

ROUGE FREE WILL BAPTIST

MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

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MASTER'S MEN REPORT: NOVEMBER 2026

Kevin Gripp & Tom Stoots: Directors

On Tuesday, October 13th the Master's Men had the first meeting at our new location of Logan's Steakhouse on Eureka Rd., in Southgate. Twelve men were in attendance and one very special guest, Chris Deel's son, Greyson. It is never too young to start working for the Lord. Thank you for bringing your son, Chris. Having him was a blessing.

We were also happy to see several of our ladies meeting in the main dining area for their own time of fellowship. Every opportunity for brothers and sisters to meet is wonderful.

Bro. Tom Stoots opened our meeting with a word of prayer and then proceeded with business. The Great Chili Cook Off is in the planning stage for late March or early April 2027. We will have more details in the coming months. But before we enjoy that delicious food we will have a time to feed our spirits.

The annual Men's Retreat is set for February 21-24, 2027. We will once again be going to the Faholo Conference Center in Grass Lake. We look forward to Bro. Garret Fitch and Bro. Tod Masters leading our time of devotions! See Bro. Tom Stoots or Bro. Kevin Gripp for information.

The third week in May the WAC will be holding their annual City-Wide Yard Sale at the church. Volunteers will be needed and welcome to assist our ladies in their efforts.

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MASTER'S MEN MISSION STATEMENT

The Master's Men of the Rouge Free Will Baptist Church are called to lead men to a mature spiritual relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In doing so, it is our intent to nurture Christian fellowship with each other, enrich the relationships with our families and support the ministry of the church.

Rev. Danny Slater: Pastor
Rouge Free Will Baptist Church
221 Ford Ave., Wyandotte, MI 48192
Phone: (734) 246-5668



ROUGE FREE WILL BAPTIST

Master's Men Newsletter

November Report Continued From Page 1

We are excited to see the return of the Men's Fall Retreat. A deposit has been sent to secure the Maryville Retreat Center in Holly, MI for September 19-22, 2027.

The Fall Retreat will be $395.00 per person for a single room or $350.00 per person for a double room. Our Fall Retreat has always been a special time to fellowship with our brothers in Christ to really get to know one another, bear one another's burdens and grow stronger in the work of the Lord. We are looking forward to enjoying this time once more.

In the spirit of reviving old traditions, the "Buck-A Week," and "Double Your Blessings," Programs are back. Is it dues? What is it? No, it is not dues it is a program to help fund the activities of the Master's Men. Just one dollar a week or $52.00 a year is all we ask. Or double the blessings you give with $2.00 a week or $104.00 a year. Can't do that right now…no problem. Little is much when God is in it. Everything is welcome.

It is that time of year again…No Shave November! Once again, we invite all of our men to lay aside your shaving utensils and give your Barber and Hair Stylist a vacation. And just let your hair grow wild and free for *"No Shave November."* Then take the money you saved by not shaving and cutting your hair and donate it to The Master's Men. We in turn will take all the money collected for November and bless a family or two that are currently battling Cancer. Every penny collected will go straight to these wonderful families to aid them in their fight against Cancer. We rely on the Church Office to select these families who so desperately need your help. Each year we have done this event; God has blessed us with more and more donations where we have been able to bless multiple families. *"Praise God!"* And we expect this year He will do the same.

Just write *"No Shave November"* on your envelope or Check memo line. We will do the rest. So, you don't want to let your hair grow Wild and Free? Your money is still good here. Have no fear. We also do this every November to remind Men to get those Annual Health Physicals and Examinations. Early detection is key and could save you and your family from experiencing the devastation a Cancer Diagnosis can bring. Do it Today! Please. May God bless you all!

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ROUGE FREEWILL BAPTIST

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November Report Continued From Page 2

A Question of the Month was posed for our November meeting; "What does the Bible say about cremation?" We will be meeting on Tuesday, November 10th at 6:30 at Logan's Steakhouse, in Southgate. Come ready to bring your thoughts on this question.

At our October meeting, Bro. Kevin Gripp brought our devotion from Psalm 103:8. Bro. Kevin gave some interesting points for us to ponder. "How does God's grace effect my life?" God's grace sets you free from the power of sin. Then he asked, "How do you feel when you love, when love is not returned?" God forgives us even when we turn from Him and then come back. Thank you, Bro. Kevin for these reminders of God's limitless love for us. Bro. Kevin dismissed our meeting in prayer.

We are looking forward to this month's meeting and hope that you can join us. You do not have to be a member to attend. All men are welcome!!

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND YOURS!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!





MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL LADIES IN CHRIST 2026



THE MASTER'S MEN WERE BLESSED TO HOST TWENTY-ONE VERY SPECIAL LADIES.

THANK YOU TO THE SEVEN MEN WHO SERVED TO MAKE THE DAY









MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL LADIES IN CHRIST 2026









MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

Youth Ministries Pumpkin Carving









See all upcoming events on the Rouge fwb youth ministries

Facebook page!

A huge thank you to Will & Cheryl Jackson for all they do!



MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

Youth Ministries Pumpkin Carving















MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

Where Is the Hope? By Charlie Baughman

So now we arrive at the next step.

We have an author.

We have a story.

We have a purpose.

We have the breakdown of that purpose.

We have the answer of God's presence.

We have now come to the most unique perspective on the road to recovery. It is not morality that gets us back. Morality will always be dependent on our laws and our wills, and both are totally at the mercy of an individual and the society in which he lives. The answer lies in the very process of God entering into that suffering and providing the gift of grace to us for forgiveness and inner strength.

So here we have it. Our greatest gift from God is freedom. Our greatest blessing is His presence---perfect love and relationship. On this basis I move to two converging conclusions.

First, the real malady is within us. The brokenness is in you and me. And because of that there are two ways God can enable us to cope with suffering. He can completely remove the pain by answering our prayers every time we ask Him to remove an obstacle. But think about that. Today perhaps it is a broken arm. Tomorrow it may be a bankrupt relative. The next day it could be a dying loved one. Problems will forever remain intrinsic to the human scene. Do we play God and demand that the evil be removed at every occurrence? That is asking for the logically impossible if love is to be supreme; God doesn't want us to love Him for what we can get from Him.

The other way God enables us to cope with suffering is to change us from within. He changes our hearts and walks with us through the deep waters. This is the greatest miracle when compared to the mere changing of circumstances. Only a change within us can keep intact Paul's three excellencies of faith, hope, and love.

Second, the pattern of the story makes sense. The narrative goes from the fact of our brokenness to a Savior who entered into our suffering and brought us the hope of His eternal presence. This is how I see the story summarized:

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MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

Where Is the Hope? continued

Where there is the possibility of love, there has to be the reality of freedom.

Where there is the reality of freedom, there has to be the possibility of pain.

Where there is the reality of pain, there is a need for a Savior.

Where there is a Savior, there is the possibility of redemption.

From the freedom to love, to the possibility of suffering, to the provision of a Savior, to the message of redemption, to our restoration: That is the story of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His redemption provided for you and for me.

This second conclusion suggests that pain holds a legitimate place in our lives. You see, the bottom line is this: Our problem is not that we are immoral. Our problem is so severe that it cannot be solved by morality alone. Only the Creator of our souls who gave us essence can lift us to the plane where we see the Savior's wounds for our redemption.

Is it\ not possible for God, who has shown us why physical pain is important, to show us in His infinite wisdom how pain serves the ultimate purpose of calling us to our Savior and Redeemer? Malcolm Muggeridge put it in these words:

"Contrary to what might be expected, I look back on experiences that at the same time seemed especially desolating and painful with particular satisfaction. Indeed, I can say with complete truthfulness that everything I have learned in my seventy-five years in this world, everything that has enhanced and truly enlightened my existence, has been through affliction and not through happiness, whether pursued or attained. In other words, if it ever were to be possible to eliminate affliction from our earthly existence…the result would not be to make life delectable but, to make it too banal and trivial to be endurable. This, of course, is what the cross signifies. And it is the cross, more than anything else, that has called me inexorably to Christ."

Continued the next page….



Where Is the Hope? continued

I have thought of Muggeridge's statement often because I so admire his writings. In his younger days, he would have lampooned anyone he heard say the same thing. But after years of learning and writing and seeing and finally trusting Jesus Christ, he saw through a different lens. Satire creates a clever caricature of reality, and as a humorist and satirist, Muggeridge could mock anything. As a testimonial to life's most enduring truths, he went to Christ and to the cross and he was made most real. Nothing trivial there.

It is not accidental that the very word "excruciating" literally means "out of the cross." Nowhere was pain more embodied than on the cross. Nowhere else was the redefinition of life given than from the cross. Jesus Christ continually contradicts us in the way we experience ourselves as alive and shows us how to redefine life.

NOT IN SPITE OF BUT THROUGH

I close this with a very profound statement from James Stewart of Scotland. Psalm 68:18, in the King James translation that Stewart taught from, is translated as "He led captivity captive." Stewart says:

"The very triumphs of His foes, it means, He used for their defeat. He compelled their dark achievements to subserve His ends, not theirs. They nailed Him to the tree, not knowing that by that very act they were bringing the world to His feet. They gave Him a cross, not guessing that He would make it a throne. They flung Him outside the gates to die, not knowing that in that very moment they were lifting up all the gates of the universe, to let the King come in. They thought to root out His doctrines, not understanding that they were implanting imperishably in the hearts of all men the very name they intended to destroy. They thought they had god with His back to the wall, pinned and helpless and defeated: they did not know that it was God Himself who had tracked them down. He did not conquer in spite of the dark mystery of evil. He conquered through it."

Maybe this is what the Apostle Paul meant when he said, "That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformable unto His death." (Philippians 3:10)

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MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

Where Is the Hope? concluded

Love and forgiveness, worth and worship—all are conditional on freedom. It is these that form the components of growing with Jesus Christ and finding in His presence hope that transcends the moment and lifts our hearts to the eternal. If people become skeptics about God in response to suffering, we must assume that the antidote, pleasure, must mean perpetual happiness. But that is simply not the case. G. K. Chesterton suggested that meaninglessness does not come from being weary of pain. Rather, meaninglessness comes from being weary of pleasure. In short, both pain and pleasure are experiences that remind us that without God, neither can be explained.

I fully realize that to an aching heart no volume of words can bring comfort. But it is also true that even if the impact is not immediate, at some moment, the truth takes hold.

I believe God best understands why we weep and why we struggle. I can't help but to think of Jesus at the tomb of Lazarus. (John 11:1-44) This family at Bethany was very special to Him. He was the friend they needed the most when Lazarus was dying, but He wasn't there. So, when Jesus did come, their biggest question was why He hadn't come before Lazarus died. He assured them that He was indeed the One who could and would still rescue Lazarus. "We know that you will do that in the final resurrection," they said, "but had you been here, this death could have been prevented." And the Gospel writer tells us that Jesus stood by the grave and wept.

Then, with the authority Jesus alone had, He called Lazarus forth from the grave. The power He had, He displayed. And the sorrow He felt in the face of death of a friend was not hidden either. Why the tears? Why the heartache? He knew He was going to raise Lazarus from the grave. I suspect that Jesus must have wondered, "***How do I explain to them that when they reach their destination, the pain will be gone?"***

Tears are a part of our stories but our eternal destination point is hard to explain to us because we know only time and cannot understand eternity. But He will get us there.



MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

I Ain't Always Been This Here Way by R. Baughman reprinted from Nov. 2012

When I was working in the Home Care Industry, I had a chance encounter that has stayed with me for many years. When my husband began talking about honoring Veteran's, this November, the incident immediately sprang to my mind. It was so powerful to me that I had to write about it for our company newsletter, all those years ago. My hope is that you will be touched by it, the way I was:

He was always sitting in the same spot each time I came to his building for my visit, at his usual post by the front door. He'd smile and make some comments about the day's weather, as I rushed past him. And he would still be there as I left, wishing me a good day, as I hurried by again, trying to get to my next appointment on time.

What made me stop that day, of all days, I still can't say. I only know that I am glad that I did. Something about the way that he spoke "Be careful on your journey." he advised. Or it may have been the melancholy way he added, "Things ain't like they used to be." I agreed and turned to go, but his next words caused me to pause in my very busy day. "Me, for instance," he said. "I ain't always been this here way."

I looked at him more closely. Slowly, I began to see past another elderly man in a wheelchair. I see them all the time in this job, so often that I have stopped, "seeing them." But now I noticed the lines of age in once, strong hands. Hands that had probably worked hard every day of this man's life, just to keep food on the table. And the shoulders, now stooped low, perhaps by the burdens he carried. But, in his eyes I saw a sparkle. That indefinable, yet undeniable spark that shouts, "I am still fighting! I am still here!"

"I ain't always been this here way," he had said, and I knew it to be true. I squatted beside him, on the cold Autumn ground and he recounted his experience in the "Great War." He spoke of a young man fighting for his country and for his right to do so and often fighting for his very life. He spoke of the friends who didn't make it home...He fell silent for a moment, looking off into the distance, to a place and time that lived on in his mind.

Then he spoke of the sacrifice of a single, precious limb and how proud he was, even to this day, to have made that sacrifice. For the first time in all those months, I didn't see the wheelchair, I saw why he was now sitting in it. I didn't see a crumpled old man, but in my mind's eye, I could see a proud soldier in his dress blues, standing shoulder to shoulder with countless others, pride, and a hunger to serve their country, glowing on their young faces.

This gentle soul taught me so much that day, in the span of a few precious moments. I was reminded that I have so much to learn if I will only listen. I can learn history from those who actually lived it. I can hear the stories no book can adequately teach. I can be enriched by each life that touches mine and by the Grace of God, I can give something back, if I just take the time to listen.

I thanked him for his time that day, for sharing his memories with me and then I thanked him for fighting for his country. I hugged him as I turned away and then in my heart, I thanked him for opening my eyes….

This year, during Thanksgiving, please take the time to thank God for all who have served,

and pray for those who are still serving, to protect our freedoms.



MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

THANKSGIVING





ROUGE FREE WILL BAPTIST

Master's Men Newsletter

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2	3	4 *Bro. Mike Ringel Bible Study 6:00 PM*	5	6	7
8	9	10 6:30 PM Master's Men Meeting	11 *Bro. Mike Ringel Bible Study 6:00 PM*	12	13	14 9:30AM Liberty Conference at Chapel
15	16	17	18 *Bro. Mike Ringel Bible Study 6:00 PM*	19	20	21 10:00 AM WAC Meeting
22	23	24	25 *Bro. Mike Ringel Bible Study 6:00 PM*	26 	27	28
29	30					

1 Chronicles 29:13 (NKJV)

"Now therefore, our God, we thank You and praise Your glorious name."

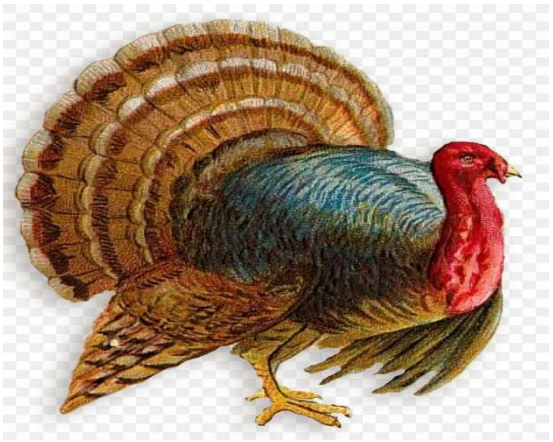

REMEMBER
TO SET YOUR
CLOCKS BACK!












VETERANS DAY





