

Weekly Devotional Column

By JAMES MACKENZIE

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever."—(Psalm 107:1).

Have you ever stopped to realize how thankful we should be that the God who rules the universe is a God of love, mercy and compassion? Consider for a moment: You and I did not make God; we are not responsible for Him (we are responsible to Him, but not for Him). It is not to our credit that He happens to be the kind of God He is; that is entirely beyond our control. Yet God is a Person, not a force, or an influence. Because He is a Person He has emotions and desires; He has a character, a personality. Why is He as He is? Since no one made God, and He is the one self-existent Being, it is He alone who determines His character. Now just suppose the all-powerful God were a God of vengeance rather than mercy, of hatred rather than love, of cruelty rather than pity. Then you and I would be helpless victims of circumstance, hopelessly condemned to an eternity of torment, despondency and despair. Why He is a God of love I do not know—but He is. Oh, let us praise Him for that this Thanksgiving season! O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever!

The 107th Psalm goes on to give us other reasons for being thankful to God:

1. Redemption (verses 2-7). We are redeemed—set free from slavery to Satan—by the precious blood of Jesus (1 Peter 1:18-19). Let the Lord say so (Psalm 107:2). If you are a born-again Christian, pause right now to thank God for the wonderful love and grace that moved Him even

to sacrifice His only Son for you. If you are not a Christian, read not another line until you have accepted the free pardon for sins offered you in Christ Jesus, and purchased by Him at awful cost on Calvary's cruel cross. Confess your sins to Him now, and trust Him as your Saviour.

2. Material blessings (Psalm 107:5-9). Here mentioned are food, shelter and security, three basic necessities of life. May we be duly grateful to God on this day that we live in one of the few countries of the world where these are the birthright of everyone.

3. Healthy minds and bodies (Psalm 107:17-20). When we are sick we pray fervently to be healed, and once we are well again we are quick to thank God for restoring us to health (or at least we should be quick to thank Him). How much more reason, then, do we have to thank Him when He keeps us from becoming sick in the first place. Little Ronnie Coyme, the eleven-year-old boy to whom the Lord has given sight through a plastic eye said to me, "I thank the Lord for restoring my sight." Rebuked by his child-like faith, I silently thanked God that I have never lost mine.

4. Work (Psalm 107:32-38). Man was created with a desire to be useful. The man who feels he is making no contribution to society is the man who commits suicide. The desire to be useful is seen even in the young child who likes to be of help in the school and in the home. Let us thank God both for this desire and for making it possible for us to fulfill it.

5. For sorrow, trials and frustrations (Psalm 107:39). Why should we be thankful for these? (A) Because they are evidence of God's love. "Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth." (B) Because they are used to draw us closer to Him, to teach us trusting faith and patience. (C) Because "we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called ac-

ording to His purpose." (Romans 8:28). How may we be thankful? By telling others about the redemption that is to be had in Christ (Psalm 107:2). By praising God in company with other Christians. Above all, by living as He would have us to live. "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). And when we get right down to it, the best expression of Thanksgiving is Thanksgiving.

Save Work With Skillet Meals

By MARTHA STILLEY
Virginia Electric & Power Co.
Home Economist

Skillet meals are the answer to a busy homemaker's prayer. Easy to prepare, they combine several different foods and save time, work and fuel. You have only one pan to wash, one pan to watch and handle, and one unit to use on your range or if you are lucky enough to own one of the electric fry pans—use it—set the temperature and forget it. Served with a salad, bread and dessert, a skillet meal can be fit for a king.

Here are two tried-and-true skillet meals that have special features of interest. Dieters will love Shrimp Creole—one serving only contains 170 calories. Combine that with a green salad, tea and Jellied Strawberries and your dieter can have a meal for only 250 calories.

Add to it rice, bread and cookies and the meal is hearty enough for the rest of the family.

Pork Chop Skillet Meal is good to serve now while the price of pork is going down. Its aroma will stir appetites long before the one hour it cooks it up.

- Shrimp Creole**
- 2 medium-size onions, sliced
 - 1/4 c. chopped green pepper
 - 6 mushrooms, sliced
 - 1/2 tsp. salt
 - 1/4 tsp. pepper
 - 1/4 tsp. paprika
 - 1/4 tsp. sage
 - 1/4 tsp. liquid no-calorie sweetener
 - 1/4 c. tomato sauce
 - 1 1/2 cups drained canned tomatoes
 - 2 pkg. (5 oz. each) frozen shrimps, drained and deveined (or 1 lb. green)
 - 1/4 tsp. curry powder
 - 1/2 green tsp.

1. Simmer together onions, green pepper, mushrooms, salt, pepper, paprika, sage, and sweetener in tomato juice until vegetables are tender.

2. Add tomatoes, shrimps, and curry powder; heat. Serve piping hot. Serves 4.

- Pork Chop Skillet Meal**
- 4 Tbsp. shortening
 - 6 pork chops (1" thick)
 - 6 slices onion (1/4" thick)
 - 6 rings of green pepper
 - 6 Tbsp. cooked rice
 - 3 c. stewed potatoes
 - 1 c. diced celery
 - Salt and pepper to taste
- Heat 4 tablespoons of shortening in skillet on High. When hot add chops, switch to medium high and complete browning on both sides, approximately 15 minutes. Place a slice of onion and 1 pepper ring on each chop. Place 1 tablespoon of rice in each ring. Pour tomatoes around the meat; add celery. Place cover on skillet. When steaming, about 8 minutes, switch to simmer for 1 hour. Serves 6.

STATIONED IN GERMANY

William D. Stallings, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Stallings, is at the present on a tour of duty with the U. S. Army in Germany. He arrived in Germany in July and was stationed in the 529FA Bn. (OBSR) in the Metro Section. His work calls for him to be in the field most of the time. He has been promoted to the rank of Corporal as of October 13. Also in the same battery is Private Fred Spivey of Sunbury.

Dear Editor:

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HAYSEED

By UN-E SAM

MAN

Man comes into this world without his consent. When he first comes into the world almost everybody wants to kiss him. He leaves this world against his will. When he goes out almost everybody wants to kick him. During his stay on earth he lives in one continuous round of contradictions and misunderstandings. In his infancy he is an angel. In his boyhood he is a devil. In his manhood he is everything from a worm up. In his decisions he is counted a fool. If he is a poor man he is a poor manager. If he is rich he is dishonest and a cheat. If he is in politics he is a grafter and a crook. If he is out of politics he is an undesirable citizen. If he goes to church he is a hypocrite. If he stays away he is a sinner. If he gives to charities and missions he does it all

IN MEMORIAM

In sad but loving memory of our only son, Franklin Perry, who passed away November 24, 1952. Two long years have passed, son, Since God called you home to stay, Which left an emptiness in our home That no one can ever take away.

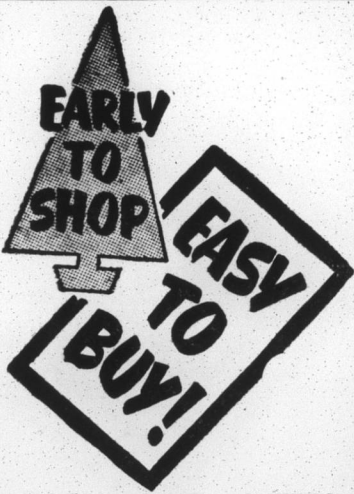
Each week we go to your graveside And as we place flowers there, We remember the love you had for us, How you always wanted to share.

Oh those memories of our family devotions How you would lead us in prayer, And those last words, "Nite Mama, Nite, Nite Daddy," They still echo somewhere in the air.

It's so lonesome without you, son, We are sad and lonely every day, Life is not the same to us Since God called you away.

We know you are happy with Jesus, We are just waiting for His command, So we will be submissive here And sometime we will understand.

This we have seen—and many a pang Has pressed it on our mind, The one who goes is much happier Than those he leaves behind. —Mr. and Mrs. John F. Perry.



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for show. If he does not he is stingy and a tightwad.

If he marries and raises a family he is a fool and a chump. If he does not marry and raise a family he is selfish and set in his ways. Somehow in the estimation of others a man is always wrong, out of place or a failure.

The man who dies young had a great future before him. If he lives to be old he is always in the way and

would be better off dead. Life is a strange and funny road but most of us want to keep on traveling it.

ON DUTY IN JAPAN

Sgt. Charles C. Collins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Collins, 206 East Albemarle Street, Edenton, recently was assigned to the 7th Base Post Office in Japan.

Collins, an assistant postal clerk, completed basic training at Camp Pickett, Va.



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NOTICE!

To Chowan County TAXPAYERS

The Tax Books for the year 1954 are now in my hands for the collection of taxes. We urge you to pay your taxes now and thus avoid the penalty which will begin on February 1.

A PENALTY OF 1% WILL BE ADDED ON 1954 TAXES NOT PAID BEFORE FEBRUARY 2. ANOTHER 1% WILL BE ADDED MARCH 2 AND AN ADDITIONAL 1/2 OF 1% WILL BE ADDED FOR EACH ADDITIONAL MONTH TAXES ARE UNPAID.

J. A. BUNCH
SHERIFF OF CHOWAN COUNTY