

We always give thanks... (1)

- Someone you don't have around:
 - might be friends or family at a distance, could be long term or short term...
 - imagine you are writing a postcard...
 - what do you miss?
- Paul's "connecting point", the thing he "missed" about the Thessalonians...
 - wasn't specific qualities...
 - it was something that was true for **all** of them (v.2)
 - it was the fact that they too were Christians, that they too had placed their faith in Jesus Christ, that they too were part of the family of God:
 - *Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. (v.1)*

Consequence

- he **prayed** for them
 - what we should do - did for Christians in Burma, China, Zimbabwe... Prayer Meeting... individually...
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We always give thanks... (2)

- When we pray for Gerard and Sarah, for instance, **what kind of things do we usually pray for them?**
 - either here in church, or at Prayer Meeting, or on our own?
- Paul goes on to spell out what he prays for them:
- **We continually remember before our God and Father...**
 - *your work produced by faith...*
 - *your labour prompted by love...*
 - *and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ*
- The job or task, the way they did that task, and the purpose of that task
 - this is their Christian life and witness
 - not directly health, safety, education, comfortable home...
 - rather centred round their Christian living
- **Connect to commissioning of Ruth and Freya as Girls Brigade officers**