

Leach

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Thankful for Family, Friends, Health: Share the Message of Hope!

Dear Patients & Friends:

When all is said, our energy spent, and the day complete, we are left with a few precious gifts. Family, friends, and health are easily among the most excellent gifts for which we can be thankful. If you'll forgive me, I want to share with you a short story from my own experience about how God spoke to me about the importance of family just this year.

In January after a month's visit from Iowa, I drove my mom to the airport in Memphis for her flight home. Hours earlier for the first time ever, she told me about a dream she had more than a dozen years ago, before dad died. On the drive between Tupelo and Memphis, she recalled how that in her dream she had seen her mom, dad and aunts welcoming her home. God was letting her know she could let go and be with Him. At 85, she passed on to be with Jesus that same night, peacefully and in her sleep.

They say confession is good for the soul. Up until the moment that my brother called at 3 a.m. with the news of mom's passing, I had quite arrogantly thought I was doing good by my mom, bringing her down here to be with us for one or two months every winter. She got a chance to be with her "Mississippi family," including her grand and great grandkids. But the instant I heard the news I felt an immediate conviction by the Spirit that God had allowed me to have the blessing of her time. Rather than me blessing mom with my time, God was allowing mom to bless me with hers☺

It seems so clear now looking back on it all, how that throughout my life God has taught me repeatedly these lessons of how important are the gifts of my wife and family, friends and health. Many suffer during the holidays because they have some or all of these gifts missing in their lives. These people are having difficulty finding things for which to be thankful.

This brings us to hope. If you have lost family or friends this year, or your health is not where you want it to be, remember that there is a Creator that set the stars in motion, and who has numbered the very hairs of our heads. Remember that while we can't even see into the next room, he can see across a universe and into our hearts. Ah, but you say such beliefs and the having of hope requires faith, and you are correct. However, does it take more faith to believe in Almighty God, or to instead believe that you and I and the stars are the result of random, uncreated chaos?

So let us be thankful for family, friends and health. Let us be thankful for what lay ahead. Remember Abraham Lincoln's words during your Thanksgiving, and may you and your family be truly blessed this holiday,

Rob Leach, D.C., M.S., F.I.C.C., C.H.E.S.

Proclamation Establishing Thanksgiving Day

October 3, 1863

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle, or the ship; the axe had enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years, with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and voice by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-eighth.

A. Lincoln
