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Nov. 15, 1995

Missouri Baptist College Library

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November 15, 1995 . Lacey on Thanksgiving .
Faculty and Staff Out and About



THE POWER OF GRATITUDE

Of all the forces that enable us to cope with life courageously, learning to be grateful is one of the most potent. It is in celebration of that possibility and potential that our nation during this week turns its attention to a day of Thanksgiving.

Such a day offers not only an opportunity for rest, but also a time for deeper reflection on the nature of gratitude. My own thinking on the subject has led me to see that oftentimes there exists a fine line between a

response of resentment as opposed to gratitude about certain events. The same situation can evoke either the question "why did this happen to me?" or "what is here to be thankful for and how can I use these experiences to build toward a more constructive future?"

These questions were surely asked by our Pilgrim forefathers in 1621. We have heard many times how the Mayflower was blown off course and wound up at Cape Cod and how only fifty of the original 102 Puritans survived the savage winter. By spring many were ready to return to the Old World but they decided to stay and plant one crop. When the first anniversary of the landing came, there were those who proposed a Day of Mourning for the dead. Others proposed instead a Day of Thanksgiving for their lives and for the harvest. The final choice was to focus on what they had going for them rather than what they had going against them. We can only speculate as to what might have been the ultimate

outcome if those early settlers had decided to mourn instead of give thanks.

We have much to be thankful for in our individual lives and as a college community. I hope that this week will provide opportunity for you to explore the power of gratitude.

Alton Lacey

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The offices will be closed November 23-26 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Evening Classes on Main campus and Extensions will meet on Friday evening. Saturday classes will meet as usual.

Monday, November 27th is In-Service Day but evening classes will meet.

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*A stumble may prevent a fall.
- English Proverb*

FACULTY/STAFF OUT AND ABOUT

Dr. Dykstra and Dr. Maclin were in Washington DC last week to visit the United Arab Emirates Embassy in order to continue good communication with this Middle Eastern Country which has sent a significant number of students to our campus. They are pleased to report they are very supportive of the service we provide for International students.

Renee Bain attended the State Financial Aid Conference at the Lake of the Ozarks last Sunday-Tuesday. Item of discussion - budget shutdown.

Dr. Parato attended a conference on Morality, and Ethics as it deal with health care presented by Rev. Bouchard at Aquinas Institute. She attended a meeting of Deans and Directors in Columbia on November 3rd. Also, Dr. Parato attended NLN Meeting in Milwaukee in October.

Pat Bagwill presented a paper at the Great Plains Popular Culture Association at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa on October 13th. Dr. Field and Mrs. Britton were in attendance at this meeting.

Dr. Guimon has been asked to speak in Indianapolis about *How to Reach the Cities for Christ* on December 2-4.

On November 21-22, Dr. Fliss will be decorating a Christmas tree for the Festival of Trees which benefits the Judevine Center for Autistic Children. This will be held at the Thompson Conference Center. On December 3rd he will be singing in a performance of Handel's Messiah which will be performed with 15 members of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. They will be recording this live performance for a CD.

Dr. Jo Ann Miller and Gloria Vertrees attended the *Beyond Data Seminar* presented by John Minter Associates at the Airport Marriott on Monday.

Admission just completed 80 college fairs. Keith and Ginger Ross attended two in Texas for the first time this year. They report good results from all of the fairs.

Dr. Allen held a week-end revival this past week at Meadowbrook Baptist Church in Bethalto, Illinois. He has supplied the pulpit at Fee Fee Baptist Church, Bogey Hills Baptist Church and First Baptist Church Cherryville.

Dr. McClain attended the Illinois Baptist Convention last week.

Robin Johnson reports that this Saturday we will be doing our first TOEFL testing on our campus.

Dr. Lacey spoke to the Pastors Conference for the Franklin County Association last Monday.

Dr. Conaway attended a teleconference at the University of Missouri-St. Louis which discussed effective programs for educating students with disabilities. The teleconference was presented by the National Association of Students Personnel Administrators on October 25th.

The Historical Society meeting that had to be canceled a few weeks ago will be rescheduled for a 11:00 a.m. ceremony in April which will make it possible for students to attend.

Faculty and Staff Out and About will run periodically, so let us know what's going on in your area.

Just in case you haven't heard today is Kathleen McCaffrey's 40th Birthday.