



# FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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## AMERICA, BLESS GOD!



VIOLENCE ABOUNDS. THE HOMICIDE RATE IN INDIANAPOLIS IS HIGH AGAIN THIS YEAR AND ALL OF US ARE AWARE OF THE RECENT MURDER OF A LOCAL PASTOR'S WIFE. TEN DAYS AGO THE PEOPLE OF PARIS WERE ROCKED BY SEVERAL COORDINATED ATTACKS KILLING 128 AND WOUNDING OVER 300. ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS FIGHT FOR A FOOTHOLD IN VARIOUS PLACES AROUND THE MIDDLE EAST AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WAR RAGES BETWEEN VARIOUS RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL FACTIONS, ALL FIGHTING FOR THEIR PARTICULAR CAUSE.

OURS IS A BLOODY PLACE.

BUT OURS IS ALSO A BOUNTIFUL PLACE.

AS WE GATHER AROUND OUR THANKSGIVING TABLES THIS WEEK WE SHOULD BE REMINDED ONCE AGAIN OF OUR GREAT BLESSINGS. OUR FEASTS AND GOOD FORTUNE ARE THE ENVY OF THE WORLD. INDEED OUR STORES OVERFLOW, OUR LAND IS PRODUCTIVE AND OUR RESOURCES ARE PLENTIFUL. EVEN AMID RECESSION WE ARE RICH.

IN DEUTERONOMY 8:10 MOSES REMINDS GOD'S PEOPLE OF THEIR PROSPERITY AS WELL AS A RESPONSIBILITY. HE STATES, "WHEN YOU HAVE EATEN AND ARE SATISFIED, YOU SHALL BLESS THE LORD YOUR GOD FOR THE GOOD LAND WHICH HE HAS GIVEN YOU." IN THE NEXT VERSE GOD'S PEOPLE ARE CAUTIONED ABOUT FORGETTING GOD AND FORSAKING THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. INDEED AS WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED WE MUST NOT FORGET TO GIVE THANKS TO OUR FAITHFUL PROVIDER.

WE BLESS GOD WHEN WE BOW BEFORE HIM ON BENDED KNEE. WE BLESS GOD WHEN WE HUMBLY DECLARE THAT HE IS THE SOURCE OF ALL OUR SUCCESSES. WE OFTEN PRAY, "GOD BLESS AMERICA," YET OUR HEAVENLY FATHER PLEADS, "AMERICA, BLESS GOD."

WE BLESS GOD WHEN OUR PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT WE ARE "ONE NATION UNDER GOD." WE BLESS GOD WHEN OUR CURRENCY DECLARES "IN GOD WE TRUST." WE BLESS GOD BY MAINTAINING A FREEDOM TO WORSHIP HIM WITHOUT PERSECUTION. WE BLESS GOD WHEN WE REMEMBER THAT OUR NATION WAS FOUNDED ON CHRISTIAN VALUES. WE BLESS GOD WHEN WE RESIST THOSE WHO WOULD SEEK TO CHANGE OR CHALLENGE THESE PRIVILEGES.

TOGETHER THIS THANKSGIVING, MIGHT WE REMEMBER GOD'S MANDATE. "COME, LET US WORSHIP AND BOW DOWN, LET US KNEEL BEFORE THE LORD OUR MAKER." (PSALM 95:6).

LOOKING UP,  
PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE