

### Things Hawaii Family Forum is Thankful For:

- The signing of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban (S3). With the ban firmly in place, the horrific procedure of killing babies in the process of being born will be eliminated!
- Terri Schiavo who is still alive, being fed and loved by her parents.
- Our Board of Directors who continue to guide us with the love of Christ.
- The ongoing prayers of family, friends and committed supporters.
- The churches and individuals who generously give to our ministry.

### Thanksgiving To Do List:

1. **Start a blessings jar.** When good things happen through the year, put in a slip of paper describing the blessing. On Thanksgiving, pour out the jar and read each blessing, giving God glory and thanksgiving for each.
2. **Have each family member make a list of things they are thankful for (i.e. freedom, friends, finances, healing);** just before Thanksgiving dinner, each family member can read their list before prayer.
3. **Name your turkeys each year after the Presidents.** Help your kids learn our heritage. Have the children research each year's candidate and share with friends and family about that President's faith walk and contribution to America.
4. **Share a tradition that your grandparents taught your parents and your parents taught you.** Call your grandparents and thank them for their ongoing legacy.
5. **Pray for our nation, that God will continue to protect her and find favor on her as He has done for centuries.**
6. **Give a gift of love to a needy family in your local community.** Volunteer to serve at IHS or River of Life. Ask your pastor how you can help your community!

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## HAWAII FAMILY FORUM

### What are you thankful for today?

*A Message from J. Denice von Gnechten, executive director*

We are so very blessed here in America and especially in Hawaii. In this season of Thanksgiving, let's remember to focus on God, who is the giver of life and all things good. As He said He would do, God supplies our needs. "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." [Philippians 4:16] Indeed He has.

Are you thankful for Christ Jesus? If that's all there was, that would be enough, right? Be thankful for His forgiveness and grace and mercy; for his ever-lasting love and His ever-amazing faithfulness. God is good. We should be grateful for our churches and the love and fellowship we enjoy. Are you thankful for this great nation? What a blessing! We live in a country founded on Christian principles and by Christian

***We need to be on our knees for this nation—BUT then we need to get up from our knees, take a stand and fight to preserve our God-given rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.***

leaders, many of who gave their possessions and careers to stand for the gospel. For the moment, this is still a Christian nation. But our religious liberties are being trampled at an alarming rate.

Most of us think of the first Thanksgiving as the meal hosted by the Pilgrims in America. But the holiday actually came into formal being more than 150 years later, after the Revolutionary War had been won and our Constitution had been signed. Congress approved the Bill of Rights, the first ten Amendments to the Constitution in 1789. Congress then "recommended a day of public thanksgiving and prayer" to thank God for blessing America. President Washington declared November 26, 1789, as the first national day of prayer and thanksgiving to the Lord.

In addition, when the Civil War ended, President Abraham Lincoln established the last Thursday in November as a day to acknowledge "the gracious gifts of the Most High God" bestowed upon America. Every president did the same until 1941, when Congress officially made Thanksgiving a national holiday.

So, Christian friends, give thanks proudly for this nation, knowing the heritage of this important holiday. Teach your children the origins of our country and of Thanksgiving. Teach them there is more to it than turkey and football. Teach them to give to those who are needy even while we are thankful for so much. Teach them to thank God for being so good to us and to America.

Yes, friends, there is much to be thankful for today. Our prayer at HFF is that you and your family will be especially blessed as you share a meal on Thanksgiving Day and that you will take time to name the blessings in your life. Provide a time for each member of the family to pray in thankfulness for the specific blessings they appreciate.

Thanksgiving is an important day in our culture and our country. Praise be to God for a day set aside to give thanks for the bounty He has so richly bestowed.

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