



Thank You Notes

The Newsletter of Giving Thanks Ministries
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Colossians 3:17

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Giving Thanks From My Heart

Greetings in the middle of 2008! You are so dear to me that I wish I could talk to you more often. Well, guess what! In this age of modern technology I can! A new goal is being added to the list at Giving Thanks Ministries. More "stuff" will be made available at the web site. Soon you will see more pictures, more products and more encouragement. We hope many of you will access this material at www.givingthanksministries.net.

You might ask "How are the other goals of GTM faring for 2008?" Looking back at the January newsletter, I see we are hard at work. You will find our brochure "For Your Journey" along with this newsletter. God is so good. We finished wording what we feel is our greatest encouragement. Then a wonderful donor to GTM had it printed. Our prayer is that this experience of ours and encouragement from Scripture will touch the hearts of many.

I'm aiming toward other stated goals for 2008. Speaking and attending conferences to learn are on track. Sending more material to the webmaster Monty is slow but reachable. Slow down at this half way point of the year and check your goals. Perhaps you need to toss some out and go with some new ones.

Not listed in writing for the last newsletter, but a core value of mine, is life-long learning. Stopping at this juncture of the year, I ask myself and you, "Are you learning anything new, are you growing in grace and knowledge of our wonderful Lord?"

Recently, while studying Beth Moore's Bible study "Stepping Up," I learned a new word picture of spiritual growth. I want to apply it. Psalm 126:5-6 (HCSB) reads:

Those who sow in tears
will reap with shouts of joy.
Though one goes along weeping,
carrying the bag of seed,
he will surely come back with shouts of joy,
carrying his sheaves.

God promises a harvest if we plant the seeds. Beth told of her mission trip to Angola and how some of the recipients of seeds for crops were afraid to let go of the seeds by putting them in the ground so they ate the seed. Then they produced no harvest. Spiritually we do the same thing. We hear a sermon about living for Jesus, praise the pastor for preaching the Word, then live with anger or unkindness in our hearts. We eat the seed and see no harvest.

Galatians 6:9 tells us "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (KJV) Dear readers, let's not eat the seed we're given, let's sow, even with weeping, and get ready for the harvest!!

Ministry Events Report

God provides variety in the opportunities for GTM! A Focused Living Retreat with the State Convention of Baptists in OH, Sunday School class meetings, Valentine's Banquet, Marriage Retreat (with Don teaching also), On Missions Celebrations, Senior Citizens and Missouri Convention Women's Missions added occasions to Women's retreats, banquets, teas, appreciations and missions meetings.

Sending cards of encouragement still ranks high in the ministry of Giving Thanks. Added to that is our distributing of "For Your Journey." We have received positive feedback from across our nation!! Please read it and ask for more if you have an opportunity to minister with it. I wish I had room for pictures from every event. Since that's not possible, here are a few.



Ladies gathered at FBC Centralia, MO



Don't you wish you knew what I'm saying here?



Sweet ladies at Northside, Lebanon, acted out "Happily Ever After."



Don helped me set up at Missouri Missions Encounter

West Jefferson enjoyed a Luau.



“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

Giving Thanks For Family

Do you know that I think my husband is wonderful? This year is one of his greatest in ministry. In the fall, Impact World Tour will cover the Miami Valley with power teams, skateboarders and BMX bikers. At each venue the team members will present the gospel. Don is the local co-chairman for this tremendous evangelistic event. Please pray that God will bless the efforts of hundreds of servants with a harvest of 10,000 souls. Praise the Lord!

Don's hip replacement has been a blessing. The pain is gone. He says the problem is the surgery hasn't taken strokes from his golf score!

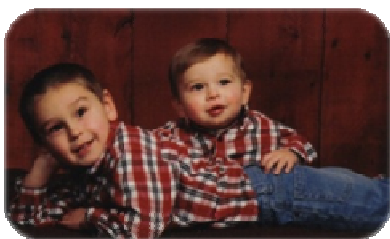
Donald and family continue in TN. He preaches in Chapel Hill. (It's not as famous as Chapel Hill, NC) 😊 Their kids are growing up! Grace performed in the play Annie, Jr. at school. Zach, Max and Grace went to Outrigger Island in



VBS. And Trey attended chess camp this summer. Heather begins teaching fourth grade where the children attend when school starts later in July.

Scott and Caroline enjoy their careers in education and coaching. They also teach children at church. The entire family attended a Fellowship of Christian Athletes camp recently. Brennen and Justin keep their parents going all the time. Brennen will start kindergarten this fall!

Big news on the Joseph McMurry front! Lisa gave birth May 3 to Cooper Michael! Now Walker and Fletcher are big brothers and take their positions very seriously. Walker told me last week, “Being a big brother is difficult.”



Giving Thanks for Encouragement!

You truly bless me with your loving words and wonderful help of many kinds. Your asking me to speak at events thrills me to my toes. Keep praying for God to touch lives through Giving Thanks Ministries. Together we offer people insight into living with joy and purpose in Jesus.

Fall Schedule

I'm excited about the Fall ministry schedule so far.

September:

- New Gettysburg Baptist Church, Dayton, OH, Women's Event
- Greater Dayton Association, Women's Missions and Ministries booth at the Out-of-the Box Conference

October:

- First Baptist Church, Union City, OH, Women's Event
- Helping at First Baptist Fairborn, OH, Women's Retreat

November:

- Dublin Baptist Church, Dublin, OH, Women's Retreat
- Friendship Baptist Church, Harveysburg, OH, Ladies Tea

Looks like I'm staying in Ohio for the Fall! I love Ohio! God knows I need to be here to be an altar counselor at the IWT events. God is so Good!

Others of you need to schedule an event with Giving Thanks Ministries soon!!

Please Do GTM a Favor!

If you will be willing to receive your newsletter by email only, thus saving GTM postage, email us at norma@givingthanksmministries.com and tell us your desire. We will reply. So if you don't get a return email, something happened in cyberspace. We definitely don't want to lose anyone who wants to get the newsletter. If you do not wish to receive the newsletter at all, let us

know that also. We will remove your name.

