



November 2020

Dear CWR/PTM Friend and Partner,

Have you heard about the lady who was preparing the meal she was planning for Thanksgiving? She was sorting through the frozen turkeys at the supermarket, looking for one big enough for her family and the guests she was inviting. She asked one of the employees in the butcher department, “Do these turkeys get any bigger?” The man said, “No ma’am, they’re dead.”

Charles Plumb was a jet fighter pilot in Vietnam. After he flew 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and held prisoner for six years. Now, you are probably thinking, *what does a Vietnam fighter pilot who was a POW for six years have to do with a joke about dead turkeys and Thanksgiving?* Stay with me... I’m getting there. It’s all about gratitude and thanksgiving.

After surviving that ordeal and returning home, one day Plumb and his wife were in a restaurant when another man came up to their table and said, “I know you. You’re Plumb. You flew missions in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier *Kitty Hawk* and you were shot down.” Charles Plumb asked the man how in the world he knew all of that. The man said, “***I packed your parachute.***” Then, shaking Plumb’s hand, “I guess my parachute packing worked!”

After meeting the man Plumb couldn’t stop thinking about him. “I wondered how many times I might have passed him on the *Kitty Hawk*. I wondered how many times I might have seen him and not even said ‘Good morning, how are you?’ or anything, because, you see, I was a fighter pilot and he was *just a sailor.*”

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the sails of each parachute, holding in his hands the fate of someone he didn’t know. When Plumb became a motivational speaker, he asked audiences, “**Who has packed your parachute? Who is packing it right now?**”

Some families celebrate a day of Thanksgiving by asking each person at the table to elaborate what they are thankful for and why. If you have ever been part of such a group conversation you will know that there are certain common denominators (and the priority they are given) for which many people express their thanksgiving—like, in order:

- 1) For God
- 2) For Family and Friends
- 3) For Health
- 4) For Freedom, Safety and Security
- 5) For Other People Who Make Life Worth Living
- 6) For God and People who Love Me and Forgive Me
- 7) For...the list then begins to include material possessions like houses and cars, money and bank accounts, devices and conveniences, which we are no doubt thankful for...but...

Those who live in places other than advantaged countries like the United States, Canada, the UK and Europe often exclude possessions and conveniences in their gratitude lists in favor of simple experiences which you and I may take for granted. According to several polls and surveys, here's a representative sampling of their gratitude lists:

- 1) For a place to lay my head each night.
- 2) For just waking up one more day and having food to eat.
- 3) For one more day without bombs going off.
- 4) For clean water to drink and clean air to breathe.
- 5) For access to medicines and clinics.
- 6) For just having any job, even one I don't really like.
- 7) For breathtaking sunsets.

A friend of mine told me he is thankful for pain, because without his pain he would find it difficult to fully appreciate all there is to be joyful about.

God's love, grace and mercy occupy a prominent place on my gratitude list. I am thankful that God is not impressed with religious accomplishments. I am thankful that God is love. **I am thankful that God, in the person of Jesus Christ, has packed my parachute.**

We often say here at PTM that most people don't reject God, they reject what they have been taught about God. It's true, isn't it? **Christ-less religion tells those who fail to follow its dictates that they are rejecting God when all they are doing is rejecting what they have been taught to associate with the word "God."** Based on what they have been taught about God, slaves of Christ-less religion believe God has NOT packed a parachute for them.

Many people associate God with his so-called "wrath" and anger—they think of God as intricately involved in punishment and eternal torture in hell for those who do not measure up.

Most people think of Christianity as a religion that defines itself by what it is against. Most people think of God in negative terms—that he is against our sin, upset with our behavior and all too ready and willing to punish us.

Most people do not think of God as being "for" them and rooting for them. Most people think of the "final judgment of God" as a time when they sit in God's courtroom while all those they failed or hurt in their lifetimes parade before them. Most people don't think there is a remote possibility after all these witnesses testify against them that God would ever say "I forgive you." ***The God they know about doesn't provide parachutes and he certainly doesn't individually, carefully and lovingly pack them.***

Most people think of God as assigning them a huge "to do" list which, in order to remain in his good "graces" they must fulfill or complete, checking it off and then going on to the next task he required. After they finish an entire page of responsibilities and stipulations they imagine God turning the page and introducing yet another long list of assignments, ceremonies, obligations and rituals to be completed and performed. With the God they know, and about whom they have been taught, the list of his demands and requirements NEVER ENDS!

I am thankful that God loves losers and failures. I am thankful that he loves scoundrels, buffoons, fools, rogues and reprobates. I am thankful that God loves the nobodies—the least, the last and the lost. God heals and reaches out to the ignored, left behind, forgotten—the physically and spiritually impoverished. **God packs parachutes!**

A friend was telling me that he is so grateful for those who have packed his parachute in Jesus' name, some of them not even knowing they were doing so. He has been around the block a few times in this tired old world, and he has many parachute packers to thank. He thanks his parents, his teachers and his friends who helped him get through school.

He thanks his buddies in the military who had his back and he is grateful for his co-workers and even a few of his supervisors and bosses on the job. He thanks his wife and children for putting up with him. He thanks the medical staff who have on more than one occasion operated on and provided radiation and chemotherapy for him. He thinks of them all as being the hands and feet of Jesus.

It's true, isn't it? Not only can we give thanks for all those who have packed our parachutes along the way, we can thank God for allowing us the priceless privilege of helping to pack the parachutes of others, in Jesus' name.

We are thankful that, by the grace of God, we are able to help pack parachutes for others, in the name of Jesus!

When we find ourselves shot down and floating down to the earth as a result of a parachute that was packed properly we realize that while it is a blessing to give, it is also a blessing to receive.

I am thankful that each one of us, working as a collective team, by the grace of God are packing Christ-centered parachutes for many, in the name of Jesus.

Thanks for all the parachutes you help to pack through this ongoing ministry of CWR/PTM! Happy Thanksgiving one and all.

In Jesus' name,



Greg Albrecht

President, Plain Truth Ministries

PS. Here's a note of thanks from one of our Partners who has been blessed by this ministry, which YOU help to provide.

I am 92 years old, and I agonized in fear for some 60 years, trying to keep "God's laws and commandments." But thanks to God and PTM, I learned about the end of the commandments and the freedom given to us by Jesus. After reading your Partner Letter one day, I was walking from our barn to our house, when I felt the weight of all those years of fear and anger lift off my shoulders. It would take many pages to explain my feelings, but I just want you to know how much this ministry means to me.

CWR/PTM Prayer List—November 2020

These requests for prayer represent just a few of the thousands we receive and pray for. We invite you to join us in praying for these and the others (including all those impacted by COVID-19) that space does not permit us to include here. Thanks for joining with us as a CWR/PTM Prayer Partner.

I need your prayers that I can avoid an operation, as I have a large cyst in my pelvis. I'm 78 years old.—Florida

My great niece is only a few months old and has leukemia. Please pray for her.—Arizona

Please pray for me because I have lots of health problems including sores on my lips. And pray for my brother who can hardly walk because of back and feet problems.—Maryland

Please pray for healing of my painful spine and my poor vision.—Florida

I'm going to have total knee replacement surgery. Please pray that all will go well.—Kentucky

We have received so much encouragement in the many years since PTM's founding. Thanks so much!—California

Please pray for our grandson who needs a kidney.—Virginia

Please pray for my brother who has cancer of the prostate which is spreading to his bones.—Maine

Please pray for me as I am having serious health problems.—New York

Please pray for me and my wife as we have health problems. I'm 83 and my wife will soon be 80.—Texas

Please pray for my wife and I to overcome our fears and worries about the future and for the healing of our various health problems.—Tennessee

Please pray for my brother who underwent major urinary bladder surgery. He is now recovering, but he's still in a lot of pain.—Washington

Please pray for my continued good health after a triple bypass heart surgery several months ago. God was definitely with me!—Louisiana

I am having bad sinus headaches and I can't sleep a lot at night because laying down makes it worse. Please pray that my headaches will be healed.—Alabama

Please pray for me—I've been very sick with COVID-19 for several weeks.—Pennsylvania

Please pray for my granddaughter who has migraines. She is in college and has to miss classes sometimes because of the pain.—Minnesota

Please pray for my sister. She had a mass on her brain and the doctors were unable to remove it all. She will need another surgery. Please pray for the healing of her balance, eye sight and hearing.—Ohio

Please pray about my eye inflammation and infection. It is very red and painful. Please also pray for my step dad to be healed of his bronchitis.—Kentucky

Please pray about the pain in my back and my right knee. It is difficult for me to do much of anything because of the constant pain.—Idaho

Our Father in Heaven: We thank you for your grace, mercy and love. You love each of these individuals, and we thank you in advance for the answers you will provide for each request. With thanksgiving for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, our suffering servant who heals us, in whose name we pray—Amen.