

## 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 19 in the year of our Lord 2018 - #769 Third Week of Advent

## Aaaaargh!!!

It's been a busy & emotional week with the death of one of our dear Bermudian Sisters, Willie Julius after suffering a massive stroke. Services were this morning. Willie was a kind, loving, creative, vibrant Sister in the Lord. She loved her family and her Church Family but especially her Lord. In 1996 she suffered a traumatic brain injury in a car accident and wasn't expected to survive. But survive she did! Bonus years. A gift from the Lord and she knew it. But in the last couple years, the 'after shocks' of the brain injury have been catching up with her and life has been getting more & more difficult. Each year on the anniversary of that accident, she would ask to give a testimony in church. Just a few weeks ago, with none of us knowing it would be the last time, she asked for the mic. With frail voice and halting words she sang, "*I love You Lord, and I lift my voice....*" It felt a bit like listening in on a very personal conversation! Her love song to her Lord.

Some funerals, like Willie's aren't difficult because the saints have written their own funeral message with their lives. Favorite hymn? Easy! "*Shine, Jesus Shine.*" Willie always insisted that I should sing in worship more often. So of course I had to sing for her today. I loved her so, and wanted to have everything perfect as we gave thanks to the Lord for her life ... and for the bonus years! But last night a computer glitch reached out and bit me! A computer task I do almost weekly without thinking – out of nowhere – wouldn't work. I tried everything! Re-did and re-did again! At several points I was near tears. I just couldn't figure out why what I always did wasn't working tonight! Finally, about midnight I admitted defeat and went home to get a few hours sleep. I felt so defeated ... I just wanted Willie's service to be perfect!

This morning, the task still would not work correctly even for one of our Bermudian computer whiz guys, Dustin Julius. But Dustin's wizardry got us thru the service with all the tech bits & pieces falling into place without anyone so much as guessing that Dustin was applying a little sleight of hand from the soundboard! The service was a lovely remembrance of a life well lived, and fitting worship of the Lord she so loved. We sang "*Shine, Jesus, Shine,*" and I sang "*O Holy Night.*" No glitches! In my message I likened Willie's testimony Sunday to Mary's Magnificat. Words of **trust** even in the midst of uncertainty, words of **love** to the Lord who had been so gracious to her even though she was undeserving, words of **confidence** that every promise of the Lord is true.

Sometimes ... some days ... some seasons ... things don't go as planned. The illness. The injury. The brokenness. Mary didn't plan on the census. She & Joseph didn't plan on their need to travel to Egypt to save the Baby Jesus' life. Maybe you are in the midst of a Christmas like that. Let us learn from Mary (and Willie's) example and **trust** even when life is uncertain, **love** the Lord for all His grace & care which we do not deserve, and

have **confidence** that every promise of the Lord ... every word of His Word ... is completely trustworthy!

***“My soul magnifies the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant...”***

Luke 1:46-48 NKJV

Thanks to everyone who helped minister to the Julius family today! Excellent ministry!  
Thanks to Dustin for the rescue! Love you Brother!  
Thank you Willie for your life & your love! Enjoy Heaven!  
Thank you Lord for being mindful of your servant Larry!

Christmas blessings to one & all! Pastor Larry <><