



Abundant Living Ministries

Encouraging Christian Living since 1978

November 2020

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever. (Psalm 136:1 ESV)

***Giving thanks always and for everything
to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:20 ESV)***

Back to Basics! - I hadn't used my pressure washer in over a year. The Honda engine started on the first pull but only ran about 15 seconds before fading. I adjusted the choke and throttle and yanked again. Again it ran for just the few seconds. Then it wouldn't start at all. Believe me, I was determined as I yanked and yanked on the starter cord.

I checked the air filter. I fiddled with this and I fiddled with that. I drove to the auto-parts store and purchased some carburetor-cleaner spray. The engine started but again ran for a few seconds. I drove back to the auto-parts store and bought some fuel stabilizer. Back home, I siphoned the gas out of the tank and tried fresh gas with the stabilizer. No success. I went on the internet and reviewed how to do a thorough cleaning/rebuild of the carburetor.

To make a long story short (my sons would say, "Too late!"), I finally disconnected the fuel line and allowed some fuel to drain into my little pan. Whoa! Black grit! Lots of dirt in the fuel line!

Guess what? After draining the dirty gas, the engine started easily and ran problem-free for the entire job.

What's my point? It's that sometimes I forget to START WITH THE BASICS. When putting the washer away, 18 months earlier, I had run the fuel tank "dry," which invited the dirt from the very bottom of the tank to be sucked into the line. DUH! Checking that fuel line was a BASIC of the first order!

As we approach THANKSGIVING Day, let me go back to an important basic... gratitude.

I am thankful:

- ◆ To the Lord who healed my heart valves instantly, at age five, after I had been in bed for six months.
- ◆ For my parents who courageously took our family to Brazil where I had a most amazing childhood, participating in missionary service, learning a new language, and enjoying a foreign country.
- ◆ For my parents who prayed with me, at age eight, when I invited Jesus into my life, asking His forgiveness of my sins. HE has been so kind to me. HE loves me every day... and all day long!
- ◆ For Sharon, my wife, who has been my best friend for over 47 years. Absolutely faithful and loyal!
- ◆ For Sharon's father, who gave me the best-possible Life Advice prior to our marriage. He said, "I learned a long time ago that life is so precious; I will not ruin it by *holding a grudge*. So don't, John. Just don't hold a grudge."
- ◆ To God, for our four children who love the Lord and are teaching their children the same. And also for our three additional children whom we will meet one day in heaven.
- ◆ To the Lord who, 42 years ago, placed us in ministry here at ALM, blessing and being blessed!

This Thanksgiving, as we gather with family and friends, let's express our gratitude to the Lord and each other. Thankfulness is a life-giving basic which helps keep our "spiritual fuel lines" unclogged.

We are grateful. Thank You, Lord!

John (for Sharon and the rest here at ALM)

STRETCH YOUR GIFT

One Day ONLY... Your gift on FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20,
will be forwarded to ALM... with INCREASE!

The Lancaster County Community Foundation wants to encourage giving to ministries and organizations which are serving Lancaster County residents. Donors from anywhere in the country (in the world, actually) qualify for participation. Sponsors have created a *Stretch Pool* of at least \$500,000 which will be distributed proportionally among the participating nonprofits.

Here's an illustration: If ministry "XYZ" were to receive 1% of the total designated gifts on Nov. 22, THEN, that same nonprofit "XYZ" would also receive the additional 1% of the *Stretch Pool*.

The instructions are pretty simple:

1. On Friday, November 22 (midnight to midnight), go to the website **ExtraGive.org**.
2. Click in the SEARCH field (top right, by the symbol of a magnifying glass). Search for **Abundant Living Ministries**.
3. Submit your gift by credit card. An email receipt, for tax purposes, will be sent to you by the ExtraGive program.
4. That's it! ExtraGive will forward your contribution, PLUS the proportionate amount from the Stretch Pool, to ALM.

THE EXTRA ORDINARY GIVE



NOVEMBER 20, 2020

Just Released!
VOLUME 2



It's Christmas. Time for a story.

Whether gathered by the hearth with family and friends,
or curled up alone in your favorite chair,
there's nothing like a Yuletide yarn to warm the heart.
In this second volume of holiday stories, meet Mr. G, Bissell,
Aunt Allie, and an array of other delightful characters.
They will transport you to Christmases past, far-removed from ours,
yet perhaps not really so different.

So, grab a cup of cocoa,
put on your favorite slippers and settle in for a treat.
Let Christmas Tales stir you once again with laughter, tears,
and the timeless message of Jesus' birth.

AVAILABLE ON AMAZON
paperback \$13.99 e-Book \$9.99

Or it can be purchased directly from the ALM office.
paperback - \$12.00 (plus shipping & handling)

Open Arms Childbirth Class

Five Consecutive Thursdays

Jan 7th – Feb 4th, 2021 7:00 pm

Covering the important information offered in a hospital course, *Open Arms* adds a distinctively-Christian perspective. You will enjoy meeting other expectant couples as you gain practical help in preparing for a great labor and delivery. There is no cost for this course. **Register by contacting the ALM office.**

Contact Information

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