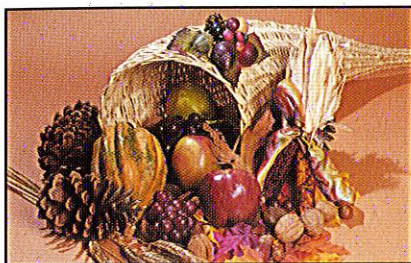


Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

Service—November 2003
Lt. Colonel Isa McDougald
National Headquarters



Worship Center

Place an open Bible on a small table, covered with a cloth in fall colors. You will need an empty cornucopia to which fruit will be added during the program.

Service Project

The Thanksgiving program that follows could be adapted for use in a nursing home. At the end of the program give fresh fruit to the residents.

Thanksgiving Program

Acrostic on the Word "Thanksgiving"

As you mention the letters, write them on a flip-chart. Fruit should be added to the cornucopia as indicated.

Thanksgiving—Chorus "Give Thanks," *Hallelujah Chorus Book*, #4, Central Territory

Horn of Plenty—The Horn of Plenty on our table represents the abundance that we enjoy as Americans. Let us remember to thank God for His blessings to us. Open in prayer. (*Place a piece of fruit in the cornucopia.*)

A Psalm of Praise—Read Psalm 100 (*Add more fruit.*)

Now "Count Your Blessings"—Song #396, *Salvation Army Song Book*

Knowing How It Began (*Add more fruit.*)

The first Thanksgiving was celebrated less than a year after the Plymouth colonists had settled in the new land. The first winter in Massachusetts had killed nearly half of the members of the colony. New hope grew in the summer of 1621 and Governor William Bradford proclaimed that a three-day feast be held. On July 30, 1623, he decreed the first official Thanksgiving Day, which was to be set aside for the special purpose of prayer as well as celebration. The custom of Thanksgiving Day spread from Plymouth to other New England colonies. During the Revolutionary War eight special

days of thanks were observed. On November 26, 1789, President George Washington issued a general proclamation for a day of thanks.

Scripture Reading—Responsive

Giving—A thanksgiving offering to be sent to the Cadets

Introducing Those Who Gave Thanks—Bible Quiz, Questions are found on the CD-ROM (*Add more fruit.*)

Vocal solo or sing the chorus, "Thank You Lord for Saving My Soul"

I Thank God For ... participation by the women with sentences of thanks and praise to God

Needs—Devotional "Meet My Need, Lord"

GratITUDE Expressed to God—Poem "Thanksgiving Prayer for Tears"

Responsive Scripture Reading

Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name, make known among the nations what He has done (1 Chron. 16:8).

It is good to praise the Lord and make music to Your name, O Most High (Ps. 92:1).

Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song (Ps. 95:2).

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good: His love endures forever. (Ps. 106:1).

Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything (Eph. 5:19,20).

Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thess. 5:18)

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:57).

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! (2 Cor. 9:15).

Thanksgiving Prayer For Tears

If there were never any tears, would I truly appreciate the laughter?

If there were never any pain, would I appreciate its absence?

If there were never any winter, would I be grateful for the spring?

If there were never any valley, would I stand in awe of the majestic mountain?

If there were never any darkness, would I thank You for the light?

Thank You, Lord, for everything—yes, even for the rich "treasures of darkness!"

Karen Satterlee

Printed in *The War Cry*, November 18, 1978

Meet My Need, Lord

The story of Jesus healing the ten men with leprosy is familiar to most of us. They were men with great needs—to be healed. When only one of the ten lepers came back to thank Jesus, He asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" (Luke 17:17,18). Not only was this man a leper, he was also a Samaritan—a race despised by the Jews. Yet, he was the only one who returned and thanked Jesus.

How thankful are we as Christians for all that God has given to us? Many times our prayers are filled with petitions rather than praise and expressions of thanksgiving to God. When a loved one or we are ill, we pray to God for healing. That is how it should be. But do we always remember to thank God when or if healing comes? Are we like the one leper who thanked Jesus, or are we like the nine that were healed and didn't return to give thanks?

Thanksgiving is a time that has been set aside when we as a nation should be giving thanks for the many blessings we have as Americans. Unfortunately, Thanksgiving for many is just a time for the family to get together, eat a turkey dinner and watch a football game on TV.

When your family gathers together this Thanksgiving, take time to thank God for His blessings to each of you.