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A Psalm for Thanksgiving

No matter what seems to happen in our lives, we can always look forward to this time of year. We see the leaves changing colors and the nip of fall in the air. It's a time that brings families together. A time to reflect and a time to give thanks.

With the times of change in our world, it does not seem to have as much significance as it did when I was a child. I would wake up on Thanksgiving morning, smelling the turkey baking, the pumpkin pies cooling on the counter, and the hustle and bustle of straightening up the house as family was coming to join in the celebration. Now, it's like we check in to see if Coco's Restaurant is having a special for turkey dinner, so we can get home early to watch the football game.

I think with time, we have lost so much where family time should be a time of sharing victories that we have had, faith-building stories and appreciation to God for the blessings we have received.

Psalm 100:1 says to ***Shout for Joy!*** We don't hesitate to stand and shout for our team who is winning in a favorite sport. Have you ever had so much joy in your heart that you just wanted to shout about it? I think that is what God desires of us. Sometimes shouting our praise is necessary for attaining victories in our lives. Psalm 47:1 encourages us to "*Clap your hands, all you people, SHOUT unto God with cries of joy.*"

Psalm 100:2—***Worship with Gladness.*** When we seek His face and enter into His worship, He turns the worship into a worship of gladness and joy. This Thanksgiving, let us come and bow down in His Presence, lay it all before Him so we can really worship who He is and be thankful.

Psalm 100:3—Not only is He the Lord of the believer, but He is Lord of all and over all. When we give our personal thanks this year, let's give thanks knowing the Lord is God.

Psalm 100:4—***Enter His Courts with Thanksgiving.*** We must be expressive in our thanksgiving and bring to remembrance those things with which we have been blessed.

I love the song, "*Count Your Blessings, name them one by one. Count your blessings, see what God has done.*" I like to use the ABC's way of expressing my thanks:

- A**—Air that I breathe, when waking each morning, Authority over the enemy, Angels who watch over me and my family;
- B**—Beauty of nature, Bible to read and from which to grow;
- C**—Children God has given me, Church, Captive Hearts, for which He has entrusted me;
- D**—Deliverance, I can be a Dreamer;
- E**—Everlasting Father;
- F**—Family, Finances to live, His Faithfulness;
- G**—Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren;
- H**—Home, Heaven and Health;
- I**— I am made in Your image, You are the I AM;
- J**—Jesus, I'm your Jewel and Joined to You;
- K**—I am a King's Kid, your Kindness;
- L**—Love, Life, Lovely;
- M**—Miracles You have done in my life, You are my Master;
- N**—I am Needed, You're a Never-failing God;
- O**—Overcomer, Optimist personality;
- P**—Peace of mind, Prince of Peace;
- Q**—Quick to answer my call;
- R**—I can have Rest in You; Restorer;
- S**—Strength, I can have a Song in the night, You are the Same yesterday, today and forever;
- T**—Trustworthy;
- U**—I am United with You;
- V**—Victories in my life;
- W**—Wonderful Savior, my Wit and humor;
- X**—Xtra love I feel from You, Lord;
- Y**—You are Yahweh;
- Z**—Zeal and Zest I have for You.

Give Him Praise, All You People!



The 700 Club Interviews

Several months ago, we were contacted by the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) for the "The 700 Club", wanting to do an interview with one of our graduates, Eli Goodenough. It aired on August 15, 2019. The 700 Club is televised nationwide and is in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

The production crew came to the Central Coast and taped for almost two days and zeroed in on Eli's life to where she is today. We hope you will be blessed with her story and the transformation and miracle of new life. She always fought the enemy's words, "You're not good enough, nor will you ever be." God does have a sense of humor when she met and married Brian Goodenough!

We were already blessed by the interview of another graduate, Kayla Fremody Diaz, which aired on November 16, 2018. Kayla's interview was powerful as well and touched many lives.

You can view these interviews online for Eli and Kayla on You Tube:

Life Change Through Higher Love:

https://youtu.be/ygh_Uc9etKU

Family Dreams Shattered:

<https://www1.cbn.com/family-dreams-shattered>

Seeds & Needs

- New Donors
- Mentors for recovery home
- Commitments needed for homemade cookies (no nuts!) for the inmates at the County Jail. Bake them now and freeze them. Our deadline for baking is December 16th. Don't bag separately.
- Volunteers to help bag, pray over cookies and load for distribution on December 17th.
- We are always open if someone wants to donate a good running vehicle for one of our clients who has graduated the program
- Gas cards
- Gift cards
- Please contact Chaplain Judy if you would like to be an intercessor for Captive Hearts.

County Jail Cookie Extravaganza

This will be our 10th year of blessing our County Jail with cookies for the inmates. We usually start baking soon after Thanksgiving.



It is so rewarding to see the expression on the inmates' faces as they dig into the bags that are so colorfully decorated (anointed and prayed over) with six to eight cookies, made just for them. Approximately 6,400 homemade dainties bring such a smile to their faces.

The very next week, we begin receiving thank you letters, knowing that it comes straight from the hearts. Please let us know if you are willing to help bake for us.

Christmas Drive

As of December 1st, we will begin receiving toys and clothing for the children of our clients. In fact, our office is the drop off if you want to contribute to this cause.

Also, if you would like to help us as we build Christmas bags for each of our ladies, please let us know at the office, 805-481-4500.

Please note, your giving is tax deductible but must be sent no later than December 31st.

For women: Items for Christmas bags to be delivered to Captive Hearts' office no later than 5:00 PM on Monday, **December 16th.**

Suggestions include:

Gift cards	Stationary
Toiletries	Pens
Sleepwear	Christian books
Socks	Christian CDs, player
Slippers	Scarves
Sweaters, tops	Hair products
Jewelry	Make-up, bags
Nail polish	Figurines

For children of our women, age appropriate:

New toys	(We will try to provide ages of the kids before the deadline.)
Games	Call our office at
Dolls	805-481-4500.)
Trucks, cars	
Christian Books	

Did you know that you can shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and Amazon donates to your favorite charity at no cost to you? They will donate a portion of the purchase price to Captive Hearts. Check them out when you Christmas shop!

Captive Hearts Community Corner



Hey everyone and happy fall! One of our biggest goals right now is to get to a place where we aren't operating \$6,000-\$10,000 in the negative every month. We need stable, monthly donors that will truly partner with us on this coastline. This is why I decided to name this column "Community Corner" because it takes a whole community.

I'm going to switch gears and talk about Kayla. Kayla is my beautiful friend that is another Captive Hearts success story and someone who had no funding. Thank God, a woman stepped up and said she would sponsor Kayla. Kayla grew up troubled. Her father was murdered when she was 1 year old, and she always had a huge chunk missing in her heart because she didn't have a dad. At 14, she got pregnant. By the time Kayla was 23, she had 5 children and was in an extremely abusive relationship. She was hit, smacked, kicked and punched almost daily. To cope with the turmoil, she self-medicated with drugs and alcohol. Due to so many incidents of the police being called because of the beatings, her children were taken away. When I met her, she was high, lost and tired. She agreed to go to Captive Hearts. The night before I was supposed to pick her up to take her, she was stabbed in the leg in a fight and I picked her up bloody and barefoot. Today Kayla is thriving. She is serving the Lord and is back in her



children's lives. She tells everybody about Jesus wherever she goes and has gotten married to an amazing Godly man. Kayla is a miracle and her testimony has helped thousands of people. This is why we do what we do and don't quit. We know the Kingdom impact this program is having when these precious lives are saved. This is why, more than ever, we are asking our community to please commit to give monthly as well as ask your local church and friends to give as well. Thank you in advance for your prayers and support!



Welcome New Board Member

We are so grateful for the individuals God has brought to us over the years that have caught the vision for Captive Hearts. We are so excited to have Pastor Andy Rock joining our team as we expand into new directions. Welcome!



Greetings, dear friends of Captive Hearts! My name is Andy Rock and I'm the Senior Pastor at Coastal Community Church here in Grover Beach. I have the honor of joining the Board of Captive Hearts because Captive Hearts is the most effective and

powerful recovery program to bring recovery and hope to those suffering with addiction. Recovery homes across the nation are successful at helping clients sustain sobriety and remain a contributing member of the community at a rate of about 13%. Captive Hearts is successful well over 60% of the time. Why? Because in addition to providing licensed counseling, 12-Step recovery, safe and beautiful homes, engaged churches and volunteers, equine therapy, job training and intern placements... we also provide our clients the hope of Jesus. This is why I'm so honored to serve and give to Captive Hearts.

As a church, we've supported Captive Hearts for the past six years in many practical and relational ways. Personally, I have my own story with recovery, as I celebrate nine years of sobriety this coming February. So my passion and calling align well with Captive Hearts.

I've learned a lot over the past 15 years of being a pastor of how to effectively run a non-profit. As a Board member, my goal for Captive Hearts is to create a strategic plan with the Board and then to implement that plan so Captive Hearts will thrive for decades to come. Our first step will be working with the Cal Poly American Marketing Association, where amazing students and local marketing experts will donate their time and energy to create a brand new marketing plan for us.

We have incredible staff, a wonderful Board, and such incredible support from our community. Thank you for your faithfulness in supporting Captive Hearts with your prayers, love, and faithful giving over these years. We literally could not do this life-saving work without you!



<p style="text-align: center;">Trip to India</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Second Chances Store</p>
<p>Chaplain Judy will be meeting with Bishop Jacobs in Dallas, Texas, the week of December 1st to make plans for her trip to India. She is so excited to work with hurting women and seeing God transform their lives. This is a large ministry of reaching out to the widows, feeding 64,000 people a day and praying for those in the leper colonies.</p> <p>This will be a new venture of touching those in the sex trade industry and working with those living in the brothels for this ministry. Please put her on your prayer list as the trip unfolds.</p> <p>Your giving for this trip is tax-deductible, if earmarked "India" and made out to Captive Hearts.</p>	<p>Second Chances Store has several beautiful, quality pieces of furniture, some are antique. Please contact our store manager, Jeanie, at 805-574-1985. We need to sell them as soon as possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large dining room table that will seat eight; Set of 8 wooden chairs with white cloth seats; Oak hutch with 4 glass panels; matching Oak bottom piece w/2 doors, 6 drawers; Set of 2 oak night vanities, 2 drawers, carved legs, brass hardware; Older mini organ with padded seat (free) <p>Stop by Second Chances store in Grover Beach, next to the Post Office, to see them.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Just A Thought!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fundraising Goal</p>
<p>Has it ever entered your mind, or have you ever considered that the God of this Universe takes time to think about you? I suppose the question should be: why would He even bother with someone as insignificant as us? Consider some of the thoughts that really are amazing, as recorded in Scripture.</p> <p><i>"How precious also are your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them, If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand"</i> (Psalm 139:17-18).</p> <p><i>"You may not know Me, but I know everything about you"</i> (Psalm 139:1).</p> <p><i>"I know when you sit down and when you rise up"</i> (Psalm 139:2).</p> <p><i>"I am familiar with all of your ways"</i> (Psalm 139:3).</p> <p><i>"I even know the very hairs on your head and number them"</i> (Matthew 10:29-31).</p> <p><i>"You were made in My image"</i> (Genesis 1:27).</p> <p><i>"In Me you live and move and have your being"</i> (Acts 17:28).</p> <p><i>"I knew you before you were conceived"</i> (Jeremiah 1:4-5).</p> <p><i>"You are no mistake, for all your days are written in My book"</i> (Psalm 139:15-16).</p> <p><i>"You are fearfully and wonderfully made"</i> (Psalm 139:14).</p> <p><i>"I knit you together in your mother's womb"</i> (Psalm 139:13).</p> <p><i>"I brought you forth on the day you were born"</i> (Psalm 71:6).</p> <p><i>"I have a plan for your future, and it is filled with hope"</i> (Jeremiah 29:11).</p> <p><i>"I am your provider and desire to meet all of your needs"</i> (Matthew 6:31-33).</p> <p><i>"Every good gift that you will ever receive comes from Me"</i> (James 1:17).</p> <p>The verses listed are a small sampling that I pray will whet our taste buds, and I hope will spur many in finding more in the Word of God... go for it!</p> <p>(Excerpts from Dee Adams' devotional book, <i>Just A Thought</i>)</p>	<p>October through December is our fundraising months to build up our accounts for giving scholarships to those coming into Captive Hearts Recovery Home. Every day we must turn down clients who have no financial assistance to come into our program. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 before the end of the year. We know that we have the programs that will enable these lives to change and, when someone comes to us seeking help, we hope to be able to accept them rather than see them go back to their old lifestyles, drugs, alcohol and their friends. We offer the tools and, importantly, Christ, that the old life can pass away and everything can become brand new.</p> <p><u>Christian Generosity.</u> One aspect of Christian living that Paul highlighted in 2 Corinthians is that of generosity. In this letter, Paul made an appeal to the church of Corinth. He attempted to stir them to greater love by issuing a challenge of generous giving. He compared Christian generosity to the <i>"extravagant grace of our Lord Jesus Christ"</i> (8:9) It is an <i>"act of worship"</i> (8:11) and maintains a <i>"fair balance"</i> (8:14) between believers. Christian generosity should <i>"flow from your heart, not from a sense of religious duty"</i> (9:7) and should be marked by enthusiasm and <i>"joy,"</i> because <i>"God loves hilarious generosity"</i> (9:7) (taken from <i>The Passion Translation</i>).</p>