

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer for country communities ...

Thank you for the beauty of the country communities in our land. Thank you for the people who grow and fish the food that sustains us, for those who harvest the wood and mine the minerals out of which we build our homes and tools, for those who preserve places of recreation.

All: Thank you gracious God.

Thank you for the rural church and its unique role in these communities.

- ❖ For its smallness ... in a world governed by “bigger is better.”
- ❖ For its caring community ... where every member matters.
- ❖ For its traditions ... rooted and grounded in a heritage of family, community, work and church.
- ❖ For its closeness ... that makes us involved in and concerned for the life of every member.
- ❖ For its will to survive ... which keeps it going in spite of financial struggles and small membership.
- ❖ For its open doors ... that serve as a meeting place and gathering centre for the community.
- ❖ For the simple beauty of its sanctuary ... which sets the mood for close, real, joyful worship.

All: For these gifts of rural church we thank you God.

God, we know that with these gifts we also recognize its struggles and weaknesses:

- ❖ A conservatism that hangs on to things that matter... but may find it hard to accept change and new things.
- ❖ The struggle to survive ... which sometimes curves us in on ourselves, forgetting the needs of our community.
- ❖ For comfort and satisfaction ... which sometimes keeps us from new ventures.
- ❖ For limited vision ... which fails to see the wealth of resources God has given us.

All: Give us grace to recognize your ability to work through us, to see the gifts you have given us, and to offer our weaknesses to your transforming grace. Amen

(Written by Cam Harder of CiRCLe-M Inaugural Gathering, 2007)