



Colossians 3:17



# Thank You Notes

The Newsletter of Giving Thanks Ministries

Norma McMurry, President 100 Emerald Lake Drive Fayetteville, GA 30215

PH: 937-689-7135

on the web at: [www.givingthanksministries.com](http://www.givingthanksministries.com)

email: [normamcmurphy@yahoo.com](mailto:normamcmurphy@yahoo.com)



Vol. IX No. 2

Ministries to Encourage Joyous and Purposeful Living

December 2014

## Giving Thanks for Christmas

When we talk about The Christmas Story, we usually think of the accounts found in Luke 2 or Matthew 1. Sometimes we expand the idea to include Scripture in other places in the Bible that tells us about Christ's coming. For example, we call Galatians 4:4-6 the Christmas Story in Galatians or Philippians 2:5-11 the Christmas Story in Philippians or Isaiah 9:6-7 the Christmas Story in Isaiah. Each of us who has asked Christ to enter his/her heart has a personal story. So this year let's answer the question, "What is the Christmas Story according to (put your name here)?"

Everyone's story will be different, and yet, everyone's story will be the same. A good reporter asks who, what, where, when, why and how. Walk through this with me as you tell your own Christmas Story.

Who—That will be each reader—you.

What—Christ entered your life.

Where—Some of you were in church, some at home. This could happen anywhere. I'd like to hear some of the places you were when you realized your need.

When—You could have been very young, an elementary-aged child, a teen, a young adult or even an older adult. Galatians calls the "when" "in the fullness of time." God knew when you would submit to His call on your life.

Why—This has a universal answer and an answer specific to you. Romans 6:23 says, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." There is no one who is without the need of the Savior. Your specific "why" can range from simple realization to frantic desperation.

How—The universal answer here is "by invitation." Galatians 4:6 tells us "God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts..." The personal answer varies from a child's sincere, "Please come into my heart," to an older person's cry for a second chance at life. Either way, the "How" is by God's grace because of His mercy and your faith..

## Giving Thanks for Family and Friends



Don and I pray daily for our children, grandchildren and missionaries whose birthdays appear on the Prayer Calendar. We pray often for extended family, friends and our church family. Some days we pray for strangers in the news. God is faithful even when we don't understand circumstances. This year has brought sickness to some, death to some and wonderful events to others. God's word tells us to give thanks in all things. (1 Thess. 5:18) .We pray you saw God's Hand in all your life in 2014. We surely pray you will be aware of God's presence and working in 2015.

We are in our eighth month at Friendship Baptist Church in Milner, GA. What a dedicated group of people! They love Jesus and want to see others come to Him. They have formed a

pastor search committee and are looking for a permanent pastor. Donald, Trey, Heather, Grace, Zach and Max (in order by height here—could be why the big smile on Trey's face) live in Murfreesboro, TN and attend or teach at Providence Christian Academy. I remember the grandchildren's grades by their being all odd or



even. This year they are 11, 9, 7, 5. They invest time in basketball and guitar. They minister at Chapel Hill Community Baptist Church where Donald is pastor.

Caroline, Scott, Brennen and Justin live just over a mile from us, and we surely do like that. Brennen is in 6th grade and Justin is in 3rd. They enjoy soccer, football and baseball. Scott teaches and coaches football at Whitewater High School in Fayetteville and Caroline works for Fayette County Schools as the Reading Language Arts and Media Coordinator. They enjoy a Pittsburg Pirate game each season.

Joseph celebrated five years as Student Pastor at Carmel Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC. Lisa works there also, helping manage the facilities so two groups don't use the same room at the same time. A big task! Walker, Fletcher and Cooper attend Carmel Christian School in grades 4, 2, and K. The boys played soccer and football this fall. This year they bought a house closer to church and enjoy the shorter trip.





*Giving Thanks Ministries*  
 100 Emerald Lake Drive  
 Fayetteville, Georgia 30215  
 937-689-7135

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”  
 Colossians 3:17 NIV

## *Giving Thanks Ministries Report*



Speaking at a weekly church service for St. George community in Griffin, Georgia, was a treat. They were a fantastic group who participated well in the program Leaving a Legacy.



Susan Cunningham works at the office of the Fairburn Baptist Association where our church belongs. She attended the meeting for the Baptist Women World Day of Prayer where I was privileged to speak.

Giving Thanks Ministries displayed our purpose and handed out brochures and our cancer pamphlet at three associational meetings in October: Flint River Association, Southside Network and Fairburn Association

Since our last newsletter, Don and I enjoyed a trip to Ohio for the anniversary Sunday at First Baptist Fairborn. Don preached. I didn't get to speak, but many friends, supporters and prayer partners talked with me about Giving Thanks Ministries. Several asked to be added to the newsletter list.

Ruth Gellerstedt and Gerline Evans ponder the display for Giving Thanks Ministries at a Woman's Missionary Union leadership training event where I helped lead a conference on teaching Girls in Action.



## *Future Events*

Please pray that I will be faithful to obey as God leads in 2015. I pray for each of you as I send emails and I pray for my Facebook-friend list as I post the newsletter. God has great blessings in store for each of us in the new year. Events planned in the future include:

- ✠ Missions Banquet, DeVotie Bapt. Ch., Griffin, GA, Dec.
- ✠ Missions Group, Fayetteville First Baptist, GA, March

- ✠ Missions Group, Fayetteville First Baptist, GA, April
- ✠ Women's Retreat, Missouri, Fall, Date to be set