

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
May 1, 2019

MAY DAY...MAY DAY...MAY DAY

That phrase, "May Day", comes with differing connotations. On the one hand it can be used as a distress call. This draws its origin back to 1923 when Frederick Mockford, a radio officer at Croydon Airport in London England, came up with the idea because it sounded like the French word "m'aider", which means "help me". It became an officially recognized international distress call in 1948. On the other hand, May Day is a time of celebration in many countries as it welcomes the return of spring. Those of us with German heritage may picture dancers going around a "Maypole" with long ribbons in hand that are fastened to the very top of the pole methodically wrapping it in bright festive colors. Some nations, particularly those under communist rule, have May Day parades in which their military might is displayed rolling down city streets. All of this centers on May 1st. For us here in Southwest Florida May Day might be thought of as the unofficial beginning of the "Off-Season". Just about all of our seasonal residents have flown the coop to their northern nests and the traffic around has returned to a much more manageable flow. Soon the Gulf water temperature and the associated atmospheric humidity will reach levels sufficient to fire off almost daily thunderstorms...I can't wait!!! With these big annual changes, we run the risk of becoming two churches, or perhaps even four. There's the in-season and offseason church, and the full-timers versus the part-timers. We want to be ONE church, united even in our locational differences. In his Letter to the Church in Ephesus the Apostle Paul reminds them, and us, that *"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called. One Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."* (Ephesians 4:4-5) Even when we are apart, we are one body in the Spirit, united under God through our baptism into Christ by faith. We are all in this ministry of reconciliation together, empowered by that same Spirit. I ask all who will spend the summer into fall elsewhere to pray for our ministry here at TLC and support us in it however the Spirit moves you. For those of us who remain here I ask you to pray for our brothers and sisters who are away, and for the vitality of the ministry of their churches. I also pray that we here will build by the Spirit on the momentum that has been established these past three plus years, even though our physical numbers have been temporarily been diminished. As we look to the future our concept of May Day is one of celebration, and certainly not distress!