

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
September 5 in the year of our Lord 2018 - #756

Reaching...

I know I write a lot about my grandchildren in these weekly musings. They mean so much to me, and cause me to reflect so much on life and faith. There's Mason in Air Force basic training. Growing up ... maturing ... serving. There's Amber, busy, beautiful high school young lady. Watching her grow and stretch for her future. There's Jericho, third grade now, full head of curls, Fortnight warrior, skinny as a bean pole, funny, sensitive, caring. There's Natalie. She makes me laugh at how much like her Dad she is. Her smile captures my heart. I love to tease her. She has her Mom's great smile, and I love to look into those sparkling eyes full of life, energy, joy! And there's Baby Jaxsen. Maybe as a grandfather I'm just a bit more attentive, but watching him grow and learn fascinates me. Just recently Jax has started to raise his arms when he wants to come to me. Oh boy! That'll catch your heart! He sees me, his little round face lights up, his little chubby arms reach for Pap! He doesn't understand at his young age what that means to me.

Today was the "*Celebration of Life*" worship service for my brother-in-law Jim. He died last week after a grueling fight with cancer. Jim didn't live most of his life as a "*church goer*." He had a faith of sorts, but didn't pursue it much. Then he married my sister-in-law Sharon and her strong faith influenced him. He began to attend church with her. Then he became sick and was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer. A message about "*the woman at the well*" really caught his attention. "*If Jesus could love her even though He knew about the rough life she was living, could He really love me?*" "*Could Jesus death on the Cross really cover even my sins?*" He asked Sharon to take him, sometimes daily, to the empty sanctuary at Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren (*my home church and the congregation that called me to ministry*) and there he would reflect and pray, he and Sharon would talk, and sometimes Pastor Del Keeney would meet them there. Jim was grasping for the mysteries of faith. There's an amazing picture that Sharon took (*see it on my Facebook*) of Jim standing in the empty sanctuary at Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren before the Cross. In that beautifully caught moment Jim was for sure, reaching for Jesus! In Pastor Del's message today he spoke of being "*known & loved*." Jesus knew all about Jim. And loved him. And when Jim reached for Jesus ... he was welcomed into the Divine embrace!

Who am I reaching for? Who are you reaching for? The person you love? Your children? Your grandchildren? Worldly possessions or fame? ... What about your Lord? Are you reaching for Jesus? Part of our growing in faith is to come to the place where we are reaching for Jesus more than anything else!

"I don't have anyone in heaven but You. I don't want anything on earth besides You. My body and my heart may grow weak. God, You give strength to my heart. You are everything I will ever need." Psalm 73:25-26 NIV

Dear one ... reach for Jesus today! He knows you & loves you ... and is ALL you will ever need!

Celebrating today that Jim reached for Jesus! And stretching my arms toward Heaven too! And hoping you are as well! Pastor Larry <><