



"Owned By Those We Serve"

Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.

UP DATE



November, 2002



A Message From The General Manager/CEO

By Daniel G. Laws

"Thankfulness is not as much about our bounty, as it is our need."

Soon we will be celebrating Thanksgiving and what a special time of year it is. It's a time of gathering together with family and friends for celebration. However, as I write these words, I can't help but wonder if that is really all that the holiday should be. I get the sense that we, as a people, view Thanksgiving as another thing we have to do—another deadline. It seems the holiday may be more consternation than celebration, and perhaps trepidation takes the place of true thanksgiving.

I have given the matter a lot of thought and have concluded that we tend to be thankful when everything is in its place, but that concept falls short of what the first thanksgivings were all about. Those thanksgivings were held in the wake of tragedy and during times of strife. They were celebrated not because of all they had, but in spite of what they did not have. They purposely looked beyond their immediate circumstances and were thankful for God's past mercies and His present help.

The first Thanksgiving proclamation occurred in Massachusetts in 1676, during a time of significant duress resulting from the ongoing war with Indians. In that proclamation, their affliction is discussed and the fact that while God's judgment may be upon them, His favor and mercy were also present. President Lincoln authored the first Presidential proclamation naming the day we celebrate thanksgiving as a time set aside to show our appreciation for God's mercy and blessings made manifest in our lives. It is interesting to note, however, that this proclamation was written and signed in the midst of our country's greatest time of civil unrest.

Being thankful is not showing gratitude only when all is well; it's looking beyond our current situation and seeing the greater good in our life. It is realizing that even in the darkest moments of life, God's abiding peace and mercy are present. It is being as thankful for what could have, but did not happen

in your life, as you are for what has happened. It is taking time to reflect on His benevolence and being grateful for everything great and small.

This past July 25, my wife had her greatest fear confirmed; two small invasive malignant tumors were found in her right breast. Soon thereafter, we were to learn that, though smaller than the tip of my small finger, they had spread malignant cells to the lymph nodes under her arm, making a bad situation worse. As you read these words, you think there is not much to be thankful for in such a situation, however, after undergoing a myriad of tests at MD Anderson Breast Cancer Clinic, they told us there was no sign of metastasized tumors anywhere else in her body. Thankful? You'd better believe it! Do I like what Darlene has to go through? No, but even in the midst of it all, God has been close and has been merciful.

This Thanksgiving our family will gather like we always do, and we will be as thankful, or perhaps a little more thankful, than we were last year. I hope for you and yours, this Thanksgiving will be equally blessed. Thankfulness is not as much about our bounty, as it is our need. This year, as you consider all for which you are thankful, I hope that Rio Grande Electric Cooperative comes to mind, because it is our desire to be your

"Home Team Advantage".

*Happy Thanksgiving
From The Staff Of
Rio Grande Electric
Co-op.*

