

A Stewardship Reflection by Linda Gatz - Jan. 26/25



This idea journey started in my head when we heard that some of the bricks in the Olympic Plaza were able to be returned to the buyers. On January 3rd we picked up our family brick, one of 5600 the City of Calgary arranged to be rescued from the original 33,000.

There were bricks in our past church, similar bricks to the one seen in many old buildings in Crossfield. As we all know, bricks have been used all over the world, made of many kinds of dirt, sand, mud, dung, and straw, depending on where one lives, but regardless of the components bricks can be used to provide a foundation or a path for magnificent huge buildings or small huts.

We once visited an old plantation site in the southern U.S.A. Beside an out building were the molds and partially made bricks we assumed were made by slaves in the 1800s. At this same location we also saw a cemetery surrounded by a low wall of bricks. Inside the wall the plantation owners were buried. Outside the wall the slaves were buried.

I began wondering if bricks were mentioned in the Bible and I found a few places. I discovered that the ancient Hebrews in bondage in Egypt in the time of Moses were given the task of making bricks, made more difficult because they had to collect their own straw. The Book of Exodus tells us that the Egyptian taskmasters made their lives bitter with hard service - in mortar and brick and in all kinds of work in the field.

Then I recalled that Peter, in the New Testament, invites us to think of ourselves as a stone or a brick within the house of God. Finally, I realized that Paul, in his Letter to the Ephesians, chapter 2, verse 20 reminds us that we are “built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.” In other words, Christ is the starting point, the essential brick or stone in the spiritual building without which the structure will not stand.

The dictionary defines “foundation” with two statements: 1/ the load-bearing part of a building; and 2/ an underlying basic belief or principle. Everything needs a solid foundation, be it the structure or a principle or belief. Here at Crossfield United our actual cornerstone was originally a part of the foundation of our old church, a few bricks from that building were inlaid in the foundation of our current building. This was the physical foundation but our people have continued over all these years to be the human foundation. Further to that, our principle or belief as a faith-based group of people, is that Jesus Christ is the foundation of our faith.

I feel that we have a responsibility to all those who have come before us to do everything within our power to continue their legacy, to be the foundation for the future. We are so thankful to the Stewardship Committee and all other committees and individual church members who have given and continue to give much time, energy and faith to the task of community outreach, and creating new opportunities and ministries which keep us looking forward.

May God’s Living, Holy Spirit guide us as we explore new avenues of worship and service in the years to come.