

November Edition 2009

"...your life is hidden with
Christ in God."

Colossians 3:3b

Upcoming Events

November 4th
Beauty in the
Ashes
Donna Shannon

~

**November
11th**
Seminary Wives
Panel
Trusting Christ
in Trials

~

**November
18th**
Salad Supper

~

December 4th
Christmas
Chapel



Rekindling Gratitude...

The Thanksgiving season is a wonderful time to heighten your sensitivity to the blessings bestowed by God. Thanksgiving grabs your attention, shakes the cobwebs loose, and reminds you of all God's most precious gifts. Allow me to share with you just five blessings that deeply touch me every year and prompt me to thank God. Perhaps it'll catch and you'll be able to rekindle your gratitude!

You're Saved and You Know It

No work of God's is more beyond my comprehension yet closer to my heart and more worthy of gratitude than salvation. Before coming to know Christ, each of us lived in a self-imposed prison. But

Christ not only rescued us from the power and penalty of our sins, He also lifted us to a place of blessing. Salvation is the essence of Christianity. Thanking God for saving us should be the unceasing occupation of our lips--only a stone-cold heart could offer anything less.

The Whole Truth and Nothing but the Truth

Watch a half hour of news and tell me if the word *chaos* doesn't come to mind. The world is gripped by it. The suppression of *truth* exacts a tremendous price. But thanks to God, you and I have an eternal, objective, incontestable, irrevocable standard we can depend on for all matters of life. From the truth of Scripture we can understand the ebb and flow of life better than all the educators, philosophers, politicians, and social pundits combined. I thank God for revealing His truth to us and for allowing me the privilege of studying and teaching it.

Life's Storms

Perhaps the most difficult time to be thankful is when we're in the midst of a setback, a challenge, or a trial. When the storm comes, giving thanks is rarely our first reaction. Being thankful for adversity is never easy, but it is always right.

Faithful Churches

We can thank the Lord for the many churches that have stayed the course in spite of pressure, and the many others that struggle, but have not given up the fight. Large or small, the congregations that remain faithful to God's Word are the ones that are alive, vital, flourishing, reaching their communities with great effectiveness, and advancing the kingdom of God. I'm grateful to Him for those churches, and for the encouragement they are to me and to the Body of Christ.

The People Who Make a Difference

Someone once made this wise observation: "Friends in your life are like pillars on your porch. Sometimes they hold you up, and sometimes they lean on you. Sometimes it's just enough to know they're standing by."

Let me encourage you not to allow this Thanksgiving to come and go without taking inventory. Biblical gratitude isn't something that should pass from our minds with the passing of a season. It's an attitude, a God-focused response to circumstances that should pervade each moment of each day of each year.

Dr. John MacArthur. "Rekindling Gratitude." Grace To You (<http://www.gty.org/Resources/Articles/A236>)



Thanksgiving Recipes

Cranberry Salad

Submitted by: **Armineh Hatamian, wife of Armen Hatamian**

This recipe is an absolute favorite in our family during the holidays!

Ingredients:

1 (12 ounces) bag of fresh cranberries	1/2 cup of white sugar
1 box (5 oz) cherry Jell-O mix	1 cup boiling water
1 cup cold water	1 cup chopped celery
1/2 cup chopped walnuts	16 ounce crushed pineapple (drained)



Directions:

Chop cranberries lightly in food processor, add sugar and set aside for about 1/2 an hour. Mix Jell-O with boiling and then the cold water. Add to the cranberry mixture, mix in pineapple, celery and walnuts. Pour into desired bowl/mold and refrigerate until salad has hardened.

Optional: Include 1/2 cup of pomegranate seeds.



Roasted Parmesan Asparagus

Submitted by Vanessa Morrison, wife of Daniel Morrison

Ingredients:

2 1/2 pounds fresh asparagus (about 30 large)
2 tablespoons good olive oil
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
2 lemons cut in wedges, for serving

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.

If the stalks of the asparagus are thick, peel the bottom 1/2 of each. Lay them in a single layer on a sheet pan and drizzle with olive oil. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Roast for 15 to 20 minutes, until tender. Sprinkle with the Parmesan and return to the oven for another minute. Serve with lemon wedges.

Pumpkin Bars

Submitted by: Angela Zuniga, wife of Brian Zuniga

Ingredients:

1 2/3 c. sugar	1c. oil
4 eggs	2 c. canned pumpkin
2 c. flour	2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt	1 tsp. baking soda
2 tsp. cinnamon	

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cream together sugar, oil, eggs, and pumpkin. Sift together flour, baking powder, salt, baking soda, and cinnamon. Thoroughly combine dry mixture with creamed mixture. Pour batter into jellyroll pan. Bake 30 min. Frost with cream cheese frosting.



Cooking Turkey Tips

How to Buy a Turkey

Figure out how much turkey you need by multiplying the number of guests times one pound of uncooked, whole turkey per person. You'll have enough for the table, as well as leftovers.

Turkeys are available:

- Eight to 24 pounds in weight
- Packaged as a whole or by the half, or as breasts and drumsticks

How To Thaw and Prepare Turkey

Thaw wrapped turkey safely in three ways:

- Refrigerator
- Microwave
- Cold Water that completely covers the bird

Thawing time depends on the thawing method and turkey weight.

Once thawed, do the following:

- Remove the wrapper and paper giblet packets containing the gizzard, heart, and neck. These are tucked inside the neck and end cavities; be sure to check both.

Rinse the turkey well after removing the giblets and pat dry. Giblets can be rinsed and cooked in a saucepan of boiling water and simmered during turkey roasting time. Use the rich broth for delicious gravy (discard giblets).

Oven Roasting and Turkey Cooking Temperatures

Heat is huge with turkey roasting. Manage it correctly with these tips:

- Use an oven thermometer to ensure correct oven temperature for turkey roasting.
- Whether roasting or grilling, use a meat thermometer so you'll know when the turkey reaches a safe internal temperature. Insert the meat thermometer in the thickest part of the inside thigh muscle so the thermometer does not touch bone.

Turkeys often come with plastic pop-up indicator. When your meat thermometer or pop-up indicates the turkey is ready, remove it from the oven, grill, or fryer.

How To Baste a Turkey

Basting promotes moist, flavorful turkey. Baste or brush the turkey with pan juices every 30 to 60 minutes of cooking time.

How To Carve a Turkey

Ready to serve? Carve the turkey on a stable cutting board with a sharp carving knife and a meat fork with two tines. Carving is easier if you allow the turkey to stand for 15 to 20 minutes before cutting.

Follow these easy steps for a beautiful presentation:

- Place turkey breast-side up. Remove any ties or skewers.
- While gently pulling leg and thigh, cut through the joint separating them from the body. Drumstick and thighs can be served whole or cut apart.
- Make a deep horizontal cut into the breast just above the wing. Insert meat fork in the top of the breast and, starting halfway up the breast, carve thin slices down to the horizontal cut, working from the outer edge to the center.



Thankfully Trusting...

Submitted by: Jenny Eliazer, wife of Kenny Eliazer

My husband Kenny and I had moved to Los Angeles early in 2007 with the specific intent of attending The Master's Seminary. Within a couple months we were provided with everything we needed to see our plan through. We had a cozy place to live, I had a full-time job to support us, and Kenny was enrolled as a full-time student at TMS. **The Lord, however, had another plan!** A few months later, completely out of the blue, I experienced the worst headache of my life. I interrupted Kenny's first take home final to have him take me to the doctor's office. In the office I had a serious stroke, only no one knew how seriously ill I was! I was rushed from there to a hospital and soon after from that hospital to another, all the while deathly sick. I was then operated on by a surgeon who informed my husband and family that he had little hope of my survival. I would either die on the operating table or be brain dead for the rest of my life. **But this wasn't God's plan either!** Miraculously, by the grace of God, I survived the surgery! I was still very sick and no one was sure if I was going to make it or not. It was a touch and go situation for several days. Praise be to God, I am very much alive and well now! But this experience and the immediate days that followed are so intensely precious to us because of the way the Lord was at work in our hearts. I cannot even begin to share it all here without taking hours of your time! We wanted to be used for God's glory and to further His Kingdom. **When we realized THIS was how He wanted to use us, we were stunned and amazed by His plan!**



I would like to share one lesson in detail, because it is one that the Lord is still patiently leading me through. My mind was very alert during those up and down days. I knew when I was lying in the hospital bed, and that I had come through something major, but I didn't know how it would turn out. So much was going through my mind. What kind of life would I live? Would I be bed-ridden forever? What about our plans? Kenny and seminary? I didn't want him to give it up, but how would attending seminary happen? My dotting husband was serving me day after day at my bedside and I was in anguish over the fact that I might not be able to serve him at all! How could I work? How could I support him through school? How could I even support him at home? What if I couldn't even get out of bed by myself? Or were confined to a wheelchair? How could I be his helpmate when I could offer no help? What kind of wife could I possibly be? **All this was going through my mind but I could not share it.** At some points I was not able to talk and when I could speak, it was only for a few words at a time. Through these circumstances, one lesson I had to learn was to be still, and trust in the Lord. I had to trust that this situation would not overburden my husband. I had to trust that the Lord would give Kenny the grace to go through this with me, no matter how difficult. I had to trust that if the Lord wanted us to survive in Los Angeles then it wouldn't be on my salary. I had to trust that my worth was not in my works of service, in the church, or even in the home. I had to trust that being still in the Lord, and being faithful in my attitude, and in the day to day activities of eating, sleeping and surviving, was all He wanted from me. I am incredibly blessed today, because if you saw me, you would never be able to tell I have experienced such a medical crisis. But my life is radically different. I am an ambitious person, a do-er, and I thrived on going beyond my comfort zone to serve, minister and involve myself in as much as I could. But that is not the Lord's plan for me. I am still learning to be content with my limitations. The Lord continues to place one thing after another in our lives to teach me to place my trust in Him especially when I try to exert myself through deeds. Kenny is attending seminary on a part time basis, while working full-time. He is an excellent cook and is continually helping me in the home and in this heart lesson. I am a stay at home wife who cannot continually put into practice all the activities of Proverbs 31. I am learning to be content with that. **There is a lot of work I CAN do beginning in my heart!** It's quiet, "behind the scenes" work, but I know it is what the Lord wants of me and that it will bring Him glory!



William Carey

by S. Pearce Carey

Submitted by: Glenna Andersen, wife of Rodney Andersen

Recently I finished reading *William Carey*, a biography of ‘the father of modern missions,’ written by his great-grandson, S. Pearce Carey. This lengthy and thorough book was well worth the effort. I learned many interesting facts about Carey’s life and ministry as well as rich spiritual lessons.

William Carey (1761-1834) began as a humble shoemaker. He was an ordinary, self-taught working man with extraordinary faith in Christ and love for people. He preached in an English village church where some would refuse to attend if they knew that he was scheduled speak.

From these inauspicious beginnings the Lord shaped and prepared William Carey and several other godly men to lead the charge in taking the gospel of Christ to India. Carey and others saw the need for British Christians to broaden their perspectives on reaching the lost for Christ, to first “expect great things from God” and then “attempt great things for God”. After many trials and delays, William Carey and his family set out for India where he would spend the rest of his life as an evangelist, Bible translator, college professor, mentor and botanist in the Calcutta area.

In addition to his public ministry there were many challenges as well as blessings in his private life. William Carey’s first of three wives that he lost in India was never physically or emotionally well there, suffering from severe dysentery which led to “mental disorder and distress”. However, two of his sons grew up to become missionaries in Asia. Carey’s love for botany and keeping a diverse and beautiful garden brought him much pleasure throughout his life, as well as being a testimony and tool for outreach to the entire Bengal area. Carey’s primary work in India was Bible translation, working on forty different translations during his years in India. The first was a Bengali translation for the East and West Bengal areas. Of interest, though not in the book, is that two hundred years later, TMS’ professor Dr. William Barrick also did a Bengali Bible translation in Bangladesh, formerly East Bengal.

More than just the facts, however, this book also contains many rich spiritual lessons for believers today. William Carey worked tirelessly and selflessly so as not to be a financial burden upon his supporting churches, and yet was harshly accused of building an empire for himself in India with the funds he received for the mission. Though grieved, his response while the rumors and accusations flew, was to stand firm and trust the Lord to vindicate him in the proper time. I drew great encouragement from a collection of sentences taken from letters he wrote to his son, Jabez, who was a missionary in Malaysia. Carey wrote purposefully, frankly, and with great affection: “Tell me all your difficulties. I am your father.” “Never step an inch out of the path of righteousness and Truth, to curry favor or avoid disgrace.” “If duty leads us to any place, however unhealthy, we may safely trust God to take care of us.” “Watch against temptation just to gossip with the Europeans. Show them every respect, but always remember that your chief duty lies among the Malays.” Challenging and wise words, indeed!

You too will be inspired by this ordinary man’s example of walking by faith and not by sight if you take the time to read about this famous early missionary.

William Carey. S. Pearce Carey. Wakeman Trust, April 2008. 419 pp.

Wise Words for Wise Women

“...in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18



Be Thankful in all things

“You may want to think ahead to the “all” things that God will bring into your life, so that when the “all” things happen unexpectedly you will be prepared, whether in your perspective the “all” things are joys or trials. Be ready to be thankful to God knowing this is His will for you!”

Delphine Bates, wife of John Bates,
elder Grace Community Church

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TMS Seminary Wives Disclaimer:

While we recommend many different resources for your consideration we also encourage you, the reader, to be like the Bereans who could receive a message (book) with eagerness and then examine the message against the truth of Scripture. ~ Acts 17:11