



THE SHIELD NEWSLETTER

November 15, 2010

God Deserves our Thanks!

*“Oh, give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: and his mercy endureth forever.”
(Psalm 136:1)*

Recently our church presented a Pastor’s Appreciation Weekend in which the people of Shield of Faith paused to say a heartfelt “Thank You” to Pastor Marty and me. The weekend was filled with kind words, financial gifts and acts of love that truly touched our hearts and caused us great joy. And during that weekend, I observed the joy and excitement of the saints of Shield of Faith: There was a special something in the air that caught my attention and caused me to realize *what joy there is in stopping to GIVE THANKS!* From all that I could tell, the members of the church *enjoyed expressing their gratitude* as much as Pastor Marty and I enjoyed receiving it! Surely there is a blessing in giving!

2010 has been a year of blessed protection for the people of God. We have much to be grateful for in financial, material and spiritual areas of life. Many of the unsaved have suffered great losses and even tragic events in the course of this year. Beyond the familiar physical tragedies such as earthquakes, floods, Tsunamis and such like, there have also been losses in war and from diseases of various kinds. Many have lost jobs, business and resources: Some have lost loved ones in death during the past year. But through it all, the people of God have been greatly blessed and sustained by the Grace of God in our lives. Because of this, we have so much to be deeply grateful for at this Thanksgiving Season.

The Psalmist exhorted Israel, “Oh, give thanks unto the Lord!” He was reminding the people of Israel of the amazing grace of God that has been given to those who will trust in Him! He spoke of God’s Heart: God is good, gracious, merciful and kind – not wicked and evil like the forces of darkness. Our God is a *good* God, having come into the world that we might have life abundantly! He came to bring peace, healing, prosperity and even *eternal life* to those who are willing to receive it! In addition, he is “rich in mercy,” so much so, that the writer expresses it this way – “His mercy *endureth forever!*”

Because God is so good and merciful, the writer tells us that we should gladly and generously *give Him thanks!*



We should feel and express our appreciation to God who didn’t *have* to bless us – but He did! He chose to come into the world to seek and save the lost. He reached out and down to each of us who were lost in sin. He filled us with His Spirit and forgave us of the sins which we had willfully done. He heals us, provides for us and sustains us – and because of this it is only right that we should *give Thanks!*

Join me at this holiday season as we raise our hands, our voices and our hearts in grateful adoration to Jesus Christ! “Give THANKS unto the Lord, for He is GOOD!”



Bishop Henry B. Alexander
And First Lady, Marty Alexander