

For the Love of the Family Ministries
Missionaries to America's Forgotten Mission Field, the Family
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Thanksgiving, what a tremendous heritage given to us by our forefathers. The Pilgrims came to America, for religious freedom. They had left England and came to Holland for religious freedom, but found that they still were not going to be able to worship freely and they believed that the people of Holland defiled the Lord's day, Sunday, by seeking entertainment on Sunday rather than setting it aside as a day for worship, reflection, and thankfulness.

The trip to America was a harsh trip. Many died on the way over on the Mayflower. The first winter in New England after they arrived was extremely harsh as well. More died in the brutal winter. As history records, William Bradford, Myles Standish, John Alden, Priscilla Mullins and the rest of the folks who founded Plymouth in 1620 and survived their first brutal winter had much to be thankful for in the fall of 1621.

Only 55 of the more than 100 original settlers had survived to see their first winter thaw. Their labors had paid off and they had a good first harvest. William Bradford proclaimed a day of prayer and thanksgiving and extended an invitation to the local Indians, Wampanoags, who had helped with the cultivation of the colonists first crops. Around 90 of the Indians participated and brought along 5 deer to help out with the meal.

The Pilgrims were people who believed in God and stood for what they believed. The time that was set aside was to thank God for the blessings He had given to them. So, 383 years ago our forefathers because of their religious faith began a tradition that has left us with a great heritage and an example concerning thankfulness. We have much to be thankful for in our country and the Pilgrims understood the teaching of the Bible on thankfulness, and surely quoted I Thessalonians 5:18 on the special time they had set aside. Each year at this time I encourage our family to make sure we give thanks for the blessings we have received.

In studying the history of the Pilgrims, I found out something else interesting. In 1623 there was no harvest because of drought so they turned that day into one of prayer, fasting, and also thanksgiving. They had been many days without water and God answered their prayers that while they were praying and fasting for rain, rain came.

So, what we celebrate the fourth Thursday of November each year that began on the cold shores of the Atlantic Ocean several hundred years ago and has become a lasting heritage for us concerning the matter of thankfulness.

How has it changed since that first time in 1621? In June 1676, the governing council of Charleston, Mass proclaimed June 29 as a day of giving thanks for the success of the community. In October 1777, all 13 colonies celebrate Thanksgiving. In October 1779, George Washington writes the Thanksgiving Proclamation. It was lost, but recovered and installed in the Library of Congress' archives in 1921. In October 1863, Abraham Lincoln proclaims the annual holiday as the last Thursday in November. In 1939, Franklin Roosevelt moves it back a week to extend the Christmas shopping season. Congress ruled that after 1941, the fourth Thursday in November will be Thanksgiving day, a legal federal holiday.

Well, folks that is it. I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and did take time like our forefathers did and intended to give thanks to the One who has given us so many blessings. I also hope that you were able to take it and use it to teach your family the heritage and the importance of thankfulness in our lives, Phillipians 4:4-7, Ephesians 5:20, Romans 8:28, and Hebrew 13:15.

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Distributed by For the Love of the Family Ministries, copyright 2002. For the Love of the Family Ministries is a missionary ministry to America's forgotten field, the family. For the Love of the Family Ministries purpose is:

- 1. To encourage and help Pastors and the local church in training their families and their children to live for and serve God (Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4).**
- 2. To provide literature, cassette tapes, and videotapes to churches and families from an independent-fundamental, Biblical, Baptist viewpoint that encourages godly families.**
- 3. To provide a magazine (under construction) dealing with family issues that encourages godly living and provides practical Biblical training for the home. This will be a subscription-based magazine.**

4. To hold Family, Missions and Bible conferences in the local church. These can be one or two day conferences. Pastor Coomer is available on a limited basis for these conferences, as we believe this is a great and forgotten mission field. We will have a book table with godly family literature available during the meetings. Our booklet *For the Love of the Family*, a practical guide on rearing children spiritually to actually grow up and serve God will be available at the conferences. Some Pastors have placed orders for these books to give to each family in their church. Please contact us at the address, phone or e-mail address above to schedule meetings or order *For the Love of the Family* \$4.00 each, order 25 or more and the cost is \$2.00 each. See the order blank on our web site <http://www.churchpages.org/fortheloveofthefamily/>.
5. To be Ambassadors for Christ (II Corinthians 5:20) to the forgotten mission field the "American Family."
6. To see the salvation of families and to see families learning to serve God.
7. To have a web site <http://www.churchpages.org/fortheloveofthefamily/> for the Christian family to obtain godly family information in this apostate hour.
8. To provide other godly literature to Pastors, local churches and families.
9. To provide e-mail articles to a list of people, who want to have regular, practical, Biblical, godly family articles provided for them. If you or someone you know would like these articles on a regular basis please send the e-mail address to TLCOOMER@juno.com. To be removed from the list do the same.

As a Pastor for many years I have become greatly concerned and greatly burdened over the number of children who grow up not to serve the Savior from Christian homes. There seems to be a real lack of practical, spiritual, Biblical training going on in this apostate hour. I am also greatly concerned about the number of Christian families that are blowing apart and the tragedy that results from these lives. It is the desire of this ministry to help, encourage, and to provide training to families to not lose their children and for parents to know what it means to be godly parents, husbands and wives. Please feel free to contact us for more information. Contributions and support are appreciated to provide for the work of the ministry.

Other literature available currently:

Tongues Speaking in the Book of Acts and I Corinthians, by Pastor Terry L. Coomer. This is an in depth study of all the passages dealing with this subject in Acts and I Corinthians. Easy to read and great to have available to give to people who are confused about this subject. One missionary who read the booklet commented, "I graduated from Bible College and I have never heard this subject presented in such a Biblical common sense way as Pastor Coomer has presented it. Great material." These booklets are available for \$3.00 per booklet order 25 or more they are \$2.00 each.

***What is Wrong With the Christians of America?* Sermon by Pastor Terry L. Coomer available by e-mail or by regular mail \$1.00 each. This sermon deals with the lack of spiritual desire by the Christians of America. A sermon that gives keen spiritual and Biblical insight to the spiritual problems that are causing great harm in the lives of many Christians and to our families.**

***How to Have a Daily Time with God*, a practical step by step approach to having a personal, passionate, intimate relationship with God. Pastor Coomer shows you how to get the most out of your Bible reading, what books to read and how to have a daily journal of your insights with God. Extremely practical and easy to follow. Gives you the scriptural reason for having a daily time with God. Available by e-mail or regular mail for \$2.00 each.**

***How to Deal With Hurt*, by Pastor Terry L. Coomer. Many Christian families are not serving God today because they have at one time been hurt. The tragedy to their lives, their children's lives, and to the church is great. In an exposition of Psalm 37 Pastor Coomer shows us the flesh cycle that many Christians live in when they are hurt and the spiritual cycle that God wants us to live in. Extremely practical and greatly needed by families who are hurting. Available by e-mail or regular mail for \$3.00.**

Complete catalog and order blank available on our web site.