



*In everything give thanks, for this is the will  
of God in Christ Jesus for you!*



*1 Thessalonians. 5:18*

*In EVERYTHING give thanks?! Usually, when I reflect on this verse, I make a mental list of all the things that make up the hardships and struggles in my life. Things like not having a car right now (needs a new engine), being far away from our three beautiful, precious children, dealing with the constant pain once again in both my arms, etc. It is so easy to focus on the negative. God says, "In everything give thanks." What about the positive, the other part of "everything"? Thanking God is a positive action on our part, but if we would focus each day on thanking Him not only for the bad but for the good things in life, wouldn't we find it so much easier to truly thank Him for ALL things?*

*In the book, The Ultimate Gift, the author says that being thankful is one of God's gifts to us. God says it is His will for you and for me. There is also a challenge in the book: To find 10 things or reasons to give thanks to the Lord every day. Sound easy? Try it! By the way, although it is wonderful and good to repeatedly be thankful to God for many of the same things each day, could we actually come up with ten NEW things to be thankful for each day also? There's the challenge. God doesn't even ask us to be thankful. He tells us to be thankful because He KNOWS how that will change and affect our lives for His honor and glory and how this will bless and edify us tremendously!*

*Wilson and I thank God so much for you! We thank him for renewed strength each day, for wisdom and direction, for showing us His will and for keeping us in His care. I thank him for a stove to make meals, a fridge and the cold glass of water that is so refreshing in this heat. I am ever so thankful for computers (which actually took me years to really appreciate) so that we can see our kids, hear their voices and be an integral part of their lives. I am thankful today for the rains that settled the dust and cooled our home, for the wonderful bed and a good night of sleep, for the little decorations scattered throughout our home that were gifts from many of you and are constant reminders that we are loved and prayed for. I'm thankful that I love to walk, especially since we don't have a car right now, that we have buses to take us anywhere in Manaus. I'm thankful God is with me while I sit here talking to you and for His abundant love and amazing grace.*

*Get the idea? Wilson and I are learning to give thanks and be thankful. It is going to be a lifelong journey, but we know it will be totally worth it and will definitely change our lives. Sounds simple but is definitely a challenge, takes sacrifice and obedience and comes with a guarantee of God's stamp of approval!*



*Thank you for praying for the mission conference with staff from North Brazil in Boa Vista, Roraima. There were forty adults and fifteen children. During three days over the weekend, we were spiritually challenged through messages from a pastor in south Brazil (DVD), refreshed in mind and spirit as we gathered together for times of family fun, fellowship and sharing at a small lake and instructed on mission policies and programs as we dealt with key issues concerning mission operation and ministry expansion. We also gathered together as one and held prayer vigils for Rosirene and Christoph along with many of you.*

*Wilson, along with our mission leaders, is now holding meetings with key people from Operation Amazon, USA, to establish criteria for purchase, importation, assembly, delivery and installation of the new pvc water filters. The mission boat is done and the barge will be ready in two months. Wilson will also be holding meetings for one week in November with leadership from ASAS, other missions, churches and organizations together with key men from the USA to formulate strategies in which we can all work together (partnerships) to reach the 17,000 unreached river communities in the next several years. Please join us through your prayers asking God for wisdom and direction!*



*I want to end this letter to you with thanksgiving. We praise and thank God that Julie was accepted for the fall of 2009 to St. Francis School of Nursing in Peoria, IL! So here is another special thanks for all of your prayers for her!! She will leave College of the Ozarks in the spring to be able to take three more classes somewhere else in order to fulfill her prerequisites for the nursing program. We thank God for direction, good health and good grades for all three of our kids. We thank God for His peace, His providence, His purpose and His presence in our lives!!!*

*And a HAPPY THANKSGIVING to you!*

*Count your blessings. You are one of ours.*

*Lori and Wilson*



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