

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

March 5 in the year of our Lord 2019 - #779

WITH

Almost-5-years-old granddaughter Natalie likes to go with her Daddy when he is running errands for his business, Dentler Home Services. Recently they were in York and came up on the intersection of George Street & Country Club/ Rathton Roads. If you know the place you know that York Hospital looms large looking over the intersection. As John & Natalie arrived at the intersection Natalie got all excited!

“Look Daddy, it’s the hotel that Meema likes to stay at! Do you think she’s there now?”

When John got done laughing he explained to Natty girl that this is a hospital not a hotel and ‘no’ Meema was not there now. When I told Cathy the story we belly-laughed together. But then I teased Cathy, *“You know you’ve been spending too much time in the hospital when your granddaughter thinks it’s your favorite hotel!”*

I’ve always been intrigued with the wording of Acts 4:13. The context is that Peter & John were in trouble with the Jewish Sanhedrin for preaching & teaching about Jesus. The leaders thought they were done with this Jesus fellow when He was crucified! Now here are these two causing such a stir. But they knew that Peter & John were simple fishermen from ‘the wrong side of the tracks’ – Galilee. And they took note of something else.

“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.” Acts 4:13 NIV

I wonder? Natalie knew that Meema spent a lot of time at that ‘hotel’ on the hill. She noticed. Do the folks with whom we interact every day? Do they ‘take note’ that we have been **‘with’** Jesus? Is it evident in the way we talk? The way we share? The way we forgive? The way we act in a time of disagreement? In our social media posts? In the way we handle our finances and our business dealings? In the way we treat our spouses? In the kind of neighbor or co-worker or friend we are? Can those who touch our lives each day see clearly that we have been **‘with’** Jesus?

Tomorrow, Wednesday, March 6, is Ash Wednesday. The beginning of the ancient Christian Season of Lent marking 40 days (not including Sundays) that leads us towards Easter. Lent has always been a time of repentance & reflection. The old custom of giving something up was a way to focus in on Jesus. Our worship becomes more reflective. We remember His suffering. We focus on the cost of our salvation. A season to be **“with”** Jesus in a very special way.

For our Lenten Season at Bermudian we will be reflecting on a question that Jesus asked His disciples when they stood in a vile & sinful place ... way out of their comfort zones! ***“Who do you say that I am?”*** It was an important question then! And now! So perhaps we all need to

make a little more room for Jesus in this Season of Lent. Perhaps what we 'give up' is something in order to make a little more time for prayer. A little more time for Scripture. A little more time for worship. And why not start this "**withness**" by joining us tomorrow for one of two special prayer & teaching moments.

9am – Prayer Breakfast @ Rene’s Family Restaurant (East Berlin) (You will order off the menu; if you don’t want to eat you are still welcome; just want coffee? That’s great).

6pm – Prayer Supper @ The Gathering Place, our Nurture Commission is hosting a very simple soup supper.

We'll kick off our "**Who Do You Say I Am?**" series and enjoy some time together, some good food, a little teaching, some moments of prayer ... and we'll be "**with**" Jesus! For those who would like, following the gathering you may receive the mark of ashes on your forehead or the back of your hand as a sign of repentance.

(If you weren't able to be counted in our count for both gatherings on Sunday, please call the Church Office 717-292-1861 – leave a message – so we can adequately prepare.)

Looking forward to being "**with**" YOU and "**with**" Jesus!
Fastnacht happy, Pastor Larry <><