

Two Year Old Thinking!

My two-year-old cousin scared us one summer by disappearing during our lakeside vacation. More than a dozen relatives searched the forest and shoreline, and everyone was relieved when we found Alex playing calmly in the woods.

"Listen to me, Alex," her mother said sharply, "From now on when you want to go someplace, you tell Mommy first, okay?"

Alex thought about that for a moment and said, "Okay Mommy; Disney World!"



The Beach

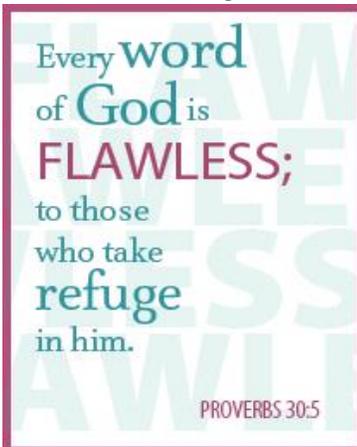
Our first day at a resort my wife and I decided to hit the beach. When I went back to our room to get something to drink, one of the hotel maids was making our bed. I grabbed my cooler and was on my way out when I paused and asked, "Can we drink beer on the beach?" "Sure," she said, "but I have to finish the rest of the rooms beforehand."

Canadian Summer

I asked my Canadian friend "Did you have a good summer?" He replied "Yes indeed, we had a great picnic that afternoon!"

"Life is either a daring adventure – other nothing!"

~ Helen Keller



Where Christ is cherished, family is loved and everyone is family!



GETTING CONNECTED

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Join us each Sunday for Worship...

3 p.m. worship and praise

22243 Allan Road (@Adelaide Road) South of Mt Brydges

Having Faith in God We Trust

As I looked out my window looking at the evergreen trees, My attention was drawn to a small Robin's nest on a branch that had three baby birds inside as it blew in the breeze.

The mother bird faithfully fed them using her beak, I was thinking of how God takes care of us if only we reach out for Him to seek.

The birds are too small to fly on their own, But the mother bird brings food and protection into their home.

God is the only safe place to put our trust and we can always depend on Him. He helps us handle whatever happens in life and He gives us strength within.

Praise God and thank Him for his care, Give your worries to Him, and by your actions show God's love to everyone, everywhere.

By Kim Lang

Erik: Why did the robot go on summer vacation?

Sarah: I haven't a clue.

Erik: He needed to recharge his batteries.

First dog: Where do fleas go for summer vacation?

Second dog: Search me!



Something To Think About..

“Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name – the name you gave me – so that they may be one as we are one” ~ John 17:11b. A baby chick will hide under its mother's wings, where it feels safe. Kittens and puppies stay close to their mother for protection. Proverbs 30:5 says God is our protection. When we're afraid or worried, we can come to Him.

This should be a comforting thought in our world where we live disconnected lives, on the go, with change happening constantly and instant news of events from all over the world.

Long before our world became so intense, Jesus prayed for our protection in the Upper Room on the night of His betrayal, knowing crucifixion awaited Him with the coming sunrise. These words are part of His final spoken concerns – not only for the disciples remaining in the room with Him, but for all who would receive Him as Lord, and final words spoken have a way throughout history of being quite pointed and lasting. Here in John's passage, Jesus' prayer is for what the Father will do for His world through the Son, who died, was buried and who rose from the dead to live for evermore, but more particularly what our Heavenly Father has chosen for us through His church.

So the question that arises is what has the church done to protect its own; what has the church become that it should carry on in the power of that name above all names, Jesus, who died for her sins and has set us free from its bondage? How has the church been like a mother to its baby chicks? In other words, where are we now as we hear, *“that they may be one”*?

I believe our Lord grieves over our inability, or our refusal, to be one in faith pursuing the God who loves us and has saved us. True there are those ecumenical labourers who tirelessly work both globally and locally to embody the oneness for which Jesus prayed. Nevertheless, *“that they may be one”* still haunts us as we endure church battles that split, power games that divide, and an oft repeated obsession

with always being right which leaves us standing proudly in the midst of offensive roadblocks against fellowship with one another and a great chasm to a true, lasting relationship with Jesus. Yet God also reminds us we can be assured of His presence, His provision, indeed His protection are always with us, sufficient to lead us beyond our petty differences and draw us to the bosom of His beloved Son, Jesus our Saviour. How comforting to know He's always with us, wherever we go, whatever we do – or fail to do – and hasn't left us to fend on our own. In fact, He's *“commanded His angels concerning us, to guard (protect) us in all our ways”* ~ Psalm 91:11. What we must do, however, if we're to remain in His care, close to Him at all times, protected under the power of God's holy name, is stay vitally connected and united to Him as branches to the vine (John 15) acknowledging Him in all our ways (Proverbs 3:5-6).

The prayer Christ Jesus prayed on the eve of His sacrifice for you and me is still heard, still touching hearts, still winning souls. Christ prays ceaselessly that the church may be one, protected by the power of that name to which one day every knee shall bow and every tongue confess He is Lord.

What joy would be ours to snuggle with Jesus today, to sit at His feet and glean from His powerful words, to engage His desire for His Church, His body, and embrace the call for relationship that has for too long been replaced by institutions, organizations and programs and return to the Upper Room. O that we might do more than pay lip service to Christ being *“the way, the truth and the life”*, and cease our silence and pursue genuine relationships with one another in Christ's name.

Such spiritual progress requires we recognize the importance of the divine factor in our lives, in any lasting relationship, and in the spirit for building of the Church envisioned by our Lord and His Father. Love is the fruit of that spirit originating with our relationship with Jesus and flowing to the unrestricted demonstration of that work into all our relationships.

Mark your Calendar...

July 1st – Canada Day
July 2nd – Communion Sunday
July 22nd – Pastor's BBQ (FBC Strathroy) 5pm. 20 Centre St.

Sermon Series...

 **Keys to Christian Maturity**