

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday November 17, 2025 - Hebrews 4:12

"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart"

Read Hebrews 4 for meditation and inspiration.

Tis the Season to Give



THE RHYTHM OF GENEROSITY

Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

The least of these is a way of describing people by what they lack, what they don't have. The poor. The hungry. The homeless. But in his letters, Paul never uses those phrases. Instead, he talks of the saints. He describes his collection for desperate people in Jerusalem as a "ministry to the saints." Elsewhere he talks of sisters and brothers. No wonder Paul couldn't hold onto anything, because who would hold back help from someone you dearly love, a sister, a brother, a saint.

A minister friend of mine wrote of an unforgettable experience of his youth, "I grew up outside of Washington, D.C. When I was a child, an awful plane crash took place. During a winter cold snap, a plane from Reagan National Airport took off but almost immediately struck the 14th Street Bridge and crashed in the Potomac River. Only a few people made it out of the plane. They clung to the outside of the aircraft, in freezing waters.

A rescue helicopter dropped a line. One of the men on the wreckage, Arland Williams, passed the rope to another passenger. Each time a lifeline was thrown to him, Arland passed it to another passenger. Five people were saved; then the cold overcame him and he slipped below the water.

When I think of generosity, I remember that image of Arland Williams passing the rope to another. He gave til his last breath. His generosity imitated the generosity of Jesus. I'm no Arland Williams; but his example and that of other courageous generous people makes me ask, "how can I share in ways that reflect God's generosity?"

To me, the practice of generosity involves two movements. First the realization of God's abundance, the awe in the face of all we've received. And second, the question of how I can reflect that generosity, the courage to share of all we've received. That's the rhythm of generosity. Receive. Share. Spirit. Peace.

In the spirit of giving, reflecting the Gift of God, Jesus our Savior.

May you have the joy of giving as you enjoy Thanksgiving and Christmas 2025 and be fully in the rhythm of Generosity.

Alleluia and Amen.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger".

Roger