

THE CLOVERDALE CONNECTION

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

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Do you have a Thanksgiving tradition at your house?

I don't mean the usual stuff like Turkey, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes and Pumpkin Pie...although those are really good traditions!

I am referring to a tradition that reaches down into the soul of the Thanksgiving holiday. A tradition that focuses on gratitude...like serving others in some capacity.

The holidays can be challenging for some individuals...even depressing. I get it. This is where gratitude comes into the picture.

I love this quote...*Gratitude turns what we have into enough, and more.*
Melody Beattie in the book Chicken Soup for the Soul - Think Positive, Live Happy.

Gratitude is certainly an attitude. So here is a challenge for each of you this Thanksgiving. Do this before you eat that big meal and get sleepy!

Sit down with a friend, spouse, family member or whomever. Take out a blank sheet of paper. At the top of the page, write out the following, *Lord I thank you for...*

Then, proceed to write out a minimum of one-hundred things you are thankful for. Have fun with it. Make it a competition to see who can get to one-hundred first. Keep that list with you wherever you go. Keep it in your smartphone. Keep it in your wallet. Tape it to the bathroom mirror. Don't let it out of your sight. Review it daily! Just this simple act of reviewing your thankful list frequently, will keep you centered with an attitude of gratitude.

When you choose to have an attitude of gratitude, it will fill you with joy. Happiness is a feeling. Happiness may come and go, but joy is an attitude that can be cultivated.

So go for the win!

This Thanksgiving, take time to be thankful and cultivate an attitude of gratitude. Jesus provides you with everything on your list and more!

Happy Thanksgiving

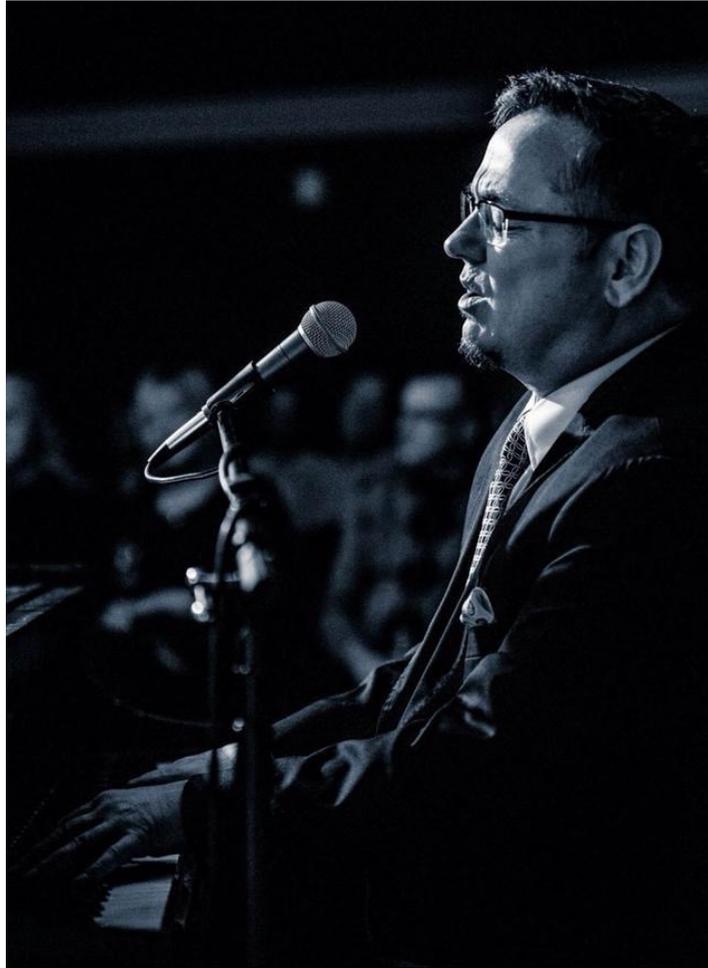
~ *Martin*

Ministry Highlight...

Cloverdale Church Choir

A song of thanksgiving is in the air. This is what our reorganized Cloverdale Choir is singing at our weekly Wednesday practices.

After nearly a year of researching the possibilities, interviewing and praying, G Louis Hemenway has joined us as the director of our Cloverdale Choir. He has instilled new life and energy into our ranks with his talents, enthusiasm and refreshing selections of music.



Mr Hemenway is pulling an ever growing group of singers together...while giving us the knowledge and confidence we need to stretch our abilities and build a repertoire of delightful music.

The small group of 15 singers that formed up after such a long hiatus, has now doubled in size to over 30 members and counting! We are praising God for bringing our choir back to becoming a real and living ministry within the Cloverdale Church.

The future looks very bright and promising, as our abilities develop together. We have visions of including more advanced music, visiting other venues, sharing with other churches and joining with neighboring choirs for events.

All such growth in ministry requires dedication and commitment. Come join us! We invite your voices, your prayers as well as your faithful gifts, to further this ministry.

Welcome to the reorganized Cloverdale Choir.



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Pastor's Corner...

Thankful

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. - Colossians 3:17 (NKJV)

Can you believe it is already November? Where did 2022 go? I guess time flies when you're having fun, or when you're too busy to notice. From talking with many of you, it is apparent that we are all extremely busy. With the holiday season upon us, it is about to get crazier.

In the midst of all the business with activities, school, work, church, family...it is important for us to consider the words recorded in Colossians 3:17. *In all that we do, in word or deed, we should do all of it in the name of the Lord Jesus.* I take this to mean I do my very best.

I do not cut corners. It also means I am honest and kind as I do these things. This is humanly impossible, but the Holy Spirit enables us to live such lives (praise God)!

But this is not all. I should be going about my business (or busyness) with a spirit of gratitude. I must do my best while being kind and honest. I should thank God that I have the privilege to represent Jesus in a world that is mired in despair, anxiety and depression. I have the privilege to be a light in a dark place of fear and suffering. I can choose to be a positive influence on those around me.

This may sound like a recipe for burnout, but it does not have to be. It is important for each of us to know our gifts...to know what God is calling us to do. At the same time, we must have boundaries and know when to say no. We must be intentional about our decisions. Whatever we decide to do, we must do it in the name of Jesus and give thanks to God.

Here's my challenge for you, print out (or copy by hand), Colossians 3:12-17. At the beginning of each day, ask God to make that true in your life. Then go through your day in a spirit of thanksgiving...celebrating that you get to be a part of what is good in the world.

May God bless you and make you a blessing to those around you.



~ Pastor Marlon