The Master's Mission, Inc.

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Dear Ministry Partners,

As a nation we do not take many opportunities to stop and reflect on giving thanks. Not surprising, thanksgiving is antithetical to the natural human outlook and perspective. Since Adam's fall in the garden, man has fostered a hard hearted, under appreciation to God for His abundant blessing and provision to man on earth.

The Hebrew word for giving thanks, *yada,* can also mean to praise, as well. The earliest use of this word in Scripture occurs when Leah, the patriarch Jacob's first wife, bears her fourth son naming him Judah. From her burdened position as Jacob's "unloved" wife, she responds to God for His abundant favor in giving her a son, proclaiming, "This time I will praise the Lord." God blessed Leah with His abundant favor in giving her a son. Through this son would come the monarchy's greatest king, king David and ultimately the "King of Kings and Lord of Lords", in the person of Jesus Christ many years later. "This time" after she received her fourth son she was compelled to respond to God in thanksgiving and praise.

Giving thanks is a response that flows from an awareness that one has received grace, the unmerited favor of another. How often we find ourselves unaware of the divine favor God bestows on each of us. This season, as we reflect on the many blessings and gracious provisions of our great God, we too offer our praise and thanksgiving to Him for giving us the rich privilege of equipping, sending, and supporting long-term missionaries to difficult areas. We also thank each of you for your continued partnership with us as together we seek to see "all the families of the Nations worship before Him."

With grateful hearts to the Lord,

Paul Carson (For the TMM family)