



THANK YOU!

It is said that King Faisal of Saudi Arabia used to have a flask of petroleum on his desk. On a card in front of it was written "Allah's Bounty". Assuming the tale is true, it seems pretty apparent that the King understood that whatever he had done in leading his country paled in comparison to the gift that was the oil below the surface of that country.

Many of us -- certainly THIS author -- often find ourselves, however, feeling that we have earned much of what we have. Or that we are

entitled to it. Certainly we DO work hard to achieve our goals, and many may have overcome significant obstacles. Do we, however, overlook how fortunate we are to even have the chance to TRY to achieve, or to overcome? How much do we take for granted? That was a huge learning experience for me as I learned how to live on crutches.

As we begin the month that (almost) culminates in the great American festival of Thanks-giving, I invite you to join me in watching for the small -- or not-so-small -- things that often evade our notice, but without which our lives would be less easy, less joyous, less meaningful. Squirrels running across campus. Clean silverware. Hot and cold running water. Friends. A great education. Closets full of clothing. A choice of breakfast cereals. The list is endless. Or, how about all of the people who were involved in getting your morning cup of coffee/tea to you: those who cultivated the plants, who picked the beans/leaves, who cured them, who packaged them for shipment, who tended them on board ship, who unloaded them, who prepared them for local distribution, who drove the trucks, who stocked the shelves. And let's not get into the scads of people who made the containers (growing the trees for paper, or mining for the metal).

We are surrounded by so much that deserves our gratitude. Join me in thanks-giving. Thank people for doing what they do, and for who they are, and for what they mean. And, as you look around at the natural world, keep King Faisal's sign in mind: "Allah's Bounty"!

Blessings,

Gary