

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 25, in the year of our Lord 2020 – #829

JACK POT



Monday was newsletter day for our church. Church Secretary Ashley Frantz and I did our usual 'every-other-Monday' work in putting our "the Living Letter" newsletter together. Deciding on articles, arranging, choosing artwork, printing the page of the newsletter, and printing labels. But then we also did the work of assembling, folding, putting on the seals, and applying the address labels. This work is normally done by our faithful team of Sisters who come in Tuesday of each newsletter week and do this important work. Because of the quarantine we asked the ladies not to come and Ashley and I did that job. Whew! Made me appreciate the good work they do for us. Thank you, dear Sisters!

So yesterday then, I took the newsletter to the Bulk Mail Department of the York Post Office. While in that East York part of town I stopped by Big Lots to pick up a few cleaning supplies I haven't been able to get at the grocery store. I walked in the door looking for the wipes to clean the cart handle... and there it was! Right inside the door was a pallet. And on the pallet a 12-pack of toilet paper. Just one package setting all alone on the pallet. BINGO! JACK POT! SCORE! I quickly picked up the treasure. The clerk told me that they had just put the pallet of toilet paper out a short time ago ... and I had gotten the last package. I felt like I had won the

lottery... I guess, because I don't believe in the lottery and don't play the lottery, but if I did and I won I'm sure this was what it must feel like!

Isn't it odd? Isn't it funny? How the value we place on things can change? Just a couple weeks ago none of us gave much thought to toilet paper. The grocery aisle had 37 different brands. Luxury plush to sandpaper grade. 12-packs, 8-packs, 4-packs, single rolls. We'd pick up our favorite kind without a thought. Now, all of a sudden, thanks to hoarding, the aisle at the grocery store is almost always completely empty, and we'll take whatever we can find! That environmentally friendly kind where you can see the chunks of wood floating in the paper and might give you a splinter in the worst place... is as in demand as the softest and most plush. If it's toilet paper... I want it! I need it!

These quarantine days for the Corona Virus have been hard for many of us. Some are off work. Children are off school. Some are trying to work from home. Our church face-to-face church services have been replaced by YouTube services. Our obsession with sports has been taken away. Our lust for entertainment has been slowed. Savings accounts and retirement funds, once booming, have declined in a blink of an eye. It's an evil, invisible enemy. The number of confirmed cases multiplies daily. The media drones on 24-7. Our politicians argue about "pork barrel" additions to an aid package. Life has changed. And maybe... just maybe... our values are changing too. When we can finally be back together for worship, won't it be a grand celebration! We won't fuss or argue about what time the service is, or what style the music... we just want to be with our Church Family! We just want to sing, and pray, and worship our Lord TOGETHER! Skip worship because of some other event? You got to be kidding! I'm going to church!

And maybe with so much uncertainty swirling around us, for some of us the value of our relationship with our loving, caring, comforting, healing Lord and His Word has also changed. We won't take Jesus for granted anymore. We won't take His Word for granted anymore. I'm a sinner ... I know that ... but Jesus died for me! He died and rose so that I may be forgiven and know the promise of eternal life when life in this frail existence is over! He is my Refuge in the storm. He is my Shelter from attack. He is my Comfort in my stress. And in His Word, the Bible, I find true Life ... true wealth! He does this for me! BINGO! JACK POT! SCORE!

"Every one of the Lord's commands is right; following them brings cheer. Nothing He says ever needs to be changed. The rarest treasures of life are found in His truth. That's why I prize God's Word like others prize the finest gold. Nothing brings the soul such sweetness as seeking His living words." Psalm 19:9-10 TPT

In the uncertainty of the day... cling to what is absolutely certain, dear friends!
Pastor Larry <><