

November 19, 2005

Dear Friend:

Glorious Past

OUR NATION'S GODLY HERITAGE

George Washington's 1782 Thanksgiving Proclamation expresses beautifully the utter dependence on God of our Founding Fathers, the Continental Congress, and the earliest leaders of our government. With these words, President Washington gives credit to God for every victory and success experienced by the fledgling country of America. His expressions of gratitude amount to a virtual grocery list of the blessings of the Almighty upon the country.

"It being the indispensable duty of all Nations, not only to offer up their supplications to ALMIGHTY GOD, the giver of all good, for His gracious assistance in a time of distress, but also in a solemn and public manner to give Him praise for His goodness in general, and especially for great and signal interpositions of His providence in their behalf. They do further recommend to all ranks, to testify to their gratitude to GOD for His goodness, by a cheerful obedience of His laws, and by promoting, each in His station, and by His influence, the practice of true and undefiled religion, which is the great foundation of public prosperity and national happiness."

-- George Washington, 1782

INSPIRATIONAL WORDS FOR THANKSGIVING

The great hymn, *Now Thank We All Our God* was written by German Pastor Martin Rinkart who lived from 1586-1649. He served as a pastor during a horrible time of war in his country, and at times performed up to 40 funerals a day. Rinkart had learned the secret to peace in the midst of difficult times, and he reminds us how to do the same through the words of his beloved hymn.

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God,
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us still in grace,
And guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills,
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given;

The Son, and him who reigns
With them in highest heaven;
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

PRESIDENTIAL QUOTES FOR BIBLE WEEK

" Every thinking man, when he thinks, realizes that the teachings of the Bible are so interwoven and entwined with our whole civic and social life that it would be literally – I do not mean figuratively, but literally – impossible for us to figure what that loss would be if these teachings were removed. We would lose all the standards by which we now judge both public and private morals; all the standards towards which we, with more or less resolution, strive to raise ourselves."

– Theodore Roosevelt

" If American democracy is to remain the greatest hope of humanity, it must continue abundantly in the faith of the Bible."

– Calvin Coolidge

" We're blessed to have [the Bible's] words of strength, comfort, and truth. I'm accused of being simplistic at times with some of the problems that confront us. But I've often wondered: Within the covers of that single Book are all the answers to all the problems that face us today, if we'd only look there. "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the word of our God shall stand forever." I hope Americans will read and study the Bible in [the coming year]. It's my firm belief that the enduring values, as I say, presented in its pages have a great meaning for each of us and for our nation. The Bible can touch our hearts, order our minds, refresh our souls."

– Ronald Reagan

Energetic Present

PRAYER REQUESTS

As President Bush continues his Asian trip, give thanks for the strength of America's relationships with Asian nations, and pray for each meeting, scheduled or informal, asking God to guide the President as he seeks progress in vital areas of trade, avian flu and religious freedom. Scheduled meetings include participation in the 13th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Meeting on November 18-19, President Hu Jintao, Beijing, China on November 19 and President Enkhbayar, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on November 21. Pray for safety and protection in every step and pray for relationships to be strengthened on every front.

As the President has stepped up his defense of the war on terror, pray that the people of the world will hear and heed and that insurgent efforts will fail. Pray that the nation of Iraq will continue to grow toward democracy and that it will not become a terrorist sanctuary from which terrorists can plan and launch attacks. Pray that those terrorists who regard Iraq as the central front in their war against humanity will be defeated, that this vital front in the war on terror will be gained for good. Pray for a strengthening of understanding on the importance of this mission by all Americans.

Pray for Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff and his team as they continue to work toward solutions to the problems along America's borders, including issues of illegal immigration, guest workers,

drug smuggling and human trafficking. Pray for wisdom and help, and for solutions that will serve God's purposes.

As National Bible Week is observed November 20-27, pray that Americans will continue to read and honor the Bible, taking its truths to heart daily. Pray that more leaders of our nation will be drawn to the Bible, reading and obeying it faithfully.

Pray for Secretary Michael Leavitt and his team at Health and Human Services as they work to prevent and prepare for the possibility of an avian flu outbreak, asking God to guide them toward His wisdom. Pray also for Secretary Leavitt and the HHS team as they help America's senior citizens who now will receive drug coverage through Medicare, praying that all those who deserve benefits from the program will receive it and that any confusion about the program will be cleared away, providing greater health and well-being for our nation's seniors.

Pray for the ongoing process leading up to confirmation hearings for Judge Samuel Alito, asking God to bring any pertinent concerns to light, accomplishing His will in the makeup of the Supreme Court.

Give thanks for progress made in "Operation Steel Curtain" at the Iraq/Syria border, praying that all insurgents will be captured or stopped, and asking God for complete protection for our troops who are working for success there.

As pessimism continues regarding progress in the Middle East, pray that America and her allies will embrace hope for the region, echoing Secretary of State Rice's encouragement that people in the Middle East now see that despotism can be overcome. Pray that the spiritual quality of hope will continue to grow in the hearts of all who suffer under cruel regimes, and that they will turn to Jesus Christ for the fulfillment of that hope.

Pray for truth to be separated from politicizing as the issue of our effort in Iraq is debated in Washington and across the country. Pray that all leaders and all citizens will seek the truth, and not simply rhetoric or criticism.

Pray for our troops as they continue to labor for freedom in Afghanistan, Iraq and around the world. Pray for their needs to be met, for them to retain health and strength and for those who have been injured to find complete healing and comfort. Pray also for the loved ones of those who have given their lives, that God will draw near to them in comfort and strength.

A PRAYER FOR BIBLE WEEK

*Blessed Lord, who hast caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience,
and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life,
which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ.*

– Archbishop Thomas Cranmer in the Anglican Prayer Book

Challenging Future

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT ON BUILDING DEMOCRACY

" Each democracy has its own character and culture that reflect its unique traditions and history. Yet all free and successful countries share some common characteristics: freedom to worship, freedom of the press, freedom of speech, economic liberty, equal justice under the rule of law, equal citizenship for all –

and the limitation of state power through checks and balances. In many parts of our hemisphere, these institutions of a free society are still young, and they are fragile – and we must ensure that they are strong for the tasks ahead. To deliver justice, the people must have confidence in their institutions – and we must replace the rule of man with the rule of law."

– George W. Bush

Serving God and Country,

Chaplain Ken

Rev. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr., *D. Min.*

Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation

1 Federal Drive

Fort Snelling, MN 55111-4027

Office: (612) 970-7866

Army E-mail: kenneth.beale@us.army.mil

Home E-mail:

KenBeale56A@msn.com

Website: www.fortsnellingmcf.org