

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
January 10 in the year of our Lord 2018 - #723

Watch Out For The Turkeys!

My eight year old grandson Jericho has a problem. And it's kind of embarrassing. He was attacked by a turkey. And he has a nasty bruise on his thigh ... a war wound if you will ... to prove it!

You see his Uncle Jake raises these turkeys. They are normally in a pen on the other side of the parking area at the Carroll home. I like to tease them. Whenever I drop Jericho off at the Carroll's I usually do my best gobbler imitation and get them all roused up. (*Oh my ... I never even considered until just this moment that maybe I am the reason for Jericho's turkey attack!!!*) Anyway, the other evening as his mother Jessie was picking him up the turkeys were out of their pen grazing in the yard. As Jes was getting Baby Jaxsen into the car she heard a ruckus and turned to see the attack. A big Tom had run up to Jericho and lunged at him. Jericho was terrified. Who wouldn't be?? Brave Jes rescued Jericho from the "*angry bird*" and as she was getting the traumatized Jericho into the car ... the darn bird took her lollipop right out of her hand. Jes may be little ... but she's tough ... you don't mess with her children ... and you NEVER mess with her candy! I'm surprised old Tom survived!

When they got home Jericho was still fuming. He had to tell Pap all about the vicious turkey attack, and show me his wounded thigh where the turkey talon had got him. And Jes had to tell Dad all about this mean old bird taking her lollipop! Who knew turkeys could be so vicious? Maybe Ben Franklin was right in wanting the turkey to be our national bird. I sure never heard of any eagle taking a young adult's lollipop!

The Miriam Webster dictionary gives as one of the definitions for "*turkey*," – "*a stupid, foolish or inept person.*" And whether we like to admit it or not ... this world is full of turkeys! And they attack! Turkeys can wring all the joy out of your life. Some turkeys just like to be negative about everything. Negative about the world, negative about our country, negative about our leaders, negative about our community. Some church turkeys are real good at always seeing the dark side of everything about a church family. Some turkeys love to spread gossip. Oh boy, give them a choice morsel ... no matter how uncertain the truth of the matter ... and they'll share it to a million ears. That can leave a bruise! Some turkeys in the world today just like to cast doubt on the accuracy of the Bible. Some turkeys even deny the sovereignty of Jesus. Some turkeys like to steal your lollipop. You are having a good day and they come along and in a moment take all the sweetness out of your day. Some turkeys are takers ... as long as someone is giving to them they are happy. And they will take, and take, and take ... materially, physically and emotionally leaving the other person drained.

Now sometimes ministry leads us to care for the turkeys. They need our love, care, counsel, correction, guidance. But the Bible also warns us against letting the turkeys have too much influence in our lives.

“Don’t let anyone deceive you. Associating with bad people will ruin decent people.”

1 Corinthians 15:33 GW

“Be friends with those who are wise, and you will become wise. Choose fools to be your friends, and you will have trouble.”

Proverbs 13:20 ERV

“Don’t be friends with people who become angry easily. Don’t stay around quick-tempered people. If you do, you may learn to be like them. Then you will have the same problems they do.”

Proverbs 22:24-25 ERV

So be careful out there! Watch out for the turkeys!

And Mr. Tom Turkey over at the Carroll house ... I got one word for you sir,
Thanksgiving!

Pastor Larry <><