



Moniteau Evangelical Advent Church

Worship service—9:00 am
Sunday School—10:15 am

Volume 10, Issue 1

November 2019

From Pastor Steve's Desk

A story of thankfulness and unthankfulness

Two old friends met each other on the street one day. One looked forlorn, almost on the verge of tears. His friend asked, "What has the world done to you, my old friend?"

The sad fellow said, "Let me tell you: three weeks ago, my uncle died and left me forty thousand dollars."

"That's a lot of money."

"But you see, two weeks ago, a cousin I never even knew died, and left me eighty-five thousand dollars, free and clear."

"Sounds to me that you've been very blessed."

"You don't understand!" he interrupted. "Last week my great-aunt passed away. I inherited almost a quarter of a million from her."

Now the man's friend was really confused. "Then, why do you look so glum?"

"This week . . . nothing!"

That's a problem with receiving something on a regular basis. Even if it is a gift, we eventually come to expect it. The natural tendency is that if we receive a gift long enough, we come to view it almost as an entitlement. We feel hurt, even angry, if we don't receive it any longer.

It is the same way with the blessings God gives us every day. I don't deserve my comfortable home that I live in, the beautiful scenery around me, the clean water I drink. But after receiving these gifts (and a multitude of others) for years, I sometimes fail to be grateful. I've come to expect these good things. And when one of them is removed for a short time (like water or electricity or internet going down), I get upset.

Let's make an effort today to recognize the blessing we've come to take for granted. Focus on what we have rather than on what we don't have, and see if it doesn't improve our attitudes.

We are to cultivate a spirit of thankfulness—which means recognizing where things come from and then specifically saying 'Thank You' to the Giver of all good gifts, our heavenly Father (James 1:17). Thankfulness requires us to talk to God about what He has done.

Memory Verse for November **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

⁶ Rejoice evermore.¹⁷ Pray without ceasing.¹⁸ In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

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Evangelical Churches of Moniteau County

Pastor Steve's office hours:

Monday morning at St. Paul's

Tuesday afternoon at St. Paul's

Please call to share a need, set up an appointment or request a visit.

MISSION FOCUS PAGE

Update on Missions—MissionFest, 2019

We are thankful to be able to generously support our missionaries. At MissionFest 2019, we raised \$1471 for the Evangelical Association and \$1721 for the Healing House ministry.

Updates from our missionaries—the Dettman's

DEAR PARTNERS FOR THE GOSPEL, Wow! It's amazing to think back to a year ago and what a different place we were in. We had all just arrived in Southwinds and were just getting to know the city and each other. Each day we had so much to learn about where to find what we needed to live and where to find university students and how they lived. The start of this year has not been without challenges of its own - multiple illnesses, car troubles (which made school drop-offs and pickups challenging), and the loss of our first dog Daisy to name a few. Yet we are so grateful and excited to start this year with a knowledge of the city and where to find students from which to build on, as well as a few disciples! And we are looking forward with anticipation to what the Lord will do in this city this year! As we were praying for the country and the university students this year, I (Nick) was praying through Isaiah 61. It's the passage that Jesus reads aloud in the synagogue in Nazareth, when he proclaims that He is the fulfillment of it (Luke 4:16-21). I've been dwelling on this passage a lot this month thinking about the country, because it focuses on God's promises of prosperity in all areas: spiritually, economically, physically, emotionally, and politically. While this prosperity is promised to be a blessing for the people, the ultimate goal of that blessing is for the glory of God's Name to be magnified among the nations. Back in 2011, as some in this country staged a revolution and overthrew the dictator in favor of a democracy, the rest of the Arab world followed in kind, giving rise to the Arab Spring. How much more do we pray for a spiritual revolution in this country that would sweep across the Arab world as well! Join us in praying for the future of this country, that it would be a place not where people are trying to escape for greener pastures, but that it would be built up and repaired and would bring forth praise (Isaiah 61:4, 11). Pray that the spiritual foundation of Christianity that was so strong in the first few centuries after Jesus would be rebuilt. Pray that people would be turning to the Lord, and that it would be an example to the world of God's fame and glory/ Please continue to pray for the election, and for the political and economic stability of the country.

Together for His glory, The Dettmans

Healing House/New Beginnings

RESIDENT PROFILE ~ this is a story of how Jesus is changing lives. Pray for those lives around you that this same Jesus will transform them.

Christina's journey before coming to The Healing House in March of this year included living in a youth home, two prison stays, a mental breakdown, a serious back injury from a terrible vehicle accident and a 5year separation from her children. As she was completing her prison term late last year, Christina had been seeking the Lord and desired a different way of life. She wanted to try to repair her relationships with her children and to become the mother they need. Settling into the structure of The Healing House and working through life issues through the Word of God, Christina has also been focusing on reaching goals. In addition to developing relationships with her 19 year-old daughter and 15 and 13 year -old sons, Christina is completing her high school equivalency exams. Due to physical limitations, Christina volunteers with the ministry to fulfill her program requirement to work. She is the primary van driver, transporting residents for work, appointments and activities. She cleans the Community Center, organizes the clothing room and performs chore and safety coordinator duties. Christina explains that she would not be able to have relationships with her children without the support she receives from The Healing House. Her children are in 3 different towns and have varying needs that include weekly family counseling sessions and ongoing visits. The structure of the house provides a good environment especially for her son who has special needs. Other women in the program mentor and provide transportation for Christina to visit her children. Christina is committed to completing the goals required by the State Children's Division for reunification with her sons. She considers successfully living at The Healing House as a proving ground for showing she will follow rules and that she really wants her family. Christina was struck by the stories shared at a conference benefiting HALO, the residential program for young women where her daughter lives. "I heard them describing mothers that were me and that got to me." When asked how she gets through those kinds of feelings of responsibility about the past, Christina responded, "The only thing that will make a difference now is my action moving forward. I believe what we have ahead is greater than the pain of the past. I can't let the past define me and I know self-pity isn't going to help or teach them. "I'm just learning how to live, how to be a mom. I have no understanding, but I know it's going to be OK. My children know me as the one who runs - they don't know the me that stays. That will take some time. When I start to get overwhelmed, I remember everything the Lord has done. Both of my sons will soon be in Columbia. I have a great relationship with my son's foster-mom and I remind the Lord that I need my will, my mind and body right to do Your will." Christina has it in her heart to be able to help other mothers work through the process of reuniting with their children. With her perseverance, God's help and the ministry's continued support, we pray Christina will reach all her goals.

Pray for Healing House/New Beginnings and check into their website for updates:

www.thehealinghouseandnewbeginnings.org

Notes from Mary Kay

In a Sunday School class, a question was asked: "What is the most effective way you know to make sure God's word 'is in your hearts'?" "Memorizing scripture" seemed to be the most obvious answer, but the question has stayed with me, and I've mulled it over. I think both for me personally, and in my experience with my children, the most effective tool for keeping God's word 'in our hearts and minds' is UNDERSTANDING. Memorizing w/o understanding generally has led to quick forgetting. Reading, questioning, discussing until God's point in a passage is understood keeps that passage forever in our hearts and minds. . . .

My older teenagers struggled on and off with regular Bible reading, study and devotions. I noticed that every time I knew one of them was facing a crisis of some kind or another (maybe good, maybe bad), I would see them carrying their Bible to and from to have it available; I'd see it opened on or beside their bed, and I'd hear them making reference to something they've read in God's word. I believe God has trained them to "run to Him" when they have a question, a need or concern. They know He has something to say to them to counsel, advise, help. Those of you with children or grandchildren under your influence, teach by example. Be quick to "run to Him", searching God's word for counsel for every situation, interact with it until you understand what God is saying to you, then DO IT. Our children will only learn from us if they see us live it...again and again and again.

Becoming—

A Middle School Spiritual Journey

Using a resource, "The One Minute Bible for Students" we are developing a habit of daily Bible reading. The weekly devotional studies come from the reading of the week. We have added music to our time together with Greta Leiser helping. We are planning to take the group to SKY Zone in Columbia for a fun night in November. We can always use help—if you would like to be part of the prayer team, food team, activity team or the teaching team, contact Pastor Steve (319-640-7009), or Kathy Reimler (573-424-1086). Going to be a great year.

Who & What We've Been Praying For

Heather Sullard – cancer treatments
Norma & Dwayne Wood
John & Bev Ernst
Jason Wood
Dettman Family
Jamestown Community Youth Groups
Chris Schoenthal – cancer
Mike Powell
Adoption of Carly Faith to be final (Pastor Steve's family)
Kendrick & Pennington Families
Karen Wood - upcoming surgeries
Russell Gerlach – recovery from stroke

Heading into Thanksgiving & Christmas

It is a busy time of year—family time, sports, activities in school and at home. In November, we will be focusing on the importance of cultivating a thankful spirit—both in the good times and the hard times. Thanksgiving is one of the purest acts of faith. Thanksgiving is based on a belief that God is in control and that out of love, He has our best interest at heart.

Moving into December, we will focus on the meaning of the Incarnation—what difference does it make that God became man and dwelt among us. We will be needing and recruiting families to help us with Advent readings (which begins Dec. 1). It would be great if you volunteered to help in this way.

FALL

You awake one morning and realize it's Fall. Where has the summer gone? The leaves have changed into beautiful colors. It is as if God has taken a paint brush and created this magnificent picture, for only He can create beauty such as this. We will wake up to cool crisp mornings. The air will be so clean and clear you can hear trains far in the distance. Smoke will rise from the chimneys against a clear blue sky with maybe one or two fluffy clouds floating by taking different shapes and sizes as they sail around in the sky. There will be birds soaring and guiding making their way to warmer places. The fields with haystacks, cornstalks and pumpkins scattered here and there. The smell of autumn leaves burning. Ah yes, this is the time of the year we call Fall. A very beautiful time of the year.

Submitted by: Bev Ernst



Read: Luke 17:11-18

How often do we forget to say, 'Thank You'? Just two little words that say so much. Imagine what it would feel like to give a present to someone, but all they did was grab it and rip the wrapping off without as much as a 'thank you'. That's how God must feel when we don't say thank you to Him. But there is so much to be thankful for if we'd only stop and look. Here are just a few ways we can say thank you to God each day:

- Each morning thank Him for the new day.
- Thank Him for the little things so often missed throughout the day.
- Thank Him for answered prayers.
- Thank Him for all He's yet to do in your life.
- Thank Him for the simple fact that He loves you.

Every little thing you have in your life is a blessing from God and something to be thankful for. If you take some time to think about all you have, you'll be surprised at how much there is to be thankful for – because it's not about how much you have or don't have. You may have very little worldly possessions, but still have much to be thankful for. God loves it when we have thankful hearts and will honor that. He looks at the heart, not the outward circumstances. So give God the thanks He deserves.

FAMILIES IN NEED OFFERING

Our third and final offering for the “Families in Need” project will be November 3. Susan Powell is our contact person again this year, 573-291-9153. If you have a family that would benefit, please complete the form with sizes and items and return to Susan by November 1. As of October 13, the total of donations to this fund was \$1345.50.

Happy Thanksgiving

SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC

Approximately 50 people attended the Sunday School picnic on October 6. Breakfast cooked over an open campfire on a beautiful fall day is hard to top! Thanks to many for organizing the meal and the hayride for the kids. It was a great morning spent enjoying time with friends in Christ.



**Time change on Saturday evening,
November 2nd**

BLESSINGS IN DISGUISE

We find it so easy to thank God for the flowers, the springtime, the gentle winds, and the good health we enjoy. Very few of us, however, find ourselves thanking God, also, for the storms, the wintertime, the nighttime, and the sickroom experiences along the way.

Yet, these latter experiences are likely to have wrapped up within themselves life's richest blessings. In thanking God for “all things,” have you thought to thank Him, too, for the hard things of life?

Fanny Crosby's greatest blessing came through blindness; John Bunyan's greatest contribution was made possible by imprisonment; Beethoven's sublimest compositions were impelled by deafness. Many of our most useful inventions were born from direct experiences. The world's greatest gift, salvation, would never have come except Gethsemane, Golgotha, and the open grave.

Let us search for the hidden blessing of every such experience.

By: Jim Davenport