

Bermudian Church of the Brethren

WEDNESDAY's WORD – a midweek thought from Pastor Larry M. Dentler
to share a word of inspiration ... encouragement ... challenge ... a smile ... in the middle of your week
May 10 in the year of our Lord 2017 - #695

PRAISES!

On April 14, 2004, 276 school age girls were abducted by the ISIS related Islamic terrorist group, Boko Haram, from the Chibok School in northeast Nigeria. The Church of the Brethren in Nigeria (Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria or "EYN") is one of the CoB's earliest missionary fields and today is the largest CoB body in the world. Many of the Chibok girls were part of EYN. Each CoB congregation was given the name of one of the Chibok girls to pray for in a special way. For Bermudian, "our girl," was Asabe Manu. Over these 3 years there have been a few girls that have escaped and been reunited with their families. But this Sunday came the news that 82 girls had been released. With this release the hopes of freeing the more than 100 girls that remain missing burns brighter. The Nigerian government with help from several aid organizations brokered the release in exchange for three Boko Haram leaders held by Nigeria. We continue to pray for these girls and their families as they find there way through the political & cultural maze of being reunited. And of course for those still in captivity.

But here's the amazing thing. Bermudian CoB hosted the Southern PA District Women's Spring Luncheon on Saturday, April 29. The guest speaker was Sister Sarah Mambula from EYN ... and there was much prayer by 188 women from 30+ of our Southern PA congregations for the Chibok girls. One week later this wonderful news was announced!

And even more wonderful. When the list of names was released ... Asabe Manu was on the list! Praise the Lord!!!!

PICK UP LINES

On our trip to IN last week for my revival ministry with the Pine Creek Church of the Brethren, we were traveling on the PA Turnpike and then on to the Ohio Toll Road. I had my EZ Pass ready as we approached the Ohio toll gate. The gate went up ... and then immediately down almost coming down across my hood. I slammed on the brakes and all loose objects in the truck came flying forward. Snacks ... electronics ... books ... toys ... sailing thru the air as our Escape screeched to a halt.

We were all speechless ... breathless ... sitting there for a moment. When from the back seat in his little 7 year old voice came Jericho's comment.

"I did not see that coming!"

That broke the ice and we all burst into laughter. But as I thought about it ... where did that comment come from? Not a normal 7 year old expression. Did he hear it from his Mom? From a teacher? On TV? From a movie? I don't know ... but some where he had picked up the expression.

What about the words and expressions that come from our mouths? Where do we pick up the things that come from our mouths? From friends, co-workers, family members, TV shows & movies? I'd like to suggest and recommend that our "*pick up lines*" be words and thoughts that we have "*picked up*" that are inspired by our Lord and His Word. Here's just a couple I'd like to have as very much part of my speech day-to-day.

"I forgive you." (Colossians 3:13)

"I love you." (John 13:34)

"God loves you." (John 3:16)

"I don't condemn you." (John 8:11)

"God's Word is Truth." (Psalm 33:4)

"Can I help you?" (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

"Let me help you carry that load." (Galatians 6:2)

"I'm sorry" (Matthew 5:23)

"Bless you!" (Numbers 6:24)

Perhaps you could suggest others. My thought today is simply this. May my words to my family, in my workplace, in my neighborhood ... reflect that I've "*picked up*" the heart of Jesus as I share with others!

"Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down, not cut them out." Colossians 4:6 Message

"May my spoken words and unspoken thoughts be pleasing even to You, O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer." Psalm 19:14 LB

"As children copy their fathers you, as God's children, are to copy Him. Live your lives in love—the same sort of love which Christ gives us and which He perfectly expressed when He gave Himself up for us in sacrifice to God." Ephesians 5:1-2 Phillips

"Let the [spoken] word of Christ have its home within you [dwelling in your heart and mind—permeating every aspect of your being]..." Colossians 3:16 AMP

May Christ's Words be in me ... and you! Pastor Larry <><