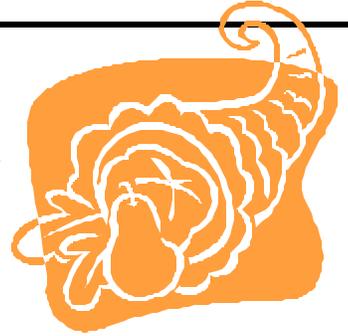


# First Light Herald

December 2004/5765  
Volume 3, Issue 4

## Thankfulness



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### Special points Of Interests:

?? Visit our website and order free CDs of the teachings we offer.  
([www.proverbialwoman.com/fl](http://www.proverbialwoman.com/fl))

?? Don't forget your prayer requests are our delight. Send them via email at [firstlightconsulting@yahoo.com](mailto:firstlightconsulting@yahoo.com) or call us at 432-550-7642.

?? We will come and minister healing via anointing with oil and praying the prayer of faith. Just holler.

Though this is the December newsletter, it's just before Thanksgiving and we are both very reflective this week. We've both been attacked in body with sickness and faced with our great dependence upon God. This afternoon we passed a sign on a church that said "At Thanksgiving we celebrate our dependence". At first glance this sounds "off", but in all actuality it says it all. Sadly most of the people in the world that will celebrate Thanksgiving won't be thanking God for His provision. We as humans are totally dependent upon God. Let's face it, if it weren't for God we wouldn't be able to draw breath let alone live in the prosperity we know.

We not only want to thank God for His every provision over the past year, we want to thank the Body of Christ that has helped us make more "baby steps" in our walk in ministry.

If we were to look back at the days of the apostles just after Y'shua/Jesus left the planet, you'd see a motley bunch of men with lots of zeal but not a lot of experience. Even with three and a half years walking with the Lord before he returned to his heavenly post, these men were novices at best when it came to ministering to normal folks. It's one thing to run a fishing syndicate such as Peter and Andrew had, and another to deal with men and women who have a thousand needs and as many problems. It's one thing to be a tax collector for the Romans such as Matthew was and another to face the persecution of being an apostle of the Lamb. Even the great apostle Paul who had great knowledge of the Torah and the Prophets was ill prepared to deal with the unfamiliar Gentile people he would come to minister to until his death in Rome.

So here we are thinking about just where we are, how we've gotten here and again what is ahead. It's easy to find yourself tempted to be discouraged, but then the Lord will have someone call or do something just in time to lift our spirits. This newsletter is dedicated to you and we hope that the pictures and few stories we have room to share will touch and encourage you too. None of us lives to him/herself and none of us dies to him/herself. What you experience affects us, and what we live and learn impacts you as well.

In spite of the ups and downs we just stay the course because of you. Some of you we never see, but your lives touch us nonetheless. Be encouraged as you read these testimonials and share in the photos of folks across the Permian Basin and New Mexico. We love you and appreciate your ability to hear God's voice and pass on what you're hearing to help us out.

Blessings. Jeff & Cerise

# Those In Authority

You've all read about Vantrice Burkes in past newsletters, but this is a new story. Last week Van called me and shared a little miracle that happened to her. Back when President William Jefferson Clinton was in office she wrote to him. She told him she wanted to encourage him by letting him know that much of his "womanizing" behavior could have been influenced by being raised in an alcoholic home. (Remember, Van deals with alcoholics and their families on a daily basis.) She basically told him to get some counseling and consider approaching his therapy with alcoholism as a contributing factor to much of his behavior. Her whole approach to past President Clinton was one of love and compassion with a touch of Van's unique humor. Shortly after sending her letter the President's wife Hillary wrote to her and thanked her for the letter. She mentioned that most of the mail he received from Christians was hate mail and he had been very encouraged by hers because it was so different. She told Van that the president was in counseling and her letter had been a contributing factor.



Van reminded me that we are instructed in the bible to pray for those in authority. It doesn't mention whether they "deserve it" or not. She also mentioned that perhaps had more Christians prayed consistently for President Clinton things might have been different. Of course it's easier to pray for folks we like than those who are not so popular, but it's usually the ones we don't like that need our prayers most.

This past week Vantrice had been pretty discouraged. She had just asked the Father whether what she did mattered and if one person could really make a difference. Just about the time things seemed bleakest she received a phone call from the folks at the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, Arkansas. She was asked if she would give her permission for her letter to be displayed in the new library. That day the Presidential Library would open and over 30,000 people would be able to see Van's letter. One person definitely could make a difference, and our own Van had actually touched President Clinton and encouraged him to get some help.

Just a little reminder to us all that one person can make a difference. Sometimes we get to see our impact on others and sometimes not. In any case, we exhort each of you to pray for every single person that is in a place of authority no matter what. The difference will be for all our benefit! Thanks Van for doing such a good work for so many people who need a loving shoulder to lean on.

People to pray for today: President Bush and First Lady Laura. Vice President Cheney. Governors Richardson and Perry. It would be nice if one of you in Texas and one in New Mexico would create a list of folks we need to pray for in our respective states. We will post the list on the web and update it as the list changes.

**1 Tim 2:1-2**

**I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.**

# Precious People and Prayer Answered



**Alice B. Jackson** is a sweetheart that has really had an impact on our lives. In 1974 she was shot in the head with a shotgun. The doctors said she would be a vegetable. Her mother was a praying woman, but Alice was lost. Her mama prayed and Alice finally asked for a bible (no vegetables in the kingdom of God). She was born again and began the long road of miraculous recovery. She be-

lieved herself out of



bed into a wheelchair. They said it couldn't be done. She believed herself out of the wheelchair and walked. Today she is believing for full recovery and wants to be a nurses' aid in the Midland hospital. She is so full of faith and the word that you can't be around her and not be touched by God. It has been our delight over the past two years to bless Alice in any way the Lord leads. We stand with her as she receives 100 percent recovery from the shotgun blast that was meant to take her life.



**Richard and Gwen Regnier** are special folks to us. We share lots of dinners with them in their home in Midland, TX. We also share prayers, dreams and the word on a regular basis. The Regniers love the Lord and love to share the word. They are both busy Gideons (folks who distribute bibles to hotels and anywhere else they are needed) and active believers. Richard had a dream to meet two grandsons that he had never seen. We joined our faith with theirs and this year Richard was blessed to meet his grandson Ronald living in Arizona. It was quite a miracle as his grandson's stepfather was the one who contacted Richard. Not only did Richard get to meet him

in Arizona, his grandson came to a recent family reunion in Colorado and spent some real special time with him! God is good. Richard has yet to meet his other grandson in Germany, please agree that God will open the door for this miracle too!

Richard and Gwen had another miracle this year. Gwen contracted West Nile Virus from a mosquito bite this summer. The Lord miraculously touched her and saved her life. We rejoice that He is still the healer. She was very weak and quite sensitive to many things in her environment. She is now doing so well one would never know she was on the verge of death. God gets all the glory again. His word is true and He will come through.

## Reaching Out



One of our greatest delights is reaching out beyond the boundaries of Texas and New Mexico with the truth of God's word. This past year we were blessed to be able to send a case of bibles to Nigeria and to also bless an evangelistic ministry in Samaria as well as an evangelist in India with finances. We sent a small contribution to a young woman in Hobbs who went to Peru on a mission trip and also helped another woman make the trip to Belarus to minister to Russian youth. We want to continue to keep the lines of communication open with these ministries and are doing so with the help of God and the Body we remain in contact with.

We were recently contacted by a young woman from Uzbekistan now living in Odessa, Texas. She heard from Betty Todd (the woman who went to Belarus) that we had access to Russian bibles as well as teaching materials. She asked us for help getting these items into Uzbekistan and Belarus and we are hot on the path to finding such items. We are also looking for kid's bibles in Russian

Chima in Nigeria asked for children's bibles and more English bibles to be sent to Nigeria. She told me the case we sent had been distributed amongst several villages. In my pursuit to find good deals on bibles I discovered that we could purchase Igbo bibles (the language of Nigerians). These bibles are considerably higher than English bibles, but would be a huge blessing to the Nigerians. They retail for \$24.99 (not counting shipping and handling to us and shipping and handling to Nigeria). We plan to keep sending English bibles to Chima, but would like to make sure that the pastors and leadership have access to bibles in their native tongue.

We've mentioned Barnabas D'Souza in India in past newsletters. Many of you have been praying for him as we hadn't heard from him in quite a while. He emailed Jeff and I today. He's moving 900km from his home in India and is working for a great company headquartered in (of all places) Austin, Texas. He's going to come visit the Austin headquarters in December and we're trusting God to be able to visit him and bless him in person. We ask for your prayers as we work towards this goal.

The whole reason we as believers are able to obtain wealth is to establish God's covenant on the earth. The more knowledge of the word that the world has, the less the adversary can deceive and destroy. Let's not store up treasures in barns here on the earth. We can only wear so many shoes, use so many trinkets and folks are dying all around us without the truth of Y'shua/Jesus' life. It's time to lay down the stuff we count so dear and pick up the eternal riches that are all around us.

We are trusting God to be able to give into EVERY good work as is promised in 2 Cor. 9:8, but that only comes by following after the kingdom of God (righteousness, joy and peace in the Holy Spirit). We thank God for helping us keep our hearts and eyes focused on Him, on His kingdom and on the cross His son suffered. We want follow the commission of our Lord shared in this Psalm: "*Ps 26:7 That I may publish*

2 Cor 9:8

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

# Reaching Out.....continued

*with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works.*” We want to offer thanksgiving to our God and to His son for all the blessings (empowerments) He has sent our way to be able to do His work. It’s so easy to get sidetracked these days with pleasure, cares, lust, and a million other diversions from the commission. Because He is working in us both to will and to do of HIS good pleasure, we are continually readjusting our focus. He keeps us able to hear and see or else we’d fall by the wayside. Thank you Father for helping us reach out beyond ourselves and our indescribably small problems.

## The Hosts With the Most



Over the past two years many of you have opened your hearts and homes to us. It may seem like an easy thing to do, but be assured we know it isn't. The adversary doesn't want any sort of truth to be shared among humans. If he can keep us in the dark, he can go about his ugly business. The moment you considered having us in your home, the battle against your decision began. Only God knows what war ensued in the heavenlies when you consented to have us walk through the portals of your hearths and homes. The more experience we gain as we meet in homes, the less able the deceiver is to take us captive to his will.

For this reason we thank you once again for your love and generosity. As you open your homes we will intercede for protection and special blessings as you have gone the extra mile for us. We need you and as things get tougher around us, we will all need that connections we are making as we travel house to house sharing what the Spirit of God is sharing with us and with you.

## Divide and Conquer

The more we learn about the adversary's tactics, the less he is able to "touch us". We're told that we can "keep ourselves" and in so doing the evil one can not touch us. We are kept in perfect peace as we keep our minds on the Father. We simply can't allow ourselves to be divided or we will be conquered. Sure, we can be divided by distance, but when we squabble, murmur, fret, strive, gossip, whine, and basically fight one another instead of the adversary, he has access to us.

There is nothing as frustrating as being taken captive at the will of the devil. Much like the little boy who was thrown in the fire and in the water by a devil, the body of Christ when it walks outside of love is thrown around like a rag doll.

We're told that we don't wrestle against flesh and blood and that means when we find ourselves in the midst of some nasty fight with a human being, we're actually in the midst of deception and we've been taken captive at satan's will. Sure, there are

1 Cor 9:11

If we have sown  
unto you spiritual  
things, is it a great  
thing if we shall reap  
your carnal things?

# Divide and Conquer



Which part of your body do you want to try to live without?

lost folks who are going to be used by the adversary to mess with us, that goes without saying. The kind of fight I'm talking about is one where folks in the Body are in strife.

*James 3:16-17 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.*

I don't know how many times I have to remind myself, but it seems I forget these verses when I'm being messed with by the adversary.

We are a body. We have to remember that we are just like a body. If my body had parts trying to escape and divide themselves from me I'd be concerned. I just can't imagine having my leg get mad at me and run away the opposite direction. I can't imagine my arm dropping to the ground and doing "its own thing". I may not understand the function of every part of my natural body, just as I don't understand the function of every part of the spiritual body of Christ (the anointed one and his anointing), but I do know I need every part I have. I've had surgery and had my appendix removed, I don't want any other parts removed if I have any say in the matter. Being removed surgically is different that a part dropping off because it says "I have no need of you".

Once again, I want to stir up your remembrance and encourage you to consider that the Body of Christ has many members, all have different jobs and we may not agree or understand them all. That doesn't mean we can ever exclude or have them removed. When we're told to come out and "be ye separate" it's talking about coming away from paganism, the world and anything not lead of the Spirit of Grace and love. There was a time when all of us walked in darkness about paganism. We had Christmas trees and had Easter egg hunts. If it had not been for the grace and quickening power of God we'd all still be there. We need to give time and room for the ones who aren't there YET. After all, there are still many areas we are clueless in. Let's let this generation be a generation of love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, meekness, temperance, long suffering and faith. Let's not be known as another generation who fought amongst themselves, rejected one another because of minor differences. Y'shua/Jesus called us his body, so let's be just that. Let's remember these few verses: *Ps 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! AND Eph 4:3-6 Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is **one body**, and **one Spirit**, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

*Mark 3:24-25 And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.*

God has a plan and purpose for every part of the Body. It is His job to put us where He wills. Let's work toward unity and not towards division. Let's not cooperate with the adversary and divide ourselves so we end up conquered.

1 John 3:8  
For this purpose the  
Son of God was  
manifested, that he  
might destroy the  
works of the devil.  
KJV

# The Trees in the Garden

Let's look to the book of Genesis and see the many trees in the Garden of Eden. There were trees God intended for man to eat from and then there was one tree that God called "off limits". That tree was the tree of the knowledge of good AND evil. Many times we think it was just an evil tree and that there wasn't anything good about it, but look again. It's all about KNOWLEDGE and not so much good and evil. The adversary enticed Eve by trickery. He said that eating of this tree would make she and Adam "AS" gods. Sadly, Eve forgot that she was made in the very image and likeness of God, she didn't need to be like God.



KNOWLEDGE is tasty. KNOWLEDGE looks pleasant to the eyes. KNOWLEDGE is desirable. KNOWLEDGE is deadly. One of the hardest thing for an intellectual person to do is lay down what he/she knows and take up by faith in the word of God. Everyday humans are faced with the same decision Eve had to make, whether to eat from the tree of the KNOWLEDGE of good and evil or to trust the word of God.

Adam walked with God. God would come in the cool of the day to walk with Adam in the Garden. The day that the voice of God came to walk with Adam in the garden and Adam had eaten of the tree of KNOWLEDGE was a sad day for God. Today we yearn to have the kind of fellowship Adam had with God; the kind of fellowship that wasn't hindered by sin or adversary. One day we shall have this fellowship, but until all is fulfilled in the word, we must wait. For now we have fellowship with the Father through His Holy Spirit. The adversary is still in the background.

Men laud intelligence. They call medical science "miraculous". They call advanced technology "amazing", but they really a small things in the face of the work of our Almighty Creator. If it weren't for His generosity and benevolence, we wouldn't be able to draw breath let alone build towers that reach to heaven.

Do we dare pat ourselves on the back and say "*Deut 8:17 My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth*"? I think not. In fact we are told that we are supposed to be busy "*2 Cor 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ*". We must remember: "*Isaiah 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*"

What does the word of God tell us? If science disagrees, who do we listen to? If the world scoffs at the truth, do who do we obey? If your neighbor mocks the truth of God do you pretend to agree? When the teachers of the world preach evolution and a thousand other things that disagree with the word, do you put your children under their care? Is a diploma based upon the tree of knowledge something to be coveted?

It is a struggle to believe. Paul wrote in 1 Tim 6:12 "*Fight the good fight of faith...*" Y'shua/Jesus asked in Luke 18:8 "*Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?*"

The walk of faith isn't easy, it isn't popular, it isn't fun, it isn't "main stream" and the wicked will mock and make fun of those who chose it's pathway. It is clearly "the road less traveled", but Matt 7:14 tells us "*...strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*"

There was another tree in the Garden of Eden, the tree of life. After man sinned God set angels with flaming swords around it so that man wouldn't be trapped eternally in a death state. Today we have access to that tree by listening to the Holy Spirit. He will never lead us wrong. There are many who resist his comfort. There are many who resist his teaching. There are still those who want to forget rather than remember the things he brings to them. He will testify of Y'shua/Jesus. He is here to reprove of sin, of righteousness and coming judgment. His message is good news to those who will receive it and really bad news to those who won't.

We can no longer do what is right in our own sight, but must do what is right in the eyes of our God. That is what righteousness is. It's not about vain religion or ritual, but relationship. It's about relationship between the Creator and His creation, man. We don't want to be so busy with the "cares of this world" that we can't hear His voice. Let's eat from the tree of life and enjoy the sweet fellowship of Father and son.

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**A new POV.**



## First Light Schedule December 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SABBATH
<b>Reeds</b> 432-523-9822	<b>Evans</b> 505-392-2167	<b>Castrillos</b> 505-624-0849	<b>1 Godwins</b> 432-367-0873	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Feast of Dedication begins 1 Kings 8	<b>9</b> Andrews, TX 1109 NW 12th Pl 7-9PM Reed's	<b>10</b> Hobbs, NM 2632 N. Jade Evan's 7-9PM	<b>11</b> Roswell, NM 1804 Plains Pk Castrillos 2-4PM
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Odessa, TX 18 Antebellum 7-9PM Godwin's	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Birth of Lord celebrated
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Our 27th Anniversary!	<b>Jan 1 2005</b> New Year

Remember, we are always praying for you, but take prayer requests on Wednesdays. You can call at 432-550-7642 or email us at firstlightconsulting@yahoo.com anytime. Don't hesitate to call, ever. All meetings are subject to change by the Holy Spirit.