

The Power of Thank You

The Presbyterian Church in America is the second largest Presbyterian church body (second to Presbyterian Church USA) and the largest conservative Reformed denomination in the United States. PCA is reformed in theology, Presbyterian in government and active in missions.

Organized at a constitutional assembly in December 1973, PCA has a strong commitment to evangelism, Christian education and missionary work at home and abroad.

When PCA was started, according to Dr. James Baird, a minister and one of its founders, “we had no money – not a dime – and we were going to start a new denomination. One group gave us \$90,000 for world missions. The only two missionaries we had – Dick Dye and a young woman named Ellen Barnett – were down in Acapulco.”

Dye had been in Acapulco for two months trying to start a church. “Whenever he got discouraged,” Dr. Baird said, “he looked up at a cross he could see on a nearby mountain. That encouraged him. Finally, he drove up the mountain to find out about that cross. And when he did, he found it attached to a big hotel.”



Dye asked the secretary at the hotel, “Can I speak to the man who runs this establishment?”

“Do you have an appointment?” she asked.

“No appointment. I just want to tell him something.”

“What do you want to tell him?” the secretary pressed him.

“I want to thank him,” Dye responded.

The secretary got the owner. Dye told him, “I’m a missionary from the United States here in Acapulco. I’ve been discouraged. But I see that cross and it encourages me. I want to thank you for having it up there.”

The hotel owner looked at Dye, put his head down on his desk, and began to weep. He wept and wept. Finally, he raised his head and said: “That cross has been up there for years. All I’ve heard is criticism. You’re the first man who ever said thank you. Now, who are you and what do you need?”

(more)

"I'm just a missionary," Dye answered.

"Where do you meet?" the owner asked.

"We don't meet anywhere. I don't have any place to meet," Dye said.

"Come with me," the hotel owner instructed. He took Dye to a beautiful chapel and said, "We have church here at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. From now on, it is yours at 10:00 a.m. You begin service next week."

That was the beginning of the first Presbyterian Church in America missionary plant, Dr. Baird said. "Within a few years, we turned four congregations over to the Presbyterian Church of Mexico. How did it start? With one guy who said thank you."

This is Thanksgiving week and an appropriate time to recognize that these two words, *thank you*, have the power to transform our health, bring happiness and remedy athletic performance and success. Research shows that grateful people are happier and more likely to maintain good friendships.

A state of gratitude, according to the Institute of HeartMath, improves the heart's rhythmic functioning, which helps us to reduce stress, think more clearly under pressure and heal physically.

Gratitude and appreciation are also essential for a healthy work environment. In fact, the No. 1 reason why people leave their jobs is because they don't feel appreciated. A simple thank you and a show of appreciation can make all the difference.

Let's get a good start to this week by thanking people, either by a genuine expression while looking people in the eyes or by a handwritten note.

And don't forget: God desires a *thank you* to Him!

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!
(Psalm 107:1 ESV)

– Beecher Hunter