



Christian Church of God Newsletter

Volume 19, Issue 6, Nov/Dec 2011

Hello Disciples,

As the year draws to a close, we approach my favorite man-made holiday and one I am certain God smiles upon....Thanksgiving. On the last Thursday of November, we will gather with our families, often miles apart, to enjoy one another and the bounty God has laid upon us with thanksgiving to our gracious God. The wonderful aromas of turkey roasting, stuffing cooking, and pumpkin pie baking wafting from the kitchen will delight our senses. The feast and the fellowship continue as many gather to watch football or just enjoy one another making for one fine day. That is fun stuff. It is important to get together with loved ones, but we must remember that this occasion that brings us together is to lift our glasses in thanksgiving to the Lord God Almighty.

From a Christian perspective, we are to be offering thanks, even when things don't seem to be going our way. Consider that first thanksgiving cele-

brated by the Pilgrims.

If you had been a Pilgrim, would you have given thanks?

Consider what these men and women who broke bread together on that first Thanksgiving in 1621 had been through. They had uprooted themselves and sailed for America, an endeavor so hazardous that published guides advised travelers to the New World, "First, make thy will." On Sept 16, 1620, two ships set sail from Plymouth England, The Speedwell and the Mayflower. The Speedwell encountered difficulty as they began their journey with serious leaks in the ship. So when the two ships went to Port in Plymouth England, the Speedwell decided to go no further and 42 passengers from the Speedwell joined the 60 passengers and 30 crew members aboard the Mayflower...

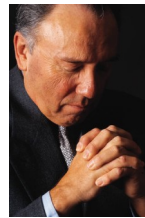
The crossing was very rough and the Mayflower was blown off course. Instead of reaching Virginia, where Englishmen had settled 13 years earlier, the Pilgrims ended up in the wilds of Massachusetts. Before going ashore they decided to [pg. 5>

The
Pastor's
Pen

Then the LORD said to me,
"Write my answer plainly on tablets, so that a runner can
carry the correct message to others."

Hab 2:2 (NLT)





Thanksgiving

11

When they said, "Let's go to the house of God,"
my heart leaped for joy.

Psalms 122:1 (MSG)

A world without a Sabbath would be like a man without
a smile, like a summer without flowers, and like a
homestead without a garden. It is the joyous day of the
whole week. -Beecher

Contact the Editor at
jerrydalemc@sbcglobal.net
or P. O. Box 33134,
Amarillo, TX 79120

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Email:
CCofGod@suddenlink.net

Our sermons broadcast on

KGRO Radio 9:05 AM
Sunday.

www.pan-tex.net

Our Home Page:

As each day comes
to us refreshed and
anew, so does my
gratitude renew it-
self daily. The
breaking of the sun
over the horizon is
my grateful heart
dawning upon a
blessed world.

~Terri Guillemets



THANK YOU

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, for love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson



10

For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.
~James 1:23-25 (NKJV)

WHEN DEATH CLAIMS ONE OF OUR OWN, whether a family member, or friend, or acquaintance, our thoughts turn sober about the brevity of life. And the Apostle James, in writing about our need to reflect on our inner spiritual condition, added, "For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away" (James 4:14, NKJV).

Job's words come to mind: "For there is hope for a tree, If it is cut down, that it will sprout again, And that its tender shoots will not cease. 8 Though its root may grow old in the earth, And its stump may die in the ground, 9 Yet at the scent of water it will bud And bring forth branches like a plant. 10 But man dies and is laid away; Indeed he breathes his last And where is he? 11 As water disappears from the sea, And a river becomes parched and dries up, 12 So man lies down and does not rise. Till the heavens are no more, They will not awake Nor be roused from their sleep. 13 "Oh, that You would hide me in the grave, That You would conceal me until Your wrath is past, That You would appoint me a set time, and remember me! 14 If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, Till my change comes. 15 You shall call, and I will answer You; You shall desire the work of Your hands" (Job 14:7-15, NKJV).

And it is here that I hear the words of the Apostle Paul, as if in answer to Job's drumbeat sent through the forests of time: "Yes, Job, there is hope for you even as there is hope for that tree that has been cut down. Even now you are hidden in the grave until the heavens are no more; then you will be awakened from sleep by the One who became your Savior. Then your change will come; your Creator will complete the work of his hands. 'If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep' (1 Cor 15:19-20, NKJV); 'So also is the resurrection of the dead. The

body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power" (ibid, 42-43); 'Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed' (ibid, 51-52)."

As the autumn leaves fall from the trees, leaving many of them bare, the naked limbs succumbing to winter's cold, so must we all pass from this life. But we have the assurance of sacred Scripture that the Hope of the Resurrection and the future Kingdom of Heaven is an anchor for the soul: "And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end . . . [that] we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast . . ." (Heb 6:11, 18-19, NKJV).

{Reprinted from Nov./Dec. 2010 Newsletter}



" . . . The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up; . . . Pray for one another that you may be healed."
— James 5:15-16.

Prayer Requests

3



Amber & Dylan Clark: Grandchildren of Betty Clark, cerebral palsy.

Betty Clark: She is having pulmonary difficulties.

Vickie Crevoi: Sister of Linda Booth, Chronic Progressive MS.

Bonnie Cryer: She has been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS). She and Marvin are now in assisted living in Elkhart, Kansas. Bonnie being tube-fed.

Mary Jo Flatt: James Bailey's sister. She is doing well having undergone bladder reconstruction surgery as result of bladder cancer.

Paul Flatt: James Bailey's brother-in-law, suffered a heart attack. He is undergoing alternative treatments & is improved.

Velvet Green: Suffers from schizophrenia. New treatment not favorable.

Mary Ann Hooper: pancreatic cancer surgery and treatment.

Anna Law: In need of a kidney transplant; she has dialysis three times a week.

Dollie Meil: She suffers with cerebral palsy and lung problems. Has been moved to Grace House Bldg. 3, Room 3, 6502 4th Street, Lubbock, TX 79416.

Ted Rankin: MS

Roy Carlson: hospitalized after heart attack with some heart damage.

Half-way there!

We have received donations of \$1,600 towards the \$3,100 we spent on our new **AC**. We still need \$1,500 to pay for this unexpected expense. Please put what you can in the special AC offering box or mail it to

P.O. Box 33134. Amarillo, TX 79120.
Thanks for stepping up & doing your share!

Celebrations⁴

NOVEMBER

Birthdays:

Jody Kirkpatrick 11-07
Marvin Cryer 11-15
Steve Cryer 11-18

Anniversaries:

Francis & Roy Carlson 11-11
Reba & James Bailey 11-15

DECEMBER

Birthdays:

Darrell Sehorn 12-17
Arthur Carlson 12-20
Darrell Baker 12-29

Anniversaries:

Teresa & Steve Cryer 12-27
Deryl & Laura McClenagan 12-29

No Services November 26th

Since all 3 ministers and several members will be traveling for Thanksgiving with families we will not be having services the Sabbath following Thanksgiving. Enjoy the Sabbath with your family!



The Light of the World

We hear the beating of wings over Bethlehem and a light that is not of the sun or of the stars shines in the midnight sky. Let the beauty of the story take away all narrowness, all thought of formal creeds. . . . Time and space and language lay no limitations upon human brotherhood. ~*New York Times*, 25 December 1937, quoted in *Quotations for Special Occasions* by Maud van Buren, 1938, published by The H.W. Wilson Company, New York

Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love!
~Hamilton Wright Mabie

GREAT LITTLE ONE! WHOSE ALL-EMBRACING BIRTH LIFTS EARTH TO HEAVEN, STOOPS HEAVEN TO EARTH.
~RICHARD CRASHAW

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. Luke 1:30-32 (NKJV) / Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this *will be* the

EDITOR'S NOTE: Even though this is the traditional season to celebrate our Savior's birth, evidence strongly suggests that Jesus was born in the fall of the year.



Heartbeats

Editorial
Jerry McClenagan

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. Prov 4:23 (NIV)

IN A RECENT STUDY in our C.E.P. class, we looked at the proffered contract with Israel found in Deuteronomy 28. There was the “high road” that would result in Blessings, and the “low road” that would lead to Curses:

“If you listen obediently to the Voice of God, your God, and heartily obey all his commandments that I command you today, God, your God, will place you on high, high above all the nations of the world.

2 All these blessings will come down on you and spread out beyond you because you have responded to the Voice of God, your God:

3 God's blessing inside the city, God's blessing in the country; 4 God's blessing on your children, the crops of your land, the young of your livestock, the calves of your herds, the lambs of your flocks.” (Vv.1-4 MSG) And the list of good things continued from there.

Then, the contrast was presented:

“15 Here's what will happen if you don't obediently listen to the Voice of God, your God, and diligently keep all the commandments and guidelines that I'm commanding you today. All these curses will come down hard on you:

16 God's curse in the city, God's curse in the country; 17 God's curse on your basket and bread bowl; 18 God's curse on your children, the crops of your land, the young of your livestock, the calves of your herds, the lambs of your flocks. 19 God's curse in your coming in, God's curse in your going out.” (Vv. 15-19, MSG) And the list of bad things continued from there.

Then we looked at the Blessings of those who are set free from the Curse of Sin:

“3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgive-

ness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on

earth--in Him. 11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.” (Eph 1:3-14 NKJV)

These are the primary blessings we now enjoy, but we also have many physical, material blessings along the way. For all of these we give thanks!



The Pastor's Pen

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write a document known as the Mayflower Compact. At the heart of the compact lay an undisputed conviction that God must be at the center of all law and order and the law without a moral base is really no law at all.

The day the Pilgrims signed the Mayflower Compact, according to William Bradford, “they came to anchor in the Bay, which was a good harbor...and they blessed the God of Heaven, who brought them over the fast and furious ocean... and a sea of trouble. And they read the following from the Geneva Bible (the Bible the Pilgrims used) “Let them, therefore praise the Lord, because He is good and His mercies endure forever.”

By the time they found a place to make their new home in what they called Plymouth, winter had set in with frigid fury. The snow storms were frightful. Shelter was rudimentary. There was little food. Within weeks, nearly all the settlers were sick.

“That which was most sad and lamentable,” Governor William Bradford later recalled, “was that in two or three months’ time, half of their company died, especially in January and February, being the depth of winter, and wanting houses and other comforts; being infected with the scurvy and other diseases.... There died sometimes two or three a day.” When spring came, Indians showed them how to plant corn, but their first crops were dismal. Supplies ran out, but their sponsors in London refused to send more. The first time the Pilgrims sent a shipment of goods to England, it was stolen by pirates.

If you had been there in 1621 - if you had seen half your friends die, if you had suffered through famine, malnutrition, and sickness, if you had endured a year of heartbreak and tragedy - would you have felt grateful?

Sometimes we may feel that life is hard, unfair and times are hard, but as in Plymouth, there is plenty to give thanks for and that we must seek and find so that we too are filled with thanksgiving...it is the Christian way.

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe....” Hebrews 12:28-29

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:15

So on Thanksgiving, as you stuff your face with turkey, watch football and “enjoy” the in-laws, give thanks to one another and especially to our Great God & Savior, from whom all blessings flow, it's the Christian thing to do.

Thankful for You & Our Savior,

Jeff Booth



Let your lives overflow with Thanksgiving for all He has done. -Colossians



Door Openers

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name.
Heb 13:15 (NKJV)

There is a time to walk through the Door of the Temple to offer the sacrifices of praise and worship. Today's counterpart in a sense is the church, a place set apart for the worship of God.

And there is a time to walk through that door to the outside world in showing another type of sacrifice: sharing the things of God with others. Note the entire statement:

When the blood of animals was presented as a sin-offering by the High Priest in the sanctuary, their bodies were burned outside the precincts of the camp. That is why Jesus, when he sanctified men by the shedding of his own blood, suffered and died outside the city gates. Let us go out to him, then, beyond the boundaries of the camp, proudly bearing his "disgrace". For we have no permanent city here on earth, we are looking for one in the world to come. Our constant sacrifice to God should be the praise of lips that give thanks to his name. Yet we should not forget to do good and to share our good things with others, for these too are the sort of sacrifices God will accept. (Heb 13:11-16, Phillips NT)

The Word shows us that Jesus' Sacrifice was "outside the gates", foreshadowing the expansion of His sacrifice and message to the entire world. We participate by sharing "our good things with others." This coincides with Paul's instruction to the Church at Rome to present ourselves as "living sacrifices" to God:

With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you, my brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to give him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to him and acceptable by him. Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity. (Romans 12:1-2 Phillips NT)

Whether we walk into a place of worship, or out of it to share our faith, let us do so with thanks and praise to God. ■

Chuckles



"Pastor, I'm having a little problem with a friend.
I'm wondering if you'd have a chat with him."



"About my loaves and fishes . . .
could I get a receipt for tax purposes?"

A happy heart is good medicine and a cheerful mind works healing, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.



Pastor Dan begins to consider seriously
the suggestion to hire a youth director.



"Please disregard the music director's admonition
to 'clap your hands, stomp your feet, and boogie
til you drop' during the next hymn."