

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

December 6 in the year of our Lord 2017- #719 first week of Advent

The Highway Piano

My daughter-in-law Erica keeps a beautiful home. She has a wonderful flair for decorating, a great eye for color, and even with two teenagers, a lively 3 year old, AND my son John ... she keeps their home almost always immaculately clean! So you can imagine my curiosity when I saw it! "It" was a piano setting where there used to be a lovely couch. The front two legs of the piano had been replaced by 2X4 lumber. A metal folding chair was the "piano bench." The top of the piano looked like it had been dragged down the road. What was this wreck doing in John & Erica's living room?

Then John told me the story. Unbelievable! In his home repair business he had received a job of cleaning out a storage unit and dispensing of the contents. There was a very nice piano that John thought he would love to have for their home. He single handedly got it loaded on his trailer and began the journey up the Interstate 83 highway to home. Traffic was buzzing along as it does on I-83, when, as it also does on I-83, all of a sudden it came to a sudden stop. When John hit the breaks the piano went out over the side of the trailer and crash landed in the middle of the highway! The legs were broken off, the bench was destroyed, and the poor piano had a bad case of "road rash." Working alone John got the instrument to the side of the road. A man who had seen what happened stopped to see if John was OK. But he couldn't help John get the piano back on the trailer because he only had one arm. (Hey folks ... you can't make this up!) Finally someone else stopped. They got the wounded piano loaded and strapped down. John made his way home where Erica was less than impressed with the damaged new addition!

But there it is! Right next to a Christmas tree that is as beautiful as any you've ever seen. The "highway" piano with the 2X4 legs and the folding chair "piano bench" and the "character marks" of its journey down Interstate 83! But John sat down and began to play Christmas carols ... and amazingly ... the piano sounded lovely! Even so, I suggested to John that, just perhaps, a call to expert piano tuner just might be in order!

One wonderful aspect of the Christmas story is the angelic "Good News" announcement to the Bethlehem shepherds. One might have expected God to announce the Messiah's arrival in the courts of the Jerusalem Temple just a few miles away. One might have expected that the High Priest of Israel would receive the angel song personally. But it came to shepherds. An occupation similar to garbage men in our day. A very necessary occupation, but not one that most people would aspire to. Jerusalem Temple worship required lots of lambs! So shepherds were quite necessary. But they were seen as dirty, unreliable, untrustworthy people. Ritually "unclean" so not welcome in God's House! Considered unfit to give testimony in a court of law. Yet, to their amazement & wonder they received the words of invitation!

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.”

Luke 2:10-14 NIV

The blessing of Christmas, the love of Christ, the grace of God’s forgiveness that is offered to us thru Christ ... is available **for all!** The broken! The wounded! Those who have messed up! Those who have been “on the road!” Those who have “fallen off the trailer!” It is not just for those who have their act together perfectly. Not just for those who look beautiful. Christ came as a loving Invitation **for all!** And even if you’ve been dragged down the highway of life a bit ... you and the Lord can make some beautiful music together! Come to Him in joy & worship this Advent/Christmas!

With you as one of the broken ones ... Pastor Larry <><