

Thoughts From the Pastor's Desk

Allow me to begin this month's article by sharing a story. I don't know where I heard it originally or where it came from for that matter. But I think upon reading it, it will help prepare us as we move once again through the end summer and onto the fall and the restarting of church activities and our upcoming yearly Charge (Church) Conference on Thursday, October 8th (7:30 PM) and the election and appointment of leadership positions for the coming year. So let me tell you about Brenda. Brenda was a young woman who was invited to go rock climbing. Although she was very scared, she went with her group to a tremendous granite cliff. In spite of her fear, she put on the gear, took a hold on the rope, and started up the face of that rock wall. Well, she got to a ledge about half way up where she could take a breather. As she was hanging on there, the safety rope snapped against Brenda's eye and knocked out her contact lens.

Well you can imagine her panic. Here she is, on a rock ledge, with hundreds of feet below her and hundreds of feet above her. Of course, she looked and looked hoping that the lens had landed on the ledge, but it wasn't there. So here she was, far from home and her sight now blurry. She was desperate and began to get upset, so she prayed to the Lord to help her to find it. When she got to the top, a friend examined her eye and her clothing for the lens, but there was no contact lens to be found. She sat down, despondent, with her fellow climbers waiting for the rest of them to make it up the face of the cliff. As she sat there she looked out across range after range of mountains, thinking of that Bible verse that says, "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth." As she did she thought to herself, "Lord, You can see all these mountains. You know every stone and leaf. You know exactly where my contact lens is. Please help me find it."

Finally after all had finished climbing they walked down the trail to the bottom. At the bottom there was a new party of climbers just starting up the face of the cliff. One of them shouted out, "Hey, you guys! Anybody lose a contact lens?" Well, that would be startling enough, but you know why the climber saw it? An ant was moving slowly across the face of the rock, carrying it on its back and the sun had hit it so the climber saw it.

Well later at home Brenda told her father who was a cartoonist the story. And when she told him that incredible story of the ant, the prayer, and finding the contact lens, he drew a picture of an ant lugging that contact lens captioned with these words. "Lord, I don't know why You want me to carry this thing. I can't eat it, and it's awfully heavy. But if this is what You want me to do, I'll carry it for You."

I think it would probably do some of us good to occasionally say, "God, I don't know why you want me to carry this load. I don't know why you want me to do this job or take this position. I can see no good in it and it's awfully heavy and time consuming. But, if you want me to carry it or do it, I will."

Thoughts From the Pastor's Desk Is God calling you to take a leadership position within the church? Is there a stirring in your soul to fill an empty void? Is God saying "You have the experience, your church needs you?"

The Apostle Paul reminds us we "can do all things through Christ who strengthens us." My friends God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called. Your Church needs you. Come and talk to me about what God might want you to be doing. I will be waiting and so will God.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Rich