

### GIVING THANKS

We observed Thanksgiving yesterday, complete with turkey, pies, brussel sprouts and all the family. Our two sons, daughters-in-law, two granddaughters, my nephew, his wife and their three children as well as a friend all joined us for the celebration. As at any ideal family gathering, we gave thanks together, laughed together and shared the feast together. (Since all the ladies had contributed to the meal, there was a delightful element of surprise for everyone - especially for the cooks). Over the course of a few hours we chatted about school, about work, about Mom (for me), Grandma (for my kids) and Great-Grandma for the rest of the gang – just the usual chatter about life in general. It was a special yet casual atmosphere and my heart was warmed to see the love and mutual care that flowed between each one; I gave thanks for a family that loves and cares for each of its members.

But every other subject discussed took second place to THE news. After eleven years of marriage and nary a sign of a child, our youngest son and his wife recently announced that they were to be parents next spring. As the to-be Mom rubbed the emerging bump in her tummy, Thanksgiving took on an even greater meaning. We discussed quilts, gifts and names for the “one who is to come”. The evening ended with a general exodus to the house next door where our daughter-in-law displayed fabric and patterns being readied for the babe’s first quilt. No additional lighting was required - the glow from the upcoming parents lit up the entire room.

In a world inundated with bad news, good new rejoices the heart. Though spoken of a different situation, I couldn’t help but think of this: “He is a good man and cometh with good tidings.....”2 Samuel 18:27