

A Word from Woody. . .
“Thanksgiving in December”

Last month I broke with tradition by having my “Word from Woody” article address some important issues related to the November 3rd election. Now that that election is over—or nearly over, as of this writing!—I would like to return to our November tradition of Thanksgiving lists and apply it to December. Below you will read, in no particular order, Thanksgiving lists from two of our news church members—Karen Nelson and Tiffany Hingle—as well as the Chair of our Trustees Committee, Edward Payne.

Karen Nelson shares “10 Things for which I am Most Grateful”. “First, immediately upon awakening, I am most grateful to have found that I have been granted another marvelous day to live in His Light; second, I am gratefully mesmerized by the Beauty of His Holiness in the Day that He has made and allowed me to grow in; third, I am ever so grateful that He in His Infinite Grace has allowed me to see yet another day healthy, clean, and sober, and in my right mind; fourth, I am grateful for His Enduring Mercy that has brought a great restoration to my relationship with my son; fifth, I am grateful that by His Great Healing Powers He has begun to build a relationship between my daughter-in-law and me; sixth, I am ecstatically grateful to be called “Grandma” by my two adorable granddaughters; seventh, my heart is filled with grateful warmth for my support system of sisters/friends in AA; eighth, I am especially grateful for my loving church family; ninth, I am gratefully humbled that He allows me to serve Him and to help others recover; and tenth, ‘. . . and the last shall be first’, I AM ETERNALLY GRATEFUL THAT HE CHOSE TO LOVE AND CARE FOR ME.”

Tiffany Hingle lets us know “things for which I am thankful”. “First, my health and being alive; second, almost one year of marriage!; third, family (new and old); fourth, how difficulties have brought people closer together; fifth, freedom in USA (and learning how to keep unity in church despite differences in opinion); sixth, a supportive church; seventh, a truth-speaking community; eighth, Zoom and other technologies; ninth, opportunities to witness to and serve nonbelievers; and tenth, increased knowledge of my own sin and opportunities to repent.”

Edward Payne states the following, “First, my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; second, my liberties under God and the Constitution; and in no particular order: third, my family; fourth, my close friends; fifth, my pastor; sixth, my employer/job; seventh, my colleagues; eighth, my relatively good health; ninth, my analytical mind; and tenth, my education.”

Many thanks to Karen, Tiffany, and Edward for their taking the time to share their beautiful lists! And now, of course, it is our turn to make our own lists, if we have not done so already. We recall the exhortation of the apostle Paul, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Much Love in Christ,

Woody