



# GOD'S MISSIONARY STANDARD

Official Publication of God's Missionary Church, Inc.  
Penns Creek, Pa.

*"The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it." Psalms 68:11.*

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## GOD'S MISSIONARY STANDARD

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### Editor —

Rev. David Fuller  
Box 1065  
Hobe Sound, FL 33475-1065

### Associate Editor —

Rev. Kenneth E. Walter  
R.D. 2 Box 242  
Middleburg, PA 17842

### Business Manager —

Rev. Jacob Martin, Jr.  
Box 22  
Penns Creek, PA 17862

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## Thanksgiving Psalmody

The Thanksgiving Season is a time of reminding us once again of God's wonderful provision for us. We certainly can all join in singing with heartfelt gratitude, "God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, He's so good to me."

No other book in the Bible is so filled with praise and thanksgiving, and admonitions to praise as the Psalms. The Book of Psalms was Israel's hymnal and the people of Israel would lift to the heavens their high praise through the words of the Psalms. The breadth of psalmody is as wide the experiences of men. From the depths of discouragement to the heights of glory and blessing, the people of Israel tasted all of the experiences which characterize our lives today.

Through all of width and depth of the Psalms is the common chord that is struck, that of praise to God so we today can be inspired to continue our praise to God, not only during the days of November but eve and always.

Sound the notes of praise this season through the following notations from the Psalms.

Psalm 18:46-50 "The Lord lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God God my Savior! He is the God who avenges me, who subdues nations under me, who saves me from my enemies. You exalted me above my foes; from violent men you rescued me. Therefore I will praise you among the nations, O Lord; I will sing praises to your name. He gives his king great victories; he shows unfailing kindness to his anointed, to David and his descendants forever." NIV

Psalm 30:4 "Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness."

Psalm 75:1 "We give thanks to you, O God, we give thanks, for your Name is near; men tell of your wonderful deeds." NIV

Psalm 92: 1-3 "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High; To show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night."

Psalm 107: 1-2 "O Give thanks into the Lord, for He is good: for his mercy endureth forever, Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;"

Psalm 119: 62 "At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments."

Finally there is the 136th Psalm which must have reverberated across the wilderness as the people of Israel repeated over and over "Oh thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever." Each of the 26 stanzas closes with the wonderful "for his mercy endureth forever."

Shall we not join in singing it again, "God is so good, He's so good to me!"

DLF



# We Can All Be Thankful For Something

by Morris Chalfant

A hat was passed around a certain congregation for the purpose of taking up a collection for the visiting minister. Presently, it was returned without so much as one cent placed therein! Slowly and deliberately, the preacher turned the hat inside out and shook it meaningfully. Then, raising his eyes toward heaven, he prayed fervently: "I thank thee, dear Lord, that I got my hat back from this congregation."

Now this is just a story, but it nonetheless points out a truth which we often overlook — namely, that we can all be thankful for something!

An accurate definition of ingratitude, though not the one usually found in dictionaries, might be worded like this: "Ingratitude is the attitude of the person who receives every good and perfect gift without so much as an appreciative nod in the direction of the donor, be he human or divine."

A neighbor sympathized one day with a little, wrinkled old lady because she only had two teeth left. But the smiling old soul answered: "One's lower, and t'other's upper; but thank God, they meet!"

Andrew Carnegie, the multimillionaire, left one million dollars for one of his relatives, who in return cursed Carnegie thoroughly because he left 365 million to public charities and had cut him off with just one measly million.

Samuel Leibowitz, criminal lawyer, and judge, saved 78 men from the electric chair. Not ever did one bother to thank him.

There is no creature so ungrateful as a human being. Even animals will seldom bite the hand that gives them bread. Not so man.

Those of us who don't always appreciate the gift of life might learn a lesson from a certain Negro homeowner who had just been through a disastrous flood. A Red Cross worker called at his home to inquire about the material losses the family had incurred. She saw the mud-caked furniture and the water-line disfiguring the wall-paper, the damaged

floors, damaged appliances, damaged everything. Before putting any estimates down in her notebook, she looked into the face of the gentleman. He was smiling!

"No loss here, Ma'am. We're all fine." There was gladness in the man's voice, and he seemed relieved as he spoke.

"No loss?" the Red Cross worker stared at the Negro, who was holding his youngest child in his arms.

"Ma'am, after the flood, we just got down on our knees and thanked the good Lord. You see, we can count all our children."

What an ungrateful people we are. A deep and genuine sense of gratitude is as foreign to the daily routine of most of us as to pigs rooting in the orchard. We have about the same sense of gratitude for bread on the table as they for apples on the ground. We take everything for granted, take everything as a matter of course.

We take everything without a sense of wonder, appreciation, and thanksgiving; without wonder at the cause behind everything; without appreciation that the omnipotent God not only flings constellations and systems into infinite space and knows each star by name, but that the same God gives the raven its meat in due season, looks with pity on the poor sparrow's fall, and has His eyes on the poor with their new patches and old garments; without thanksgiving that we, unlike the winged creatures of the heavens and the four-footed beasts of the field, were conceived and fashioned in His very image.

Husbands take the wife for granted, take her neat house, her clean beds, her wholesome and tasty meals — they take it all for granted. And wives take the sober, hard-working, clean-living husband for granted. And the children take their kind and generous parents for granted, until they are left alone with the two graves and their memories.

It is not only wrong, it is cruelly wrong. Secular, as well as the sacred writers, are unanimous in pointing to ingratitude as the basest of all sins.

The unexcelled genius of Shakespeare branded ingratitude as the worst of all vices:

**"I hate ingratitude more in man  
Than lying, vainness, babbling,  
drunkenness,  
Or any taint of vice."**

The cruellest thorn that pierced the heart of the Son of man was the thorn of ingratitude. "Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger." (Luke 17: 17-18) "Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me." (Ps. 41:9)

The thorns pierced His brow, and the nails pierced His hands, and the nails pierced His feet, and the spear pierced His side, **but ingratitude pierced His heart!**

To modify slightly a famous quotation: "He who is careful to be thankful for everything will always have something for which to be thankful." It is a blessed habit to acquire, this habit of thankfulness. It will cure a host of injurious evils in our dispositions: self-pity, resentment, murmuring, faultfinding. All these will wither and die of themselves; for how can they grow inside a heart overflowing with gratitude and praise?

The habit of being thankful, once it takes a firm hold of the life, will soon produce a multitude of other benefits as well. It will serve to turn our eyes outward instead of inward and thus bring about a healthier state of soul. It will raise our joy level far above anything we have ever known before. It will go far to cure pessimism and encourage a happy outlook on life. It will help us to stay humble and make us more winsome and easier to live with (for which blessing the other members of our families will be thankful in their turn). It bestows so much and costs so little — strange that all of us have not made more of it.

Let us begin now to be thankful for each other. It will pay amazing dividends!



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## True Thanksgiving

Though the fig tree shall not blossom,  
Neither fruit be in the vine;  
Though the olive's labor fail me,  
In the fields no grain I find;  
Though the fold no flock may shelter,  
Cattle, cut off from the stall,  
Yet in Christ I'll go rejoicing,  
His salvation gives me all.



Thus had learned the Seer, Habakkuk —  
True thanksgiving depends not  
On abundance of possessions  
As our special earthly lot;  
Without wealth and without honor,  
Without health or earthly store,  
Naught of food and naught of raiment,  
Yet with blessings running o'er.

We, who have this great salvation,  
And our names inscribed above,  
From our hearts springs of Thanksgiving  
Bubble ceaselessly in love  
To the Father, whose great blessings  
Make us rich in wond'rous grace,  
And He adds no sorrow with it  
For faith sees His lovely face.

St. Paul gave the admonition  
To give thanks in everything,  
In the trials as in blessings  
Gratefully our praise to bring;  
For in Christ are all things centered,  
And to those who own His sway,  
He a table spreads before them —  
Each day in Thanksgiving day.



— E.M.B., in *The Flaming Sword*.



# "A Tender Plea — Be Not Deceived"

James B. Keaton  
Summitville, IN

*"Be not deceived; God is not mocked:  
for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Gal. 6:7)*

As a child I remember hearing this scripture used for many sermons. I always envisioned God speaking these words with a reddened face, a snarled lip, heaving shoulders and, perhaps, pointing a finger of judgment toward the reader. But while in prayer some time ago, God gave me a new revelation of this verse. Instead of an angry God pronouncing flames of judgment, I saw a Saviour with nail-scarred hands outstretched and a look of compassion upon His face which was radiating with love. These words were no longer a booming command, but suddenly a tender plea — "Be not deceived."

I believe the greatest deceit today comes in three areas. Let's consider them.

## Man is deceived about God

We have somehow conceived God to be big and powerful, (which, indeed He is!) but, also, that He is far away, cold and very impersonal. While God is big and powerful, big enough and powerful enough to create and rule the entire universe and multiplied millions more like it, yet He is not cold and impersonal. He is close and warm and has promised Himself through His Son to be closer to us even than a brother. Or perhaps, we have envisioned Him as the Santa Claus of the Universe — that He exists for our convenience, that He is duty-bound to rush to our needs regardless of the way we may live. Yes, God desires to meet the needs of His children, has even promised to do so and has proved that promise true. However, we cannot expect His extended mercy to endure through eternity when we spurn His love, His Word and His Son.

Perhaps we considered God to be the policeman of the world. We see Him as though He is walking the Milky Way with a large club over His shoulder, terrible and fierce, ready to break forth in judgment upon the earthling who falls victim to the power of the Tempter. It is true that God is a God of judgment; but if that is all we see in God, then we are deceived about Him.

## Man is deceived about himself

Basically, this kind of deceit will seek two extremes. First, it leads us to believe that we are good enough, that we have no need of repentance — we are not wicked and surely even God Himself must think that we are a pretty good person. We seem to feel that repentance is for the bank robber or the murderer or the person who is involved in gross and vile sins. The soul who feels thus is truly a deceived individual. We must realize that the Bible teaches that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"; that "all we like sheep have gone astray." (Rom. 3:23 and Isa. 53:6) Also, Jesus is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (II Pet. 3:9)

Then there are a few who are deceived about themselves in believing they are too sinful or too wicked for God to care about them. One who believes such has fallen victim to one of the devil's biggest lies. The Bible declares that God came for the explicit purpose of saving sinners. It matters not to what depth of sin the person may have gone, the blood of Jesus Christ is abundantly sufficient to both wash

away his sins and to cleanse his heart from all unrighteousness. The power of God is not strained and it is impossible for our sins, regardless of their magnitude, to overtax the saving grace of Jesus Christ. So, to the one who feels he has sinned too many times, or too long, or too great, I offer the words of encouragement that are found in the Bible. They were spoken by Jesus Himself, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28) If you believe your sins are too big or too great for God to forgive, then you are deceived. I urge you to see the words of the Lord as I have seen them, as a tender plea — "Be not deceived."

## Man is deceived about sin and the devil

Many today believe that sin really isn't too bad. This philosophy is not only found in the world, but also in the church. It seems that sin is to be the object of our pleasure, the punch line of our jokes and has even been dressed up so as to become the admiration of our youth. Sin has somehow lost its ugliness today.

When preachers stopped preaching against sin and when churches stopped leading their people away from it, sin lost its opposition from the church and has even been questioned by some concerning its very existence.

The term "sin" has been replaced by situational ethics. This New Testament society is willing to let us live by the Old Testament rules where every man did as he saw right in his own eyes. But if this is the way we see sin, then we are totally deceived. For, sin is still just as soul destroying as it has ever been. God has not changed His outlook toward sin, nor will He change. God hates sin, and the born-again Christian does not commit sin. The old adage is still true, "If a man farms, he is a farmer," and if a man sins, he is a sinner. The presence or absence of sin in one's life will be the determining factor at the judgment bar of God. Unless we have our sins forgiven and covered by the precious blood of Jesus Christ, sin will be present when we face the final judgment. We cannot and must not wink at sin. It is not to be handled as a sweet morsel beneath our tongue, nor is it to be flirted with by the God-fearing soul. We do not have to live with sin. The Bible declares that the Lord came to destroy the works of the devil and the work of the devil is sin.

We are also deceived about sin when we believe it will not affect us as we have seen it affect the lives of others. Sin is no respecter of persons. Sin has a wage and the Bible declares that wages to be death. It matters not whether we are rich or poor, educated or illiterate, weak or strong. Nor does it matter the color of our skin. If we allow sin to rule in our mortal bodies, we become the servants of sin and when sin becomes the master, it rules us, it ruins us, and renders us totally unprepared to meet our Maker.

Now, let us look at our scripture again: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Let us not be deceived about God, about ourselves, or about sin. We can turn to the Word of God and there, by His Spirit, discover what God would have us know.





## The Changing Face of Haiti

Holiness missions as we know them have been in Haiti for only fifty to sixty years. Since then many mainline holiness churches have left the conservative position and are now much more liberal. The number of conservative holiness missions in Haiti is now shockingly small. There is a real need for more man power and resources in these groups, considering also that Haiti's population has increased from four million to six million in that time span. The Haiti facing current conservative holiness missionaries has changed considerably from the Haiti of fifty years ago.

The earliest holiness missionaries came to Haiti at a time when they were received much more cordially. Americans especially. US Marines governed Haiti for a period of 19 years ending in 1934. After that time many presidents rose and fell until 1957, when Francois Duvalier "Papa Doc" seized control and became president for life. During this time "Papa Doc", a believer in voodooism, installed many voodoo priests into his secret service. These men later became known as the "tonton macoutes". This word struck terror to the heart of the Haitian peasant. After the death of "Papa Doc" in the 1970's his son Jean Claude Duvalier "Baby Doc" came into power. He continued in much the same vein as his father. No great efforts were made to help the extremely poor populace, and he continued to rob the people with unfair taxes, etc. During the time of Duvalierism the entire democratic system broke down. Political parties were dissolved and no unified resistance could be found.

By November 1985 the Haitians had had enough. We were here to witness the beginnings of a government overthrow. The results are well known to everyone - in February 1986 Jean Claude Duvalier and family fled the country. A council was left in charge, but several members resigned-stating expresident Duvalier still controlled the top men in the council. Their resignation left the power of govern-

ment in the hands of only a few. Since then near anarchy has prevailed. Roads are blocked frequently by angry peasants taking the law into their own hands. Usually the military gets called out and a few lives are lost and the situation calms for awhile. God has protected us during these trying times. We have been stopped on the road several times, but each time God has seen us through with out personal injury or damage to vehicles. We see now a people who have thrown off a heavy yoke and are not eager to accept any other. Everyone wants "democracy", but the average peasant interprets that as absolute freedom to what he wants. They do not realize their rights stop when they begin to infringe on others. We see a new resistance against authority of any kind. It requires more patience and understanding on our part to see how best to get to the hearts of this people. A human reaction would be "if you don't appreciate what we're doing we'll leave". However, God has called and we are to persevere in spite of the increasing difficulties.

Economically Haiti is at the end of her rope. Years of exploitation have made Haiti the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. Much aid has been sent from the United States, Canada, and Europe, but, no doubt, much of this has never reached its intended target. It has gone to enrich the pockets of those who should have distributed it. At one time the country was wide open to advice and aid. Now we see a change in attitude- "give us aid but we don't want your advice". "We can manage our own affairs." It's in accordance with the change in the political climate-that of independence. It may also stem in part from an "inferiority complex" held by some in government. They resent any implications that there may be room for improvement, that outside assistance might be needed. This attitude is not found in those who are truly born again. Jesus Christ is the only solution to the economic ills of Haiti.

Another factor worth mentioning is the general instability of government now and the prevailing near anarchy. Foreign investors fear to introduce new industry and many have closed factories already in operation. This puts more pressure on an already desperate populace-which incites them to protest and riot thus making future investment all the more unlikely. It's a terrible vicious circle. Pray that God will intervene to break the cycle and give hope to the hopeless.

Finally, the spiritual condition of Haiti has changed considerably since the 1940's. At that time Haiti was predominately nominally Roman Catholic. Catholic influence still abounds in Haiti. It is largely due to the agitation of catholic priests that the current changes in Haiti's political structure are taking place. The Haitians have incorporated much of catholicism into their voodoo worship. Voodooism traces back to the African origins of most of these people. It has absorbed elements of the native Indian religion from those who survived the Spanish colonization initially, and it has absorbed the catholicism of the Spanish and French. It is interesting to note that such a thing could occur. I can't see true Bible Holiness ever becoming incorporated into voodooism. Catholicism and voodooism had much in common to begin with. Priests, rituals, and ancestor worship are only a few of the similarities that point to the same dark source of origin.

Voodooism is a poorly understood religion, that involves devil worship, ancestor worship, and animal sacrifices mostly of chickens and goats. I have seen some dogs with their ears cut off and been told it was for voodoo purposes. It appears that some human sacrifices are also made. In voodooism the "believer" finds his medical treatment is directed when to plant crops etc. In spite of what socioanthropologists write in journals and say on talk shows lauding its value as a link to the "rich" African tradition and therefore a Haitian treasure to preserve, let me tell you in general it is a fraud and cheat of the Haitian peasant costing him his money-at times his life and ultimately his soul. Voodooism played a prominent role during the reign of the Duvaliers. The Tonton Macoutes were almost immune from prosecution-they could do as they pleased- extort money, torture, murder- leaving their victims with no recourse to justice. The overthrow of "Baby Doc" reveal-

(Continued on Page 11)



# For The Boys and Girls

## A special kind of

# THANKSGIVING

by Mrs. Paul E. King, Mifflinburg, PA

"I'm going to my grandparents' house, Glenn," Ron told his best friend as they walked away from the schoolhouse toward the bus that would take Glenn home. "What are you going to be doing for Thanksgiving?" he asked quickly.

Glenn made a snowball. Taking careful aim at a nearby tree, he threw and hit his mark. "I guess all my aunts and uncles, the cousins and nephews and nieces, are coming out to our farm this year," he answered, smiling broadly. "Mother's been baking her special fruit cakes since back in September. It'll seem almost like being at campmeeting, there's so many of our relatives."

Ron laughed and reached out and caught a falling snowflake. It melted on his glove. Stooping down, he got a fistful of snow and shaped it carefully in the palms of his mittened hands. "Sounds like you'll be having fun!" he ejaculated.

"I'm sure we will," Glenn admitted, "and I'm as excited as I can be. But I'm bothered, too."

Ron gave his well-shaped snowball a hard pitch and hit a telephone pole some distance away. "Why should you be bothered about anything, Glenn?" he asked.

Glenn stood still. Suddenly he began plowing the snow with his boots. "I wish Heather and Heath had some place special to go for Thanksgiving," he confided in a voice so filled with pity that Ron felt like crying.

"They'll be with their folks, Glenn."

"Sure. Sure. But the Murphys had it hard this year. First, Mrs. Murphy was in the hospital for a month, then a

car hit Bobby and he died. . . ."

Ron swallowed. He felt shame wash over him that he hadn't thought about the Murphys, nor even prayed for them. He dug the toe of his boot into a small drift of snow. "Maybe... maybe..."

"Maybe what, Ron?"

"Well, I'll have to ask Father and Mother first, but maybe we could help the Murphys, Glenn. My grandparents could come to our house and I'd help Mother all I could with the work. . . ."

Glenn's eyes were shining. He stood very, very straight and tall. "Say, I just thought of something great!" he said.

"What is it?"

"Your grandparents live on a farm. . . ."

"Yeah, I know they do," Ron answered philosophically.

"Why not have Heather and Heath and their parents go out there with you? They'd love it, Ron, I know they would."

"That's a **great** idea, for sure Glenn; and I'm going to ask Father and Mother just as soon as I'm in the door. I'm sure glad I have a grandfather who owns a farm."

"And I'm the lucky boy . . . to be **living** on a farm!" Glenn said, hurrying toward the waiting bus.

"Thanks for mentioning the Murphys," Ron said in a low whisper. "It sure was thoughtful of you, Glenn. I will ask Mother the big question as soon as I get home." And Ron hurried away, through the drifting snow.

"Why the big rush?" his mother teased, as he burst into the kitchen, panting and almost breathless with excitement.

"Can the Murphys go with us to Grandpa's house for Thanksgiving, Mom? Please? Glenn said they're awfully poor; they won't have much to eat and. . . ."

"First, it's **may** the Murphys go? Not **can**. Next, we always leave all snow-covered boots on the closed-in back porch; and third, yes, the Murphys will be going with us for Thanksgiving. Your father and I asked them some time ago; it was to have been a surprise for you, as well as for Heath and Heather."

Ron's eyes got big and round and all shiny-bright. "O Mother," he said happily. "I feel so . . . so good on the inside. This will be a very special kind of Thanksgiving Day, a never-forget-the-poor reminder that will last all year long. Like Glenn, I'm going to begin thinking more of others."

"Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to share with others, Ron," his mother said. "Especially is this blessed when those with whom we are sharing cannot repay. However, we must not limit our sharing and our doing to special days only; it should be a year-round part of our life, when and if someone has a need."

Ron shrugged out of his coat and hurried out to the closed-in back porch where he deposited his boots on a plastic liner. His heart was singing, singing, singing. He had learned something wonderful today; by making others happy, his heart was happy! It was a good kind of feeling, and there on the porch he lifted his face upward. "I'll remember, Lord Jesus," he promised. "yes, I'll always remember that You bless those who put You first, others second, and self last."



A

# Thanksgiving

## TRILOGY

"Be ye thankful" (Col. 3:15).

by William S. Deal



One of the outstanding graces found among Christians everywhere is **thankfulness**. The apostolic exhortation above, "Be ye thankful," is in keeping with the whole line of Paul's thought on the Christian's responsibility to both God and his fellow man.

Thankfulness in one's heart makes him a happier, more radiant, and better witnessing person. All have seen the motto which says, "I complained because I had no shoes — until I saw a man who had no feet!"

Everywhere around us there are a thousand things to awaken the spirit of thankfulness in hearts and start its happy tune quivering on our lips.

The following Trilogy is my way of saying this year and always, that:

### I. I AM THANKFUL —

I am thankful for God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth and of all men; Giver of all good gifts; Preserver and Upholder of the universe and the human race.

I am thankful for His Son, Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, whose death on Calvary procured eternal redemption for all who believe.

I am thankful for the Holy Spirit, the blessed Agent of God who, with the Father, and the Son, applies salvation in all its gracious forms. He is the Convictor of sin, Regenerator of new life, Sanctifier of the spirit and soul, Comforter, Chastiser, Teacher and Guide of the Celestial City.

II. I am thankful for my human body, with all its wonderful functions; its eyes to see, ears to hear, nose to smell, nervous sensations to feel.

I am thankful for my **bone structure**. Without this marvelous skeletal form I would be a ball of flesh, rolling around on the ground, unable to go anywhere or do anything! Without the bones I would have no source of the manufacture of blood, for the blood is manufactured by the marrow in the inside of the bones.

I am thankful for my spirit, for without this part of my nature I would be only a beast, without any

knowledge of God or of myself. It is with my spirit that I can worship God, have understanding of life and of the things of man. "For what man knoweth the things of man, save the spirit of man which is in him?" (I Cor. 2:11). It is through my spirit that I understand another person and may have fellowship in Christ with him. It is in my spirit that all knowledge of God resides and my conscience operates, and that all the finer things of life are stored, developed and strengthened.

I am thankful for my soul. It is the soul that feels, sees, touches, tastes and senses the beauty of flowers and rejoices in the color of the rainbow. It is the soul, with the spirit (for they are so interlocked and intertwined in man as to be inseparable) that makes the glory of music come alive for me and brings every sense of excitement to its fullest fruition.

III. I am thankful for the good earth with its thousands of blessings; its radiant sunshine, food and fruit, growing fields and trees; its loving animals many of which provide us with milk, meat and even shoes and clothing to wear.

I am thankful for the world about me, even though it seems at times so sinful, wicked and far from God. Yet, there are everywhere, even among the most pagan of peoples, those who will come to my aid and minister to my needs. I have found this in traveling all over the world, often among those whose language I did not understand. Everywhere, people have offered to help me when I was in any need. A smile toward others is almost always met with a returning smile; and a kind deed is met with another kind deed and often words of appreciation, though in a strange tongue. No man is so utterly sinful as to have no spark of goodness in him that can be appealed to by goodness for another person.

I am thankful for the universe about us; its awesomeness in size and grandeur, its mighty expanse in

distances, and its almost infinity in complexities beyond the mind to comprehend, all speak to me of the great God who created and upholds it. Besides, I feel far more comfortable in such a universe than I would if I knew that God had only this one little planet on which we live, and that there were nothing more in all the vastness of expanse surrounding us. The universe about us is a living testimony to the goodness of God, to His faithfulness to all His creation and to all His creatures, both terrestrial and celestial.

IV. I am thankful for the Church in the world today. Its presence in the world has a softening effect upon the hardness of men, and its light goes far toward redeeming civilization, despite all the opposition against it.

I am thankful for the sweet fellowship of Christians everywhere. We have met them of all colors, races and social orders in many parts of the world. Their loving influence is always the same in every land and clime. Although often we do not know their language, yet there is a kindred spirit there, deeper than language barriers can bar. This blessed fellowship is broader and binds far more tightly than any other relationship on earth. It is the relationship of the "Family of God," and nothing can ever break it, or destroy its tightly-binding power upon people universally.

I am thankful for the great body of Christian truths which we have in the Bible and its teachings. Here is the Gibraltar of the world. It is an "anchor in the time of storm," a "great rock in a weary land," and a "hiding place," safe and secure when the worst winds of adversity are blowing.

For all these trilogies and many other things, we should be thankful as this Thanksgiving Season comes to gladden our lives again.





SUPERINTENDENT:  
REV. DENNIS McCOY  
92 E. Landis St.  
Coopersburg, PA 18036

Greetings in Jesus' name from the Department of Home Missions! I trust that you are enjoying the choicest of God's blessings as we approach the Thanksgiving season. November is a very special time that causes us to recall God's blessings on this great land of ours. America truly is a great land!

Deuteronomy 8:10 states, "When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which He hath given thee." Hasn't the Lord given us a good land? As I travel back and forth and up and down the Eastern Seaboard I am made to realize just how blessed we in America really are. We are living in a land of plenty that knows very little of the restrictions and sufferings that are the result of poverty. Our fields are full of the fruits of our labors, our homes elaborate in decor and style, and a new car is parked in most every driveway. Ah, yes, the land of plenty! Thank God for America!

I believe there are some reasons why America is so blessed while other nations of the world languish in poverty. One reason I believe we are so blessed is the "principles" upon which America was founded. When our founding fathers crossed the treacherous Atlantic in crudely crafted boats nearly 300 years ago, they were seeking the Freedom to worship God as they so chose. America was not founded for the purpose of economic prosperity or ethnic separation, it was founded on the principle of the freedom of worship! The words of the poet express it so well, and this is one of my favorites.

"The breaking waves dashed high  
On a stern and rockbound coast,  
And the woods against a stormy sky  
Their giant branches tossed:  
And the heavy night hung dark  
The hills and waters o'er,  
When a band of exiles—moored their bark  
On the wild New England shore."

"Not as the conqueror comes,  
They, the truehearted came:  
Not with the roll of stirring drums,  
And the trumpet that sings of fame;  
Amidst the storm they sang,  
And the stars heard, and the sea;  
And the sounding aisles of the dim woods rang  
To the anthem of the free."

"What sought they thus afar?  
Bright jewels of the mine?  
The wealth of seas, the spoils of war?  
They sought a faith's pure shrine!  
Ay, call it holy ground,  
The soil where they first trod:  
They have left unstained what there they found,  
Freedom to worship God!"

Another principle on which our country was founded was the principle of hard work! Those early pilgrims knew nothing of the modern conveniences and methods of farming that we know today. Their tractors were hand operated cultivators and their plows simple hoes and shovels. I have often wondered what that first Thanksgiving must have been like when that humble band of Pilgrims, men and women, gathered together to enjoy the fruits of their hard labors. I have little doubt but what immense gratitude was expressed to their Creator for providing them with the rain and sunshine necessary to secure a harvest. **Gratitude!** May God help us to never be guilty of taking Him for granted!

The last principle we would have you note with us is the principle of perseverance! These pilgrims did not quit in the face of adversity. They determined to have a land and a home in this new country called America, and hardship would not prevent it! Disease claimed many of their number, and the ferocity of that first New England winter took still more; but as the spring sun began to thaw the winter's snow, a renewed vigor arose in their hearts! They would make it!

To you pilgrim friend, I leave those same words of hope! We **will** make it! The devil may try to discourage us along the way, and tell us the journey is impossible, but if we persevere we **shall** make it! Thank God for the hope that you and I have that someday we shall participate in **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING DAY!** Let us all purpose to be there when they crown Jesus King of Kings!

As we leave you until our next column brings us together again, what better way for you and I to express our thanks to God than with an offering to His word. The Home Mission Department could use a special boost today! Could we count on you to help us? May God richly bless you is our prayer!





# A Day of Thanksgiving

*(Proclaimed by President George Washington on October 3, 1789)*

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 committees 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 signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

Now therefore do I 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 glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be. That we may then 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, which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war, for the great degree of tranquility, union and plenty, which we have enjoyed, for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish a constitution of Government for our safety and happiness, and particularly for the national One now lately instituted for 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* hath 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 being a government of wise, just and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed, to protect all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shown kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, 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 such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows best.

Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

— (Selected).







# Penn View Bible Institute

P. O. BOX 970 • PENNS CREEK, PENNSYLVANIA 17862

## Notes from the Academic Dean

Nearly fifty (50) students have joined the Institute to study on the hilltop! We praise the Lord for each one of them! The Holy Spirit has been among us, and we are anticipating an increase of His Presence. Just this week, we have sensed the special presence of the Holy Spirit in our Chapel.

Let me give you a quick picture of our student body and then a report on our graduates.

Each year we administer the Bible Content Test. This standardized test, produced by the American Association of Bible Colleges, is used in Bible Schools all across the United States and Canada. The timed test (45 minutes) has 150 questions on Bible books, people, history, geography and quotations. Here is how the Freshman classes of the last several years have compared with those entering other Bible Colleges:

TERM	PERCENTILE
Fall 1980	45
Fall 1983	63
Fall 1984	49
Fall 1985	64
Fall 1986	60
Fall 1987	58

If a student is in the sixtieth percentile, it means he is ranked above sixty percent of the people in the same group. Each year students are retested and their scores are compared against the previous year's. We rejoice to see them advance.

We appreciate the solid background that our students have had in Bible. Forty-three percent of the total student body have graduated from a Christian school. Our Christian schools are bearing fruit!

Where do our students come from? This year, students have

come from Maryland, West Virginia, New Jersey, Ohio, New York, Indiana, Tennessee, and of course, Pennsylvania. Phenot Berhane is from Ethiopia!

What about our graduates! Recently, we surveyed the four-year graduates from 1980 to 1987, concerning their interest in graduate level education. Graduates have pursued higher studies at Wesley Biblical Seminary of Jackson, Mississippi; Reformed Theological Seminary, of the same area; Penns State University of State College, Pennsylvania; Evangelical School of Theology of Myerstown, Pennsylvania; and Johns Hopkins University of Baltimore, Maryland. We have had communication from EST and from WBS evidencing their strong interest in serving more of our graduates in the future.

Surprisingly, seventy-five percent of those who responded to the survey indicated that they have seriously considered graduate level study. Penn View is structured as a four-year "terminal" program. That means our four-year program is designed to prepare Christian workers to enter their fields. But if a graduate is interested in furthering his education, the door is open.

Most of our graduates are involved in "full-time Christian service." Several are pastor's wives or have recently graduated and are seeking the Lord's will. Our graduates are out there, and they are serving the Church.

Praise the Lord for allowing us to have a part in preparing Christian workers!

**Timothy L. Cooley**  
Academic Dean

## MISSIONARY MESSAGE.....

(Continued from Page 6)

ed the underlying hatred of the Haitian people for the macoutes. Many were murdered and parts of their bodies were carried through the streets by a jubilant people. Many of them fled the country in order to save their lives. Many stories have been told of witchdoctors who have been killed recently for possible macoute connections. It's sad to see so much hatred and desire for revenge, but in all fairness the witchdoctors are reaping what they sowed. The popular sentiment now seems to be anti-voodoo. We see many bumper stickers proclaiming "Nou pa vle voodoo" (We don't want voodoo). Paradoxically, the government has now given voodooism official recognition as a religion. The battle is not over. For example, a recent death caused by a witchdoctor. In this incident a woman in pastor Arius Delsona's area died suddenly. Her family went to see a big witchdoctor who supposedly called the woman back from the dead and asked her who caused her to die. The hougan (witchdoctor) then told the family the name of a man. The family of the dead woman waylaid him and chopped him in pieces with a machete. It appears he was entirely innocent. The innocent suffer-voodooism certainly leaves no room for innocent until proven guilty.

In closing allow me to inform you that the need of justice and holiness is greater than ever. Haiti is changing. Will it be for the worse or for the better? That answer lies in part with us the current holiness missions. Will we get discouraged in the face of increasing opposition, resentment, and seeming unappreciation or will we show the changing Haitian people that though they are changing their answer-their solution is still Jesus Christ and real Holiness—a Truth that is changeless.

**Bonnie Cleaver**



# Thanksgiving

Now sing we a song for the harvest:  
Thanksgiving and honour and praise,  
For all that the bountiful Giver  
Hath given to gladden our days;

For grasses of upland and lowland,  
For fruits of the garden and field,  
For gold which the mine and the furrow  
To deliver and husbandman yield;

And thanks for the harvest of beauty,  
For that which the hands cannot hold,  
The harvest eyes only can gather,  
And only our hearts can enfold.

We reap it on mountain and moorland;  
We glean it from meadow and lea;  
We garner it in from the cloudland;  
We bind it in sheaves from the sea.

But now we sing deeper and higher,  
Of harvests that eye cannot see;  
They ripen on mountains of duty,  
And reaped by the brave and the free.

And these have been gathered and garnered,  
Some golden with honour and gain,  
And some, as with heart's blood, are ruddy,  
The harvests of sorrow and pain.

O Thou who art Lord of the harvest,  
The Giver who gladdens our days,  
Our hearts are for ever repeating  
Thanksgiving and honour and praise.

by J. W. Chadwick

