

Planting Seeds

I'm no poet, but I certainly appreciate those who can create thought provoking and vivid images with the words that they write.

I came across an ever-so-brief poem recently that has made quite an impression on me. It is called,

"Forecast" by Luci Shaw:
Planting seeds
Inevitably
Changes my feelings
About rain.

There are numerous helpful insights here, many of them theological in nature.

First, a new perspective on adversity.

Commonly, rain is seen as a nuisance. Of course, we all acknowledge that such is necessary for life, but rare is the person who is thankful the ballgame was rained out. Unusual is the person who picnics, ride bikes, drives convertibles, or plays golf in the rain. Many avoid doing much of anything if it happens to be raining. However, we should be reminded that disappointment and adversity can build character. We are all going to go through difficult stages in life. When we do, let us look for the good. "For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it" (Heb. 12:11).

Second, a new perspective on labor.

Hard work pays off. The investment of time and energy pays off, even if it may not be immediate. So, take the time to plant seeds. Plant seeds of kindness. Plant seeds of the Gospel. The difficult and uncomfortable conversations matter and they make a difference. Paul planted seeds (1 Cor. 3:6). The Lord often used the imagery of planting seeds in His ministry. From the way people would receive the Good News (Matt. 13:1-23) to the way the Kingdom would grow (Matt. 13:31-32).

Third, a new perspective on hope.

Let us be patient with God and His plan. Sometimes it is difficult to see past the storm clouds. However, without the rain, there is no growth. We must learn to trust God to bless us with blue skies after the storm. "He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him" (Ps. 126:6).

Plant seeds. Expect rain. Enjoy God's blessings.

—Bart Warren

South Green Street Church of Christ, Glasgow, KY

The things that count most in life are the things that can't be counted.

News Notes

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Tuesday, June 2nd at 11:00 a.m. then postponed until August 4th.

VBS: June 1-5, 7-8 p.m. "Truth Hunters" at Hillview Terrace Church of Christ, Moundsville. Additional details on the Bulletin Board.

FRIDAY NIGHT SING: June 5th, 6:00 p.m., Weirton Heights Church of Christ. Refreshments following the singing.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, June 6th, 8:00 a.m. at Connie's.

COVERED DISH DINNER: Next Sunday, June 7th, about Noon at the Fellowship Building. Followed by our early afternoon worship service at 2:00 p.m. at the Church Building.

OUR VBS: Next week, June 8-12, 10:00 to Noon. Classes for all ages. Adult Class Teacher: Steve Smithbauer.

LADIES RETREAT: June 12-14, Topic: "1 Peter Deep Dive" at Northeastern Ohio Christian Youth Camp, Lisbon, Ohio. \$25 per Ages 12+. Register by June 8th. Schedule and additional details on the Bulletin Board.

PANTRY: Potato soup.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *At Home:* Anita Hopwood, Donna Stevens, Peggy Linger, Scharlotte Jones, Harry Huff, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong. *Fox, Chester:* Marlene Evans, Mary Johnson. *Serra Manor, Weirton:* Jean Haught (Skip's mother). **ELSEWHERE:** **Brenda Harris** (Gerald & Paula Clutter's sister), 102 Cardinal Drive, Rockwell, NC 28138 (Phone: 304-479-3950). **Nancy Hadley**, 2995 Clay Pond Drive, Oakland, TN 38060. **Carolyn Carbone** (Janet & Becky's sister), 98 Orange Blossom Dr., Ranson, WV 25438. **Sue Baumgardner** (the McKittrick's daughter), 245 Mark Drive, Paducah, KY 42001. **Christy Claypool**, 204 Rio Pinar Drive, Warner Robins, GA 31088. **Jackie Brown** (Rico's mother), 4227 Prince Hall Blvd., Orlando, FL 32811. **Herman McHan**, 29 Jenny Lane, Columbiana, OH 44408.

BIBLE MEDITATIONS: Monday-Friday 12:30-12:35 p.m.
on WOHI 1490 AM and 103.9 FM.

We have committed the Golden Rule to memory;
let us now commit it to life.