### September 2012



# Be kind to one another

### Elder Charles Moore

We saw last month that if we want to get rid of our hostility, our anger, our unwholesome words, Paul tells us to "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32) We looked at "Be kind to one another" last month so we will examine "be compassionate" this month.

In the Gospel we see Jesus being moved with compassion when He sees a need, "When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick." (Matthew 14:14) Jesus saw two blind men sitting by the road, "Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes; and immediately they regained their sight and followed Him". (Matthew 20: 34) "And a leper came to Jesus, ... Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed. (Mark 1:40-42) "When Jesus went

ashore, He saw a large

crowd, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things." (Mark 6:34)

"I feel compassion for the people because they have remained with Me now three days and have nothing to eat. (Mark 8:2) and He fed them.

A widow of Nain who is burying her dead son finds the compassion of the Lord. When the Lord saw her, He felt compassion for her, and said to her, "Do not weep." And He came up and touched the coffin; and the bearers came to a halt. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak. And Jesus gave him back to his mother. (Luke 7: 13-15)

Jesus saw, He touched, He healed, he fed, He taught, He raised the dead, all out of a heart of compassion. The word "compassion" simply means that your feelings become a part of my life, and I begin to share and



understand what you feel and what is going on inside of you, and if I can, I do something to ease the need, to

assuage the pain. You might argue, "I'm not Jesus I can't do what He can do" and you're right, but often we do far less than what we can do and too often we harden our hearts to people rather than having compassion.

Let's suppose for a moment that it was Saturday night and you wanted to go to a movie. You're running late for the movie because you got home late and then once you put down the keys, you forgot where you put them. It was frustrating but you did find them. You finally jump into the car and you're on your way making good time until you come up behind a blue car. You are on a two lane road with a solid yellow line down the middle which means no passing. The car in front of you is doing twenty in a thirty five mile an hour zone. You think, "I want to grab some popcorn before the movie starts". You are starting to get mad and frustrated and you wonder where the person in front of you got their license.

Now let me ask, would it make a difference to you, if

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you knew that driver was heading home from the hospital to an empty house? She had driven to the hospital an hour earlier. Her husband of 40 years and her only son had arrived at the hospital dead after being in a car accident. She didn't have anyone left she could call on to come and drive her home. She was crying and driving 20 miles an hour in a 35 mph zone right in front of you because that was the best she could do through her tears. I would hope that if you had known this, you would have still been late for the movie, but you would have had some compassion. You would have prayed for her. What you would have done is that you would have put yourself in her place and you would have understood.

Do you know why we don't treat people with more grace and more love? It's because we do not put ourselves in their place. We even think the way we see people, is the way they really are. Yet not a single one of us can look at a person and see what's in his or her heart. We all have some issues in our lives that need to be dealt with, some hurts that needs to be healed and some pain that that needs to be healed and some pain that that needs to be eased. If we are going to make a difference in the lives of others for God, we are going to have to put ourselves in their place. Henry W. Longfellow wrote, "If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we should find in each man's life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility."

In a family torn by dissension and argument, "Be kind and compassionate to one another..." In a business where the general rule seems to be "dog eat dog" "Be kind and compassionate to one another..." In a community and nation where one race is pitted against another and tolerance is derided, "Be kind and compassionate to one another..." In a world that is torn asunder by deep and long-standing hatreds that never seem to be assuaged, "Be kind and compassionate to one another..."

You see the cycle will not be broken until there is kindness and compassion, until we begin to understand what is going on inside of others and open the door of compassion to a broken world. The sad truth is that the broken world is found in our family, our church, our neighborhood and in our own heart, may we be kind and compassionate to one another to heal our part of this broken world.

## Cyberspace News

September is always an exciting month because it brings in the school year and a lot of our lives revolve around school. I am past the age that I have children in school, but I do have grandchildren in school. Please take a look at the pictures of 'first days'. This is a big event in our household as I travel to the different houses to catch them getting on the big yellow bus! Don't forget that I welcome pictures sent from all of you and will share them in the newsletter.

Leslie Miller had a wonderful visit home to Michigan the first part of September with her family. She got back to Kansas and a few days later got news that her dear Grandmother Bonnie McCammon had passed away. She had been ill for awhile and Leslie was so thankful she got to spend time with her while she was here. She traveled with daughter Rebecca and son Alexander back for the celebration of Grandma "Bonnie's" life. We send our deepest sympathy out to you Leslie and Tom.

Annie (Charles) and Jeff Malburg are happy to announce the birth of Blake Jefferson on September 5. Blake weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces and was 20 inches long. That is the fourth grandchild of Larry and Peggy Charles. Congratulations to the whole family!

David Charles had a traveling month in September. He made a round-about-trip to many of you outlying members and friends. States he hit were: New York, Sonya and Arvilla Pease; Pennsylvania, Leeland and Letty Bond; Maryland, Deborah & Jim Stoner, Walter and Pam Layton, Dorothy Layton and Karen and Mark Dorsey; Virginia, Gabe and Mary Padillo and Rip and Norma Ripley; Florida, various friends; Ohio, Dick and Ruth Slauter and Louise Rowe. What a trip!! So glad you got home safe and sound, although a little weary.

Diane Begeman had a lovely week in the Phoenix area with granddaughter Ainsley, son Kane, and daughter-inlaw Jennie. She spent quality play time with Ainsley and both were sad to part company once again. I don't think Diane cried as loud as Ainsley did though. She reports that Ainsley talks a lot, but she can't understand everything she says yet.

Carrie, Joel, and Caleb DeHaan were able to spend some time this month at home with Mom and Dad Smeltzer. That is always a welcome time to be with family.

Kenny and Jennie Smith are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Maggie June on September 25. She weighed in at 7 pounds and 12 ounces. She is the granddaughter of Lloyd and Sally Smith.

We are looking forward to the October retreat. God bless you on these beautiful fall days.



Even without looking at the calendar I can tell the season has quickly changed by looking at my gutters that are overflowing with newly fallen leaves, fake grave yards and giant

inflatable pumpkins are mysteriously popping up in residential areas. I keep getting stuck behind diesel exhaust belching, red light flashing school buses, and my mailbox and answering machine is deluged with insipid political ads.

Diane took yet another trip to Arizona to visit her favorite grandchild who just happens to be Kane and Jennie's daughter Ainsley. Diane showered her with kisses and spoiled her rotten. She also took her swimming and long walks in the meat falling off the bone heat, however, it is a dry heat. Diane tells me Ainsley is extremely precocious without being ostentatious and ineffably adorable, but Diane may be a little tiny bit bias.

On September 8<sup>th</sup> the Echoes of Happiness took over our worship service. I counted 14 songs and I noticed most people were either singing along or tapping their feet. Their presence brought in many visitors that we were all happy to see. The list of notables included Sally Smeltzer, Leslie Miller and her kids Alex and Rebecca, Vicky Chapman, Vickie Velasco, Joel, Carrie and Caleb DeHaan and Erin Gill also brought her twins Ryann and Raegan to church for the first time. Also, on that same day most of us went and joined the Petersburg Church of God Seventh Day at the Magnum Nursing home to lead out in a small worship service for the residents that there. EOH (Echoes of Happiness) also joined us which gave our little service a big shot in the arm which the residents really enjoyed.

Later in September a number of us went to Holly Michigan to do an in-depth analysis on the viability and feasibility of the Wathana Camp facility for the future of our Color Camp. We surveyed every nook and cranny, nut and bolt, nitty gritty, minutia, structure, nicety and component of their readiness for our invasion of their accommodations. We all found that the Wathana Camp has everything we could ask for. It's definitely much more picturesque and arboraceous with a pristine private lake nestled in the middle with a state of the art swimming area. It's a rustic setting that is much more like the camps that I remember when I was a camper about 100 years ago. The only down side is the rental cost is more than we have ever paid before, so the more campers we have the better off we will be, so if you know of any kids of camper age(8-17) please urge them to come this year. It is July 7<sup>th</sup> thru the 12<sup>th</sup> 2013.

It is now official; Charlie and Aurine are now the proud parents of David Joseph Moore. Now they can look forward to many rewarding years of childrearing and small helping hands around the house. There is nothing like the pitter patter of tiny feet stampeding around the house.

During this month David Charles went on a 4000 mile round trip tour across the eastern seaboard on a visitation voyage. It was reminiscent of a politician running for office. The only thing missing was David kissing babies, making grandiose monumental promises and waving his arms in front of throngs of cheering adoring fans, waving signs and jumping up and down in their uncontrollable jubilation. Among those he visited were Arvilla and Sonya Pease, Dorothy Layton, Jim and Deborah Stoner, Karen and Mark Dorsey, Rip and Norma Ripley and many, many others.

If you want children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders.

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