



A LETTER FROM DAVID



Hi there!

Here I am, sitting with my pad and chewing up the end of my pencil while thinking of a subject for this month's column. Then ZAP! I just happened to glance at the calendar on my wall and I realized that one of my favorite holidays is just around the corner!

Thanksgiving! Just the word brings back so many happy memories! When I was really small, I think Thanksgiving was mainly an opportunity to stuff myself on my mom's fabulous turkey and pies. I know I used to be glued to the kitchen, smelling all the good smells and snitching the dressing when she wasn't looking.

Then of course when I was in school I learned more about the history behind the holiday. I remember when I was in first or second grade I brought home a big picture of a turkey I had drawn, and mom put it in the center of the table when we had our dinner. I was so proud of my beautiful piece of art (and you know, my mom still has it!).

I WAS A PILGRIM!

There were school plays for assembly too, and one year I was a pilgrim. What I wanted to be was an Indian, but there were too many already so I had to wait for the following year!

My dad was away on tour a lot of the time, and although he tried to make it home for all the holidays, there were years he wasn't there to carve the turkey. We always had lots of relatives, but I used to miss him because it wasn't the same without him.

Lots of things changed as I grew older—my parents divorcing, our moving to California, but Thanksgiving still remained an important family occasion. I love to sit around the table and look at the faces of all the people I care for more than anything in the world. And I still sneak into the kitchen for an extra helping of dressing too!

But I began to realize when I got up in years that there is much more meaning behind Thanksgiving than just having a chance to stuff myself on the foods I like most. Ever since I started working on "The Partridge Family" and doing concert tours on weekends I've been running so fast that I hadn't had much of a chance to really see my family!

Well last Thanksgiving I must admit I'd almost forgotten about the holiday! My mom was in New York and I couldn't get the time to fly to spend it with her, and Shirley asked me over for dinner. I hadn't seen my stepbrothers in months, and I was happy to accept the invitation.

As I sat at the table and looked around, a great feeling of peace and happiness came over me. It was the first time I had stopped to relax in months!

Then I started thinking to myself—this is really what Thanksgiving is all about! It's being together with those you love, and thanking God for the opportunity to share with each other.

But it goes even further than that, as Ryan who was sitting next to me pointed out! He began telling me the whole story of the Pilgrims and Indians having the first Thanksgiving feast together, and I listened like I'd never heard the story before!

Because frankly, as the years went by, I'd gotten sort of blinded to the beautiful meaning behind my favorite holiday! When Ryan finished his story, I said softly, "You know, that was the greatest example of true brotherhood there ever was! What the whole world needs today is a lot more of it—entirely different people making the effort to understand each other better!"

WE HAVE TO TRY!

Now just think about it! Imagine a world where people made the effort to understand each other and settle their differences peacefully! Imagine what it would be like if violence was never the answer, and loving your fellow man was! That first Thanksgiving holds a real, tremendously important message to all of us today, don't you agree?

Once my thoughts began moving in this direction, I began to feel ashamed of myself too! I don't think I've ever taken my wonderful family or my success for granted, actually, but I couldn't recall the last time I had given any thought to how *thankful* I am for them!

I promised myself then that every day I would say a silent thank you for all the wonderful things I have. And I never forget to include you in these thoughts, because my fans are the best thing that ever happened to me, outside of my family!

This Thanksgiving, when you sit around the table with the ones you love, will you join me in my prayer? If everyone would only pull together, the impossible dream of peace and brotherhood on earth could become a reality. And we're the ones to do something about it, right?

And by the way, Happy Thanksgiving! I love you!