SCRIPTURE:
“Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.” —1 Chronicles 16:8
“I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the Lord most high.” —Psalm 7:17
“The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him and I am helped, my heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song.” —Psalm 28:7
“That my heart may sing to you and not be silent, O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.” —Psalm 30:12
“I will give you thanks in the great assembly; among throngs of people I will praise you.” —Psalm 35:18
“Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.” —Psalm 95:2
“Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.” —Psalm 100:4–5
“You are my God and I will give you thanks.” —Psalm 118:28
“But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” —1 Corinthians 15:57
“I thank my God every time I remember you.” —Philippians 1:3
“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your requests to God.” —Philippians 4:6
“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord continue to live in him, rooted and build up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” —Colossians 2:7
“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace and be thankful.” —Colossians 3:15
“How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we
MEDITATION:
These marvelous verses stand on their own. I don’t need to add anything! But we might like to take time to think of all for which we can be thankful—the ability to hear, see, taste, smell, walk, think, remember, laugh, learn. We should be thankful for our family, the ASA, our friends, our church, our trips, music. We need to be thankful for being forgiven, and work hard on forgiving others. We could dwell on the beauty of autumn leaves, a rainbow, the moon, sunrise, a new baby. We can appreciate a wonderful neighbor, a safe ride, our TV, car, computer, our education. We can be grateful for the ability to read, doctors, medications, grocery stores, poetry, our job. We can be thankful for all we have learned about history, math, technological devices, and all the many sciences. There is no end!

There are many verses in the Bible dealing with thanksgiving. We often, especially in this country, take our freedom and security for granted. Think of people around the world who do not have this. Many also had not heard of our saving God until Bible translators and missionaries entered their countries. Many still do not have this blessing. We need to be thankful. Jesus did his work and could have avoided his death on the cross, but he sacrificed his life for us. He even prayed (Luke 22:42) “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done.” We can totally understand his human side, yet he gave himself. We must thank him every day, hour, minute for his sacrifice for us. In the United States, we celebrate Thanksgiving one day in November every year. That is special and edifying. But we should celebrate Thanksgiving 365 days each year. Thanksgiving and THANKSLIVING go together.

REFLECTION:
We have learned about the “Seven Wonders of the World.” What are your seven wonders for which to be thankful? Take time to teach yourself to dwell on the many positives and try to ignore the negatives. Can you do that right now? Be thankful, not critical; be happy, not complaining. Dwelling on all the many blessings we have is so edifying.

PRAYER:
Dear Lord, Thank you that we met you, and that you lead our lives every day and that you have plans for us. Help us to be more thankful.
and complain less. Help us to dwell on all we have to be thankful for and may our attitudes affect others so they, too, can spend time being aware of all the blessings you have given. Continue to teach us how to honor you and how to grow and express our faith in meaningful and thankful ways. Do have our attitudes be dominated with gratitude! We are on a marvelous journey under your leadership. Bless us and use us in the days, weeks, and months years ahead. Amen.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:
Margaret Towne coedited the ASA newsletter for nine years and enjoyed meeting our members and leaders at the annual meetings, even one in Scotland! She has two degrees in biology from the University of Michigan, attended one year at Princeton Seminary (where she met her husband, Vernon). Her doctoral degree is from the University of Montana and her dissertation was on the creationism/evolution dialogue. That led to a book, *Honest to Genesis: A Biblical and Scientific Challenge to Creationism*. Her pastor husband served at several Presbyterian churches across the country over the years, so Margaret taught science and religion as well as critical thinking at a variety of universities. They have two delightful, married daughters and are now retired, living in their final pastoral city, Las Vegas.
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