

# Pastor's COLUMN

March 2014

Dear Friends in Christ,

Don't believe the rumors. I am not growing a beard in order to preach a series of messages about "Duck Dynasty". Instead I am going to use the facial hair to recreate a series of Lenten monologs as Judas, Caiaphas, Peter, Pilate, and the centurion.

I want to take a moment to thank you, the members of Peace for your very faithful and generous giving in the past years. Through your generosity Peace Church has been a part of some great things in the Kingdom of God. Let me just name a few.

1. We are touching the lives of many orphans in Uganda with love and a good education through our missionary, Lindsey Mueller. This year we are providing half of Lindsey's support each month through our Sunday offerings. So in effect, she is our part-time staff person deployed in northern Uganda on our behalf. Many of you have also supported Lindsey's ministry by sponsoring some of the orphans she serves. Thank you.

A generous donor has provided \$5500 of matching funds to help us raise additional support for Lindsey's ministry in Uganda. Lindsey recently reported the need for school desks. They have received a large number of new students at the school and many of their old desks simply are unusable and unfixable. If you would like to provide additional support for Lindsey's work, you can mark your gift with Lindsey's name on it, and we will match it and send it to Lindsey's account with Children of the Nations.

2. Lindsey is not the only missionary we are supporting. For the past two years we have been providing monthly support through "Reaching the Unreached Ministries" for Paul and Comfort, an evangelist and his wife in Ghana, West Africa. In 2012 we built a house for Paul and Comfort. Each month Paul receives a salary of \$300 from us. Paul has planted 13 churches in

communities that had no Christian church. Each church has between 30 and 300 members. But they are all very young in their faith and their leaders need lots of training and encouragement. Paul had a motorcycle accident which has made it difficult for him to get around. But he continues to try to build up these 13 congregations and their leaders, and he hopes to plant two more churches this year. Last December the congregations he planted got together for a Christmas convention of about 900 people. There were 100 baptisms. These are first-generation Christians who are following Jesus in an area where the gospel has not been heard and where Muslim missionaries are at work.

3. We have changed the world for five Ugandan communities where we have drilled community wells. This year our Christmas gifts will drill two more wells. These wells change everything for these communities as they are set free from the long hours of hauling water and from the dangers of water-borne diseases. All around these communities people have heard that Christians have provided clean water for the first time for everyone in the area.

4. Each month the first check written from Peace Church is a \$3000 check to a mission partner. In February we supported ministry to Nebraska families through Lutheran Family Services. In March we will give a gift to our local neighbors in need through Blue Valley Community Action. In April we will send ten months' support for Paul and Comfort.

5. During Lent we also take special offerings to expand our mission work. Each Wednesday night we will receive an offering to support a missionary or a mission project that God is using to change lives. The schedule is as follows:

- March 5 = Oaks Indian Mission
- March 12 = Hope Crisis Center
- March 19 = Falls Community Church
- March 26 = Haiti Lutheran Mission Society
- April 2 = Institute for Lutheran Theology
- April 9 = Paul and Comfort in Ghana
- April 17 = Lindsey in Uganda
- April 18 = Bridges to Hope in Lincoln

I hope you realize that wonderful things are happening because of your faithful and generous giving through Peace Church. Each offering is an opportunity to participate in God's outreach to the world. Thank you for your faithfulness.

Yours in Christ, *Phil Nielsen*