



November 22, 2007

Thanksgiving Plans . . .

What are yours? Here are mine. Thursday morning will be spent frying anything and everything I can in my turkey fryer. I have already lined up the following: 3 turkeys, 2 chickens, 50 chicken wings, 14 pork chops, onions, and potatoes. The healthy stuff will be cooked by Nicole and my mom in their respective kitchens. I hope the extended family and friends are hungry. Thursday morning fryer time is the highlight of my Thanksgiving Day—second only to my family’s time of thanksgiving to the Lord. It is all about peanut oil, propane gas, fire, meat, and a lawn chair. We will eat Thanksgiving dinner with extended family. Then it will be a combination of football and family time.

We have tickets to The Game. The Aggies, descendants of Able, and the Longhorns, descendants of Cain, play every year the day after Thanksgiving and tickets are hard to come by—unless of course you have a college football ticket sugar daddy for a father-in-law. Thanks to Pops, we got tickets. Here’s to you, Pops. So, this coming Friday, the Linos will be at Kyle Field in our twelfth man jerseys watching Fran coach what is most likely his last game at the helm of the Texas A&M football program. (All indications seem to be pointing to a coaching search beginning sometime after 6pm this coming Friday. With Nebraska, Michigan, and possibly Arkansas looking for new coaches, A&M does not have the luxury of waiting until after a bowl game to announce an opening.) We will eat a burrito at Freebirds, saw varsity’s horns off, feel the stadium shake with the flyover of the B52 bombers, watch the noble men of Kyle march at halftime, and carry our share of the load with all the yells. It is hard to beat game day at Kyle Field. In case you think I am not objective about the game day experience at Kyle Field, listen to this. This past Saturday I played tennis against a man who is currently a scout for the NFL’s Detroit Lions. He is a former NFL safety and played his college ball at Arizona State University. When he found out I am an Aggie, he told me that he has been to a game at every stadium in the BCS conferences and if he had to name the best college football game day experience it would be a three way tie between Notre Dame, Michigan, and Texas A&M. I figure they were having unusually good game day experiences in both South Bend and the Big House when the scout went to those games. ☺

We’ll also spend significant time with Nicole’s parents after the game. I’m looking forward to that. Pops is on the Big XII crew working the game and Nana will be bonding with Cassidy during the game somewhere in town. Then we will all meet for dinner afterward which is always a time to remember. Pops is one of the best story tellers you will ever meet. There is never a dull moment when we get together with Nicole’s parents. They are a lot of fun to be around.

Saturday will be about leftovers and more college football. I’m looking forward to finding out whether

Kansas is a contender or a pretender. It should be a great game.

Then it will be my favorite day of the week, Sunday. I can't wait for this coming Sunday in particular. The reason why is in the next section.

Before I move on, a big thank you to our men and women in uniform and our missionaries serving around the world. Being far from home on Thanksgiving holiday is never easy for them. Please be in prayer for them over this holiday weekend. May the Lord give them His comfort as they sacrificially serve all around the world.

Heroes and Role Models

This coming weekend will be very special for Nicole and I because Doc and Dee are coming to town. Obviously, Doc and Dee are pseudonyms, but I'm not at liberty to provide their real names. They are long time missionaries with the IMB who serve in East Asia in an effort to reach the deaf for Jesus Christ. Just during this 2007 calendar year Doc and Dee have been questioned by local government authorities, persecuted by local cult leaders, and rejected by some believers with unorthodox theology. They have also endured the testing of their faith through some not so insignificant medical challenges this year. They have been severely challenged by the physical condition of an aging parent here in the States. They have been forced to wrestle with the difficult decision of staying on the field to cultivate new believers or to return home to care for an aging parent. They have had a difficult year indeed and yet, Doc and Dee faithfully continue to serve the Lord by following His clear call on their lives.

Last year, Doc and Dee were at NEHBC. Doc spoke in all three Sunday morning services and Dee signed a song. Back then, they were serving in Eastern Europe and went by their real names. Some of you got their prayer cards and have been praying faithfully for them ever since.

I have great news, Doc and Dee will be back at NEHBC this coming Sunday. Doc will be sharing again in all three services this coming Sunday. They've flown back to the States this week for about a month's stay. Dee needs to have a regular check up with her neurologist and they need to tend to some personal affairs with parents. This has worked out well for us as we will have the privilege of hosting them this coming Sunday.

Doc and Dee have a special place in my heart. We email each other at least weekly and sometimes more frequently than that depending on what is going on with their ministry and their security status. Of course, we have to email in code so that no terms are used that would alert any prying eyes to the real reason why Doc and Dee are in the country in which they serve. I have assigned to each of our kids a missionary family that they pray for at night during our Bible time. (Campbell faithfully prays for the Thompsons in Estonia and especially for Emma, Eliis, and Ella.) Colton prays for Doc and Dee and from time to time he will dictate emails for me to send them and they will email Colton and send him pictures relating to their ministry. Colton loves Doc and Dee very much. They have a special place in our hearts. They are two of my heroes of the faith. It is my aim to lead a team from our church to go and work alongside of them for a week. I pray the Lord will cause that to come to pass. The Linos can't wait to share a meal with Doc and Dee this weekend. It will be the highlight of my Thanksgiving holiday.

If you are in town this weekend, be sure to come to worship. It is going to be a fantastic time with Doc and Dee. Regardless, I wonder if you would be willing to add Doc and Dee to your weekly prayer list. Pray for them during family devotions, during your personal quiet time, as you drive down the road, when you eat at an Asian restaurant. They are two of our finest missionaries anywhere in the world.

A word about The Word

This past Sunday I preached 1 Corinthians 13:6 as we continued looking at the subject of love. We discussed the issue of “hate speech” that is being discussed more and more frequently in our culture today. If you missed it, I’d encourage you to get a copy of this past Sunday’s sermons and listen to it. You can get the sermon in MP3 format [here](#) or at iTunes by searching for “Nathan Lino” in the iTunes store.

Brazil Mission Trip Wrap Up

Thank you for praying so faithfully for our team. The Lord honored your prayers and our team’s efforts and did indeed launch the new church. First Baptist Church of Cachetas de Minas. We give all credit to the Lord Jesus Christ for using our church family to plant a church in Brazil. What a blessing and privilege it is for us. The Lord allowed NEHBC to leave her fingerprints in Brazil. I love it.

By the way, our team was a great reminder to all of us of how simple ministry is supposed to be. If we are not careful, we can make ministry so complicated. By day our team went door-to-door sharing the Gospel, explaining portions of the Bible, and counseling people with struggles. By night, our team helped lead worship services. The result was a brand new church family. The launch service had about 120 people in attendance. Let’s remember that we don’t have to make things so complicated. If we share our faith, counsel and assist the struggling, teach the Word of God, and bathe it all in prayer, the Lord will bring a harvest. It was the Lord’s instruction to the disciples in Matthew 28:18-20, it is what the early church modeled in the book of Acts, and it is what still works today. We must remember to keep it simple. Let’s keep the three pillars of our church the three pillars of our church.

We also want to thank the International Mission Board (IMB) for making this trip possible. This trip came about because we went to the job requests page on the IMB website. This is the place where missionaries around the world post opportunities for our SBC churches to meet short term needs all around the world. We simply trolled the job requests site and pulled a few that fit the vision and passion of our church family. Then through much prayer we felt led to the Brazil trip. At that point, we contacted the IMB and told them of our interest and within 24 hours the IMB missionaries on the field had contacted us and the ball was rolling. They organized the transportation, accommodations, food, and interpreters for our team and hosted our team while they were there on the field. A big thank you to the IMB for your great work; you make doing international missions so easy with regard to logistics. One of the IMB’s objectives is to mobilize SBC churches to be involved with international missions. To the IMB, you are doing a great job meeting that objective.

Fallout Wrap Up

This past weekend was Fallout for our teenagers. Most churches call it DiscipleNow weekend. Thank you for your faithfulness to pray. The weekend was a huge success. This story is just snapshot of how the weekend went. This past Sunday after the worship services, my family went to lunch at our regular Sunday watering hole. Best hole-in-the-wall Mexican food in town. A middle school boy, Dillon, walked in the door with his family and walked right up to our table and said, “Pastor Nathan, I want to

tell you about Fallout. When I was eight years old, I walked the isle but I didn't know what I was doing. Yesterday, I realized I don't have a personal relationship with Jesus. So, last night I trusted Jesus as my Lord and Savior and this time I know what I'm doing." I love it. I am so proud of you, Dillon. May you walk closely with the Lord your God all the days of your life. The Lord moved in the lives of teenagers at Fallout. Lost students were saved. Saved students were sanctified. Did I mention the students' Saturday afternoon project resulted in enough supplies to provide Thanksgiving dinner for 60-70 underprivileged families? All that food was taken down to Farrington Mission on Monday.

A big thank you to the many adults who were involved in making the weekend such a huge success. Thank you for giving up your time and energy this weekend to invest your life in our teens. Thank you for opening up your home so God's work could be done. Thank you for teaching our teens the Word of God. Thank you for modeling Godliness to our teens. Thank you for your sacrificial service. I'm so proud of you.

Conclusion

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make His face to shine upon you, may the Lord be gracious to you, and give you His peace.