

Rochester Chinese Christian Church

ECHO

December 2009 Volume 27 No. 2



A City Set on a Hill	<i>Pastor Mitchell R. Herring</i>	1
The "Speedbump"	<i>Christine Wang</i>	4
The Sand Dollar	<i>Cathy Yu</i>	6
I'm Found	<i>Alvin Spivey</i>	8
Membership	<i>Sylvia Lu</i>	11
God's Perspective	<i>Chunlun Chan</i>	13
"Thank You, Mom!" "Thank You, Dad!" Word of Appreciation We Love to Hear	<i>Nam Ngo</i>	16

Church Goals (2008-2010) **Glory to God Alone**

“Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31)...

- * by **growing** in our understanding of and love for the great doctrines of Scripture and the knowledge of Christ (Ps.119:97);
- * by **honoring** the Word of God and prayer in humility, conviction of sin, and repentance, as the means of grace for the transformation of our lives (Rom.12:2);
- * by **developing** a biblical world and life view, a heavenly-minded outlook, and personal character worthy of the gospel of Christ (Phil.1:27);
- * by **encouraging** mutual exhortation toward each other's spiritual welfare, as well as concern for each other's all-around well-being (Heb.10:25); and
- * by **strengthening** our conviction that the gospel of Christ is the only means of salvation, and our proclamation of it locally and worldwide (Acts 4:12).

 Rochester Chinese Christian Church
羅城華人基督教會



1524 Jackson Road
Penfield, NY 14526
(585) 872-6708
www.rochesterccc.org

Pastor 牧師
Mitchell R. Herring 韓澤民
mherring@rochesterccc.org

English Sunday Worship 中文主日學
9:30 am 上午九時三十分

English Sunday School 中文主日崇拜
11:15 am 上午十一時十五分

Call the church for other fellowship, bible study & youth group meetings 欲知其他團契聚會查經班, 請電教會

Rochester Chinese Christian Church West
羅城西區華人基督教會

Located at
Henrietta Wesleyan Church
70 Thompson Road
Rochester, NY 14623

Pastor 牧師
Mitchell R. Herring 韓澤民
(585)872-6708
mherring@rochesterccc.org
www.rochesterccc.org





主日崇拜
Sunday Worship
下午 4:00 - 5:15 pm

主日學
Sunday School
下午 5:20 - 6:15 pm



A City Set on a Hill

Pastor Mitchell R. Herring

*You are the light of the world. A city
set on a hill cannot be hidden...*

Matthew. 5:14

Recently I came across an article in the November 21 issue of *World Magazine* (a Christian news magazine) about the Chinese economist Zhao Xiao. Intrigued, I went online to seek more information about him. He headed macro-economics research at China's State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, and is now a professor of economics at Beijing University of Technology, and a commentator on the government's China Central Television CCTV. He seems to be a very rare breed indeed. Although he remains a Communist Party member, he professed Christ as His Savior in 2004.

The occasion for the article was his recent visit to the U.S., leading a group of Chinese business executives in a trip to meet with Christian businessmen. He has become a leading proponent of morality in the pursuit of economic growth and development. He openly espouses market morality based on Christian ideals, both from his observations of the United States, and more recently from the Bible itself. He says that even Party leaders are becoming open to Christian ideas. In 2002 he wrote the essay by which he has become most well-known, entitled "Market Economies With Churches and Market Economies Without Churches", and which was inspired by a seven-month tour of the United States. Even before he became a Christian, he began to recognize the importance of the church in market economies. In that essay, he said that the free market is necessary because it forces competition and discourages idleness; it is an "efficient economic system". But he went on to say, "The market economy *can only* discourage idleness; it *cannot* discourage

people from lying, harming others,” and “pursuing wealth by any means”. Therefore the church and its role in society has been a major factor for economic success because it provided the necessary moral foundation and structure which instilled ethical values in the market and encouraged growth. The “secret,” as he put it---the early Puritans, who pursued wealth not for their own benefit, but rather “to the glory of God”. He said this kind of faith produced a monetary ethic, integrity, and mutual trust that provided an important impetus for economic reform, and which should be an inspiration for China. He concluded, “Only through faith can the market economy have a soul”.

In a more recent interview on PBS’s “Frontline” program, (after he became a Christian), he reiterated his belief in the importance of establishing a moral foundation and strong business ethics, where the profit motive is not the only consideration. Referring again to the Puritans, he said, “...their dream of coming to America was the need to establish a city on a hill, to let the entire world see the glory of Jesus Christ, whom they believed in. So their purpose for doing business was for the glory of God. If my motivation for doing business is the glory of God, there is a motivation that transcends profits...and this kind of transcendent motivation not only benefits an entrepreneur by making his business conduct proper, but can also benefit [his] continued innovation.” In the recent *World Magazine* article, he draws from the Scriptures the idea of “covenant.” A culture that honors covenants, he says, is the “essence of a market economy...if China wants...a successful economy, it must [embrace] a spirit of covenants.”

It was also his observation of the life of American churches that drew Zhao Xiao to the Bible. But his initial motivation was to try to prove there was no God. He knew he was a sinner, not a good person who had a lot of bad thoughts and did a lot of bad things. If there was a God, then God would know all about him, so he preferred not to have a God. But after reading the Bible for three months, “I admitted defeat...” and came to Christ.

In the PBS interview, he said that during the 14th Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, a plan for economic reform was issued, which began to talk about the need for moral foundations of market economic transformation and “establishing a system in China based on trust.” He added, “On the matter of whether or not to permit those with religious beliefs to enter the Communist Party, I believe there will be a historical change in the future.” And the *World* article concludes with Zhao’s hope that China attains “transformation with the Cross...He likens this possibility to a Chinese ‘Great Awakening’ with China itself the new ‘city on a hill.’”

And why not? Is anything too hard for the Lord? There is historical precedent. The Roman Empire went from savage persecution of Christians, through which the church saw great growth, as in China, to official acceptance of Christianity by the 300s AD. As the

West has now largely come to reject the gospel, could it be that God will cause it to prosper in China, to bless China and make us jealous? So let us pray for the church in China and for the Christian witness there at every level of society, from grassroots to leadership. Let us pray for revival in the churches here in the West. And let us also pray for ourselves, for conviction and courage in witness, and for



faithfulness to seek Christ as He is presented in the gospel, to pursue the great truths of Scripture, to live by faith according to these truths so that it is real, touches the heart, transforms our lives, gives us joy, and shines like a city set on a hill.

The “Speedbump”

Christine Wang

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” -- Jeremiah. 29:11

As the new year of 2009 chimed in, I wondered what great things God had in store for me. Since it was going to be my first full year of becoming a true adult—working a full time career job and living 1,300 miles away from home on my own, I knew God had many great plans for me. Little did I know I would face probably one of the greatest struggles of my life.

For most of the year, I was drowning in extreme discontentment and insecurity; I was so unhappy with my job that I was determined to leave it and move on to what I thought were bigger and better things in life. I weighed out all of my options—all which involved leaving Rochester and starting over again elsewhere. I felt like I wanted to be in control of my life and that I was so certain that leaving was the best thing to do. Thinking I had it all together, I wrote out all of the pros and cons of whatever decision I was to make and held it as truth. Unfortunately through all this, I intentionally ceased to look to God because I was afraid that His plan was one that I did not want. I felt like Jonah running away from God when he was called to Nineveh. I sat under my “vine” for a good eight months before God let my own stubbornness drive me to a near point of insanity. As I hit rock bottom, the Lord in his mysterious ways kept giving me messages that were clear enough but were muted to me because my heart was hardened to Him. It wasn’t until I found no more answers in myself did I finally turn to my Heavenly Father to seek after His guidance. I knew He was there, but my plans were so loud and distracting that I had to rid a part of myself in order to hear Him. For three days I fasted; and after each day, I was able to see a clear direction more and more. I was right in fearing that His decision would not match mine, because it surely was not what I wanted. But after surrendering myself, I felt nothing but peace and joy in

the path He determined for me, which was to stay and be patient with my job.

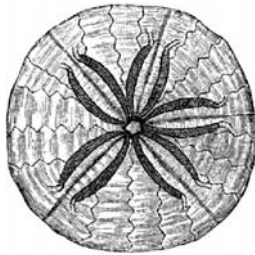
Growing closer to my brothers and sisters in the college group over the summer was a large factor that influenced my decision. I truly believe that God had intentionally brought everyone together for a reason. As the love among the group grew, I knew that I was needed here to serve God alongside my spiritual family in Rochester. I have to say that even though some of the same trials from work life are still there now, I am still joyful for the choice I made.

We may all face times of great trials and hardships that result in unhappiness and insecurity, whether it be in our jobs, school, post-graduation plans, our family circumstances, relationships, etc. Our circumstances and outcomes may all be unique, but one thing that should remain constant in all of our trials is our complete trust in the Lord, our Creator. He is the ultimate Architect of our lives and He created a special blueprint for each of us. There are no books to read and there is no advice from any wise person that can give us answers to the difficult situations in life, but only our God the Father above will have the answers because He already knows how our life stories play out. Ultimately our lives here on earth are not lived for us and it is not about what we want in life and what we think makes us happy, but our lives are existent for His sole purpose. For a little while, I forgot that purpose but I give praise to Him for the hardships that reminded me of my sole life goal.

“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:26-28)

As we approach the end of 2009 and enter into the new year of 2010, I have no doubt that we will all face some kind of

change whether it be great changes filled with joy and praise or difficult changes that hinder us. But let us never forget that one thing which is faith in Christ--that never changes, and will only bring us immeasurable peace and joy in the grace of our Savior through whatever we may face.



The Sand Dollar

Cathy Yu

Last December, our family vacationed in Siesta Key, Florida. Siesta Key is known for its beautiful white sand beaches. I had read some online reviews of beaches in the area and discovered that one of the beaches, Lido Beach, was a “great place to find shells”, where “fully intact sand dollars are quite common on the beach or in the shallow water at low tide.” My daughter, Charissa, was collecting shells on our trip so I thought it would be a great beach for our family to visit. I knew she would be excited to have a fully intact sand dollar!

As our family was heading towards the beach, I happily thought in my head that I would surprise each member of the family, including my mom, dad, brother, and his family with a souvenir sand dollar from the beach. I would need to find a total of 10 sand dollars.

While the kids were playing in the water and building in the sand, I walked along the beach, away from them, looking for sand dollars. It was fairly cool for Florida, in the high 60’s, so there weren’t many people around. I thought I would be able

to find a lot of sand dollars – easily. Well, after 45 minutes of staring at the ground, I did not find a single one. I didn't even see any partial ones. I was about to give up when I decided to pray about it.

I wrestled for a moment thinking that it was silly to pray for such a little thing. Of all the things in the world I could pray about, should I even bother to pray about this? Could God be bothered with such a trivial matter? I felt like I should be praying about someone's health or peace rather than for me to be able to find a sand dollar. Finally, I just prayed, "Lord, I'm sure you have more important prayers to answer, but I would really like to find a sand dollar. If it's your will, please help me to find a sand dollar." I took 2 more steps and guess what I found – a fully intact sand dollar! It was in plain view right in front of me. It was small, bright white, and alone in a sea of neutral-colored common shells. I knew it was God who placed that sand dollar directly in my path. It stood out so obviously in the sand, but I hadn't noticed it before. My heart was filled with joy as I thanked and praised God for showing himself to me.

On the way back to my family, I continued to look for sand dollars, but I did not find any more. It was okay. I had been looking for 10 sand dollars and I found one. In the process, I learned something more precious than that sand dollar. I learned that God hears our prayers for even the little things in life that may seem insignificant. He showed me that day that He wants me to be in constant communication with Him about all things big and small.

Ever since I decided to follow Christ, I have strived to fully submit myself to Him. Even if He had not placed that sand dollar in my path, I would still trust Him and His power. My faith does not depend on whether or not He answers my prayers in the manner I think they should be answered. But the sand dollar is a reminder to me that God hears me in even the smallest of things.

*"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

I'm Found

Alvin Spivey

The term Shekhinah is best translated as 'Divine Presence' and is simply another term for God. This term refers to man's relationship with God. ... Imagine being in the Grand Canyon before sunrise, totally enveloped in the darkness of its vast depths Suddenly, the first ray of sunlight beams from the horizon, and you witness a beautiful sunrise. You think to yourself, "Is it possible this sunrise was a mere chemical mishap? No, this must be a creation of God!"

The awe that the person felt is the experience with the Shekhinah. -- Rabbi Shraga Simmons

I often volunteer to serve. When I'm given the opportunity it's a chance for me to try on a new coat. Putting my hands forward I become the attendant helper, the dutiful van driver, or reliable student. At each address I get the experience of that role, and am allowed another chance to find peace in myself.

It's an issue of identity. In volunteering I'm looking for where I can most fit in. Speaking like this can sometimes not make any sense. How can you not know who you are? But more than a name, occupation or community I'm reaching for answers to a question I'm not sure how to ask. Who am I?

I'm so fascinated with the role of the Holy Spirit because of this, especially in Romans 8:25-26. He allows me to sit in the comfort of knowing that when I don't understand what to ask for or how to ask for it, the Father receives the message in full. I call on the Holy Spirit for the definition of my true identity; an identity that brings the peace I felt echoes of when I first met Christ.

In my beginnings with the African American church I shared in our affection for the sacred and sensitivity to pain. This is

best seen in Worship. After a week's narrative of disconcert and mistrust, being taken up in the Holy Spirit is orgasmic—overwhelmingly so. Large black women crying aloud, stumbling across the pews with hands raised high; there's something deeper happening in that scene.

At the time, I was too young to understand what was going on; sitting in the presence of the call was enough. The rhythmic stomps and claps, the tonal hum and song; it shook the floorboards and filled the humid sanctuary air. The intention was plainly spoken in the lyrics echoed twice in unison:

"Walk in the light, beautiful light
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
Oh shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus is, Jesus is the light of the world;"

We wanted to be baptized in His reverent shudder. He was the Shekhinah of old; we called Him Holy Ghost. Whenever the Ghost came over me I would feel full and complete, and responded in silent tears. The feeling is unmistakable. I miss that.

"I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it." (Revelation 2:17b)

In this last year I stressed over not feeling complete, and having no answer for it. Far removed from the church that once defined me, I'd grown so dispassionate with trying to put my frustrations into words, and felt isolated. I didn't understand what I was hearing or feeling at the time. I was impatient and confused. I did not know who I was.

I left the church. Any wise words or conscientious advice given to me was ignored. The longer I stayed away, the worse things got. Months after having left, I accepted an invitation to visit RCCC when Auntie Shirley gave a presentation on the RCCC church history. During that presentation I was reminded why God had placed me here. I

could see myself in the pictures of those PowerPoint slides—in the faces of each of the college group kids who had come before me, and the ones who were with me now. Just as in those stomps and claps of my home church the machinations of your smiling faces, steady greeting hands, and always present ear were the magic that brought the Ghost into RCCC. You have taught me how to walk in love, the expressed virtues of patience, and true wisdom.

I'm still layering on the coats and walking through each experience as they lead me where they may. Though lately, when I sit still and think about how everything has gone, I'm not as anxious. That unmistakable feeling comes over me and I respond to the Ghost that lifts my soul.

Thank you for all that you have done, all that you are doing, and all that you will do. To God be the glory.



Membership

Sylvia Lu

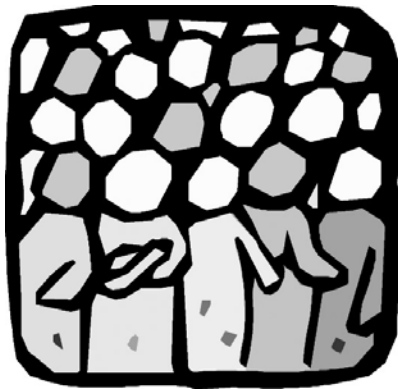
When I think what I should talk about for the devotion, the Lord put membership in my mind. Last month the kids gave us membership to George Eastman House. So we had the privilege to take the members only Upstairs/Downstairs Tour. We went to the third floor, the attic, the basement and parts of the second and main floor that are not open to the public. We can also go to members only movie nights at the Dryden Theater and enjoy some other benefits. Years ago we belonged to a certain club which gave us the privilege to use the tennis court, the pool, the restaurant and other facilities. This year my daughter Lydia was promoted to become Platinum member by Delta Airline. I'll talk about that later.

To be a member comes with a price. We had to pay dues to the club. Lydia has to keep flying Delta. The Eastman House membership is free to us, but the kids had to pay for it. And it's only good for one year, unless they want to keep paying for us. But there is one club that is free with endless benefits and no expiration date. Too good to be true? What club is it? It's Club Jesus. It's free and lasts forever because Jesus paid for it with His own life once and for all. How to join? Well, we have to humble ourselves and ask Jesus to forgive our sins and accept his salvation for us. And this is the only way to join.

If we put our membership cards in the drawer or purse and don't use them we still are members but we won't enjoy the privilege and benefits it offers. Same with Club Jesus. If we don't do anything, we are just members and nothing else. We won't get any other benefits. What are the benefits and privileges of Club Jesus? Let's compare some of them with Lydia's Platinum status. She has to keep flying Delta; we need to keep growing spiritually. She can have priority seating and even upgrade to first class; we can sit at the King's table with the Lord. She can check three bags free; we can lay all our sins, our burdens, our anxieties onto Jesus. She can relax at the lounge in peace and quiet while other parts of the airport are crowded with people and it's not easy

to find empty seats; we can have peace and rest in Jesus in this troubled world. She can enjoy free refreshments; we can enjoy the bread of life and the living water. She can even take a shower there; we too can ask the Lord Jesus to cleanse us from our sins. There are a lot more benefits and privileges of Club Jesus than that of Delta Platinum members. We can have the Holy Spirit with us; we can have God's protection, guidance ... We can ask God for what we need. We can ... As I said the benefits and privileges are endless. One issue of The Daily Bread said, "Our greatest privilege is to enjoy God's presence."

How can we grow spiritually? We have to remain in Jesus by studying the Bible, by getting to know Him better, by listening to His commands... To be faithful to Him, to serve Him, to have fellowship with other members, to witness to others, to... There are a lot of things we need to learn in order to grow. I read this a while ago; it said "Salvation is the miracle of a moment; growth is the labor of a life time." So to grow spiritually is not easy; we have to ask the Holy Spirit to help us everyday of our lives. Paul encouraged Timothy in *2 Timothy 2:15* "*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*" Let us encourage one another toward that goal.



God's Perspective

Chunlun Chan

Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come. Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" (Joshua 5:13-14)

The Israelites had finished their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. They had crossed the Jordan River. The manna had stopped. With Moses dead and Joshua as their new leader, they were about to enter a new chapter of their history. Lying ahead was a series of battles to be fought and won before they could claim the land which God had promised. Jericho was the first city to be conquered. As they came near Jericho, Joshua, the military leader, was surveying the situation before planning the attack. It was against this backdrop that Joshua met this mysterious man with a drawn sword.

The dialogue was intriguing. One would expect Joshua to start with the question of "Who are you?" Obviously Joshua was so preoccupied with the military situation, and justifiably so, that he didn't bother with the identity of the man standing in front of him. In Joshua's mind, who that person was did not matter. What's important was whether that person was for the Israelites or for their enemies. The answer from the man was even more intriguing. It didn't fit the multiple choices offered by Joshua. It transcended Joshua's logic of dichotomy. The man said that he was neither a friend nor a foe of the Israelites, but came as the commander of God's army. Immediately Joshua realized that the man was God Himself, and he fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and *worshipped*, as recorded in other versions of the Bible.

The key issue here is a matter of “perspective”. A mature Christian has many marks, and one of them is having “God’s perspective”. Note that I chose “God’s perspective” as opposed to “spiritual perspective”. The word “spiritual” has been so frequently and broadly used that it sometimes becomes trite and loses its root meaning and impact. Besides, when we talk “perspective”, or “point of view”, we need to get personal. We need to know to “whom” the perspective belongs, such as my perspective, your point of view, or his way of seeing things. The word “spiritual” sometimes is too abstract for us to grasp. When we say “God’s perspective”, we know exactly what it means. It means seeing things from God’s angle, having God’s point of view. Despite that the dialogue has a deep spiritual connotation, the word “spiritual” wasn’t used at all. The man did not say that he came as the spiritual commander of the spiritual army to fight a spiritual battle. He simply said that he came as the commander of God’s army. Note how personal he got - God’s army. Similarly, Christians need to have “God’s perspective”, not merely a “spiritual perspective”.

Having “God’s perspective” is easier said than done. Too often we focus on the spiritual and the behavioral side and forget what the real issue is. How often do we put on our spiritual mask and act out our spiritual role in the church - during Sunday worships, fellowship meetings, bible studies, prayer meetings and other church related gatherings, only to have a 180° turn the minute we step out of our church environment into our family and work place and among our secular friends? Although there are many causes for this two-sided behavior, one of the key reasons is the lack of God’s perspective. A person can be extremely “spiritual” and yet hasn’t got the foggiest idea of how God sees things. To him, being “spiritual” is acting meek and humble on stage. His “spiritual perspective” is to “be seen spiritually” rather than to “see spiritually”.

Behavior alone can be very deceiving and misleading. God has never been big on sheer behavior. Take David for example, in one episode he committed both adultery and murder, and yet he was the only one in the Bible mentioned

by God as a “man after His own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14). Why? David had God’s perspective, that’s why. Twice David could have easily slain Saul who was out to kill him. Despite the opportunities and the legitimacy of the slaying from a human perspective, David did not harm Saul because he wouldn’t dare hurt God’s anointed king no matter how justified it seemed. That’s the get-real, get-personal “God’s perspective” I am talking about, not the make-believe “spiritual perspective” held by some Christians. After David committed adultery with Bathsheba and murdered her husband Uriah, prophet Nathan was sent by God to reprimand him for his crime. David, the king, didn’t get angry or defensive. Immediately he repented and said, “I have sinned against the LORD.” Not only that, he even wrote a psalm about it (Psalm 51) so that people of his time and the generations to come would know how he sinned against God and truly repented. David! such a man, such a perspective. No wonder God said that he was a man after His own heart.

We may never be a military leader facing a major battle like Joshua did when he met the mysterious man. But often in our day-to-day lives, we are like Joshua at that moment, seeing things from a human perspective and forgetting there is a divine dimension. In our study, our work, our interpersonal relationships, even our service to the Lord, how often we fail to see things from God’s point of view. How many times did we ask the same question as Joshua did, without realizing that it is neither we nor they who have an impact on things but God who is in charge of everything. If you don’t get the promotion you think you deserve, don’t just focus on yourself, your boss or the person who got it. Try to see it from God’s perspective. After all, He is the ultimate promoter (Psalm 75:6-7). If you see an opportunity to cut some corners or do some cheating without getting caught, you’d better see it from God’s perspective. What can be more tempting than the opportunities presented to David when he saw Saul in his most vulnerable position. Look at the blessings bestowed on David as a result of his having God’s perspective.

May God give us wisdom to have the right focus and see things His way.

“Thank You, Mom.” “Thank You, Dad.” Word of Appreciation We Love to Hear

Nam Ngo

Most parents start teaching social graces to their children from their earliest moments. I still remember my parents whispering quietly into my ears from behind, “Say thank you”.

“Thank You” is one of the niceties of life that marks the beginning of developing a pleasing personality and getting along with others. When somebody gives us something, or does something for us, lots of people use just one word, all they say is “Thanks.” But “Thanks” all by itself doesn't always sound like you really mean it. And sometimes it's just not enough. What do you think? Some people say “It's better than nothing” or “It's good enough.” Just using one word is not always enough. Even so, it really is better than nothing... but, there are better ways to say it. Just as Apostle Paul in Romans 16:1-4 express thanks to Phoebe, Priscilla & Aquila.

“I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church in Cenchrea. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been a great help to many people, including me. Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them.” (Romans 16:1-4)

It should be at least two words, can you think of some? (“Thank you.” or “Thanks, Mom.”) But...even better, say what you are thanking them for (“Thanks for helping me with my homework, Dad.”) Doesn't that sound a whole lot better than just “Thanks”? But...even better than that--tell them how you feel about it (“Thanks for my new tennis shoes, Dad; they feel great, I can run faster in them.”)

“Thank You” is a gift from your heart and it shows appreciation for the other person. Being appreciative is a wonderful life skill. Appreciation smoothes the rough edges and makes a person pleasant to be around and easier to deal

with. If you give away one “Thank You” everyday, how many years would it take for you to run out of them? Right, you never, never, never run out. You always have a full supply—providing—you USE THEM. Because the more you use them the more you have. But...if you don't use them, they begin to dry up and pretty soon you become like those people who hardly ever thank anyone.

So don't be stingy about showing appreciation—use your “Thank You's”. You will always have a gift to give whenever the occasion arises.

The most wonderful words any language is “THANK YOU” preferably with full sentences which include the person's name, what they are thanking them for, and how you feel about it make it appropriate to the situation. Imbedded in the “Thank You” is the acknowledgement and recognition that everyone craves no matter what their age. If you're ready to give out, you are ready to keep on. It all starts with the words “THANK YOU”

