

FIRST CHRONICLES

NOVEMBER 2018

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November 2018

“Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!” (Psalm 34:8a)

We enter a month of thanksgiving. In the US, we set aside a day to celebrate – this year November 22. Everyone, no matter a belief stance, will try to find an attitude of thankfulness. What makes this month different for you or me as a Jesus-follower?

Psalm 34 pronounces a blessing on the person who tastes and sees that Yhwh, the LORD, is good (v. 8b). The psalmist goes on to say that if you desire life in its fullness, days that exude life itself, see good (12). The testimony continues with a theological viewpoint that the Lord’s eyes, ears, and face are on the righteous (15). In some special sense, probably because of relationship with the Lord through Jesus Christ, God pays special attention to us. He is our refuge (22).

Two focuses emerge in psalm after psalm – God’s greatness and his goodness. Sometimes both can be found in the same psalm, such as Psalm 65.

How should we respond to the Lord’s goodness to us? Our responses mark us different as Jesus’ disciples at this thanksgiving time from the rest of the world.

Response #1: Praise him! Praise needs to exude from us for all our God has done in his goodness. Praise comes as a part of worship. We often reserve worship to our times together, but praise and worship should pop out of our every day for our God neither slumbers nor sleeps. He is always good to his children, even in our sleep. Praise turns our thanks to the One who blesses us.

Response #2: Thank him! A synonym for praise, the Bible teaches us to thank him in whatever state we find ourselves (Phil 4:6). Ups and downs, successes and failures, strengths and weaknesses, family, friends, less-than-friends, health, illness – whatever, give thanks through it all and then you will experience “well-being,” peace in his abundant goodness (Ps 31:19a; Phil 4:7). The Lord is present and sees us through every moment of life, good or bad. His “angel” encamps around us (Ps 34:7).

Response #3: Give in thanks! The great harvest festival in the Old Testament, the Feast of Ingathering or Sukkot (Booths), spotlighted thankfulness for the past year of harvest blessing and promised faithfulness to the Lord. In the week of celebration and joy (also called the “time of our joy”), the faithful were to share their abundance with others. They were to invite people for meals to maximize joy together. If anyone lacked, they were to hunt them out and bless them with food and presence. Our God always asks us to extend ourselves to others with the goodness he has spread in our lives.

Respond to this thanksgiving time with biblical patterns – praise him, thank him, and most important, give to others out of your abundance from God’s goodness!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



November 1 Brandon DeBoer
Kane Spencer
3 Deb Middendorp
JoAnn Schneiderman
Janice Schneidermann
4 Hannah Kramer
9 Stan Fluth
Norman Winter
13 Reuben Eben
17 Zac May
18 Sharilyn Reemtsma
19 Gloria Villanueva
20 Ramona Villanueva
21 Cody Johnson
23 Keith Arends
Brenan Schneidermann
24 Raymond Arends
25 Kelly DeBoer
26 Terrilyn Arends
27 Tevin Kooiman
Lena Ruddy
29 Bobby Sizemore

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



November 7 Josh and Ashley Eben
20 Bob and Pat Johnson
30 Brad & Ashley Van Tubergen



SCHEDULES

GREETERS



Sunday, November 4

Alan and Judy Eben

Sunday, November 11

Harold and Helen Eben

Sunday, November 18

Jeff and Cindy Eben

Sunday, November 25

Cody and Sara Johnson

NURSERY WORKERS



Sunday, November 4

Lynette

Sunday, November 11

Jolene

Sunday, November 18

Amber

Sunday, November 25

Barbie

AWANA (6:30-8:00 P.M.)

Awana shirts need to be worn every club night!



Wednesday, November 7

Girls Night Out

Bring your mom, grandma, sister, aunt, etc.

Wednesday, November 14

Thankfulness Night

Be ready to name 3 things that you are thankful for or bring a canned good

Wednesday, November 21

No Awana (Thanksgiving Break)

Wednesday, November 28

Snowman Shuffle

Bring something to dress a snowman

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE

Christmas Program practice will be every Sunday during the Sunday School Hour until the Sunday before Christmas Eve. If your child is in the Christmas Program, please try to have them at every practice. The Christmas Program will be Christmas Eve at 7 pm. All are invited to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Abby Kramer or Rachel Kramer.

CHERISH CENTER

Please turn in your Cherish Center baby bottles by Sunday, November 4th.
Thank you!

HOLIDAY CUT OUT COOKIE DOUGH

\$16.00 Per Box

Order forms are available in the church foyer.

Please order by Sunday, November 7.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Boxes and information on how to pack them are available in the foyer.

Please return to church by Sunday, November 18.

Shipping is \$9.00 per box.

THANK YOU

Friends and Family at First Baptist,

Thank you so much for all the gestures of kindness shown to our families at the passing of our Dad & Grandpa. Your prayers, visits, cards with special notes and memorial gifts were all much appreciated. Special appreciation to Pastor Mike for his message and caring, to Sharilyn and Keith for the music, Alan for running sound and to all who worked in the kitchen.

Many thanks and Blessings to all.

~The John Winter Family



Step By Step He'll Lead Us The Middendorps~ November 2018



The winter season is getting into full swing. The nightly homeless shelters in our area have opened back up for those eligible and desiring to sleep inside. Some of the people are waiting until it gets real cold before they try to get into the shelter. Unfortunately, there is already a lottery going most nights, so if your number isn't called, you sleep outside anyways. Last year was the first year they had to institute the lottery for many years. We have also had higher numbers of people coming for sandwiches and supplies than in the past couple years.

It seems ironic that the unemployment is so low, the economy good, and yet there is more and more homeless. We are not sure why this is going on, but we think it has a lot to do with lack of affordable housing. A case in point is a family that we have been helping out a lot in the last few months that are recent refugees from the Congo. Two ladies came in to the food pantry about 6 months ago, one of them in her high 60's and her daughter in her 40's. The mom spoke decent English, but the daughter hardly a word.

They were staying in a hotel close by and had only enough money for a couple more days. They didn't have any job, food, or plan as to where to go. They had contact with a refugee ministry in the city but were having problems getting there and communicating with them without a cell phone. We decided with them that one of the first things would be to get them working, because without the income they couldn't get into housing or anything. We took them to an open house at a local factory that is always looking for help and both were offered a job on the spot. Unfortunately, only the mom had a social security card because the daughter wasn't here long enough to have one, and not having a permanent address was also holding this process up.

We started using the Salvation Army as their permanent address, which helped in getting their mail. The mom started working so the next step was getting an apartment or permanent living situation. Literally hundreds of phone calls were made to apartment classified ads, mobile home communities, etc. No one was willing to take a risk on someone that had no credit in the U.S. and had only a month's worth of work history. Also, the cheapest 1-bedroom apartments are over 60% of her income, even though she is making \$12 per hour. Once the daughter began working they were able to get an apartment owner to take a chance and offer them a short-term lease.

The amazing thing about working with this family is their faith in God! They came here as refugees running from a tragic situation in the Congo. They had to leave behind their small children/grandchildren to come here (we will write more about this soon). They had nowhere to go, but were trusting God that He would provide and carry them through. And God has done just that and so much more! They were both soldiers (members) of The Salvation Army Church in the Congo, so they automatically reached out to the local Salvation Army here in the United States. It is always neat to see how God works in His church and connects people across the world in His name!

Prayers and Praise:

~Please continue to pray for BilliJo who has been dealing with a knee/leg injury for a year now.

~Please pray for the upcoming bell ringing season that we look to God for guidance.

~Praise God for opportunities every day to show God's love to others and be His light.



Rick and Debbie Bardin- Cameroon, Africa

Since our last posting regarding Rick & Debbie, many things have been happening in Cameroon.

Rick and Debbie were able to return to the states for a few weeks, in which they spent some great time with family and friends. They also attended the Triennial in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada where they enjoyed the conference seminars as well as seeing many friends.

Prior to coming to the US, there was a lot of unrest in Cameroon. Many friends lost their homes and all their belongings. People had to flee their homes and find safety with other family and friends. Prayer sessions were called for God to help them through this terrible time. There were some praises that took place during this time of unrest. For instance, two young boys who heard of Jesus and accepted Christ as their savior. Due to the unrest the hospital has seen very few patients needing care.

God has also answered prayers for peace in the hospital and they are able to move around the compound and market without incident. Many areas in Cameroon are still in unrest. Elections have been held and they are waiting to hear the outcome.

Please pray that God will answer prayers and there will be peace. Also pray that the hospital will be able to pay the employees as funds are short. Prayers are needed that the roads will be opened and safe for patients to return to the hospital for care.

~Mission Board