

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 9 in the year of our Lord 2018 - #740

What's That Smell?

Our sense of smell is one of those amazing gifts of God's creation! Imagine life without being able to smell:

- Spring blossoms
- A just cut lawn
- Fresh baked bread
- Bed sheets that have been freshly laundered and dried outdoors
- The ocean
- A live Christmas tree in the house
- Chocolate chip cookies just out of the oven
- A newly mown hay field
- A bag of Smitties soft pretzels
- The breeze after a rain
- A bayberry candle at New Year's (*Thanks Sister Deb!*)
- The smell of a little baby (*without a dirty diaper!!!*)
- The aroma of fuel & rubber at an automobile race

Ahhhhhh!! Maybe you could add some of your favorite smells to this list. We associate smells too. If I smell the strong aroma of *Taboo* perfume, I immediately think of my Mom. My Dad had a fresh masculine smell that was uniquely him. They tell us that more than we realize smell has a big part in how & why a man & a woman find each other attractive.

Last weekend was Bermudian's Spring Love Feast. Brother Bob Meck and I were talking about smells we associate with Love Feast. At Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren growing up when you entered the building for Love Feast you were met with a wonderful fresh antiseptic smell. The Deacons at Mechanicsburg put some *Ecco* powder in each foot tub. *Ecco* was a Harrisburg based company that made an antiseptic powder that came in a beautiful cobalt blue bottle. The fresh clean smell was delightful! At Bermudian the smell that greets you is the wonderful aroma of the soup cooking in the large kettle in the old kitchen where our Love Feast soup has been prepared for over 250 years! The smell permeates the entire building. Today, three days since Love Feast, this old church still smells like Love Feast soup!

Because my daughter Jessie had to work Sunday evening I had the grandsons to care for. The Lipsitz family graciously cared for baby Jaxsen during Love Feast and eight year old Jericho enjoyed our provided child care. At home, after Love Feast I helped Jericho get scrubbed up and ready for bed. Later that evening when Jessie got home from work I noticed she was holding sleeping Jericho tightly. I ask what she was doing? With a smile she answered, "*He smells like Love Feast.*" Love Feast Child Care this year was in Shepherd's Hall, just next to the

old kitchen and the old kettle of bubbling goodness Love Feast soup! My little buddy, even though I had washed him up before bed, still smelled like Love Feast!

The Bible teaches that the sin of the world is like a stench in God's nostrils! Can you imagine what our world and culture must "smell" like to a most, holy God? When the angels were sent by God to destroy the cities of Sodom & Gomorrah because of their extreme sexual perversion, they told the people,

"For we will destroy the city completely. The stench of the place has reached the Lord, and He has sent us to destroy it."

Genesis 19:13 NLT

The Bible also teaches that we are to be like a pleasing smell in a rotten world! That when we live for Christ, love for Christ, serve others for Christ, bring others to Christ, stand for truth for Christ ... we bring the aroma of life!

"But thank God! He has made us His captives and continues to lead us along in Christ's triumphal procession. Now He uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume. Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing. To those who are perishing, we are a dreadful smell of death and doom. But to those who are being saved, we are a life-giving perfume."

2 Corinthians 2:14-16 NLT

And the Bible also teaches that our prayers rise to God like the drifting smoke of burning incense. Now perhaps burning incense isn't an image all that familiar with us simple worshipping Brethren, but for many worshippers of the Old & New Testaments, and many still today it is a powerful worship symbol! The bottom line is this: your faithful prayers, of worship, of intercession, of repentance smell very sweet to the Lord who loves you so and wants to be in relationship with you!

"O Lord, I am calling to You. Please hurry! Listen when I cry to You for help! Accept my prayer as incense offered to You, and my upraised hands as an evening offering." Psalm

141:1-2 NLT

So dear ones let's "stink up" the place a bit! Let's be bold in our witness, love & care in the name of Jesus as we spread the aroma of Christ in this smelly world. And let our prayers be often, sincere, and holy ... a pleasing aroma sent to heaven!

Ahhhhh! You smell marvelous! Pastor Larry <><