



"Owned By Those We Serve"

Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.

UP DATE



November, 2004



A Message From The General Manager/CEO

By Daniel G. Laws

*"Thank you for this sumptuous meal
(I hope I don't get sick from eating this stuff.)"*

I don't know about where you live, but here in Brackettville fall has definitely arrived. The mornings are cool and crisp—just the way I like it. In fact, fall is my favorite season. I enjoy the other seasons, but there is something unique about the fall. The artistry, with which God's creation sheds its foliage in preparation for winter, is nothing short of spectacular. Commencement of the High School football season, Oktoberfest, Halloween, and then my favorite holiday season -- Thanksgiving and Christmas, all usher in feelings of warmth, family, and peace for me.

We will soon celebrate Thanksgiving. Families will gather anticipating the carving of the poor winged fowl that so graciously made the supreme sacrifice in order to adorn our tables. We will overeat, fall into easy chairs and watch football. Or, we will overeat and travel to the other set of parents' or childrens' home and do it all again. Or, we will overeat, be taken, against our will, by the couch monster, and forced to take a nap. Or, we will overeat and...well, you fill in the tradition you prefer. These are all good things and they speak volumes about everything that is good about the American way of life, but I hope you will look beyond the good and celebrate the great as well.

What is great is the giving of thanks. The Bible teaches that we should give thanks with a grateful heart. Seems a bit redundant doesn't it? Can one give thanks and not also be grateful? Well, I don't know; let's try a few examples. Thank you for this sumptuous meal (I hope I don't get sick from eating this stuff); thank you for this great tie (Where am I going to wear this thing); thank you for cutting my hair (I would have liked it even better if you had done what I asked). No one sets out to be disingenuous, it happens because we all too often speak from our intellect rather than our heart. We say thank you but it is not what we really feel.

The dichotomy exists between our intellect and our belief system, or in other words, between what we think and what we feel. Intellectually I know it is appropriate to say thank you when someone has gone to some amount of trouble on my behalf. My thank you, unfortunately, is without substance when spoken from my intellect. I can't be truly thankful until I contemplate the trouble I really was to someone. I must put myself in the other person's place and imagine what they were thinking and feeling. When I do that my intellectual thank you is supported by heartfelt gratefulness.

You and I have much to be thankful for. Consider God's work in your life and be grateful. And as I have suggested before at this time of the year, make this holiday season special and forgive past wrongs. Celebrate with friends and family and do it as if you will never have the opportunity again, because the simple truth is life may never be this way again. I hope as you give thanks with a grateful heart, Rio Grande Electric Cooperative is on your list of things for which you are thankful.