



Colossians 3:17

# Thank You Notes

The Newsletter of Giving Thanks Ministries  
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## Giving Thanks for Adoption

*Because Joseph, Lisa, Walker, Fletcher and Cooper were able to adopt a daughter and baby sister in June, I have been thinking more about adoption. When Elliana Elise joined our family, she became one of us, getting all the love, privileges and disciplines by her parents that her brothers enjoy. She is our tenth grandchild as if she were birthed into the family—Absolutely precious and miraculous!*

God's Word tells us that when we ask Jesus into our hearts, we are adopted into God's family. Galatians 4:4-7 reads "...when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.' So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir."

How exciting that God sends the Spirit into our hearts. Romans 8:14-17 tells us "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."

Each of us needs to live a life of gratitude that we have a Heavenly Father who adopts us and gives us His love, privileges and disciplines as His children. One of my favorite Bible verses is John 1:12 "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:"

I pray that each of you will believe in His name and know you are His child.



## Giving Thanks for Family

What an eventful year! We brought in 2016 with the Schmitts. Because they live in the same town we do, we get to watch Brennen and Justin in school programs and soccer, baseball, basketball and football. We traveled to Tenn. in Jan. and Feb. to watch all four of Donald's children play basketball. He coached Zach and Max. Trey's team won their conference and Grace's team took second in theirs. In Jan. Don finished his interim pastorate at FBC Haralson, Ga. and in Feb. he began an interim at Bethel Baptist

Church in Milner, Ga. They have found a new pastor so after Aug. 14, Don will take a little rest. For my birthday, Don surprised me with Dream, a sweet kitten. We visited Joseph and Lisa in May so in one week we celebrated Cooper's birthday, watched Cooper's and Fletcher's soccer matches, and attended Walker's fifth-grade production of Mary Poppins. They moved to Charlotte the end of May, and Joseph began his work at Quicken Loans. They brought Elliana Elise home from the hospital June 14. Trey, our oldest grandson, graduated from



Providence Christian academy May 15. Look at all those cords! He will attend Middle Tennessee State. June 9, Don and I celebrated 50 years of marriage!! We are so grateful for this time together. The children and grandchildren came to celebrate.



## Giving Thanks for Future Speaking Events

Wed. Aug. 10, Rhea County Women's Connection Ladies Luncheon  
First Baptist Church, 231 3rd Ave., Dayton, TN, 11:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Thurs. August 11, Chattanooga Christian Women's Connection  
Holiday Inn, 2232 Center St., Chattanooga, TN, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Thurs. Sept. 8, Liberty Baptist Church Ladies Prayer Meeting  
IHOP, Fayetteville, GA, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Wed. September 14, Marietta Christian Women's Connection  
Brookstone Country Club, 5705 Brookstone Dr. NW, Acworth, GA  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sat. and Sun. Oct. 22-23, Women's Luncheon and Sunday School Class  
Fordsville Baptist Church, Fordsville, KY  
Sat. 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; Sun. 9:45 a.m.

Thurs. Nov. 10, Columbus Christian Women Connection  
Green Island Country Club, 6801 Standing Boy Rd., Columbus, GA  
10:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sat. Nov. 12, Women's Christmas Traditions Banquet  
Bethlehem Baptist Church, 2194 West Grantville Rd., Newnan, GA  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Wed. Feb. 1, 2017, Tri-County Women's Connection  
Monet's Café, 130 Blue Ridge St., Blairsville, GA, 11:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.



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## ***Giving Thanks Ministries Report***



First Baptist Church of Haralson, Ga., held a Saturday Ladies Luncheon to celebrate women who had influenced their lives, rejoice over their own lives, and decide whose lives they would influence in the future.



In Feb. I attended the Retreat for Georgia Baptist Evangelists. It was a time of learning and growing. The other women there were singing evangelists or wives of preaching evangelists.



Nearly 300 ladies gathered April 16 from Southwestern Ohio at FBC Waynesville to "Encourage One Another." The food, fellowship, worship, music and break-out sessions were uplifting and inspirational.



I was privileged to speak to the Mothers and Daughters of Pine Grove Baptist Church, Franklin, NC. Flowers of all kinds decorated the lovely tables. A bonus was to be with long-time friends Pat Campbell, her daughter Courtney Garrett and granddaughters Gabi and Kennedy.

The ladies of Friendship Baptist Church, Milner, Ga., hosted a beautiful and delicious TEA TIME for the women of their church and visitors from all around. My friends Carol Leach and Kathy Westbrooks drove two hours to surprise me there. And a group of ladies from Bethel BC where Don is interim attended.



In April the women of Grace Baptist Church in Tiffin, Ohio, allowed me to encourage them at their Mother-Daughter Banquet

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