

## 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 2 in the year of our Lord 2018 - #739

### My Boys

Every four years or so I have the great privilege of teaching a class through the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center. It's part of the Church of the Brethren's ACTS (Academy Certified Training System) series of classes for new ministers who are not going on to college and/or seminary. The class I teach is "**Interpreting the Bible**," and I love teaching the young ministers! I love God's Word and enjoy sharing insights & learning from my years in ministry with these young ministers who are just getting started. The class is pretty labor intensive with 15 hours of class time, several textbooks to read, a series of articles to read, several major written assignments, and a final exam. I have to admit the preparation & teaching for 3 hours of teaching at a time really wears me out. But oh how I love it! In my current class I have five ministers ... all young men. "*My boys!*" That's the way I always feel about my class. "*My boys!*" And while there are certainly things in the Church and culture that distress me these days, when I've been with "*my boys*" ... I am encouraged, excited, and trusting for the good future of the Church!

Each of the five students works full time. One young man and his wife are getting established on their own farm. One is in sales for a major York area equipment manufacturer and travels all over the globe on a regular basis. One is in the process of moving into a new home that is in very rough condition and they will remodel as they live there! Each has their own story ... a busy life ... many responsibilities. Each has accepted the "call" of the Church to ministry. Each is working hard at their classwork. I couldn't be prouder! With hearts open to the Holy Spirit they will preach and teach and lead ... with excellence! And maybe along their journey ... they'll remember something this old preacher taught them ... remember me fondly ... and proclaim the Word of the Lord with passion ... and see lives changed for Christ!

I'm reminded of the Bible's instructions to us to encourage & honor those who preach & teach. **Please be clear ... I'm not writing this so you'll give me some love!** The Bermudian Church and the Lake View, North Liberty, Oriental & Mechanicsburg Churches before them, have always blessed, loved & encouraged me. I've been so fortunate & blessed in the churches I've had the privilege to labor with! I'm writing this today to encourage you to show your love and support for those who open God's Word to you. Is there a Sunday School teacher who has truly blessed you? A Bible study leader whose teaching & leadership you appreciate? A young Church leader you see growing? A worship leader who blesses you? A preacher who has made a difference in your life?

Take a moment to write a note, send an email or message. On a Sunday morning look them in the eye and express your thanks for their sacrifice. And pray! Pray regularly for all those who work at the Word. Like “my boys” many faithful servants are preachers and teachers on top of many, many other responsibilities! They are also a spouse, a parent, a son or daughter, an employee. They work long hours on the farm, in the home, in the shop, in the office ... and then open the Word to prepare that lesson or sermon. Let’s remember & honor them! It’s a beautiful thing! The Bible says so!

***“Give double honor to spiritual leaders who handle their duties well. This is especially true if they work hard at teaching God’s Word.”*** 1 Timothy 5:17 GW

***“But how shall they ask Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them unless someone sends him? That is what the Scriptures are talking about when they say, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Gospel of peace with God and bring glad tidings of good things.’ In other words, how welcome are those who come preaching God’s Good News!”*** Romans 10:14-15 LB

Teaching the preachers! Pastor Larry <><