



# First Edition



## November 2016

First Baptist Church of San Mateo 2801 Alameda de las Pulgas San Mateo, CA 94403 650-345-1965 [www.fbcsanmateo.org](http://www.fbcsanmateo.org)

### **Thankfulness - More Than Just a Season**

By Doug Andrews

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

In Paul's language here is an unambiguous continuity of responses to God through everything we face in life. First, in our lives we need to be rejoicing. But not just when things are good. Always! This brings to mind the closing statement of Habbakuk:

*Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! The Sovereign Lord is my strength!*

Hab 3:17-19

Do you rejoice in all situations and with every obstacle, problem, task, and situation you face?

Next we can see that our connection to God through prayer also needs to be a continuous dialogue as we walk through life with Him. This is our key to what Jesus said in His last statements to His disciples during the Passover meal.

*Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in Me.*

John 15:4

Is prayer a continual act for you?

Are you aware of God's continual presence in the life you live?

Finally we get to the comprehensive attitude we are called to choose to express. Constant gratitude. But how can we be thankful when things are hard, or don't make sense, or we face various trials, or have too much to deal with in our lives? While the answer for the many problems of life may vary in different situations, we are called to exhibit the same attitude in all these situations... gratitude! Why?

*We also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Rom 5:3-5*

Paul tells us that because God is sovereign and His love is present in our lives, this makes every situation an opportunity for growth and benefit. So, we can be rejoicing as we stay connected in prayer, all the while thanking Him for His beneficial work in us.

There are some times where we endure trials that there seems to be no benefit and no apparent reason. In a recent devotional I read, Jon Bloom, a writer for "Desiring God" Ministries of John Piper wrote the following:

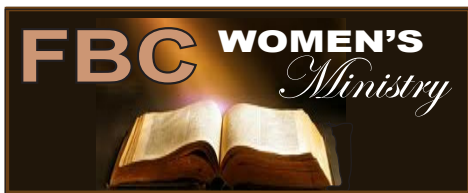
"In view of other things in our lives that feel like urgent priorities, we might not think that "[giving] thanks in

all circumstances" ranks high enough. We might be tempted to think that thankfulness is sort of like a luxury option in the car of the Christian faith — it's a nice feature, but we can drive fine without it. That's a huge mistake. Thankfulness is not a luxury option; it's part of our car's engine. The car of faith doesn't work right without it.

"Therefore, it is altogether possible that God's answer to our prayers for guidance and provision might actually be, "give thanks in all circumstances." That may not be our greatest felt need, but it may be our greatest real need right now. And if so, God's perhaps frustrating answer is a great, healing mercy to us.

"Thanklessness is a spiritually unhealthy weight that slows many of us down in the race of faith, more than we might know (Hebrews 12:1). God has more guiding and providing graces for us that we will discover if we lay it aside and run with thankful joy.

"How do we do this? We simply begin by obeying God's simple, health-giving command: "give thanks in all circumstances" What an amazing thought. That the trial I'm going through might just simply be to teach me to just thank Him. I've learned that the more I trust God, obey His word and His direction in my life, the more I see His powerful hand, His perfect work, and His amazing purpose realized in my life, then the more I desire Him in every situation. And then, for all He is in my life and all He does, I am so thankful."



By Sandy Murray

To all of you who helped for the September Garage and Bake Sale, I just wanted to say thank you. When we began in August, planning for a fund raiser for the Women's Ministry we had no idea what God was going to do. We anticipated a small garage sale composed of items donated by church members. I should have known better because God had given me Psalm 81:10 *"I am your God..... Open your mouth wide and I will fill it."* for the second year in a row.

About three weeks before the sale we received word from Cathy Thomas that her missionary friend wanted to donate much of the contents of his mother's house to our sale. (His mom was moving and downsizing.) Four ladies with large cars made themselves available and we spent the afternoon hauling items which filled almost two rooms.

Soon after this, Pastor Marc asked if we would like items from the estate of his friend, Adelyne Starnes, who had recently gone to be with the LORD. This time the men stepped forward and showed up with pick up trucks. Thank you to David Shong and Skip Hoard who came at a moment's notice. David even brought his 5 year old grandson, Eli, who worked right along side his grandpa loading and unpacking items for the entire afternoon. At this point Pastor Marc joined our crew and helped unload as well.

Now we had three rooms filled. All needing to be priced and sorted. This is where Janet White came in. She was able to organize the items for sale and direct the pricing in a way I never could. At this point so many of you gave your time to sort and price. It was amazing how people just showed up when we needed them. Thank you to all who contributed in this way!

The day of the sale was an incredible demonstration of how God can and does supply all of our needs. We had three rooms of items that needed to be set up in the church parking lot and one hour to accomplish it. Pastor Doug brought 8 of the youth who were very hard workers. At least 5 of the men showed up and helped set up. Sheryn Cockett had come at 5:30AM to set up

breakfast and make coffee for all. Pastor Doug provided a little incentive to the youth as well. When they arrived at 7 AM there were Starbucks Lattes waiting for them.

After we all prayed in the parking lot, we stood in awe as the Lord began bringing customers. Eddy Bray, Brenda Corzantes and Nelly Hansen all speak Spanish and were on hand to help with our Spanish customers. All morning and afternoon, helpers kept arriving. When it was time for cleanup, again, we had many of the men show up with trucks and load everything to take to the Good Will.

It was an amazing day. God blessed us with more than enough money to take care of the Women's Ministry this next year. He also blessed us with amazing Christian fellowship as helpers from the entire church body stepped forward to contribute. I am looking forward to what He is going to do in our ministry and the entire church body in the coming year.

## **Women's Ministry Fall Luncheon**

**Saturday,  
November 19  
10:00 AM to  
1:00 PM  
FBC Chapel**

This will be a time of fellowship, worship, and an opportunity to learn how you can grow in the Word in the New Year using a very simple approach.

Please bring a salad to share for lunch. Rolls and dessert will be provided.

There is no cost but we need to know how many will be attending.

Sign up in the Narthex after either service or RSVP by email to Sandy Murray.

[belmontron@aol.com](mailto:belmontron@aol.com)

## **Men's Monthly Breakfast**

**November 5,  
8:30 a.m.  
in the  
Chapel.  
For ALL men.**

**"But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated up with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." Ephesians 2:4-7**



*Have you ever considered honoring a loved one by providing a bouquet of flowers for the sanctuary? Several dates are available. Sign up in the notebook on the counter in the narthex. We ask and appreciate a \$40 gift for each arrangement.*

# Our Missionaries at Work

## From Garrett & Nici Smoth

Garret Smith will be preaching this coming Sunday, and this letter from him has been posted in the church office. Here are some highlights to share about his ministry:

I trust you have had a wonderful summer. We sure have, and are thankful for the time we got to spend visiting my (Nici's) family in Namibia after 7 years. One of the highlights being the time we got to spend with my uncle, cousins and their extended family, all of whom are Othodox Jews and for the past 12 years had wanted no contact with us.

Upon our return Garret had an exciting opportunity that he wanted to share with you:

"During August, a local church invited me to lead a group for four consecutive Tuesdays. They gathered a number of people who were attending their church who were not believers. Some people in the church also invited friends in the community. The format was informal: conversations around burritos. Mark came at the invitation of his friend, mostly for the promise of a free burrito. Mark is Jewish, but as he would say, very indifferent to anything spiritual. He kept a pretty cynical and slightly annoyed expression on his face most of the night. The following week, his friend, John, who had brought him said, 'Mark's not coming, he says, he was weirded out by a Jewish person who believed in Jesus . . . everyone says it's a cult.' Frankly I was not shocked and tried to help John understand how threatening Jesus is for Jewish people. I was really amazed when Mark showed up the third week. He was still pretty cynical at the start, but by the end he actually began to appear a touch inquisitive. I gave him my book at the end of the time. Mark came back the fourth week, and was very engaged and interested. At the end of the time, I asked him if he would want to meet and he said definitely and gave me his email address. He then added, "You should hand out your books at Rosh

Hoshanah services." I figured he was making a sarcastic joke, so I smiled and said, 'Have you looked at it at all?' and he said, 'Ya, it's really good!' I shouldn't have been taken back, but I was.

"I went home and emailed Mark, just to make sure he would have my email address, and to inquire if he wanted to grab a coffee sometime, and he emailed straight back, 'Sure.' I thought I would let it sit awhile, because I didn't want to seem overly anxious, but Mark then emailed me again suggesting some times to get together. We have met once and I hope to be able to report more when we next write. Please be praying.

"Mark was certainly an encouragement and lesson for me. When I met Mark and saw his cynicism and response, I don't think I really thought in my heart of hearts, he was going to be interested. I certainly never considered he would become as interested as quickly as he did. So in one sense, I am simply praising God for the miraculous moving he has done in Mark, but I am also admonished and encouraged to remember that I really have no idea what is happening inside someone, or when or how God can and will work in their lives. My job is to be faithful to share and to speak, not to judge, and to always remember God can do far more than ever I can imagine, my call is to be bold in and out of season."

As always, we are so thankful for your partnership in our ministry. Our board has encouraged us to be a little more active in support raising. We are hoping just a few might be able to increase their giving. Please do not feel under ANY obligation.

Blessings in abundance,  
Garrett & Nici

## From Alan and Audrey Dianich

Oh my goodness, I don't know if I have ever experienced so much rain! Our Fall Camp, Oct. 14-16, had non-stop rain from the moment we left Sacramento to the time we returned. We were worried many students would cancel and that everyone would be complaining, but only a couple of students canceled and we all had a great time! Instead of outdoor activities like zip-line, camp fire and climbing wall, the 40 of us did indoor activities like card and board games.

One student from Vietnam who has been coming to Talk Time and Bible Discussion listened intently as one of the staff shared the Gospel with her at Fall Camp. Praise the Lord, she prayed to receive Christ!

Soon after Fall Camp, another student came to me and told me that she had received Christ recently. And earlier this week another student prayed to receive Christ! Rejoice with us!

A student from Europe showed up one day at our Talk Time and stayed for Bible Discussion. He said he has been looking for a club to join. He came to more activities in the next couple of weeks so I decided to try to meet him to talk to him personally. When we met, he told me how he had broken up with his girl friend when he left his country and felt empty inside. His father is religious so he thought he would try church and Christian groups. I asked him if I could explain the main points of the Bible and he said yes. We went through the Gospel and he prayed with me to receive the Lord!

## Prayer Requests

Praise God with us for all the new believers! Thank Him for His kindness.

Pray that they would be willing to meet us personally for a Bible study series for new Christians.

Pray for the new believers to tell others about their new faith in Christ.

Thank you so much!  
Alan

**Special offerings for the month of November will go for the Ebenezer Garden.**





# November 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
<b>SUNDAY MORNINGS:</b> 9:30am Bible Studies for Children and Adults Contemporary Style Worship 11:00am Bible Studies for Adults and All Youth Classical Style Worship	1 7pm FBC Youth	2 6:30 pm Midweek Bible Study 6:30 pm AWANAS 8pm Worship Rehearsal	3	4	5 8:30 am Men's Breakfast		
6 <b>Communion</b>	7	8 7pm FBC Youth	9 6:30 pm Midweek Bible Study 6:30 pm AWANAS 8pm Worship Rehearsal	10	11	12	
13 12:30 pm Childrens' Leadership Meeting <b>Peninsula Praise Grace Bible Church</b>	14	15 7pm FBC Youth	16 6:30 pm Midweek Bible Study 6:30 pm AWANAS 8pm Worship Rehearsal	17	18	19 10:30 am Women's Fall Luncheon	
20	21	22 7pm FBC Youth	23 7pm <b>Thanksgiving Eve Service &amp; Dessert Social</b> 8pm Worship Rehearsal	24 <b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	25	26	
27	28	29 7pm FBC Youth	30 6:30 pm Midweek Bible Study 8pm Worship Rehearsal	<b>All Events Are Subject to Change.</b>			

**FBC's Annual  
Thanksgiving Eve Service  
7pm  
Followed by a dessert fellowship.  
Bring your favorite dessert to share.**



**Hi! Daniel from FBC here.**

Thank you in advance for your support for me on this journey!

Some people help in different ways than others. Some are good at manual labor, others are good with decoration, and others, still, are best suited to monetary assistance. Whichever one is your case, I would like to provide you with a to-do list so you can help where you're called.

**1. Call for Stones**

We need stones for the garden. They should be medium sized; about 3-6 inches in diameter. We won't be collecting them for a while yet, but if you come across any, hold on to them! Also, be thinking and taking note of the many awesome things God does for you. That way the garden will have a growing start.

**2. Construction**

I would love it if both members from the church and scouts helped with this project. It brings unity under God and unity with each other. If you're interested in helping in the construction, send me an email and I'll email you as soon as workdays are ironed out.

**3. Financial**

If you would like to donate, please visit my website listed below. It is estimated to cost about \$1000. Anything over the actual cost will be donated directly to the church. Contact me if you are unable or would prefer to donate in person or some other way.

[www.gofundme.com/EbenezerProject](http://www.gofundme.com/EbenezerProject)

Feel free to email me with any questions. I thank you for whatever you can give!

[ebenezerproject@bjornson.net](mailto:ebenezerproject@bjornson.net)

In Christ,  
Daniel Bjornson  
(408)-396-9708



**FBC Youth Activity at Half Moon Bay  
Experiencing the Maze!**







First Baptist Church  
 2801 Alameda de las Pulgas  
 San Mateo, California 94403

### Daily Bible Readings

The following Bible readings are provided by [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) for our use.

#### November

Tues.	01	John 1-3
Wed.	02	John 4-6
Thurs.	03	John 7-9
Fri.	04	John 10-12
Sat.	05	John 13-15
Sun.	06	John 16-18
Mon.	07	John 19-21
Tues.	08	Acts 1-3
Wed.	09	Acts 4-6
Thurs	10	Acts 7-9
Fri.	11	Acts 10-12
Sat.	12	Acts 13-15
Sun.	13	Acts 16-18
Mon.	14	Acts 19-21
Tues.	15	Acts 22-24
Wed.	16	Acts 25-28
Thurs.	17	Romans 1-3
Fri.	18	Romans 4-6
Sat.	19	Romans 7-9
Sun.	20	Romans 10-12
Mon.	21	Romans 13-16
Tues.	22	1 Corinthians 1-3
Wed.	23	1 Corinthians 4-6
Thurs.	24	1 Corinthians 7-9
Fri.	25	1 Corinthians 10-12
Sat.	26	1 Corinthians 13-16
Sun.	27	2 Corinthians 1-3
Mon.	28	2 Corinthians 4-6
Tues.	29	2 Corinthians 7-9
Wed.	30	2 Corinthians 10-13

Peninsula Praise

**A NIGHT OF WORSHIP**

Nov 13 @ 6pm  
FBC & Grace Bible Church  
In Redwood City

COME EXPERIENCE GOD

**Bring your favorite dessert to share at the fellowship following the service. To carpool, meet in the church parking lot by 5:30 p.m.**