

## 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 30 in the year of our Lord 2018 - #743

### Encourage

Most of you reading this are aware that my wife Cathy had surgery last Tuesday. Cathy is not a social media person or a computer person. As we were sitting in the pre-surgery area I was on Facebook on my phone and mentioned to her that on the post where I had asked for prayers for her, she had 91 'likes' and 84 messages. She was amazed! And so while we waited I read all 84 messages to her and mentioned all who had responded. It was amazing to see how encouraged she was by that support. There were friends there from all over the country. As each nurse & doctor came in she would tell them, "*There are 91 people from all over the country that are praying for me and you this morning!*" It was fun to see the expressions on the staff faces when she said that. Many responded with a surprised, "*Thank you.*" Some looked a little startled and didn't know how to respond. Some just smiled. But for Cathy that moment of encouragement made a difference in calming her anxiety before surgery. Special – special "**thanks**" to all who have been holding her (us) in prayer!!

To encourage others is one of the "callings" – the responsibilities if you will – of being a follower of Jesus. In 2013 when I was called to serve as district conference moderator of the Southern Pennsylvania District of the Church of the Brethren, I chose as the theme for our conference, "**God Calls Us To One Another,**" and we focused on the "*one anothers*" of the New Testament. Though sometimes these get lost in translation, there are at least 35 times where we see the calling of an action verb followed by the words "*one another.*"

**Love one another** (John 13:34); **Accept one another** (Romans 15:7); **Forgive one another** (Ephesians 4:32 & Colossians 3:13); **Be gentle to one another** (Ephesians 4:2); **Be clothed in humility toward one another** (1 Peter 5:5); **Weep with one another** (Romans 12:15); **Live in harmony with one another** (Romans 12:16); **Don't judge one another** (Romans 14:13); **Be patient with one another** (Ephesians 4:2); **Admonish one another** (Colossians 3:16); **Greet one another with a holy kiss** (Romans 16:16; 2 Corinthians 13:12; 1 Peter 5:14); **Wait for one another** (1 Corinthians 11:33); **Care for one another** (1 Corinthians 12:25); **Serve one another** (Galatians 5:13); **Be kind to one another** (Ephesians 4:32); **Be devoted to one another** (Romans 12:10); **Be compassionate towards one another** (Ephesians 4:32); **Submit to one another** (Ephesians 5:21); **Make allowances for one another** (Colossians 3:13); **Stimulate love in one another** (Hebrews 10:24); **Offer hospitality to one another** (1 Peter 4:9); **Minister to one another** (1 Peter 4:10); **Rejoice with one another** (Romans 12:15; 1 Corinthians 12:26); **Don't slander one another** (James 4:11); **Don't grumble against one another** (James 5:9); **Confess your sins to one another** (James 5:16); **Pray for one another** (James 5:16); **Fellowship with one another** (1 John 1:7); **Carry one another's burdens** (Galatians 6:2); **Honor one another** (Romans 12:5);

***Depend on one another*** (Romans 12:15); ***Be devoted to one another*** (Romans 12:10); ***Comfort one another*** (2 Corinthians 1:4); ***Don't be puffed up against one another*** (1 Corinthians 4:6) ... and of course, ***Encourage one another*** (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

Now we might think of all these “*one anothers*” as the commentary on Jesus’ words, “***Love one another.***” These “*one anothers*” are what it truly means to love and care for each other as part of Christ’s family. And ... you see ... encouragement is part of that!

Social media can be used for lots of positive things. I like seeing the photos of children, grandchildren, pets & vacations. I love shared praises and prayer requests. And of course it can be used for lots of negative things. I have (mostly!) sworn off of responding to political or church doctrine related rants! Social media isn’t the place! If you want to talk to me about my political views or issues the Church is facing ... let’s find a time to sit down face to face and talk. But as we saw in Cathy’s case ... here was a beautiful way to be obedient to the Scripture’s call to “*one another.*” Cathy was so deeply encouraged.

So today ... how can you encourage someone? A post, private message or email that lifts and encourages. “*Thinking of you today, I pray your day is going well.*” “*You are in my thoughts and prayers today.*” “*I remembered you had that interview today ... my prayers are with you.*” “*You sure did a wonderful job teaching class on Sunday!*” “*I don’t say it often enough but I really appreciate you.*” “*Your post made me smile ... thanks!*” “*Your post made me concerned for you ... praying ... if you want to talk please message or call me.*” “*Sounds like you had a tough day! So sorry! Praying!*” Or go old school and write a little note to someone you know needs a lifting word. I think there is still something very special about receiving a hand written note in the mail! Or better yet how about a visit to a lonely shut in, or someone who misses seeing you! What if everyone who reads this would commit to making one “encouragement” contact each day? It really wouldn’t take much time at all to do! What a difference this one simple commitment could make for Christ!

Hoping my words encourage you from time to time!  
Because you all are so encouraging to me! Pastor Larry <><