

Thanksgiving Stations

the connection – October 9, 2016



Harvest Display (Stage)

The harvest display directs our attention to the gifts of harvest and the bountiful blessing of God. Sometimes it is easy to forget the significant work that goes in to producing the food that we eat. It is also sometimes easy to forget trust and dependence on God in the daily rhythms of our life.

As you look at the harvest display, spend a few moments considering the way God has provided for you this year?

Where might you be looking for God's provision this coming year?

Take a stalk of wheat to remind you of God's provision, both past and future.



Psalm 136

- ¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ² Give thanks to the God of gods. *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords. *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ⁴ Give thanks to him who alone does mighty miracles. *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ⁵ Give thanks to him who made the heavens so skillfully. *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ⁶ Give thanks to him who placed the earth among the waters. *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ⁷ Give thanks to him who made the heavenly lights— *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ⁸ the sun to rule the day, *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ⁹ and the moon and stars to rule the night. *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ¹⁰ Give thanks to him who killed the firstborn of Egypt. *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ¹¹ He brought Israel out of Egypt. *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ¹² He acted with a strong hand and powerful arm. *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ¹³ Give thanks to him who parted the Red Sea. *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ¹⁴ He led Israel safely through, *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ¹⁵ but he hurled Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea. *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ¹⁶ Give thanks to him who led his people through the wilderness. *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ¹⁷ Give thanks to him who struck down mighty kings. *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ¹⁸ He killed powerful kings— *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ¹⁹ Sihon king of the Amorites, *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ²⁰ and Og king of Bashan. *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ²¹ God gave the land of these kings as an inheritance— *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ²² a special possession to his servant Israel. *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ²³ He remembered us in our weakness. *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ²⁴ He saved us from our enemies. *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ²⁵ He gives food to every living thing. *His faithful love endures forever.*
- ²⁶ Give thanks to the God of heaven. *His faithful love endures forever.*



Encouragement (Overflow Coffee Bar)

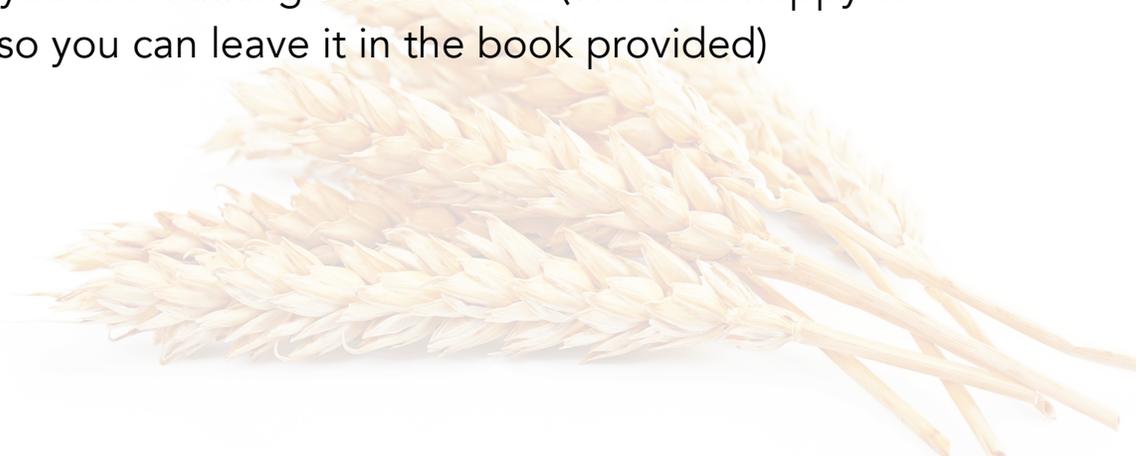
One of the best things in life is to know that people are thinking about you, especially when you are away from home. A message of encouragement can make a significant difference. Currently there are three members of our community serving abroad and we would like to send them video message of encouragement.

Simply click the record button , wait for the countdown, leave your message, then stop the recording.

Sam Milner is in Laos with Mennonite Central Committee's S.A.L.T. (Service and Learning Together) program. He is teaching English at a community centre as well as contributing his other talents. If you'd like to follow Sam's journey his blog is:
<https://milnerinlaos.wordpress.com/>

Ken and Wendy Derksen continue their work in Rwanda serving with Canadian Baptist Ministries and supporting the work on the Association of Baptist Churches of Rwanda. If you would like to stay up-to-date with Ken and Wendy their CBM webpage is:
<http://www.cbmin.org/who-we-are/field-staff/ken-wendy-derksen/>

Perhaps there is someone who comes to mind to whom you would like to send a card. Please take a card and send it to them to let them know that you are thinking about them. (We'd be happy to mail it for you, so you can leave it in the book provided)



Food and Blanket (overflow-right side)

Part of the harvest was always to provide for those who were in need because they did not have access to the land. This is why there were provisions in the law to make this a reality.

Leviticus 23:22 - When you harvest the crops of your land, do not harvest the grain along the edges of your fields, and do not pick up what the harvesters drop. Leave it for the poor and the foreigners living among you. I am the Lord your God.

The law also makes clear that blankets must not be kept overnight as security (for loans) of those who are in need of it. (This is a little more abstract, but it should remind us, especially as winter is about to begin, about the importance of having access to shelter and warmth)

Deuteronomy 24:12-13 - If your neighbor is poor and gives you his cloak as security for a loan, do not keep the cloak overnight. Return the cloak to its owner by sunset so he can stay warm through the night and bless you, and the LORD your God will count you as righteous.

There are two things that you can do here tonight that will remind us of those in need around us.

1. **Assemble a bag:** As part of our care ministry at EBC we give out food bags to those who request them. The standard food bag consists of: 2 packs of juice; 3 small cans of chicken, 4 boxes of macaroni and cheese; 1 jar of peanut butter, 2 boxes of granola bars; one box of instant oatmeal.

2. **Prepare a Blanket:** Tie some knots for a no sew fleece blanket. See instructions. (We will bring these blankets to The Lighthouse)



the Table

There are many ways to understand what we receive at the table and what the bread and the cup represent for us. At a time in the year when we specifically reflect on the provision of God through food, it is important to recognize the spiritual food that God provides us through Christ.

A curious passage in the New Testament is found in 1 Corinthians 10:1-4

I don't want you to forget, dear brothers and sisters, about our ancestors in the wilderness long ago. All of them were guided by a cloud that moved ahead of them, and all of them walked through the sea on dry ground. In the cloud and in the sea, all of them were baptized as followers of Moses. All of them ate the same spiritual food, and all of them drank the same spiritual water. For they drank from the spiritual rock that traveled with them, and that rock was Christ.

Paul recognized that the ultimate provision and nourishment comes from Christ and so is it with our journey. We must rely on the spiritual nourishment of Christ to sustain us.

Come to the table receive what he has provided for you, as go from the table to be his blessing to others, strengthened for the task.

