A Prayer of Thanks
in Celebration of 50 Years

My God and Father,

As I come before You on this day,
I give thanks that You called me here . . .
here to this place that has been my home
for so many years.
Most of all, I'm thankful that I listened to You,
because You know that there were times,
yes, I know, and times still today,
that I fail to listen as I hurry through life.
So many years, Lord,
so many blessings . . . so much to remember . . .
so much to be thankful for.
I remember all those from these years:
Those faithful and dedicated people
with whom I worked . . . those who shared
the same mission of touching hearts and lives,
responding to Your call to make a difference.
Those in my classroom or in a main lodge on retreat . . .
those in peer ministry or in a support group,
or those just needing someone to listen.
I attempted to guide them, teaching them about You, Lord . . .
to trust in You and in Your love for each of them,
to know that You are with them always.
I have been so blessed, Lord, to walk beside them on this journey . . .
to laugh together as we experienced so many good times;
to cry together as we made our way through the difficult ones.
I have been so blessed, Lord,
to be with them in moments of joy,
to be beside them at times of trial and loss,
to simply love them, Lord,
attempting to be a reflection
of the great love that You have for them.
Some of those from my past, the young and the old,
have completed their journeys in this world,
some long before their time,
so loved and dearly missed.
I remember them with love, Lord,
for all that they continue to mean to me.
They are at home with You, Lord, in Your Kingdom
where we are meant to be.
The moments and the memories and the people
who have helped to shape my past
are always with me, a part of all that I am.
So, on this day, Lord,
as I remember the past and look to the future,
I give thanks for all that has been,
and I look forward to all that will be.
I give thanks for all those who are with me today,
the young and the old who add
meaning and purpose and value and worth
to my days.
I give thanks for memories and for moments,
for people and for blessings,
for Your faithfulness and love.
I have been and continue to be . . . thankful.

Love,
Your son,
Mike