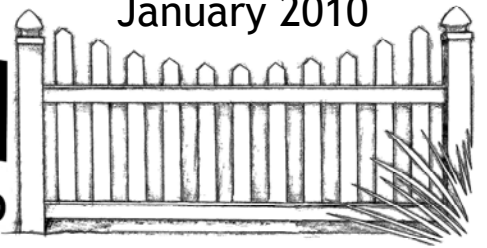


Raising faith in

The Backyard

with a passion for generous stewardship

January 2010



More
Stories
TO Tell



& Gifts
TO
Share

During the month of January, our congregation will be moving through our annual financial stewardship program, with the theme being the title of this article. I have led congregations through many different stewardship programs, but I have found this one to be the best of all of them. What I like best about it is that it gives us all a chance to reflect upon the way God has gifted us in our personal journeys of life and faith, while four of our members share their stories with us, one each Sunday. I always find each person's reflections of what God has been up to in their life to be deeply moving and each time I listen I find myself thinking of the way God has also abundantly gifted me. This sets the groundwork for our intentional planning to give back to God in the form of our financial offering. We give what we give to God because we want, and need, to do so. We give from the heart and we give with joy because of what God has first given us.

As we experience this program together, I thought I would share in writing some deeply held, joyful principles that have helped me grow in my understanding of giving financially. They are core values that my wife and I "go to" each

year as we plan to fill out our estimate of giving card, which all of us will be invited to do on January 24th. They are also biblically based principles.

1. Pray and ask God, "What would you have me do this year?" and include prayers of thanksgiving for all the blessings God has given you.
2. Plan your giving. Be faithfully intentional about it.
3. Give proportionately. My wife and I were not always tithers (1/10th of our income). Back in 1984, someone placed before us these core principles and an invitation to think and pray about them, and we began a journey toward tithing, eventually arriving at that goal and now moving beyond it. We did this by increasing a certain percentage each year of our monthly household income.
4. With faith and a passion to do so, seek to grow in your annual giving.
5. Give joyfully, freely.
6. Seek to be generous, for God is first generous to us. It's wonderful to remind ourselves that we cannot "out-give" God.

I hope these are as helpful to you as they have been for me and my lovely bride. I look forward to Sunday, January 24th, when we will each have an opportunity to covenant with God and celebrate another year of mission together.

Pastor John

Noisy Offering January 17 Micro-loans for big dreams



Gifts to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, channeled through local partners, offer a savings and loan program to extend financial services to individuals in communities where there are no banks.

Micro-credit loans ranging from \$50 to \$500 can make all the difference in helping people launch small businesses. Women and men form into groups to support each other in their ventures, to encourage each other in repaying the loans, and to decide how future loans are distributed. All participants are treated with respect and dignity as they pursue their dreams for the future and strengthen their communities by working together.

In Mexico, ELCA World Hunger partners with AMEXTRA (Mexican Association for Rural and Urban Transformation). AMEXTRA is a coalition of Mexican Christians that provides food and services to some of the people in Mexico's poorest areas by developing community improvement programs. This group selected Adriana for a micro-loan. She was able to move from selling sodas on a wooden box in her doorway to running a two-room grocery store. This grocery has become the largest in their town in Chiapas, and people travel from miles away to purchase things from the store. In other cases, Leti bought baking pans and a mixer to start a business selling bread and pastries to her neighbors, and Rosa built a poultry house where she raises chickens and turkeys.



So save your spare coins and your extra dollars for Sunday, January 17, to support micro-loans through AMEXTRA. Make some noise, and make a difference in the world!

Did you know

...that the December Noisy Offering collection totaled \$902.28, a record amount (by \$2.28) for Hosanna!!!

That is enough to purchase 90 mosquito nets (\$10 each)!

NET WORTH PREVENTING MALARIA IN UGANDA

One-month-old Gibse Aloyo sleeps quietly. Her mother, Irene, gazes down at her daughter and reflects on being pregnant with Gibse. "During my pregnancy I got malaria," Irene says. "When I went for treatment, I was told about malaria and how it could endanger my baby. The Village Health Teams added to my knowledge and I wanted [to sleep with] a net."

Malaria is the number one cause of illness and death in northern Uganda. "Malaria during pregnancy is the worst killer disease, often causing miscarriages in the early stages of pregnancy," said Helen Amono, the Reproductive Health Focal Person in the Kitgum district. "It causes premature births and stillbirths. Pregnancy is such a joy, and then to be faced with a lost pregnancy due to a preventable cause like malaria is heartbreaking."

Because family-size nets were distributed, both Irene and her husband, Michael, slept under the net throughout the rest of her pregnancy and avoided malaria. Michael cites an added benefit: "The net also protects us from spiders and scorpions while we are sleeping."

Hosanna's \$900+ gift to ELCA World Hunger will prevent formerly displaced people in northern Uganda — like the Aloyos — from contracting malaria.

Those who think
money grows on
trees are the ones
who have a hard
time getting out
of the woods.

Credit is what keeps
you from knowing how
far past broke you are.

Sign in store window:

**USE OUR EASY
CREDIT PLAN:
100% DOWN AND
0% MONTHLY
PAYMENTS.**

Glimpses of Grace 2010

Through December 31, 2009:

World Hunger	\$831.93
African Initiative	\$17,175.00
Mission of the Month	\$7012.57
Mulkey Scholarship Fund Income	\$6,009.00
Benevolence	\$21,348.51
Northwest Assistance Ministries	\$800.00
Equal Exchange ("Coffee Sunday")	\$1,506.02

Mission of the Month Gifts:

From January through December 2009 our Mission of the Month "Noisy Offerings," totaling \$7012.57, helped Lutheran Campus Ministry, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Lutherhill Campership Fund, Habitat for Humanity, Central Asia Institute, Ron and Heda Christ's Botswana Mission, NAM Back-to-School Drive, Lutheran Deaconess Association, ELCA World Hunger, Houston's Seafarer's Center and Mission Builders.

Helping Hands Fund:

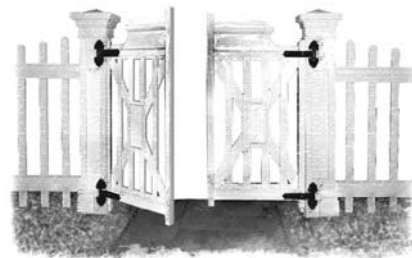
Between January and November 2009, 31 individuals or families received rental and/or utility assistance, food, gift cards, gas money and other forms of aid.

During December 2009, six individuals/families received food, one received money for diapers, one was given rental assistance and another received rental assistance.

Balance on hand: \$483.21

A parting thought

Through the back gate



Subject: Mt. Clipper Miki - Thanks for the Gifts

Dear Pastor John,

On behalf of Filipino Sailors of Mt. Clipper Miki, we would like to thank heartily for all members of Hosanna Lutheran Church for the Gifts. Sir although we don't have Christmas tree and lights on board, but for the gifts you have given us it reminds us that Christ Jesus really cares and the people around us, again Sir/Maam thanks very very much. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all Members of Hosanna Lutheran Church. And GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

