



The Foothills Flyer: *Keeping the Church on Mission*

Thankfulness...When You Don't Feel Thankful

By Mike Potter **Value: Worship**



I like to think of myself as a thankful person. God has been so good to me and my family. But sometimes, I'm not thankful. Sometimes, life has its way with me, and I find it really hard to muster-up thankfulness. But the Scriptures make it pretty clear that thankfulness is not an option. Paul says that we are to "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Thankfulness is *God's will* for us. It's what He wants (and expects) from His people. When I'm struggling

to be thankful, I've learned to do something that pulls me out of my thankless funk pretty quickly. *I remember.* I remember ALL the ways that God has blessed me. All the ways God has been faithful to me over the years.

Two of the most common thieves of our thankfulness are money problems and health problems. Let me share some of the things I remember when I'm tempted to lose my thankfulness when money or health problems hit. I'm sure you have seen God's faithfulness in these areas over the years too. Here are some of the ways God has been faithful to me and my family in these areas. These are some of the things I remember:

Years ago when our oldest daughter, Emily, was 5 years old, she got very sick. A disease attacked her little heart, and she needed a \$5,000 IV bag to literally bring her back to life. We had no money for that. God stepped in. He provided a medical student who happened to be one of my volunteer youth workers at the time to make the diagnosis in our home (a diagnosis none of the doctors we met with could make). God provided the money for the treatment through a gift from a concerned loved one.

Our first home in Ohio was in the middle of a major roof repair (that my parents paid for because we didn't have the money for it) when the roofer decided to stop showing up. While the home sat roofless with just a tarp over it, we received 9 inches of rain over a 2-day period. Needless to say, a lot of that rain made it inside our recently remodeled and repainted home. The damage was bad. When people from my church found out, a large crew came over, finished the roof and repaired the damage inside - for free!

When Michelle was 8-months pregnant with our middle child, Alexis, I decided to try to pass a kidney stone. It wouldn't pass. 4 surgeries and \$30,000 in hospital bills later, I discovered that my health insurance wasn't what I thought it was. I owed a large portion of that bill but had no money to pay for it. God provided payment for all of it through a concerned loved one.

When we tried to sell our first home in Ohio, we found out that the well was bad. First of all, we had been drinking bad water for 5 years, and God protected all of us from sickness. Secondly, when trying to clean-up the well in preparation to sell, we tried everything...and failed 8 well tests in the process. Finally, we were told that in order to sell the home, we needed to install a \$2,000 reverse osmosis system. We had no money for this, but God provided the money through concerned friends, and we finally passed the 9th test and sold the house. I could go on and on. Great is the faithfulness of our God! When you're tempted by life's hard circumstances to lose your thankfulness, do what I do. *Remember.*

The Benefits of Christian Community

By Joe Eastman **Values: Unity in Community**

Many of you know that I was a pastor at a different church before coming to Foothills. While I learned quite a bit about the nuts and bolts of pastoral ministry there, I found right away the challenge of not having a community. Many of the people in the church had community with one another, but they struggled to let others into their own community life. Because of this, my family and I struggled with loneliness and isolation to a great degree. This loneliness and isolation was tremendously hard to live with and was one of the main reasons why I eventually felt that I had to step down. Christians living in loneliness and isolation from each other is not Jesus' vision for the church and is horribly destructive to the health and wellbeing of Christians and their families. Believers were never meant to walk alone.



When we came to Foothills an amazing thing happened to us. People started becoming friends with us and started to pour into our lives. We had people come along side us in tangible ways. Even more importantly, my family and I now had real community blossoming. We now had people to help us carry our burdens. In all of this, I have learned that having and nurturing Christian community benefits us in at least three ways.

When we are in Christian community we have the opportunity to mentor and be mentored.

Discipleship is always lived out with others. There are just some things we can't learn by ourselves. An example of this is marriage. Sitting by ourselves thinking about how to have a good marriage pales in comparison to the power involved in watching a good marriage lived out in front of us. Seeing how two people function in marriage and having them teach and counsel us as we struggle in marriage is by far the best way to build a healthy marriage. Conversely, we learn the most when we teach others. So, if you are, for instance, a marriage-mentor, you will be surprised at how much you will learn as you pass along your wisdom to them. You will see your own marriage improved by mentoring others in their marriages.

God has always worked through community - even in the establishment of truth.

In the Old Testament, there is a truth-test for claims about the past. Everything must be established by two or three witnesses. If you are not in community, there are no other witnesses, and in my experience, God often communicates to us through others. Even when we want something confirmed by God, it almost always comes through the input and ministry of others. If we are truth-seekers (and as Christians, we should be), then we must be in Christian community where we join others in seeking, wrestling with, and knowing the truth.

Life is much more pleasant when there are people we care about in it.

The old image of the lone mountain man who doesn't need anyone is a myth. Almost no one thrives by themselves. God created us for community, and we were never meant to shoulder this life by ourselves. So, if you are involved in a life-giving community of other Christians who help you grow in your faith, then thank God for that - and then reach out to others. There are many people all around us, even in the church, who are starving for real, authentic community but are unsure how to achieve it. Don't forget that God blesses us with Christian community so that we can extend the reach of that community out to others. If you are currently in need of Christian community, then reach out for it. Build bridges and start friendships. No one will know you need it if you don't ask.

New "X-Cell" Youth Ministry Takes Off

By Dan Rodgers *Value: Holistic Discipleship*



The Foothills youth ministry has a new name: *X-cell!* I cannot begin to express how excited and blessed I am to have this opportunity to lead and pour into the youth at Foothills. God has filled all the positions needed in order to make X-cell successful. My wife, Kim, is amazing with planning, budgeting, and ministering to mid-high aged girls. Emily Cue is following the Lord's calling to pour into high school girls as their small group leader, Taylor Potter is serving as the mid-high boys small group leader, and I will be the high school boys small group leader.

My aim is to focus and center everything around God's inerrant word. We will spend the next several months going through an in-depth study of the book of Acts as I teach the youth how to study God's word - not just read it. We will focus on areas such as: history, historical figures, culture, how alike the modern church is to the early church, God's calling on the church, etc. All of this in hopes that the Holy Spirit will use it to lay a firm foundation of who Christians are and what they are called to in Christ.

We also have reintroduced X-CELL SUNDAY SERVICE on the 1st Sunday of every month where I will be teaching about family-matters such as the biblical calling on children, fathers, and wives. We will start with the life of Joseph (stepfather of Jesus). Parents are always welcome to sit in.

Over my many years as a youth pastor, I have watched a massive amount of professing young Christians walk away from the faith. The statistics show that 80% of professing believers deny their faith in Christ in the college years. This breaks my heart and propels me to come alongside parents and do everything possible to teach our youth the unshakable foundations of the gospel and the person of Jesus Christ. We will also continue to engage in socials, games, bi-monthly Christian roller skate nights, tea parties, baking days, spa days, gaming days, outdoor hikes and more. As a church body, I ask you to please commit yourselves to prayer that God would sanctify and grow our youth, giving them a deep passion for Him and His word. Pray that Christ Jesus would be woven into every area of their lives for the rest of their days.



Holiday Services and Gatherings



Wednesday, November 22: Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7PM

Sunday, December 10: Women's Christmas Tea, 5PM

Sunday, December 17: Christmas Communion Meal, Noon

Sunday, December 24: Worship Service, 10AM; Christmas Eve Service, 5PM



Stay informed! View the church calendar at www.thefoothills.us/events/month.

OUR MISSION: Foothills Fellowship exists to be a worshipping community of God's people whose lives are shaped by the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and who participate in the mission of God's kingdom by proclaiming the good news locally, nationally and globally.

OUR CORE VALUES: 1) Jesus Christ, the Head 2) Biblical Leadership 3) Everyone A Minister 4) Ancient/Future Worship 5) Hospitality Without Exception 6) Unity in Community 7) Intentional Families 8) Global Missions 9) Holistic Discipleship