

WITH GRATITUDE

Romans 16: I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church. She has been the benefactor of many people, including me. Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Greet Mary, who worked very hard for you. Greet Ampliatus, my dear friend in the Lord. Greet Urbanus, our co-worker in Christ, and my dear friend Stachys. Greet Apelles, whose fidelity to Christ has stood the test. Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, those women who work hard in the Lord. Greet my dear friend Persis, another woman who has worked very hard in the Lord. Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother, who has been a mother to me, too.

We cannot determine if we are given opportunities to do great things for the Kingdom of God.

But we can decide to serve our Savior and love others.

We can decide to work hard in the Lord for the spreading of the Gospel and the growth of God's Kingdom.

St. Augustine: What is a little thing is a little thing. But to be faithful in a little thing is a huge thing.

1. I AM GRATEFUL FOR A. L. POINT.

I've seen greatness.

It looks like caring more about someone else than you care about yourself.

It looks like serving – and loving the fact that you get to serve.

It looks like being faithful when no one is _____ and no one will ever know.

Philippians 2.3-10: Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature^[b] of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name.

Greatness looks like Jesus and it looks like who I want to be.

2. I AM GRATEFUL FOR HELEN ALEXANDER.

Philippians 4.4-5: Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

I am grateful for the lesson that it's not what happens to me that makes the difference – it's what happens _____ me.
My circumstances do not determine my life – my decisions do.

3. I AM GRATEFUL FOR O.K. ADCOCK.

John 16.33: In this world you will have trouble. But take heart for I have overcome the world.

I am grateful for the lesson that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
I am grateful for a life that taught me that I bring kindness and dignity and faith to all I do and I can be a blessing to others if I remain connected to Jesus.
And if I do that I can overcome the world.

4. I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOU.

Psalm 16: The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.