

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
December 12 in the year of our Lord 2018 - #768 Second Week of Advent

SANTA & BOBBY

Based on true events, but names have been changed for the sake of privacy and respect.

One of the leaders of our Church Family, we'll call him 'Sam,' recently had the opportunity to play Santa for an organization. It was the real deal! All dressed up in the red & white Santa suit, seated on his Santa throne, Sam was ready to welcome & interact with the children with his very best, "Ho! Ho! Ho!" The children were excited as one-by-one they came to sit on Santa's lap with their 'wish list.' But Sam noticed a little boy, 'Bobby,' off to the side. Bobby really, really wanted to come see Santa but he was too shy. Bobby was autistic and one-on-one interactions like this were very hard. He'd draw close to Santa, and then as soon as Santa made eye contact Bobby would scamper away. As the evening went on Bobby was always close ... but not too close to Santa. He so wanted to be near Santa! He sat, for a long while, on a long window sill with a video game. And would slide down the window sill, inch-by-inch, to get closer and closer to Santa. But if Santa reached out to him, he would quickly scamper away. Bobby would sit on the floor near to Santa. He just wanted to be close.

Sam loved this opportunity to be a blessing to the children, but his heart ached to be able to reach out to Bobby. Near the end of the evening Sam had an idea, he got down from his throne and got on the floor, eyeball to eyeball with Bobby. And there on the floor he connected ... Bobby came to him. The moment sure made Sam's night ... and Bobby's too!

It's not hard to see the Christmas connection here. What Sam did for Bobby is what God did for us. An unseen, holy, God of the universe can be a little difficult for us to reach out to! We know our sins, imperfections, failures. Could God REALLY care about me? And so God in His infinite love for us sent Jesus from the glory of Heaven to the dust of earth. Down off His throne on to the floor of a Bethlehem stable. There as a Baby, there as a young child talking to Temple elders, there as the carpenter's son with calloused working man's hands, there as the Teacher reaching out to lost, lonely, sick & fallen, there as Savior with arms outstretched on the Old Rugged Cross as though to welcome us ... THIS is a God we can relate to, connect with! THIS is what we celebrate at Christmas!

"The Word became a human being and lived here with us. We saw His true glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father. From Him all the kindness and all the truth of God have come down to us."

John 1:14 CEV

I really hope you are enjoying all the sights, sounds, smells & tastes of this wondrous season. Enjoy the music, finding the perfect gifts, decorating, greetings from friends, special opportunities for worship and giving. But most of all I pray for you ... that in some especially quiet moment of the season ... you will pray with love and thanksgiving and adoration to the God of the Universe for getting down on the floor (as Jesus) with you!

Advent Blessings! Pastor Larry <><