

It's the most wonderful time of the year! At least that is what my daughter Hannah thinks. A couple of days ago, we enjoyed a conversation about the changing seasons, and which one was her favorite. Personally, I just like the change of all seasons, but there is something uniquely special about Autumn. As the days grow shorter, and the weather turns cooler, there seems to be an awakening of the senses. For me, the smell of wood burning in the fireplace ranks right up there with sizzling bacon and brewing coffee. As a young photographer, Hannah loves the vibrant colors of Fall. Even now, in our house, the colors are not just outside, but inside as my wife Joanna is planning the decorations for a Fall wedding. Hannah, our baby girl, is tying the knot with Caleb Greene at University Baptist Church in Clemson, SC, on November 5. Maybe that is why Hannah likes Fall so much.

October was an incredibly busy, but enjoyable month as flights had me touching down in Raleigh, Charlotte, New York City, Cleveland, Washington DC, Des Moines, and Chicago. God blessed as I had the privilege of speaking for Pastor Tim Potter and the wonderful folks at Grace Church of Mentor, Ohio. I also enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship and prayer with the elders in his church. One of the blessings of my travels is the opportunity to connect with young people on college campuses and speak in area churches. It was a joy to share the ministry of EMU International and preach for Pastor Josh Robinson at Altoona Regular Baptist Church in Iowa. I spent the following week on the campus of Faith Baptist Bible College in Ankeny, Iowa. They had arranged housing for me on the campus and my good friends Dean and Faith Taylor let me drive one of their cars. I had the privilege of doing a field presentation before one of the general sessions. I also led a packed workshop and preached for seminary chapel. This was followed by a robust time of Q&A. I returned home for a day, and then drove to Appalachian Bible College in Mount Hope, WV. The setting of this campus is absolutely gorgeous. In addition to connecting with students, I had the privilege of sharing the ministry of EMU International at four

workshops. On the last day of the conference, my wife Joanna had to make an unexpected trip to Raleigh to help our daughter Bethany. Our 2-1/2 year old granddaughter Karis had to go to the hospital for a brief stay as she was diagnosed with RSV. Joanna helped with their 3month-old daughter Khloe. As I packed up the car to head home, I knew Joanna would not be there, but I was looking forward to finally having some time to gear up for the wedding. I decided to spend a leisurely afternoon taking the scenic route across the winding country roads of West Virginia, Virginia, and the Pisgah Forest of North Carolina. As the sun peaked through the trees still covered in brilliant reds, bright oranges, and golden yellows, I found myself on lonely rural roads where for miles I was the sole traveler. Scientists tell us that the warm, clear afternoons, followed by chilly nights have contributed to the vibrant explosion of color this Fall. It was like a postcard around every turn. I found myself singing the words, "Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above, join with all nature in manifold witness, to Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love." God is always faithful!

In this month where we have a national holiday that declares the importance of the giving of thanks, may we heed the admonition of Psalm 107:21-22 Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! 22 And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving and declare his works with rejoicing. I thank God for His great faithfulness. I also want to thank you for the part you play in making this ministry possible as our missionaries declare His works with rejoicing.

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