

# News from the Brick

Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren  
5352 N. Brick Church Road  
Hagerstown, IN 47346

Established 1820



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Jodi Johnson, Secretary  
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.  
Worship: 10:00 a.m.

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2005

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

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## Carol's Comments

Read John 9: 1-41     *"One thing I do know. I was blind, but now I see."* John 9:25

"Sight for sore eyes." "Sight to behold." "Out of sight, out of mind." "I have them in sight." "Hindsight." "Foresight." All these are phrases or words pertaining to sight. We have all used them in speech. Why am I focused on "sight?" Things sort of hit me out of the blue, so to speak, or perhaps it was a God-nudging.

I started thinking about sight on the way back from Indianapolis where I went for an eye check-up. I had Lasik eye surgery nine months ago. A side effect is dry eyes. Age has something to do with it too I'm told. And since I am a tad older, I will contend with dry eye. But also medications can exacerbate the condition. Working at the computer tends to dry the eyes out also, because one tends not to blink as often. Hence, my eyes were irritated and becoming bothersome. Eye dryness, I was told, will affect how clearly one sees. That information was a relief to find out, because there are some days when I don't see quite as clearly.

During the exam the doctor checked my eyes thoroughly to make sure nothing else was going on and to see how dry my eyes were. My vision is 20/20 but the irritation was due to dry eyes. I was told that winter is the worst time for eye dryness with heat and air circulating. The doctor gave me a couple of different eye drops to lubricate the eyes—to use eight times a day and different drops at night. There are other options should these particular drops not be effective.

Armed with drops for relief, I headed home. And that's when I was hit with these sight phrases. I think about the church and how sight is involved. We could use all these phrases in some way or other to reflect about the church. Sight is vision. So I started thinking about the vision of the church. Do we have a vision for the future? Do we have a vision for reaching the unchurched in a way that will meet needs? Are we blind spiritually to our own needs as well as the needs of others? Is our church structure working? How long will we sit on our hands and just hope that things change on their own?

Jesus didn't sit on his hands. Jesus was out amongst the people teaching, healing, showing compassion. Jesus didn't just minister to the "churched", he went to the people that needed him. He had "foresight". We tend to only use "hindsight" to see what we did wrong or ineffectively. Or our "foresight" looks to the future and we're scared of what we see or scared of working toward possibilities. Or we don't want to commit to what we see it might take to become more Christ-like and reach out to others.

Read the scripture above and notice that the blind man could see clearly. He could see the attitude of the religious hierarchy. He could see their doubt, fear, control. But he also could see who made him well—who cared for him enough to give him sight. He could see possibilities. He could see the God of possibilities.

I am reminded of the song by Bob Marley, "I Can See Clearly Now." It goes like this:

I can see clearly now, the rain is gone,

