

# International FOCUS Ministries

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## think & thank

*Thinking and thanking!* Both words come from the same root. Only the *thoughtful* are *thankful*.

"A young girl, a deaf-mute, was asked one day by her teacher to define gratitude. Not an easy assignment for any of us who might be facing a similar handicap, if we could give any definition at all. This was her answer: "Gratitude is the memory of the heart."

Soon we will observe another National Day of Thanksgiving! This occasion is woven deeply into the fabric and DNA of our national history since the days of the Pilgrim Fathers. If we are to properly observe it we must begin to think *now*. Honest *thinking* will result in honorable *thanksgiving!* For *thinking* will cause memory to do its perfect work.

One of David's great exhortations is "**FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS**" (Ps. 103:2). It gives me grave concern that, unlike the Pilgrim Fathers, in our prosperity and affluence we have forgotten "all his benefits". We have presumed that "the benefits" which we enjoy will continue without the recognition of God, His Son, His Word, His Will and commandments for our lives. If you will *think* about it you will realize the verdict of history is against this assumption. Scripture is very clear on this matter: "Blessed is the nation who's God is the Lord" (Ps. 33:12).

In his letter to the Romans, Paul does an autopsy of former civilizations and cultures. His analysis is presented in the first chapter. He describes the *root cause* for failure. "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, *neither were thankful*; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened" (Romans 1:21).

The Amplified Version makes my point more clear: "Because when they knew *and* recognized Him as God, they

did not honor *and* glorify Him as God or give Him thanks. But instead they became futile *and* godless in their thinking

(with vain imaginings, foolish reasoning, and stupid speculations) and their senseless minds were darkened."

He says that out of this root cause there followed idolatry, degeneracy, apostasy, perversion, violence, delinquency, dropouts, and complete anarchy and lawlessness.

When we neglect being thankful, selfishness makes a deep inroad into our lives resulting in proud, arrogant, and selfish living. When we cease to humbly acknowledge God's goodness we open the door to all manner of wickedness.

This unthankful attitude is an offence toward God, and the beginning of a downward spiral to destruction.

The single greatest need we have in the Body of Christ today is that each member in that Body have "the mind that was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5). Having that mind-set we will have not problem *Thinking* and *Thanking*.

'Thanksgiving' is more than a seasonal observance celebrated with national football games and turkey dinners. It is daily we "*enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise*" for all His rich blessings of grace, mercy and goodness.

True thanksgiving is the posture of our hearts. It is an attitude of gratitude. With that in mind, Donna and I want to express our sincere gratitude and thanks to all of you, our dear friends and partners, for your love, friendship, and faithful prayers and financial support. You are a wonderful blessing of strength and encouragement to us as we endeavor to carry on this missionary ministry to over 100 missionaries/national ministers, many Gospel outreaches, leadership training, Bible schools, children's homes, elementary schools, planting new churches, equipping workers, etc. etc.

**WE THANK GOD FOR YOU** and we pray that you and your family will have a blessed thanksgiving season and that you will "*prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers*" (3<sup>rd</sup> John v.2).

## IRAQ: SGT Dawn Scott United States Air Force



**Please Pray:** In mid October our granddaughter Dawn who is serving as a medic in the United States Air Force was deployed for the second time to Iraq. Your prayers were very effectual when she and her brother David were there two years ago. Your prayers for her and her husband Rob, who is also serving in the Air Force at the Las Vegas, Nevada base are deeply appreciated.

### PERSONAL PRAYER REQUEST

Donna and I have two urgent personal requests we would deeply appreciate you remembering in prayer: Our granddaughter Dawn (pictured above) and

#### MY UPCOMING FOOT AND ANKLE SURGERY NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>

An old sports injury has 'caught up' with me and if I am going to continue my pace it's time to correct it. I will have surgery on my right ankle and foot early November 30<sup>th</sup>. According to the doctor I will not be able to walk on that foot and ankle for a minimum of three weeks. It will take another two or three weeks of easy walking and therapy before normal walking.

This means I will be "out of the loop" of meetings the entire month of December, which of course is non-revenue producing time. While it will be nice to be home all month, I'm not so sure Donna would agree seeing she will have to endure the pain of 'my pain' in recovery. Please pray the Lord will give her added grace and strength for the challenge.

We do covet your prayers and we know God is faithful to meet every need:

- 1) Pray and agree with us for complete healing recovery in less than normal time;
- 2) Pray for the supplying of finances for the support of all our missionaries and projects, and for our personal support and the extra financial needs that come at this time of the year;
- 3) Pray I will have the strength to complete the manuscripts of two books that are nearly completed.

Until next time, Yours Partners in Harvest,

Harley and Donna Fiddler



Partners in Harvest