

## **Country Real Estate, #348: November 20, 2014**

### **No thanks Thanksgiving**

**By Curtis Seltzer**

**BLUE GRASS, Va.** As Thanksgiving approaches, Ive found that I am thankful for many things that I am not.

I am thankful I am not a citizen of a failed state that is unable to protect me from chaos and violence.

I am thankful I am not a citizen of a dictatorship where I could be hauled off at any minute for doubting The Authorities.

I am thankful I am not a citizen of any country in the Middle East.

I am thankful Im not living in a country that is fighting a civil war.

I am thankful I am not a slave or a prisoner.

I am thankful I am not a refugee in a land that doesnt want me, and where Im starting over from scratch.

I am thankful Im not having to learn a new language to survive.

I am thankful Im not forced to live behind a wall, physical or intellectual.

I am thankful I dont need to kill people of other religions.

I am thankful I am not persecuted or bullied.

I am thankful Im not living under a government that is more dysfunctional than mine.

I am thankful Im not suing anyone or being sued.

I am thankful I am not without Social Security Retirement and Medicare.

I am thankful I am not immobile, physically and politically.

I am thankful I am not without some ability to read and understand.

I am thankful I am not unable to do things that I like to do.

I am thankful I am not homeless.

I am thankful I am not friendless.

I am thankful I am not hungry.

I am thankful I am not without enough money to buy a cup of coffee without thinking about the cost.

I am thankful I am not paying the top personal-income tax rate in the following countries: Aruba, 58.95%; Sweden, 57%; Denmark, 55.56%; Spain and Netherlands, 52%; Finland, 51.25%; Austria, Belgium and Israel, 50%; Portugal, 48%; and Germany, UK and France, 45%. (The U.S. top rate is 39.6%)

I am thankful I've not forgotten legitimate grievances as well as acts of kindness.

I am thankful I am not without family who I love.

I am thankful I don't have more family than I can manage.

I am thankful I am not ill.

I am thankful I am not unable to find some small funny thing in the inexplicable and indefensible.

I am thankful I'm not dogmatic about many things and ideas.

I am thankful that I do not use the word Awesome!  
in either written or oral communications.

Finally, I am thankful that I am not without hope on Thanksgiving, 2014.