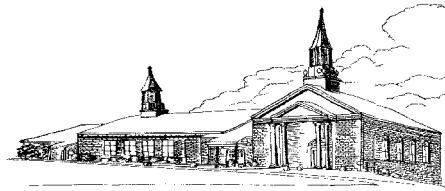


The Olivet Observer



"The little church with a big heart"

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The 162nd Letter of Lee to the Olivet Church

Earlier in the week in the late afternoon hours of a beautiful day I was pulling weeds and pruning shrubs in our back yard. I had filled up a lawn and leaf bag and was dragging it in the direction of the trash can when I noticed a small robin fledgling lying in the grass. At first I thought it was lifeless and continued on my chores with a new bag thinking I'd have to soon remove a dead bird. Later I went by it again and it was blinking at me and opened its bright yellow beak as if it was trying to speak to me. I decided to leave it alone for the next couple of hours. When I went back to see about it, it didn't seem to move but somehow it seemed to me that it was asking for attention. I thought it might be injured because there was a bird's nest turned upside down under the tree close to where the little bird was on the ground. A Bible verse came to my mind, Matthew 10:29 where Jesus addresses the worth of sparrows and the will of God. Thinking about that verse and knowing we have numerous cats in our neighborhood I decided I had to try and help it. I summoned the help of people inside the house. Marina found a cardboard box and put a cloth in it. I gently and carefully reached down and picked the little bird up and put it in the box. It was getting late and the wildlife center in Waynesboro had closed for the night, so we decided to keep the bird in the garage hoping it would survive the night and take it to the wildlife center the next morning. Sure enough the bird lived through the night! Marina and I drove it to the Wildlife center and waited while a vet thoroughly examined it. It was brought back to us and we were told the young fledgling was perfectly healthy, and the best thing we could do was to put it back close to where we found it because its parents would continue to care for it when it returned. It turns out that when young robins leave the nest they do not return to it, but their parents stay close by them for a little while longer watching over them as they learn to hop, hunt for worms and fly. When I took the bird out of the box, it stepped off my finger and hopped onto a branch of the biggest tree in our backyard close to where I had found it on the ground the evening before. It perched for a while, but when I went back to see about it later, it was gone. I hope its parents helped it find a new worm and that it's doing well.

The world has been ordered in such an amazing way. To think that the parents of young birds know when it's time to encourage them to leave the nest and won't allow them back into the nest but stay close by watching over them for a few days while they learn how to make it on their own amazed me. Through all of that I was reminded again that God is always watching over us. I don't think this lesson was given to me by accident knowing that Amy and I will soon be sending our youngest off to college!

When we go through new seasons in life and are sometimes nervous and unsettled about an unknown future, God is with us, watching us, caring for us. There's proof of that even in how He designed the birds of the air to raise and care for their young.

If you are facing something new in life now and are nervous about the future, remember that we are never alone. What a wonderful creator! Have a great month!

Grace and Peace,