



ROUGE FREE WILL BAPTIST MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

MASTER'S MEN REPORT: OCTOBER 2026

Kevin Gripp & Tom Stoots: Directors

The Master's Men start this month with heavy hearts as our beloved director John Zubor is remembered. Bro. John was a man who lived to inspire all of us to do more and to be more. His monthly devotions at our meetings were always uplifting. His dedication to our church, and all of us, will not be forgotten. As a special tribute one of Bro. John's devotions is reprinted in this edition. Until we meet again in Heaven, we are thankful for all he brought to us here.

And as it should be we have gotten back to work. Our first meeting after summer hiatus was on Tuesday, September 8th. We were very happy to welcome thirteen men. Unfortunately, this would be our last meeting at what had been our venue for several years. We discussed a new location and our meeting this month will be held at Logan's Roadhouse located at 13305 Eureka Rd., Southgate Tuesday, October 13th, 6:30 p.m.

Aside from the change of restaurants there was a lot of business to discuss in September. Our 2027 Men's Retreat will take place February 21st-24th at Water's Edge Resort, which was our original meeting place. There will be another church joining us and we look forward to a wonderful time with Bro Garret Fitch and Bro. Tod Master's leading our time of devotions! Watch for more details soon.

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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****October Report Continued From Page 1**

Another topic of discussion was the possibility of a Fall Men's Retreat in 2027. This retreat is generally a time of fun and fellowship. Past Fall retreats have included golf outings, fishing and of course lots of food. Plans are in the works, and we will keep you updated as details become available, including pricing. There was also discussion about asking other churches to attend our retreat and monthly meetings.

Bro. Tom Stoots brought our devotion for us by discussing, "Things in your life you would have done differently." His scripture was Psalms 90:12. Bro. Tom talked about learning to say no more, because every yes is a no to something else. He talked about committing to being the best man possible and to more time with God. Bro. Tom stated that it is never too late. And encouraged us to make it count. We appreciate Bro. Tom for sharing with us! As always, our meeting was closed in prayer. We thank God for allowing us this time together.

If you would like to donate to the Master's Men, please put your contribution in an envelope and specify that it is for our department or write Master's Men in the memo line. We appreciate everyone who contributes.

SPECIAL LADIES LUNCHEON

It is the time of the year when we will once again honor our Special Ladies in Christ with a luncheon devoted to them. The Master's Men will be hosting our ladies at Pia's Ristorante Italiano on Saturday, October 17th at 1:00 p.m. The Master's Men will act as waiters for this special occasion. Volunteers are needed. Please see Bro. Kevin Gripp or Bro. Tom Stoots for information. Invitations have already gone out, and we are looking forward to pampering our very special ladies.

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**MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER*****Master's Men Report concluded*****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!

COMING IN 2027

Back by popular demand, The Great Chili Cook Off will be coming our way once again. This is a cooking competition to raise funds for the Master's Men. It has the added benefit of being fun and delicious. So, start thinking about your best chili recipe and sign up when plans are completed. We hope to see you there...and to eat some great food!

God Bless You All!



TRUNK OR TREAT !!

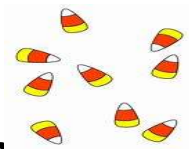


Saturday, October 24, 2026

4:00-6:00 p.m.



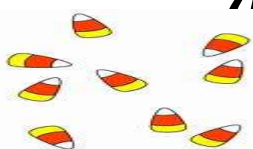
See Will or Cheryl Jackson for details...



Start making plans to join us!

***So, dust off that old costume,
decorate your trunk and join
us to hand out treats!!***

***Donations of candy or money
are needed and appreciated!***



***'No candy with peanut butter
products, please.)***





MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

An Empty Mayonnaise Jar and Two Cups of Coffee

When you get overwhelmed with all the worries of life, and 24 hours in a day just doesn't seem to be enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the two cups of coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor then picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes."

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things — your family, your children, your health, your friends — and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house and your car. The sand is everything else — the small stuff.

"If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you."

"Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your spouse out to dinner. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first — the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented.

The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It shows you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a cup of coffee with a friend."

This Devotion was given by Bro. John Zubor January 11, 2022, at the Master's Men Meeting.



MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

Special Ladies In Christ

The Master's Men are pleased to be able to
Honor the widows and single ladies of our church once more on
Saturday, October 17, 2026

At 1:00 p.m. at Pia's Ristorante Italiano.

Ladies, please R.S.V.P. today if you have not done so already.

We look forward to pampering our ladies with a special meal
and all the love and care they so deserve!

there is
nothing more
POWERFUL
than a woman
who loves GOD

THE *Naked Faith*





MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

Where's The Wound by Charlie Baughman

What happens when a person is stabbed to death? The physical system first reacts in pain to the destruction and then it is silenced because of the total severance of the body from life support--death. It is the same with the soul. Sin is the stabbing to death of the spirit, causing a severance between spiritual life and the spiritual capacity of the person. The person is then no longer the carrier of the body but, the body carries the person. The shell walks and moves but, the being is dead.

That was not the way God intended us to be, and that is why it has been said that "the worst effect of sin is within, and is manifest not in poverty and pain, and bodily defacement but, in the discrowned faculties, the unworthy love, the low ideal, and the brutalized and enslaved spirit."

Sin is the cause. A disconnection from the spirit is the result. Pain is the symptom. The worst judgment upon sin is more sin. Bereft of the presence of God, the isolation is rightly called death. It has been written that hell is the inability to love. But we can take it one step further: Hell is the self, isolated from God. His Word has been violated, His presence has been lost, and the pain we feel is that of being alone.

You see, sin is the brokenness of the soul, a wound that is deep and systemic, and pain is the symptom. Handling it inappropriately increases the agony, and a misdiagnosis only mangles the wound and results in more pain. And a person or friend who tries to minister to that pain without even knowing the nature of the wound will often tear at the wound—innocently—and create a pain that feels like torture.

There is a purpose to life, and sin is the violation of that purpose. The starting point of dealing with pain is to understand and accept that there is a purpose to your life and to mine. We are not just thrust into existence indiscriminately, rather, we are here by the divine will of our Creator God. What is life's purpose? The Bible makes it clear that the ultimate purpose of God for us is communion with the Father. Not union, not just submission or being absorbed into His being but, communion with Him, friend to friend.

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**MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER****Where's the Wound continued**

Let me illustrate what this means. I am now a grandfather and a great grandfather. No great accomplishment on my part, just a reality. One day my daughter, watching me enjoy my little granddaughter, asked me, "What's the difference between having a child and a grandchild?" I paused to think about her question, and then I said, "When you are a parent, you hold and raise that little one with an incredible expenditure of energy, work, expense, sleeplessness, worry. All that extracts from you a major portion of the limited stock of emotional and physical energy each of us has been given. But when you are a grandparent, a greater portion of your stock of energy can now be used in the enjoyment and delight a child brings because the parent is there to give the direct care. The love you feel may be the same but, while the parents feel the strain and responsibility of loving the child, the grandparents are free to enjoy loving the child."

But let's switch the child now. The child comes as a total stranger into the world. The look of bewilderment is evident from the beginning. The very first experience of the child as it enters the world is pain. Isn't it odd that the first sound is not laughter but crying? How incredible it would be if a baby were delivered laughing. But the reality is not so. The first smile comes sometime later, after the child has grown accustomed to the familiar and recognizes what care and provision mean. Only then comes the smile, the giggle, the chuckle, and the longing to be with those who personify love to that child.

The little one knows what communion with its earthly parents means. Is that not an indicator of what life was meant to be in our relationship with our Heavenly Parent? The little one does not have to be taught to cry. Laughter comes with the familiarity of love. Pain comes from unfamiliarity, estrangement, puzzlement, aloneness, and physical and emotional isolation. The baby learns to smile in response to being cradled, comforted, held, protected, and loved. When Augustine said, "You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee," this is precisely what he was talking about.

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MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

Where's the Wound continued

God has a general purpose for life and a specific purpose for each of us in knowing His presence in our souls. He communes with us there. The physical is indicative of the spiritual. The naturalist experiences great loss by limiting himself to matter and denying the world beyond it. The great loss of the pantheist is in attempting to ignore the body, the material, and see only the soul.

(A pantheist believes the cosmos is divine. That there is no separate, creator God.)

Why are so many songs that are written preoccupied with love? Why is there always a “broken heart,” when we actually mean our emotions are torn? Is it because we are searching for the touch to the soul that comes only from knowing the reason for our being? No matter how the naturalist focuses on science or the pantheist on detachment from the material, the people of this world would cry out for meaning and purpose in their existence.

THE OLDEST BOOK WITH THE OLDEST PROBLEM

The context of the entire book of Job—the book in the Bible that deals most with this subject—is pain. “Why?” Job asked from various vantage points but, not once did he question God’s existence. He struggled with wanting to know God’s purpose and understand His ways. Job wondered about the purpose of his own existence but, he never questioned God’s existence. Deep within he ultimately recognized that outside of God there were no answers, just haunting questions. But in the philosophical and the theological pursuits of the answers to the reality of his experience two realities emerged, one negative and the other positive.

First, the negative: the colossal failure of his friends. They were at their best when they took time out of their own lives just to be with him, saying nothing. The moment they began to give their own observations for why Job was suffering and offer their suggestions for remedying his situation, Job’s pain intensified. To be loved and feel cared about is what someone who is hurting needs from friends. The person who is experiencing pain and suffering simply needs to know that he or she is not alone.

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MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

Where's the Wound continued

The soul longs for the balm that touches the soul beyond the body, the balm that comes from being in the presence of people we love as well as those who love us. Job's friends increased his hurt by judging him rather than just being near him and comforting him with their presence.

A caring touch speaks volumes to the soul. And so, we must ask ourselves, are we not hearing the cries of those who just want to be held, to be touched, to know that they are not alone? Those who have turned into recluses and who die alone have already died within long before their physical bodies give up. Starved of relationships for so long, they no longer know how to relate, and the desire of many is for distance rather than closeness. The care of a friend is often the first touch to reawakening the soul.

So, the failure we see in the story of Job is the failure of friendship. Then comes the answer from God. God's answer was not propositional, but relational. And that is what Job needed most. He simply needed to know that God was with him through his ordeal...that God had not abandoned him.

Pain can easily produce the sense of being abandoned. The presence of someone who loves, and cares can most persuasively counter that fear. God's words were important to Job, but most important to him was the assurance that God was with him through it all, revealing Himself to Job at the most critical moment. And Job said, "My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you." (Job 42:5)

Author and Minister Calvin Miller summed it up well when he speaks of answers that come in the form of words and other answers that come in the form of God's presence: ***The sermon and the Spirit always work in combination to produce liberation. Sometimes the Spirit and sermon do supply direct answers to human need but, most often they answer indirectly. Most problems are not solved by listening to sermons. The sermon, no matter how sincere, cannot solve these unsolvable problems. So, if the sermon is not a problem solver, where shall we go for solutions? Together with the Spirit, the sermon exists to point out that having answers is not essential to living. What is essential is the sense of God's presence during dark seasons of questioning...Our need for specific answers is dissolved in the greater issue of the Lordship of Christ over all questions—those that have answers and those that do not.***

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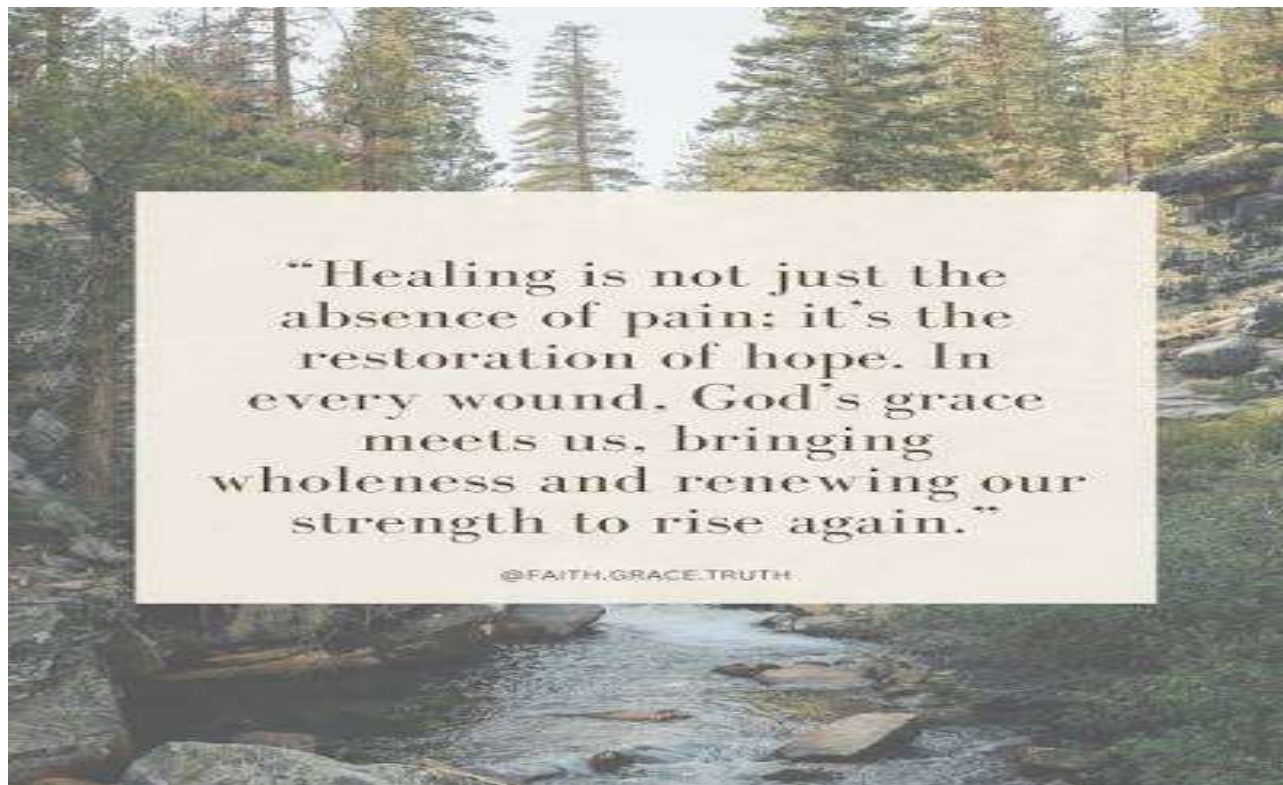
Where's the Wound concluded

To some questions there are answers, to other questions there are no sufficient propositional answers. Both dissolve in the reality of God's presence, and the answers we do have about him carry us through the questions for which we still do not have the answers. God has made us for that special relationship with Him. That is the purpose of life, that we might know God and enjoy His presence in our souls.

In their hostile, hate-multiplying world, it is not by accident that the crass materialist who are represented by the new atheists mock the greatest witness within their own souls as the worthiest of ridicule: The presence of God, who is most needed by them, is seen as the least worthy of all arguments and the worthiest of contempt.

A baby's initial smile as it recognizes love ought to give us the first clue of who has ultimately created us. God's presence brings a smile to the soul.

NEXT MONTH: WHERE IS THE HOPE?





MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

PASTOR APPRECIATION

PASTOR APPRECIATION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026



We know it is not always easy, but we always love and appreciate you and Ms. Kim.





MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

IN LOVING MEMORY



Bro. John Zubor

There are so many things we could say, but John's life and his service for the Lord really said it all.

His dedication to his family, his church and most of all his Lord will always be an example to everyone who was blessed to know him.

Please keep their precious loved ones in your prayers!



Sis. Jean Holiday

The best way to describe this dear lady is encourager.

Sis. Jean was always thinking of someone else even through years of illness.

She will be missed!





ROUGE FREE WILL BAPTIST

Master's Men Newsletter

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 6PM Sign Making for Prayer Walk	3 9:30 AM Prayer Walk
4 9:45 AM Sunday School 11AM Worship	5	6	7 Bro. Mike Ringel Bible Study. 6:00 PM	8	9	10
11 Pastor Appreciation Day	12	13 6:30 PM Master's Men Meeting	14 Bro. Mike Ringel Bible Study. 6:00 PM	15	16	17 1:00 PM Special Ladies Luncheon
18	19	20	21 Bro. Mike Ringel Bible Study. 6:00 PM	22	23 6:00-8:30PM Youth Pumpkin Carving	24 TRUNK or TREAT
25 Special Singing Soul's Harbor PM Service Youth Night	26	27	28 Bro. Mike Ringel Bible Study. 6:00 PM	29	30	31

James 5:7: Being patient like a farmer waiting for the precious harvest.



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