News from the Brick
Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren
5352 N. Brick Church Road ***Established 1820***
Hagerstown, IN 47346

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Eloise Beeson, Secretary
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship: 10:00 a.m.

March 2004

Continuing the Work of Jesus.
Peacefully. Simply. Together.

Carol's Comments "God's Pager"

Romans 5:20b - 21 …but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death, so grace might also exercise dominion through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Most of us have been to restaurants nowadays that have a handheld device that beeps or lights up and/or vibrates when a table is available. I believe they call it a pager. These devices come in various sizes, shapes, and beeps. The purpose, of course, is to keep patrons around and be able to seat them in a timely manner. It seems to be the craze for newer restaurants. But it is not only restaurants that have these pagers. Some hospitals hand them out to process outpatients before they are admitted for surgery. They are what's new in our society to appease people and divvy out fairness in the wait for a table or admission to the hospital.

I wonder. What if God had pagers? What if God required that we wait in line to be processed into the Kingdom? Would we be as inclined to wait as we wait for a table? If you've paid attention where pagers are used in restaurants or hospitals, you might notice that people live for the lights, beep, or vibrations. (At least I do!) Notice the excitement or relief in finally having one's number come up. Then notice how you are ushered into the seating area and given the privilege to dine at last or ushered into a booth to be admitted to the hospital.

Well, fortunately God doesn't use pagers. There is no waiting line to get into the Kingdom of God. All are welcome. There is room for all at anytime of the day or night. Isn't that refreshing? We are all welcome to partake from the table of Grace. Don't we wish that people were clamoring for a seat in the Kingdom as they clamor for a seat to dine? I wonder. I wonder why these things take precedence over the Grace table. Do you?

As we ponder this Lenten season, reflect upon the wonderful Grace of Jesus.

Wonderful grace of Jesus, greater than all my sin; how shall my tongue describe it, where shall its praise begin? Taking away my burden, setting my spirit free, for the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

-"Wonderful Grace of Jesus," Hymnal: A Worship Book, Brethren Press, Elgin, Illinois, p. 150

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Carol M. Pfeiffer

Continuing to Pray for…

***Bob Burroughs** ***Janine Dumitru** Fred Dilling Shirley Root
Glen Bach Carl DeVinney Bob Klein Beverly Hoover
Ted Hobbs
Care Centers: Estella Hilbert, LuFreda Bowman
Homebound: Ruth Crull, Viola Nicholson

If you want to defend Christianity, practice it. – Old Union Reminder