

FROM THE WORD --

“THANK YOU!”

I would like to express these words -- “THANK YOU” -- to each of you reading this article -- and those who look forward to these articles weekly in the newspapers, on the e-mail, and on our web site.

So many of you have personally Thanked us, when we meet in public, for writing and freely providing them. It is our joy and pleasure to be used of the Lord in this way after a life-time of Mission work in Southern Africa.

As we approach the U.S. National Holiday of Thanksgiving our thoughts go way back in the history of our nation to the provision the Lord made for those brave men and women who faced cruel hardships to find and establish real freedom for their families and future generations in the New World.

Today we take for granted many of these freedoms and the present life-style we enjoy that cost them so much.

We say “Thank You” for a gift, for a favor, as a courtesy when we want to express our appreciation. Often it is said glibly without really meaning it -- other times we accompany those words with a hardy hand-shake or a warm hug to put heart-felt emphasis to our feelings.

The original Thanksgiving the Pilgrims celebrated was for the successful crops the Lord provided for them to survive the long and cold New England winters. I am sure they also used the Prayer of Thanksgiving to God for the safe crossing of the many miles of uncharted sailing on the Atlantic, and for safety from the hostility they encountered.

These were God-fearing people who acknowledged God in every aspect of their lives -- and the generations to follow -- even to the writing and signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. We have come a long way since then and most of our present-day leaders have forgotten the faith of our founding fathers.

Perhaps we had better return to those days, hundreds of years ago, and renew our Faith in the God who has given us this great nation -- and be Thankful.

The Israelites remember how God led them out of slavery and provided for them in the wilderness, and fought their battles -- and the remembrances continue to this day -- while we Americans take it all for granted and many refuse to bow the knee to the Creator of everything -- and Give Thanks.

We are instructed in the Old Testament, *“Oh, that men would Give Thanks to the Lord for His Goodness, and for His Wonderful works to the children of men”* (Psalm 107:8).

And in the New Testament we read, *“In everything Give Thanks -- for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”* (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

In this season of Thanksgiving let us not forget the ONE who provides for all our daily needs -- the ONE who gives us our every breath -- the ONE whom the Psalmist glorified with, *"I will Praise You, for I am Fearfully and Wonderfully made -- Marvelous are Your works -- and that my soul knows very well"* (Psalm 139:14). Where would we be today without the God of the Universe watching over us, providing for us, and loving us?

We close with a beautiful old chorus -- "Thank You, Lord, for Saving my soul, Thank you, Lord, for Making me whole -- Thank You, Lord, for Giving to me, Thy Great Salvation so Rich and Free"

LET US GIVE GOD THE "THANKSGIVING" --

AND THE "GLORY" HE DESERVES!

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*for more information contact Pastor Bruce R. Burke --*

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