

But the angel said to the women, “...go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.”

--Matthew 28:7

“Signs, signs, everywhere signs,” sings the Five Man Electrical Band, in a classic song from 1970, protesting the posted signs that limit a person’s personal expression and movement. The song closes with these lyrics:

“And the sign said ‘Everybody welcome
Come in, kneel down and pray’
But when they passed around the plate at the end of it all
I didn't have a penny to pay
So I got me a pen and a paper
And I made up my own little sign
I said, ‘Thank you, Lord, for thinkin' 'bout me
I'm alive and doin' fine’”¹

Those of us who are comfortable inside a church may have forgotten what it’s like to be on the outside or to feel unwelcome. We may have forgotten how difficult it is to walk through the doors for the first time, a stranger in a new place.

How do we communicate to people how much they are loved by God, what it means that they are welcome, what it means to be saved by God’s grace? Well, one way is through our marquee sign on the corner. For at least the past fifteen years, **Don Kurt** has faithfully changed the letters on our sign to provide information about church activities, humorous ways of looking at the world, and messages about God’s love.

When people in the neighborhood tell me they enjoy our sign, I let them know that I don’t come up with the messages (especially the really clever statements), but I do approve the messages (so anyone who dislikes the sign can go ahead and blame me). And I’ve heard from a surprising number of people who have driven past Gethsemane for many years, enjoying the signs, before they ever stop to visit or join us for worship. For those of us inside the church, it’s easy to forget how important that sign is, what a vital and fresh message it communicates.

Now that Don has retired from changing the letters on the sign, we give thanks for his many years of faithful service in proclaiming God’s love. May God bless him and keep him always! And may God continue to speak love and joy here on this corner of Hampton and Pernod. The signs may change, but God’s Word—after all—is never-ending.

Pastor Cheryl Walenta Gorvie

¹ Five Man Electrical Band, “Signs,” *Hello Melinda Goodbye*, Lionel Records, 1971.