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Visit our DHBC website: [www.dhbctucson.org](http://www.dhbctucson.org)

## November, in the year of our Lord 2008

### From the Pastor's Pen

The message in my heart and conviction is the same it was when I was called to Drexel Heights. Advance the Gospel and fulfill the Great Commission - by making disciples! As we study to know Christ, we become like Him. We will serve Him and the advancement His Kingdom. What is your vision for DHBC? I hope that we can all agree that our vision is Christ. One of my tasks as your pastor is train the "saints (you) to do the work of ministry." When the saints are built up they will bring glory to God. Often, I will use the term "missionary-partner" because that is what every believer is. When we change our thinking that every believer is a missionary-partner, then we will understand that we are in this together. The Gospel, making Disciples and Missions must be our focus. The essentials that I'm speaking about are not more programs - it's more of what really matters. It is my great concern that we don't lose focus on Jesus' command to make disciples. One of the greatest tragedies in Christendom is that there are believers who have never, in their entire Christian lives, ever been made a disciple! We have been taught to do everything to keep church doors open, instead of making disciples. What if we all did our part in making disciples? Then the ones we disciple in turn make disciples of others? You get the idea. Jesus devoted Himself to a few men. I thank God for giving us His Word, so that we can read how effective those first disciples were. Making Disciples, Dan Gutierrez, pastor of preaching.

### New Church Library

Thanks go to Gary and Yvonne Parker and Doris Barry for helping me. These servants have made a difference, working as a team to get our New Church Library open. Can you hardly wait to get your hands on a book? No library cards will be required to check out books. We're still accepting cash donations to help develop this ministry. Mark on your check/memo "Library Ministry."

When the library is up and running there are several things that you need to know. There is a cup to place your sign-out cards in. There is a container for your returned books. Any donated books may also be placed in the container. The library will be set up using the Dewey Decimal System. If you have any books you would like to donate please give them to me, Alfreida Smith. If you have a particular title that you would like to see added to the library, place a note in the sign-out cup for me. Do pray all will take advantage of the library, but please return books after you have finished reading them.

Thank you, Alfreida Smith, librarian.

## **Stewardship**

With the stock market taking some pretty hard hits many are getting nervous about their own personal finances. When finances affect your home, the Body of Christ is affected as well. Whether you believe in the ten percent rule or grace giving keep it up; don't stop, don't waver, and thank you for creating the habit. Those of you who claim Christ as Savior, you have prayed about this issue. It's time to stop praying, and as the Nike commercial says, "Just Do It!" Really. You are robbing blessings from our God and your family. Do you need help in getting started with your regular giving? Call the church and make an appointment with someone on our stewardship team. Give generously. Give often.

### **Advice to parents/taken from Towers a news publication of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary**

Jim Elliff, founder of Christians communicators Worldwide a father who travels around the United States, and the world, training and encouraging churches and ministers. He teaches on the biblical principles of church discipline, discipleship and church growth. Jim travels with his sons Benjamin and Bryan who assist him in ministry. Two summers ago they journeyed to far away Africa where they helped their father during two conferences: one in South Africa and another in Mozambique. The brothers led worship together and sang at the conferences. Bryan also led a workshop on biblical interpretation and spoke to the local youth.

Jim Elliff's advice for parents who want to include their children in their ministry:

- \*Expose your children to great men and women of the God
- \*Take them with you whenever you do your work for Christ. Even before they are believers they need to see that you work hard to tell others about the Lord or to serve people.
- \*Use them to help in small ways when they are younger. They can set up the book table or distribute the handout. They can share the work with you.
- \*Pray often that your children will be addicted to ministry.

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### **Bible Trivia Question**

Q: What is the center verse in the Bible (KJV)?

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### **Top 10 Predictions No Matter Who Wins the Election**

1. The Bible will still have all the answers.
2. Prayer will still work.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still inhabit the praises of His people.
5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.

6. There will still be singing of praise to God.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross.
9. Jesus will still love you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost.

ISN'T IT GREAT TO KNOW WHO IS STILL IN CONTROL?



## **Gospel Hymn Stories**

### **JUST AS I AM**

An important Christian lesson, which "Just as I Am" teaches, is that Jesus comes to us and seeks us out "just as we are." The epistle writer said it best when he wrote, "While we were yet sinners Christ died for us."

Often when I ask people if they have accepted Christ they say, "Oh, I'm not ready for the Lord yet. There's too much in my life that I need to fix up first." There is a principle and a doctrine at work here. We can do nothing for ourselves. It is God who created us and it is God who creates faith in our hearts. It is also God who creates a new life within us here on earth and re-creates us for eternal life!

Without question, this hymn has touched more hearts and influenced more people for Christ than any other song ever written. The text was born within the soul of an invalid woman who wrote these words out of intense feelings of uselessness and despair.

Charlotte Elliott was born in England, on March 18, 1789. As a young person she lived a carefree life, gaining popularity as a portrait artist and writer of humorous verse. When she was about thirty, however, her health began to fail rapidly, and soon she became a bedridden invalid for the remaining years of her life. With her failing health came great feelings of depression. In 1822 a noted Swiss evangelist, Dr. Caesar Malan, visited the Elliott home in Brighton, England. His visit proved to be a turning point in Charlotte's life. The elderly man asked Charlotte if she were a Christian; she felt insulted, and told him to mind his own affairs, but after the man left, she could not get the question off her mind, and she went back to ask the man how to find Christ. In counseling Miss Elliott about her spiritual and emotional problems, Dr. Malan impressed upon her this truth, "You must come just as you are, a sinner, to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." Throughout the remainder of her life, Miss Elliott celebrated every year the day on which her Swiss friend had led her to a personal relationship with Christ, for she considered it to be her spiritual birthday. Although she did not write her text for this hymn until 1836, fourteen years after her conversion experience, it is apparent that she never forgot the words of her friend, for they form the very essence of this hymn.

Though Charlotte Elliott lived to be eighty-two years of age, she never regained normal health, and she often endured times of great physical suffering. Of her own afflictions she once wrote, "He knows, and He alone, what it is, day after day, hour after hour, to fight against bodily feelings of almost overpowering weakness, languor and exhaustion, to resolve not to yield to

slothfulness, depression and instability, such as the body causes me to long to indulge, but to rise every morning determined to take for my motto, 'If a man will come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me.'" Another time she wrote, God sees, God guides, God guards me. His grace surrounds me, and His voice continually bids me to be happy and holy in His service just where I am."

Miss Elliott wrote the text for "Just As I Am" in 1836. It was published that same year in the second edition of The Invalid's Hymn Book, a collection which contained 115 of her original works. She wrote this hymn with the desire that it might aid financially in building a school for the children of poor clergymen that her own pastor brother was trying to build in Brighton, England. Miss Elliott felt so helpless in her desire to aid the parishioners in this worthy project. Interestingly enough, this one hymn from the pen of the clergyman's invalid sister brought in more funds than all of his bazaars and projects combined. The brother himself has left these words, "In the course of a long ministry, I hope to have been permitted to see some fruit of my labors; but I feel more has been done by a single hymn of my sister's."

In all, Charlotte Elliott wrote approximately 150 hymns. She is generally regarded as one of the finest of all English women hymn writers. It is said that after her death more than a thousand letters were found among her papers from individuals around the world, expressing testimonials for what this one hymn had meant in their lives.

The tune, "Woodworth," composed by the well-known American gospel musician, William B. Bradbury, was first used for the hymn.

Only eternity will reveal the vast number of individuals whose lives have been dramatically changed through the use of this one hymn from the pen of an invalid woman. It is a hymn that can and should be used more frequently than merely an invitational number at the close of a service. Its message is one that we as believers need to be reminded of frequently—that our eternal standing and peace with God depends solely on Christ's merits and not our own.

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## **I was Drugged**

Not too long ago, someone at my store read that a Methamphetamine lab had been found in an old farmhouse in the adjoining county and he asked me a rhetorical question. 'Why didn't we have a drug problem when you and I were growing up?'

I thought about it a moment and replied, "I had a drug problem when I was young:

I was drug to church on Sunday morning.

I was drug to church for weddings and funerals.

I was drug to family reunions and community socials no matter the weather.

I was drug by my ears when I was disrespectful to adults.

I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents, told a lie, brought home a bad report card, did not speak with respect, spoke ill of the teacher or the preacher, or if I didn't put forth my best effort in everything that was asked of me.

I was drug to the kitchen sink to have my mouth washed out with soap if I uttered a profanity.

I was drug out to pull weeds in mom's garden and flowerbeds.

I was drug to the homes of family, friends, and neighbors to help out some poor soul who had no one to mow the yard, repair the clothesline, or chop some firewood; and, if my mother had

ever known that I took a single dime as a tip for this kindness, she would have drug me back to the woodshed.

Those drugs are still in my veins and they affect my behavior in everything I do, say, or think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack, or heroin; and, if today's children had this kind of drug problem, America would be a better place. God bless the parents who drugged us.” ☺

## **Eleven Ways to Give Thanks to God**

One of the great commandments is to give thanksgiving to God, for all He has done for us. In Psalms 100:4 we are taught to, "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." Christ, himself, was the perfect example of obeying this commandment. Here is a list of 11 ways in which we can show thanksgiving to God.

### **1. Remember Him**

The first way to show true thanksgiving to God is to always remember Him. Remembering Him means that He is in your thoughts, words, and deeds. It is impossible to give gratitude to God if we never think or speak of Him. When we remember Him we are choosing to think, speak, and act as He would have us do. We can also memorize scriptures and quotes on gratitude to help us remember to give thanksgiving to God.

### **2. Recognize His Hand**

To give thanksgiving unto God we must recognize His hand in our lives. What blessings has he given to you? A great idea is to get out a piece of paper (or open a new document) and number your blessings one by one. As you count your blessings be specific: name individual family members and friends. Think of your life, health, home, city, and country. Ask yourself what, exactly, about your home or country is a blessing? How about your skills, talents, education, and job? Think about those times that seemed like a coincidence, did you overlook God's hand in your life? Did you think of God's greatest gift, His Son, Jesus Christ? You will be amazed at how many blessings you truly have. Now you can show thanksgiving to God for them.

### **3. Give Thanksgiving in Prayer**

One way of showing our thanksgiving to God is through prayer. Prayer is an essential part of passing on appreciation to our Heavenly Father. He awaits our words of gratefulness each morning and night in genuine, simple prayer from our hearts for our many blessings, gifts, and talents. Through prayerful gratitude and thanksgiving, we show our dependence upon God as a source of wisdom and knowledge. We are taught to 'live in thanksgiving daily.'

Even if you've never prayed before, you can learn how to pray. All are invited to give thanksgiving to God in prayer.

### **4. Keep a Gratitude Journal**

An excellent way to show thanksgiving to God is by keeping a gratitude journal. A gratitude journal is more than just a list of your blessings, but a way to record what God has done for you on a daily basis. Repentance alone is an amazing blessing for which we should give thanksgiving to God; nevertheless it is one of the most powerful ways in which we can show unto Him our gratitude. Gratitude is also the foundation upon which repentance is built. Not only does repentance cleanse us of our sins but it makes us worthy to receive additional blessings, which the Lord is eager to grant upon us. Following the steps of repentance truly is a simple, yet powerful, way to give thanksgiving to God.

### **6. Obey His Commandments**

Our Heavenly Father gave us everything we have. He gave us our lives, to live here on earth, and the only thing he asks of us is to obey his commandments.

## **7. Serve Others**

I believe that one of the most profound ways in which we can truly give thanksgiving to God is through serving others. He told us that, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matt 25:40). Thus, we know that to give thanksgiving to God we can serve Him, and to serve Him all we need to do is serve others. It's so simple. All it takes is a little planning and personal sacrifice and even then many opportunities to serve our fellowmen will arise when the Lord knows we are willing and seeking to serve each other.

## **8. Express Gratitude to Others**

When others help or serve us they, in turn, are serving God. In a way, when we express our gratitude to those who serve us we are truly showing thanksgiving to God. We can easily acknowledge the service of others by saying "thank you", sending a card or quick email, or with just a nod of the head, a smile, or a wave of the hand. It doesn't take much effort to say thank you and the more we do the easier it will be.

## **9. Have an Attitude of Gratitude**

The Lord created us to be happy. When we choose to have a positive attitude and to live our lives in joy we are showing our thanksgiving to God. We are showing to Him that we are grateful for our very life which he's given to us. When we are negative we are not. We can choose to have an attitude of gratitude, just as we can choose to have a bad attitude. Which do you think God would have us choose?

## **10. Choose to be Humble**

Humility begets gratitude while pride begets ingratitude. In the parable of the Pharisee and the publican (Luke 18:9-14) Jesus Christ taught what happens to those who are lifted up in pride and those who are humble. He said, "For every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (Luke 18:14). In the face of adversity we must make a choice. We can react to our afflictions by becoming humble and thankful, or we can become angry and bitter. As we choose to be humble we are showing thanksgiving to God. We are showing to Him that we have faith in Him, that we trust Him. We may not know God's plan for us, but as we humble ourselves, especially in adversity, we are submitting ourselves to His will.

## **11. Make a New Goal**

An excellent way to show thanksgiving to God is by making and keeping a new goal. It can either be a goal to stop a bad habit or a goal to create a new good one. The Lord doesn't expect us to change instantly, but he does expect us to work toward change. The only way to truly change ourselves for the better is to make and keep goals. There are many excellent goal tracking tools and ideas available, so you should be able to find one that will work for you. Remember, when making a new goal you are in fact making a decision to do (or not do) something. You can do it. Believe in yourself, because God believes in you!



## **LOVE YA**

One morning you will never wake up. Do all your friends know you love them? I was thinking...I could die today, tomorrow or next week, and I wondered if I had any wounds needing to be healed, friendships that needed rekindling or three words needing to be said. Let every one of your friends know you love them. Even if you think they don't love you back, you would be amazed at what those three little words and a smile can do.

And just in case GOD calls me home before I see you again..... I LOVE YA!!!



**Bible Trivia Answer.**

Psalms 118:8

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