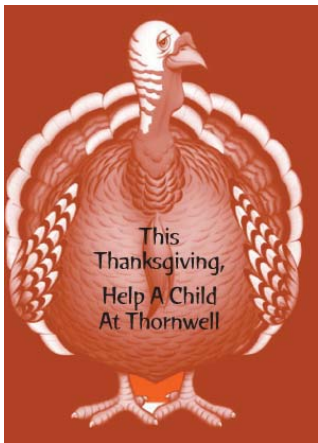




The Cardboard Turkey Story



Our ordinary lives contain extraordinary moments. One such moment happened in 1960, in a small liberal-arts college in North Carolina.

On the Monday before Thanksgiving, freshmen in a required English class were asked to write a

one-page essay on a Thanksgiving memory from childhood.

One freshman wrote about a cardboard turkey that stood on the breakfast table in his home in Alabama throughout the month of November. The turkey had 30 slots, and each morning he filled a slot with a dime for the children at Thornwell, a home 350 miles away in Clinton, S.C. In his essay, the freshman acknowledged that in retrospect, stuffing dimes in a cardboard turkey seemed a little corny. He handed in the assignment and went home for Thanksgiving.

The following Monday in class, the English professor addressed two students by name and asked them to stay after class for a few minutes. He then gave each one of them an essay — the other student's essay — and asked them to read them silently.

One freshman read about a cardboard turkey on the breakfast table in Alabama. The other read about Thanksgiving morning at Thornwell Home in South Carolina, where as countless turkeys were presented to the children, they were told: "People you will never see or meet filled these turkeys because they care about you."

I love this story because, I, too, remember the cardboard turkey on the breakfast table. The college freshman who wrote about it is my brother, Bill Barron of Knoxville, TN.

Lucie B. Eggleston
Columbia, SC



Cardboard turkey from the 1940's



Remember Thornwell Emphasis Week is November 21-27.

Look for these materials in your church in early October. If you would like to order additional bulletin inserts, posters, and turkey coin holders for your place of worship, call:

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