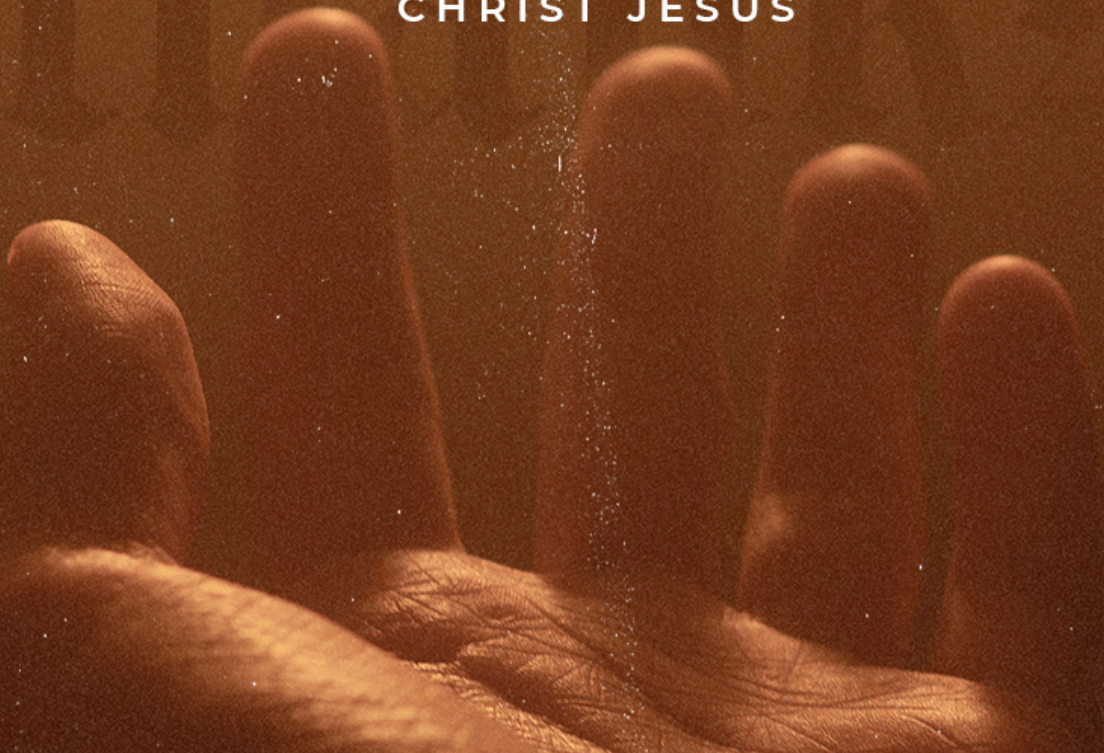


Vol. 12, Issue 11, November 2023

# connect

1 T H E S S A L O N I A N S  
5 : 1 8 N I V

GIVE THANKS IN  
ALL CIRCUMSTANCES;  
FOR THIS IS GOD'S  
WILL FOR YOU IN  
CHRIST JESUS





# NOV.

# 2023

**Can't be here  
in-person?**

Join us live Sundays  
at 9 & 10:45 am  
on Facebook, Imbc.tv,  
or our LMBC app.

**12th**

## "Friends" giving

Join us for our community dinner at 6p in the Family Life Center (gym). Bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish to share.

**13th-20th**



details  
on pg. 16

Our Gifts for Jesus offering  
will be received on Dec. 17.  
We invite you to begin  
praying about how you will  
give and encourage you to  
watch for details on ways  
we will be using the gifts.

## Thanksgiving Week

**20th - 24th**  
No LifeGroups

**23rd - 24th**  
Offices/Campus Closed

**26th**  
No Evening Service

**5th**

**Communion &  
Missionary Guest: Andy  
Bonikowsky**

- 6 pm, WC Auditorium

**9th**

**Widows Luncheon "Honoring  
Veterans"**

- 12:30 pm, Renaissance Room

**10th**

**PrimeTime Appreciates  
Seniors**

- 6 pm, Renaissance Room  
*You must sign up by Nov. 6.*  
Just bring yourself, YOU are  
appreciated!. Menu: Ham,  
turkey, mashed potatoes,  
gravy, green beans, sweet  
potatoes, hot rolls. Dessert  
Menu: Pumpkin or apple pie.  
Drinks: Tea and coffee.

**26th**

**Advent Sunday**

Join us for the first of our four  
advent Sunday celebrations,  
as we set our sights and  
hearts on the celebration  
of the Nativity of Christ at  
Christmas and the return of  
Christ at the Second Coming.



Visit [lmbc.org/lkc](https://lmbc.org/lkc) or  
ask to join our  
Facebook group

\*We are looking for volunteers who would like to serve in our  
K-3 age range once a month in the first and second services on  
Sundays. If you are interested, please contact the church office  
or Rebekah Shaffer at [r.shaffer@lmbc.org](mailto:r.shaffer@lmbc.org).

**\*Sunday Mornings  
WC lower level**

5: Jesus is our perfect prophet  
12: Jesus was annointed  
19: Jesus shared a last meal  
26: Jesus was arrested

**Weds @ 7pm  
in the FLC**

1: Bible for Life  
8: Bible for Life  
15: Journey to Bethlehem  
22: **NO LKC**  
29: Journey to Bethlehem

**3rd Thursday  
from 4-5:15 pm  
@ Ebenezer**

16: Bible Club



# FALL 2023

## November

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

**15** "NOT-SO-TRADITIONAL"  
THANKSGIVING DINNER  
STUDENT MINISTRY BUILDING  
JOIN US FOR THE BIGGEST OUTREACH  
EVENT OF THE YEAR...  
BRING A "NON-TRADITIONAL" FOOD ITEM!  
BRING A FRIEND!

**22** NO REFUEL  
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



# PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

As we go through life it is good to be appreciated and thanked for the good we have done. The encouragement compels us to do more when we know we are appreciated for our efforts.

When I was around seventeen years old, I attended a small country church, where I was saved and baptized at a young age. We did not have a janitor, per se, so I took it upon myself to start cleaning the church and making sure everything was ready for Sunday services. I enjoyed being alone during those times, cleaning and spending time with the Lord. I would clean for a while, then kneel at the altar and pray, then clean some more as I sang the wonderful hymns of the faith. I cherish those precious times of Spirit filled worship and fellowship with the Lord. Then, one day I received an envelope in the mail and, to my surprise, there was a five dollar bill in it with a note. It was from a little old lady in the church who wrote that she had noticed

the church was clean every Sunday and she had discovered I was the one responsible. She wanted me to know how much she appreciated my faithfulness and wanted to give me something as a small token of her thanks. This precious little lady brought tears to my eyes, for I never expected her beautiful gift of praise and thanks.

We know the power of being grateful, but sometimes it's hard to remember to give thanks. We get so wrapped up in our lives with hardships, challenges, struggles, and the everyday distractions of life. Thus making it easy to get lost in a dark place of disgust, hurt, and self-pity, allowing depression to creep into our lives. Whether consumed with all our cares or too busy enjoying life, we should never forget to give thanks. Instead, we need to be encouraged by the promises of God's faithfulness, wisdom, blessings, grace, and mercy. Most of all, we should find encouragement in His love for us.

## ***God's Faithfulness:***

The Apostle Paul reminds us as he tells the Thessalonian believers in 2 Thessalonians 3:3, "But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one."

The Apostle Paul was writing to the church, the body of Christ at Thessalonica, as well as, to the church today, which includes you and me. The "evil one," who is none other than Satan, seeks to destroy our faith and leave us hopeless. But, God's faithfulness assures us that the evil one will never succeed. Having that guarantee should provide us with great encouragement and cause us to offer Praise and Thanksgiving to our Lord every day.

The Prophet Jeremiah wrote about God's faithfulness in Lamentations 3:22-24. "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is your faithfulness." "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"

Jeremiah wrote these words in the midst of great destruction and turmoil when Jerusalem was invaded by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. The temple was destroyed and the people were left devastated without their center of worship and without a leader. Yet, in the midst of all the suffering and grief, Jeremiah remembered the Lord and His faithfulness to him through his own personal experiences. He remembered God's promises and found reason to trust in God's faithfulness.

When I think about Jeremiah and his words in Lamentations, I am reminded of the great hymn, "Great is Thy Faithfulness". This is one of many songs written by Thomas Obadiah Chisholm (1866 – 1960). He suffered sickness and many setbacks in life, and wrote this hymn as he found comfort in God's faithfulness. He died at the good old age of 93. God's faithfulness is just as great for you and me today.

***Let us praise the Lord and offer thanksgiving for His faithfulness.***





God’s Wisdom:

In John Piper’s sermon, “The Great Work of the Only Wise God,” based on Romans 16:25-27), he defined “Wisdom,” in the Bible, “as knowing the greatest goal in any situation, and the best way to achieve that goal.”

As I thought about Piper’s definition, I thought about God’s greatest goal of creating our world and making mankind in His image for the purpose of having someone with a free will to love, fellowship, and desire a relationship with Him.

After every day of creation, God would sit back and look upon what He created and “saw that it was good.” After the sixth day, God saw everything He had made, and, behold, it was very good.

God knew that even though everything He created was good, He also foreknew that the man He created in His image would choose to rebel against Him. Still, God in His perfect knowledge and wisdom had in eternity past devised a plan to redeem the human race. That plan was to send His Son to die on the cross for the sins of the world. The Apostle Paul describes God’s foreknowledge, wisdom, love, grace, and mercy in his letter to the Ephesians.

This is so amazing to me, that an all-knowing and all-wise God would desire to share His knowledge and wisdom with a sinner such as I. James 1:5-6 tell us, “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally, and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.”

What is True Wisdom? James 3:17, “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”

**Let us praise the Lord and offer thanksgiving for His wisdom.**

God’s Blessings:

What are God’s Blessings and what are they meant to do? God’s blessings are to guide us in our daily walk, give us hope, and protect us from discouragement. We can say that blessings are God’s way of giving to us satisfaction, peace, happiness, and joy in our lives. God extends both spiritual and material blessings to those who trust and obey Him. He blesses us with power to fulfill His plan for our lives.

Think of the song, “Count Your Blessings,” which is a hymn composed in 1897 by Johnson Oatman, Jr.

*When upon life’s billows you are tempest tossed,  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.*

*Refrain:  
Count your blessings, name them one by one;  
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;  
Count your blessings, name them one by one;  
Count your many blessings,  
see what God hath done.*

*Are you ever burdened with a load of care?  
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?  
Count your many blessings, ev’ry doubt will fly,  
And you will be singing as the days go by.  
[Refrain]*

*When you look at others with their lands and gold,  
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;  
Count your many blessings, money cannot buy  
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high.  
[Refrain]*

*So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,  
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;  
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,  
Help and comfort give you to your journey’s end.  
[Refrain]*

Many times our greatest blessings come through difficulties, struggles, discouragement, loss, and physical pain.

In 1990, my mother became ill with a serious

lung issue. She lived in Jasper, Alabama, and was to go to Birmingham, Alabama, to the Princeton Baptist Medical Center for a biopsy. We were in a revival in our church at the time and I had made plans to travel to Alabama and be with my mother. I met with our evangelist and told him that I would be going through Nashville, Tennessee, around the time for the service to start. I told him I would pull off the highway and pray for the service and I asked that the church pray for my mother.

As promised, I pulled over under an overpass just outside of Nashville and began to pray. I prayed the Lord would overshadow the revival service with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and that people would be encouraged, convicted, and blessed. Also, I prayed for my mother and asked that God’s will be done. I prayed my mother would receive comfort and peace because she was expecting bad results from the biopsy. At that moment, I felt the blessing of the Lord and I received the comfort and peace I had been praying for my mother. I thanked the Lord for His gracious reassurance that everything would be alright and said, Amen. Then, I continued in my travels.

The next day my mother and I went to the hospital in Birmingham and she had the biopsy. We traveled back to her house in Jasper and all was pretty quiet the rest of the evening. During the next day my mother began going through her belongings, telling me what she wanted my wife, sister, and others to be given. I asked her what she was doing. She said I just want to be prepared. I told her not to fret because everything was going to be fine. She gave me that serious mother look and asked how I knew things would turn out fine. I told her about my prayer and how the Lord gave me peace and reassurance. I told her that she and the doctor were going to be surprised.

We went back to Birmingham on the following Wednesday for her meeting with the doctor. We sat down in his office and he came in and sat down behind his desk and just looked at my mother. He said, “Mrs. Blankenship, I can’t begin to tell you how surprised I am.” My

mother immediately looked at me. It was all I could do to control my emotions. She had a rare lung infection, which would require hospitalization and interveineous antibiotics; however, the doctor said they had just come out with a pill form which she could take without hospitalization. Mom lived several years after that incident, although, not without some struggles.

You see, many times, our greatest blessings come through difficulties, struggles, discouragement, loss, and physical pain. “Count Your Blessings”!

**Let us praise the Lord and offer thanksgiving for His blessings.**

God’s Mercy and Grace:

Many times we find mercy and grace mentioned together in the scriptures. For example, in Hebrews 4:16 “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

As Christ followers (believers), we have the blessing of coming boldly to the throne of grace. This is only because of God’s grace provided to us through the sacrifice of His only begotten Son and our believing (having faith) in Him for our salvation.

We are born with a sinful nature. Babies cry because they are hungry, and soon realize that by crying they get fed. As they grow, they continue to cry to get whatever they want and, eventually, they are able, selfishly, to take whatever they want. This is because of the sinful nature. They have to be taught how not to be selfish or to always have their way. Without this teaching they become totally depraved which affects every aspect of their lives. This is why sharing the gospel is so important. Christ gave Himself on Calvary’s cross so that “we can obtain mercy.” This means that we get or acquire God’s forgiveness and not have to receive the punishment we deserve.

Then the Hebrew writer tells us, “we find



grace.” This means that God gives us what we do not deserve. His peace, fullness of joy, comfort, rest, His ever-abiding presence, and a place in the Father’s house in heaven. Not because of our own righteousness, or works, but because of the righteousness of Christ and His sacrifice on the cross.

**Let us praise the Lord and offer thanksgiving for His mercy and grace.**

## God’s Love:

We have an almighty, sovereign God who loves us more than we can imagine.

1 John 4:9-10, “In this, the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

Romans 5:6-8, “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

I am reminded of the awesome love of God that is shared so beautifully in the blessed hymn, “The Love of God,” by Frederick Lehman. It is said that the third verse was found inscribed on the wall of an insane asylum. This is evident that God can reach anyone, anywhere, no matter who he is and what mental condition he may be in.



### by Bill Blankenship

*Bill Blankenship oversees the visitation ministry at Lewis Memorial. He and his wife, Debbie, joined Lewis Memorial in March of 2004, after serving as a bi-vocational pastor. He has a heart for the sick, shut-ins, widows, and widowers. Bill and Debbie married in 1974, have two grown children and four grandchildren.*

*1. The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell; it goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell. The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave his Son to win; His erring child He reconciled, And pardoned from his sin.*

*Refrain:*

*O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong! It shall forevermore endure—the saints’ and angels’ song.*

*2. When hoary time shall pass away, and earthly thrones and kingdoms fall; when those who here refuse to pray on rocks and hills and mountains call; God’s love so sure, shall still endure, all measureless and strong; Redeeming grace to Adam’s race—the saints’ and angels’ song. [Refrain]*

*3. Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made; were ev’ry stalk on earth a quill, and everyone a scribe by trade; To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry; nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky. [Refrain]*

**Let us praise the Lord and offer thanksgiving for His amazing Love.**

May we never forget, and may we always be encouraged by the promises of God’s faithfulness, wisdom, blessings, grace, and mercy and, most of all, His awesome love for us.

# THE CONTINUING VALUE OF THE

# PSALMS

**T**he Psalms. Since the days of their collection in a book of 150, they have been a source of encouragement and delight for all who read them. Down through history, men and women have memorized them, meditated on them, written books that explore the depths of them, quoted from them, and searched them in times of despair and distress. They contain some of the most well-known and memorized phrases in all of Scripture, with “the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want” rising to the top of the list.

In the late 300s, after being ordained, Augustine chose to preach on the Psalms for his first sermon series. He did not know this at the time, but this would create a love for the Psalms that would last a lifetime. Augustine would spend the next 26 years writing down all his thoughts, expositions, and meditations from the Psalms, eventually putting them into a commentary, which would become the most extensive written work of the day. If you were to read Augustine’s work, *Confessions*, you would quickly see how the language of the Psalms is woven into his language and style of writing. Being an ordained minister, however, Augustine wanted to pass along to others the value of using the Psalms for everyday life. He said these words, “If the psalm prays, you pray. If the psalm laments, you lament. If the psalm exalts, you rejoice. If it hopes, you hope. If it fears, you fear. Everything written here is a mirror for us.” He was desperately trying to remind all of God’s people that as you pray the Psalms, you will learn how to pray in every season of your life, whether it’s a season of rejoicing or a season of mourning.

Nearly a thousand years later, another church father, Martin Luther, echoed the value of using the Psalms in prayer. He writes in a

preface to the 1545 edition of the Psalter, “Everything that a pious heart can desire to ask in prayer, it here finds Psalms and words to match, so aptly and sweetly, that no man... nor all the men in the world — shall be able to devise forms of words so good and devout...In my opinion, any man who will but make a trial in earnest of the Psalter...will very soon bid the other pious prayers adieu, and say, “Ah, they have not the sap, the strength, the heart, the fire, that I find in the Psalter.”

In more recent years, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was hanged in 1945 by the Nazi regime, said this about the Psalms, “The Psalter filled the life of early Christianity. But more important than all of this is that Jesus died on the cross with words from the Psalms on his lips.” When Jesus was experiencing the full measure of our sins that separated Him from the Father, He expressed His agony by reciting the Psalms, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matt. 27:46; Ps. 22:1) and “Father, into Your hand I commit my spirit” (Luke 23:46; Ps. 31:5). Bonhoeffer was a faithful follower of Jesus’ example in life and in death.



### by Jeremy Shaffer

*Jeremy Shaffer is an assistant pastor who oversees the technical and administrative areas of the ministry. He regularly works alongside his wife Rebekah in the Children’s Ministry, teaches in the LMBC Bible Institute, and teaches together with his wife tackling marriage and family topics as well as general Bible studies for adults. He has been serving the Lord at LMBC since 2004. He and Rebekah have two children, Grace and Luke.*



# A THANKSGIVING TO REMEMBER

It was November 2006, and I was enjoying life in Ireland. I lived in a quintessential rural community called Listowel for nearly two years doing field research for my Ph.D. dissertation. The vibrantly colored houses, the local theater, a small farmers market, and the Atlantic Ocean, which was a mere ten miles away, are all fond memories. Yet, what made this place special was the friends I made in my neighborhood.

My next-door neighbors were an American family. A couple of weeks prior to Thanksgiving, they invited me to spend the holiday with them. I did not know it at the time, but it would be my last Thanksgiving as an unbeliever. It was during this meal that I shared some discouragement that I was experiencing in my spiritual life. This information prompted them to start a Bible study in their home in January 2007. While studying the Gospel of John that spring, I placed my trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I have immense gratitude for this precious family for several reasons. I'm thankful for their willingness to be used by God to serve as missionaries in a country outside the United States (Romans 10:13-15). In God's divine providence, I was blessed to be their neighbor and ultimately hear the life-saving message of the Gospel. Their gentle boldness over weeks of Bible study exemplified the words of Jesus captured in Mark 16:15, "And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.'"

I'm thankful for their prayers, which undoubtedly came after that Thanksgiving

meal. Their intercession with God allowed for the following things to take place. He worked out the timing and the details for the Bible study (Ecclesiastes 3:1). He gave me the courage to say yes to meet with them in their home every week to read the Bible and learn about His truths, even though I was hesitant and skeptical (Psalm 27:14). He protected my mind from the doubts that were to come (Psalm 94:19). He prepared my heart for the good news that only He saves (John 3:3-6).

These missionaries prayed for me - they prayed for my soul. Their prayers encourage my heart to pray and to pray often, especially for the lost, and to be mindful of the need to "pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Finally, I'm thankful for their hospitality. They lovingly embodied the spirit of 1 Peter 4:9, "be hospitable to one another without complaint." Warren Wiersbe asserts that "Hospitality is a virtue that is commanded and commended throughout Scripture." Their hospitality led to the seeds of God's truths being planted and watered over several weeks and months.

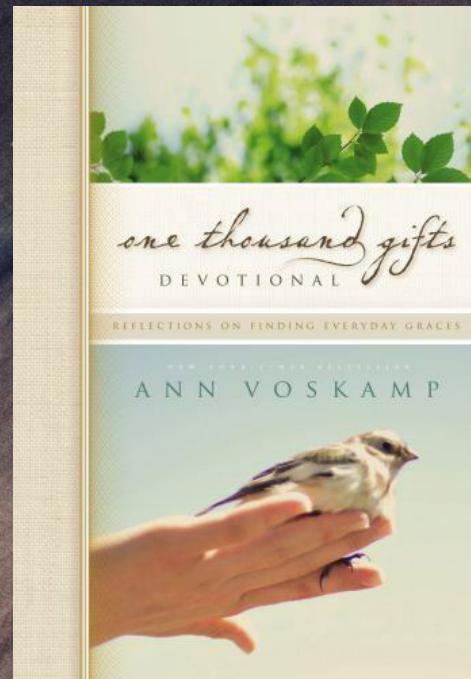
As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, our lives will be changed for eternity because of our willingness to open our hearts and homes and earnestly pray for a lost neighbor, a family member, a co-worker, or a friend. My Thanksgivings will never be the same because one family did just that.

"So, faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ". Romans 10:17



by Julie Tritz

*Julie Tritz, Ph.D., has been a member at Lewis Memorial Baptist Church since 2009. She enjoys serving in the children and nursing home ministries. She also serves as the sixth-grade teacher at Covenant School in Huntington.*



## WHAT WE'RE READING

by Mary Ellen Black

**One Thousand Gifts** by Ann Voskamp is a guide to giving thanks and finding joy in all aspects of life. However, it is so much more than that for me. Nearly ten years ago, the book revitalized my relationship with God as Ann's words opened my eyes to see God's grace as, not just a means of Salvation but, all of the gifts that come with being His beloved child.

By way of explanation for the book, Ann writes, "A friend dared me to start counting one thousand things I loved. I took the dare, accepted the challenge, kept track of one thousand things, one thousand gifts -- a thousand graces -- on a quiet, unassuming blog. Before I knew it, thankfulness to God began to fully change me." She goes on to share how "thousands more have begun their own lists -- in jail cells and by death beds, in third-world slums and by faith alone -- and it's not an overstatement to say

that giving Him thanks has made me -- and innumerable others -- overcomers."

This is indeed true of me and certainly one of the chief changes in what I have gained from the book. Actually, it stays on my bedside table, so God is still honing my counting and my quickness to notice His gifts of grace and give thanks.

Some of my favorite quotes from the book:

"The life that counts blessings discovers it yielding more than it seems."

"God is just waiting to bless you with the greatest gift of all -- more and more of Himself."

"I keep on counting blessings to keep on remembering to keep on walking out into the unknown."

"I clutch a Perfect Love that knows no end."

"I keep counting, they are His love gifts, and they're slowly waking me up to the tenderest, fiercest Love of all."

On the back cover of the devotional book, you will find these words:

"These sixty reflections, each one like a singular tree, invite you to take wing into a forest of graces. Glimpses of grace that will lead you into your own lifestyle of Christ-focus and communion. Into how your desperate need of Him every moment is wildly met with His extravagant love for you. As practical as it is profound, this devotional offers real-life transformation with intentional space to begin the radical habit of thanking God for your own one thousand gifts."

"The endless grace of our overflowing God -- it's meant to be experienced directly. The most important thing is simply to begin." I highly encourage you to purchase a copy and start counting.

***"... Ann's words opened my eyes to see ... all of the gifts that come with being His beloved child."***



# MEDICINE FOR THE SOUL

“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Psalm 100:4

Are you feeling poorly today? Try a dose of gratitude. It's a nontoxic medication developed in the heavenly pharmaceutical factories and dispensed freely to everyone on earth. It counters the plague of pain, the scourge of the sour spirit, and the disease of despondency. You can self-prescribe it at any time, and it's impossible to overdose on it.

Gratitude comes in several forms:

- A shot in the arm: Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. (Psalm 100:4)
- A booster shot: In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
- Tablet form: And be thankful. (Colossians 3:15)
- And infusion: Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:20)

A merry soul is good medicine, so let the Great Physician treat the symptoms of your soul with His prized formula of gratitude and thanksgiving today!

*When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed - when you are discouraged, thinking all is lost, count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.*

Johnson Oatman



by David Jeremiah

David Jeremiah is an American evangelical Christian author, founder of Turning Point Radio and Television Ministries and senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church, a Southern Baptist megachurch in El Cajon, California, a suburb of San Diego.

## TRANSLITERATION

Theological Word of the Month

by Jeremy Shaffer

Transliteration and translation are not the same words, and sometimes, transliterating a word instead of translating it can be detrimental. You might not understand that opening line, but if you read to the very end, you will get the point. Formally defined, transliteration is the process of transferring a word from the alphabet of one language to another with the primary goal of pronunciation. It changes the letters from the word's original alphabet to similar-sounding letters in a different one.

An example will help: the Greek word ἄγγελος (pronounced: angelos) translates to our English word "messenger." It does not mean an angel. While it is true that many of the messengers in the Bible are heavenly ones, many are not. Jesus sent messengers into Samaria (Lk.9:52); James says that Rahab the harlot received the messengers sent by Joshua (James 2:25); John the Baptist is a messenger sent to prepare the way of the Lord (Matt.11:10). Clearly in the above passages (and there are more) we would say that these messengers were not angelic ones. Also, if you were to do a Bible study on angels, you would find out that not all angels are messengers. So, while transliteration is helpful for pronunciation, it can be misleading sometimes, which is why context is an essential part of Bible study.

One more example: the Greek word βαπτίζω (pronounced: baptizo) translates to English as "to dip, dye, or immerse." However, this Greek word has been transliterated into our English word, baptize. The rite of baptism is not the same in all denominations, and history shows us why there are differences. Back in the late 1500s and early 1600s, when the translation of the Bible into English was in full swing, the practice of baptizing a person through sprinkling was becoming more commonplace. Therefore, to avoid a conflict with the church and backlash, translators did not translate the word βαπτίζω as to "dip, dye, or immerse" they opted to transliterate the word as baptize. This transliteration has been perpetuated today, allowing denominations to interpret baptism as they see fit. Many have asked the question: if baptism is not required for salvation, should the mode of baptism really matter? The Greek word for baptism has always meant "to dip or immerse," so if you are going to get baptized (and you most definitely should, even Jesus did), then why not be baptized in the manner that Scripture teaches? Now, re-read the first sentence of this article again... do you see all the confusion caused by transliterating a word instead of translating it?

## ROOTED

Grow in your faith by staying rooted in the Word of God. Your Spiritual Yearbook can be found at the merch corner in the main lobby.

- 1st Job 38:1-18
- 2nd Job 38:19-41
- 3rd Job 39:1-18
- 4th Psalm 19
- 5th -
- 6th Job 39:19-30
- 7th Job 40:6-24
- 8th Job 41:1-17
- 9th Job 41:18-34
- 10th Job 42:1-6
- 11th Psalm 17
- 12th -
- 13th Hebrews 1:1-14
- 14th Hebrews 2:1-4
- 15th Hebrews 2:5-10
- 16th Hebrews 3:1-6
- 17th Hebrews 5:1-10
- 18th Psalm 50
- 19th -
- 20th Hebrews 6:16-20
- 21st Hebrews 8:1-6
- 22nd Hebrews 9:11-15
- 23rd Hebrews 9:24-28
- 24th Hebrews 10:1-10
- 25th Psalm 51
- 26th -
- 27th Hebrews 10:11-18
- 28th Hebrews 10:19-25
- 29th Hebrews 12:1-6
- 30th Hebrews 13:10-14



# MISSIONARIES OF THE MONTH

## IN EUROPE

Bret & Katie Anderson, Spain

Andy & Mimi Bonikowsky, Spain

Joel & Debbie Dicks, Hungary

Kyle & Abigail Guins, France

Tony & Dawn Hess, Russia

**SECURED** K. Family, Ukraine

Megan Kuhn, Spain

Brent & Tammy Lowe, Portugal

Doug & Kathy McClain, Germany

Rick & Jen Peace, Ireland

Jason & Adele Rice, Slovakia

Amber & Doug Staley, Ireland

Joshua & Denise Steward, Ireland



For full updates, go to [lmbc.org/missionary-updates](http://lmbc.org/missionary-updates)

**P**raise God from whom all blessings flow,  
praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, Ye heavenly host -  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Join us in  
praising God for what He has done this year  
in the lives of our missionaries and those they  
are reaching with the Gospel. This is just a  
smidget of the praises we've received. You  
can read all of their stories and details online  
at [lmbc.org/missions](http://lmbc.org/missions).

*"Thank you, Lewis Memorial, so much for the huge gift you gave us last month! It was such a blessing to us! Because of your generosity, we were able to get our little house on the ranch ready for us to move in at the end of September!" - Anthony and Rachelle Goddard*

*I recently had the opportunity to take part in a missions conference in a Florida prison. Several years ago, one of the inmates requested some missionary prayer letters from a local pastor. He and another inmate connected over this desire to pray for missionaries, and the church in that prison had their first mission conference three years ago. Isn't it amazing how God will go to the lowest places and use what appears useless? They have been supporting four missionary families and this year took on three more. Some of the inmates have jobs within the prison, and sometimes they make money by selling their unused toiletry rations. It was a blessing to spend time with these men, hearing their stories and struggles and trying to be an encouragement. Many are from good homes and even good churches but made one bad*

*decision that changed everything. [secure]*

*One family experienced a massive earthquake that sent them running from their house. They wrote, "Once we were outside and knew we were okay, silent prayers of thankfulness were lifted up." [secure]*

*Progress in Portuguese study (Spencer - conversational; JoJo - understanding well) ... Our "mini-mini van" ... Abby has been successfully potty-trained! ... Praise God for the life of our baby and for an overall good pregnancy so far! ... Spencer and Joanna Goddard*

*We are excited to get a new family joining our radio team. This is a huge prayer request that we've had for years, and God has answered it with the Fife's joining our team. - The Drakes*

*Thank you for praying as I was in Trinidad - At least seven folks were saved, and we also baptized seven. - The Gossetts*

*By God's grace, in eight days, we were able to film over 50 Gospel sermons at 42 unique locations throughout the country. There are many stories of God's power and grace during the trip and reports of responses to the Gospel. Please pray for the targeted audience to watch and respond to the Gospel in the coming months as the videos are broadcast. [secure]*

*What was even more amazing was to see five new Christians be baptized, including one*

*eighty-six-year-old woman. They each shared their testimonies of how the Lord has worked in their lives to bring them to salvation, and we can only say, praise the Lord, God is working in France! - The Guins*

*"WE'RE GOING BACK TO THE VILLAGE!"  
- Anthony and Rachelle Goddard*

*A growing youth group. - The Ishlers*

*We can hardly believe it - 100 percent! We're celebrating that God has provided all of the funds needed to buy our new church building. - The Staleys*

*We witnessed incredible spiritual transformation through discipleship ministry in Venezuela. - The Sykes*

*One of the big highlights of our summer was the country wide Youth Conference for all the youth of ABWE churches for Togo. ... there was a total of 3900 people from the 160 churches in Togo. We all gathered under a big "revival tent" meeting for the teachings, singing, choir competition, Bible Quiz, and lots of workshops for a 4 day conference. As we think about the future leaders of the ministries in the country, this was an incredible event to see young gentlemen and ladies dedicate their lives to service to the Lord and surrender their plans, dreams, and hopes into the hands of their Savior. - The Drakes*





## Send Good News, Great Joy

[samaritanspurse.org/occ](https://samaritanspurse.org/occ)

**O**peration Christmas child has been a great success again this year, thanks to all of the donations, volunteers and prayers. If you have participated in any way, please know that it has been most appreciated.

God has blessed in amazing ways, and will continue to bless as the shoeboxes are delivered to children who will now have the opportunity to learn about Jesus, and His love for them.

If you picked up a shoebox from the church to fill, please be sure it is returned on or before November 12, so that we can pray over the shoeboxes and get them prepared for shipping.

Lewis Memorial is the drop-off center for Huntington, and we are expecting hundreds (possibly thousands) of shoeboxes to be brought from local individuals and churches during drop-off week (November 13-20), so we would like to have our boxes counted and ready beforehand, to help things run as smoothly as possible.

The days/times for drop-off week are as follows:

Monday 11/13 - Friday 11/17	Saturday 11/18	Sunday 11/19	Monday 11/20
3 - 6 pm	10 am - 4 pm	1 - 5 pm	10 am - noon

After the final drop-off hours on Monday, November 20, we will need additional help with transporting the shoeboxes to the Central Drop-off Location in Hurricane.

If you are available at any of the above-listed times, or would like to assist with transporting boxes, please contact Terri Thompson ([terri.hager@aol.com](mailto:terri.hager@aol.com) or 304-360-0849).

As always, thanks for your support for this life-changing ministry.

# DIFFERENCE MAKERS

## SERVE GOD SERVE OTHERS

Visit [lmbc.org/serve](https://lmbc.org/serve) to find specific needs and see where you can serve here at LMBC.

Would you commit to praying for our “Not-So-Traditional” Thanksgiving dinner in the days leading up to the event? We’re looking for people to partner with us by praying in 11 specific aspects...

## “Not-so-Traditional” Thanksgiving Dinner

On Wednesday, November 15, LMBC’s student ministry, Refuel Students, will host our annual “Not-So-Traditional” Thanksgiving Dinner. If you were to ask our students about their favorite Refuel event each year, many of them would likely respond by saying, “The Not-So-Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner!”

Before the event, students are encouraged to bring friends to enjoy Thanksgiving dinner with a twist. This is a “pot-luck” dinner for teens, so we ask each student to bring a non-traditional food item (Taco Bell, Little Caesars, tater tots, etc.) to share with the group.

Not only is this one of our teens’ favorite events, but it is also a night where many teens invite friends. Last year, we had 156 students under the sound of the gospel, and eight came to faith in Jesus!

- We’re praying our students will learn the joy of reaching out with the gospel.
- We’re praying that students in the community will be receptive to our invitations.
- We’re praying that “prodigal” students will come home.
- We’re praying that God will provide enough food so that all can eat.
- We’re praying that, through a meal, God will unite our students as a family in Christ.
- We’re praying that God gives our leaders the gift of hospitality as they welcome students to the event.
- We’re praying that the Holy Spirit will, right now, begin convicting the hearts of unsaved students about their need for Jesus.
- We’re praying that God gives the speaker who presents the gospel clarity of mind and liberty of speech.
- We’re praying that the seeds of the gospel will take root in the hearts of students who attend.
- We’re praying that our students will be advantageous with gospel conversations after the events.
- We’re praying that God gets the glory – no matter what!





## TAKE A LOOK AT THE LATEST FAMILY NEWS

### Bereavements

- Nettie Miller
- Michael Ramsey, brother of Judy Kachelreis
- Lorena Ransbottom, wife of John Ransbottom
- Shirley Stanley
- Raymond Wingrove, father of Ryan Wingrove

### New Members/Baptisms

- JD Bolen (Baptism)
- François & Estee Meintjes (Baptism)
- Aubree Ottaviano (Baptism)
- Maddox Ottaviano (Baptism)
- Ryleigh Swann (Baptism)
- Easton Wood (Baptism)

### Staff Birthdays

- Matt McClay (5th)
- Pastor Lemming (10th)

### Ways to Give:



Offering Boxes  
in the Auditorium



Imbc.org  
or our App



By mail

# LOOKING FOR A STARTING POINT?

How to join our community of faith

Are you looking for a church home?  
Would you prayerfully consider whether God  
may be leading you to our family of believers?  
If you are ready, follow these simple steps:

## 1st Baptism



Trust in Christ and  
follow Him in believer's  
baptism.

## 2nd Register (pick 1)



**In Service:** scan the QR  
code on the pew in front  
of you and let us know  
you would like to join.  
**Online:** [imbc.org/register](https://imbc.org/register)  
**Call:** 304-736-7676

## 3rd Discover



Check out the  
information in the  
visitor packet you  
received when you  
registered with us or  
visit [imbc.org/what-we-believe](https://imbc.org/what-we-believe) to learn  
about our core beliefs  
and more.

## 4th Experience



Come to the next  
Starting Point on  
**Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024**  
at 4:30 pm in the HIS  
Way Cafe (SMB), where  
you'll meet with our  
Pastors to begin your  
membership experience.  
**Call:** 304-736-7676  
**Pre-register:** [imbc.org/starting-point](https://imbc.org/starting-point)

# WANT TO JOIN A LIFEGROUP?

Come grow with us

### SUNDAYS @ 10:45 am

Through the Bible (S104) ..... Jared Blankenship  
Wall Builders (S100) ..... Steve Bragg  
Cornerstone (S102) ..... Tim Koletka  
Maranatha (Renaissance Room) ..... Chuck Daniel

### TUESDAYS @ 1 pm

Fearless (S100) ..... Estep/Wyrick

### @ 6 pm

Life Together (HIS Way Cafe) ..... Tim Yates

### @ 6:30 pm

**NEW!** P.B. & J. .... Chuck Daniel

### WEDNESDAYS @ 10 am

Encouraging Friends Ministry (110) ..... Kate McMullen

### @ 6:30 pm

At Home with the Word (Tardy Home) ..... Steve & Vicky Tardy

It's Always Something (S100) ..... Chuck Daniel

### @ 6:45 pm

Abundant Life (L108) ..... Chelcie Gibson

### @ 7 pm

Selah (L114) ..... Nathan McClay

Friends of God (Renaissance Room) ..... David & Mary Lemming

The House (Northside House) ..... Sargent/Ball

Rooted in Christ (F207) ..... Jonah & MaKayla Howerton

Whosoever (L112) ..... Sargent/Fry

### FRIDAYS @ 5:30 pm

Believing, Belonging, & Becoming (HIS Way Cafe) ..... Thurman Lowder

### SUNDAYS @ 10:45 am

Journey with Him (L110) ..... Hale/Tritz

### MONDAYS @ 6 pm

Daughters of the King (S100) ..... Rebekah Shaffer

### TUESDAYS @ 9:30 am

Kingdom Seekers (Tardy Home) ..... Tardy/McMullen

### @ 10 am

At His Feet (S100) ..... Beth Jenkins

### @ 11 am

Sewing for God's Children (S104) ..... Barbara Keaton

### WEDNESDAYS @ 7 pm

4Ever His (LKC) ..... Leah Adkins

Women of God (F205) ..... Hager/Bashore

\*Embrace Grace (L106) \*for single pregnant ladies ..... Angela Cantley

### THURSDAYS @ 10 am

Women of Strength (HIS Way Cafe) ..... Mullens/Foreman

### WEDNESDAYS @ 10 am

Westridge Wisdom (S100) ..... Jeremy Shaffer

### @ 7 pm

Men of Truth (HIS Way Cafe) ..... Steve Bragg

Iron Sharpeners (L110) ..... Matheny/Miller

**NEW!** Sons of Thunder (L109) ..... Dan Thompson

### SUNDAYS @ 9 am

Willing Workers (L108) ..... Richard Sexton

Young at Heart (L114) ..... Bill Blankenship

### FRIDAYS @ 11 am

Life Group (Victory Place Apartments) ..... Charles Logan

Connect is the monthly news and  
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Making disciples who  
live and love like Jesus

5385 W. Pea Ridge Rd.  
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[Imbc.org](https://imbc.org)

SUNDAY WORSHIP  
9 & 10:45 am (watch live  
at [imbc.tv](https://imbc.tv))

WEDNESDAY BIBLE  
STUDY  
7 pm

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Read previous editions  
of Connect at  
[imbc.org/connect](https://imbc.org/connect)



1 T H E S S A L O N I A N S  
5 : 1 8 N I V

GIVE THANKS IN  
ALL CIRCUMSTANCES;  
FOR THIS IS GOD'S  
WILL FOR YOU IN  
CHRIST JESUS