



Colossians 3:17



# Thank You Notes

The Newsletter of Giving Thanks Ministries

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## Giving Thanks for Christmas from A to Z

Christmas, just the word, evokes many thoughts and emotions for each of us. First we think of the birth of our Savior, closely followed by sights, sounds, smells, symbols, scurrying, shopping, sending and such. Loving and giving, family and friends come to mind. So let's look at Christmas from A to Z.

An Angel announced the birth of Jesus. (Luke 2:10-12)

The Baby born in the stable was Christ the Lord. (Luke 22:11)

Christ is who we sing about and honor in Carols.

Divine describes the baby who was fully God and fully man.

Evergreen used to decorate at Christmas reminds us of the everlasting life given by Christ.

Family is emphasized at Christmas. How wonderful for those who are able to be together.

God, who loved us enough to send His Son, is the One we thank with all our hearts.

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing might be carol, but we need to Harken daily to the King about whom they sang.

Incarnation is hard to understand, but God became man in Jesus.

Jesus is the Reason for the Season. There is no Christmas without Jesus.

King Herod tried to kill the King of Kings, but wasn't successful. (Matthew 2:16-17)

Love came down at Christmas and love prevails in lives at Christmas.

A Manger in a stable received the Baby Jesus on that wonderful night. (Luke 2:7)

Nativity sets are collected by many families. Is your favorite made of paper by a child or of china from a store?

Ornaments for Christmas trees remind us of happy times. Some are made by those who give them to us.

Presents are given and received, reminding us of the gifts the wise men brought to Jesus. (Matthew 2:11)

The Quest of the wise men from the East led to worship of the King. (Matthew 2:1-12)

Ribbon adds a bright touch to packages and a happy challenge when opening them.

Shepherds were just doing their nightly job when they were surprised by the angel with the special announcement.

Testimony has to be a vital Christmas word. During this time of year, we have an opportunities to tell what Christ means in our lives to those who could be a little more mellow at Christmas.

Unite our hearts in Christ is a prayer we offer to God at Christmas. As we give to missions and to those who need items or cheer at this time, we need to work together to do more for others in the name of Christ.

Value faith, family and friends at Christmas.

Wreaths have had many meanings through the centuries, but in these times are a symbol of welcoming and giving.

Xylophone is an example of a toy, the delight of children when received at Christmas, and the delight of givers when children show their excitement.

Yuletide greetings are given and received. I love to say and "Merry Christmas" to everyone I meet.

Zenith of holidays describes Christmas in the hearts of many.

### Giving Thanks for Family and Friends



I am so pleased to report that our children and grandchildren are doing well. We enjoy being near Caroline and her family. Donald is in TN and Joseph in AR. The grandchildren span from a senior to a first-grader, so we are busy trying to follow each one's interests. Basketball, indoor soccer, robotics and guitar are important this time of the year. We are enjoying Don's interim at First Baptist Haralson. In October Wake Forest invited the Piccolo-era football teams to a reunion. What fun to see all those guys who played together 50 years ago! We visited friends and family in NC on that trip. On our Ky trip to Fordsville Baptist Church, we detoured to see West Providence Baptist Church where Don preached his first revival in 1968.

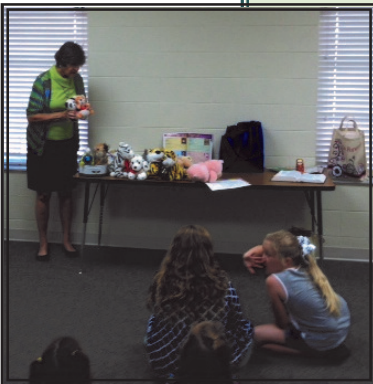




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**“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” Colossians 3:17 NIV**

## *Giving Thanks Ministries Report*



What a wonderful time Don and I enjoyed with Joe and Tomi Simmons and the people of Fordsville Baptist Church in Kentucky. They are a loving congregation. I met with the women for a luncheon while Don met with the men for a breakfast. We both spoke at a dinner. On Sunday, I taught adult Bible Study and Don preached in the worship services morning and night. The church observed a pastor appreciation for Bro. Joe. The whole weekend was exciting.



Having the opportunity to be with the Girls in Action of Fayetteville First Baptist adds to my hope for the future of the church. This group enjoys learning about, praying for, giving to and participating in missions.

I joined the Georgia Baptist Evangelists earlier this year. In November we attended the Georgia Baptist Convention where I talked with women, and pastors, to tell them of Giving Thanks Ministries and my availability to speak to their groups.



## *Looking to 2016*

***We pray you are blessed with a prosperous and fruitful 2016. We hope you have the opportunity to be with family and/or friends at this Christmastime. We look forward to ministry in 2016. Perhaps I/we could come be with you.***

***Scheduled events are:***

- ***Georgia Evangelism Conference April 11-12.***
- ***Mother-Daughter Banquet with Debbie Boylon and Grace Baptist Church, Tiffin, OH, April 15.***
- ***Southwest Ohio Regional Women's Retreat in Waynesville April 16 to share with and encourage one another.***
- ***Giving Thanks Ministries Board of Directors meeting night of April 16.***
- ***Mother-Daughter Banquet at Pine Grove Baptist Church, Franklin, NC, with Courtney Campbell Garrett and her mother Pat Campbell, friends since years ago in Ohio.***