

# HEARTBEATS – Staying Connected

## 5/14/2021



Dear Friends in Christ,

A couple went to a craft store to shop. As they looked around, the husband found a framed white ceramic tile with the word “GRACE” in the lower right corner. The item was greatly discounted because the tile was cracked in several places. “What do you think of this?” the husband asked.

“Well, it’s broken,” the wife said, discarding the piece and looking for one that was without blemish.

“That’s the point,” the husband said. “We’re broken and then grace comes in.”

At the check out counter, the salesperson discouraged them from buying the broken piece.

With her voice tightening, the wife witnessed to store person, “Yes, so are we. Broken people saved by the grace-filled sacrifice of a perfect Savior.”

That’s our story and it needs to become the story of so many others. We live in a world of broken people, damaged by a multitude of misuses and abuses that leave us shattered. Often, we feel like we should be discarded, but try to pass ourselves off as whole with everything all together. Yet we know the truth about ourselves.

Yet it is when we admit our brokenness that we find ourselves open to what our Lord Jesus offers to us. It is in our weakness that we find the gracious strength of the Savior. In fact, it was in allowing Himself to be sacrificed—broken for us—that Jesus showed the powerful grace of God that brings ultimate valued to those who the world says are worthless.

We are surrounded by others who live with that sense of worthlessness, feeling that they have somehow fallen short. They carry on with brave faces, but inside wonder if their lives have any meaning. It is to these that the message of grace needs to be announced, and that message is best announced by those also know the grace that comes in the midst of brokenness.

Instead of trying to cover up the flaws and failings and hurt and pain and scars that each of us carries, we who know the Lord and what He has to offer to all people need to be honest about who we are and who Jesus is for us. We need to claim that grace that redeems us and makes us priceless in God’s eyes. And then we need to share that promise with others, telling them of our brokenness and the gift of God that saves us. Yes, we are broken, but then grace comes. That’s a story to share.

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Jeffrey