

## Attitude of Gratitude

By

Bruce A. Howell,

General Director of Foreign Missions

October and November are special months when we pause to be thankful for God's many blessings. I did a little research and consulted my friend, Mr. Google, and asked, "How much does the average North American eat at Thanksgiving?" The information is apparently considered classified and could not be released. So, I moved on to "How do you know when you've eaten too much at Thanksgiving?" Here are some interesting answers. You know you've eaten too much at Thanksgiving when...

You spill more food on you than the local soup kitchen dispenses;  
Paramedics bring in the Jaws of Life to pry you out of the EZ-Boy recliner;  
The "Gravy Boat" your wife set out was a real 12' boat!  
The potatoes you used set off another famine in Ireland;  
You receive a Sumo Wrestler application in your e-mail;  
You set off three earthquake seismographs on your morning jog;  
That rash on your stomach turns out to be steering wheel burn;  
Representatives from the Butterball Hall of Fame call twice;  
You consider overeating as your patriotic duty.  
It looks like the left-overs are gonna last until Christmas.

Well, my subject is not the "Joys of Eating" but rather "The Attitude of Gratitude." Remember the story of the ten lepers. I have a message I like to preach from that passage. No, I'm not going to preach it here. But, there is something relative to Thanksgiving that jumps out at me. "And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, *And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks*: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger" (Luke 17:15-18).

I want to be like that tenth man but I don't want to be His stranger. I came up with a few names for the ten lepers.

1. Whining Willie
2. Ungrateful Ulysses
3. Griping Gertrude
4. Complaining Cassandra
5. Murmuring Millie
6. Marty Martyr
7. Pity-me Patricia
8. Doubting Dan

9. Forgetful Freddie
10. Thankful Tis-u!

Just for the sake of a survey, ever feel like any of those? Ever feel like any of those this week? Today? Ever feel like any of those in the last few minutes? The two most important words in the English language are “Thank you.” However, we’re not very good at saying it, are we? We’re like a little boy returning from a birthday party. His mother queried, *“Bobby, did you thank the lady for the party?”*

*“Well, I was going to. But a girl ahead of me said, ‘Thank you,’ and the lady told her not to mention it. So I didn’t.”*

Thanksgiving is thanks-living, the attitude of gratitude, that permeates life and is celebrated far beyond once a year. It is a way of life. Let’s not be like the turkey (no pun intended) I heard about. One turkey said to another: *“I don’t know about you, but I always reserve my thanks for the day after.”*

There is so much to be thankful for: life, parents, being a global nomad, friends, e-mail, not to mention all the great things happening in the MK Ministries. It is totally Cadillac! Cylinda Nickel is doing a fabulous job as our Office Manager and MKM Assistant Coordinator. The attendance at MKM events is through-the-roof. Carla Burton is doing a great job. We were so sanctified proud of the way she led in worship at the recent GC Home Missions’ service. Melinda Poitras is adding the Melinda-touch to the *CultureShock*. She has a way with words. These ladies are MKM envoys par excellence! The fellowship’s awareness and interest in MKM is escalating. I’m tickled. I’m thankful! I happily announce the selection of Pastor Mark Hattabaugh as the MKM Coordinator. Mark and Esther, along with their son Mark II, pastor the Pentecostals of Cooper City. Brother Hattabaugh—a great personal friend—was raised on the mission field in Argentina and has made nearly fifty trips overseas. Welcome precious Hattabaugh family to MKM.

