



OVERVIEW & NEXT STEPS

Sunday 26th May 2024

OUR BACKGROUND AND VISION

Gratitude Initiative was founded in 2015 by Revd Dr Girma Bishaw to encourage and promote a gratitude culture in Britain. Our vision is to introduce gratitude as a tool and language that transforms and fuels how we approach solving individual and social problems, resulting in harmony and well-being.

WHAT IS GRATITUDE SUNDAY?

An annual church service involving the community to express gratitude to God and to appreciate individuals. It is our vision for UK-wide churches to host a Gratitude Sunday service annually, starting in 2021. Our next Annual Gratitude Sunday will be on Sunday 26th May 2024 and the theme is **celebration**.

WHY HOST A GRATITUDE SUNDAY SERVICE?

1. To connect with the community.
2. To create a bridge and gospel opportunity.
3. To express our gratitude with one voice to God for His provision & protection over our nation.
4. To inform and transform the way we see and relate to each other.

CELEBRATE GRATITUDE SUNDAY – 26TH MAY 2024

'Celebrate what you want to see more of.' Tom Peters

Engaging in celebration is an inherently profound and impactful aspect of human activity, offering an overabundance of multifaceted benefits that extend beyond mere partying.

Among the numerous advantages of celebration, several stand out prominently:

1. **Highlighting Values:** Celebrations serve as poignant occasions to underscore and elevate what holds significance in our lives, spotlighting cherished ideals and principles.
2. **Facilitating Communication and Internalization of Truth:** Through the act of celebration, not only do we communicate but also internalize core values and truths that are held dear, fostering a deeper understanding and connection with shared beliefs.
3. **Fostering Community Cohesion:** Serving as a vehicle that ushers people into communal spaces, celebrations play a pivotal role in cultivating a sense of belonging and unity, enabling individuals to collectively digest and embrace the truths being celebrated.
4. **Acknowledging Divine Grace:** Celebrations offer a platform to glorify the divine, recognising and honouring God as the ultimate source of all goodness, often overlooked amidst the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

5. **Utilizing Human Strength and Weakness to Convey the Gospel:** Celebration provides a unique opportunity to communicate the gospel message, leveraging not only the vulnerability inherent in human weakness but also the resilience and beauty found in human strengths as avenues for sharing the good news.
6. **Expressing Recognition and Invitation:** Through celebration, we convey a profound message of acknowledgement and invitation, extending a heartfelt 'we see you' to others. We recognise their efforts, struggles, and shortcomings while also inviting them to partake in commemorating the divine presence that sees and cares for humanity, even to the extent of sacrificial love.

Drawing from biblical context, the concept of celebration finds resonance in the divine mandate, as exemplified by **God's provision of seven years of jubilee celebration** for his people, emphasizing the importance and sanctity of **communal rejoicing and acknowledgement of divine grace**. Leviticus 25, 11-12

Restoration of that which is lost, the liberation of land and people, the forgiveness of debts, homecoming, and Sabbath rest—such is the extraordinary vision of Jubilee, **which got its ultimate fulfilment in Christ Jesus**. Luke 4:16-21

Therefore, gratitude serves as a lens through which we identify and appreciate the valuable elements in our lives. It illuminates those truths, experiences, people, or circumstances that merit celebration, allowing us to acknowledge their profound impact and significance.

'Let's celebrate what God has done, what he is doing and what he promised to do in our churches and communities.'

NEXT STEPS

If you'd like to be part of this exciting initiative and host a Gratitude Sunday service, please email to clare@gratitudeinitiative.org.uk or fill in the [form online](#). We will then send out the following information:

Immediately

- Annual Gratitude Sunday logos.
- A short video about Gratitude

By 2nd week in May

- A pre-recorded talk and talk outline. (For you to play or preach yourself)
- Game outline and bible study for children.

For those willing to take part and host a Gratitude Sunday service, we would be delighted to share your service details on our website and social media in the lead-up to the day. We would also love to share your stories, news, videos and photographs following the service, if appropriate, to encourage more churches to participate in 2025.

Thank you!

Revd Dr Girma Bishaw

Director & Founder