

Reminders To Say Thanks
Dari Hartmann, DCE
St. Paul, Mount Prospect

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do. Then the word of the Lord came to me: "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? declares the Lord. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. Jeremiah 18:1-6

My iPad has a feature that has a random photo from my photo album appear on my home screen titled "Early Moments Together." I am not sure why it is called that but it's a great reminder of events, places, and people from my past. I appreciate looking back and celebrating – even if it's just in my own mind – the great times and people that I have been privileged to enjoy. I love to be reminded to thank God for the gift of those special memories.

It also has served to remind me that I need to remember to celebrate what Christ has done in my service to Him. I forget to rejoice in the ways that Jesus has shaped me and molded me, by His forgiving grace, into the person He is using right now. Each of the people who have been part of my past makes up the me that I am today. Each of the places I have been has grown me and helped shape the knowledge I have now. Even the challenges that I have faced in the past and the people who haven't been "easy" have refined me as a servant leader. They are all part of the work that God has been doing in my life.

Today I am celebrating the past - the good, the bad, and even the ugly - knowing that God has used each person, place, and challenge for the good of those that love Him. I am sure that is true in your life and service to Him as well.