



Colossians 3:17

# Thank You Notes

The Newsletter of Giving Thanks Ministries

Norma McMurry, President

100 Emerald Lake Drive Fayetteville, GA 30215

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

PH: 937-689-7135

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

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## Giving Thanks for God's Word

This time of year is exciting for those who plant vegetable gardens, flower gardens, grape vines, or fruit trees. Friends on Facebook post pictures of beautiful flowers and bountiful garden produce. Don tends his three box gardens diligently. His four tomatoes (so far) have been delicious! Our son Joseph sent pictures of his cucumbers. Grandson Justin ate strawberries he planted, and Grandson Max's peach tree is loaded. Fruit from labor blesses the laborer.

This makes me think of spiritual fruit in our lives. Galatians 5:22-23 tells us "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."(NKJV) Those characteristics are surely what I desire to be producing, don't you? So how do we do that?

I don't want to write in clichés, but, just as we have to cultivate an earthly garden, we must cultivate our spiritual lives with prayer and Bible study. We cast out our spiritual "weeds" by asking for forgiveness. We bring our thoughts under control by keeping our minds on Christ. "...bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ..." (2 Corinthians 10:5b) We concentrate on positive aspects of life. Philippians 4:8 says to think of things that are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, and praiseworthy. (NKJV)

Jeremiah 31 recounts how God exiled Israel due to disobedience, but because of His promises, they would be restored. The message sounds for the entire world. Each of us can be restored to a right relationship with our Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ. The picture Jeremiah paints in verse 12 declares "Their souls shall be like a well-watered garden..."

When you harvest your garden, buy fresh produce from the roadside stand, pick a beautiful bouquet, or trim your bushes, think of the goodness of God, and how the Master Gardener (John 15) prunes, weeds, and replenished our souls through prayer and His Word so we can produce the fruit of the Spirit.

## Giving Thanks for Family



*Our family was able to be together for a few days at Christmas. All nineteen are doing well. Donald is holding a phone with a Facetime picture of Heather and Max. Max had to have his wisdom teeth removed so he and his mom were not with us in person. Each member is involved in work or school, soccer, football, basketball, gymnastics, music, or a band. Church is a definite part of our family's life.*

*Don has asked the Lord for a few months of rest before he starts another interim. And we got our Covid shots!!*

Giving Thanks Ministries mourns the passing this winter of two Board of Directors members.

Marsha Hull January 2

Lee Young, Jr. February 26

We greatly miss their encouragement, prayers, and belief in the goals and workings of the ministry.



*Giving Thanks Ministries*  
 Norma McMurry  
 100 Emerald Lake Drive  
 Fayetteville, GA 30215

*Colossians 3:17*

“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 for Ministry*



DeVotie Baptist Church in Griffin, GA, resumed Senior Citizens fellowships safely in May. They served packaged Chick-fil-A instead of the before-Covid covered dish. I talked from Loving Life from A to Z. We had a great time! Pictured with Martha Adams.



I joined with the ladies group Olive Branch of Sharpsburg Baptist Church in June for an evening of discussing Don's and my books and our testimonies. Super bunch!

The Georgia Baptists Evangelists organization is publishing a new directory. Here is a copy of my page. I am thankful to be a part of this group.



Even I wonder what I am telling those sweet Olive Branch women in this picture! 😊



Blessing: Sat with Dayton, Ohio, pastor's wife and my dear friend Debbie Kincer at the Ministers' Wives Luncheon at the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville.



I'm looking forward to speaking to the Senior Citizen group at Carver Road Baptist Church in Griffin July 15.

2021 marks the twentieth anniversary of Giving Thanks Ministries. I had enjoyed speaking for many years, but I desired an official platform. After research, working, help from other evangelists' organizations, and securing a supportive Board of Directors, I wrote Articles of Incorporation and By-laws, applied for confirmation of 501(c)3 status, and November 2011 Giving Thanks Ministries became an entity. We endeavor to:

- ✦ Provide a platform for my speaking and writing. Books available are Happily Ever After, the story of Whosoever and her search for true happiness, Count With Me, a board book of numbers one through twelve from Scripture and illustrated by our grandchildren, Loving Life from A to Z, fifty topics explained with examples using the alphabet, The Silent Bell, my mother's autobiography, and Forever Seventeen, Don's football journey from sixth grade, through high school and Wake Forest.
- ✦ Encourage cancer patients with a free brochure entitled For Your Journey, based on our experience through Don's first cancer. If you know people who are going through cancer and you want to give them this encouragement, please let us know.
- ✦ Tithe to Disaster Relief of any funds we receive through donations, products sales, or honorariums. We are now set up to receive credit cards.
- ✦ Stay endorsed by the North American Mission Board and keep membership in the Georgia Baptist Evangelists.