

## 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  
October 17 in the year of our Lord 2018 - #762

## BAD DAY

In 1972 children's author, Judith Viorst, wrote her classic book for kids, *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*. It won several children's book awards. Disney even made a movie based on the book in 2014. Maybe lots of people can relate to Alexander's bad day. Maybe you can relate. I know I can. Monday was one of those kind of days. Terrible. Horrible. No Good. Very Bad.

The day started well enough. It was newsletter day and I was actually looking forward to working on the newsletter in these "without a secretary" days. But then I couldn't find a piece of paper with some important info necessary for the newsletter. Those who know me best know that my office is usually pretty messy! But they also know I can usually find things. Not this piece of paper. Gone! Vanished! Overtaken everything! Surely someone had come into my office overnight and stolen that valuable piece of paper! Hours later ... after several contacts for the errant info ... the newsletter was in process and you guessed it ... THEN I found my missing piece of paper. The Church copier was off and running. 310 copies X 3 pages. That's a lot of printing! Page one done. Page two done. Halfway thru page 3 the copier just started spitting out blank paper. I did every trick I know to coax the machine back to service. No luck. Called the office machine company. They are always very prompt for us. But it was too near closing time to send a guy today. So here I was 195 copies from completion. So close I could smell it! I had my wonderful team of Sisters coming in bright & early on Tuesday to collate, fold, and label the newsletters. What could I do???

I had been wanting to add a small personal printer to the secretary's office for small print jobs and one with FAX capability to replace our old worn out FAX machine. I had a 50% off coupon from Staples. A plan came together. Called Cathy to say that I wouldn't be home for supper. Off to Staples to buy the small printer. Back to the office to set it up, print my 195 final copies. Viola! Piece of cake! Just one problem. The new printer just wouldn't work. I've set up dozens of the small personal printers. Easy. Plug & play. Not this dog. I spent hours running on-line diagnostics and trying to get the little printer to give me a copy. Nope. The hours were winding down. Finally I admitted defeat and called the Sisters to say the newsletter would not be ready in the morning. More work at trying to get the new printer to cooperate. No luck. And then ... I found a terrible mistake I had made on already printed page 1! Enough! It was near midnight when I crawled into bed. Frustrated. It had been a Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day!

I tried to keep everything in perspective. I'm not battling cancer. I haven't just lost my home in a hurricane. It's just a newsletter. Sleep was welcome.

The next day, Tuesday, the sun shown. My repair man was waiting for me and soon had the copier up and running. My final 195 copies were run. Page one was re-run. My Sisters came when I called and I got the newsletter to the post office ... hardly even off schedule. In the

afternoon we had a secretary candidate interview, and that evening two productive meetings. Home again, rather late. Into the loving arms of nine year old Jericho who gave me a big “Hi Pap!” hug and said, “I hope you had a better day today.” Pretty amazing for a nine year old! Some late night soup. Ten month old Jaxsen woke up just in time for me to play with him for a couple minutes before his Mom put him back to sleep. Cathy & I had evening devotions. Sleep! And oh yeah, before I had left Church for the evening, Church Board Chair Cory Stump shared that our candidate had accepted our job offer. We have a new Church secretary! What a difference a day makes.

Here’s my take away. Bad ‘days’ happen! They happen to us all! They are part of the human condition. But it is important to keep things in perspective.

1. God will not leave me nor forsake me.

**“God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’”** Hebrews 13:5 NIV

2. My problems are common to humanity ... my situation is not unique.

**“No trial has overtaken you that is not faced by others. And God is faithful....”**  
1 Corinthians 10:13 NET

3. Bay days (times, seasons) come ... and go.

**“Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning.”**  
Psalm 30:5 NLT

4. Love will see you through!

**“Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything.”** 1 Peter 4:8 Message

To all my “Alexanders” out there, I am so sorry you are having a “Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day” (or week, or season, or year) please know that you are loved, cared for, prayed for ... and if you should need a hand up, a shoulder to cry on, or someone to pray with ... your Pastors and Church Family are here. And most of all know your Lord is with you through that “Day” and always with amazing, absolute love for you! Pastor Larry <><