

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
September 4, 2019

“JUST BACK FROM THE GREAT WHITE NORTH”

Ok...it ain't white yet...but it will be soon. On our trip north to Wisconsin this week I did notice some groves of trees that had begun to put on their fall colors and a few of the trees already dropping leaves. Can the snow and subzero cold be far behind? I think not. As we flew back into SW Florida late yesterday, I saw that everything was still very green, except for the blue waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The sight warmed my heart. Once we got home and dinner was consumed, we all (me, Kay and Beth) sat down to watch the Packers and the Bears open the NFL season...yet another sign of the imminent southward expansion of the Arctic tundra. None of us managed to stay up for the conclusion of the contest, but I can gladly report that the Bears are now in last place in the NFC North Division. During our time in Wisconsin it was good to reconnect with family and some old friends and neighbors that hadn't been seen in many years. Existing relationships were strengthened, some rekindled, and new bonds began to form. Although a funeral or memorial service is generally thought of as a sad occasion, when the departed dies in faith in Jesus Christ our Savior it becomes a time of joy and celebration of life; life that has gotten infinitely and eternally better for the one that we mourn. We can be certain that our loved one is in the presence of God our Father and our Lord Jesus. We can also be certain of our eternal reconnecting with them and all the saints that have gone before us into God's everlasting paradise of heaven. That certainty comes to us by faith in Christ's life, death and resurrection for our forgiveness and eternal life; that the promises of Jesus are true and for us. Yes, Kay's mother Dorothy will be missed by those who love her, but we all have confidence in seeing her again when we depart this earthly life for our heavenly home!