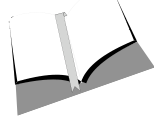


# Church of the Open Bible



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A Great Philosophy for the Christian Life for 2009

## Thank God for Fleas



Corrie ten Boom wrote her amazing autobiographical story, *The Hiding Place*, about her experiences hiding Jews in Nazi-occupied Holland and subsequent punishment in various concentration camps. At the concentration camp, Ravensbruck, Corrie is talking with her very ill sister, Betsie, who reminds her of the verse, which says "*in every thing give thanks.*" (1 Thess. 5:18) They begin to thank God for the things they are thankful for such as still being together. At that time, they are in a place that is entirely infested with fleas, which are biting them. Betsie reminds Corrie that the passage says to give God thanks for all things, not just pleasant things. With that, Betsie thanks God for the fleas.

What we come to find out later is that the fleas are, in fact, a blessing. The ladies in this particular building are left undisturbed by the guards because the guards will not enter into the building with the fleas. In this environment, the ladies are able to hold Bible classes and strengthen the other women around them who were in the pits of despair undisturbed by their Nazi persecutors.

How many times do we pick and choose which things to thank God about based on our perception on whether or not God's gift to us is thankworthy or not? Do we thank God when we get the cold as well as when we recover from it? Do we thank God when we are hungry as well as before we eat? In this present economic environment, do we thank God for our losses as well as our gains? Do we thank God for the fleas?

Is it possible that our lack of thanksgiving for these perceived negative events in our life actually turns them into negative events? For example, if Corrie and her sister Betsie didn't thank God for the fleas would He have made it a positive for them by keeping the guards out? They probably wouldn't have known for unless they had thanked God they probably would have never seen the bright side of

the fleas. These imponderables may not be answerable, but at least it seems obvious that if we go around constantly thanking God for **everything** in our life, our attitudes will be better and consequently our lives will be better.

This connects in very nicely with the thought two verses prior, which states "*Be joyful always.*" If we are always going around gauging whether God is blessing us or cursing us in each and every event rather than trusting God is working for good, how is it possible to be joyful? It is only through trusting God in all circumstances that we can think of all events as having a good objective in mind.

All of this reminds me of camping trips. It seems to me the best thing about camping trips is coming home. It is fun sleeping in a tent once in a while, but inevitably it seems that you end up too hot or too cold or hungry or wet or dirty or some other minor annoyance. When you come home, you appreciate a warm shower; indoor plumbing or other modern conveniences that you take for granted so often. In a day or so, though, you forget all about it and take all these things for granted again.

Maybe we should all take a moment or two each day and try to praise God for the little things in our lives. Praise God for mail. Praise God for clean water. Praise God for traffic. And don't forget the fleas.

- Submitted by Susan May, 10-13-08

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## *In Remembrance*

(Omitted in Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> printing)

The Clyde Whaley Family in Memory of:



**Doris Whaley and Linda Whaley Weber /  
Josh Whaley**

**CAROL REED** came home from rehab last Monday and could very likely be here today! We grateful for her good progress.

**DELORIS DRISKILL** wanted me to thank the congregation for their prayers for her husband, Leon (retired Church of God pastor), now in a nursing home. She also broke her foot not long ago. They live in Peoria IL with children nearby.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS SENT & PLACED ON OUR DOOR** for the congregation: Dan & Nancy Koston / Dan & Rachel Cain / Jim & Penny Frederick / Fred & Doris Schuld / Mike & Nancy Furlich / Chris & Rachel Seymour / Bud & Mary Ellen Jones / Jennifer Wetzel /

Darryl & Kathy Kostyo / Tim & Susan Stickley Olling / Al & Arlene Szekely / Rodger & Ruth Schuld / David & Megan Frederick / Tom & Vickie Szekely Addams / Jack Hearp and Steve & Joyce Bolhous. Wonderful to hear from all of you!

**PASTOR & MRS. CAIN** are always deeply touched by the Christmas gift checks from the congregation each year. As you can see elsewhere in this bulletin, we have tried to express to everyone our appreciation for your constant love and support to us. May God grant you and those you love His rich blessings year 'round!

**OUR CHRISTMAS VACATION** of 1721 miles was accomplished with perfect weather. We got to see all our children, grandchildren & g-grandchildren! Thanks for your prayers & to those who looked after the church while we were away!

**YES (some have asked), I WAS TAKEN BY AMBULANCE** to Greenville SC hospital 12-29 for low blood pressure. I was there for 6 hours and felt back to normal and continued on with our family visits and travels. They think it was dehydration.

**STEVE & PAM WEAVER** were forced off the road 12-20 when an SUV lost control, hit a concrete barrier and then bounced back into them forcing them off the highway. Fortunately, no one was hurt but while waiting for help, they could see other accidents from where they sat! The roads were treacherous. We thank God for your safety!

**IN THE NAME OF THE BEDFORD CHURCH OF GOD CONGREGATION** - because of all the kindnesses you've show us - Sharon and I have bought a goat through World Vision to help a needy family



somewhere in the world. If we get more detailed information, we'll share it with you. This is one way we could say "thank you" to all of you who are regularly giving us Christian support and love – shown in many ways! Some family somewhere is getting nourishing milk, cheese & yogurt because of their goat not to mention a pet that can increase in number and one (as the literature explains) even enriches their soil. 😊 Thanks for your Christian love that prompted us to do this in your name!

**BILL & GINNY CRAMER & HALEE FERTIG** were here for Christmas Sunday (21<sup>st</sup>). Truly enjoyed having them! Halee will return this

month to GA (near the new ABC location) to work at Starbucks to earn money to return to ABC in the fall of '09. We also enjoyed having **BILL MARSH** for 2 Sundays in Dec.!

**WE WILL MISS MARK & FAMILY** at church next Sunday as they are traveling to Lawrenceville where Mark has been asked to speak in Alan's absence. Alan will be at Camp Mack in Indiana.

**PRAY FOR:** David Krogh, Pastors Don Ward & Leon Driskill, Ken Cramer, Joyce Macy Nodstrom (M.Ellen's niece), Jenna Bryan (15 by SMay), Don Kostyo, Norman Weaver, Tammy (Koston) Lisiecki, Gene & Gloria Faehnrich, W.C. Blankenship, Rosalie (Lee), Steve Henderson (14, by SMay), Leslie & Stanley Hervert (by Grace), Carol Reed, Dale Swartz, Ruth Schuld, Juanita (by SMay), Ryan (8 yrs by SMay), Susan (Stine) Bradley, Anita Cain, Edith Speer, Jack Hearp, Jacob Hinton\*, Kathy Reed\*, (\*by Skip), Craig Blankenship, **College students:** Laura Schuld, Halee Fertig, Andrew Weaver, **Shut-ins:** Evelyn Pennington, Amy Dunbar Puehler **Military:** Rodger Schuld, Brandon Metzner, **Missionaries in other countries:** Gaston Uca-nay-Peru, Mauro Apolos Gonzalez-Uruguay, Lupe Badillo-Mexico, Tracy Zhykhovich-Russia, Pastors in Malawi & Mozambique, Lesly Bertrand and the Pastors in Haiti. / **Churches:**, Knightstown Family Fellowship IN, Korean Extension Steve & Sam An, RRCC, ABC, Golden Rule, Grace Brethren and for the peace of Jerusalem, Ps. 122:6; Isa. 62:6, 7

## **JANUARY 2009**

11 Sunday-School staff meeting

SEPT. 13, 2009 / 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45A.M. / WORSHIP 10:45A.M.**

Musicians: Doris Schuld & Mark Cain  
Welcome / Announcements / Prayer  
Worship Hymns: Mark Cain  
257 Are You Washed in the Blood?  
246 Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus  
Prayer / Offering  
Message: Having Faith in Faithless Times  
Key Verses: Dan. 2:36-42; 7:13,14; 2:43-45; 2 Pet 3:11  
256 In Times Like These

