

Pastor Letter March 1, 2009

Dear Friends,

I guess I should start off with apologizing that I missed February's letter. Somehow the month just went flying by, after all there is only 28 days instead of 30 or 31.

With so many things in the planning stages and implementing those ideas and projects made a very busy month.

With special services such as baby blessings, special communion service, Ordinations services coming up. Priesthood classes, scripture classes, a new visiting program, branch retreat, Heartland Day, youth camps, branch business meetings, special Easter Services, Easter breakfast, new items for the website, a service for new priesthood calls, a new book steward, branch recorder, and many more things to come. Make sure you check our website often for up dates and the priesthood schedule for updates.

We have a special internet broadcast from our World Church President on April 5, 2009 8:00PM our time. We hope to show it on the projection screen and are inviting any who would like to come.

A story I receive recently and found it thought provoking.

"You always hear the usual stories of pennies on the sidewalk being good luck, gifts from angels, etc. This is the first time I've ever heard this twist on the story.

Gives you something to think about.

Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway, and cars costing more than their house.

The first day and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live. The husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely.

As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband.

He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment.

Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts. Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny.

He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he found had been of some value.

A smile crept across the man's face as he reaches into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this?

'Look at it.' He said. 'Read what it says.' She read the words 'United States of America.'

'No, not that; read further.' 'One cent?' 'No, keep reading.' 'In God we Trust?' 'Yes!'

'And?' 'And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust is in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!

When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and pick it up, and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I cannot change. I read the words, 'In God We Trust,' and had to laugh. Yes, God, I get the message.

It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful! And, God is patient...

Isn't that the case, we have this reminder in front of us every day and never read it. No wonder we need a bong on the head to get are attention once an a while!!

Often, if we trust in God more, we would find life a whole lot easier than we try to make it in our infinite wisdom!!!

Keep looking for pennies along your road of life and come worship with us on Sunday morning. Sunday school at 9:45 AM and Service at 11:00 AM
See you next month.

Pastor
Richard Blair