

HEAVENBOUND

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 (NKJV)

A Letter From The Preacher

BY ZACH COLLINS

James wrote, in James 1:17, "Every good and perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights." His name was Jan Grzebski. He was a railway worker in the country of Poland for many years. In 1988, as he was working his normal shift, he appeared to stumble on the platform and fell. He was hit by a train. For the next 19 years of his life, Grzebski was in a coma. In 2007, Grzebski awoke to an entire new world. In fact, nineteen years

earlier, Poland was a Communist State. Grzebski noted that, during this time, meat was rationed and the lines seemed to extend "forever" at gas stations. He also noted, "There was only tea and vinegar in the shops." However, after nineteen years in a coma, Grzebski awoke to a free nation of Poland, with people who owned cellphones. The stores, which once were filled with only tea and vinegar, were now filled with so many goods that he could not wrap his head around them. However, the greatest difference between the two worlds he once knew did not exist within the material, it existed within the

OPPORTUNITIES

SHARE our live-stream with others and invite them to worship, or study God's word, with us!

PRAY for the many brethren who are currently on our prayer list.

SIGN-UP FOR THE FOOD PROGRAM: If you desire to participate in the Food Program this year, please see Zach or one of the elders.

REALIZE the blessings in your life and thank God for them, in prayer!

attitude of the citizens. He is quoted as saying, "*What amazes me is all these people who walk around with their mobile phones and, yet, never stop complaining.*" These citizens of Poland, nineteen years later, had more freedom, food, and wealth than any generation of Poland in the past. However, instead of being thankful for the great advancements of their country, their complaints were focused upon the things they did not have. As you know, I always make

it a point, in these letters, to remind us of how long the current epidemic has lasted. This is the fourth month that I am writing to you, in the midst of this pandemic and very uncertain situation. Yet, as I observe the reaction of Christians to this epidemic, the reaction that has surprised me the most is our willingness to complain about the bad in our situation, rather than being thankful for the good in our situation. *Listen, I'm just as guilty!* I have a tendency to look



Our Food Bag Program has restarted for the year! Sign-up to participate in this GREAT work!

upon our situation and complain about all the darkness that has seemed to encompass our world, rather than seeing the good that is brightly shining in our world. *So, it is my purpose, in our monthly letter, to tell you of all the things I am thankful for today.* Today, I am *thankful* that God awoke me to another day in His creation. I am *thankful* that, each morning, I can awake to my

beautiful bride. I am *thankful* for all the love, support, and encouragement she brings to my life. I am *thankful* for the roof over my head, the food on my table, and the Ale-8 in my fridge. I am *thankful* for the 23,040 breaths that I take each and everyday, which allow me to serve God in my fullest capacity. I am *thankful* to be your preacher and beyond excited to serve with

QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS THAT I, AS A CHRISTIAN, CAN DEMONSTRATE MY THANKFULNESS?

Take this question upon yourself and do some personal reflection!

YOUTH NEWS

Special Reminder:

It's that time of year again! School is starting back and we need to keep our youth in our prayers each day. Pray that they can overcome temptation, shine their Christian life, and strive for faithfulness!

MONTHLY TOTALS:

School has started again! This means we need folks participating in our Food Program, which benefits a local school district. Here are the numbers for this month:

FOOD BAGS: 34

you in the Kingdom of God. I am **thankful** that we have the opportunity to meet in-person, safely, and worship God in the midst of an epidemic. I am **thankful** for a healthy body and the ability to use that body as a living sacrifice for God. I am **thankful** for the thousands of sunrises and sunsets that I have witnessed, demonstrating God's almighty power and majesty. I am **thankful** for the laughter that has brought innumerable smiles to our mouths. After all, laughter is

the best medicine. I am **thankful** for the eldership of our congregation and their tireless efforts to fulfill their God-given responsibilities. I am **thankful** for the deacons, or servants, in our congregation who serve in humility. I am **thankful** for Christians who are willing to step-up and serve God when called upon. I am **thankful** for the Christian fathers and mothers I am blessed to know and visually see the impact they are making, spiritually, in their child's life.



Let's give a special THANK YOU to Stan Blevins and Craig Ratliff for the time and effort they put in to update the screens behind the pulpit.

I am **thankful** for the youth in our congregation, no matter their age! And, I am **thankful** that I can play a role in their spiritual development. **I am thankful to be a Christian and I express that thankfulness to God each and everyday.** Let us not get to the point, in this life, where our complaints outnumber our praises. After all, if we do not get in the habit of thanking God for

that which we do have, we will soon become ungrateful because of the things we do not have. **Today, are you thankful? Here's a challenge:** After you read this letter, take a sheet of paper, sit down, and write out TEN blessings that you are thankful for today. As David said, "**I will give thanks to you Lord, with all of my heart; I will tell of your wonderful deeds.**" (Psalm 9:1)

NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

If you wish to sign-up for the monthly newsletter, please see Zach Collins. You can text or call him at this number: (606) 226-6476)



SEPTEMBER THEME:

"How Sweet the Sound: A Series on Great Hymns of the Faith"

