

ANCO

Remarked

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ALL I EVER NEEDED TO KNOW ABOUT THANKSGIVING I LEARNED FROM THE PSALMS

BY PASTOR BEN

I love Thanksgiving Day, I love taking a specific day to remember to give thanks to God for all that He has provided. I love gathering with family and friends around a table enjoying the fruits of the harvest. I love gathering as God’s children on Thanksgiving Day. I love Thanksgiving Day, but I do worry at times that designating one specific day for giving thanks may deter us from giving thanks other days. Is there a danger of implying that thanks is due on this day, but not on others? Perhaps it is a ridiculous question to consider, almost as ridiculous as assuming we only honour our mothers once a year on Mother’s Day...

I believe, as Christians, we are called to give thanks 365 days a year. As much as I love Thanksgiving Day I would hate for myself to think one day of giving thanks to God is enough. Scripture calls for consistent gratitude from God’s people and this is particularly evident throughout the Psalms. The Psalms were the text book of choice for the Israelite people, Jewish families sung them at home, at worship, in the community and they were used as a tool for personal prayer.

The Psalms were the source of education for the Jewish people. Jesus would have read and been taught the Psalms. Imagine Mary and Joseph singing the Psalms to Jesus as he grew up, I am certain Jesus would have read through the Psalms with his disciples during their ministry together. The Psalms teach: who God is, the relationship between God and creation, and the relationship between humankind and God. The Psalms also teach the importance of giving thanks, not just once a year, but as a daily habit. I believe all I ever needed to know about thanksgiving I learned from the Psalms.

I learned from the Psalms to give thanks and praise to God who is the creator of earth and sea and sky.

Psalm 65: 5-8

*You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds,
God our Savior,
the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas,
who formed the mountains by your power,*

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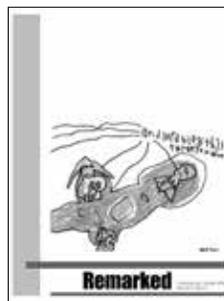
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*having armed yourself with strength,
who stilled the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
and the turmoil of the nations.
The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders;
where morning dawns, where evening fades,
you call forth songs of joy.*

The Psalms taught me to give thanks for God's goodness, faithfulness, unfailing love, unending kindness and unconditional love.

Psalm 89:1-2

*I will sing of the Lord's great love forever;
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness
known through all generations.
I will declare that your love stands firm forever,
that you have established your faithfulness
in heaven itself.*

I learned from the Psalms to give thanks to God for the benevolence (compassion) He shows to the oppressed.

Psalm 113: 7-9

*He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap;
he seats them with princes,
with the princes of his people.
He settles the childless woman in her home
as a happy mother of children.
Praise the Lord.*

In humility the Psalms taught me to give thanks to the LORD that He is King and I am not.

Psalm 24: 7-10

*Lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord strong and mighty,
the Lord mighty in battle.*

*Lift up your heads, you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is he, this King of glory?
The Lord Almighty—
he is the King of glory.*

Throughout the Psalms I am reminded to give thanks to God for His redemptive actions in forgiving my sins and rescuing my life from certain death.

Psalm 103: 1-5

*Praise the Lord, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
Praise the Lord, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

I believe this is just a small collection of how the Psalms have taught me to be thankful not just on Thanksgiving Day but each and every day. I wonder how have the Psalms been teaching you to be thankful? I encourage you to continue to read the Psalms, continue to learn from them and may they teach you as they have taught many previous generations.

A TRIBUTE TO IRMGARD

BY KIM FINTELMAN

I've known Irmgard for 32 years. Our relationship started in 1984 when Leo and Irmgard, Phil and Jannetta VandenBerg, and Ron and I began camping together. We continued to do this for about 25 years and in the last number of years we still gathered together at least once a year.

When I think of Irmgard, my first thought is of her love for small children. When she was raising her children she would read different books in order to help her in her role as Mom, but also, to better understand them and to find out the best way to love them and reach them individually. She was a grandma to Dillon and Elise and loved those two so much. I remember attending a wedding with her and Leo and their grandkids and we were all staying in the same hotel. When she heard they were there, she immediately left us, went to their room and was down on the ground talking and playing with them.

They weren't the only children she loved. She had a heart for all children and her greatest desire was for them to know the Lord. She led the GEMS program for many years and would really try to reach each girl by whatever means interested them most. She talked to the girls and wanted to truly know them. That was the most important part of the program for her; knowing the girls so that she could show and talk to them about the love of Jesus.

One time I went along on a GEMS camping trip as a chaperone and the girls were doing an activity that required some help. They all flocked to Irmgard for assistance even though two others of us were standing there also. It's not that we wouldn't help, but they knew that Irmgard would listen to them and try to help. And she did. She calmly spoke to each girl and helped them. She also did the Story Hour program for Coffee Break for awhile. There too she asked the children what they wanted to do and would try to teach the lesson with that in mind.

Irmgard had many wonderful character traits. She was honest. She always spoke the truth. You knew if you asked her opinion, you would get something

helpful, something she had put thought into and it would be truthful. She would quickly try to take away any hurt she thought her honesty might have caused because she would never want to hurt anyone. She was a woman of conviction. When we were at meetings together I always admired how she would stand up and speak her feelings on a subject. It wasn't always the popular opinion, but if she thought it needed saying, she would say it. When she thought something was needed at church, she would offer her help if she thought she could do it. She was instrumental in having a Praise Songbook for the church. She worked at compiling all the songs, typing them out and with help, putting them together. She noticed people. She always sought out the person who was by themselves. When there was a gathering, you could often find Irmgard sitting in the corner talking to someone who had been all alone previously, especially if it was a young person. She noticed people and identified with those who were shy.

Irmgard studied nutritional health for many years. She often told me her goal was to try to help people get healthy and she was willing to share her knowledge with anyone who asked. She was so excited when she started her nutritional counselling business as she finally felt her years of studying were coming to fruition. She could now, in a more official capacity, help others feel better and become healthier. The smile on her face when she gave me her business card was wonderful. She truly saw it as a ministry that God had called her to do. And in keeping with her love for children, she was talking about writing a book for children on nutrition and her grandson Dillon was helping her with it.

Along with her interest in nutritional health she loved being active. Hiking in nature where she could see all the beauty God created, especially all the wildlife, was where she enjoyed being. She walked all the time, loved swimming, and really enjoyed biking. She showed me a map last year of the City of Kawartha Lakes upon which she had marked off

WORKSHOP ON GRIEF WITH DAVID KENNEDY

BY FIONA KARELSEN

"Has anyone taken a course on grief?" we were asked by our workshop leader, David Kennedy. He knew the answer. No. We will all have our lives shattered by the death of a loved one, yet we have few coping skills. David pointed out that about 250,000 people die each year in Canada and each one leaves behind a circle of family, friends and colleagues who will grieve their death. He said grieving matters enormously to healing and reconstructing the shattered lives left behind.

With warmth and compassion, and twenty years' experience as a grief counselor, David Kennedy helped us explore grief. He is a gifted story teller and recounted many unique journeys through grief, and coached us on the importance of respecting that each person grieves differently. We were cautioned to be listeners and not speak hastily because people's grief needs to be acknowledged and heard.

David also spoke about the nearly 4,000 suicides that happen every year in Canada...almost as many as die from breast cancer. He suggested that perhaps there needs to be more campaigning for those who suffer with mental illness. He emphasized that the lens through which a suicidal person views the world makes them think the world would be better off without them, even though they are incredibly loved.

As a compassionate counselor and Christian, he challenged us to share memories of Irmgard with each other. To feel free to say, "I miss her when I think of this" or "I liked how she did this". No one deserves to be remembered only by their death, David emphasized. When we are out in the community and people speak of Irmgard, he challenged us to speak up and recount some of the wonderful stories which made her who she was.

During a question period, David was asked to speak about guilt. He quickly corrected us by saying it is not guilt we may feel, but regret, and regret is born out of love. To be human is to regret. He explained that we may regret we didn't do something or we didn't have more time with a person, but it is because we love the person that we experience regret.

This workshop on grief was a wonderful experience, a step in opening up conversations that matter. It struck many of us what an incredible gift counselling is. We could see the healing that a bereavement counselor like David Kennedy could initiate. He is a member of the Shalem Mental Health Network, which exists to help any of us journey towards healing.

all the roads she had ridden. There were not too many roads that hadn't been marked. She had biked thousands of kilometres during the course of the summer.

In the last years Irmgard struggled. She did finally get help with her mental health issues after an earlier crisis and things seemed to be going quite well for

a while. Sadly, she lost her battle with this illness. We will miss her very much, as a wife, a mother, a grandmother, an aunt, a friend, and a sister in Christ. Her memory serves as a wonderful example to us all of the Christ-like qualities we are all called to imitate: humility, genuineness, and faithfulness.

INTRODUCING THE BONDS FAMILY

BY AUDREY GRIFFIOEN

The members of the Bonds family are Martin and Sonja and their five children: Geert, Bram, Sanerike, Lianne and Martine.

It took about three years to get the okay from the Canadian Government to immigrate.

When they sold their farm in the

Netherlands in the spring of

2016, they started to look

seriously for a farm of

their own in Ontario.

They have found one

near Lindsay and are

happy that they can

stay in the area since

their children have

attended Heritage

Christian School and

feel quite at home

there. They have

made friends there

and in our church. The

reason they wanted to

emigrate was because

of the opportunities they

see here for their children,

and the chance to expand their

farm.



Of course Sonja and Martin miss their family and friends in Holland, since they had lived all their lives in the same area. They are also missing the social aspects of that lifestyle. They miss the kinds of food they could get. The Chinese food here is not at all like they had in Holland. There it is East Indian, but they call it Chinese. So there is some culture shock, including the price of food! They realize that it was a big step to move the children away from all they knew. Going to Jennings Creek CRC has helped to cushion the transition. Everyone here has been friendly and helpful.

When I interviewed each of the children and asked them how they liked it here in Canada, and what

they missed most about Holland, these were some of the reactions. Geert likes it here, but is a bit homesick for all the family and friends. The friends he made in Heritage last school year were

a grade ahead of him at school and are now in high school so he misses them

a bit during the school hours.

Bram thinks Canada is nice but very different. He likes

the sports at the school and that bullying is

not allowed. Sanerike likes Canada but

everything is so big here. She is making

lots of friends and also commented

on the fact that no bullying is allowed.

She is now taking horseback riding

lessons. Lianne likes it in Canada because

all the people are so nice.

The teachers at the school are nice. Martine loves the

outdoors, the school, and making new friends.

I asked if the children are getting on well in learning English and they are all doing well, but sometimes do not completely understand what the teachers want them to do in their lessons. They do miss their family and friends in Holland. They had them all close by and could just run over to play with them. They also miss the people in their church. Things are quite different here. As well, the children miss the pets they had in Holland. They miss their grandparents too who they could easily visit across the road.

The hope is that Canada and the people here will soon make them feel this is home.

THROUGH THE EYES OF A VOLUNTEER

BY DALE BANDSTRA

When the month of September hits, so does getting back to making those school lunches for our children. In the meantime, the Lindsay Fair comes to town, like it does every year at this time, and it always draws a big crowd of people.

This year was my eighth year volunteering at the Potato Bin, the fund raising booth run by Heritage Christian School, at the Lindsay Fair. It was a lot of fun!

What my job was this year, like every other year, is making up meat pie dinners, baked potato sundaes and baked potatoes with all the trimmings. There are also other volunteers at

different food stations trying their best to get the orders to the customers.

Sometimes it can get a little overwhelming with orders, but we are all in it together to make sure customers are satisfied with a smile. Other times when there is a break, food gets prepared for the next rush and that is also a great time to get to know the people you volunteer with a little better.

At the end of my shift, my feet and legs are tired, but I felt good when I left to go home. As I reflect back at my time at the Potato Bin, I come to realize the amount of time and effort volunteers put in to make it a success. I got to it see firsthand!

KICK OFF

BY CORA WILMS

Whether you call it the Kid Connection Picnic or the Church Year Kickoff, it's always a fun event hosted by Ron and Kim Fintelman. That's right: they clear one of their sheds to make a spot large enough for tables loaded with casseroles and salads, along with corn on the cob and meat from the BBQ. And then, the feast is followed by sugary delicious desserts crowded on yet another table. Beverages are just down the line from there. The roomy shed is big enough for people to sit in, should the rain drive us inside.

Be sure it was a feast to look forward to, but it was about more than that. Before we got into the food, we all received name tags from Peggy. Names are important! We were meeting Steve & Kelly Greidanus along with their son Michael, and daughter Mackenzie, for the first time. Steve is a student at Fleming College in town and Kelly is a

teacher at Dunsford District Elementary School. Michael and Mackenzie attend Heritage Christian School. The Greidanus family recently moved to Lindsay from Windsor.

We were glad the predicted rain didn't arrive as we pulled our lawn chairs into conversation circles while enjoying the buffet and Ron's amazing fire tended by Jeff Cooke. It was a really mild evening so we didn't get very close to the blaze!

This event was again capped off by an explosive fireworks display, thanks to Bill and Frank who made the show happen. We oohed and aahed in approval of the sights and sounds.

Hats off to the Fintelman family for offering their gift of hospitality once again!