



Colossians 3:17

# Thank You Notes

The Newsletter of Giving Thanks Ministries

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## Giving Thanks for Jesus at Christmas



*At Christmastime, when I think about the Baby Jesus, my mind and heart jump to the cross. The Baby of the manger is the Christ of the cross. That leads me to think of my commitment to our Wonderful Savior. He is so patient with me. Great examples of God's patience are found in His Word. Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, saw brothers, Peter and Andrew, fishing and said to them, "Follow Me, ..." (Matthew 4:18-20) The Bible says they "straightway" followed.*

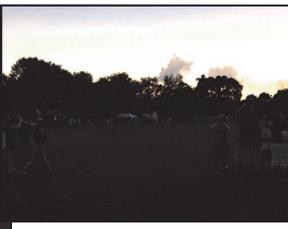
*We can read of Peter's actions through the gospels. He became spokesman for the disciples. He confessed Jesus as "...the Christ, the Son of the Living God..." (Matt. 16:13-16); he went with Jesus up an high mountain to observe the transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-9); he walked on water to Jesus (Matt. 14:25-32); he told Jesus he would never deny Him (Matt. 26:31-35).*

*THEN, after Jesus' arrest, Peter denied Him three times (Matt. 26:69-75). Jesus still loved Peter and called him again to obedience. In John 21:15-19, after His resurrection, Jesus, as He talked with seven disciples along the seashore, asked Peter three times if he loved Him (how about that? Three times). Peter was hurt, but answered that he loved Jesus. Just as Jesus had said to Peter the first time, He said to him again, "Follow Me." The book of Acts tells us how Peter followed Jesus, healing and teaching in the name of Christ. From John 21:18 we glean that Peter brought glory to God even in his death.*

*This Christmas, please consider Christ's love for you and His call on your life. Your past failures do not determine your future with the Lord. He never gives up on us. He's always calling, "Follow Me."*

## Giving Thanks for Family

Grandchildren grow up so fast and it doesn't feel like our children should be as old as they are. Don and I are so thankful for each of them. Since the last newsletter, Don became the interim pastor at DeVotie Baptist Church, Griffin, Georgia. We love the people and Don enjoys preaching and caring for the folks. We visit our children to take part in their lives. We saw the eclipse with Donald's family and their schoolmates. What a display of God's majesty! We witnessed Donald baptize his son Zach.



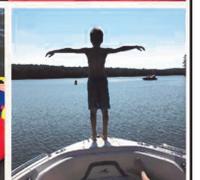
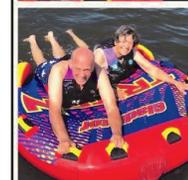
We vacationed in the North Carolina mountains with Joseph and his family.



We spent Labor Day on Allatoona Lake with Caroline and her family

Our grandchildren participate in their interests. Sports, church, missions trips, music, band and video games keep them busy.

Brennen played varsity football as a freshman, and it is hard to believe Grace is a senior! Don's 50<sup>th</sup> reunion at Wake Forest homecoming was special. Don visited with many teammates and each of us was able to spend time with our college roommates. To end 2017, Don will have his right hip replaced December 11. He wanted a matching pair.☺ His left hip was replaced 10 years ago. We pray that 2018 will be a year of walking close to the Lord for you. We may not understand His ways, but we can trust that He loves us and cares for us. God bless you abundantly at Christmas and through the new year!





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## *Giving Thanks Ministries Report*



Pretty in Pink named an event that emphasized cancer awareness at Jodeco Rd Methodist Church Jonesboro. I was glad to display Caroline's family picture and share her victory.

July and August were times we went to the Courthouse lawn in Fayetteville to show people what Giving Thanks Ministries is all about. We hope it results in my being able to speak

Heather allowed me the honor of speaking in chapel at Providence Christian Academy, Murfreesboro, Tenn. Their theme for the quarter was Stretch and Grow.



Teresa, Tricia and Gwen led Sunnyside Baptist Church, Newnan, Ga. to host a beautiful Christmas Traditions Banquet. The men and boys of the church cooked and served.

What a joy to be back with Fordsville Baptist Church in Kentucky for a weekend revival! The women enjoyed a beautiful and delicious brunch. Don preached Saturday and Sunday. I taught adult Bible Study. Great time! Thank you to Tomi and Joe Simmons!!

***Thank you for your interest in and encouragement of Giving Thanks Ministries!! I truly love to speak at your churches and encourage people to live joyous and purposeful lives in Jesus Christ. Your support in any way is so appreciated!! Our books and bracelets are still available. Every preschooler needs Count With Me.***

