

Thursday, February 14

Genesis 12:1-4a

**Blessed, to bless others**

Tina told the Deacons last week and CE this week that she has this idea for centerpieces on the Palm Sunday Brunch tables - put grass seed in containers and it will sprout, grow and provide a festive 'lawn' to display eggs for our party. Seeds produce.

I rarely saw my dad get visibly upset, but I could almost guarantee an uprising in the last few times that we shoveled the corn out of the back of the corn crib - and the mice appeared because they had no place now to hide. There were mice everywhere - he despised the waste they'd made of the corn he needed to feed the cows. Mice produce.

There may be some strong, silent ones among my fifty or so first cousins, but not Cousin Connie. Connie has an opinion on everything. Connie tells stories about everyone. Connie never shuts . . . . Connie produces.

**The Hebrew word, bless [barak] = produce.**

I'll make you a great nation  
and bless you.

**When a child offers a smile - it's a blessing.  
When the sun shines bright - it's a blessing.  
When help shows up on time - it's a blessing.  
When we take a deep breath - it's a blessing.**

**When we produce - we are a blessing.**

I'll make you famous;  
you'll be a blessing.

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**And that means we provide the power, the means, the encouragement, the resources, the support, the . . . so others produce.**

**We are a blessing. We bless. We bless others.**

All the families of the Earth  
will be blessed through you."

**Thanks, God, for blessing me so I can bless.**

A Way to Pray – Body Blessing

- ✓ Sit down, close eyes, relax, breathe slowly
- ✓ Hold out hands, arms extended, palms up
  - Receive God's blessing
  - Repeat, repeat, repeat – to receive more blessings
- ✓ Place both hands on 1 part of your body
  - Start at the top, hold , move down 1 part at a time
  - Give God's blessing to each part of your body
- ✓ Thank God for blessings you have received