



BBFI ministries do Thanksgiving outreaches, even in Scotland

Most cultures have some type of harvest celebration, but an American-style Thanksgiving has a unique religious base. That is why churches here at home find it natural to use the holiday for outreach, and our missionaries have found the American customs provide a draw for their churches overseas as well.

First Baptist Church of Newcastle, Delaware, gives a Thanksgiving meal for their community each year. Pastor Ron Sears reports that the church served a Thanksgiving dinner to 350 people this year. Members of the church, 116 of them, served the dinners and sent the Thanksgiving diners home with another box of food. If the goal is evangelism, it works, as 57 people prayed to receive Christ, and 13 others indicated they wanted to learn more about the gospel in their responses this year.

Meanwhile, BBFI missionaries Jon and Ruth Bergen took the American Thanksgiving with them to Brechin, Scotland. Jon says, "Thanksgiving is my holiday, and I have missed it with family for the seventh year now, so I adopt folk here and share the love."

This year Jon had an official count of 122 who shared their eight Thanksgiving turkeys (at a cost of £25 or USD \$37 each), along with pumpkin pies, several pans of green beans, stuffing, corn pudding, and all the traditional fixings. The event has grown more popular each year. Jon says, "It kind of blossomed out of control on us. Folks are asking in September if we are doing it and I just can't say no."



Center photo: **First Baptist Church of Newcastle, Delaware, served 350 people at their Thanksgiving outreach.** Bottom photo: **Missionaries Jon and Ruth Bergen brought an American Thanksgiving to 122 people in Brechin, Scotland.**