

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT
THE MONTH OF APRIL 2009

THOUGHT: WE THANK YOU GOD

We thank you, God,

- that you did not leave us alone, nor where or as we are, but in love are still calling us, and sending us.
- that knowing our nature and need, you call us individually and differently to yourself.
- for giving us spiritual gifts, and guiding us to exercise them boldly, wisely, and fruitfully in our ministry with Christ.

We thank you, God,

- that you, our shepherd, do not expect us to go anywhere you have not gone before us.
- that you enable us to know your voice amid all the other voices of this world.
- that you know your own, and seek out even the one lost sheep though ninety-nine are safe.

We thank you, God,

- that since Christ's resurrection, we can live in the present with glad hearts, giving generously of all our varied resources, and look to the future, trusting the one who is with us always.
- for Jesus, the true shepherd who guides and supports us in our daily love and service.
- for the inspiration of those who have offered to us an example of faith, devotion, and Christlike living.

We thank you, God,

- that nothing on earth or in heaven can ever separate us from your love, not loss, nor grief, nor death itself, for your love never lets us go.
- That in life, in death, in life beyond death, Jesus is with us and for us, and has prepared the way for our homecoming.
- That we shall be reunited with beloved ones whose earthly presence had done from us, for they live in the spirit, as we also shall at our homecoming, for the love-bond is eternal.

Dr. James E. Russell, Jr.
Presiding Elder