



Rick Barton Ministries

November 2023

"Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart"

Thanksgiving: Are we living lives of "Thanks" and "Giving"? How often do we pause to say thanks?

In Luke 17:11-19, we see the account of Jesus healing 10 lepers. The men had been declared unclean and forced to live outside the city, avoiding contact with family and friends. Relying on others to leave them food. As Jesus was about to enter the village, they cried out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" Jesus did have mercy on them and instructed them to go in faith and show themselves to the priests, trusting that He had healed them. *As they went, they were cleansed!* In the joy and excitement of their healing, all but one forgot to return to Jesus and say, "Thank You". Jesus expressed His disappointment when He asked, "Were there not ten cleansed, but the nine-where are they"?

Are we guilty of ingratitude? How often each day do we turn our hearts and lips to Jesus and give Him thanks? Thanks, from a heart that is filled with gratitude? Thanksgiving is an act of humility. It says, "I recognize and appreciate what you have done." The Bible tells us as Christians to give thanks in every situation-trusting this is His will (1 Thessalonians 5:18), and to give thanks for all things-trusting that He will work them out for our good (Ephesians 5:20, Romans 8:28).

One of the habits Melva and I have tried to develop over 52 years of marriage is to remember to say "Please" and "Thank You" to each other. It really helps us not get self-focused or take each other for granted. Several years ago, I asked the Lord to help me develop an "attitude of gratitude". I'm still a "work-in-process" but by grace, moving forward 😊. How about you?

October Blessings: Our Saturday Night Worship services continue to be a blessing for us all. (By the way, if you ask, we will send you an email link with a video of each week's service.) Our Bible Institute class is going well as we study systematic theology and apply it to our daily lives. In the past month we led two Celebrations of Life services for local families. On October 22 we had the privilege of holding a service at Rocky Mountain Chapel in Cripple Creek CO, a wonderful group of folks we've shared with for over 40 years.

Family: Everyone is back in their homes and recovering from assorted colds. Grandson Samuel received a reading award in his 1st grade class! Thank you soooo much for praying for all of us!

Upcoming: Lord willing, we will travel to the Fort Collins CO area December 1st and host a "Thank You" lunch for friends and supporters. It will be a great time to see all of you and we'll give a ministry update. The lunch will be on Friday December 1, at 11:30 at the Golden Corral in Loveland (1360 Sculptor Drive). Please let us know you'll be joining us by calling (970) 209-8006 or email barton@gunnison.com. We'll share at the Livermore Community Church northwest of Ft Collins, Sunday, December 3rd, at 10:30 am. Then, as the Lord allows, I will start working my way back into teaching skiing in late December and holding chapel services on top of the Painter Boy Chairlift at Crested Butte.

401 Ute Lane Gunnison, Colorado 81230 (970) 641-3583
Email: barton@gunnison.com Website: rickbartonministries.org

1st Responder New Testaments and Devotionals: We received this from a firefighter who attended the chapel service I did in July on the Lowline Fire. "I just wanted to reach out because I started reading the Bible you gave me and it's helping me through a lot. I've been going through a lot of hardship for the past few years and sometimes don't find much light in this dark world. But attending your chapel...really brought hope in my life. Thank you for praying for me that day and for the Bible."

Thank you for your prayers and support as I go on fire assignments and for helping us purchase New Testaments and Devotionals for 1st Responders!

Recovery and Rehab: Melva's blood clots have disappeared from her left lung with a few lingering in the right. She has a checkup coming soon and we trust both lungs will be clear! I'm at the 8-week mark following my knee replacement and the doctors and physical therapists are pleased with my progress Thank You for your prayers!

Finances: This week we are grateful to be able to send out extra support checks to 22 missionaries, pastors, and missionary widows. For several years we have felt the Lord leading us to share our blessings with these faithful co-laborers in the Lord's harvest, many of whom serve in small ministries with limited finances. This is only possible because of your faithful support.

This is our prayer for you!

"Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

"For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God. Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all, while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:10-15)
Each worker we sent a check to is giving thanks to God for you with grateful hearts!

Prayer Requests: Please pray for the anointing of the Holy Spirit to be upon us as we share locally and out of town. Please pray for our family to grow closer to Jesus each day. Please pray for continued healing of Melva's blood clots and my knees. Please pray for the missionaries we shared with this month.

We give thanks to God for each of you!

Rick and Melva

Rick + Melva



Saturday Night Worship group loading clothes for a Navajo church!



Rick and Melva sharing at Cripple Creek