

A WORD FROM THE NATIONAL EVANGELIST

By Rev. Mark Lavine

In August of 2001, I was in my office looking over my calendar to see what my schedule was going to be like in the month of September. I knew I would be very busy that month going to churches in the state of Illinois.

By what I believe was direction of the Lord I listed each date and what I would preach on a legal pad. As I prayed, I wrote down the key scriptures that I was to use.

On a Tuesday in Jacksonville, Illinois I was praying with the pastor of the church as we did in every day. I had the honor and privilege to pray with this wonderful man of God every day when holding services for him. While we were praying his wife called and told us about planes that crashed into the world trade center. Then that whole day and for weeks to come this terrible thing was talked about in the news.

As you know the day was September 11, 2001.

After we finished praying we went back to the house as his wife prepared lunch for us.

Of course, the news was on and was broadcasting this terrible act of terrorism. After lunch I went back to the parsonage where I was staying to prepare my sermon.

When I began to study my notes I was amazed at the scripture I had noted in August to use for my sermon that day. 2 Chronicles 7:14 KJV "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land".

The Holy Spirit knew exactly what was going to happen and what the answer was.

Whatever this nation goes through, this is always the answer for Gods people.

I want to also encourage every FGCI member to add this scripture and the following New Testament scripture to their daily prayer life.

1Timothy 2:1-4

"I exhort therefore first of all to make supplications, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings, for all men; for kings and all that are in high place; that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and gravity. This is good and acceptable before God our Savior; who willeth all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of truth."

PAGE 1.

**A word from the National
Evangelist**

PAGE 2.

Thanksgiving Blessings

PAGE 3.

**Merry Christmas
Need to Know info**



THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS

By: Rev. Alison Yates

I was so blessed to be part of Thanksgiving Blessing Outreaches November 23-24, at Rivers of Life Church in Granite City, IL, and Freedom Tabernacle Full Gospel in Osceola, MO. Each church gave away 150 Frozen turkeys and sides to people through personal invitation using a number of premade vouchers. The goal was to get these meals into the homes of people who truly had a need.

On Saturday, 11/23, I loved being able to see the ROL Church Pastors Travis and Melissa Watkins and the Church body open up their doors, welcome and greet people by name with welcoming hugs, and walk the recipients out to their vehicles and offer prayer. What a blessing to see groups of people standing in the parking lot in groups in prayer! What a wonderful time of fellowship and Kingdom impact!

At our home church Freedom Tabernacle, the giveaway was set up as a drive-through. People started to line up long before the time for the outreach to start. Members of our church helped in many ways, including going from vehicle to vehicle and offering prayer. Many people were in tears as they pulled up to receive their Thanksgiving meals. Other church members helped load the cars and others delivered meals to those who are home-bound. So many people are hurting and alone and just need a connection point with the Body of Christ!

We are so thankful for the opportunity to serve our communities and believe we will see the impact of these outreaches in the upcoming days. Something as simple as a turkey dinner can be a fruitful connection to the local Church and to Jesus Christ!



Merry Christmas



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