



# Thanksgiving

*Dear Friends:*

*Grandchildren are so precious! Our three-year-old grandson, A.J., is learning about praying. The other day, before a meal he announced: "I want to pray!" With little head bowed and eyes closed he said: "Fank you Yord, for my boooootiful famiwy!" What a blessing!! There was a little liquid joy in everyone's eyes around the table.*

*I began to think how thankful I was for my beautiful immediate family. How Linda and I, the two of us, have now become ten of us—wow! My next thought was for my wonderful extended family of all of you out there who grace us with your presence at Suite 128. Again, what a blessing!!*

*In the beginning of my professional life, the focus of my entire being was establishing and growing a practice. Then, as time went by, I realized that now that I had an audience, I owed it to them to become more proficient in my ability to serve them effectively. I have never given up on that endeavor, because as one progresses along in this profession, the definition of excellence matures and develops. I personally feel that I will give account one day before my Maker for what I did while I was here on planet Earth on your behalf. Excellence in the professional sense is better understanding of how teeth work and fit, how better to restore them to health, how to replace missing teeth with implants and procedures that weren't even in my consciousness when I graduated from dental school.*

*But most importantly, at this point in my professional life, being paid with expressions of gratitude and appreciation as an expression of trust is a most humbling experience. Establishing a relationship-based practice has brought spiritual rewards that I never dreamed possible when I started on this journey in dental practice. "Practice"—what a strange term! One of my mentors reminded me: "We don't get good—we just get better!" We get good to the extent that we are able to do better, more sophisticated types of services. And, with "practice" these procedures become more routine. With 'practice" we move into ever-expanding skills and services. But, compared to God's original handiwork, the best I can do it is "practice" compared to His perfection. Excellence best describes it. And, the road to excellence is always under construction!*

*Thank you, friends, for being on the journey with us!! Part of "practice" is learning how to be better helpers and communicators, relationship-wise. That is the part of "practicing" that I enjoy the most, and you make my "laboratory of learning" immensely enjoyable and filled with a profound sense of gratitude. Thank you for giving me and my staff opportunities to learn and grow with you and yours this past year. That kind of trust is what we will be particularly thankful for this Thanksgiving and during the holidays ahead.*

*With gratitude,*



Thomas H. Risbrudt, FAGD  
And Staff

