

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
April 24 in the year of our Lord 2019 - #785

Rejoice...

Well another Lenten & Easter Season has come and gone. I love the Season. As we stand on this side of Resurrection Sunday, what is one memory, one thought, one new insight, one learning, that sticks out for you? I always pray that for all those I love in the Lord, that there will be new insight and/or renewed closeness to the Lord as we pass through the Season. So what about you? Do you feel closer to Jesus than before the Season? Did He teach you something new? Reveal an insight you hadn't seen before?

On Wednesday evening of last week (Holy Week) I took my 9 year old grandson to the Community Passion Play @ Harmony Grove Church. A wonderful presentation of the Gospel with a cast of 70 persons from 12 different churches in the area! Elaborate, realistic sets & wonderful costuming. Over the course of Holy Week and 6 presentations, over 2000 persons attended.

Jericho is a fairly typical 9 year old boy. The most important things in his world are video games (especially Fortnite), riding his bike, playing with his strap outside. He wasn't real sure about this "Passion Play" thing with Pap. He would have rather stayed home and played. But when we got there his eyes widened at the elaborate sets. Bethany (Neff) Miller asked if we wanted to be near "the explosion." Jericho's nine! Of course we do! So she showed us to front seats right below the tomb of Jesus. About a half hour before the show began the Roman soldiers came out. Their costumes & demeanor were on target. One of them gruffly walked up to Jericho with his sword drawn, "*We're not going to have any trouble with you tonight are we?*" Jericho sheepishly nodded "*No.*" Then looked at me wide eyed. I still wondered if the two hour long presentation would hold my Jericho's interest.

It did. He hung on every word. Edge of his seat. When they scourged Jesus he cringed. When the beaten Christ went by us and the blood on his back glistened, Jericho never took his eyes away. When the soldier pierced Jesus' side and the blood & water sprayed out, Jericho jumped exclaiming, "*O my gosh!*"

Jesus' body was put in the tomb and the soldiers struggled to roll the stone in place. Jericho said to me, "*That must really be heavy.*" But when it was time for Resurrection, "the explosion" went off to Jericho's delight and thru the smoke a triumphant Jesus stood in the tomb entrance. Jericho was enthralled ... he clapped his little hands for all that was in him!

Needless to say, this old Pap's heart was touched, touched by my Buddy's enthusiasm. It made for some wonderful conversation ... and a million questions ... on the ride home.

But the image that lasts in my mind ... my Lent/Easter 2019 keepsake memory ... is the smile on his face and his little hands clapping so furiously as Jesus came from the tomb. I want that same joy!

I pray for me and for you that this was not just another Lent/Easter. But that the reality of Christ's love for you, the depth of His suffering on your behalf and for your sin, and the assurance of the power of His resurrection and what that promises for you ... that in all of these we will proclaim with all the passion of our hearts, as Jesus' Momma once said,

"...my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...." Luke 1:47 NIV

With clapping hands & a rejoicing heart, and praying the same for you! Pastor Larry <><