



THE STORIES OF BURKINA FASO

On February 19 Rachel Parks and I plus a group of other pastors and another lay person left for a place half-way across the world, Burkina Faso. I have to admit, up until a few months ago, I had never heard of this place called Burkina Faso. I knew about Kenya, I had heard about Zimbabwe, Somalia, Ghana, Mali and the Ivory Coast, but never a word about this place called Burkina Faso.

When I was invited to go, I learned that Burkina Faso is the THIRD POOREST Country in the world. While I was there, a study was published listing it not only as the third poorest country but also the THIRD MOST MISERABLE place to live in the world behind Liberia and Zimbabwe. This designation is based on it's relatively high population (in a small country) and its very limited natural resources. The country's economy depends on agriculture, primarily cotton. The country is still reeling from the after-effects of a severe drought in 2011 which decimated grazing lands and harvests. The country suffers from rampant unemployment.

Our purpose for going to Burkina Faso was to go

and see the wells that were being dug thanks to the money that Operation Hydration and our Christmas Offering had raised. Did you know that nine churches from around Indiana raised



about \$75,000 for wells in Burkina Faso? I really felt that this trip was going to be about more than just wells. Not that the wells aren't important. Without clean drinking water, life can't continue, and ears can't hear about "Living Water" when the thirst for clean water.

We saw swollen bellies that came from drinking contaminated water. We heard stories of parents having to decide which child would have to be sacrificed because there was not enough food to eat because there was no water to grow fruits and vegetables or to sustain livestock. We experienced a newborn set of twins that

would have been left to die because mom's milk hadn't come in for five days. Because God put us in this place at this time, we were able to obtain formula that sustained the twins until mom's milk came in.

It's a hard life in Burkina Faso and it all begins with water. But that is just the beginning. If they have clean water, they can begin to have better food and better nutrition leads to healthy minds and that leads to a stronger country.

As we bring clean water wells we are also bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Gospel of Jesus Christ brings freedom. There is much that can be accomplished there if we are willing to open our hearts to doing God's work in a place called BURKINA FASO.



Sunday
Worship 9am
Kidz Praise 9am
After Children's Message

Sunday School
10:15
Every other Sunday
Club 456 plus! 3pm

Wednesday
Friends of Christ 5:30
Youth Group
7:00 to 8:30 pm

Ministers:
Members of Northwest
United Methodist Church

Pastor:
Rev. Vickie VanNevel
57132 Pinewood
South Bend, IN 46619
574-287-7272
vvannevel@comcast.net



Applying Bible Principles

Some people view principles of the Old Testament as ending with the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. After all, this great event marked the end of the old era and the establishment of the new covenant. One area in which people think this way is that of tithing. They reason as follows: "When you can show me in the New Testament where it says, 'Thou shalt tithe,' then I will tithe."

Although on the surface that reasoning sounds O.K., there are at least two major problems with it. First, nowhere does the New Testament state, "Thou shalt **not** tithe." Second, the reason the New Testament does not contain that statement is that tithing was not a requirement that started when the law was given. The principle of tithing existed before the law and during the law; it has never been rescinded by God. Thus, even though the commands of the law came to an end when Christ was offered on Calvary as the perfect sacrifice, tithing did not.

In fact, tithing simply follows the pattern of "first fruits" giving by which we give to God the first part of our income, not the bits and pieces which might be left over. Tithing is putting our giving to God first rather than at the

end of our spending after all of our bills are paid.

Tithing is an area of our Christianity that requires faith in God's promises and in God's provisions. Let's face it—at first glance, tithing really isn't very logical. After all, if you can't make ends meet on 100%, how can you make ends meet on 90% or less?

In Malachi 3, God issues a serious indictment against His people. He says we have robbed Him. How have we done this? In tithes and offerings. Then He patiently instructs us to bring the whole tithe into His storehouse and offers a challenge to us. Concerning the tithes, God says, in essence, "Prove Me. Try Me. Put Me to the test. And see—in response to your obedience—if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

If you are one who tithes, you know how God keeps His promise. You have proved Him and settled this issue in your heart. If you are not one who tithes, why not take God at His Word. Here's how: Take stock of your present financial

situation, and then step out by faith. Put God to the test by tithing for six months or so. Then take stock again. You will find that God has kept His promise and provided specific, tangible blessings in your life in response to your obedience. Tithing, you see, is not God's way of raising money to pay His bills. Tithing is God's way of growing His children.

Stephen Olford wrote this: "Abraham gave tithes to God through Melchizedek, the king-priest. According to Hebrews 7, Melchizedek is a beautiful type of Christ in resurrection. Melchizedek gives Abraham bread and wine, symbols of sacrifice; and Abraham acknowledges his indebtedness to God by giving Him tithes of all his spoils. In other words, tithing is the scriptural way of saying 'thank you' to God for all that He has done for us."

As you consider your giving and your offering to the Lord next Sunday at Northwest United Methodist Church, will you say "thank you" to Him and "move up to the tithe?"



Prayer Network: Power of a Praying Church

Throughout the month of April the following families or persons will be lifted up in prayer by our Prayer Ministry Team. Please add these families to your own prayer list.

- Harold & Amy Benninghoff
- John, Kim, & Tanner Lipsky
- Bryan, Gail, Brendan, & Katie McDaniel
- Bob & Rosie Yaw

If you have a prayer concern you can call or e-mail your concern to Rosie Yaw.

Rosemerry Yaw
269-683-6388
e-mail: rosiebr2@juno.com

The prayer chain is a very important part of who we are here at Northwest UMC. We invite anyone that would like to be a part of this important ministry to contact Rosemerry Yaw .



**Become
Part of
Our
Prayer
Chain**

Attendance March

March 3	132
March 10	105
March 17	99
March 24	120

April Scripture

April 7, 2013

[Acts 5:27-32](#)
[Psalms 150](#)
[Revelation 1:4-8](#)
[John 20:19-31](#)

April 14, 2013

[Acts 9:1-6, 7-20](#)
[Psalms 30](#)
[Revelation 5:11-14](#)
[John 21:1-19](#)

April 21, 2013

[Acts 9:36-43](#)
[Psalms 23](#)
[Revelation 7:9-17](#)
[John 10:22-30](#)

April 28, 2013

[Acts 11:1-18](#)
[Psalms 148](#)
[Revelation 21:1-6](#)
[John 13:31-35](#)

April Alter Flowers

The Stalker
Family dedicates
April Alter flowers
to the memory of
their Parents
Bill and Betty



April Volunteers

Sunday Morning Praying

- 7th Rosemerry Yaw
- 14th Patty Suddarth
- 21st Kathy and Shellie Rose
- 28th Missy Hatfield

Chapel time Fridays at 9:30

- 5th Rosemerry Yaw
- 12th Pat Wolf
- 19th Charlene Larrison
- 26th Sharon Robertson

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To be **Ushers** and **Greeters**

To **bring refreshments** on Sunday. Share your gift of hospitality with the Church. Sign up in the Narthex on the Bulletin Board.



Northwest Children's Learning Center

Notes of Appreciation from the Learning Center

THANK YOU

The Learning Center would like to take this opportunity to say **thank you** to all of you!!!! You bake cookies, wash the children's laundry, donate needed items throughout the year, read Bible Stories, give of building space, support our fundraisers, serve on the board, and most importantly you uplift us in prayer for the mission work happening in the Learning Center.

Northwest Children's Learning Center is part of the Paths to Quality, a state initiative, to provide quality care and school readiness for young children. Northwest United Methodist Church can be proud as your Children's Learning Center recently achieved the second highest level - level 3!

- Trivia Night 2013 was a great night of fun and **thanks** to all of you the Learning Center made \$1,065. Door prizes were abundant and the winning table won gift cards to area businesses. What a win-win situation for all! Special thanks to the youth that volunteered to care for the children of the Trivia night attendees.
- We cannot thank you enough for all your support and encouragement in these tough economic times.

Patti Perri, Director



VBS 2013

June 12th
 June 19th
 June 26th
 July 3rd OFF
 July 10th
 July 17th

Wednesdays 5:30-8:15

Everyone is needed to make VBS a Success. Opportunities include: Planning & Decorating
 Food Preparation
 Pavilion Set Up
 Crafts
 Guides

VBS is our opportunity to teach the love of Jesus Christ to the young children of our community and our Church. This may be the only exposure to Jesus some of these children get. Please consider where you can help.
 Planning meetings coming soon, look and listen for more information about planning and VBS volunteer opportunities.



APRIL 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 3:30 pm Piano Lessons B. Bryce Taberski B. Amy Grey	2 3:30 pm Piano Lessons 6:00 pm NCLC Board	3 3:30 pm Piano Lessons 5:30 pm Friends of Christ 7:00 pm Youth Group A. Mike & Heather Mangus B. Julie Knight	4 3:30 pm Piano Lessons	5	6
7 9 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 12:00 pm Pampered Chef 3:30 pm Troop 30055 B. Jill Kovach	8 3:30 pm Piano Lessons 6:30 pm Cub Scouts B. Thomas Spencer	9 3:30 pm Piano Lessons 6:00 pm Finance 7:00 pm Ad Council	10 3:30 pm Piano Lessons 5:30 pm Friends of Christ 7:00 pm Youth Group B. Daniel Gardetto	11 3:30 pm Piano Lessons A. Gerry & Sondra Gardetto B. Melissa Hatfield	12 B. Lea Pitcher	13 8:30 am Men's Group
14 9 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 2:00 pm NCLC Open House 3:00 pm Club 456+ B. Brenda Frick	15 3:30 pm Piano Lessons 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	16 3:30 pm Piano Lessons 7:00 pm UMW 7:00 pm Cub Scout Cmte	17 3:30 pm Piano Lessons 5:30 pm Friends of Christ 7:00 pm Youth Group B. Sandi Ernst	18 3:30 pm Piano Lessons	19	20 8:00 am NCLC Pancake Breakfast 10:00 am District Meeting
21 9 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 3:30 pm Troop 30055 A. Eric & Brenda Frick	22 3:30 pm Piano Lessons 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	23 3:30 pm Piano Lessons 7:00 pm Trustees	24 3:30 pm Piano Lessons 5:30 pm Friends of Christ 7:00 pm Youth Group A. Randy & Connie Harper	25 3:30 pm Piano Lessons	26 6:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal	27 8:30 am Men's Group 2:00 pm Judy Christ Wedding
28 9 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 3:00 pm Club 456+	29 3:30 pm Piano Lessons 6:30 pm Cub Scouts B. Norm Hansen	30 3:30 pm Piano Lessons A. Ken & Kelly Miller				

**NORTHWEST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

21855 Brick Road
South Bend, In 46628

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The People of The United Methodist
Church®*



Check out our WEBSITE
www.northwestchurch.com

Sunday Worship 9:00

Kidz Praise 9:00 (after the chil-
dren's message)

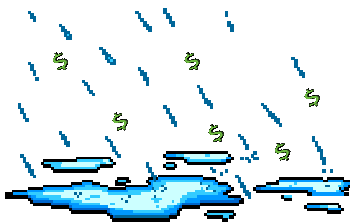
Sunday School (all ages) 10:15

**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE RUSH**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
South Bend, IN
46628
Permit No.37

Support Habitat Matthew 25 House Build



**April Vite's Certificate
Sales
Bring May Flowers.**



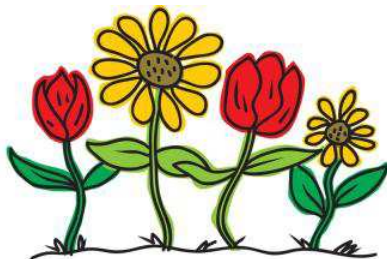
**United Methodist Women's
Vite's Greenhouse Certificate Sale**

Sale Starts NOW

Buy Gift Certificates in \$20 increments, go to Vite's
on

Redbud trail and pick out your pots, flats
and hanging baskets.

Proceeds support **Matthew 25 House Build**
See a member of United Methodist Women



Time to Plant!