

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
March 7 in the year of our Lord 2018 - #731

The Season of Lent 2018 – Life Among The Thorns

Ah...

It was a moment I wish I could have back. A time I wish I was a little faster thinking on the fly! I was spending a little time with my nephew David whom many of you have been praying for. We had a few errands to run. We stopped by the bookstore. I was birthday present shopping for my granddaughter Natalie who will be 4 next week. And I wanted to see if the newest issue of my favorite truck magazine, *Vintage Truck*, was on the shelves yet. While we were in the magazine area I walked by an attractive young adult woman and nodded, “hello.” She smiled and asked if I could help her.

She was standing by the “*Gentlemen’s*” section of the magazine racks ... which is completely misnamed because it contains the kind of magazine that no “*gentleman*” would ever look at! Are you following me? We’re talking about pornography. When I asked how I could help, she smiled and explained.

“I have a friend who is in the hospital and I want to take him something but I don’t know which of these he would like.”

By now I’m sure I was blushing ... and David, who has been in and out of the hospital the last couple weeks with heart issues, was surely clutching his chest! Diverting my eyes from the shelves of porn magazines and the smiling young woman, I tried to direct her elsewhere.

“Well ah ... maybe he’d like a truck magazine ... this is my favorite ... (showing her the latest issue of Vintage Truck with the beautiful 1957 IH panel truck on the cover) ... or maybe cars ... airplanes ... home improvement ... science ... log homes ... model trains ... popular mechanics ... bird watching.” I was pacing from section to section of the magazine shelves pointing to different areas. *“What exactly is he in to?”*

She never left her place ... right in front of the “*Gentlemen’s*” section ... as she watched me pace from area to area pointing at the various categories of magazines. She smiled broadly pointed to the cover of a magazine with a scantily clad woman ... and said, *“That is what he is into!”*

David was now looking for a nitroglycerin tablet and I was a lovely shade of maroon. I made some mumbled barely intelligible comment about *Sports Illustrated* and being a pastor and said that I couldn’t help her, and was off in desperate search of a *Moana* gift for Natalie! *“Get me to the children’s section pleeeeeease!”*

Later, as David’s heart rate was returning to normal, and the blush was leaving my face, we laughed and I wished that I had been quicker thinking. I wonder how the young woman would

have reacted if I had handed her a copy of *Christianity Today* with the comment, *"This is exactly what you should get him ... he'll love it!"* I wished I had had words of care and compassion ... and Jesus!

You know, there will be times in everyday living when opportunities come up for us to share a witness. With family members. With co-workers. With neighbors. And with complete strangers in the magazine section at the bookstore. It doesn't need to be a sermon! It doesn't need to be profound! But from our lips should easily fall words of hope, faith ... Jesus! Those opportunities can come quickly and unexpectedly. We need to be ready. Prayed up. Equipped.

"Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel...." Ephesians 6:19 NIV

"For I will give you words and wisdom...." Luke 21:15 NIV

"Quietly trust yourself to Christ your Lord, and if anybody asks why you believe as you do, be ready to tell him, and do it in a gentle and respectful way." 1 Peter 3:15 LB

You say you don't see Larry at a loss for words very often? Well just ask David! Lord help me be ready to proclaim Your love & Your truth at any time!

Still blushing... Pastor Larry <><