



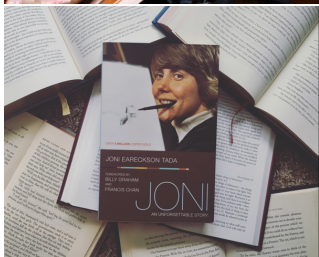
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CHRISTIAN MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE ON THANKSGIVING

As Christians, we can reclaim Thanksgiving — rather than just being a day where we eat too much and strategize our Black Friday sales plan of attack — we can go back to our historical and spiritual roots as we give thanks to God. Just having an attitude of gratefulness is not enough. We need to say "thank you" to God for the kind and wonderful things He has done for us. When we are down, looking to God with a heart of thankfulness fuels us to move on, and not only that, He picks us up. It reminds me of the stories of two prominent people in society today whom we can look to as shining examples of what thankfulness to God can accomplish in one's life.

"A man was complaining he had no shoes until he saw a man who had no feet"

The first is **Nick Vujicic**. The 33-year-old inspiration was born with an extremely rare congenital disorder known as Phocomelia, which is characterised by the absence of legs and arms. Nick faced tremendous obstacles in life from, living life without limbs, to being bullied at school and fearful for his future with no purpose in sight. Without hope, his feelings of helplessness and isolation led him to attempt suicide. Nick persevered through life's challenges and discovered key principles which enabled him to find his purpose and turn obstacles into opportunities; making him one of the most sought-after keynote speakers in the world! Millions of people around the world have found inspiration in Nick's story of struggle, hope, and thankfulness in God.



The second story is that of **Joni Eareckson**. A once athletic teenager who broke her neck in a diving accident when she was 17. Her spinal cord was severed, and she became **paralyzed** from the shoulders down. She has limited arm motion, and can't use her hands or her legs. In addition to her quadriplegia, she suffers from chronic pain. But this didn't stop her. During her rehabilitation, Joni spent long months learning how to paint with a brush between her teeth and developed a skill so refined that her high-detail fine art paintings and prints are sought-after and collected. She has since gone on to write over 50 books and has also visited more than 47 countries. And those are not all her accomplishments either. She has a ministry called Wheels for the World in which she provides wheelchairs around the world for those in need. In whatever endeavor she submitted herself to, she has not let her circumstances get in the way of her daily commitment of thankfulness in God.

In light of these trials and victories in their lives, how do our struggles compare? This is not to lessen our struggles, but rather to show that we too can access victory through thankfulness as these two, and as many more, have. God can turn misery into ministry. Both Nick and Joni probably would not have the global ministry they have without the obstacles they faced and how they faced them. Pearls are made with a response to pain. What pain do you have that you can turn it into a Pearl for God and others? It begins with an attitude of gratitude and reliance upon God to minister to and through you.

"Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's." Psalms 103:1-5





Report on the Congo: I am from Congo in South Kivu province, a country that has been affected by war for several years and it has only been getting worse. The country Congo has 440 different tribes but only one tribe is hated and discriminated against. That is my tribe called “Banyamulenge.” The other tribes want to wipe out this minority simply because we look like the Tutsi from Rwanda and therefore that we should go back to Rwanda. But we are all Congolese and have lived there for



Joseph Bagaza
40th Anniversary CEO BBQ
Sept.17/20

centuries! The Banyamulenge are killed and hated for nothing just the way Israelites are killed and hated by their enemies. My people are undergoing a mass-killing identical to what happened in Rwanda in 1994 where one million Tutsis died, simply because of race. They are being killed everyday, their villages being burned, and their places of Worship being deleted. It is a tragedy that can only be solved by Jesus’ love. The need is not only for food - but spiritual as well. It is inconceivable that these people carrying out the massacre against Banyamulenge call themselves Christians. But the truth is that



they are not Christians at all. Followers of Jesus killing other Christians? Or Christians killing anyone in general? It is not so. They may be religious, but they are as lost as the world is – needing to hear the true gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is our responsibility, and our mandate, to take the truth of Jesus to those living in darkness. My plan is to go there and share the love of Jesus to those needing to hear. I really appreciate what God has done for me and my family through C.E.O Ministries with their support. You have empowered us to use what God has given us to reach the lost. I am so thankful to God that I can be part of His mission to spread the true gospel to those parts of the world where it is needed most.



Hardship Met With Thanks in Ethiopia

The Bible teaches us to give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Does God expect us to thank Him for everything? We know that being un-thankful for good things is not the sign of a good relationship; but how can we be thankful when our circumstances are horrible? So, is God asking too much of us? Be it far away from the Just Lord to be unfair. He does not expect us to be thankful *for* the problems; however, He does expect us to thank Him *in every circumstance we find ourselves in*. Disappointments, failures, losses and hurts are parts of human life. They should not stop us from thanking Him for who He is. He expects us to focus on Him rather than on our circumstances. For example, the current global crisis compounded with personal circumstances can depress us to the point of not being thankful and grumbling. These are a known recipe for disaster. To be protected or to recover from being pressed deep, we need deep rest in Him by focusing on Him rather than on our circumstances.



Personally, I thank God for this land of opportunity, for the peace I am enjoying, for the generous people the good Lord brought into my life who encourage and support me in the mission work, which I am called to. It is not only me who is thankful; but also, the pastors and missionaries in Ethiopia are thankful for the support they receive from the Canadian fellow-believers. I came back from the Ethiopian mission trip in April. Since then, 10 new churches have been planted.

Above all, we thank God for His faithfulness in drawing people closer to Himself even under the current global situation. I must share with you the stories of two people. Solomon and Mulu are members of our newly planted churches (Solomon to the right, and Mulu to the left.) They both lost their properties due to fire. Please pray for them and their loss. More prayer requests, if you would bless

us to join us; pray for peace in Ethiopia as the political unrest remains growing in various parts of the country. And pray for peaceful negotiations to take place as tensions between Ethiopia and Egypt continue to rise over the Nile Dam.



Berhanu Ayano
40th Anniversary CEO BBQ
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God is Moving and He is growing His Church! -

Alex of Cuba: Yoel Naranjo is a man who was imprisoned for 25 years. During that time, he was extremely aggressive. Repeatedly he would be released from prison, only to go right back due to his illegal activities. Sin was a vice for him. Continually fighting and breaking the law, the prison had a revolving door for him. Three months ago, he was released, and we began to work with him and talk with him about God's

love. Over the next two months he received Jesus as saviour and began attending church. He now testifies that with God, everything is doing well. People around him have noticed his change.

I thank God for this powerful Evangelism ministry. I was able to evangelize in the Indalla neighborhood. Over 160 people were ministered to and 52 received Jesus. Three were reconciled to God, and to God's glory, currently 20% of this number is now gathering in churches and are receiving discipleship to be baptized. The Holy Spirit has been moving powerfully. We were able to train ten new evangelists with a workshop on "How to win souls in five minutes." This has been a great blessing and edification for these brothers. May God continue to glorify His name, through all of you and everyone involved in CEO Ministries. God bless you. Alex



Togo, Africa: Lewis & Naomi Swann - Another Healing Testimony

The man to my right is sight.org pastor and my good friend, Florent Adido; and this is his family. When I arrived in Togo a few weeks ago, I had scheduled to meet with Florent. But he was not able to meet me, and his wife came in his stead. She explained that he was in so much pain that he could not even get out of bed. She was overly concerned. For three months, Florent had gone from doctor to doctor trying to find a solution. None of the doctors were able to diagnose the problem, so each of them would give Florent pain medication to try to mask the pain. I began the search for a good doctor in Togo to help Florent. That week, Florent was in such pain that he remained home while the rest of the team went on outreach. Then it happened.

Florent had heard the news that healings were breaking out, and I was EXTREMELY excited for the next time I would get to see Florent so I could pray for him! When I finally saw Florent... he looked like he was in terrible pain. We prayed, and prayed, and within a few minutes, all the pain was gone! I keep checking in, and the pain has never returned! Florent was so excited, he went to everyone around us showing them his medical bills and explained how none of these doctors could help him. This time, God was the healer!

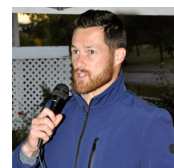


This was such a gift that God gave to Florent and his family. Just after this photo, Florent was moving his family back home to the neighboring country of Benin while he continued with **Sight.org in Togo**. None of them could bear the thought of separating from Florent while dealing with so much pain. Florent sees his family on weekends and during time off, but when he is away, their hearts are freed from the burden of worrying about their father's pain! God is so good...



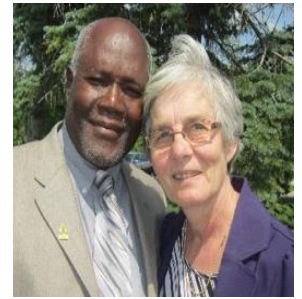
We have a few ministries in Canada and the one led by John Mark gathers clothes for the homeless at Christmas in which different businesses supply him several different items at cost and his team goes out and distributes them. They need things like parkas, gloves, long underwear, boots, scarfs and other clothing items specific to women's needs. Grant shared with us at the BBQ on September 17 how he hosts and some other of our team participate in another organization called the Fire Wall

of Prayer that organized a 24/7 prayer chain across Canada with each team of at least four people take one hour a week to pray for our Nation—for godly influence in our government; pro-life sensitivity laws, and revival. He passionately shared how this process has enhanced his prayer life and enriched his spiritual life. Corie Ten Boom said, "If you look at the world you get troubled. If you look at yourself you experience depression but if you look to God, you find hope. Let's thank God. He is in charge regardless of events.



Prayer & Finances: We are currently feeding over 1000 people a day in several countries at an average of \$1 a day per person. We have had some generous donations up to \$10,000 which after 10 days is depleted. Thank God for the leadership that He used us to build up in these countries who are doing a fantastic job. The other thing is that people by the thousands are turning to Jesus and being disciplined and new churches are being established. It reminds me of the New Testament where new churches were springing up where the gospel was shared. There are also places in these countries where people are starving and dying without the opportunity to know Christ. On one hand I am thanking God for what He is doing and on the other hand I am pleading with you to help us do more. Every single dollar we are able to put into these countries can feed a person for a day and every five dollars can feed a family. What would God have you do? Thank you so much for those who have and are giving—only God can repay and only heaven can show the results. May He continue to bless you and yours according to your deepest needs. Ephesians 3:14-21

Prayer Requests: Please pray for Alix and Gertrude as Alix has recently undergone serious back surgery. He is in tremendous pain, but is on a healthy road to recovery and shall be well again soon. However; do keep them in your prayers as this current season is very difficult, with the complications and challenges of ministry in Haiti/Dominican Republic.



Remembering Helen Goertzen 1924 – 2020

God enabled her to serve the people He died for in the 35 years she ministered in Panama. With her team member they pioneered Bible camps for children and a nursing station to focus on the medical and spiritual needs of the people. It is only fitting that this Newsletter that focuses on Thanksgiving that we thank God for her and invite others to fill in the places where God has taken His servants home.



Hold the Lamb Close to Your Heart: We are living in troubled times with health and political challenges too big for us to handle. People are being divided by fear—even God's people. There is the division over masks and personal fear over health. Yes, the virus is real and people have died and common sense should be used. Someone said that there are some so afraid of dying that they have stopped living.

This little lamb was only a day or two old when I picked him up but he immediately became calm and his calmness gave me a serene sense of peace. This is what happens when you hold the Lamb of God close to our heart and mind. The focus of my mind was totally on the Lamb and how precious he was and being very gentle as I held him. But, in reality, it is the Lamb of God that is holding me in His arms. I had a sense of how precious this little lamb was and how it completely captured my heart with its tenderness. In the wilderness around there were all kinds of predators but I was totally oblivious to the evil that lurked in the shadows and just filled with the Joy of holding the Lamb. It was with a full heart of gratitude that I had this opportunity to hold the lamb so close. Let me share a favourite passage for you to meditate upon and consider closely the last verse:

*Rejoice in the Lord always: again, I will say Rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, **dwell on these things.** Phil. 4: 4-8*

Hold the Lamb

**We are a Team... Empowering Ministries to ... Reach the Lost, Revive the weak,
Rescue the fallen, Restore the broken, Reconcile the offended, Release the Disciplined**

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