

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
August 8 in the year of our Lord 2018 - #752

Someone's Watching...

Those of you who are regular readers of *WEDNESDAY's WORD* know that I have written before of my 9 year old grandson Jericho's favorite toy ... his strap. What started out as just a piece of heavy plastic strapping, from around a shipped package, became his sword, light saber, proton torpedo, superhero weapon. It is the first thing he picks up every morning, and usually the last thing in his hands at night. In our house we didn't have "*Elf on the Shelf*" at Christmas, we have "*Sam the Elf*" who comes during the Advent season and hides Jericho's strap. Stacks of expensive toys go largely untouched day-to-day. But never a day goes by without his strap. He's waved it and twirled it so much that the original plastic broke with fatigue and Pap had to duct tape ... and duct tape ... and duct tape ... until the thing was about an inch thick and no longer quite waved & twirled just right. So the classic old strap, with 100 yards of red duct tape holding it together, was retired, replaced by a three foot long heavy-duty zip tie that is agile, and flexible, and Strap Man is back at it saving the world! Swoosh! He dances, jumps, twirls, waves the strap, with an array of guttural sounds as in his imagination great superhero battles ensue.

Now we have little brother, 7 month old Jaxsen, who adores his big brother! He lights up with a smile and a laugh as soon as Jericho comes in his sight. And he watches, oh he watches, as Jericho whirls & twirls, and shouts around the room. The other day, when Jericho was not around, Jessie put Jericho's strap in Jaxsen's chubby little hand. Oh my, you should have seen Jax! He stiffened his little body in a superhero kind of way, and jerked and yanked at the strap. He made a few guttural sounds, clearly mimicking his brother. It was amazing! Jes caught it on video. I laugh every time I look at it!

The other evening I was holding Jax and I put Jericho's strap in his little hand. About that time Jericho came into the room. He came over and gave Jax a big hug with one arm as he spoke sweet, loving words to his brother. But with the other hand he was quietly prying the strap from Jax's fingers. Hmmm! Someone doesn't like to share their strap! I think we're going to need two!

Who would have imagined that this small baby would have paid such clear attention to what his brother was doing with the strap? And who could imagine how the world is watching you as you live day-to-day as a follower of Jesus Christ. Now our Lord told us that He is our example. Let His life be the model you follow. His absolute trust and love of God's Word, the Bible. His deep love for people. His forgiveness. His gentleness. His passion for helping the hurting. His silence when others mocked Him. His desire for quiet times with His Father in prayer. His servant attitude. What an example! Are you 'watching' ... are you following?

But now, you too are an example. When you identify yourself as a Christ Follower, a Christian, the world takes notice. How are you among your co-workers? How's the language from your mouth? How do you deal with brokenness in your family, or neighborhood? How do you react when someone cuts you off in traffic? How are your financial dealings? What about your social media posts? How are you living in this divisive political climate of our nation? Trusting God's Word absolutely? Loving people? Forgiving? Gentleness? Passion for the hurting? Silence in the face of ridicule? A person of prayer & worship? Gracious in traffic, in the store, in the shop, on the farm. Always serving others rather than yourself?

Trust me dear brother and sister! Someone is watching!

"As you deal with one another, you should think and act as Jesus did." Philippians 2:5 NIV

"...be an example to the believers with your words, your actions, your love, your faith, and your pure life." 1 Timothy 4:12 NCV

"...you yourself must be an example to them of good deeds of every kind. Let everything you do reflect your love of the truth...." Titus 2:7 LB

Someone's watching!!!! Pastor Larry <><