



Update



November 2011



A Message From The General Manager/CEO

By Dan Laws

“Being Thankful”

A very hot summer has given way to more comfortable fall temperatures. There is the unmistakable scent of autumn in the air, and much needed rain has fallen over the Rio Grande service area. Change is in the air and change is refreshing...renewing. God's creation is amazing! At just the right time; when I think I couldn't endure another hot day; it all changes! I am thankful it does. How sad would life be if it never changed?

I have heard God compared to the ocean and our lives compared to the sea shore. The sea shore is in constant flux, ever changing. Most often, the changes are barely noticeable, but there are times they are on a much grander scale. With the tide, things are washed to the sea shore, and as it rolls out again; things are washed away. Good things and bad things alike. And, so it is with our lives. The ebb and flow of the world around us inevitably brings problems, blessings, relationships, into our lives. In the same manner, it takes them away. Throughout the course of our lives, God uses those things around us to shape us, to perfect us, to make us more like Him.

We are entering the season of Thanksgiving. I fear sometimes we fail to fully embrace all there is for which we should be thankful. Have you ever gone for a walk and were thankful you could? Have you ever looked into the eyes of a loved one and were thankful you could see? Have you ever heard your children or grandchildren call you by their special name for you and were thankful you could hear? We overlook so much in life as we hurry through our days. And yet, these days will not last, because the tide is coming and we...and they, will change. For that reason, there should be an urgency to be thankful, before the moment slips away. We should cherish each moment.

I am sure there are those reading this who would say, “Dan, I don't see that well,” or, “I don't hear that well,” or, “walking is difficult for me”. Even so, there is always something to be thankful about. You see, true thanksgiving is not about abundance; it is more elegantly simple. And, it is never a comparison of our circumstances to someone else's. We are uniquely formed and different than anyone else. The comparison is between where I am and where I could be, were it not for the grace of God.

This holiday season, we have an opportunity to start anew. We can put away bitterness, lay aside pride, rid ourselves of jealousy, and be thankful for where we are in our lives. You will be amazed at how much better you will feel when you exercise thankfulness in earnest. Don't look at the world around you, look inwardly. Take joy from every moment.

From all of us here at Rio Grande, have a Happy Thanksgiving!

