

## 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 19 in the year of our Lord 2018 - #758

## ER

We spent most of Monday in the Emergency Room at York Hospital with Cathy. It was a long wearisome day. Over my 40+ years in ministry I've spent a lot of time in ERs ... both myself, and with family, and with church family. Those ER days can be very hard! York Hospital's ER is a rough place to be. It's not because of the personnel. We were cared for by many, many very caring staff. But it is a sign of our broken healthcare system. Too many persons without insurance use the ER as free healthcare, it may be their only option, but that plugs up the system. The waiting room on Monday was packed. There was hardly a place to sit. People were hacking, and moaning, and crying, and cursing. And because, of course, they must triage – caring for the most seriously sick/injured patients first – the wait can be horrendous. It was about 7 hours from the time we checked in until we were finally seen by a doctor, and about 12 hours until Cathy was finally discharged. And when you don't feel good that wait can be excruciating. And some people who don't feel good and don't understand can be loud and obnoxious. It's hard!

But I couldn't help but see some parallels between the ER and the Church when it is REALLY being the Church.

1. **ERs are for hurting people; the Church is a place for hurting people.** Our world is full of broken folks ... emotionally ... relationally ... physically ... spiritually. And the job of the Church is to minister to the broken. To bring them to the Great Physician, Jesus. To help them on a journey to wholeness. If your congregation doesn't have broken folks within your Church Family then you are probably not fulfilling your Christian calling. Some congregations hide from, or ignore the hurting. The true Church opens its arms and its doors to the hurting.

***“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the suffering and afflicted. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted, to announce liberty to captives, and to open the eyes of the blind.”*** Isaiah 61:1 LB

2. **ERs can be places where there is a lot of waiting; the Church is a place where there is a lot of waiting.** Waiting to be seen. Waiting for triage. Waiting for lab work. Waiting for tests. Waiting for test results. Oh boy! It's hard! But it is part of the process. Healing, Christian maturity, change, growth ... these don't come quickly. We plant seeds of faith. We preach & teach the truth of God's Word. We love. We counsel. We embrace. And we wait! We celebrate small steps of growth that a new believer makes. We rejoice in tough changes a couple works through. We 'pick up & dust off' a brother or sister who has fallen and help them start afresh. It takes a lot of patience.

***“Surrender your anxiety! Be silent and stop your striving and you will see that I am God.”***

Psalm 46:10 TPT

3. **ERs are messy places; the Church can be a messy place.** Have you ever had a glimpse inside an ER room after a trauma? Look around a packed ER waiting room. Messy! Church life can be messy too. Dealing with sinners is not clean. Walking with those who are facing death is not clean. Loving people through brokenness, addiction, anger, violence... is not clean. Messy! When Jesus touched the leper... when He knelt to wash the Disciples feet... He was showing us that real Kingdom work can be messy!

***“Then a man sick with leprosy came to him. The man bowed down before Jesus and said, ‘Lord, you have the power to heal me if you want.’***

***Jesus touched the man. He said, ‘I want to heal you. Be healed!’ Immediately the man was healed from his leprosy.”*** Matthew 8:2-3 ERV

4. **ERs have a goal – health; the Church has a goal – salvation.** As unlikely as it might seem when you are caught up in the wearisome process, the goal of the ER is to lead people to a healthier place. What specialist do they need to see? What tests will help us get to a correct diagnosis? What medicine is needed? Cast that broken arm. Treat that heart attack. The Church has a goal too. To lead broken people to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and to make disciples – learners, followers of the teachings & truth of Scripture.

***“So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.”*** Matthew 28:19-20 NIV

5. **ERs require a lot of people to accomplish the work; the Church requires a lot of people to accomplish the work.** Parking attendants, security, check-in secretaries, triage nurse, lab workers, radiologist personnel, nurses, doctors – it takes a lot of people! Each is an important part of the work! We’ve been studying what the Bible teaches about Spiritual Gifts this summer at Bermudian and one of the important lessons is that we need: evangelists, prophets, teachers, encouragers, mercy showers, servers, givers and leaders (and more) to accomplish the work of Christ’s Kingdom. And each one is important to help us fulfill the work!

***“God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.”*** 1 Peter 4:10 NLT

So there you have it. It’s what happens when you sit your pastor in an ER for the day! Maybe we need to have a ***“Wear Hospital Scrubs to Church Day”*** just to remind us that the Church is not this squeaky clean, tidy, orderly place ... but much more Biblically like a busy hospital ER!

Blessings from the ER! Pastor Larry <><