

December 2014



THE NETWORK

“GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL.”

- MARK 16:15

Global Evangelism Ministries

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Giving Thanks must be a priority!

This is the season of the year where we are reminded of the marvelous blessings of God in a very public way. In 1789 President George Washington penned these words:

WHEREAS it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me "to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and



happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted; for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us), and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally, to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand, at the city of New York, the third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine.

G. Washington.

STRAIGHT FROM MY HEART...



Dr. & Mrs. Roy D. Mason, Jr.

Without a doubt, this is the most wonderful time of the year! I must confess that our grandkids talked us in to letting them start putting up Christmas decorations a week earlier than ever before. Truth is they did not have to “talk” too much, because I love Christmas. Even with the Christmas tree in place, I have reminded them that we

must never overlook Thanksgiving.

There really is a trilogy of holidays in front of us: Thanksgiving is a time of humility in the presence of God where we are mindful of His grace, mercy, and blessings. This leads us into Christmas where we are made aware of God’s gift of salvation and forgiveness through Christ alone, and then we have New Year where we can “forget those things that are behind and press on to those things that are ahead. Therefore, until we have a good and proper understanding of gratitude we can never really understand the gift of Christmas and the potential of the New Year.

Each of us have so very much for which to be thankful. I hope we will find a way to verbalize our thankfulness to God for His presence, power, and provision in our lives.

As December brings the hustle and bustle of all that Christmas has become it is my prayer that we will embrace the season. Use your time in stores, malls, and other retail shops as opportunities to share the love of God with all those you encounter. Each worker needs to know that they are loved by God. When you see the red bucket and the ringing bell consider how you might be able to impact people you will never meet.

This is certainly the most wonderful time of the year! Embrace the opportunity to share with others. Now, until Jesus returns, I remain

Yours, in the fulfilling of the Great Commission,

Always remember:

*A candle loses
nothing by lighting
another candle!*

G³

There are three little words that can wonderfully impact your life both now and forever. When we begin to filter our lives through these three words we will see a balance develop in us.

Gratitude

Do I live my life with an attitude of gratitude? Am I consciously aware of God’s activity in my life? Do I look for opportunities to express gratitude to God and to others. When we acknowledge that we not owners, but stewards of everything then we will begin to understand the blessings and bounty of God. *Do I express gratitude today?*

Graciousness

Gracious, by definition implies, “being marked by kindness and courteousness.” It is imperative that we show kindness to those who need it more than to those who deserve it. This is after all a matter of GRACE. God showed us grace, not because we deserved it, but because we needed it. Who is in our circle of influence that needs to hear a kind word? Graciousness means that we have learned the secret of responding rather than reacting. *Will I be gracious today?*

Generosity

Generosity certainly includes the way we handle money but it is much more than that. Remember, God owns it all. Proverbs 3:9 says, “*Honor the Lord with your wealth ... then your barns will be filled to overflowing...*” Giving unto the Lord is not an investment strategy but it is a promise. We are also called to be generous with our time. *The millionaires in eternity are the givers in time.* One of the most meaningful, yet difficult, thing for us to give is our time. It seems like everyone wants to talk. Some of our conversations are meaningful and fulfilling to me but at other times they are not. However, I must always remember that even the time belongs to the Lord and if He has so deemed it, He has the right to interrupt my schedule! *Am I being generous today?*