

**Desires/Hopes/Dreams for Conservation & Development of  
Resilient/Sustainable Community (Quality Life for All):**  
(Meal Blessing offered at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Southern Plains Conference)

by Paul Bain Martin

God / holy spirit acknowledged through many names ... or not. ... We are thankful for Life in its varied manifestations. ... And we are with *peace*. ...

Yet here today we're also *restless* for guidance toward *critical & creative thinking* and *ethical decision-making* for wellness. We want for comprehensive, holistic, deep knowledge of the Commonwealth of Health.

We do recognize that health involves *small & light ecological footprints*, and

- protection of precious local top soils;
- stewardship of the Ogallala and other *Mother Lode* aquifers, watersheds & estuaries;
- ethical capture of the Sun's energy;
- biological diversity—
- and the nutritious and plentiful food so graciously raised & prepared locally here today by these wonderful members of this community. ... *Sense of community. Sense of place. Connections & dependence on one another and true health in all sectors of local & world community—* whether they are bacteria, protists, plants, fungi or animals. Whether we are rich, low income, or without!  
Young or old.

We are all grateful for quality life--for Life!--and opportunities to make community resilient and sustainable. We are sincerely & deeply grateful for the challenge to make community healthy!!

Thanks so much for this wonderful food and opportunity for fellowship.

Amen.