

I have lived in the Pacific NW for almost a year now after living in Minnesota for nearly 44 years, but there's still much I am getting used to. People have told me, over and over again, that the rain this year has been excessive; more than normal. I sure hope so, because this is a lot. Sure, before I moved here I knew about the rain. We were prepared for the wetness. When people joke with me about the excessive rain, I can always come back and say, "At least I don't have to shovel it".

There are days, though, when I am home with the kids and the rain becomes more than just a minor annoyance. The kiddos are running around and getting, what we call in Minnesota, "cabin fever". When this happens, I have had those moments when I just want to pack up and head back to Minnesota, but then I think about the mosquitoes, the humidity and those nasty 'noseeims' (meaning: no-see-thems). Noseeims are those tiny little gnats that buzz everywhere (i.e. ears, hair, nose); driving you crazy - and they bite. So I guess I have it pretty good here. Rejoice and be glad.

Really, though, we have it better than "pretty good" here. *"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."* (Psalm 118:22-24) I mean, think about it. The cornerstone is Jesus who died on the cross for the forgiveness of your sins; that you may have the hope of eternal life. God did this for you and it is wonderful (that's an understatement). It is wonderful that this world is not the end. It is wonderful that death does not have the final say. It is wonderful that in heaven, there will be no more death or sin or Satan or cancer or rain or mosquitos or noseeims. Nothing. Only joy and happiness and peace everlasting. So because of this we can rejoice, each and every day; for this is the day the Lord has made. He has made this day that we may worship him for this Good News. Each day that the Lord gives me is another day to share this news with someone. So rain or shine, give thanks. Rain or shine, love boldly. Rain or shine, praise God; for *"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."* Amen.