

News from the Brick

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

Established 1820



Carol M. Pfeiffer, Pastor
Church Phone: 765-489-4430
Parsonage Phone: 765-489-343
nettlecreekcob@tmcsmail.com
www.nettlecreekcob.com



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

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

Carol's Comments

"Who's Blind?"

He also told them this parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher." Luke 6: 37-40 NIV

Bob and I recently attended Pastor Sabbath at Camp Mack. It is a twenty-four hour Sabbath time of prayer, reading, reflecting, and fellowship with other pastors. It is a time to recharge one's batteries for ministry. I took a walk on Friday morning enjoying the breeze and the bright sky. Walking down the road admiring the wild flowers, I happened upon a corral with a horse. I mused that it must be the place where some pastors had encountered some horses that got loose the day before. They had tried to get them back into the corral, but not knowing horses, didn't succeed. The owner came out and rattled the feed bucket and the horses followed the sound. I laughed to myself as I visualized all this.



One horse was in the corral that morning. I noticed that he had a blue covering over his ears and eyes that stopped at his nose. I reflected upon this "blind" horse. I knew that they put these "things" to keep the flies out of a horse's eyes. I thought it unusual that though it had its face totally covered, it seemed to be following me along the fencerow. In fact, it even walked between the fence and the tree without running into it to follow me. Ah...a perfect metaphor upon which to reflect...the blind following the footsteps of a passerby. Since my upcoming sermon title was "The Voice of the Shepherd", I thought about how this horse was following the sound of my footsteps. We follow the voice of the Shepherd, Jesus Christ. We are the blind following the Savior. Yes! An illustration to use for Sunday.

At sharing time about our Sabbath experience, I mentioned that I had come up with this perfect metaphor from an experience I just had. I told about this horse with the covering. The pastor who had been chasing the horses the day before said, "You know, they have a mesh over the eyes through which they can see, don't you?" Well, that blew my metaphor. We all had a good laugh. Then one pastor said, "Turn it around. Who was the blind one?"

Indeed, who was the blind one? It wasn't the horse, though I thought it was. I was the one blind to the situation. I was sure the horse was blinded by the covering. (I hadn't seen that type of covering before). But instead, I was the one who "couldn't see."

Aren't we like that? We are so sure someone is wrong about something. We insist that something has to be done a certain way. We refuse to consider other possibilities. We insist the scriptures say one thing to support our point. Yet it is feasible that we might not be getting the whole picture. We might not be "seeing." We are blinded by our own agendas...our own stubbornness...our own fears. When we are blinded, we cannot see hope or possibilities.

The horse had his vision clouded by the covering even with the mesh eyeholes. And sometimes our vision is clouded by all the circumstances or situations in which we find ourselves. So who's blind? The one who thinks he/she can see or the one with partial vision? Perhaps it is both. It is both when we insist that we have all the answers...when neither person can see clearly. That's why it is so important to immerse ourselves