

## **“We Give Thanks for You”**

Michael D. Rankin

Among the remarkable touches one notices in the writings of the apostle Paul are his relationships with other Christians. Of Paul's thirteen inspired letters, four are personal letters to fellow laborers in the faith. Of his nine epistles to churches, three conclude with lengthy lists of individual salutations and commendations, in which Paul expresses his appreciation for various saints by name.

Throughout his writings, we see Paul's gratitude for those with whom he shared a common hope and experience. He thanked Priscilla and Aquila for saving his life at the risk of their own (Romans 16:3-4). He frequently mentions the fact that brethren in Christ were in his prayers (Ephesians 1:15-16; Colossians 1:3, 9; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4; 3:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:13) and that he coveted others' prayers on his behalf (1 Corinthians 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:25; 2 Thessalonians 3:1).

There's a lesson in this for us. We are often quick to give thanks to God for the material blessings we enjoy. We thank Him for our food when we eat, and for the clothing and shelter He supplies from His abundance. But how often do we remember to be thankful for the people with whom He has surrounded us, our brothers and sisters in the family of God?

For an example, read the closing chapter of Romans and reflect on the language Paul uses to mention these other Christians who were precious to him. Epaenetus, Amplias and Stachys were *“my beloved”* (16:5, 8, 9). Tryphena and Tryphosa *“have labored in the Lord”* (16:12); Mary had *“labored much for us”* (16:6); the beloved Persis *“labored much in the Lord”* (16:12). Andronicus and Junia were *“of note among the apostles”* (16:7). Apelles was *“approved in Christ”* (16:10). Paul acknowledged Urbanus as *“our fellow worker in Christ”* (16:9) and Rufus as *“chosen in the Lord”* (16:13). When was the last time you used any of these expressions to show your appreciation for a brother or sister in Christ?

Our fellow Christians constitute one of the most cherished blessings we enjoy in the Lord. Jesus' promise of hundredfold abundance of *“brothers and sisters and mothers and children”* to those who forsake the attachments of the world for His sake and the gospel's (Mark 10:29-30) is fulfilled in the brothers and sisters and parents and children we are to one another in Christ. We need to understand the immense value of that blessing and embrace it as a beautiful gift of God. And we need to let each other know that we appreciate each brother, sister, parent, and child we have in Him.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

March 5, 2023

**All the Churches of Christ greet you.**

Romans 16:16

### **WELCOME!**

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

**Today's Sermon: One Another, Together, Forever**

Arthur will be preaching today.

**Scripture Reading: Mark 9:42-50**

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

Notes for Sunday morning and Wednesday evening classes are available on the website.

**[valleycitieschurchofchrist.org](http://valleycitieschurchofchrist.org)**

Find us on Facebook:

**[www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc](https://www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc)**

**Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Arthur is teaching from Romans.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** 6:30pm March 8, on Zoom, Arthur is teaching from 2 Peter.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday** – March 19.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class –Tuesday, March 7. Women of the Genesis, Chapter 9, Leah.**
- ❖ **Next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing – April 30 at Ithaca.**
- ❖ **Ladies' Prayer Brunch and Devotional- God's Peace and Hope- March 25<sup>th</sup>** from 10:30-1 here at Valley Cities.
- ❖ **Men's Prayer Breakfast- May 13,** here at Valley Cities.



Ladies, those of us who can are planning to meet at the building on **Wednesday, March 15 to clean and decorate** for the Ladies' Prayer Brunch and Devotional on Saturday, the 25<sup>th</sup>. Plan to be here around 10am and we will go out for lunch together afterward.



### **MAGI boxes –**

We are still buying T-shirts for boys and girls, mostly at Dollar Tree (Adult S or Youth XL for boys, Ladies S for girls). We need money donations for bulk purchases (flip flops, soap and toothbrush boxes and covers, toys, etc.)

**Valley Cities have sent a check for \$500** to Healing Hands Int'l for help with the needs of earthquake victims and families in Syria and Turkey.

## PRAYERS

- **Miki's friend Monique has had some relief from the high pressure in her eye and will be re-evaluated for pain meds dosage. Please pray that it all works out well for Monique.**
- **Jerry Lowe** has been released from the hospital after antibiotics reduced the threat of pneumonia, but he is on oxygen all the time and a Physical Therapist will visit daily for the time being. Doctors will keep watch of his aneurism. We are thankful for his improvement and pray that he recovers fully.
- **Please pray for Jay Sanabria, a friend of Miki's** who suffered a burst appendix which caused an infection which required surgery. Following that he needed further surgery to find and remove the appendix.
- **Prayers of thanksgiving for preserving the life of Miki's friend Carol Lou.** The decision had been made to remove Carol Lou from the ventilator and they did not expect her to survive. She was able to breathe on her own, however, and showed an answer to prayer.

### **Pray for these people:**

- **Pat Gutherie,** lung cancer, chemo
- **Mike Walls,** pray that he will be cured of dementia. Pray for strength for his wife Carrie.
- **Jim Sexton,** esophageal cancer
- **Tresa Shirrell's mom, April,** terminal cancer, salvation
- **Ukraine.**
- **families of the victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.**
- **Arthur-** congestive heart failure
- **Miki's friend Monique-**pain meds correct dosage and administration.

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at [barnecat7237@gmail.com](mailto:barnecat7237@gmail.com) or text or call (607) 261-0911.