

# Make Church a Part of Your Life

## WEEKLY SERMONETTE



*"Come Ye Thankful People, Come!"*

*By Pastor Kirk Kasson, Almena Congregational Church*

"Come ye thankful people, come! Raise the song of Harvest Home! All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin." (Henry Alford)

What does it take to be thankful?

Security? Having enough in store to survive the tough times which may lie ahead?

I've been to two third world countries, and I have discovered that security is a wonderful thing. It's basically the chief determining factor in wealth.

Truly poor people don't know if they will eat today. People at the next level of poverty know they will eat today, but don't know about tomorrow.

The next level of poverty, what I call "upper middle poverty", know they will eat every day, but they are one paycheck from losing that security. One major illness. One catastrophe. In America this group is larger than the previous two I've mentioned. I'm thankful for that.

The "middle class" is separated into two groups, lower middle and upper middle. The main difference again is security. Both are likely to eat every day, but the lower middle class struggles each month to pay for the combination of food, shelter, and health. The upper middle class usually have those covered, unless they have outspent their income on shelter.

I saw a cartoon recently that said, "Only in America would people get trampled in a shop-

ping spree the day after we paused to be thankful for what we have."

As you read this I am returning from a third world country (as I write this I am headed out the door to go). Every time I return home from one of these trips I am struck by the

unfairness of it all. We build a family a 232 sq. ft. home and return to our castles. We use donations of others to give a gift that is worth, materials alone, about one year of wages to the family who receives it.

I don't understand why it is me

who is building them a house, and not them building me one. Why do I live somewhere between "upper middle poverty" and "lower middle class", while they live in true poverty. Why was I born here while they were born there.

One thing I have discovered: hope seems to be a very powerful thing. In Port au Prince, or Carrefour, or Fond Parisien, Haiti, the Christians smile, and the nonChristians do not. In Juarez those who have the promise of Heaven have joy in their eyes, and those who do not have that home bear grim expressions.

You may or may not believe me. It has taken me about 30 days in third world conditions to come to that observation.

This Thanksgiving, having eaten Thanksgiving dinner in a Denny's on Highway 54 on my way home from Juarez, I am happy for hope.

Titus 3:4-7 reads, "4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

God's promise of eternal life for those who trust completely in Christ is the greatest security there is.

## A Faithful Thanksgiving

Hardships prevailed that first Thanksgiving. Death was the Pilgrim's companion and creature comforts were few. Yes, some had survived that tortuous first year, but who knew what tribulations lay ahead? Many of us might wonder what inspired those struggling Pilgrims to have a celebration at all.

They did have the power of faith and prayer. Through calamities, their spirits were made strong. Despite the difficulties, they had survived. Certainly then, whatever our situation, we all have reason to celebrate the strength we receive from our Heavenly Father. We can enter His house with great thanksgiving this week.

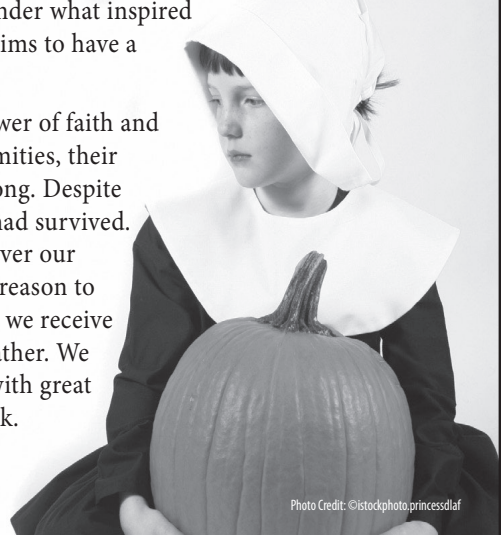


Photo Credit: ©istockphoto.princessdof

### Weekly Scripture Reading

Ezra 3:1-13	Ezra 4:24-5:17	Ezra 6:1-22	Ezra 7:1-28	Psalms 65	Psalms 66	Psalms 67
-------------	----------------	-------------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----------

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

©2012, Keister-Williams Newspaper Services, P.O. Box 8187, Charlottesville, VA 22906, www.kwnews.com



**Edward Jones** Philip J. Iserhagen  
Financial Advisor  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING  
418 E. Holme, Suite B, Norton, Kansas  
Bus. 785-877-3373 • TF 855-877-3373  
philip.isernhagen@edwardjones.com  
Fax: 877-479-6130 • www.edwardjones.com

**Norton Animal Health Center**  
Complete Large and Small Animal Service  
801 W. Holme - Norton - Phone 877-2411  
Aaron R. White, DVM  
Sarah Ketterl White, DVM  
Monday thru Friday: 8-5; Saturday: 9-11 a.m.

**Las Canteras Mexican Restaurant**  
DAILY SPECIALS  
Monday-Thursday: 11:00 a.m.-9:30 p.m.  
Friday-Sunday: 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.  
A Family Owned Business - One in a Chain of Eleven  
203 W. Washington, Norton - 785-874-4074

**Ag Valley Co-operative**  
Elevator • Service Station  
877-5131 or 877-5188 - Norton  
Clayton Branch -  
Phone 785-693-4522

**Mainstreet IGA**  
"Your Local Affiliated Full Service Grocer"  
313 W. Main - Norton, Kansas  
Phone 785-877-2422

**Lee Hardy Construction LLC**  
New Construction • Concrete  
Roofing • Remodeling • Decks  
— Electrical • Rental Service —  
874-4315 or 871-0832-1120 N. State, Norton

**Countryside Veterinary Clinic of Oberlin, P.A.**  
N. Hwy. 83, Oberlin, Kansas (North of Sale Barn)  
785-475-3808 • 1-800-953-3808  
Mark R. Olson, D.V.M. • Travis A. Hissong, D.V.M.  
24-Hour Emergency Service

**Abel Tree Service**  
- ROY ABEL -  
Fully Insured • Bucket Truck  
• FREE ESTIMATES •  
Stump Grinder  
Phone 785-871-7275 - Norton, Kansas

**Engel's Sales and Service**  
Complete Auto Repair  
Small Engines and  
Lawn Care Equipment  
• Toro • Lawnboy • Stihl Chain Saws  
209 W. Lincoln - Norton - Phone 877-3391

**Whitney Construction and Farms**  
• Terracing  
• Dozer Work  
• Ponds  
9499 Rd E3 - Norton - Phone 785-877-3745

**Pizza Hut/Taco Bell**  
Come Join Us for Our  
"SUNDAY BRUNCH BUFFET"  
Pizza, Pasta, Salad and Dessert  
FREE COFFEE or TEA  
W. Hwy. 36 - Norton - Phone 877-3359

**Security Abstract Company**  
Abstracters Title Insurance Agents  
Prompt - Efficient - Confidential  
214 E. Washington - Norton  
Phone 785-877-2141  
Jolene L. Weiser, Owner

**McMullen Real Estate**  
Donald McMullen, Broker; Robert Wyatt  
**McMullen & Wyatt Auctions**  
Auctioneers - Realtors  
• Farm • Estate • Antiques • Households  
113 N. State - Norton - Phone 877-3299

**Destination Kitchen** Everything under the sun for your kitchen  
115 W. Main, Norton, KS • 877-2911  
Cindy Boller and Georgia Mann

**Moffet Drug Store**  
"Prescription Specialists"  
Hallmark Cards and  
Russell Stover Candies  
102 S. State - Norton, Kansas  
Phone 785-877-2721

**Bridges Group Inc.**  
"Serving the Norton Area Since 1894"  
117 N. Kansas  
Norton, Kansas  
Phone 785-877-4016

**Nelson Bros. Construction, Inc.**  
General Contractors  
Equipment Rental  
12862 Lower Dam Road - Norton, Kansas  
Phone (785) 877-2554

**First State Bank**  
"Your Progressive Community Bank"  
MEMBER FDIC  
105 W. Main - Norton, Kansas  
Phone 785-877-3341

**Bailey Electric**  
Serving Norton and Decatur County  
Residential and Commercial  
Licensed and Insured  
Bucket Truck Service  
785-871-1967 - Mark Bailey

**Don's Floor Covering**  
Residential and Commercial  
• Carpet • Sheet Vinyl • Tile  
Levolor Blinds - Panasonic Vacuums  
113 W. Washington - Norton, Kansas  
877-3002 - Don Kaus - FREE ESTIMATES

**All Creatures Vet Clinic**  
Veterinary Service for Large and Small Animals  
Dr. Steven L. Graf (Owner)  
5761 Road E12 - Almena, KS 67622  
Phone 785-669-2227

## KANSAS CLASSIFIEDS AD NETWORK

Auctions  
RITCHIEBROS.UNRESERVED AGRICULTURALEQUIPMENT AUCTIONS Kansas City (Dec 7), Chicago (Dec 12), Minneapolis (Dec 14), St Louis (Dec 20). Featuring a large selection of late model farm equipment. Inspect in person or online. Call 855-331-5732 or visit rbaction.com  
Career Opportunity  
ATTEND COLLEGE ONLINE from Home. \*Medical, \*Business, \*Criminal Justice, \*Hospitality. Job placement assistance. Computer available. Financial Aid if qualified. SCHEV certified. Call 888-220-3977 www.CenturaOnline.com  
For Sale  
SPECIAL 14-MONTH interest free financing on any new or used piano purchase November 16th - 26th! Pianos starting at \$688! Mid-America Piano, 1-800-950-3774 www.piano4u.com  
Help Wanted  
Exp. Flatbed Drivers: Regional opportunities now open with plenty of freight & great pay! 800-277-0212 or primeinc.com  
Help Wanted/Truck Driver  
Drivers OTR DRIVERS Sign On Bonus \$1,000 - \$1,200 Up

to 45 CPM Full-time Positions with Benefits! Pet Policy O/O's Welcome! deBoer Transportation 800-825-8511 www.deboertrans.com  
Help Wanted/Truck Driver  
Drivers: NO EXPERIENCE? \$0 Training cost with employment commitment if you enroll the week of November 18th or 25th. Central Refrigerated (877) 369-7885 www.centraltruckdrivingjobs.com  
Help Wanted/Truck Driver  
"You got the drive, We have the Direction" OTR Drivers APU Equipped Pre-Pass EZ-pass passenger policy. Newer equipment. 100% NO touch. 1-800-528-7825  
Misc.  
AIRLINES CAREERS - Become an Aviation Maintenance Tech. FAA approved training. Financial aid if qualified - Housing available. Job placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance 888-248-7449.  
Sporting Goods  
GUN SHOW NOV. 23-25 FRI 1-6, SAT. 9-5, SUN. 9-3 WICHITA KANSAS COLISEUM (1-135 & E 85TH ST N) BUY-SELL-TRADE INFO: (563) 927-8176

**Save \$\$\$ on prescription drug costs!**  
**SHICK can help!**  
Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK) can assist in comparing the 30 plans available for Medicare Part D Rx coverage. See if you qualify for Extra Help with Rx costs!  
**Open Enrollment October 15 - December 7, 2012**  
Call TODAY! 1-800-860-5260  
**SHICK** Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas  
SHICK is administered by the Kansas Department for Aging & Disability Services

Pulse of America  
**\$4,000 Free Gas**  
To Enter Just Complete the Local Shopping Survey at: [www.paper.net](http://www.paper.net)

**From Home for the Holidays to Home for Good**  
Enjoy hugs from the grandkids year-round and more visits with longtime friends thanks to the Kansas Rural Opportunity Zones Program.  
Your loved ones currently living out of state may live income tax free and receive up to \$15,000 in tuition reimbursement by returning home to Kansas.  
Visit [TaxFree.ks.gov](http://TaxFree.ks.gov) for details and share this opportunity with friends and family.  
Kansas Department of Commerce

**BE THE ONE TO CHANGE A LIFE**  
Youthville  
[www.Youthville.org/BeTheOne](http://www.Youthville.org/BeTheOne)

**The Power of One.**  
—Juan, Kansas Credit Union Member  
A credit union has one purpose...to make my financial life easier. As an owner, I feel the power because any profit a credit union makes comes back to me through higher earnings and lower fees.  
**KANSAS CREDIT UNIONS** [kcua.coop/PowerofOne](http://kcua.coop/PowerofOne)  
The power of one can make a difference. (800) 362-2076