

# THE LOGOS



Christ, Our Soon Coming King

“Let’s Talk About Him”

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## A Pandemic Thanksgiving — Are You Serious!

*What does it mean to give thanks in all circumstances? -- by Dwight Nelson*



Somewhere in the Bible, it is commanded, “Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

Does that include the pandemic that pins this planet and the United States down this Thanksgiving?

As far as I can tell, the command does not indicate an exclusion clause. Though let’s be quick to recognize this is not a command to “give thanks *for* all circumstances”— it is a command to “give thanks *in* all circumstances.”

After all, how could we possibly thank God for the disease that has taken away our loved ones (1.41 million deaths globally — 260,000 deaths across the United States as I write these lines)? No, the command is specific — “Give thanks in [not for] all circumstances.”

After all, how could we possibly thank God for the disease that has stripped away our personal economic security?

“A new Pew Research Center survey finds that, overall, one-in-four adults have had trouble paying their bills since the coronavirus outbreak started, a third have dipped into savings or retirement accounts to make ends meet, and about one-in-six have borrowed money from friends or family or gotten food from a food bank. As was the case earlier this year, these types of experiences continue to be more common among adults with lower incomes, those without a college degree and Black and Hispanic Americans.”\*

The apostle Paul, himself no stranger to economic deprivation and intense personal suffering, is clear in his apostolic command: “Rejoice always, pray continually,

give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (**1 Thess. 5:16-18, NIV**).

But really — we’re supposed to find a reason for thanksgiving in the midst of this COVID-19 onslaught — are you serious?

May I make a humble effort to suggest a small list of possible things to be grateful for this Thanksgiving? Perhaps your list will look quite different:

- I am grateful for the technology that enables me to worship remotely with people I can’t see — somehow knowing, in a divine sort of way, we are connected to one another, though very much physically distanced.
- I am also thankful for the people who put up with the bother of wearing a face mask when they’re around me — what an “I care about you” kind of gift!
- I am grateful for the cell phone that lets me reach out to people I otherwise wouldn’t have been able to reach during this pandemic.
- I realize more and more the simple truth embedded in that old saw, “I complained to God about having no shoes, until I met a man who had no feet.”
- I am grateful for the lesson this pandemic is trying to teach me — that what matters most in life — more than professional success, more than economic comfort, more than even religious or theological correctness — what really matters most of all is relationships. I want to treasure the ones I have all the more, especially the one with God.
- I am thankful that as a result of this pandemic, my wife, Karen, has become a first-class homemade bread specialist.
- I am also grateful that my COVID-19 test a couple of weeks ago came back negative.
- Perhaps there is more truth than poetry to an “attitude of gratitude.” Consider these three one-liners I found in the chapter “Mind Cure” in *Ministry of Healing*:  
“Nothing tends more to promote health of body and of soul than does a spirit of gratitude and praise” (p. 251).  
“When you open your eyes in the morning, thank God that He has kept you through the night. Thank Him for His peace in your heart. Morning, noon, and night let gratitude as a sweet perfume ascend to heaven” (p. 253).  
“This command [**1 Thess. 5:18** — see above] is an assurance that even the things which appear to be against us will work for our good” (p. 255).  
Did you catch that? What appears to be against us “will work for our good.” That’s what God did at the cross — took the enemy’s absolute worst and transformed it into salvation’s absolute best — as only Jesus can do.  
Gratitude? Are you kidding? A blessed Thanksgiving, indeed!  
*Article written by Dwight Nelson, the Senior pastor of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Andrew University.*  
*Excerpt taken from Adventist Review magazine November 25, 2020. The original version of this commentary was posted on the New Perceptions television ministry blog, [The Fourth Watch](#).*

\* Kim Parker, Rachel Minkin, and Jesse Bennett, “Economic Fallout From COVID-19 Continues to Hit Lower-Income Americans the Hardest,” *Pew Research Center Social and Demographic Trends*, September 24, 2020, [www.pewsocialtrends.org/2020/09/24/economic-fallout-from-covid-19-continues-to-hit-lower-income-americans-the-hardest/](http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2020/09/24/economic-fallout-from-covid-19-continues-to-hit-lower-income-americans-the-hardest/).



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2020 DECEMBER

- 5: World Stewardship Day
- 4-5: Youth Congressoree-Speaker (Joint Youth Services)
- 5: Adventist Men Chorale Concert
- 6: CHAM Fun Day (Joint)
- 6 – 7: ATCU Session

6 – 7: Youth Choir Christmas Concert  
 11 – 12: 4th Quarter Youth Day (Local Church/District)  
 11 – 12: Winter Youth Retreats (Local Church/District)  
 12: Youth Emphasis Day/Meistersinger Annual Christmas Concert (p.m.)  
 13: Youth Banquets (Local Churches/District)  
 14: Health Emphasis Day/Choir Day  
 18: Office Closes for the Holiday  
 19: Christmas Sabbath  
 19: Music Day (Local Churches, a.m.)  
 25: Festival of Carols (Joint, p.m.)  
 31: Year End Service

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**EVENTS HAPPENING  
 THIS WEEKEND  
 YOUTH DEPARTMENT  
 Festival of Youth 2020:**

Will be held virtually, on December 4-5, 2020.  
 Friday at 7:00p.m  
 Sabbath at 9:00a.m & 4:00p.m  
**Via:**  
 YouTube- @passiton242  
 Facebook-@passiton242  
**Meeting ID:** 966 5728 0441  
**Passcode:** 330295

- Pastor Jamal Franklyn,  
 Youth Director.

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**CHILDREN & ADOLESCENT  
 MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT  
 CHAM FUN DAY**

**& Announcement of Results of 'Kids  
 Talents for Jesus' Competition  
 December 6, 2020  
 @12:00p.m – 2:00p.m -Via Zoom  
 Meeting ID: 978 7116 6067  
 Passcode: 045483**

Activities are planned for  
 children and teens:  
 7 years old & down  
 8 years old & up

Parents are asked upon entrance in the Zoom  
 meeting to rename your  
 child's tag accordingly.

*Eg. 7 - John Pinder (the '7' will indicate that  
 the child is 7 years old or under) OR*

*8 - Mary Burrows (the '8' to indicate the  
 child is 8 years old or above).*

This will assist us to move to the activities in a  
 timely fashion.

Thank you, parents!

- Mrs. Lavern A. Sturrup,  
 Children & Adolescent Ministries Director.



**COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT  
 TESTING OF NEW MARSIS  
 PLAYBOX FOR TV CHANNEL**

Due to the testing of our new playbox for our  
 channel, ATV658, we will not broadcast our  
 local programming this weekend. Please note  
 that this week's local television programming

can be viewed on the Conference's Website,  
 Facebook and Youtube channel. We apologize  
 for any inconvenience caused.

-Mrs. Lavern Sturrup,  
 Communication Director.



**HEALTH MINISTRIES  
 DEPARTMENT  
 Health Panel Discussion**

You are all invited to a Health Panel Discussion  
 captioned, "The Whole You" on December 5 at  
 4:00p.m. A panel of health professionals will  
 be available to answer any health  
 questions/concerns you may have.

**MEETING ID: 996-8077-3311**

**Passcode: 681760**

- Mrs. Nathelyn LaCroix, Health Ministries  
 Director.



**BIBLE CLASS**

Bible Class continues Sunday @ 6:30 via  
 Zoom and YouTube. -Pastor Lynden  
 Williams, Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator.



**HEALTH MINISTRIES  
 DEPARTMENT  
 UPCOMING EVENTS**

December 20 - Cooking Class (Hillview)



**WOMEN'S MINISTRIES  
 DEPARTMENT**

**Thanks, from Women's Ministries**

On behalf of the Women's Ministries  
 Department of the South Bahamas Conference,  
 I wish to take this opportunity to say a sincere  
 thank you to the Administration, Women's  
 Ministries Leaders in New Providence and  
 Family Islands, my Council Members, GEMS  
 and their Mentors as well as the many faithful  
 women who supported and provided  
 encouragement during this year.

I am humbled to lead the women here in The  
 South Bahamas Conference and while COVID-  
 19 may have restrained some of our plans, by  
 God's grace, we press on and will finish strong.  
 Stay poised and ready, as we continued to be  
 empowered by the Holy Spirit to Shine for  
 Christ in 2021.

If you have any questions, comments or  
 suggestions or need additional information on  
 any of our initiatives, kindly email us  
 at [SBCwomensministries@sbcadventist.org](mailto:SBCwomensministries@sbcadventist.org),  
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**Upcoming Events  
 Apple Strudel Tutorial**

Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:45 a.m.  
 We Care, so we will share. Bake two and give  
 one away as a Random Act of Kindness- "God

in Shoes" Initiative. **Zoom ID :97369554488**  
**Passcode: strudel**

**Christmas Food Box Delivery**

December 19-24, 2020.

**Women's Devotional Submissions**  
 Deadline June 2021.



**Yuletide Greetings from  
 Women's Ministries**

As we approach another  
 yuletide season, amid all the  
 hustle and bustle, bells and whistles, the focus  
 for the world is giving and receiving. However,  
 as children of God, let us primarily focus on the  
 Christ-child, the most important gift we could  
 ever receive, as found in John 3:16.

There is a quote that says, "You can give  
 without loving, but you cannot love without  
 giving". This God-given love will prompt us to  
 give of our time, abilities, resources and of  
 ourselves. Giving is how we show our love,  
 which is sometimes the greatest gift of all.

May the spirit of God's peace and presence be  
 ours as we celebrate His birth; the only gift that  
 will last for eternity!

On behalf of the Women's Ministries  
 Department, I wish you all Happy Holidays and  
 an even more spirit-filled New Year!

**Pause and Pray Wednesday.**

Don't forget our weekly Pause and Pray  
 appointment on Wednesdays at noon.

**DONATION REQUEST  
 Used, But In**

**Good Condition Devotionals**

Kindly donate to your local Women's  
 Ministries Leader for distribution during our  
 community outreach projects this year. -Mrs.  
 Jacqueline Gibson, Women's Ministries  
 Director.



**Please Email Weekly Announcements**

To: [sbclagos@gmail.com](mailto:sbclagos@gmail.com)

Or [logos@sbcadventist.org.bs](mailto:logos@sbcadventist.org.bs)

By Tuesday at 3:00p.m.

Visit the Conference website:  
<http://southbahamasconference.org>  
 for the Logos publication archives & the  
 ATV658 NEWS, as well as weekly  
 programming.



**CALL 341-4021  
 SUN SETS NEXT  
 SABBATH  
 December 11, 2020  
 5:21 p.m.**

*Happy Sabbath!*