

Thanksgiving 2013

Thanksgiving Day in America is an official holiday. Families often get together for a special dinner and reunion. It can be similar to a harvest festival. It is a time to give thanks to God.

Our celebration pattern for Thanksgiving was similar to other years. Thursday evening we went to our son's home and were joined there by our younger daughter and her family. Friday evening we invited international students from Colorado School of Mines (CSM) to our home for dinner.



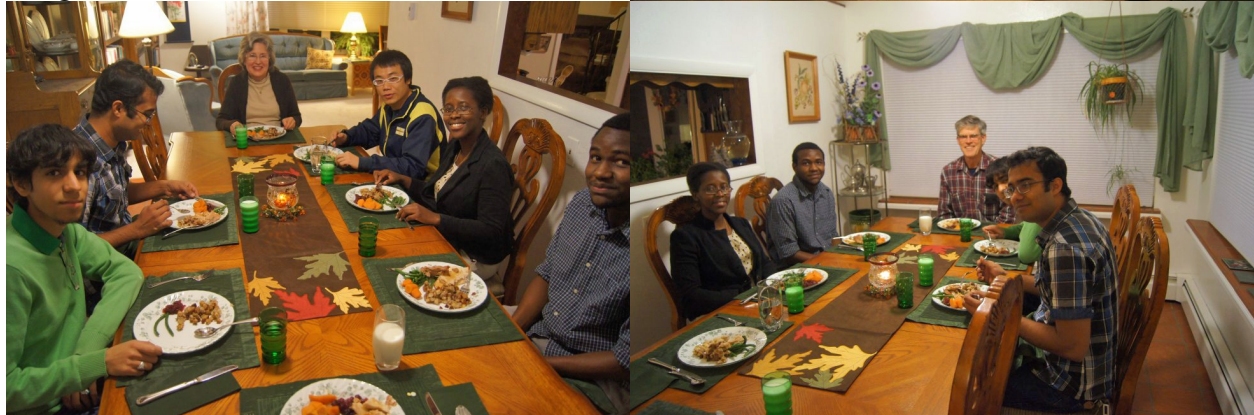
These are photos of what we enjoyed eating at our family gathering. From left to right in the left photo are turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, macaroni and cheese. Behind them are baked cauliflower and Brussels sprouts, then bread rolls and a cranberry and cream salad, then gravy. The desserts on the right are pumpkin pie and “Derby Pie” (typically from Louisville, Kentucky, served at the time of the Kentucky Derby horse race in early May; basically a pecan pie with chocolate). The children especially like macaroni and cheese.



Above from left to right are our younger daughter Maren, her husband Dan, my wife Gail, and our son Micah, serving themselves. Our son's wife Paige is in white at the right. Our grandsons are Luka and Bodey. The rest of the time we were playing with the children and watching a cartoon movie.



On Friday we invited five students from CSM to our home. After a tour of our yard and the future park that I manage, we had fun in our living room (right photo) using an atlas set of maps to explain where we came from and where we have visited. From left to right: Christelle (looking at map of her Rwanda), Aaron (rear, China), Hussain (green shirt, Saudi Arabia), Zira (Nigeria), and Mahmood (nearest, Pakistan), with our cat, Dolly, in the foreground.



In the left photo as we started our dinner are Hussain, Mahmood, Gail, Aaron, Christelle, and Zira. Then Aaron used my camera to get me in the rear of the right photo. Our conversations became very interesting. Hussain asked me to explain our Thanksgiving holiday. So I read the transcript of a radio broadcast (<http://www.breakpoint.org/bpcommentaries/entry/13/23900>) from Thursday in which Chuck Colson told of the miracles of God in providing the Indian Squanto to help the English settlers learn to live in America. I also summarized the official proclamations by President Lincoln and leaders of this past century.

For a future event that might interest our guests we mentioned the Christmas Musical being presented at our church (Arvada Covenant Church, 5555 Ward Road) Saturday, December 14 (3:00 and 6:30 PM) and Sunday, December 15 (6:30 PM). Such a musical is presented every year by the church members, but the content is always different. This year: "Four Tickets to Christmas." After about three months of practicing, the musical is of professional quality. The audience is usually packed, and so an arrival a half hour early is advised to get a seat. Afterwards is a free dessert of cakes and pies. Christelle attended last year's performance and highly recommended it to the other guests. I will likely make a report afterwards.

The topic turned to the similarities and differences between Islam and the Christian faith, with Mahmood showing much interest and Christelle contributing much to the friendly sharing. To fill in details from the Gospels that are not mentioned in the Quran I offered stacks of videos in multiple languages. One was the original Jesus Film, now in nearly 1200 languages. The other was the Magdalena version, telling the story of Jesus from a woman's perspective. All of our guests took one or both of the videos. Then Mahmood offered to take everyone back to Golden in his vehicle so that I did not need to take them myself.

Ed Holroyd, 30 November 2013