

THANKSGIVING

REMEMBERING THE GOODNESS
OF OUR GOD



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I think about Thanksgiving and what I am thankful for, the unavoidable backdrop to this thinking is how much we have all gone through over the past seven months. So much of pre-pandemic life has been put on the shelf. Nevertheless, the uncertainty and need to do things differently during this time are the new context for thankfulness.

Uncertainty in work life, church life, and home life has increased our dependence on the one Person who does not change. Through the challenges we all face we look to God. We have in Christ an anchor amidst the swells of life. We have been saved, are saved, are being saved, and will be saved to the uttermost by the Saviour. We have the assurance that our past, our present status, our ongoing growth, and our future are all completely in his hands. This is a reason for thankfulness and great joy always.

The need to do things differently, even though sometimes tough, is also a reason for thankfulness. This is especially because we believe that it is the sovereign God who leads us. God has not left us on our own. He has given us his Spirit. I have learned to relate to people in new ways and grown in intentionality in recent months. The lessons learned are not just for today but will be useful in the coming days. I have also learned big lessons about not taking things for granted. I now give attention to the things that really count, where I had not before. I'm thankful for the necessary growth the pandemic has prompted in all of us.

Your accounts of thankfulness take on so much more significance in these trying times. Thank you for sharing. Let us keep encouraging one another by sharing how God has been good to us. "Praise God from whom all blessing flow; Praise him all creatures here below; Praise him above ye heavenly host! Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!"

Yours in Christ,
Richard (ESC Pastor)





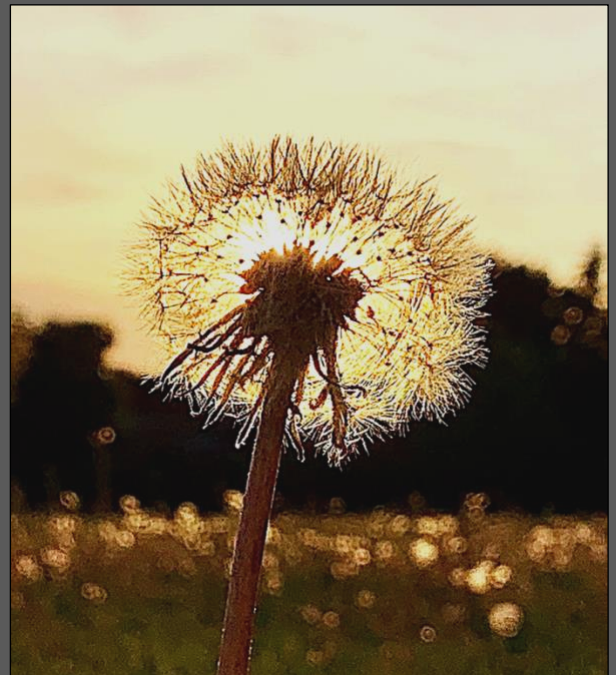
During the pandemic I have been afforded more time to pray. I have noticed God's faithfulness through answered prayers numerous times during the past six months. I am not sure whether God answered as many prayers during the other times of my life but it has only been during the quietness of the pandemic that I have recognized how much He answers my prayers. For this I am thankful for He shows me Himself time and time again with his faithfulness.

Apart from being grateful for my family (and pets) and friends, I am uniquely thankful for the birds that sing cheerfully outside my window every morning.

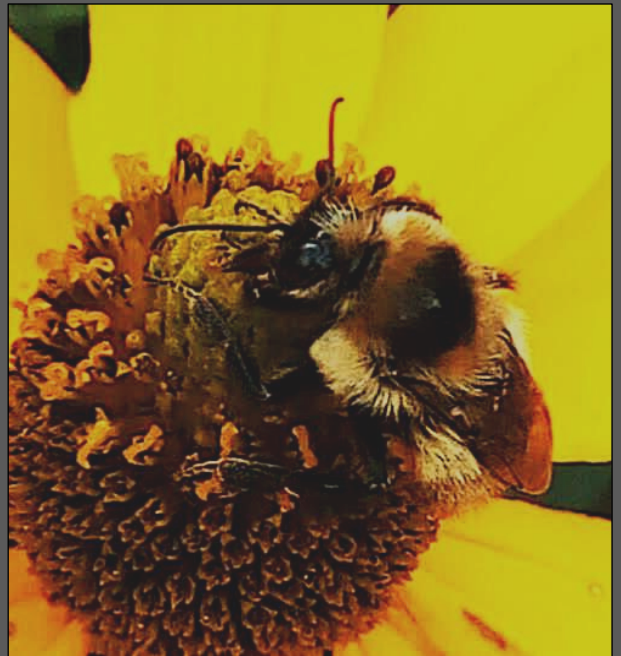
I am thankful for having a home and family that I could spend more time with during the past year! Also...very thankful for our backyard.

I am very thankful for the genuine, honest relationships that God has helped me establish and strengthen over the years with fellow believers and my family. Even despite the current global health situation, He continues to uplift me through the support and care that I receive from everyone around me.

I am thankful I have a job.



I'm thankful for being able to be reminded of God's presence and blessings during the simple moments of life. With the different circumstances this year, I've been able to spend more time on tasks like cooking and immersing myself in God's beautiful creation during nature walks and bike rides.



The Chinese characters of crisis include danger and opportunity. Despite the danger and threat of COVID-19 to our physical, mental and emotional well-beings, thank God that He remains sovereign over all. We are grateful to leaders on national and provincial levels to act quickly and prudently to care for the safety and well-being of everyone. We don't take for granted our health, our job, our family and our church community. We are grateful for the unity and love demonstrated in times of isolation to reach out and care for those in need. We are grateful that our virtual time spent with loved ones afar is intentional and meaningful. We are grateful to experience a deeper level of love from God and others in turbulent times.

I'm thankful for the weather this year. Many mild or sunny days allowed us to have safe gatherings outdoors. Mango is thankful he is not a turkey.

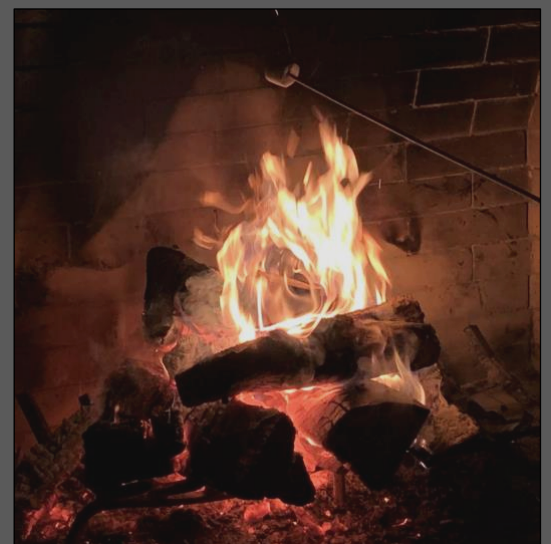


I'm thankful for God providing me a good job this past summer that I can still work at now. I love the environment and the lessons learned while working. It was an answer to prayer to be involved in people's lives as well as earning enough money to begin my new study this year. The Lord is good and faithful to fulfill his purposes for me.



I am thankful that God is sovereign over all things, and that in His time, He continues to make all things in my life beautiful and work together for good. As well, in a world full of fear and uncertainty - especially during this pandemic, I am thankful that we who are in Christ have an everlasting hope that gives us courage to face the challenges of this life without fear and allows our hearts to be ruled with a peace that transcends all earthly understanding. May the gospel hope shine brightly in all our lives so that those still in darkness around us may be enlightened and seek the only true salvation and hope in Christ Jesus our Lord!

I'm thankful to God for the relationships around me that were built at NYCBC, and kept alive thru the during the quarantine phase. We recognized that we wouldn't be able to physically be together, but found other ways to stay connected, encourage, pray and have fun together :)



I'm thankful for the pure and innocent hearts of children which reminds us of the simple things we should appreciate.



I am thankful that my family is healthy.

I am very thankful for God's faithfulness to his servant. Last year I had some of the most challenging time in my life, and I sought HIS face with all my heart. To respond to the situation, I asked GOD's guidance, protection and strength by believing his words such as "seek, you will find," (Matthew 7:7) and "I am the resurrection and life" (John 11:25). In the midst of this trying time, I held up to HIS promise, and his promise indeed preserved my life. Recently, I refreshed my reading of the four gospels; I immediately felt the power and spirit coming through those life changing messages. As a result, my relationship with HIM was deepened much. Today, GOD brought me to a spacious place where I have discovered HIS grace, unsearchable wisdom and the unfailing love which I could not grasp and understand at the time. GOD is our good Shepherd. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I want to use a few verses from Psalm 118 to praise HIM for his rich provision to HIS children:



"I give thanks to the lord, for he is good; and his love endures forever" (Psalm 118:1);

"Shouts of joy and victory, resound in the tents of the righteous; The Lord's right hand had done mighty things" (Psalm 118:15);

"This is the gate of the Lord, through which the righteous may enter. I will give you thanks, for you answered me, you have become my salvation (Psalm 118:20-21)".

I'm thankful for a heavenly father who delivers, protects, rescues,
and satisfies!

“Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him;
I will protect him, because he knows my name.

When he calls to me, I will answer him;

I will be with him in trouble;

I will rescue him and honor him.

With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation.”

Psalm 91:14-16



We are incredibly grateful that God allowed us to get married during a pandemic; that we were able to have a wedding beyond the 5/10 person limit. We are grateful that we can go back to Church and see brothers and sisters. Though we can't sing at the present time, we long for the day when we can sing aloud and partake in the Lord's Supper as a family. We have been so blessed by God through the people He has placed in our lives. From the jobs we work in to family and friends we can hangout with (socially distanced), We are incredibly grateful to be surrounded by people who love and care for us. Though the lockdown has not been easy, it has been much more bearable being able to walk 'hand-in-hand' with our family in Christ through ZOOM meetings and in-person meetings at Church. In light of all the chaos and uncertainty that goes on in the world, we are grateful for the grace, mercy, and peace that can only be found in Christ.





I'm thankful for God's continuous stream of mercy and grace. Recently, after finishing grad school, I felt pretty lost. I was frustrated that I wasn't making the kind of impact I wanted to make on the world (changing millions of lives). I cried out to God to give me direction and received nothing but silence. Slowly, however, I realized three things:

1. My biggest fear is to waste my life. But then, my thoughts slowly turned. I am a child of God. Even if I don't accomplish anything else in my life that is remotely meaningful to society, I am still loved by Him. I don't have to prove to Him that my life has value through my good works. My life has value because I am His child. The only thing worth doing in life is glorifying Him.
2. This in turn also changed my attitude. I was constantly frustrated and dissatisfied because I'm not where I want to be in my vocational path. I was constantly thinking about what I did wrong and what I can do to improve. As a result, I didn't often reflect on the positives. I didn't often think of all the blessings God has given me in abundance!
3. I realized that if I continued down this path of focusing on the negatives, I would NEVER be satisfied. No matter how much I accomplish in life, I will always want more, and I would never have the peace, joy, contentment, and gratitude I ought to have in Christ. So, I am learning to be thankful. I will admit, I'm still not as thankful as I ought to be, but I'm acknowledging the problem and learning to count the abundant blessings (there are many!) that God has given me, and I'm thankful that God is so patient and merciful though I so often remain stubborn.

Thanksgiving poem - Exodus 34:5-9

For tender compassion as mother with child,
For gracious acceptance of sinners reconciled,

For slowness to anger in spite of our wrongs,

For boundless kindness, love that is strong,

For a firm foundation, on You we depend,

For Your everlasting goodness to generations without end,

For bearing Yourself, the punishment due

Of perversity, waywardness, and rebellion against You.

Yet uncompromising justice, You will repay

The unrepentant guilty must give account on that day.

Thank You LORD for who You are, perfect in goodness and glory.

Higher than heaven, You draw near, and take us into Your story.

I am thankful that God pulled me back and re-integrated me back into this church after struggling with the decision to leave. Church families are never perfect, but He gives enough grace and healing so we know He puts us at certain places in life for His plans. Also thankful for nature in the midst of the pandemic, when you need something real to look at instead of another virtual platform.



We are thankful for people who have checked up on us during the pandemic and have encouraged us in our walk with God. We are also thankful we are all healthy.

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the holy one

Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his son

In the absence of knowing any lullabies, this hymn is one of the

select few I sing to lull my toddler to sleep. In hopes that he will

develop a saving understanding and grateful heart to the Holy

One who loved and gave (Jn 3:16), I sing. But I also recognize it is

more so for me to be ministered to and be reminded of Jesus' meekness and humility, and to give thanks.

Although we are to give thanks always (Eph 5:20 amongst many other verses), in this season of Thanksgiving, the Lord impressed upon my heart these particular items.

I give thanks for His love keeps no records of wrong... (1 Cor 13:1). I am so grateful for this and believe married couples (and other relationships too) need to learn and continue to learn and be reminded of this beautiful attribute of God. Something happened, and at that moment, it was such an offense to me I was utterly enraged at my husband. In the aftermath, I only recall having been enraged but have completely forgotten the cause of it. (Both of us cannot remember). Thankful that not only the Lord instructs us to keep no records of wrong but his love gives us the gospel provision to actually live that out. Our marriage is saved... once again (lol).

I give thanks for His word gives the greatest pleasure... *sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.* (Ps 19:10b) His word reveals His loving kindness and His trustworthiness. We had some last hurdles in waiting for immigration papers to come in. It did not come within the "expected" time frame due to COVID related delays and some of our peers were anxious to make calls and write to the authorities for escalation. We were also anxious but held fast to the promise of God guarding our anxious hearts and made a firm decision not to make any calls or write any emails. The next day, the paperwork came through! Oh, the sheer delight and pleasure of experiencing this reward from the Lord for trusting in His word. God is good!

I give thanks for His word is the greatest treasure... *More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold.* (Ps 19:10a) I am thankful to be surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, in both past and current saints who all hold to this great gospel treasure. To our brothers and sisters at NYCBC, though jars of clay/broken vessels of their own kind, hold this precious gospel treasure as they serve and pray in the trivial and mundane to the fearful and uncertain tasks.

I give thanks for His word tells us to take heed... *Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.* (Ps 19:11) I think of "the night cometh" (Jn 9:4) and that has been a great encouragement for me to do/enjoy/cherish/labour in the things I am called to while it is still day for His kingdom. Just like how I am called to raise up my child accordingly and lovingly while the Lord still entrusts him to me. I am thankful that the Lord is not only allowing me to see there is great reward in waiting before Him in obedience, but to see the obedience to God's word itself is also the reward.

All this and much more I give thanks to God because He first loved us (1 Jn 4:19) and has given Jesus Christ, His son.



This past year has been a darker season that made each time God show himself, in small or big ways, appear much more brilliantly. Thankful for the way I am able to appreciate God's presence and luminescence more clearly.

Thankful for the constant reminders that our God is much bigger than we can imagine, and much more in control that we can fathom!

I am thankful for the Gideon/Gilead leaders. A huge shout out to them because of all their hard work in planning, adapting, and running the programs during COVID, and not to mention the commitment they have for the youth in the church!

I am thankful to finally be back at church worshipping in person, and that our sanctuary is big enough to accommodate everyone safely. I am thankful for Pastor Richard's faithful preaching and encouragement to us during this time. And last but not least, thank you our amazing AV Team who have been working hard behind the scenes every week!

I am thankful for Hannah Lam!!!! This girl gives so much of herself to her work, and then comes home and dedicates her evenings to the church in

various capacities. Such a servant heart. We are so appreciative for all that she does for us especially during these past months!

I am thankful for Michelle Chiu and Matt Luong (and everyone else) who have been faithfully leading prayer meetings every Saturday!



This year, we have COVID-19 pandemic. We cannot go for a movie, we cannot dine at a restaurant, we cannot hug or shake hands with each other, we social distance from each other wherever we go. I have never experienced moments like this before where I stay home for most of the time. I realize how much we took for granted and overlooked the blessings we all have. I see how fearful and weak we are as human beings. I am thankful that God has given me the calmness and time to reflect on myself during this lockdown.

This year, I became a wife. I quit my job to go back to school. When I made the decision to go back to school, I could never imagine how I would be able to manage work, school, and preparing for married life all at the same time. I wasn't sure if I made the right decision of going for nursing, given the pandemic situation. I wasn't sure if I would be fine going to placement for direct-patient care. Just two weeks before school started, I was very sick and needed to stay at the hospital for a small surgery. I was worried for all these concerns, but at the same time, I was not so worried. I knew all is in God's hands and I had peace deep down in my heart. God blessed me with the experience by allowing me to feel and see how it is like to be at healthcare places such as hospitals during a pandemic. He took away my worries and gave me the confidence about my decision to go into the nursing profession. I am thankful that I got to take a break from work because of the surgery and had more time to prepare for school and my wedding.

COVID didn't disturb much for our wedding planning. I am thankful that we got to plan for it in a simple way, just like how we wanted it to be. God truly knows about my fears and my needs. He gave me strength and peace throughout this journey. I am thankful that it has been a smooth experience after all. It doesn't matter if the problems are small or big and if the consequences seem impossible to bear. Our God is the only source for security and peace. He is a loving and powerful God. Praise His glorious name forever!

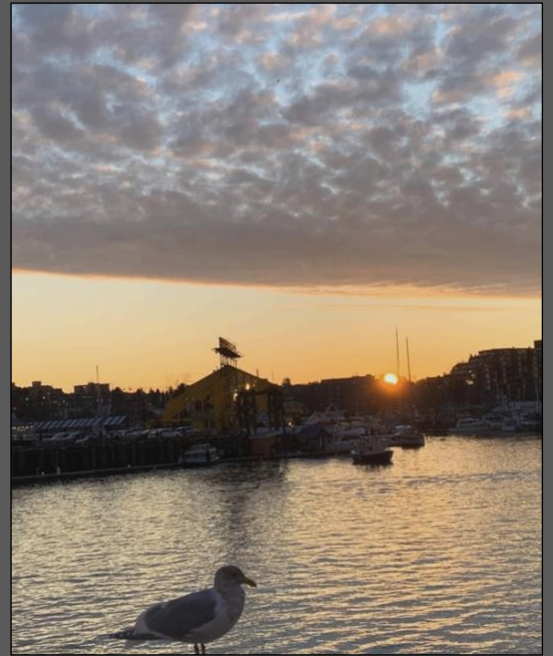


I'm thankful for people who care and love me, and that God helped me see his sovereignty and love in the midst of a pandemic.

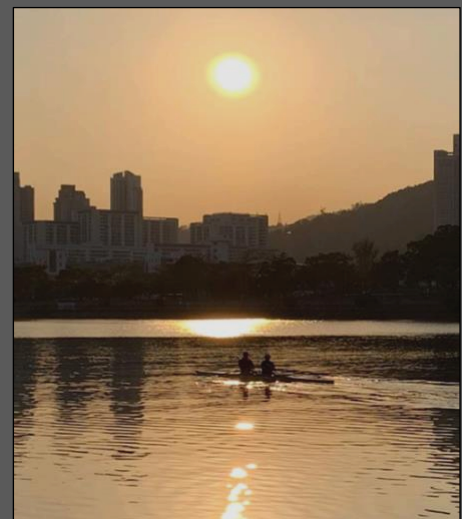
"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28 [NIV]

I'm thankful that God presents challenges and opportunities while still being a God of perfect and plentiful provision.

There are many things for us to be thankful for. We never could have anticipated that we would be in a pandemic situation and full lock down earlier this year. While there have been some challenges and inconveniences, we are thankful for being healthy and being able to stay in touch with family and close friends. The lockdown gave the opportunity for us to simplify our lives and slow down. It gave us the opportunity to reduce the busyness in our lives and reflect on all of God's blessings and gifts. We have become closer as a family, and have been able to enjoy the simple pleasures in life such as going for long walks and playing board games. Let us continue to reflect on and be thankful for all that God has done in our lives!

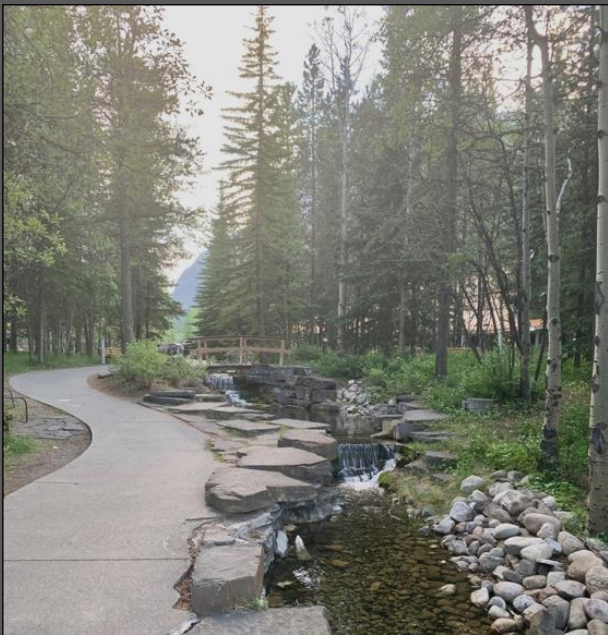


I'm thankful that our extended family is healthy and that my parents got to visit Toronto for a long period right before everything hit with Hong Kong & COVID so our kids got to spend time with them.



In my journey with HIM:

- I am forever thankful my Lord Jesus Christ found me in Toronto.
- I am forever thankful for how I was able to get my current job by HIS grace. It is (and will still be) an absolute miracle for me.
- Throughout my earthly walk, there were countless times I strayed away from the Lord; however, HE did not (and will never) forsake me – always bringing me back with HIS power of steadfast love... “If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.” Praise the Lord!
- I am forever thankful my Lord grants me tough/difficult/trying/sorrowful times; thus, I can learn a little more to rely on HIM only. He sustains me to cling to HIM during stormy periods.
- I am forever thankful for blessing my family in countless ways which I absolutely do (and will) not deserve.
- Thanks to my Lord for granting me an opportunity to serve in the “Alpha” sessions. It is a privilege to serve with brothers and sisters who are serving our Lord faithfully (e.g., inviting friends, dialoguing with them in humility, praying fervently,...). May our God be glorified!
- Thanks to my Lord for granting me the right circumstances so I can worship our Lord with the body of Christ physically in HIS house.



I am very thankful to return to in-person worship and for Pastor Richard's faithful leadership.

i'm thankful for my family, friends, and the chance to reconnect with friends who i haven't talked to in a while!

COVID-19 has brought about many changes over these past few months, including in the realm of education. From emergency remote teaching in March, to face-to-face teaching through a medical mask and face shield in September, to virtual school to meet the increasing demands for online learning. There have been many moments of success as well as frustrations, as my students and I adjust to new ways of teaching and learning. Through it all, God has been faithful in sustaining me and supporting me through family, friends and coworkers. He gives me the daily strength to persevere and care for those who have been entrusted to me. Looking outside, I am reminded of His presence when I see a beautiful sunset or sunrise, and the beautiful changing colours of the fall leaves. Happy Thanksgiving! May you experience God's loving presence this season.



I'm thankful for school, friends and Jesus who protects us from the virus.

I'm extremely thankful for all the loving communities that I am super blessed to be a part of! All the brothers and sisters that constantly pour into me, support me and care for me. I hope that I will be able to do the same for others around me and for others to experience Christ's love.

Comę, Thou Fount of ebery blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of męrey, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach mę some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of Thy redęeming love



This hymn is what I have been singing at this time of thanksgiving... how His blessings and mercies overflow every morning. Let me count the ways:

Thankful for how He is changing me, even in areas that we think are set and unchangeable as we get older, like our personalities. He is changing me to become more empathetic in my listening and doing, to be more selfless and humble... as a mother, as a wife, as a worker, as a helper, as a daughter / sister, and as a friend.

Thankful for how my children laugh with me and with each other, and still come to me for guidance and support and see their parents as being relevant... and for how they have hope and joy in the Lord.

Thankful for how He has given us energy to cope with the ever-changing demands and needs as a result of the pandemic, and the flexibility to balance time between work, church, and home.

Thankful for His caring hands in sustaining our elderly parents physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually despite not seeing us very much.

Thankful for our jobs, resources, home, the church, families, and friends... especially good old long-time friends who have faithfully been an encouragement and a blessing.

Thankful for the hope we have in Christ resurrected, which transcends time, politics, this fading world, and yes, even this seemingly-powerful tenacious virus.



I'm thankful that we had more time earlier this year during COVID to spend quality time with our children as the normal busyness of our lives came to a halt. I am also very thankful that we were able to continue working from home. Lastly, I am thankful that this pandemic gave us more opportunities to reach out to our community and show God's love. May we remember the blessings in our lives during difficult times, as God is our strength, and He sustains us.



I'm thankful I'm still working & for God's generous provision. I'm thankful that my family members are still healthy, and that I'm surrounded by such hopeful people.



I am thankful that God has given me the opportunity to spend more quality time with my family during COVID. We are getting closer and learning to be more patient and understanding. God has also reminded me of his faithfulness; that whoever trusts in him lacks nothing. I'm also thankful that I still have a job and am able to practice social distancing.

I am thankful COVID has given me the opportunity to strengthen my relationship with my family. In the past, my interactions with family have been both short and infrequent due to a busy schedule. Thankfully, COVID has "forced" me to slow down. With much fewer out-of-home activities, I've been able to use the time at home to re-connect and have more meaningful conversations with my family.

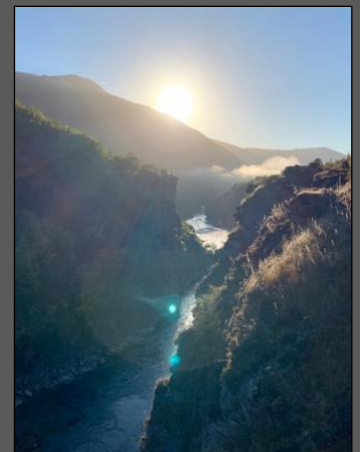


"Zoom fatigue" is becoming a common experience for many. One thing I look forward to when (if?) we come out of the pandemic is more real, instead of virtual, time with people. Nevertheless, God gives pleasant surprises through things we don't want. Back in April, I spoke with an old friend in Waterloo (many of you would know his son Wesley who came to NY during his work term). We thought of two other friends in Vancouver

and started our first Zoom call. Since then, the circle kept expanding every month. At our September meeting, we had people joining from Ontario, BC, Texas, New Jersey, and South Korea. HK and Singapore will probably be next. Our friendships go back 20 to 40 years and many of us haven't been in touch. What I initially thought would be a one-time catch up has turned into an ongoing conversation that we've enjoyed and look forward to. We talk about what God is doing in and through us, and what we see and hope he will do in and through our children. Different ways God is using us to advance the gospel. We also talk openly about our struggles and fears, and trust that we will pray for one another. God brought us together many years ago when we were students in Waterloo as partners in the gospel, and I am amazed how that fellowship has held up across time and space. 1 John 1:1-4 comes to mind: When we have fellowship with the Father and his Son Jesus Christ, we will have true fellowship with one another that will complete our joy.

I've asked my friends to pray for Alpha in NY. Several of them are Alpha veterans, and their excitement encourages me. One of them prayed that Alpha will ignite a fire of revival in NY. Another said that seeing people coming to Christ is the next best thing to seeing his children being born, and he couldn't wait for the pandemic to be over to resume. He said it so matter-of-factly that it brought tears to my eyes.

"Yesterday, today, forever, Jesus is the same, All may change, but Jesus never - Glory to His name!"





I'm thankful that I am living in Canada and have friends.

I've been thankful for the time to spend with my parents and sibling. It's been a welcome change to eat together, watch basketball and enjoy each other's company.



For myself, I'm grateful for the care my grandmother is receiving in her long-term care home in Scarborough. I'm grateful for the PSWs (Personal Support Workers) and other individuals in various roles that are working around the clock to maintain a safe and interactive lifestyle for her even before these COVID times. Although the PSWs can't speak Chinese they manage to communicate with her and demonstrate high levels of patience when dealing with her dementia. They update us often and when my aunt visited a few weeks ago, she witnessed how our grandmother is well taken care of. My grandmother isn't Christian yet so I hope and pray that God will work in her circumstances to help her see the truth. In the mean time I also pray for more chances to safely visit her and pray for the caretakers that God has placed around her.

I am thankful to God for allowing me to have fruitful spiritual conversations with my Christian friends in recent months. He has given me opportunities to confess my sins and share personal struggles with my brothers in Christ. I pray that we will continue to point each other to Christ and walk together in our faith journeys.



Thankful to God for:
Good health
My friends
More family time together
God's grace

" O Lord, I will honor and praise your name, for you are my God. You do such wonderful things; your councils of old are faithfulness and truth. " Isaiah 25:1.

I am thankful Lord for the blessings of seeing the light of every new day. Thank you Lord for taking care of my family here, in Jordan, and the U.S. Thank you Lord for directing me to NYCBC and being accepted as part of the NYCBC family. Thank you Lord for the roof over our heads and keeping us all safe. Thank you Lord for the food on our table and the strength you bestowed on us to do our bit during this pandemic. Thank you Lord for all your countless blessings. Please Lord strengthen our faith, hope and love; cleanse our hearts.

" But as for me , I will sing about your power. I will shout with joy each morning because of your unfailing love. For you have been my refuge, a place of safety in the day of distress." Psalm 59:16.



I am thankful for the cool autumn weather, which is perfect for autumn walks in the walking trails near my house.

*Thanks be to God for His wonderful creation and for new life!
Thankful for the blessing of family, friends, and neighbours supporting one another through this pandemic.
Thankful for knowing God more through hearing His word and the Gospel preached so faithfully, and being able to study the Bible with brothers/sisters in Christ, even in these times.*

There is so much to be thankful for...

... letting all my family know our God

... we can feel His love, and He takes care of us in many ways, everywhere, in every circumstance

... letting us pray to Him whenever we think of ourselves, friends, neighbours, ...

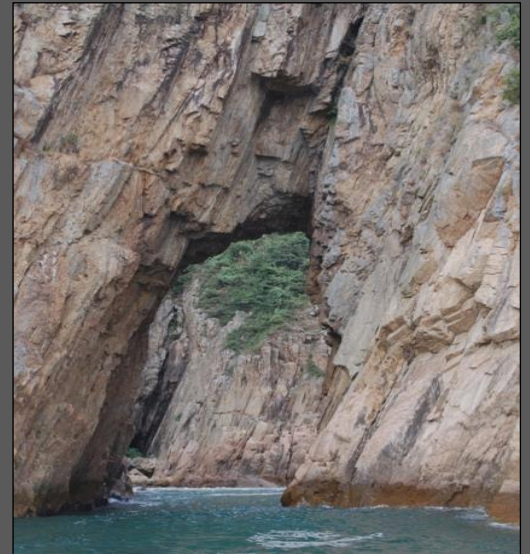
... letting us say THANKS to the Lord when we are happy, when we are sick, when we are discouraged, when making decisions... every moment

... through our whole life, the Lord lets us know that He is the only God whom we are to obey. He is the only God before whom we should be humble.

... He gives us healthy life and makes us strong (physically, mentally, emotionally) so that we can live with JESUS CHRIST.

How can I write about all of my thankfulness? He always and endlessly reminds me to say THANKS to the Lord every day, every moment when I am thinking about Him.

I am thankful for Jesus Christ! I am increasingly aware of my weaknesses as I battle sins on a daily basis. The pandemic has also reminded me of the frailty of the human body. But because of Christ, we are victorious over sin and death!



I am thankful to God for gifting us with being the body of Christ. Although imperfect and messy, we are also dearly loved by Jesus and can experience the Word made flesh through loving one another.

We are thankful for: family... the chance to know God ... our nanny ... my parents have jobs ... our home ... Marble ... cousins ... siblings ... clothing ... eternal life ... friends ... food on the table daily ... the time that we got to spend with Buddy ... a great teacher this year ... the chance to go to school in person and do some school online ... reliable Wi-Fi ... a boat and the chance to go away in the summer to fish, swim and have quality family time ... the pandemic allowed time for reflection, time to learn how to develop new skills such as cooking, and more time baking ... the pandemic also allowed us to be able to slow down and have great quality time as a family ... mentors ... great brothers and sisters in Christ ... opportunity to work from home ... health, and that no one in the family and extended family/friends have COVID ... opportunities that we didn't have before to ZOOM sister and extended family ... son's heart surgery went well ... being able to experience different seasons – we had a great summer in terms of good weather and now, can appreciate the fall ... being in a job directly helping others – it has meaning and feels like more blessing than work.

Thankful for having a home, even though for most of the past 7 or so months we were trapped at home, we are thankful that we even have a



roof over our heads and a safe place to do all things necessary such as work, eat, and even attend fellowship & church from!

I'm thankful for Adam, Dada, Mama, and Lucas.
1, 2, 3, 4.



I am thankful for God's faithfulness - for His continued love, provision, and forgiveness in my life - even when I am so often unfaithful to Him.

This year seems like it's been extra harsh (since we're currently living through it) but the truth is, there have been plenty of really tough years in the past. This one is just different. I am thankful that I have been able to stay employed through the pandemic, and that we live in a world where we have the technology and ability to remain instantly connected with people while being isolated. It's really pretty cool if you think about it. This message went to space and back.



What I am thankful for: yeast (very hard to get!!), books and time to read, trails, instant coffee, and most importantly, family and friends.

I am thankful for this "new normal", even as we wait for life to get "back to normal". Yes, at times, it has been challenging and unsettling. But it has also given me time and space to consider the wealth of what I have and/or have "gotten used to", and has created a new appreciation for things that I have perhaps taken for granted over the years – getting together with friends (in person); going out for a quick bite; shaking hands/giving a hug; Lysol wipes and other sundry items... It has brought lessons in learning to laugh, lament, wait, trust, comfort, enjoy, care, let go, yearn. It has led me to appreciate the small things, and to find joy in the mundane. It has put in me a longing for worshipping together at church; singing out loud together at church. And it has allowed me to experience the beauty of a loving, selfless community, and especially the truth and promises of God's Word. It has not been an *easy* normal. But God has been good. Amen.

I am thankful for church re-opening that we can come together to worship Him. I also thank God for His provision and protection for my family. Although we are still going through the dark period of COVID-19, praise the Lord that He still reigns over all things and His steadfast love endures forever!



"But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me. Psalm 13:5-6"
The year 2020 started off like any other year. New Year celebrations. Chinese New Year. Family Day. March break... Then, Covid-19 hit.

Toilet paper shortages. Long grocery lineups. The 2m rule. Mask vs no mask debate. Anti-black racism protests. Paranoia reigns supreme.

Current and world events grab our immediate attention and make us take our eyes off the Lord and towards ourselves. The (pre-Covid-19) good things that God gave me, I took for granted. The pandemic stripped away the gloss for me and it was a daily battle of trying to be safe to survive those dark days of the spring. So much worry and stress. Yet each day, God was good to me. It was only when summer arrived, that a sense of perspective came to me. I had survived. Why did I worry about things that I had no control over? *God was good to me.*

As Thanksgiving Day arrives, there are so many simple things to be thankful. For each morning. For each breath. For family. For friends. For our salvation in Jesus Christ. *God is good to me.*

For the uncertain future of the coming winter pandemic months, all I can say is, *God will be good to me.*

I am thankful to God for the people who serve at our church! Thank you to all the fellow workers in Christ who have spent countless hours to share God's love with others. It is a great encouragement to see and experience God's love through our brothers and sisters at NYCBC. From tea and cookies, to small group discussions, to lunch time chats, and just chillin' out maxin' relaxin' all cool, thank you for constantly pointing us towards Christ.

This year, I'm reminded of God's love and grace throughout my life. His forgiveness of my sins and transgressions, His provisions, healing presence, and countless blessings. I'm also grateful for my husband, for his patience and loving support, and for the hope and joy of our child to come.



We are thankful for:

- * A God who is faithful and unchanging – who always cares
- * Family
- * The opportunity to attend school
- * A job that is challenging and where God reveals day by day how my work can make a difference in the world
- * A dear friend who always encourages me with her trust in the Lord. In the midst of life's struggles, our interactions always leave both of us reminded of His goodness in each of our lives. Thankful for the Lord's prompting to contact each other as time passes and for the obedience in do so – the interaction is always timely and allows us to see how we can be His blessing to each other.

