



The Bible Tabernacle

SERVING THE MASTER BY SERVING MAN

NEWSLETTER

November 2004

THANKSGIVING DAY FOR THE CHRISTIAN IS OUR OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO GOD AND TO OUR SAVIOUR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.



THE HOLIDAY SEASON CAN BE A TIME OF DESPAIR AND LONELINESS FOR MANY. WHAT A WONDERFUL TIME TO TELL ABOUT ONE WHO IS ABLE TO TURN **DESPAIR** INTO **HOPE**. TO TELL OF ONE WHO SAID, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE THEE NOR FORSAKE THEE."

IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO:

SAY THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE FOR US.

TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT HE IS THE SOURCE OF BLESSING IN OUR LIVES.

TO BE A CHANNEL OF BLESSING TO OTHERS, AND IN DOING SO BRING GLORY TO GOD.

TO SIMPLY CARE FOR OTHERS AS HE HAS CARED FOR US.

THESE ARE THE "**ATTITUDES OF GRATITUDE**" THAT WE AS CHRISTIANS SHOULD EVIDENCE IN OUR LIVES ON A DAILY BASIS.

HOWEVER, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT AS WE APPROACH THE **HOLIDAY SEASON**, WE SHOULD ESPECIALLY REMEMBER THOSE WHO FIND IT HARD TO BE THANKFUL. TO REMEMBER THOSE WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY HOMELESSNESS, PAIN AND MISERY.

WE ARE OUR SAVIOR'S HANDS, HIS FEET, HIS MOUTH, HIS EARS, HIS EYES, AND HIS VOICE. AS WE REACH OUT WITH OUR HANDS AND SERVE OTHERS, CARRY THE GOSPEL MESSAGE, SPEAK WORDS OF COMFORT AND HOPE, HEAR THE PAIN AND LONGING FOR CHANGE, AND SEE THE SEEDS OF HOPE PLANTED IN LIVES - **IT IS OUR SAVIOUR** USING US AND USING YOU.

"AND THAT HE DIED FOR ALL, THAT THEY WHO LIVE SHOULD NOT HENCEFORTH LIVE UNTO THEMSELVES, BUT UNTO HIM WHO DIED FOR THEM AND ROSE AGAIN."



LEAVE THEE NOR FORSAKE THEE."

WHAT A BLESSING AND WHAT A WONDERFUL EXPRESSION OF THE LOVE OF GOD TO BE ABLE TO REACH OUT TO THE POOR AND NEEDY OF THE COMMUNITY DURING THE HOLIDAYS BY PROVIDING..

◆ **A DELICIOUS AND NOURISHING DINNER WITH TURKEY, DRESSING, VEGETABLES, SALADS, DESSERTS AND BEVERAGES.**

◆ **GROCERIES FOR THOSE IN NEED ALONG WITH THE GOSPEL MESSAGE - TELLING OF ONE WHO GAVE HIMSELF FOR THEM AND CARES FOR THEM.**

YOUR GIFTS OF GRATITUDE -- BRING GRATITUDE TO GOD FROM THOSE WHO ARE THE RECIPIENTS OF YOUR CONCERN.

YOU CAN HELP AS YOU DO EACH YEAR AND WE ARE SO GRATEFUL.

WE NEED:

◆ CANNED AND PACKAGED FOOD FOR FOOD BASKETS. (CANNED CORN, CANNED BEANS, AND PEAS, INSTANT POTATOES, AND STUFFING.)

◆ WE NEED THE SAME FOR THE DINNER ITSELF BUT IN #10 CANS ALONG WITH PUNCH MIX, CANNED GRAVY, CRANBERRY SAUCE, COFFEE, AND PIES.

◆ TURKEYS!!! TURKEYS!!! WE NEED TURKEYS!! FROZEN TURKEYS CAN BE DELIVERED TO THE CHURCH THE MONDAY BEFORE THANKSGIVING. COOKED TURKEYS CAN BE DELIVERED THE TUESDAY BEFORE THANKSGIVING AND ALL DAY ON THANKSGIVING DAY.

CHRIST THE SAVIOR is BORN!

CHRISTMAS!!! ONE OF THE MOST BLESSED AND JOYOUS TIMES OF THE YEAR !!!

THREE WEEKS PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS IN DECEMBER 1962, THE LORD PLACED A BURDEN ON MY HUSBAND'S HEART. HE SAID, "I CANNOT SEE US HAVING CHRISTMAS ALONE, WHEN THERE ARE SO MANY GOING HUNGRY OUT THERE." I SAID, "WHAT ARE YOU

GOING TO DO?" I KNEW FULL WELL THAT THE LORD HAD GIVEN HIM THIS BURDEN, AND THAT THE LORD NEVER DID THAT WITHOUT IT BECOMING A REALITY.

HE ASKED PERMISSION TO USE THE AMERICAN LEGION HALL FOR THAT DAY (WHICH WE WERE ALREADY RENTING FOR OUR SUNDAY SERVICES) AND PERMISSION WAS GRANTED. WE WROTE TO THOSE ON OUR MAILING LIST; LETTING THEM KNOW OF OUR PLANS SO IF THEY WANTED TO HAVE A PART THEY COULD.

I WENT AROUND SAFEWAY MARKET ON CHRISTMAS EVE - NOT KNOWING HOW MANY PEOPLE - IF ANY WOULD COME. I LOADED THE SHOPPING CART WITH ITEMS I THOUGHT WE WOULD NEED. WE HAD RECEIVED \$146.00 FROM DONOR GIFTS. I HAD SEVEN DOLLARS LEFT WITH ITEMS STILL ON MY LIST THAT THEY DIDN'T HAVE. I SENT A YOUNG MAN TO ANOTHER MARKET - HE RETURNED SAYING, THAT THE MANAGER OF THE MARKET WOULD LET US HAVE THE ITEMS ON THE LIST FOR \$7.00, IF WE WOULD SEND A NOTE EXPLAINING THE NEED. I KNEW THAT THE ITEMS REMAINING ON THE LIST COST MUCH MORE THAN \$7.00.

THE NEXT MORNING FRED PILED CLOTHES ON ONE SET OF TABLES AND TOYS THAT HAD BEEN GIVEN IN ANOTHER CORNER. THERE WERE TABLES FOR SERVING AND FOR SEATING. ALL DAY LONG THE NEEDY CAME TO BE SERVED AND HELPERS CAME TO SERVE. ONE DEAR LADY IN A WHEELCHAIR WAS PUSHED TO THE HALL BY HER THREE CHILDREN. THROUGHOUT THE DAY PEOPLE CAME BRINGING COOKED TURKEYS, HAMS AND OTHER FOOD. OTHERS WOULD COME TO HELP WITH THE COOKING, THE STIRRING, DOING DISHES, CLEANING TABLES, AND SORTING CLOTHES. WHILE OTHERS WERE GIVING OUT TOYS WITH SO MUCH LOVE AND TENDERNESS TO THE CONSTANT LINE OF BOYS AND GIRLS REACHING OUT EAGERLY TO RECEIVE THEIR GIFTS.

AT THE END OF THE DAY, ABOUT 350 HAD BEEN SERVED - EACH ONE RECEIVING A NOURISHING MEAL. FRED AND I TOOK HOME A SMALL BOWL OF TURKEY BITS - BUT ALL HAD BEEN FED!!! ONE DEAR LADY WHOM WE AFFECTIONATELY CALLED 'AUNT JEMIMA,' HAD STAYED ALL DAY COOKING. SHE TOOK SOME TURKEY CARCASSES TO MAKE TURKEY SOUP FOR HERSELF AND HER EIGHT CHILDREN.

BUT GOD BLESSED - AND HE BLESSED TREMENDOUSLY!!!

THAT BEGAN OUR CHRISTMAS TRADITION. EACH YEAR GOD BROUGHT MORE AND MORE PEOPLE IN NEED OF A GOOD MEAL ON CHRISTMAS DAY. BUT NOT ONLY IN NEED OF A GOOD MEAL, BUT ALSO FELLOWSHIP AND A SENSE OF SOMEONE CARING ENOUGH TO GIVE. WHAT JOYOUS OCCASIONS THESE CHRISTMAS DINNERS BECAME! FROM 600, TO 800, TO 1,200, TO 3,000 ... **GOD KEPT PROVIDING - HE NEVER FAILED.** ALWAYS ENOUGH FOOD, ENOUGH CLOTHING, ENOUGH TOYS AND ENOUGH HELPERS.

THIS WILL BE OUR 42ND YEAR

AS MOST OF YOU KNOW OUR CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR THE HOMELESS AND NEEDY IS NOW HELD AT OUR CHURCH.

FEEL FREE TO COME AND HELP. THE DINNER IS ALWAYS ON CHRISTMAS DAY - THE TOYS ARE GIVEN OUT ON A DAY PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS AS WELL AS GROCERIES.

THE NEEDS ARE THE SAME AS FOR THANKSGIVING - EXCEPT THE CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CHILDREN SHOULD BE "NEW" AND "UNWRAPPED."

WE CAN NEVER EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE ENOUGH FOR THE WONDERFUL WAYS IN WHICH EACH OF YOU MAKE THIS POSSIBLE.

GOD BLESS EACH ONE OF YOU FOR CARING, SHARING, AND PRAYING.

In His love,


Pat Hilst

YOUR GIFTS CAN BE MAILED TO:

THE BIBLE TABERNACLE
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