

Gratitude
by Lisa Brown

Today as I sat in a waiting room while a friend saw a doctor, I thought I would make good use of the time and begin to think through my Christmas gift list. Unfortunately, I made little progress other than listing names of people. Instead, I abandoned that list and began another that was much easier to complete. I made a list of thirty things I am thankful for – one for each day in November. This exercise was much more gratifying than the first.

In looking back over the list, many things on my list have to do with the senses. I'm thankful for beautiful things to feast my eyes on from a spectacular sunset to a delightful colorful scarf; delicious aromas that emanate from a kitchen after an afternoon of simmering and baking; digging in the garden with the promise of beautiful flowers to come; an exuberant, sloppy greeting that never grows old from my dog;

beautiful music made by accomplished musicians that draw me into the moment and mood of the music; hands and fingers that help explore God's world from a baby's inexperienced, groping, chubby fingers to the seasoned, elderly hand wrinkled and gnarled with age and experience. Other items fell under that broader category of love: God's love for me shown through His grace, mercy and faithfulness, friends, family, a faith community, a faith-building journey through this life, God's promises, health, freedom and living in the US. I am thankful for choices, worship, people that speak into my life, opportunities to pray for, encourage and to speak into other's lives.

As the days become shorter and the "to do" list seems to get longer, I would challenge you to take thirty to sixty minutes, sit long enough to empty your mind of the "to do's" and focus on God's blessings to you. My heart is full to overflowing with gratitude and thankfulness to our great God. I hope yours is too!

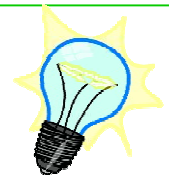
Recipe for an Amazing Woman
(one that exudes the fragrance of Christ)

Start with faith and honesty
Mix in pure humility
Add strength of character that rises
above the stress of life's surprises
Fold in personality
Toss with generosity
Pour in love from a heart that's
true....
Yield: one terrific, amazing you!

As seen on a pie plate at Christianbook.com



IDEA CORNER



Have a TCK Night

Auburn Alliance had a Timmy(TCK) Night. They contacted their TCK's parents who sent them a short video of Timmy opening presents, cards, and what he is learning in his country. They also purchased international stamps and handed one to each lady, along with the TCK's address. All the ladies sent a card with stickers or money. TCKs LOVE mail!!

Eat, Love, Pray

Kaleo House, Chicago sent out this invite via Facebook: *Eat. Women, join us for time of sharing delicious snacks in a welcoming environment... Love. As we talk and share our victories, struggles and needs.... [Date, time address] Pray. Followed by a powerful and anointed time of prayer to our Heavenly Father.*



Reminders

Outfit #1 is due December 1. Monies received will go to Kathleen P, Tim and Melanie Wendel and family.

TCK Christmas Gifts

Now is the time to be working on a gift for your adopted TCK. If you are sending a money gift via their parent's account at the national office, make sure you notate specifically that it is a gift for [name] and let your TCK's parents know that they should watch for it in their account. Finally, mail is always fun to receive whether it arrives in the snail mail box or email box. Questions or perhaps for more suggestions contact Gina Mueller at: gmmdem31@sbcglobal.net



Thank you.....

Last Friday while in the Chicagoland area we had the blessing of visiting the missionary closet and because of your combined efforts, we brought a little "new life" into our house through the sheets, blanket, towels, etc... Sure looks great! Thank you all!

Blessings on you all, in your personal lives, families, jobs, and in the Lord! Bob and Sue Stern (former Alliance international workers living in Dixon, IL now raising support to go back to Argentina with another organization)

Free Resources to Check Out and Subscribe To

ELink – a periodic email. It's easy to subscribe and it's free! www.alliancewomen.org/aw11/elinksnewsletters.html

www.GiftedForLeadership.com – geared to women in leadership. This blog, along with downloadable resources, will help you safely converse with other women about the issues you face as a leader.



Save the Date



Women's Conference - Saturday, April 14, 2012 at Lombard Bible Church, Lombard, IL. (Note the date change!!) Our guest speaker will be ANITA LUSTREA of Moody Broadcasting!! More details to come!

Women's Luncheon – Tuesday, April 24, 2012, District Conference, Hope Church, Indianapolis.

Celebrate 2012 September 27-30, 2012 Clearwater, FL. International Worker Spotlight: Cheryl P, Myrna Maxey, and our own Babs Mullinax will be sharing. Check out http://www.lifeimpactcma.org/celebrate/2012/on_stage.html for information on the speakers and worship leader.

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