

## Bermudian Church of the Brethren

**WEDNESDAY'S WORD** – a midweek thought from Pastor Larry M. Dentler  
to share a word of inspiration ... encouragement ... challenge ... a smile ... in the middle of your week  
January 13, in the year of our Lord 2020 - #867

### Oops!

The feats of father & son, Larry & John, are legendary! The stuff of Christmas dinners and summer Bar-BQs where stories are told and re-told and sometimes only slightly embellished. Palm Sunday Shelby exhaust, finger busting, emergency room, never work on Sunday again story. That's a classic! Laminate floor laying blood on the underlayment. Another told and re-told. It has been said that when Larry and John work together there shall be blood. That's a slight exaggeration. But last Thursday we wrote another chapter in this saga. We'll title it, "Totaled Toyota (Near) Tragedy." Here's how it went.

A relative recently had an accident in their Toyota Corolla. Thankfully no one was seriously injured. But the little Toyota wound up totaled. It was towed to a shop in Mcsherrystown while insurance details were worked out. Now the dealer in Carlisle, thru which the car was financed, wanted the Totaled Toyota towed to their sales lot. The price for towing the junker from Mcsherrystown to Carlisle was going to be exorbitant! Since we were planning on being together that day to help Jes move, John said, *"Hey we can do it, and save them a lot of money!"*

He picked up a car hauler from U-Haul and towed behind Erica's big Ram pickup we were ready. Easy-Peasy! When we got to the shop, we saw how badly the car was damaged. You couldn't get in thru the driver's door so here's big John wriggling his way thru the little Toyota from the passenger side over the console behind the bent out of place steering wheel. We jumped the car and it started! It didn't sound good but it ran! *Kerthumpa, grinnnd, screeeech!* So, John drove the Totaled Toyota, with front wheels facing two different directions and fenders dragging on the tires on to the trailer. No sweat! Then we realized John couldn't get out of the car. The fenders of the trailer were higher than the doors of the car. There was no battery left so we couldn't put the windows down. I was able to force open a back door about 4 inches, so picture Big John crawling from the front seat into the back seat of the Totaled Toyota and somehow forcing himself out the 4" opening. We all were laughing hilariously! But hey, no blood! So off to Carlisle.

When we got to Carlisle we parked in the lot in front of the sales building. Getting John back into the car was as funny as getting out had been. It wouldn't start, and for the life of me I couldn't push the car to get it rolling back off the trailer. I grunted and groaned ... couldn't do it. So, John crawls back out of the car ... third time for this maneuver ... but who's counting? And he tells me to get in. What? I'm bigger, older, heavier than John. You want Larry to wriggle my way into the car? Yep. I'm sure glad no one was taking pictures; it wasn't graceful nor pretty. Strong man John grunts and groans and finally gets the car moving back off the

trailer and down the ramps. Just one problem! Now that it's rolling it's rolling pretty good and headed right back for the sales office. Picture Larry squeezed in the Totaled Toyota wide-eyed frantically pumping the brakes ... no brakes. Picture John bent over laughing. Picture the happy couple and salesman in the sales office ready to sign on the line for their new wheels as the Totaled Toyota heads right for the office!

**CRASH!!!!** There was a raised front porch on the sales office, and the tires of Totaled Toyota hit that six-inch rise with a crash, narrowly missing the porch post and front wall of the office, and then old Totaled Toyota started to slowly coast back towards the trailer, rolling quite nicely for a car with the front wheels headed in two different directions.

John's still laughing, embarrassed scared Larry is clamoring out of the car, the salesman and happy couple come running out of the office a bit shaken, the salesman is not happy. *"Why didn't you pull the emergency brake?"* Why indeed.

We pushed Totaled Toyota to a safe place. I hope I never see her again! And with John still laughing, *"Well, they wanted their car back,"* we were off down the highway. Another Larry and John adventure for the books!!!

I still remember the moments when that car was coasting backwards and I was frantically trying to stop her. How could a car damaged so badly roll so freely. It's called "Momentum." And in life and faith momentum is real. Miss daily devotions for a day or two. No time for prayer for a couple days. No worship for some weeks or months. And guess what? Pretty soon that "car" is rolling faster than you think and hard to stop!

A few snarky words to your spouse. A few avoided moments to express love. A couple days with no touch. And guess what? Pretty soon that "car" is rolling faster than you think and hard to stop!

And the opposite is true. Start with just a "verse-a-day" and soon your day won't seem right without time in God's Word. Make an effort to express love, for touch, for appreciation, and love grows and deepens. If your "momentum" in some part of life is headed in the wrong direction ... don't let it end in a crash! New beginnings! New momentum! Blessings ahead!

***"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*** Philippians 3:13-14 NIV

Gaining momentum... Pastor Larry <><