



Colossians 3:17

# Thank You Notes

The Newsletter of Giving Thanks Ministries

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## Giving Thanks for God's Promises

My smart and young friend, Annette Duncan, prepared studies on the Psalms for our women's life group at church this summer. The study has been amazing! One of the categories of Psalms she presented is that of Psalms of Praise. Her favorite Psalm is Psalm 27. Verse 1 reads, "The Lord is my light and my salvation—..." I have that part of the verse written at the bottom of a picture of the Cape Hatteras lighthouse. Then that clause reminds me of the gospel song The Lighthouse and the lyrics, "And I thank God for the Lighthouse,...If it wasn't for the Lighthouse, where would this ship be?"

Annette's favorite verse in her favorite Psalm is verse 8. "When You said, 'Seek My face,' My heart said to You, 'Your face, LORD, I will seek.'" There is nothing better we can do than to seek the face of Jesus. Whether your life is going well or is in a storm, His face will comfort and guide you in all circumstances when you seek Him.

Then verses 13 and 14 come at the end of Psalm 27. "I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!" The "land of the living" is a way of saying "this life." David definitely went through rough and disobedient times, but he was confident that God would see him through whatever he faced. In the Bible that my Sunday School class gave me in 1992, the page where these verses appear holds many items I have written of blessings God has provided for me while I am living—happenings that I would never remember if I had not written them. So I am now urging you and myself to write, in your Bible or a journal or notebook, more of how you see God working daily. We think we will remember more than we actually do. When we begin to write what we see and experience, we will be surprised at all God is doing in our lives, in the lives of our family and friends and in the world around us.

## Giving Thanks for Family

I know it seems I write this every year, but 2018 has surely flown. Don healed well from his hip replacement in December. He serves as interim pastor at DeVotie Baptist Church in Griffin. We enjoy watching grandkids' sports events, band concerts, school activities and just hanging out with them.

Don't even have a picture with Donald and Heather and their kids! Shame on me! They both teach at Providence Christian Academy, and Donald preaches at Burt Baptist Church. Trey enters his junior year at Middle Tenn. State and works at O'Charley's. Grace graduated as valedictorian and with many honors in May and will attend Union University in Jackson, TN. Zach is a high school junior, plays basketball and works at Baskin-Robbins. Max is a freshman and plays and plays basketball.



Elliana was dedicated to the Lord at Next Level Church, Matthews, NC. Joseph led the dedication service for all the new children. Cooper played basketball during the season, and, this summer, attended Muggsy Bogues' basketball camp.

We were able to attend Fletcher's fifth-grade graduation ceremony. He played and is playing soccer.

Walker plays bass clarinet in his middle school band. We were able to go to his May concert, but had to watch his piano recital by Facebook live. That's the great part of social media!

Joseph and Lisa bought a home in Matthews, NC. Lisa decorates beautifully, looks after another two-year-old with Ellie and helps greatly at Next Level Church. Joseph works hard at Quicken Loans, church and real estate. My favorite about him is he uses the hashtag #ilovebeingadad.



Justin likes basketball and played on two teams. Basketball camp, church camp and a family trip packed into the summer.

Brennen played soccer for Whitewater High School, making second team All County as a freshman. He played for a travel soccer team also. Summer was full for him with football training, church camp and a soccer camp with Georgia Southern where he made the All Star team.

Caroline works at the Board of Education and tries to keep up with the sports activities of all her guys. Scott teaches at Whitewater High School, coaches football and boys soccer



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## *Giving Thanks Ministries Report*



women modeled fashions for Belk and Cathy Buckner provided music.

Becky Smith of the Augusta Christian Women's Connection invited me in March to give my testimony. The



Both Don and I took Disaster Relief training offered by the Georgia Baptist Mission Board. The general training is required before we can apply to take our desired training to be chaplains.



Friendship Baptist Church, Milner, GA, provides a lovely Spring event for women from area churches.

The Joy Group at DeVotie Baptist Church, Griffin, GA, allowed me to give a devotion on the cross before Don's message on the cross.



Don attended the annual meeting of the Georgia Baptists Evangelists with me at Mary Mac's Tea Room in Atlanta. Evangelists across our state have wonderful accounts of salvation to tell.



Anne Abrams, chair, Kara Lee, musician and Kim Nelson, special feature presenter on floral beauty, joined me for the program at the Columbus, GA, Christian Women's Connection.



My hostess, Carol Henson, and I stood in the venue for the South Baldwin Christian Women's Connection by a portrait of a cat that looks just like my Dream.

♥ I'm hoping that Missouri friends of Giving Thanks Ministries will join me Saturday, September 29, at First Baptist Church Centralia from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. for an exciting ladies event. Crafts, lunch, fellowship, music and an encouraging message are all promised. Contact the church at 573-682-2148 for more information.

♥ Wednesday, January 9, 2019, the Marietta Christian Women's Connection has invited me to speak. They are a group of women to love to hear the Word.

♥ Our books and bracelets are still available. *Forever Seventeen*, *Happily Ever After* and *The Silent Bell* are inspiring to any reader, and every preschooler needs *Count With Me*.



Giving Thanks Ministries board members Vernie and Linda Fisher stopped by Fayetteville on their several-months journey in their motor home. We were honored to have them in our home.

Please like our Giving Thanks Ministries page on Facebook.