

Thanks Be to God

As we enter a four-day Thanksgiving holiday weekend, the thought comes to mind, as it does every year, that our blessings are so abundant every day that gratitude to God should be a daily, if not hourly or moment by moment, expression to the Creator and Sustainer.

Nevertheless, it is good that our nation recognizes the importance of giving thanks by setting aside a special day on the calendar. "All across America, we gather this week with the people we love, to give thanks to God for the blessings in our lives," said President George W. Bush in his Thanksgiving Day address. "We are grateful for our freedom, grateful for our families and friends, and grateful for the many gifts of America.

"On Thanksgiving Day, we acknowledge that all of these things, and life itself, come from the Almighty God," he said. "Thanksgiving is also a time to share our blessings with those who are less fortunate. Americans this week will gather food and clothing for neighbors in need. Many young people will give part of their holiday to volunteer at homeless shelters and food pantries. On Thanksgiving, we remember that the true strength of America lies in the hearts and souls of the American people. By seeking out those who are hurting and by lending a hand, Americans touch the lives of fellow citizens and help make our nation and the world a better place."

In particular, Bush said Americans should express gratitude to "our dedicated firefighters and police officers who help keep our homeland safe. We are grateful to the homeland security and intelligence personnel who spend long hours on faithful watch. And we give thanks for the Americans in our Armed Forces who are serving around the world to secure our country and advance the cause of freedom. These brave men and women make our entire nation proud, and we thank them and their families for their sacrifice."

What are some other blessings for which we in Life Care, American Lifestyles and Life Care at Home should be grateful? Here are a few:

- Life. God made us, and every breath that we take is a gift from Him. We should treasure it.
- Health. We need not look very far around us to see people whose well-being has been compromised by a birth defect, disease or accident. Let us not take health for granted. No matter what our own physical condition may be, we can always see others who have more difficult circumstances.
- Our company. The mission of Life Care Centers of America is a noble calling, and it is an honor, indeed, to be associated with the men and women who have given their lives to it.
- Our country. Being born in the United States is an awesome privilege bestowed upon us.
- Family and friends. Relationships -- loving and caring interaction with one another -- bring wholeness and fulfillment to the human spirit. They are priceless.
- A God and Savior Who love us, and constantly seek to fill our inner being with peace and joy and companionship.

Yes, this Thanksgiving season -- and all the time -- there is much to be thankful for. Let us praise the name of our Holy God.

--Beecher Hunter