

## The Alphabet of Grace

*No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived  
what God has prepared for those who love him. (1 Cor. 2:9)*

It will be no surprise to many that I find inspiration in the strangest places! Recently I had the high privilege of being invited to read a story to my grandson's pre-kindergarten class. I was asked to read *On Beyond Zebra!* by Dr. Seuss. In this silly story I found just the material I needed for my message to you on Baptism Sunday!

Conrad Cornelius O'Donald O'Dell, like most of us, believed that his world was defined and contained by what his alphabet could describe.

So now I know everything *any*one knows  
From beginning to end. From the start to the close.  
Because Z is as far as the alphabet goes.

However, Conrad's world was turned upside down when a friend introduced him to an alphabet that goes beyond Z containing new letters that described realities he had never even imagined! His friend explained:

In the places I go there are things that I see  
That I *never* could spell if I stopped with the Z.  
I'm telling you this 'cause you're one of my friends.  
*My* alphabet starts where *your* alphabet ends!  
...You'll be sort of surprised what there is to be found  
Once you go beyond Z and start poking around!

And what a new world it was! The letter GLIKK enabled Conrad to discover a bug named glikker who juggles cinnamon seeds. And the letter NUH was for nutches, animals who lived in caves known as nitches, for hutches. And with new letters like THNAD, FLOOB, and YEKK, well, Conrad was discovering a whole new world.

Because finally, he said: This is really great stuff!  
And I guess the old alphabet ISN'T enough!"

Like Conrad, the men and women being baptized today have moved on beyond zebra! The alphabet of God's grace has introduced them to a world of adventure and beauty they never imagined possible. As you listen to their stories, I pray that you too will be inspired to move out of the constraints of your old alphabet and move into the new dimensions of discovery that God has prepared for you!

So, on beyond Z! It's high time you were shown  
That you really *don't* know all there is to be known.

Pastor Stan