

NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Dear Friends,

As Thanksgiving approaches in this unusual year, I have encouraged our Cru staff in New England to consider doing one or both of these ideas to prepare for the holiday.

The first is to take some time to acknowledge some of the specific unmet longings and the losses they have experienced. Taking our hurting hearts to God allows Him to shed His light there and help us to heal and move forward.

The second idea I shared with them and others, is to think over 2020 and make a list of 50 things for which to give thanks to God. It can be all too easy for me to grumble and complain, or to be anxious. Pausing and giving thanks to God renews my faith and hope. It can totally change my perspective and help me be at peace. And certainly it makes Thanksgiving truly a time of Giving Thanks.

Here are a few things from my *give thanks to God* list:

- You - your friendship & encouragement, prayers, financial gifts.
- My siblings - positive relationships, time together, looking out for each other, kindness & generosity.
- God's presence - how content I have been alone during Covid (In other times in my life being alone equaled loneliness).
- Jesus - His compassion, death in my place.
- Complete forgiveness, freedom from guilt, being blameless and pure before God.
- The New England Team Leaders - they walk with God, lead by faith & vision, know their people, are learning and growing.
- New believers on campuses around New England like - Christina, Ben, Liz, Emma, Jill, Azul, Elijah, Jeanette. Cindy, Mike, Caleb, Christian, Ethan, Brooke, Sara, and others.
- Friends nearby - connect in the moments of every day life, care for each other.
- Longtime friends - a long history of knowing and loving each other.
- Trickstercards.com - laughing and playing cards with friends (I have loved playing cards my whole life, so nice to have an outlet to play with friends even while isolating at home).
- God's invitation to draw near to His throne of grace, that we might find grace and mercy in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16

Happy Thanksgiving!

Grateful to our Awesome, Almighty, Loving, Father,




People's humor demonstrated with a little bit of whimsy

Beauty

