

November 7, 2023

Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings in our wonderful Savior's name. Preparations are already underway at the Pines to prepare for Christmas. This is the last month of the school year for the children, as the school year runs from January to December. The children are preparing to take their final exams in the next two weeks and at the end of November, the children will have their summer vacation until the middle of January.

Christmas is just around the corner and at The Pines we try to get a head start in setting up what we call the "Christmas Room" where we hide the gifts and wrap them. If you would like us to purchase a gift for the child you sponsor, please send a check to AIMI with a note with the child's name and we will be happy to purchase the gift. Also please remember that at the end of December we close our books out a little later in January to allow people to get their last-minute gifts in this means that your final 2023 receipt will be mailed out around January 10, 2024.

The challenges at The Pines are many, but watching children develop in mind and body is one of the privileges the staff and volunteers cherish. Yet the greatest privilege is introducing children to the Savior, knowing they've been taken from a place death to encounter The Way, The Truth, and The Life.

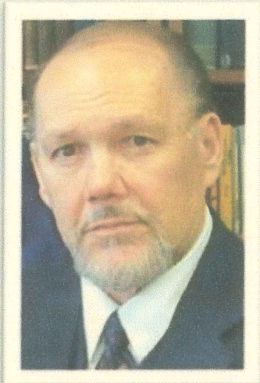
Thank you for your prayers and your faithful support each month. Without you, we would be unable to carry on the ministry of The Pines. As we will be celebrating Thanksgiving this month, it reminds us of all the things we are thankful for and how good the Lord has been to us this year. I trust that you will have a wonderful holiday season. I cannot thank you enough for partnering with us in this ministry. May the Lord bless each one of you as we soon begin to prepare to celebrate our dear Savior's birth and giving Him all the glory.

Serving Him with you,



Sally Seefried

Rev. David H. Seefried, Founder



1941—2008

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“Celebrating Thanksgiving”

from the writings of Pastor David Seefried

“For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks.” -- Romans 1:21

This month we will celebrate Thanksgiving, a holiday that finds its roots in early American history. Many suffered and died the first winter in the New World. When a bountiful harvest came in the second year, the hearts of the Pilgrims were filled with untold thanksgiving. The Pilgrims often sang Psalm 100 and 107 in recognition of the fact that all good gifts come from the Father in heaven.

Christians should always give thanks. It is a mark of true Christianity to find in the heart an attitude that constantly recognizes and acknowledges that all we have comes from God. In our text we find that one major element of the downward slide of humanity is the lack of thankfulness. The lack of thankfulness is a true sign of spiritual deterioration in a person or in a society. Many in America are more thankful for handouts from the government than they are for the bountiful gifts from God. The Christian, however, ever recognizes that God the Creator is the source of all blessing, spiritually and physically.

I am thankful. Would you bear with me a moment as I say thank you? Every time I go to the doctor for a complete physical, I come away with great thanksgiving when everything is declared “fine.” Having had a liver transplant almost eight years ago, and having taken immune suppressants for the same amount of time, I was apprehensive about what he would find. He found nothing wrong. I am thankful that the Lord spared my life in 1991 and that He then gave me a wonderful ministry at the Sembach Church. We take our health so for granted until something goes wrong. Just recently, when we visited the home office in Kokomo, I spent some time talking with and praying with Gary Smith, one of the area directors. He is not yet fifty and is dying of colon cancer. He is attempting to make it through until Christmas. He told me he is thankful for every good day the Lord gives him, days that are few and far between. Tomorrow Gary will most likely celebrate his last Thanksgiving on earth.

The point, however, is this; how thankful are that today we were able to get out of a bed and function normally? Do we realize that our days are held in the hand of God and that each day we have on earth is a gift of His mercy? Little things crowd our minds, taking away thankfulness, upsetting us and causing us to complain. Let us renew our spirit of thanksgiving today and tomorrow by stopping to recognize as the early Pilgrims did that our very life depends on the mercy and grace of the Lord.

In Deuteronomy 8 we find these words: “When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the Lord you God for the good land which He had given you.” Why? “Otherwise, you may say in your heart, ‘My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.’ But you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to you fathers, as it is this day.” All that we have comes from the Lord. Let us recognize this fact each day and bow before Him in Thanksgiving. Happy Thanksgiving!

Dave and Sally Seefried