

CARTER METROPOLITAN
CME CHURCH

FORT WORTH, TEXAS
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GRATEFUL *Souls*

CULTIVATING GRATITUDE,
RESTORING SHALOM,
AND THRIVING TOGETHER

AN INTERACTIVE BIBLE STUDY
FACILITATED BY CARTER METRO CLERGY

A Companion to the Sermon Series
SOUL SURVIVORS

REMEMBER

REFLECT

RESTORE

HOPE

GRACE
PEOPLE
PURPOSE
TOGETHER

NOVEMBER 4, 11, 18 & DECEMBER 2, 2026

RESTORED SOULS. GRATEFUL HEARTS. RENEWED RELATIONSHIPS.
COURAGEOUS HOPE.

GRATEFUL SOULS

Cultivating Gratitude, Restoring Shalom, and Thriving Together

November 4, 11, 18 & December 2, 2026

A Companion Bible Study to the Sermon Series

SOUL SURVIVORS: Sustained by Grace. Restored for What's Next.

Carter Metropolitan CME Church

Fort Worth, Texas

SERIES FOUNDATION

Primary Scripture: Colossians 3:15–17

Theological Foundation: God's grace sustains us through life's challenges, but God's restoring grace also invites us into spiritual wholeness. Gratitude is one of the disciplines through which we recognize God's faithfulness, renew our perspective, strengthen our relationships, and cultivate hope.

Series Proposition: Gratitude is more than an acknowledgment of what God has done. It is an intentional spiritual response to grace that shapes how we remember, relate, serve, and anticipate God's continuing work.

Guiding Conviction:

True shalom precedes meaningful progress.

We cannot confuse activity with spiritual vitality or organizational accomplishments with congregational wholeness. As we seek to rise and thrive through courageous imagination, we must cultivate grateful hearts, restored relationships, and a shared commitment to God's purposes.

SERIES LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the conclusion of the series, participants should be able to:

1. Understand gratitude as a biblical response to God's grace, even amid unresolved difficulties.
2. Practice remembering God's faithfulness without minimizing painful experiences.
3. Recognize how gratitude influences Christian character, relationships, and communal shalom.
4. Connect gratitude with Advent hope and renewed expectations for God's future.

SUGGESTED SESSION FORMAT — 60 MINUTES

- Opening song and prayer — 5 minutes
- Historical and biblical background — 10 minutes
- Scripture exploration and theological implications — 20 minutes
- Discussion and congregational application — 15 minutes
- Spiritual discipline and closing prayer — 10 minutes

WEEK ONE — NOVEMBER 4, 2026

GRATEFUL, EVEN HERE!

Recognizing Grace Without Denying Reality

Primary Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

Supporting Scripture: Psalm 34:1–8

Key Verse:

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” — 1 Thessalonians 5:18, KJV

CENTRAL PROPOSITION

Gratitude does not require us to deny our difficulties. It invites us to recognize God's sustaining presence and grace within them.

I. HISTORICAL AND BIBLICAL BACKGROUND

First Thessalonians is widely regarded as one of Paul's earliest surviving letters, generally dated around AD 50–51.

Thessalonica was an important commercial and political center in Macedonia, located along the Via Egnatia, a major Roman roadway.

The Christian community in Thessalonica was relatively young. According to Acts 17:1–9, Paul's ministry there encountered significant opposition.

Paul's letter addresses a congregation experiencing pressure, uncertainty, grief, and questions concerning Christ's return.

These believers were not living under ideal circumstances.

Yet near the conclusion of his letter, Paul gives three closely connected instructions:

“Rejoice evermore.”

“Pray without ceasing.”

“In every thing give thanks.”

These are not three unrelated religious activities. Together, they describe a way of living that remains oriented toward God despite life's uncertainties.

Psalm 34 provides a complementary witness.

The psalm is traditionally associated with David's escape from danger. Its superscription connects it to an episode involving Abimelech, while the corresponding narrative in 1 Samuel 21 names Achish.

The psalmist declares:

“I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.”

Yet the psalm does not deny suffering. Verse 6 acknowledges the cry of the afflicted, and verse 19 recognizes that the righteous experience many troubles.

Praise and pain coexist within the same testimony.

II. WALKING THROUGH THE SCRIPTURE

1. Gratitude Is Not the Denial of Reality

Paul does not command believers to celebrate injustice, suffering, or loss.

He calls them to give thanks *in* every circumstance.

There is an important difference between being thankful for suffering and recognizing God's presence while suffering.

Gratitude does not invalidate grief.

Nor does thanksgiving eliminate the need to confront what is wrong.

2. Gratitude Requires Spiritual Awareness

Sometimes we become so focused on what has happened that we lose sight of what continues to sustain us.

Spiritual awareness enables us to recognize grace in ordinary experiences.

A timely word of encouragement.

Strength for another day.

A relationship that remains supportive.

An opportunity to begin again.

These are not substitutes for addressing serious problems. They are reminders that hardship does not represent the entirety of our lives.

3. Gratitude Is Cultivated Through Practice

Paul connects thanksgiving with rejoicing and continual prayer.

Gratitude is not dependent solely upon our emotional state.

It can become an intentional practice that shapes our attention, prayers, and responses.

III. THEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

Grace precedes gratitude.

We do not manufacture God's grace by becoming thankful. We give thanks because God's grace is already at work.

Lament and gratitude are compatible.

The biblical tradition makes room for sorrow, protest, questions, and thanksgiving. Authentic spirituality does not require us to choose between honesty and faith.

Gratitude strengthens spiritual resilience.

Gratitude can help believers recognize sustaining resources without minimizing the seriousness of their circumstances.

For a congregation seeking restoration, this means people must have permission to acknowledge their experiences while learning to recognize the grace that continues to surround them.

IV. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

5. What is the difference between being grateful *in* a difficult situation and being grateful *for* that situation?
6. How might unresolved disappointments affect our ability to recognize God's grace in the present?
7. How can we create a church environment where people can express both their struggles and their gratitude without judgment?

V. SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE

The Practice of Honest Gratitude

During the coming week, set aside five minutes each evening.

Reflect upon two questions:

- What reality did I face today that challenged my peace?
- Where did I recognize God's sustaining grace today?

Record your responses in a journal or personal notebook.

Do not force yourself to identify a blessing in every painful event.

Instead, practice recognizing that God's presence is not limited to favorable circumstances.

VI. CONGREGATIONAL APPLICATION

A grateful congregation is not one that refuses to acknowledge problems.

It is one that can tell the truth about its circumstances while remaining attentive to God's continuing work.

Memorable Takeaway:

Gratitude does not change the truth of what happened, but it can change our awareness of the grace that sustains us.

VII. SONG OF REFLECTION

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Suggested emphasis: “Morning by morning new mercies I see.”

Invite participants to consider the difference between expecting every day to be easy and recognizing God's mercy in each new day.

VIII. CLOSING PRAYER

Gracious and faithful God,

Thank You for meeting us where we are, not merely where we wish we could be.

You know the burdens we carry, the disappointments we have experienced, and the questions that remain unanswered.

Teach us to recognize Your grace without denying our pain.

Give us the courage to be honest about our circumstances and the spiritual awareness to recognize Your sustaining presence.

Where our hearts have become weary, renew our strength.

Where disappointment has diminished our gratitude, restore our perspective.

And as we walk together as Your people, help us become a community where honesty is welcomed, compassion is practiced, and thanksgiving flows from hearts being transformed by grace.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

WEEK TWO — NOVEMBER 11, 2026

REMEMBER WHAT GRACE HAS DONE!

Honoring the Journey Without Becoming Captive to the Past

Primary Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:1–18

Key Verse:

“But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth...” —
Deuteronomy 8:18, KJV

CENTRAL PROPOSITION

Gratitude remembers God's faithfulness throughout our journey while allowing the lessons of the past to prepare us for new possibilities.

I. HISTORICAL AND BIBLICAL BACKGROUND

Deuteronomy presents Moses addressing Israel as the people prepare to enter the land promised to their ancestors.

The book's setting places Israel on the plains of Moab, east of the Jordan River.

The generation preparing to enter the land stands at a significant transition.

The wilderness journey has been marked by hardship, dependence, disobedience, provision, and divine instruction.

Deuteronomy repeatedly calls Israel to remember.

The Hebrew verb *zakar*, meaning “to remember,” carries more than the idea of recalling information. In biblical contexts, remembering frequently involves allowing what is recalled to shape present faithfulness and action.

Moses reminds the people of God's provision during their wilderness experience.

They experienced hunger.

They received manna.

Their clothing did not wear out.

They were sustained through circumstances that revealed their dependence upon God.

But Moses also warns them about a different spiritual danger.

Once they enter the land and experience prosperity, they may forget the source of their provision.

They may begin to believe that their achievements are entirely the result of their own strength.

The challenge is therefore twofold:

Do not forget God's faithfulness during hardship.

And do not forget God when circumstances improve.

II. WALKING THROUGH THE SCRIPTURE

1. Remember the Journey — Verses 1–6

Moses calls Israel to remember the wilderness experience.

The journey was not always pleasant.

Yet it became a setting in which the people learned dependence upon God.

Remembering honestly means acknowledging both the difficulties and the grace experienced along the way.

A healthy spiritual memory does not rewrite history.

It learns from it.

2. Recognize the Source — Verses 7–10

Moses describes the goodness of the land Israel is preparing to enter.

There will be water, agricultural abundance, and resources.

The people are instructed to bless the Lord when they have eaten and are satisfied.

Gratitude acknowledges that provision is not merely a personal accomplishment.

It is also an occasion to recognize divine generosity.

3. Resist the Danger of Forgetting — Verses 11–18

Prosperity can create spiritual forgetfulness.

Moses warns against the attitude that says:

“My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.”

The danger is not prosperity itself.

The danger is allowing prosperity to produce pride, self-sufficiency, and forgetfulness.

Gratitude preserves humility.

III. THEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

Spiritual memory shapes spiritual identity.

What we choose to remember influences how we understand ourselves and our relationship with God.

Gratitude requires truthful remembrance.

We do not have to pretend that every season of our history was healthy or successful.

Some experiences should be celebrated.

Others should be examined.

Some may require repentance, accountability, or repair.

Faithfulness requires remembering without becoming imprisoned by memory.

The past can provide wisdom without becoming the controlling authority over the future.

For a congregation with a long history, this distinction is especially important.

Our legacy deserves honor.

But legacy is not simply the preservation of what previous generations accomplished.

It is the faithful stewardship of what they entrusted to us.

IV. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

8. Why does Moses consider remembering essential to Israel's spiritual future?
9. How can individuals and congregations distinguish between honoring their history and allowing past experiences to limit present possibilities?

10. What lessons from our congregation's history should guide us as we envision what God may be calling us to do next?

V. SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE

Sacred Remembering

This week, practice intentional remembrance.

Identify:

- One difficult season through which God sustained you.
- One person whose faithfulness contributed to your spiritual journey.
- One lesson from your past that can help you move forward more wisely.

If possible, express gratitude directly to the person you identified.

If that person is no longer living, honor their contribution through prayer, remembrance, or an act of service.

VI. CONGREGATIONAL APPLICATION

Invite participants to reflect upon the congregation's history.

What has God enabled this church to accomplish?

Who made sacrifices that helped sustain its ministry?

What challenges have taught important lessons?

What practices should be preserved?

What patterns may need to change?

The purpose is not to revisit old conflicts publicly.

It is to develop a mature understanding of the congregation's spiritual inheritance.

Memorable Takeaway:

We remember where God has brought us from so we can move faithfully toward where God is leading us.

VII. SONG OF REFLECTION

“We've Come This Far by Faith”

This song connects gratitude with communal memory.

It acknowledges the faithfulness of God throughout the journey while encouraging continued dependence upon divine guidance.

VIII. CLOSING PRAYER

God of our yesterday, today, and tomorrow,

We thank You for the journey that has brought us to this moment.

We remember those who prayed before us, labored before us, sacrificed before us, and trusted You for possibilities they would not live to see.

We acknowledge that every season has not been easy.

There have been disappointments, mistakes, misunderstandings, and challenges that tested our faith.

Yet through it all, Your grace has continued to sustain us.

Help us remember with gratitude and discernment.

Teach us to preserve what is life-giving, learn from what has been painful, and release what prevents us from walking faithfully into the future.

Keep us humble in our accomplishments, honest about our shortcomings, and hopeful about the work You are continuing among us.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

WEEK THREE — NOVEMBER 18, 2026

GRATITUDE CHANGES HOW WE TREAT PEOPLE

From Thankful Hearts to Restored Relationships

Primary Scripture: Colossians 3:12–17

Key Verse:

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.” — Colossians 3:15, KJV

CENTRAL PROPOSITION

Gratitude for God's grace should transform our relationships, cultivating the compassion, accountability, forgiveness, and love necessary for communal shalom.

I. HISTORICAL AND BIBLICAL BACKGROUND

Colossians addresses a Christian community in Colossae, a city in the Lycus Valley of Asia Minor, in present-day Turkey.

The letter is traditionally attributed to Paul, although its authorship remains debated among biblical scholars.

The congregation existed within a culturally diverse environment influenced by various religious and philosophical traditions.

The letter emphasizes the supremacy of Christ and the implications of belonging to Christ's new community.

Chapter 3 moves from theological identity to practical Christian living.

Believers are instructed to put away destructive attitudes and behaviors and to embrace the character appropriate to their new life in Christ.

The passage uses the imagery of clothing.

Just as people intentionally put on garments, believers are called to cultivate compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness, and love.

The instruction to be thankful appears within this larger discussion of communal life.

Gratitude is therefore not disconnected from relationships.

It is part of the spiritual character of the community.

II. WALKING THROUGH THE SCRIPTURE

1. Put On the Character of Christ — Verses 12–14

Paul calls believers to practice compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

These qualities are not merely private virtues.

They influence how people respond to one another.

A congregation may have strong worship, capable leadership, and active ministries while struggling to demonstrate these characteristics consistently.

Spiritual maturity must be reflected in relationships.

2. Let the Peace of Christ Govern the Community — Verse 15

The Greek word translated “rule” carries the sense of acting as an arbiter or governing influence.

Paul calls believers to allow Christ's peace to guide their communal life.

This peace is not simply the avoidance of conflict.

Biblical shalom points toward wholeness, well-being, justice, and right relationships.

Peace cannot be sustained through silence alone.

It requires truthfulness, mutual respect, accountability, and a willingness to seek what is good for the entire community.

3. Let Gratitude Shape Worship and Action — Verses 16–17

Paul connects thanksgiving with teaching, singing, and everything believers do.

Gratitude is expressed through worship, but it must also shape daily conduct.

A grateful heart should influence how we speak, listen, serve, disagree, and respond to others.

III. THEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

Gratitude and grace are inseparable.

Those who recognize God's generosity are invited to extend grace toward others.

Forgiveness does not eliminate accountability.

Forgiveness may release resentment, but rebuilding trust requires honesty, changed behavior, and consistent faithfulness.

Reconciliation cannot be demanded where harm continues.

Shalom is a communal responsibility.

The spiritual health of a congregation is not solely the responsibility of its pastor or leadership.

Every member contributes to the culture of the community.

Leaders, in turn, bear particular responsibility for modeling integrity, transparency, and accountability.

Christian worship should produce Christian character.

The authenticity of our worship should become evident in the way we live together.

IV. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

11. Why does Paul connect thanksgiving with compassion, patience, forgiveness, and love?
12. What is the difference between maintaining the appearance of peace and cultivating genuine shalom?
13. What intentional practices can help strengthen trust, accountability, and healthy relationships within a congregation?

V. SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE

Gratitude Expressed Through Relationship

During the coming week, choose one intentional action that reflects gratitude for God's grace.

Consider:

- Expressing sincere appreciation to someone whose contributions are often overlooked.
- Listening carefully to someone whose perspective differs from yours.
- Acknowledging a mistake without becoming defensive.
- Offering encouragement to someone experiencing difficulty.
- Following through on a commitment that strengthens another person's trust.

The goal is not to perform a good deed for recognition.

It is to allow gratitude to influence behavior.

VI. CONGREGATIONAL APPLICATION

A church cannot become a community of shalom through statements about unity alone.

Shalom must be practiced.

It becomes visible when members treat one another with dignity, leaders demonstrate accountability, differences are addressed constructively, and people experience genuine belonging.

As we prepare to rise and thrive through courageous imagination, we must remember:

The quality of our relationships matters as much as the success of our programs.

True shalom precedes meaningful progress.

Memorable Takeaway:

Gratitude becomes transformative when the grace we celebrate becomes the grace we practice.

VII. SONG OF REFLECTION

“I Need You to Survive” — Hezekiah Walker

This selection is particularly appropriate because it emphasizes mutual responsibility and the spiritual importance of one another.

Invite participants to reflect upon the difference between singing about unity and practicing it.

VIII. CLOSING PRAYER

God of grace and peace,

Thank You for calling us into relationship with You and with one another.

Forgive us for the times we have celebrated Your grace without extending grace to others.

Where relationships have been strained, give us wisdom.

Where trust has been damaged, help us practice truthfulness and accountability.

Where pride has prevented understanding, cultivate humility.

Where fear has encouraged distance, help us discern how to build healthy connections.

Teach us that unity does not require uniformity and that peace is more than the absence of disagreement.

Shape us into a congregation where compassion is genuine, forgiveness is practiced wisely, accountability is welcomed, and every person is treated with dignity.

Restore our souls and strengthen our fellowship.

May our gratitude become visible in the way we love and serve.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

WEEK FOUR — DECEMBER 2, 2026

GRATEFUL FOR WHAT WAS, HOPEFUL FOR WHAT'S NEXT!

From Thanksgiving to Advent Expectation

Primary Scripture: Romans 15:4–13

Key Verse:

“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.” — Romans 15:13, KJV

CENTRAL PROPOSITION

Gratitude remembers the faithfulness of God, while hope trusts that God's grace continues to create possibilities for restoration, reconciliation, and renewed life.

I. HISTORICAL AND BIBLICAL BACKGROUND

Paul's letter to the Romans was likely written around AD 56–58.

The Christian communities in Rome included Jewish and Gentile believers navigating differences in religious heritage, customs, and practices.

Romans 14–15 addresses tensions concerning matters such as food and the observance of particular days.

Paul encourages believers to resist contempt and judgment and to pursue mutual edification.

Romans 15:1–7 calls the strong to bear with the weak and encourages believers to welcome one another as Christ has welcomed them.

Paul then connects God's promises to Israel with the inclusion of the Gentiles in God's saving purposes.

The passage culminates in a prayer that believers may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is particularly appropriate for Advent.

Advent begins the Christian year with anticipation.

The church remembers Christ's coming, celebrates God's faithfulness, and awaits the fulfillment of God's promises.

The first Sunday of Advent in 2026 is November 29, making this study part of the opening week of Advent.

II. WALKING THROUGH THE SCRIPTURE

1. Hope Is Nourished by Remembering — Verse 4

Paul explains that Scripture provides endurance, encouragement, and hope.

The biblical witness reminds believers that God's faithfulness is not limited to their immediate circumstances.

Gratitude looks backward with recognition.

Hope looks forward with expectation.

Both are grounded in the character of God.

2. Hope Makes Room for One Another — Verses 5–7

Paul prays that believers will live in harmony and glorify God together.

He instructs them to welcome one another as Christ has welcomed them.

This is not a call to ignore differences.

It is an invitation to allow Christ's grace to shape how differences are navigated.

A hopeful congregation must become a welcoming congregation.

We cannot proclaim hope for a shared future while refusing to make room for one another in the present.

3. Hope Overflows Through the Holy Spirit — Verse 13

Paul identifies God as the source of hope.

Joy and peace accompany believing, and hope abounds through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Christian hope is not wishful thinking.

It is confidence grounded in God's faithfulness and promises.

Advent reminds us that God's work is not finished.

III. THEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

Gratitude and hope belong together.

Gratitude remembers what God has done.

Hope anticipates what God will yet do.

Hope is communal.

Paul's prayer emerges from a discussion of relationships within the church.

Christian hope should influence how believers welcome, encourage, and support one another.

Advent invites spiritual preparation.

Preparing for Christ's coming involves more than seasonal activities.

It invites renewed attention to God's presence, promises, and purposes.

Shalom and hope strengthen courageous imagination.

A congregation grounded in God's peace can approach the future without allowing fear or disappointment to become its controlling perspective.

IV. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

14. How does remembering God's past faithfulness strengthen our capacity to hope?

15. Why does Paul connect hope with welcoming one another and living in harmony?

16. What would it look like for our congregation to enter Advent with renewed hope, restored relationships, and a shared commitment to God's continuing work?

V. SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE

An Advent Practice of Grateful Expectation

During the first week of Advent, begin each day with two reflections.

Gratitude: What evidence of God's faithfulness can I remember today?

Hope: What possibility am I willing to entrust to God's continuing work?

Conclude with a brief prayer:

“God of hope, restore what is weary, strengthen what is fragile, and prepare my heart for what You are doing next.”

Participants may also identify one practical action that reflects hope, such as encouraging someone, repairing a relationship where appropriate, serving a neighbor, or supporting a shared ministry.

VI. CONGREGATIONAL APPLICATION

Our journey through *Grateful Souls* has invited us to recognize grace, remember grace, and reflect grace.

Now Advent invites us to anticipate grace.

We do not enter the future pretending that the past never happened.

We enter with the wisdom of experience, the assurance of God's faithfulness, and the hope that restoration remains possible.

A thriving congregation is not one that has never experienced difficulty.

It is one that continues to cultivate spiritual wholeness, trustworthy relationships, faithful service, and openness to God's direction.

Memorable Takeaway:

Gratitude remembers God's faithfulness. Hope gives us courage to imagine God's possibilities.

VII. SONG OF REFLECTION

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

This Advent hymn expresses longing, expectation, and the promise of God's presence.

It reminds us that Christian hope does not deny the world's brokenness.

It anticipates God's redeeming work within it.

VIII. CLOSING PRAYER

God of hope and promise,

We thank You for the grace that has sustained us through every season.

We remember Your faithfulness with gratitude, and we look toward the future with renewed expectation.

As we enter this Advent season, prepare our hearts to receive Christ afresh.

Where disappointment has weakened our hope, renew it.

Where fear has limited our imagination, strengthen our faith.

Where relationships remain fragile, guide us toward truth, compassion, and reconciliation.

Teach us to welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us.

May our congregation become a living witness to Your shalom—a community where people are valued, grace is practiced, and hope is nurtured.

We are grateful for where You have brought us.

We remain attentive to where You are leading us.

And through the power of Your Holy Spirit, give us courage to participate faithfully in what You are doing next.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel.

Amen.

CONCLUSION: THE JOURNEY OF GRATEFUL SOULS

November 4 — RECOGNIZE GRACE

Grateful, Even Here!

Gratitude acknowledges God's presence without denying life's realities.

November 11 — REMEMBER GRACE

Remember What Grace Has Done!

Gratitude honors the journey while preparing us for new possibilities.

November 18 — REFLECT GRACE

Gratitude Changes How We Treat People

Gratitude becomes visible through Christian character and restored relationships.

December 2 — ANTICIPATE GRACE

Grateful for What Was, Hopeful for What's Next!

Gratitude opens the way for Advent hope and courageous expectation.

FINAL SERIES AFFIRMATION

We are grateful for the grace that sustained us.

We remember the faithfulness that brought us this far.

We commit ourselves to becoming people whose gratitude is reflected in our relationships, service, and shared life.

And we embrace the hope that God's restoring work is not finished.

Restored souls. Grateful hearts. Renewed relationships. Courageous hope.

Rising and Thriving Through Courageous Imagination.