



**Growth Ministries Inc.**

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## GIVE THANKS

*DR. ANTHONY L. MOORE, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, RAYTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT (GUEST WRITER)*

Every year, on the fourth Thursday in November, we celebrate Thanksgiving. It's usually a time that we demonstrate our thanks for family, friends, blessings, prosperity and good health. How many things are you thankful for: health, strength ability to walk, the air you breathe, ability to taste-smell-talk-see-hear, salvation, God's love, peace and hope in Jesus? Anything else? I once read about a woman who was born without legs or arms. She said she was thankful that God allowed her to write many books and songs with a pen in her mouth, now she thanks the Lord daily for the ability to write.

The Bible has many illustrations of thanksgiving; I want to share one of those powerful examples with you. Luke 17:11-19 tells where 10 men with Leprosy heard that Jesus was going around healing the sick and performing miracles. They saw Jesus from far away and shouted, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When Jesus saw them, He had mercy on them and said, "Go show yourselves to the priest." The Bible says, "...as they went, they were healed." Only one of them stopped, came back and thanked Jesus. Jesus asked him, "Weren't there ten lepers, where are the other nine?" Nonetheless, this Leper was so thankful; he came back to give thanks!

Today, regardless of your circumstances, you should still give thanks to God because you have a lot to be thankful for. The enemy comes to makes people feel hopeless, devalued and insignificant. It is a trick he uses to make you feel worthless because that it is his job - to steal, kill and destroy. But Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life and life more abundantly!" I encourage you to take time every day to give God thanks. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." Even though your situation may not be good, be thankful that God will work it for your good! Romans 8:28 says, "All things work together for good for those who love the Lord."

At times, life's circumstances make it seem as if we're stuck, thus having nothing to be thankful for. But I believe sometimes God allows our lives to be in a holding pattern. When an airplane can't land safely at the airport due to inclement weather or dangerous situations, Air Traffic Control directs the pilot to be in a holding pattern until it is safe to land. A holding pattern is when the airplane is still flying, but to the naked eye from the ground, it looks like the airplane is not moving, but it is moving. Satan will tempt you to feel like you have nothing to be thankful for or that you're not moving or growing, but this could just mean that your life is in a "Holding Pattern." Keep on moving, trusting, dreaming, hoping and believing that "God is able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all that we ask or think." (Eph. 3:20)

I encourage you to always give thanks to God and remember no matter what happens, your life is in His hands. I want to close with the lyrics of a song written by Kirk Franklin that says, "You don't have to worry and don't you be afraid, joy comes in the morning, troubles they don't last always, for there's a friend named Jesus who will wipe your tears away, and if your heart is broken, just lift your hands and say... Oh, I know that I can make it, I know that I can stand, no matter what may come my way, my life is in God's hands. With Jesus I can take it, With Him I know I can stand, no matter what may come my way, my life is in God's hands. So, when your tests and trials, they seem to get you down, and all your friends and loved ones are nowhere to be found, Remember, there's a friend named Jesus, who will wipe your tears away, and if your heart is broken, just lift your hands and say... Oh, I know that I can make it, I know that I can stand, no matter what may come my way, my life is in God's hands."

**Take the Thankful Challenge (or 30-Day Challenge):** I challenge you to start each day with thinking about 10 things you're thankful for, and every time you pray, thank God for these things before you ask him for anything. In one week, you'll have 70 specific things you're thankful for, and in one month you'll have over 300 things and in one year, you'll have over 3,600 specific things you're thankful for. No matter what, always...give thanks!

**“FROM THE YARD”** (Each month we will bring you content from one of your brothers inside)

*BY DARRYL LEWIS – LANSING CORRECTIONAL FACILITY*

### **THE LEAST OF THESE IN PRISON**

On October 13th, 2017, Lamont McIntyre, a Kansas City native and a Christian Believer was released from prison after serving 23 years for a heinous crime that he was totally innocent of. As I listened to the news interviews covering the corruption, lies, frame ups, betrayals and the unwarranted punishment issued by the government against this man and his truth, I flashed back to the corruption, the betrayals, the frame up and the punishments issued by the government over 2017 years ago against a Believer named Jesus the Christ.

In the case of Jesus, you have a righteous, Divine man going about the way of doing his Father's work, building a reputation as a servant of the Kingdom of Heaven, while the king of Judea thought and sought to kill him as he had attempted to do before his birth; Jesus was convicted in the womb. While hanging with his friends, teaching them the Way, the Truth and the Light, lies spread that Jesus was working against moral laws and religious traditions; a hit was then put on him by the local authorities. As he continued on becoming who he was rightly guided to be, upsetting clergy and politicians, a couple of his friends set him up, a money pay-off, denied him three times, betrayed him and fingered him with a kiss as a sinner and a criminal.

Eventually Jesus was captured and had to go to court to stand before the wicked people, the governor and the king on trumped up charges and was sentenced to death. They lied on him and wrongfully convicted him when he was blameless and did nothing wrong like Lamont McIntyre.

In this day and age, how many Believers are wrongfully convicted, or are sentenced to extreme punishments that do not fit the crime?? The better question is, how many Believers know of the injustices being done by the government, yet do nothing other than hide behind their prayers?? Jesus the Anointed One was an activist, very active about saving people of every type and straightening the crooked places, even if it was against his own life. We know what Jesus would do, what would modern Believers of Christ's example do if they were there when Jesus was on trial or in prison??

Remember, Jesus told those who would not feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, take in the stranger or visit those in prison, those who would not do for the least of these, would not do it for him!!! He said, for them their punishment is everlasting, but the righteous will have eternal life. Fighting for justice, according to Jesus the Savior, is righteous!!!

“WORDS TO GROW BY”

LINDA LEWIS, GMI DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

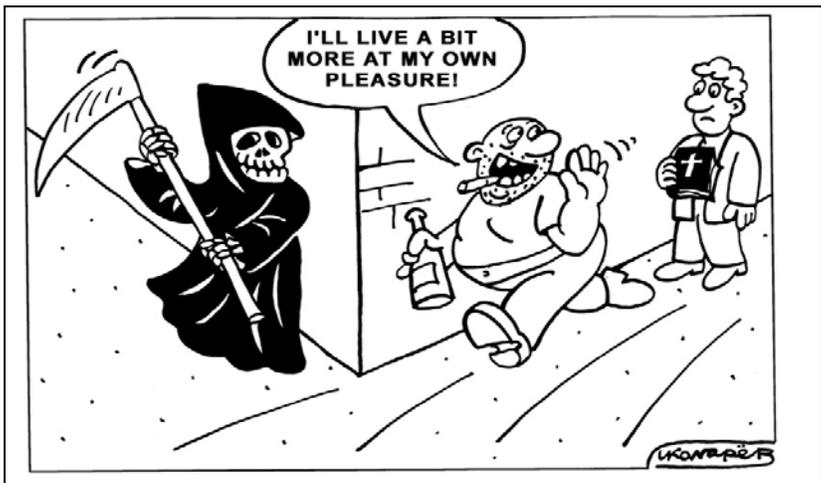
No matter how bad things appear to get in your life,  
 You **ALWAYS** have hope in the Lord.  
 Ask God to give you hope for your future and an attitude of gratefulness every day of your  
 life.

**Isaiah 40:31** says, those who wait on the Lord **shall** renew their strength, they **shall** mount up  
 with wings like eagles,  
 They **shall** run and not be weary, they **shall** walk and not faint.

These are God’s promises and He didn’t say maybe, He said they **shall**, and God is not a  
 man that He should lie, so put a smile on your face, a song in your heart, a praise on your lips,  
 and trust and believe that no matter what it looks like right now and no matter what it feels  
 like right now...God’s got YOU and your circumstances.

**Trust & Believe!**

We, at GMI, are wishing you the gift of faith and the blessing of hope.  
 Happy Thanksgiving!



Upcoming events for Growth Ministries  
volunteers

1. Lonnie Johnson will be delivering a chapel service on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at Lansing’s Minimum Security Unit at 9:00 am and on December 17<sup>th</sup> at Lansing’s Medium Facility at 7:30 am.
2. Terrance Saunders will be delivering a chapel message in the Max Facility at Lansing on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am.
3. Lisa Henry will be resuming her workshops in AAO at the Lansing Medium Facility on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.
4. Growth Ministries will help sponsor and participate in the annual KWANZAA celebration in Lansing’s Medium facility on December 30<sup>th</sup>.

## CLOSING WORDS

LONNIE JOHNSON, GMI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### It's time for a reset

I work in the technology field with computer programmers, engineers and technicians. They call us nerds but we are actually pretty proud of that name. We build, design, support and repair computers and software applications.

Every now and then we get a computer that has to be **"reset"**. Resetting is sort of the last resort. Sometimes we can clean them of viruses, sometimes they just need rebooting, but when they are too corrupted we have to do a factory reset. When we do that we back up the good data and then restore the system to its original factory settings. When we do this, we lose a lot of information and programs that have been added over time. But when we restart the computer after resetting it, we can add back the good information we backed up.

Sometimes God needs to reset us. Over time we have loaded a lot of foul things into our mind and spirit. Sometimes God needs to reset us back to when we first fell in love with him. We need to delete friends, situations, places and experiences from our spirits that have caused us to function improperly. When he resets us, we don't have to worry about the good stuff that we have learned. It is backed up in heaven and will still be available when we need it.

This can be explained even better by a book called "Reset Your Life". I have read it 4 times. Each time God does something great in my life. Growth Ministries will send this book to the first ten people that write us and ask for it. Are you ready for a reset? Do you feel like things are a little off and you just can't put your finger on it? Do you feel like you don't have the fire and passion you used to have at one time? Has bad information or data crept into your system over time? It may have and you not even know it? Let God reset you back to your Godly settings. Let him nudge you back to where you belong.

### What must I do to be saved?

If you have never accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, or if you have turned away from Him living a life of unrighteousness, and you wish to be connected to Him and have ever lasting life, then take a moment and say the prayer below:

**"Lord, I confess that I am a sinner and ask for your forgiveness. I believe that your son Jesus died on the cross for my sins and was resurrected with all power. I invite Jesus to be the Lord of my life and your Holy Spirit to come into my heart to guide me for the rest of my days. Amen."**

Romans 10:9 says that *if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

If this is you, please write Growth Ministries and we will gladly help you start your new life in Christ.

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