

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
November 29 in the year of our Lord 2017 - #718

Spreading A Little Christmas

Recently we were visiting friends with a sweet little girl; we'll call her "Suzy." Suzy is in kindergarten. She has a full head of beautiful curls, big sweet eyes, and the face of a doll, shining with innocence. Cathy loves children and so was interacting with sweet Suzy. Suzy wanted to know if Cathy wanted to see their new puppy, "Bob." Well Cathy loves dogs too ... so of course! Bob is a bouncing young white Labrador. Well, Cathy loved up on Bob much to Suzy's delight. Cute puppy with a sweet little girl!

Cathy then asked Suzy, "Does Bob sleep with you in your bed?" And with those big innocent eyes, and hands moving, Suzy replied, "Oh no, Momma won't allow that because he **spreads**." Cathy said, "Oh, I see, he takes up too much of your bed. Yes my little puppy, Bella, can be quite a bed hog too." Suzy's eyes got even bigger. And waving her hands from side to side she said, "No ... he **spreads** ... you know ... his hair comes out ... and it gets all over everything!" Cathy had to hold back her laugh. "Ohhhh, I see, yes my Bella **spreads** too!"

The Advent/Christmas season is upon us. And we live in a time when some would say "Christmas is under attack!" Some are incensed by persons who will only share the greeting, "Happy Holidays!" instead of "Merry Christmas!" School concerts become "Holiday Concerts." Parties become "Holiday Parties." And some Christians get so angry.

To be honest, I have a little different perspective, and maybe we could learn something from "Bob." Bob **spreads** a little dog hair wherever he goes. He doesn't make a big deal about it, but if Bob's been around you know it. I think we as Christ-followers are to live in our pagan culture the same way. We are to **spread** the good news of, and the love of Christ everywhere we go. By the way we live! By the way we talk! By the way we treat other people! In word and in deed ... we **spread** Christ!

The Apostle Paul speaks of this, not of dog hair, but of a smell. Think of the best smells of the season! Evergreen, cookies baking (for the truck stop ministry of course), hot cocoa...

"As far as God is concerned there is a sweet, wholesome fragrance in our lives. It is the fragrance of Christ within us, an aroma to both the saved and the unsaved all around us." 2 Corinthians 2:15 LB

So let me suggest a few ways to **spread** a little Christmas:

1. If someone wishes you "Happy Holidays," don't go all ballistic! Don't be offended! They've just offered you a blessing. Receive it with grace and a smile, and maybe say, "Thank you very much, and may you have a very Merry Christmas."

2. Share a little gift or gifts, with neighbors, friends, people who serve you, with a tag. *“Our family celebrates the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, at Christmas. Please accept this little token of our thanks (friendship) with our prayers of love & blessing for you & yours.”*
3. Make sure a nativity scene takes a central place in your decorating. If someone comes to your house, especially someone who is not a believer, you are **spreading** some Christ without saying a word. And especially if you decorate outside your home ... is there a nativity scene present to help **spread** the message?
4. This time of year folks who don't know Jesus are often more receptive than at any other time. If there is someone you've been praying for ... invite them to Church during this wonderful season. How about our Faith 'N' Film night? Or our “Sounds of the Season” service on Christmas Eve morning? Or any of our 3 Christmas Eve candlelight worship services?
5. Are you aware of someone who is alone? Recently lost a loved one? Broken from family? Dealing with illness? Christmas can be so hard when you are hurting or alone. A visit ... a phone call ... a little gift ... an invitation ... can **spread** the love & joy of the season!

Like Bob, let's do a little **spreading!** May those around us at work, at home, in the stores, at the restaurant, on the highways, on-line, see & feel the love of Christ & the joy in our hearts when we have passed thru their lives!

Spreading Christ! Pastor Larry <><