**Mission Central Meyer Minute**

This time of year our mailboxes fill with year-end requests for donations. Why should I give away what I’ve worked so hard for? Jesus cuts through our natural pride. “This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be? So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God” (Luke 12:20-21).

Converts often have insights we lifelong church people don’t have. C.S. Lewis was such a convert. In the following quotation, Lewis shares the advice of a senior devil named Screwtape to a beginning devil named Wormwood. This is fiction but you’ll see the truth in it.

“The sense of ownership in general is always to be encouraged. The humans are always putting up claims to ownership which sound equally funny in Heaven and in Hell, and we must keep them doing so.... We produce this sense of ownership not only by pride but by confusion. We teach them not to notice the different senses of the possessive pronoun—the finely graded differences that run from ‘my boots’ through ‘my dog,’ my servant,’ ‘my wife, ‘my father,’ ‘my master,’ and ‘my country,’ to ‘my God.’ They can be taught to reduce all these senses to that of ‘my boots,’ the ‘my’ of ownership…. We have taught men to say, ‘my God’ in a sense not really very different from ‘my boots…’ And all the time the joke is that the word ‘mine’ in its fully possessive sense cannot be uttered by a human being about anything. In the long run either Our Father or the Enemy will say ‘mine’ of each thing that exists, and specially of each man. They will find out in the end, never fear, to whom their time, their souls, and their bodies really belong—certainly not to them, whatever happens.” (C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters,* in *For All the Saints,* IV, 1157).

Mission Central mails only one appeal a year, at Thanksgiving. For followers of Jesus, Thanksgiving is much more than being thankful, something anyone can do. Thanksgiving is a sense of our utter dependence upon our Father, as Martin Luther said, “We are all beggars; that is true.” Above all, Thanksgiving is heartfelt gratitude that the Spirit of Jesus makes us rich toward God. Thanksgiving becomes Thanks-living, when we share the riches of the Gospel with others. May God bless Mission Central’s Thanksgiving appeal so that more people will get to know Jesus. “You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth” (Deuteronomy 8:18).