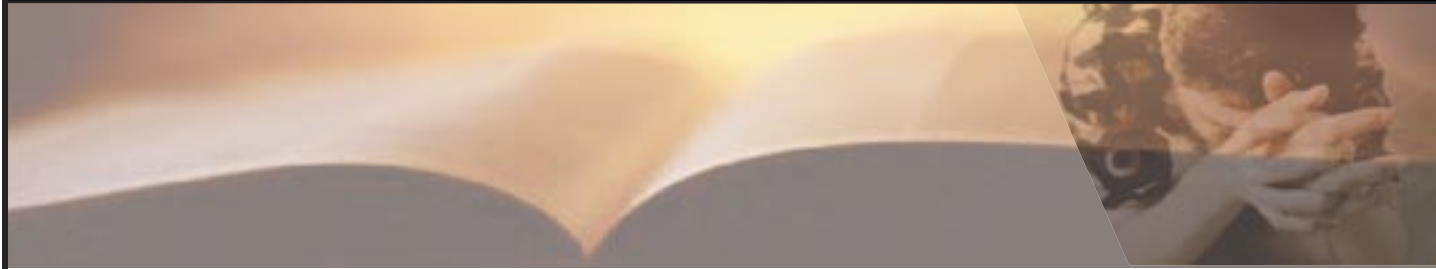


Lord I'm Thankful for...



SOJOURNERS *Mark Mellema*

"I CONTINUE TO SEE GOD'S ANSWER TO PRAYER IN THE FACES OF THE MANY NEW PEOPLE GOD SENDS OUR WAY. I REMEMBER MANY SESSIONS OF PRAYER IN THE LIBRARY WHERE WE REPEATEDLY ASKED FOR THIS BLESSING. IT IS VERY EXCITING TO SEE!"

SENIOR HIGH *Marissa Perez*

"I'M THANKFUL FOR RELATIONSHIPS I'VE ESTABLISHED THIS YEAR THAT HAVE HELPED ME GROW SPIRITUALLY.

I'M THANKFUL FOR THE LOVE THAT HAS BEEN SHOWN TO ME FROM PEOPLE THROUGH GOD. THIS LOVE HAS HELPED ME TO REALIZE SO MANY THINGS AND HAS OPENED MY EYES TO BIGGER HORIZONS.

I'M THANKFUL FOR THE PEOPLE AT FIRST FREE WHO'VE BEEN AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO ME FOR THE PAST EIGHT YEARS."

SENIOR *Norbert Jensen*

"I AM GRATEFUL AND PRAISE GOD FOR ANSWERING MY REQUEST FOR A BOY GRANDCHILD. I AM ALSO GRATEFUL FOR THE GOOD HEALTH OF MY GRANDCHILD AND HIS MOM AND DAD."

JR. CHURCH *Cherith Nelson*

"I AM THANKFUL THAT WE HAVE SUNDAY SCHOOL, SO THAT VERY NICE PEOPLE CAN TEACH US ABOUT GOD."

HARVEST OF PRAISE 2004

Join us at FEFC for a special time of of praise and thanksgiving as we share and give God the glory for the range of things that He has done this past year. The **Harvest of Praise** service begins at 7 pm with a pie social following the service. Families of four or more should bring one pie to share.

JUST A FUN THOUGHT...

Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin. God lifts you up, takes you in, and washes all the dirt

off you. He opens you up, touches you deep inside, and scoops out all the yucky stuff-including the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside you to shine for all the world to see.



Exalt by Obeying

Rick Olson (Choir Director)



FEFC CHOIR 2004

First Word: What is your prayer for the choir this year?
(KaWan Olson)

Rick Olson: *I pray that our choir will bring honor and glory to God alone, and that as we lead in worship, others will encounter His presence. All that we do must be directed toward God and lifting up His name.*

FW: What are some of the ways you use practice time to exalt God?

RO: *As a choir, we begin our times together in prayer, asking God to direct us and praying that He will remain foremost in our thoughts as we sing. My prayer is that the truths we sing will come through clearly in the words and music.*

FW: Has someone ever impacted you by what they said or did in connection with exalting God?

RO: *Although not said by someone I know personally, for many years I have been affected by the words I heard in a sermon suggesting that every time we show obedience to God, we glorify Him. The word "obey" has stuck with me ever since.*



VERSE OF INSPIRATION

"THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND MY SONG;
HE HAS BECOME MY SALVATION.
HE IS MY GOD, AND I WILL PRAISE HIM,
MY FATHER'S GOD, AND I WILL EXALT HIM."
EXODUS 15:2



TUESDAY CHOIR PRACTICE
WITH RICK & DEBBIE

FW: How has the meaning of glorifying and exalting God changed for you now as you continue to mature?

RO: *Big changes were related to two important issues: facing the reality of sin in my life, and facing the question of whether I truly loved God more than anyone or anything else. I came to the realization that without God, I am nothing, and that without obedience to Him, I am incapable of exalting Him. The good news is that when I put God first, I find myself loving others even more than I did before. I find myself in obedience to Him, and I find great joy in focusing on Him and praising Him.*

FW: What other ways, outside of music, have you been able to lift God up in your life?

RO: *Particularly among non-Christians, I find joy in getting to know others, helping them in ways that are meaningful to them and acting in a way that pleases God.*