

Date: November 24, 2019

Scripture: 1 Chronicles 16:34

Title: "A Service of Thanksgiving and Praise"

Series: "Thanks Prayer"

Let's begin by saying our text together. It's the same verse we saw in the video at the beginning of the service, 1 Chronicles 16:34:

***"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever."***

As you may or may not know, Mike and Mary Ann Moore have two amazing daughters. Emily, their oldest is about to finish med school at Vanderbilt in Nashville and Erin will graduate in a couple weeks from the University of Virginia with a master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology. Erin is winding up her masters by working in Outpatient Rehab at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem. This week Erin shared an experience that I felt led to share. She writes:

*"One of my stroke patients has pretty severe Broca's aphasia, which means he can understand some of what you say but is largely unable to speak. He knows what he wants to say, but the words don't come out, so he mostly communicates through gestures or drawing. He is really good at saying single words when I give him a cue, and we have been practicing saying short functional phrases through something called "script training;" phrases like "I need to use the bathroom" or "I'm thirsty." He can't initiate saying any of these phrases but he's learning to do so when I cue him. When a person has a stroke, even if volitional speech is non-existent, sometimes automatic speech; like saying the days of the week, counting to 10, yelling certain words when you stub your toe, things like that are still intact. For this man, his automatic speech is pretty good once he has a cue to get started. For example, if I say 'one' he can then count to 10 with no help. Anyway, his brother messaged us and said he thinks it would be cool if he could learn to say the Thanksgiving blessing this year. So, our session today and parts of our other sessions before Thanksgiving will focus on script training him to say this simple prayer:*

*"God is great, God is good, Let us thank Him for our food."*

*When he came into our next session, I asked him about if he had practiced the prayer. He nodded yes and was able to say the entire thing with zero cues from me, which is huge for this man. It also proves that this blessing was said a lot in this man's house as he grew up. This underscores the importance of teaching our children to be thankful and the value of repeated prayers. I think it's really cool that I get to teach someone how to say a blessing for my job."*

I agree! Erin is experiencing the joy that comes from joining God in His work! I also want to "amen" what Erin says about the importance of teaching our children to be thankful. Of course, we older people need to be reminded of that as well. This is one reason it is our custom here at Redland on the Sunday before Thanksgiving to spend our sermon time thanking God for the blessings of the past year. And as I look back over 2019 there are several things I am thankful for.

For example:

- We had another great summer of children's camps. In fact, AAKP camp was once again full to capacity and those kids blessed us with an amazing closing show; more of a worship service in my book! RBC Camp was full once again as well and this year we had seven children make first time professions of faith in Jesus---with another 8 saying they wanted to talk more about making this all-important decision.
- We had 26 people join our church this past year---most of them are already involved in ministry.
- *Grace in Store* opened this year---and at this point has had nearly \$18,000 in sales.

10% of that goes into our Deacon Benevolence fund and every month 20% goes to a local charity like the Stepping Stones Shelter, the Manna Food Bank, our Crisis Pregnancy Centers and this month it was given to Mercy Chefs. By the way, I get notes every month from these people thanking us for helping them minister to needy people. But my favorite part of the Grace in Store success story are the conversations it makes possible with our neighbors. Every Wednesday Sue comes home as excited as the disciples were when they returned from the first mission trip. She recounts all the conversations she had with people and the way God is using that store to bless others. People have attended worship here because of those conversations.

Lost people have heard to Gospel because of them.

- I am thankful for our new Deacon Prayer Chapel Ministry. CC has taken this on to his already long list of jobs he does at Redland---and makes sure we have people in our prayer chapel praying for our church during every worship service.
- I'm thankful for the wonderful idea Alyson Owers had to move ESL to Wednesday nights so that the children of our students could attend graded choirs and bells. We have lots of new ESL workers this year and some of their students have brought their children to choir and have attended our worship services---people who don't know Jesus!
- I'm thankful for VERY successful mission trips to Puerto Rico and to Ocean City this year.
- I'm thankful for a new record in Upward basketball enrollment. Kenn tells me we have 370 kids this year! My team is the "Panthers" and even though I haven't met them yet---I'm sure they are GRRRREAT!
- I'm thankful for an increased number of Redlanders involved in AWANA leadership! Way to God Peggy!
- I'm thankful for this year's Trunk or Treat---one of the best ever. In fact, it was just plain incredible!
- I'm thankful for our staff.  
They are incredibly gifted---yet incredibly humble. They go the extra mile every week. We love the Lord and we love one another. We work together so well! I've been on staffs where this was not true---it feels so good to be on a team like we have now.
- And as I look back over the past year and all the funerals we've done---the services in which we said good-bye to dear people like:  
Alicia Taylor and Charlie Brinkman and Jack Powell, Paul Purcell and Verk Eubanks and Rich Collins--well those services make me praise God for the fact that Jesus rose on the third day and conquered death for us. This means all our "good-byes" are temporary. A day will dawn when we will all be together again. Death has lost its sting---thanks to Jesus.

Well, I could go on and on, but suffice it to say that GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME and, as He has been in the past, in 2019 He has once again been VERY good to this church! Our loving Heavenly Father continues to shower His blessings on us. Hebrews 12:28 encourages us to: ***"be thankful and so WORSHIP God acceptably with reverence and awe..."*** hence the need for a service like this. At my request FIVE individuals or couples have prepared prayers for this purpose. So, let us now enter a time of conversational prayer, a time of communicating together with God, eyes and ears open, as we hear these prayers of thanks and offer our own. They will come to you in the order that they are printed in the bulletin. Between each prayer we will sing and then after these prayers we will pause to give us all a chance to offer our own thanks to God for His great faithfulness. So, now, let us pray, ***"Heavenly Father, Hear now these, the prayers of Your people:"***

### **8:30 SERVICE**

**Zach and Amber Rodgers**

*We give thanks to you Lord, for you are good. Your love endures forever. Thank You God that we need not to be afraid or discouraged, for You, Lord our God, will be with us wherever we go. Thank you God for how*

awesome You are. You are patient with us, continue to have mercy on us, and give us your unbounding love and grace. Thank You for sending your Son, Jesus, to Earth, to become a man, live a sinless life and die so sacrificially for all of our sins. You are a good good father. Thank You that You love us and want to be with us. Thank You for the freedom you give us when we confess our sins and repent from our evil ways. You break the chains of the sin that once bound us. Now that we have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit we reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. **For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.** And we thank You for that eternal life. Thank You for the ability to learn new things. The more we learn about the things You have created, the more we are amazed by Your work. Your creation exalts Your power and majesty. **“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities— His eternal powers and divine nature— have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”** Thank You for making Your creation not only for Your glory, but also for our enjoyment. Thank You for the relationships we have with others. For **“two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.”** Thank You for the encouragement and joy we find in one another. Thank You for the blessing RBC has been for our family. They came along side us during the birth of our son; taking care of our daughter for us in the process, making meals for us---taking the time to pray over his birth and making sure all of our needs were met. RBC has poured their love out over our children, through the teachers in Awanas, Sunday school, and Wednesday night choir and childcare. Our children see the love of Christ through the true genuine servants of our church. Our children have close friendships with other children at our church because they are raised by Christ loving parents. Thank You for Your influence over them. We thank You for the hope we have in You through Your son Jesus Christ. You tell us that **“those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”** We are so underserving of the hope You give us but forever grateful for it. We look forward to the day when we **“will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”**

#### Cruz Carbonell

God, I am thankful for the stuff You provide for our church. I am thankful for the food we eat and the water we drink. I am thankful for the animals You provide for us as pets and also as food. Thank You for providing us a new dog, Luna. She has brought us lots of laughter, love and licks. I am thankful for family that lives near by especially my cousins, grandparents, tios and titi’s. I enjoy sleeping at their house and playing. I am thankful for my grandparents in South Carolina and time we get to spend with them. I am especially thankful for Aunt Veronica who lives in California because it’s far for her to come and she is planning on spending Christmas with us. I am thankful for my Uncle Mike, Aunt Kira, and cousins too. I am thankful that my grandparents celebrated their 50th anniversary and we were lucky enough to celebrate on a family cruise this past summer. I am thankful for my friends both near and far. I am thankful for my new friends this year and my new class and teacher. I am thankful for my little brothers Caleb and Camden and also my mom and dad. We have lots of fun. I am very lucky to live in our home and never want for anything. I am thankful for the activities that Redland provides me like Vacation Bible School, TNT, Upwards Basketball and more.

#### John and Cathy Stracener

LORD, God, While 2019 has had many challenges, we are very grateful none the less. Ephesians 4:2 **“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”** We are thankful for 37 years of marriage and for the adventure it has been and continues to be. Psalm 23:4 **“Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for You are close beside me.”** We are thankful that You brought us through sickness and medical challenges and surrounded us with your peace through Mary, our mother and mother-in-law’s car accident.

Continue to heal and strengthen her. Psalm 127:4 **“Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from Him.”** We are grateful for our two children, Chris and Katy, and their spouses, Erika and John, and our three grandchildren Lily, Hanz, and our newest born this year, Michaela.

Moomaw and Papa are titles we wear with joy! May You, LORD, bless them and keep them. Ephesians 2:10 **“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”** For our talents, skills and abilities that you have blessed us with we are very grateful. May we always bring you glory and honor in their use. Proverbs 27:17 **“As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.”** We have been a part of the Redland family for 20 years and have been blessed by so many friendships throughout those years. One that stands out this year is that of Charlie and Louise Brinkman. Our friendship grew deeper in the last few years and Charlie would inquire of how life was going and how could he pray for us. Many friends here lift us up in prayer and our deacons over the years have consistently checked in on us. It has also been an honor to serve alongside our staff as well. We are thankful for their leadership. May Redland continue to be a light here in Montgomery County. In Your Love and in service to others we pray. Amen.

### Grace Ahn

Heavenly Father, during this time of Thanksgiving we humbly bow our heads and our hearts and as we reflect back on this year, we give thanks to You for all that You have provided for us. We especially thank You for sending Your only Son Jesus Christ, Who died on the cross to deliver us from our sins in order to save us. I first want to thank You for my parents and my family. I also want to thank You for my RBC family - my pastors, my teachers, and all my friends. I thank You for all the wonderful people whom You sent to be part of my life, giving me encouragement---and lifting me up when I am down and rejoicing in celebration with me during the good times. And above all, I thank You Father for all that You have done for me and all the blessings that You have bestowed on me during this year. Father God, this is my senior year in high school, and as I worked to decide what career field I want to pursue in college---and spent long nights working on my college application essays and finishing my portfolio for these various colleges, I was filled with uncertainty and anxiety about my future. But Your words in Philippians 4: 6-7 gave me the courage and the strength to push forward: **“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”** Thank You Father for Your comforting words and your promise of peaceful heart during my difficult times. Heavenly Father, I thank you for allowing me to get more involved this year in your work - serving as the Summer Intern for the Children’s Ministry---going on my first mission trip to Ocean City, and volunteering for the Extended Childcare during the 11:00 Sunday worship. Through this internship, I was able to build deeper connections with my church family by working with and for them. It is through this experience that I gained a better understanding of how much preparation and passion is put into getting RBC Camp set up each summer---to reach out to as many children and families as possible or all the hard work necessary to get Sunday School classes ready each week. Additionally, the Ocean City Mission Trip has so amazingly enriched my life. Helping Ocean Baptist Church to reach out to all those students---who do not know You or Your love for them, organizing and running the Parents Night Out, to beautifying your worship house---by painting and participating in various construction projects was such a rewarding and gratifying experience. Overall, I have been blessed with memories that I will forever cherish, from playing sardines in a building that had only one good hiding spot---doing each others hair in the kitchen late at night, and going to the beach with the other youth during breaks only to get wiped out by the waves no matter how hard you tried not to. I am extremely thankful as I have never been as close to the younger youth and adults than I have before. As a result, I have grown as a Christian and in my relationship with You. We have consistently learned in Sunday School that God has everything planned out for us, that there is no such thing as a coincidence. After reflecting on my life and everything that has happened, both the good and the bad, I can truly see Your work at hand. Despite the times where I have had doubts, You have blessed me beyond comprehension. **I will thank the Lord at all times. My**

**lips will always praise Him.** (Psalms 34:1) All this I pray in the precious name of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

### James and Varetta Hamlin

Good morning church, During this season of Thanksgiving the Hamlin family have many things to be thankful for. Thank You Lord for all the many blessings You give to our family as well as our church family each and every day. I am James Hamlin and joining me is my wife Varetta. One of the blessings I am thankful for is to be in a union with my wife for 38 years. For those of us who are married, you know the trials and tribulations that you go through in a marriage.

However, if you believe in God's Word. **"What has been put together by God can't be torn apart by man"** Our union continues to be blessed by the Lord. Thank you Lord. Varetta and I are so thankful for understanding the values of life. Those values and blessing the Lord makes possible every day. We all take for granted the rising of the sun as well as the setting of the sun and then the rising of the moon. The Lord with His magnificent power makes this happen every day. Thank goodness that only you Lord can make this happen. Lord, You have granted us the opportunity to live among other Saints and during this season of our lives we have come to understand the beauties of life that You provide. Being a couple that enjoys the "great outdoors" we continue to marvel at Your awesome beauty that You provide to us on earth.

Flowers blooming, rivers flowing, leaves changing colors. What a awesome God we serve.

Lord, We are also so thankful for our family; both immediate and extended. Thank You for giving us the opportunity to spend time, not only as a couple, but also with our son, grandchildren, siblings, nieces and nephews---as well as Varetta's 94-year-old mom and my Aunt who is 93 years old. Lord, what a blessing to have grandchildren. We are so thankful that the Lord has provided us three lovely grandchildren. All of our grandchildren live hundreds of miles away from us, however, we are blessed that through facetime that we can often communicate with them. This past summer we were blessed to have all of our grands to visit with us for nearly a month. Seven-year-old twin boys and an eleven year old girl. Lord, we also realized why You gave us grandchildren at our age in order that we can still do active things with them. Hiking, swimming and many of the things active children like to do. Even though there was a change in our regular routine, we saw it as a blessing. Not only did this time enable us to catch up to them and learn closely where they were in life---but were able to instill some of the family values that we seek to preserve such as prayer and family history. Joyfully we were able to have our grandchildren attend VBS at Redland this past summer. They had a wonderful time meeting other kids from the Redland community and to learn about the Lord. What a blessing. Another blessing this year was my retirement. For over 40 years working as a journalist, broadcast management and then working for the Boy Scouts of America. The Lord has blessed me to enter into another season of life. Wherein it takes time in getting accustom to, I am thoroughly enjoying it and I am so thankful of the blessings the Lord has bestowed upon me. With retirement comes a new awakening of the season your life we are in and our relationship with You Lord. We are also so thankful for having accepted Christ as our Lord and Savior and understanding that our daily life is guided by His grace and mercy. You continue to give us good health and the ability to use our spiritual gifts to continue to build Your kingdom. Thank You Lord for giving us our our daily bread and for Your forgiveness of our sins and evilness. Lord we ask that You come into the lives of those family members who have yet to accept You. My signature scripture is taken from Matthew 5:16, **In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.** With this scripture in mind I believe it is a great recipe for acting out Redlands vision for neighboring. Thank You Lord for allowing Varetta and I to be one of Your messengers. Lord, I thank You for Redland. A grace driven church where we continue to mature as one of God's children. We thank You for our pastor and our church family. We ask for continued blessing to this church. Amen and Amen

### 11:00 SERVICE

Tyler and Ashton Stewart

### Ashton

*Dear Heavenly Father, As we reflect on this past year, it has been a time of great trial for our family, but we thank You for the joy You have given us through it all. It has been a blessing to see You move in our lives and in the lives of those around us. We rejoice in the opportunities to grow closer to You and deepen our faith. God through the loss of my mom to cancer You have shown our family how faithful You are! You have shown me that even in death, beautiful things happen. As we remember, Your son Jesus Christ had to die on the cross in order to save each and every one of us, displaying the most perfect love. It gives us great joy knowing you use even the most heartbreaking losses to further God's glory. We are thankful for the family and friends who have come along side us during the difficult time. God we thank You for blessing our family with the birth of our second son, Mason Thomas Stewart. We know that he is Your son and we are grateful You have entrusted him into our care. Both our children have brought so much joy into our lives, giving us a glimpse of how much You love Your children. We are thankful for the opportunity to live close to family, that we would be able to create wonderful memories together. For our brothers Tim and Nathan who are serving overseas in combat zones, God we are thankful for the safety that has been provided. We are thankful for God's grace, provision, and presence that has been a daily reminder of his love.*

### Tyler

*God thank you for leading our family to Redland Baptist church in February, where we have been so graciously welcomed this past year. After enduring a tumultuous time with workplace issues, we are thankful for the support and encouragement of our church family at Redland. We are grateful to the Mixsons, Pastors Kevin and Mark, Judge Day, and the many others who have prayed for our family and given us Godly advice and support. I'm especially thankful for Redland's willingness to let me use church facilities for study and writing while I have been without a place to work. Attending the men's and women's Bible studies has been a wonderful blessing for Ashton and I, allowing us to grow as believers and providing us with Godly friendships. We are thankful for the amazing children's and youth ministries at Redland. In the Word of our Lord through Isaiah the prophet: **"To all who mourn in Israel, He will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning---festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the LORD has planted for His own glory."** Isaiah 61:3 NLT God we thank You for Who You are and all that You have done for us. Thank You for giving us strength and comfort in our weakness. We thank You for Your greatest blessing of all, Your Son Jesus! In His name we pray, AMEN*

### Jim and Nancy Mixson

#### Nancy

*"Dear Lord, I realize that all of the good things in my life come from You. This year, I have so much to be thankful for that I cannot include it all here.*

*Thank You: For You, the awesome God, for Your Son, and the Holy Spirit Who is always there and never gives up on me, For two seemingly simple commandments that are still hard for me to keep to Love God with all my heart, soul, and mind, and to love my neighbor as myself, For choosing Jim as a perfect husband for me and father to our children and for the patience and kindness You gave him to deal with us. He is a wonderful soul mate and support. For giving us our children Claire and Gavin knowing that You are looking over them, guiding them, and have a special plan for their lives. For Jake who is a giving, kind friend to the family and a special support to Claire. For allowing me to find You during times of distress, knowing You are with me, and as a result You teach me to cherish the times of peace even more. For keeping my family and me safe despite the traffic, the shootings, and the evil people in this world. For the people on the road who follow the rules so that I am safer when I drive and for reminding me to pray for that driver who is not a rule follower and causing my road rage. For the summer Bible group and the book, A Love Like That, where we got to know Pat, Margaret, Helen, Delores, and Ed better---and about my own short-comings in trying to be like Jesus. For Grace-In-Store, its outreach to the community and its bounty that allows us an opportunity to help others in our community. For Dorene, Sue, and all the volunteers that make the store possible. For Tuesday Morning Women's Bible*

*Study and for the friends, support, and knowledge that I find there. For Pam, Sue, and CC who lead and guide us in our Bible study and Sunday school class where we attempt to understand and be more like You. For the Amani ya Juu Sale and the Haiti Garage Sale where we can help people to survive in the harsh conditions of Third World countries. For being born in the United States where I can worship You freely and where I can have life, liberty, and can pursue my dreams. For people in the Armed Forces and veterans who have protected me and our country this year. For the police, firefighters, and all first responders who risk their lives to keep me safe and for the police and crossing guards here at Redland Baptist Church---who give up their Sundays to make mine safer. For Mark Adams who gives me a message each week that I can use to guide myself until next Sunday's message. For providing an opportunity to volunteer at Our House, a home for struggling young men, who have not been given the chances that so many of us take for granted in the United States. For the missionaries who go out into the hostile World to spread Your message and especially Amy, Greg, and Rachel Freese who are able to be with us this season. For my sister, Lyn, who sets the example of giving and God's love to our family. For the cashier at the store who despite a hard day was patient with me. For all the times I see a sunset, a flower growing, a rabbit hopping, or a bird flying and know you are all around me in nature and the World. For Chunky Peanut Butter, our dog, who tries to teach me what unconditional love can be. For comforting our relatives and friends who struggle with mental illness, addiction, and chronic illness and for keeping us healthy so we can help them. For providing a home and a comfortable life despite my retirement. Finally, I praise You, dear Lord, for being in charge of this World despite its many flaws. I know You want what is best for Your creation and that gives me peace."*

Jim

*Dear Heavenly Father, We are thankful to You for our family. We thank You for our parents, our grandparents who helped to shape us into the people we are today-- who guided us into the Church. We pray for our local and national leaders for wisdom in protecting the family. I thank You for leading Nancy and me to find one another. You know how important she is for our family. We are grateful, God, for the welfare of our family--- the housing and food provided to us. We are particularly grateful for the health and continued support to our children and we pray that You will lead our children and your children closer toward Christ. We thank You for the stability and continued support for my job in medical research---the NIH award received this year. You know my weaknesses and I thank You for Your support. I ask that I follow Your Will in carrying out these research studies and You provide me wisdom in treating colleagues and strangers with kindness and patience. We thank You God for the everyday occurrences, the joys of life experienced by us during the past year: ---the cooing of babies, the laughter of small children---the marriage vows of a young couple, the beautiful music and hymns that inspire us, the change of seasons, the turning of leaves in the Fall, our friends---and our loving pets that bring us so much joy. We are so grateful for these spoken and many other unspoken joys of life, which You have given us. Nancy and I are especially thankful to Your leading us to RBC, a church with warmth and fellowship. We thank You, God, for the warmth and fellowship, together with humor, of our Sunday School Class. As a result, we feel closer to You. We pray for Your guidance in our lives, for Your guidance of the leaders and to the deacons, and to the members of this church to bring troubled souls closer to You through RBC---and other Grace-driven churches. We are thankful to You for this country which gives us the freedom and liberty to worship as Christians without fear. We are most grateful for Christ, Your loving Son, Who died for our sins. (We are thankful of) the Grace that You extend to us to be saved through Jesus Christ. We do not deserve these many blessings. This prayer of thanksgiving does not do justice to how many gifts that You, God, have given to Nancy, me, and my family---but we realize that we are very fortunate, and we are so grateful to You for the Godsend to our family during this past year."*

Rachel Owens

*Dear God, At this time of year, as the weather grows colder and we gather with family, we give thanks for the blessings that You have bestowed upon us. We thank You for our family, our friends, our health, and our jobs. Oftentimes, we thank You for all the good fortunes we have experienced, the parts of our lives that are going*

*well. And I am grateful. I thank You for my amazing family that have raised me and taken care of me. For my mom, who took it upon herself to teach me ever since I was young. For my dad, who never fails to take time out of his busy schedule for me. For my brother, who still talks to me even though he's away at school. I thank You for this church, where pastors have given me helpful instructions, teachers have answered my questions, and friends have come along side me in my walk with Christ. I thank You for giving me access to education, where I can learn about the amazing world that You created. I am grateful for the many opportunities that I have had because of my schooling. And in this time of transition for me as a senior, I thank You for the guidance that You have given and will continue to give as I make important decisions about my future. I thank You for all the "good" stuff happening in my life, but I don't want to ignore everything else. Because life isn't easy, and to us, a big part of our lives isn't filled with "good" stuff, and it can seem like there isn't much to be thankful for. But even if they're disguised or hard to see, Your blessings are still all around us. So, I thank You for the mistakes that I've made for they have reminded me of my imperfection and of Your grace and forgiveness---they have revealed the error of my ways and illuminated the path that I should be walking. I thank You for my questions about my faith, for in those questions, I have searched for answers, and in my searching, I have developed a deeper understanding of who You are. I thank You for the difficult people in my life, for when I am about to lose my patience with them, I hear Your voice urging me to be understanding---and to remember that I too can be just as insufferable sometimes. I thank You for my worries, for in my times of fear or doubt, I turn to You for comfort and assurance. I thank You for the closed doors that have allowed me to see what's truly important and have sometimes led me to an open window. Even when times are hard, I thank You for giving me hope, for giving all of us hope.*

*Because no matter what, You have given us the greatest gift that anyone could ask for: hope in a Savior, redemption, and eternal life. So, this Thanksgiving, I want to appreciate all of the blessings that You give: the big, the small, the obvious, the hidden. It all comes from You, our good and gracious Lord. And in Jesus' Name I pray, Amen*

#### Isaac McGaffin

*Dear God, You have provided me with many blessings and I come to You now to express my thanks through prayer. God You are loving and caring and good. Thank You for giving me a family that loves me and supports me and a church that welcomes me. Thank You for parents, Sunday school teachers, music directors and youth leaders who teach me about You. God You are gracious and forgiving. Thank You for forgiving me of my sins and helping me to become more like You. God You provide for our needs. Thank You for giving me a dad who is a great cook and a mom who helps me with my homework. Thank You for my house and the ability to participate in sports. God You are our Shepherd and Comforter. Thank You for proving comfort and peace to me and my family when my Grandpa passed away. Thank You for the time we had with him and thank You for allowing my family to be together to celebrate his life. God You are glorious. Thank You showing Your glory in the beauty of nature and the creativity of people.*

*Thank You for Lake Nebo and the time my family spends enjoying Your creation. Thank You for the gift of music and the ability to play trumpet. Thank You for baseball and the fun and challenge it brings to me and my teammates. Thank You for friends who make me laugh and support me. God You've created everything and You've called it good. Thank You for my grandparents who come to my games, concerts, and show their love by spending time with me.*

*Thank You for my parents who encourage me and prioritize me in their lives. Thank You for my brother who cheers for me at my baseball games and loves me unconditionally. God thank You for Who You are. I worship You because You are Holy. I am thankful for Your faithfulness. I desire to become more like You. Thank You for saving me through Your sacrifice. Thank You for providing Your Word to teach me and to give me life. You are my King and my God. Amen*

#### Edmund and Rosanna Setse



***Psalm 136:1-9 Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, His love endures forever. Give thanks to the God of gods. His love endures forever. Give thanks to the Lord of lords: His love endures forever. To Him Who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever. Who by His understanding made the heavens, His love endures forever. Who spread out the earth upon the waters, His love endures forever. Who made the great lights—His love endures forever.***

***The sun to govern the day, His love endures forever. The moon and stars to govern the night; His love endures forever.***

*In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Paul reminds us of the need to give thanks in everything...Today, we remember and are thankful for the many blessings of God in our lives. Dear Lord, Thank You for Your gift of life and for Your faithfulness, protection and guidance for our family and all our loved ones this year. Thank You for Your grace and mercies which are new every morning. Thank You for our lives, health, family and especially for our children. Thank You for the blessings and for challenges we have experienced that have not only helped to strengthen our faith but also drawn us closer to You and to each other. Thank You for our Redland Baptist church family and for leading us to this community of believers. Thank You for the brotherly love that is evident in this church; thank You for our Sunday school small groups and for the bond of love and support we offer to each other. We pray Lord that You would bless all those gathered here today. We lift up our hearts and lives before Your throne of grace and pray that You continue to renew the right spirit in us---and empower us to do Your work to the glory of Your name. Amen*

Now it is your chance to join in this time of thanks-praying. Let us all bow our heads and all thank God---praying together at the same time. Pray out loud if you want—in your seat—or on your knees—but pray and thank God for all of His blessings.

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Father God, We are Your people—the sheep of Your pasture and we have come this morning to worship You with glad and joyful songs—inspired by Who You are and for What You have done. For, You are good and Your love endures forever; Your faithfulness continues through all generations. And all God’s people said....A-MEN*

Perhaps as we have acknowledged all that God has done for us, you have remembered the many ways He has blessed your life. And as you did, you felt the inner prompting of the Holy Spirit to give back to God in some way. You may feel led to come forward and publicly show your thanks to God---by recommitting your life to Him---or by joining this church as we use all that God provides us with to minister to this community. You may want to acknowledge for the first time that God gave His Son to die for you---and today publicly give Him your life as you accept Him as Savior and Lord. But however God leads won’t you come and share your decision with us?