

## *A Word From the Publisher*

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Happy Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving just makes me smile. I love the colors of fall and I love pumpkins. Not jack-o-lanterns, pumpkins. It's a beautiful time of the year and a special time to make memories. I can well remember Thanksgiving in my younger days. Most years, we spent Thanksgiving in South Carolina with my grandparents and cousins. My mom's parents and sister lived there. I guess we would leave Wednesday once school was out, yes...students used to go to school on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. We'd load up in whatever vehicle dad had and off we would go. Back then, there was no I-95, so we would travel US 17. Now that dates me! I remember always watching the railroad track and once we lost it, we were getting close. We had a blast with our cousins playing the entire time. Once a little older, I do remember grandma always fixing chicken and dumplings with Thanksgiving dinner. It was so good and so are the memories.

I have so much to be thankful for: my husband, a loving family and friends, precious memories, but most of all, I am so thankful to have Jesus as my Lord and Savior. For without Jesus...I am nothing. He directs my path, as long as I don't interfere. Without Him there would be no paper. I am beyond thankful for such faithful advertisers that continue to support our paper. I'm thankful for our readers who are so kind to send letters and emails

of encouraging words; or those I see around town to take time to let me know how they appreciate our paper.

There can never be enough 'thankfulness' in the world. I know our world, as we know it, is completely crazy at times. However, we must take our focus off of the world and place it back into God's hands.

After all, He is in control.

Why we continue to take these worries to bed with us is beyond me, however, I also do it.

As a wise pastor once said, "Each night, give your worries to the Lord. He's up all night and He's in control." We

are to lay our burdens down.

Many times I've said, when stress and worries come, look up! Keep your focus on God and your troubles will fade. Worry has never solved anything.

I pray that this Thanksgiving, you will truly take time to be thankful. It's really not hard to think about what you're thankful for? Did you wake up this morning? Did you have food to eat today? Remember, each breath we take is from God. Do I have heartache and problems? Sure I do but I don't dwell on them. That won't help anything.

I pray that we all will have a special Thanksgiving. Make some special memories and take time to enjoy the day. You'll be thankful that you did!

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Dawn S. West*

