



# REFLECTIONS

September 30, 2024, Adapted from the Archives of August 31, 2008

**We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.**

*1 Thessalonians 2:8*

## Sharing

Some things we just want to share. Like the way Randall Atchison captures hearts when his powerful hands dance across a Steinway Grand playing classical Chopin and hymns of *Amazing Grace*. Oh, if others could experience the joy.

Or when David Tolley's fingers ripple the keyboard like the river flowing through Laity Lodge. Or sharing Laity Lodge itself, the serene spiritual retreat center in the Texas hill country, to find peace of mind, peace of God, and peace with God.

And the joys of first love, like when a longtime friend brought his fiancé by to meet us for the first time, or when two new mothers sent pictures of their newborn daughters. Or stories we heard of mission trips to distant lands that enriched the lives of impoverished people; (but we knew the greatest enrichment is to the transformed lives of the missionaries providing it.)

Sharing the joys of life is itself one of life's great joys. Yet sometimes we choose to keep them to ourselves. Perhaps we're afraid to share in fear of rejection or conflict, or perhaps pride gets in the way. Or maybe we're afraid to rely on God.

But should we not share God's greatest gift—the love and grace of Jesus Christ?

Paul shared his joy with the Thessalonians as an act of love.

*"You are the light of the world,"*

*Richard +*

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Your comments are welcomed and encouraged. Richard may be reached at [richard@reflectingthesavior.org](mailto:richard@reflectingthesavior.org)