Michigan Labor Unites and Flexes Its Muscle Against Right to Work for Less

Over 3,500 union activists monitored Michigan’s presidential primary polls to warn voters against a potential Right to Work petition drive on January 15th. Sensing the impending union onslaught, the Right to Work forces failed to show up.

“We have proved that if and when the Right to Work campaign comes, they will have a much bigger battle than they had been originally thinking,” said AFL-CIO President Mark Gaffney. “We found that rank-and-file members responded to this issue with much more excitement than you find for a candidate.”

Demonstrating a mighty show of unity, labor unions including the Michigan Education Association, the AFL-CIO and the Change to Win Coalition combined their talent and resources to recruit and train volunteers to work the polls statewide. In addition, volunteers were also educating voters on how to vote and the need for healthcare reform.

“Michigan labor showed its strength. Working families know that Right to Work is about working for less pay and they know it’s bad for Michigan’s families,” observed Ed Leary a member of the USW and, one of the organizers of the anti-Right to Work effort.

Brent Gillette, the National Political Director for the Michigan State AFL-CIO who coordinated the campaign, was also pleased, “This was a true unified solidarity movement in the state of Michigan with all internationals, labor councils and all locals on board with the same message: Right to Work is toxic for Michigan.”

Saundra Williams, President of the Metro Detroit AFL-CIO, decided, “The Right to Work – Decline to Sign Petition Program was a success because of volunteers who realize the value of organized labor. I am most proud of how with very little notice, and over the holiday season, organized labor was able to mobilize and train over 3500 volunteers from unions across the state. In a war that is being brought to us by forces that want to destroy the middle class, this was just the first battle.”

The Labor community, along with other allies of Michigan’s working families, sent a very powerful message to...
Letter from a retired friend ...

Hi
How’s this to brighten your day—put you in the pink!?? (bright pink envelope)
My new address is
M R F
616 N. Front Street, Mqt
Moved in July, and son Mike is my landlord. He be good to me! Being carless means walking. It’s easier sans snow so hopefully we’ll see each other come Spring.

Regards to all,
Marje (Fries—retired/Math)

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**FOR SALE**

Maroon V6 1997
Dodge Intrepid
117K Miles
Power Windows
Power Doors
After-Market Stereo
$1800
Call Cara Kamps at 226-4653

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**Membership meetings**

February 6, 2008 - Michigan Room
March 5, 2008 - Michigan Room
April 2, 2008 - Michigan Room
May 7, 2008 - Explorer Rooms

**Executive Board meetings**

February 26, 2008 - TBA
March 25, 2008 - TBA
April 29, 2008 - TBA

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**2006-2007 Officers**

President - Sue Tollefson
Vice President - Dawn Wilder
Secretary - Michelle Kimball
Treasurer - Rita Leppanen
Sergeant at Arms - Phyllis Zaenglein
Guide - Karen Smith
Trustees - Angie McCabe, Joann Jordon, and Rhonda Peterson
Bargaining Team - Grace Albert, Gary Jerry, Jeff Roo, and Pat Woods

**District Representatives**

Chief Steward - Grace Albert
District 1 - Open - Cohodas, UC, A&D, and Gries
District 2 - Open - Services Building, Jacobetti Center, PEIF, Superior Dome, and Berry Events Center
District 3 - Dawn Wilder - West Science, Learning Resources, Magers, New Science Facility, and Whitman
District 4 - Kimber Olli - McClintock, Thomas Fine Arts, and Hedgcock

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Thanks to all of you who donated to our families, making it an outstanding Christmas for them.

Especially, thanks to Kris Johnson, Kay Mandersheid, Terri Williams, Andrea Wrubel, Kerry Mohr, Nancy Ohman, Phyllis Zaenglein, Jana Nicholls, Della Cheney, and D.W. for wrapping and delivering the gifts to Sister Ludmilla.

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Be strong and courageous.
Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9
THANK YOU

A Word of Appreciation from the Lake Superior Hospice Association

Dear UAW Local 1950,

We gratefully acknowledge your contribution. Every gift is spent wisely toward our goal of supporting a patient-family coping with the stress of a terminal illness.

Thank you!

Dear Local 1950-UAW Members:

Just a note of appreciation for the lovely flower arrangement you sent me after I had my cataract surgery. The surgery was so minor, I really didn’t deserve flowers but please know that they were enjoyed and I thank you for your thoughtfulness. While this thank you appears to be somewhat delinquent, it also appears my original thank you got lost in the shuffle of the mail. Again, thank you for your kindness!

Yvonne Niemi

UAW Local 1950

Thank you for your thoughtful card. My dad will be sorely missed. He was much loved by his family and the community of Sidney, MT.

Karen (Kitty) Davis

Dear UAW Local 1950

Thank you for the retirement card and check. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

I’m looking forward to a new chapter in my life and spending more time with our family.

Jan Marana

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

AESOP
The Lion and the Mouse

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES

Additional Assignments

Della Cheney received an additional assignment for providing support to the DHS grant which covered the period 8/1 through 10/31/07.

Tina VandeZande received an additional assignment for providing support to the DHS grant which covered the period 8/25 through 11/18/07.

Therese Johnson received an additional assignment for providing support to the DHS grant which covered the period 7/1 through 10/1/07. (8298)

Tina Sehl received two additional assignments encompassing the period of October 22 through December 21, 2007

Grant Extended

Lori Malnor’s grant assignment in the Seaborg Center as a Sr. Secretary 4D at 20 hours per week was extended from 11/1/07 through 10/31/08.

Position Hours Increase

Patricia Wooldridge’s Account Clerk II 4D position in Human Resources was increased to 40 hours per week effective 12/17/07.

Leslie Kallioinen’s Senior Clerk II 4D position in Admissions was increased to 40 hours per week effective 1/1/08.

Retirement

Jan Marana, Principal Secretary 4B in Financial Aid retired, effective 1/1/08.

Roxanne Rastello retired, effective January 1, 2008.

Replacements

Cindi Carlson filled the Senior Secretary II 4C position in Financial Aid effective 12/3/07. She replaced Mary Tallio.

Claudia Manke will transfer to the Principal Secretary 4B position in Financial Aid, effective, January 28, 2008.

Janece Hanycz was hired to fill the Account Representative 4C position in Financial Services, effective January 29, 2008.
RELAY FOR LIFE

The Relay for Life begins on Friday, March 28 at 1 pm and ends on Saturday, March 29 at 1 pm.—24 hour walk around the Vandament Arena. This is a unique, empowering, and fun way to make a difference in the fight against cancer. Family, friends, and co-workers join other community teams in raising money and awareness in the fight against cancer.

Form a team or be part of an existing team. Members of your team will take turns walking the Vandament for 24 hours. Join other NMU teams in this cause. For more information, call Bridget Shaffer at bschaffe@nmu.edu or 5728.

Cancer survivors are encouraged to be part of the Survivor lap. Contact Karlyn Anderson at karland@nmu.edu.

Luminaries, lit paper bags that will line the tract, are for sale for $10, a tax deductible donation. You can designate the bag in honor of or memory of someone. For luminaries or to make a donation, or to ask questions, call Phyllis Zaenglein @2125.

Hope to see you there.

Attitude
By Charles Swindoll

“The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, for me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think, or say, or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company, a church, a home, a union. The remarkable thing is, you have a choice every day regarding the attitude you will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past. We cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you…

Thanks to Sue Tollefson, USOEC

Dear Ms. Wilder:

As you may know, Congress is currently working on a stimulus package to give our economy a much-needed boost. Michigan needs this boost right now, and I am urging Congress and the President to act quickly on a bipartisan basis to pass this legislation.

Although specific details of the stimulus package are still being negotiated, it is expected to include some form of tax rebate designed to put money in the hands of consumers who will spend it and fuel growth and jobs. Last week, House leadership and the president came to a tentative agreement on a stimulus package. That proposal is a good starting point; however, I hope the final package does more to help those who are particularly struggling, including seniors and those who have lost their jobs.

While I fully support a stimulus package to address our short-term economic concerns, I believe it is even more critical, particularly to Michigan, that Congress take additional action to address our long-term economic challenges. This includes support to bolster American manufacturing by targeting federal spending on infrastructure, advanced technology and redevelopment projects that will create jobs. If you would like to read more about my plan to stimulate Michigan’s economy, please click on the following link: [http://www.levin.senate.gov/newsroom/release.cfm?id=291251].

UP 200 Dog Sled Race

Friday, February 15 — Sunday, February 17
Watch the start downtown or visit any place along the trail.
Volunteers are always needed. Donations too!
Senator Basham's Fight to Protect Consumers Leads to Passage of Several Bills

Senator Basham scored a major victory in his fight against bad contractors when the House of Representatives passed a package of four bills—legislation driven by Sen. Basham—to protect Michigan consumers from bad builder practices. The package was then presented to Governor Granholm and signed into law.

This legislation protects consumers by increasing penalties for illegal activity, providing tools and incentives to go after bad actors, and minimizing the opportunities for abuse. The four-bill bipartisan package (two of which, SBs 450 and 451, are sponsored by Sen. Basham) would increase criminal penalties for builders and contractors operating without a license; give additional power to law enforcement to bring charges against offenders; and make information available to consumers when violations by contractors occur so they can avoid using unscrupulous contractors.

This legislative package is the result of several years of work by the Senate Bipartisan Bad Contractors Work Group which Sen. Basham headed. Sen. Basham's initiative brought together representatives from the Michigan Association of (5138) Home Builders, the Builders Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan, the Attorney General, the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan, and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth. The resulting legislation is supported by all of these groups, and addresses their issues in the industry and concerns over sub-par standards and fraud and illegal activity done by unlicensed builders.

RAYMOND E. BASHAM
Michigan State Senator - 8th District

Gasoline Pumping Facts

Only buy or fill up your car or truck in the early morning when the ground temperature is still cold. Remember that all service stations have their storage tanks buried below ground. The colder the ground the more dense the gasoline, when it gets warmer gasoline expands, so buying in the afternoon or in the evening....your gallon is not exactly a gallon.

When you're filling up do not squeeze the trigger of the nozzle to a fast mode. If you look you will see that the trigger has three (3) stages: low, middle, and high. In slow mode you should be pumping on low speed, thereby minimizing the vapors that are created while you are pumping. All hoses at the pump have a vapor return. If you are pumping on the fast rate, some of the liquid that goes to your tank becomes vapor. Those vapors are being sucked up and back into the underground storage tank so you're getting less worth for your money.

One of the most important tips is to fill up when your gas tank is HALF FULL or HALF EMPTY. The reason for this is, the more gas you have in your tank the less air occupying its empty space. Gasoline evaporates faster than you can imagine. Gasoline storage tanks have an internal floating roof. This roof serves as zero clearance between the gas and the atmosphere, so it minimizes the evaporation.

Another reminder, if there is a gasoline truck pumping into the storage tanks when you stop to buy gas, DO NOT fill up--most likely the gasoline is being stirred up as the gas is being delivered, and you might pick up some of the dirt that normally settles on the bottom.

Author Unknown

Gas Prices Around the World

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<tr>
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<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oslo, Norway</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
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<tr>
<td>London, UK</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo, Japan</td>
<td>$4.24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sao Paulo, Brazil</td>
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<td>Sidney, Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johannesburg, South Africa</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico City</td>
<td>$2.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buenos Aires, Argentina</td>
<td>$2.09</td>
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You’re going to love these …

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Riyadh, Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>$0.91</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caracas, Venezuela</td>
<td>$0.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thanks to Sue Henderson
was once again introduced in the Senate that would give guest worker immigration amnesty last year, legislation security, Congress recently considered “piecemeal ap-promises may have to be broken.” (1721) going to require benefit cuts.” In short, “the shortfall for federal social insurance (Social Security) is federal budget. In just ten years, thus putting pressure on other parts of the future retirees who earned their benefits legally. In his recently published book, retired Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said that “resolving the funding shortfall for federal social insurance (Social Security) is going to require benefit cuts.” “In short,” he says, “the promises may have to be broken.” (1721)Yet, despite the gloomy financial outlook for Social Security, Congress recently considered “piecemeal approach” legislation that would legalize illegal immigrants. Just three months after Congress failed to pass guest worker immigration amnesty last year, legislation was once again introduced in the Senate that would give conditional legal status to young illegal immigrants. The measure failed.

Without changes to current Social Security law, should illegal immigrants gain legal work authorization and a work-authorized Social Security number, they eventually would be able to claim Social Security benefits. Under current Social Security policy, when determining benefits the Social Security Administration counts all reported earnings, even those earned for unauthorized work using an invalid or fake Social Security number. If Congress adds millions of illegal immigrants to Social Security’s rolls, it would make Social Security’s troubled finances even worse, and could trigger benefit cuts for seniors and future retirees who earned their benefits legally.

TSCL supports the “No Social Security For Illegal Immigrants Act” introduced by Representative Dana Rohrabacher (CA). The legislation would ban Social Security credit for earnings from illegal work, and wages from unauthorized work could not be used to determine entitlement to benefits.

Sources: “Senate Temporarily Sidelines Immigration Legalization Bill, Michelle Mittlestadt, The Houston Chronicle, September 26, 2007.”

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### Senior Citizen’s Corner

#### “Promises May Have To Be Broken” Greenspan Says

The Senior Citizens League (TSCL) Prepared To Fight COLA Cuts and Higher Medicare Costs

Cuts to Social Security, as well as Medicare, may come under consideration of lawmakers this year. The Congressional Budget Office is predicting that surplus Social Security payroll taxes will start to decline in just two or three years. Program costs will begin to exceed cash revenues in just ten years, thus putting pressure on other parts of the federal budget.

In his recently published book, retired Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said that “resolving the funding shortfall for federal social insurance (Social Security) is going to require benefit cuts.” “In short,” he says, “the promises may have to be broken.” (1721)

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Sources: “Senate Temporarily Sidelines Immigration Legalization Bill, Michelle Mittlestadt, The Houston Chronicle, September 26, 2007.”
Right to Work  (conclusion)

special interests that ‘Right to Work’ isn’t going to happen in Michigan.

“Although there doesn’t seem to be a Right to Work campaign for now, we intend to continue educating people on the importance of a good job to our state’s economy. We’re not going to bring the economy back by cutting wages,” stated Mark Gaffney, President of the Michigan State AFL-CIO.

“We want to thank our union affiliates—Michigan Education Association and the Change to Win unions—who worked alongside the AFL-CIO during this huge effort,” proclaimed President Gaffney. “Michigan Labor is united in our efforts to protect living standards of all union and non-union Michigan workers.”

Submitted by Sheri Divers, Communications Director
Michigan State AFL-CIO

Little things add up during a long winter
The Mining Journal—Opinion
January 26, 2005

Just a little under half—44 percent—of the energy used by the average household goes for heating and cooling. The average household also uses 33 percent of its energy for lighting, cooking, and appliances; 14 percent for water heating and 9 percent for the refrigerator.

Here are a few things you can do to save energy and money without complete renovation:

• Put rope caulk in the seams of windows to prevent loss of energy and heat.
• Put weather stripping at door seams
• Place plastic covering over windows
• Use a programmable thermostat
• Put in storm windows
• Install energy Star light bulbs
• Buy appliances with the Energy Star logo, a government classification system designed to help consumer identify energy-efficient appliances
• Use lids when cooking
• Use warm (or cold) water rather than hot to wash clothes: 80 percent of the electricity used to wash clothes goes into heating the water.
• Turn down the temperature of your hot water heater
• Fix faucet drips
• Install a low flow shower head; 37 percent of hot water used in the average home is in the shower.

This is shaping up to be a long, cold winter. With energy prices skyrocketing, every small thing you accomplish to save energy will keep money in your pocket instead of a utility’s.

For What It’s Worth
By Phyllis Zaenglein, editor

Recently I reviewed the EOBs from Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Those are the papers you receive that tell what has been submitted to our insurance company. (4309) These total costs are what is added to our payback. Some of these charges are enough to send one to the cardiac care unit at MGH.

It is important to review these forms as you receive them to be sure the date of visit, doctor/office, etc. are correct.

The most recent ones I received, included a charge from 2006 that was submitted to BCBS in December 2007. That’s a little delinquent. Kristen Portale, Benefits Manager, Human Resources, said the provider (your doctor, chiropractor, etc.) is responsible for submitting these to BCBS. If you notice they are not on an EOB in a reasonable time, call the office and ask them to “get on the stick”. Most providers want their money immediately so this isn’t a big problem.

I keep track of all appointments, meds, and mileage to/from appointments and give this to my tax preparer. Because the write-off percentage is so high and my income is low, this figure has not been a tax deduction. He puts it on the forms anyway. Maybe, someday it will be enough to count.
What a wonderful party!

Forty-nine prizes were given to our members and retirees.

Thanks to all who donated and to all of you for attending.

Local 1950 2008 After Holiday Party Prize List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donated by</th>
<th>Prize/Item</th>
<th>Won by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DeVos Art Museum</td>
<td>DeVos t-shirt</td>
<td>Linda Sides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrea Wrubel</td>
<td>Handmade Soap/lotion/shampoo</td>
<td>Chris Olivier-Hakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dale Wedig</td>
<td>Bronze pins</td>
<td>Rita Leppanen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Bronze pins</td>
<td>Sue Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dale Wedig</td>
<td>Bronze pins</td>
<td>Ray Liubakka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darlene Kyto</td>
<td>Tastefully Simple Items</td>
<td>Patty Sarvello</td>
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<td>Homemade dish cloth</td>
<td>Linda Greenberg</td>
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<td>Gina O’Donnell</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Local 1950 $10</td>
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<td>D. Wilder</td>
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<td>Michelle Kimball</td>
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<td>Ruth Ann Holm</td>
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<td>Member</td>
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<td>Mary Kay products</td>
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<td>Darlene Kyto</td>
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<tr>
<td>50/50 drawing $43</td>
<td></td>
<td>June Nelson</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Chaplaincy Corner

This month's promise: God is always ready to help us and expects us to help others
Sacrificial love
"Don't forget to do good and to share what you have with those in need, for such sacrifices are very pleasing to God." Hebrews 13:16 NLT

In His steps
"Have you seen kids wearing bracelets with the initials WWJD—"What Would Jesus Do?"

The story behind those bracelets began a century ago, when a minister named Charles Sheldon wrote a novel titled In His Steps. One Sunday morning at First Church, Pastor Henry Maxwell was preaching a sermon about how to follow Christ's example of sacrificial love.

The service was suddenly interrupted when a tramp stood up. He had been out of work for a year, he said, yet not one person in town helped him find another job. Twisting his shabby hat in his hands, the tramps said, "I was wondering if what you call following Jesus is the same thing as what he taught. I get puzzled when I see so many Christians living in luxury and remember how my wife died in a tenement. What would Jesus do?" At that point, to the congregation's horror, the tramp collapsed and died.

The following Sunday, the minister made a stunning proposal: He was looking for volunteers willing to pledge themselves for an entire year to do nothing without first asking, "What would Jesus do?"

The story behind those bracelets began a century ago, when a minister named Charles Sheldon wrote a novel titled In His Steps. One Sunday morning at First Church, Pastor Henry Maxwell was preaching a sermon about how to follow Christ's example of sacrificial love.

The service was suddenly interrupted when a tramp stood up. He had been out of work for a year, he said, yet not one person in town helped him find another job. Twisting his shabby hat in his hands, the tramps said, "I was wondering if what you call following Jesus is the same thing as what he taught. I get puzzled when I see so many Christians living in luxury and remember how my wife died in a tenement. What would Jesus do?" At that point, to the congregation's horror, the tramp collapsed and died.

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Some fifty people made the pledge, and a remarkable series of events begins.

Some of these people pay a high price for their obedience. But they also learn the joy of following faithfully in his footsteps.

A few years ago, a Holland, Michigan, youth leader was so inspired by this classic story that she had bracelets made bearing the letters WWJD and gave them to the kids in her church. The idea caught fire, and today millions wear them.

Adapted from How Now Shall We Live? Devotional by Charles Colson (Tyndale) pp 585-86"

Content is derived from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation and other publications of Tyndale Publishing House.