that Christianity is true before we dedicate ourselves completely to it. We should have solid evidence that our understanding of a biblical passage is correct before we go on to apply it. I tried to get across that it doesn't take faith to know that there is a God; in fact faith doesn't enter into a Christian's life until you trust your life to Christ and that's where faith is extremely important. We have very good reasons to know there is a God and I shared a couple of them to help make my case. The first was the beginning of the universe. If at one time there was absolutely nothing including God there would be nothing now. One of the oldest principles of rational philosophy is *ex nihilo nihil fit*. Out of nothing, nothing comes. I know some modern physicists say it is possible that our universe could come from nothing, however, If that were true, why stop at just this universe, why not something much simpler in composition popping into existence from nothing, like root beer or Teddy bears? It is much more probable and plausible that a universe with its intricate design comes from an intelligent divine mind. The second reason we can know there is a God is because of our consciousness. We all have five states of mind, there are more but there are at least these: sensations, thoughts, beliefs, desires and volitions. Not one of these is physical, they are mental. You cannot taste, touch, hear, smell or feel consciousness. For instance, a sensation is a state of awareness or a mode of consciousness, for example, a conscious awareness of sound, color, or pain. A visual sensation, like an experience of a tree, is a state of the mind, not a state of the eyeballs. The eyes do not see, I (my mind) see with or by means of the eyes.

A thought is a mental content that can be expressed in an entire sentence and that only exists while it is being thought. A belief is a person's view, accepted to varying degrees of strength, of how things really are. At any given time, one can have many beliefs that are not currently being contemplated. A desire is a certain felt inclination to do, have, or experience certain things. A volition or an act of will is an exercise of power, or an endeavoring to do a certain thing. Further, the mind and body have a cause and effect relationship with one another. If I were to worry too much it would change the chemistry in my brain. There has been a cottage industry to try to explain consciousness and they have all failed. Here is the problem, if I'm an atheist and say that in the beginning were the particles and when these particles rearrange into larger chunks of matter according to the laws of chemistry and physics you are going to end up with rearranged matter. There is no room for consciousness to come into existence. Again, you can't get something from nothing. The question, where does consciousness come from is not hard for the theist, because the theist starts with consciousness, and consciousness can only come from consciousness.

While I try to set a foundation for a basis to believe in God, Elder Moore through the rest of the week of camp at vespers sums everything up by offering a chance for the kids to make a decision for Christ. I trust between the classes that were taught and the other experiences the kids will remember what they've learned the week at camp this year.

Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes.

**CHURCH OF THE  
LORD OUR  
RIGHTEOUSNESS**

**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**



Learn to Laugh

If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have  
anything to laugh at when you're old. -Ed Howe

Thought for the Day



# a snapshot of COLOR camp



If you want to go up, when He comes down,  
You'd better get right or get left!  
We need Jesus because  
there is ~~an~~ ubiquity of  
iniquity. Tim  
Safety is our(?) paramount. Tim  
Coyd

Welcome to breakfast. This  
morning we have great input  
from Abner, Kenny,  
Give me a knife  
not this new fangled  
Chopper! Good

Being Seabinary  
is suicide. Tim

This song is my  
favorite. Kay

The more time  
it's all about the  
cross. Ruth

"got nothin'".  
Diane

222222 Joe



Annie Charles Malburg



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