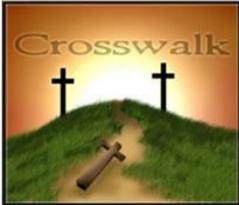




February 1, 2017

Bethlehem Star



Thoughts from Pastor Mark

“L”

I saw my first one while waiting to cross an intersection on a London corner. It was a young man on a motor scooter with a large red letter “L” on a white background on the front of his scooter. Then I began to notice more and more of them.

So I wondered: what’s with the “L” on the motor scooters?

What I found out was very interesting: the “L” stands for “Learner,” and the motor scooter drivers were seeking to master the London street system. If you’ve been there or ever looked at a London street map, you’ve noticed it looks a lot more like a plate of spaghetti than a checkerboard.

The drivers were seeking to master what’s called “The Knowledge.” That quest entails learning 320 routes, about 25,000(!) streets (including lots of one-way streets and dead ends) and 20,000(!) landmarks (pubs, museums, parks, monuments, railway stations, hospitals, schools, government buildings, cemeteries, churches, theaters, and more).

It usually takes 3-5 years to get ready to pass the battery of exams. It’s not unusual for the drivers to drive 10,000 miles to prepare themselves. Studies have shown that this strenuous learning process actually alters the brains of the ones who eventually pass. The exam process has been called the hardest

geography test in the world.

When I asked a cab driver how it worked to have all this in his head he said something like, “I hear the street name (if it’s a rare one), wait a couple of seconds, and then just ‘see’ it in my head, including the best way to get there.” Interesting, isn’t it?

So, why do I bring this up?

We’ve all got to “navigate” our way through life. The longer I live, the more complex it seems the journey is. I find the task of “learning” is an unending one. I’m committed to be a “lifelong learner,” and I hope that’s your desire, as well.

God’s Word tells me to “*learn* to fear the LORD,” (Deut. 31:12), “*learn* to do what I is right,” (Isa. 1:17), “*learn* to control your body,” (1 Th. 4:4), “*learn* to devote myself to doing what is good,” (Ti. 3:14), “*learn* to be content,” (Phil. 4:11). And my Lord Jesus says, “Take my yoke upon you and *learn* from me,” (Matt. 11:29). We’re even reminded that Jesus “*learned* obedience from what he suffered,” (Heb. 5:8).

I ask: Are you learning? Do you want to continue to learn? What steps are you taking to learn more of the God who loves you, the Savior who died for you, the Spirit who dwells within you?

So, if you see me walking around with a big “L” on my chest or back, you can know it stands for Learner. Want to join the club?

*Growing with Families
in the
Good News of Christ*