

# The Lakeside



## Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday May 20, 2024 - Acts 4: 31

**31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.**

**Read Acts 4 for meditation and inspiration.**



Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

You may have heard of the question, “How do you eat an whole elephant?”  
Answer, “You eat an elephant one bite at a time.”

I remember traveling by train at night from Hanover in Germany to Berlin, back when the Soviets were still in charge of East Germany. The train was stopped several times during the trip by the loud interrogating voices of the East German soldiers who would board the train to intimidate and harass the passengers. During that trip, a quite stylish elderly woman was traveling in our compartment. We struck up a conversation about World War II and how Hitler managed to take over the whole of Germany. I remember her answer as if it was yesterday. She said, “Well, even as late as early 1939, most of us Germans did not believe that our Fuhrer would start a war. In fact it seemed just out of the question. The first World War was just so terrible that Germans could not imagine another war. But, of course looking back, the signs were everywhere. And when the war started, the Nazi party was firmly in total control. They had taken over little by little and before we knew it they had us at every turn and so intimidated that no one dared to say a word to avoid

being imprisoned. But even at the beginning of the war things did not seem so bad in Germany as long as you did not really look around as your friends and neighbors were carried off to who knew where.

This also, reminds me of seeing a cartoon of a frog in a pot not minding the warm water, but as it slowly got hotter, that frog slowly, quietly and contently boiled.

From our early childhood, most of us have been told that God is Love, that God loves us, that God loves everybody. We believe Jesus was God in the flesh, that Jesus and the Father are One, that what Jesus taught came from the Father. We believe that Jesus taught "peace" as a way of life, that the peacemakers would be called the children of God, and that Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers." And yet, we seem so ready and willing to conform to a system that lavishes its resources on preparing for war and waging war. How did we get to where we are today? I suppose, just the same as those war-torn generations that preceded us: "A little bit at a time."

The religious history of humanity tells us that in those times when the spark grows dim -- when all manner of evil obscures hope for peace and brotherhood, God raises His most formidable prophets. The strongest, loudest, most profound voices of hope always seem to receive the Holy Spirit Power to sound the trumpet of love and hope. May you and I receive the power of the Holy Spirit to believe and respond to the message with acts of kindness and healing. Yesterday was Pentecost Sunday so receive the Power of God for the living of these days.

In Spiritual Power,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger".

Roger