

## Prayer Dispatch 11.21.15 / Keeping Christ In Thanksgiving



To access our Thanksgiving blog follow the link and look at the task bar at the top and then choose “blog”... <http://www.sermonaudio.com/gci>.

For Family Discipleship messages, Bible studies, daily devotionals and other ministry resources at no cost, follow this link to <http://gciweb.org/2011/07/holidays-resources/>

### In this Prayer Dispatch...

- I. A Time For Spiritual Harvest
- II. Attached Resources
- III. Prayer Requests: As you minister with us throughout the world through your intercessions, please allow the accompanying passages from the Word of God to guide your prayers:

*2 Corinthians 1:11 “you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through the prayers of many.”*

- A. Next week we will purchase our tickets for Russia and Cameroon. Please pray for borders to remain open and for our visas to be honored.

*1 Corinthians 16:9 “for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.”*

- B. Thank God for Eleanor’s continued healing from hip surgery and rapid progress in her physical therapy. Ask God to continue to bless, strengthen and to give her relief from pain.

*Malachi 4:2 “But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.”*

- C. We have had many opportunities to share Christ and distribute New Testaments to healthcare workers. Ask God to bless these outreach efforts.

*Galatians 4:13-14*

*13 but you know that it was because of a bodily illness that I preached the gospel to you the first time;*

*14 and that which was a trial to you in my bodily condition you did not despise or loathe, but you received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus Himself.*

- D. Petition the Lord of the harvest to continue to bless as we continue to receive Macedonian calls from around the world.

*Acts 16:9-10*

*9 A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."*

*10 When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.*

- E. **Ask that God would bless the ministry materially, that we might, in turn, bless those to whom we minister.**

*2 Corinthians 9:10-11*

*10 Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;*

*11 you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.*

Dear Prayer Warriors,

Autumn is a wonderful time for spiritual harvest here in Houston. It is a time of not only sowing but of also reaping. Preparing the soil and sowing are important, but, equally so is reaping. In fact, so far as the farmer is concerned, sowing without a plan for reaping is nonsensical. Even so, in the spiritual harvest, it makes no sense to be a professional sower who never gives himself to reaping. What better way to proclaim to Jesus our thankfulness for His death, burial and resurrection, than to proclaim it openly during the days which lead up to both Thanksgiving and Christmas? Our beloved Lord and Savior Jesus Christ exhorts the church *John 4:35 "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest."*

In Holy Scripture, God the Holy Spirit has also reminded us, from the earliest times, that giving is an important expression of "Thanksgiving." In fact, one of the aberrations of the Pentecostal and charismatic movements in the church has been the preoccupation with getting and the linking of getting with Thanksgiving. Some even teach that, to get, you thank God for what you want to get, then you will get it. This is alien to Holy Scripture. Generosity and a willing, giving spirit has always typified a true heart of Thanksgiving and not covetousness and a "getting" spirit.

This was true of

Abraham:

*Genesis*

*14:18-20*

*18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.*

*19 He blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;*

***20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." He gave him a tenth of all.***

This was true under the Law and during the times of the nation of Israel:

***2 Chronicles 29:31 Then Hezekiah said, "Now that you have consecrated yourselves to the LORD, come near and bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the house of the LORD." And the assembly brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and all those who were willing brought burnt offerings.***

***Psalms 56:12 Your vows are binding upon me, O God; I will render thank offerings to You.***

This was true of those who repented and turned to Christ:

Luke 19:8-10

8 Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much."

9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham.

10 "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

These two principles, laboring in the harvest and acts of generosity as an expression of thanksgiving, are an important part our Thanksgiving traditions. This Thanksgiving, Eleanor and I made sure that we got out our Thanksgiving boxes to missionaries and military personnel serving overseas. This Thanksgiving, Eleanor gave 24lb turkeys to the Molly Maid team that has been helping out during her surgery--along with Spanish New Testaments and copies of "More Than a Carpenter" by Josh McDowell in Spanish. I did the same for the gentleman who mows our lawn. This week we will take Thanksgiving gifts of books and New Testaments to merchants with whom we have cultivated a relationship. This will be repeated, as well, over the Christmas holidays.

Let me encourage you to open and print out the "Keeping Thanks in Thanksgiving" projects, then seek creative ways of including them in your family times, as well as your evangelistic outreach at the workplace and community. Lastly, make a file on your computer and save them for reference and use in future times of thanksgiving.

I close this email, as always, with a deep and abiding thankfulness for your sacrificial and effectual prayers, which empower and drive this ministry ever forward in the cause of Christ.

By His mercy,  
II Corinthians 4:1  
Rev. John S. Mahon

Grace Community Int. -

Please allow me to close this dispatch with a hymn from my prayer notebook that has been especially meaningful to me...

*(Psalms 104:33-34 "I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. Let my meditation be pleasing to Him; As for me, I shall be glad in the LORD.")*

**Link to music/tune for each hymn appears below its title:**

**COME, YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME**

<http://nethymnal.org/htm/c/o/comeytpc.htm>

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;  
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.  
God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied;  
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto His praise to yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown unto joy or sorrow grown.  
First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear;  
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take His harvest home;  
From His field shall in that day all offenses purge away,  
Giving angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast;  
But the fruitful ears to store in His garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come, bring Thy final harvest home;  
Gather Thou Thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,  
There, forever purified, in Thy garner to abide;  
Come, with all Thine angels come, raise the glorious harvest home.

Henry Alford 1810 – 1871 Alford wrote the following in his Bible at age 16: **I do this day in the presence of God and my own soul renew my covenant with God and solemnly determine henceforth to become his and to do his work as far as in me lies.**

Alford attended Iminster Grammar School and Trinity College, Cambridge, and was ordained in 1833. He was Curate at Winkfield, Wiltshire, and Ampton, and Vicar at Wymeswold, Leicestershire (where he served 18 years). In 1853, he went to Quebec Chapel, London; in 1857, he became dean of Canterbury Cathedral. He was also a scholar, producing volumes on Homer, English poetry, and the Greek New Testament.

**NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD**

<http://nethymnal.org/htm/n/o/nowthank.htm>

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 in His 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.

Martin Rinkart, God. *Born:* April 23, 1586, Eilenburg, Saxony. *Died:* December 8, 1649, Eilenburg, - Martin Rinkart, was a Lutheran minister, was in Eilenburg, Saxony, during the Thirty Years' War. The walled city of Eilenburg saw a steady stream of refugees pour through its gates. The Swedish army surrounded the city, and famine and plague were rampant. Eight hundred homes were destroyed, and the people began to perish. There was a tremendous strain on the pastors who had to conduct dozens of funerals daily. Finally, the pastors, too, succumbed, and Rinkart was the only one left—doing 50 funerals a day. When the Swedes demanded a huge ransom, Rinkart left the safety of the walls to plead for mercy. The Swedish commander, impressed by his faith and courage, lowered his demands. Soon afterward, the Thirty Years' War ended, and Rinkart wrote this hymn for a grand celebration service. It is a testament to his faith that, after such misery, he was able to write a hymn of abiding trust and gratitude toward God. *Born:* April 23, 1586, Eilenburg, Saxony. *Died:* December 8, 1649, Eilenburg,

### **We Gather Together To Ask The Lord's Blessing**

<http://nethymnal.org/htm/w/e/wegattog.htm>

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
He chastens and hastens His will to make known.  
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.  
Sing praises to His Name; He forgets not His own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;  
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
Thou, Lord, were at our side, all glory be Thine!

We all do extol Thee, Thou Leader triumphant,  
And pray that Thou still our Defender will be.

Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;  
Thy Name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

Andrianus Valerius Born: 1575, Middleburg, Holland. Died: January 27, 1620, Veere, Holland.

Words & Music: *This song of praise was originally written in 1597 to celebrate a Dutch victory. It appeared in *Nederlandsche Gedenckclanck*, by Adrianus Valerius (Haarlem, Holland: 1626) (Wilt heden nu treden). A Frenchman by birth, Valerius was the son of a military clerk and notary. In 1569, Valerius became a citizen of the Dutch town of Middelburg, on the island of Walcheren, Zeeland. Valerius' father liked to play the organ, and bought a small church organ for 24 guilders when a church was pulled down after the liberation of Middelburg in 1575, during the war between the Hapsburg Spanish and the Dutch republicans. In 1592, Valerius became a clerk, like his father before him, with the equipment- and ammunition officer of Zeland, and mayor of his hometown of Veere (on the island of Noord-Beveland). In 1598, the admiralty of Middelburg recommended Valerius to the Estates General for the position of inspector of the convoys and license holders of Veere. In 1606, he became the collector of the convoy- and license payments of Veere and master of the fortifications of the town, and became a notary for the Estates of Zeeland. In 1616, he was elected alderman of his town. If he had merely been a notary and alderman, Valerius would have been long forgotten; but he also belonged to the *rederijderskamer* (chamber of eloquent speakers) of Veere, an amateur poets' society. Valerius only wrote religious texts, though this was uncommon in the *rederijders* movement. He penned a number of Dutch hymns, many of which are still sung today, collected in his *Nederlandsche gedenck-clanck* (Dutch remembrance-tunes).*