

## 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*

September 23, in the year of our Lord 2020 – #854

## See You at The Pole Day 2020

For many years a Wednesday in September has been set aside as “**See You at The Pole.**” A nationwide student led prayer time around each school’s flag pole. I have some great memories of joining with students and teachers at Bermudian Springs when John & Jes were in school. For many years all of our area schools participated in one form or another. I haven’t heard much about local gatherings this year. It’s been such a crazy start to the new school year, I guess it’s not surprising. But, oh my, we need to be praying for students, teachers, families, administration now more than ever! So, let’s dedicate today’s *WEDNESDAY's WORD* to special prayer for our young people and their education.

The national theme for this year’s *See You at The Pole* is, “**Return, Restore, Revive.**” The theme Scripture is 2 Kings 23:25.

**“Josiah ... turned in total and repentant obedience to God.”** (Message)

The record here is of a nation in disarray. A people whose roots are in faith but who have drifted away into sin and disregard of faith. The story here is of a great revival. A people turning their hearts & minds ... and their nation back to God. **Return ... Restore ... Revive.** Can you relate?

Let’s focus our prayer today:

1. **For our students** – it has been a disrupted year. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the end of the school year and has played havoc with the start of the new year. Virtual learning, hybrid education, in-room instruction with new safety protocols. Pray for ‘your’ students ... children, grandchildren. Other children you know ... friends, neighbors, extended family, church family. Children, middle schoolers, youth. Pray for each by name. Surround them with God’s love and protection.
2. **For teachers (and helpers)** – for many teachers, there has been a whole new skill set to learn. It has added layers of additional work on their plates. But I sense dedication to do the very best they can for the children. Pray for their wisdom, strength, ability. Pray especially for Christian teachers you know who seek to let their faith in Christ shine through in a secular structure.
3. **For parents** – the new formats have caused stress for many families. Partial school schedules and computer time at home. Parents have had to make work adjustments. Some students react better than others to virtual learning. Pray for wisdom and patience for parents. Pray for them by name. Your adult children, grandchildren, neighbors, friends, extended family, church family. Ask God to grant them grace and strength.

4. **For school administration** – This has been a ‘season’ where no matter what decisions are made someone isn’t happy. There have been huge amounts of preparation details to orchestrate. Angry calls and emails to receive. Communication of new schedules and patterns to disseminate. Pray for these leaders. Even if you are unhappy with some decisions, acknowledge that they are trying to do what is best for your children. Pray for wisdom and guidance.
5. **For home school families** – Some of our home school families are chuckling at all the hub bub! Nothing much has changed here! It is a huge commitment to home school! Pray for God’s sure guidance for these families. Some are new to this format. Pray that God will grant them a good learning curve and adjustment.
6. **For our nation** – This continues to be a most stressful time. With mixed messages. Angry political rhetoric. COVID weariness. Like the nation of Israel in Josiah’s day we have abandoned in too many ways the faith of our fathers. We need a Revival. We need hearts to be convicted of sin. We need a turning back to a full commitment to God’s Word. And we as responsible adults need to understand that our reactions to these unsettled times will without a doubt impact the next generation. We must embrace our serious responsibility to share our blessed faith with our children and youth! Pray for **Return...Restore...Revive!**

Will you join me today in some special focused prayer for our children & schools? Imagine us, if you will, gathered around a school front flag pole, surrounding our young people with our love and prayers.

***“One generation will declare Your works to the next and will proclaim Your mighty acts.”*** Psalm 145:4 HCSB

Joining you in prayer for all students, families, schools ... Pastor Larry <><