

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday March 9, 2026 - Ephesians 3: 20-21

20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Read Ephesians 3 for meditation and inspiration.



The Essential Thread of Recognizing Others As Our Siblings in Christ

Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

When the Christian Martyr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, was in solitary confinement in a Nazi concentration camp, he said he appreciated, as never before, the gift of just being with Christian brothers and sisters -- just being together. He said his hunger for the Christian community was greater than his intense desire for food. As a community of Christians, we recognize that our hunger to gather in faith is the essential thread that binds us

A few years ago, the following true account appeared in the "Metropolitan Diary" feature in The New York Times. It read: "It was a warm spring day with the faint threat of rain hanging in the air. A young woman drove up to a drive-through pharmacy to pick up a prescription and was greeted through the window by a soft-spoken man with a kind voice. The man, whose name tag read, "Adrian," passed her the prescription via the pneumatic tube system. "Here you go, ma'am. One moment, I'll have your change and receipt right up".

As she waited, a strange feeling washed over the woman. The man's smile was kind, but something about the interaction felt off, a subtle tension in the air she couldn't place. Perhaps it was the "faint threat of rain hanging in the air," making everything feel a little more dramatic than it was. She dismissed the feeling as she saw Adrian return to the window with a small, printed receipt and her change.

"Have a wonderful afternoon," he said, the smile still present, though it didn't quite reach his eyes.

The woman thanked him, put her car in drive, and pulled away. It wasn't until she was a few blocks down the road that she looked at the receipt. Scrawled in tiny handwriting at the bottom, just under the total, was a message: "Call the police."

The friendly smile and soft-spoken demeanor had been a mask. The man was in danger, or perhaps the pharmacy was being robbed, and this was his silent plea for help. She immediately pulled over, her hands shaking, and reached for her phone to alert the authorities. As the call went through and time passed afterward, she heard that in the end the police saved those pharmacists and clerks that had been held as hostage by a man determined to get the drugs and keep his addiction going. They were saved and so was he.

The truth is we need each other. That is how we were made and that is how God intended us to live together as brothers and sisters. The church came into being to help create just such a world where we can know each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.

In our togetherness founded in Jesus,



Roger

