



## A Before and After Story

On the way home from a Sunday presentation last fall, one of the students riding with me asked, "Mr. Miller, how come you're so nice?" (Yes, it was Cartez riding shotgun and Tierney in the coveted middle.) I was never asked that question, so I had to think quickly. Thankfully, all my years of Bible study provided an answer.

"Well, when Jesus gave us the Golden Rule, He said we should treat others the way we want to be treated. I want people to be nice to me, so it starts with me being nice to others." That seemed a satisfactory reply. The two went on to make an important connection to their classroom. They told me about a classmate, Tyson, who is new to Unity this year. Tyson comes with no religious background. In fact, he claims to be an atheist.

"It's like Tyson," they explained. "It wouldn't do any good for us to ignore him. So we just treat him like everyone else, even though he says he's an atheist. If we're nice to him, maybe someday he'll change his mind."

As I observe the class in action at lunch and after school, I see that the students really meant what they said. To me, that's the Gospel in action.

Fast forward to this spring. Mr. Williams, the Eighth Grade Teacher, wrote this follow-up story.

"A couple of weeks ago I planted two separate vegetables in milk cartons in my class, one with tomatoes and the other with green peppers. It was a science activity; the class wanted to see which would sprout fastest. The tomato won, and right now there are more tomato plants growing than green pepper plants.

"I was curious to know why none of the green pepper seeds sprouted. Did I add too much water? Didn't I scatter the seeds enough? Or they simply won't grow? I checked every day, but nothing. This morning I looked and only one seed sprouted. This seed is flourishing and the rest aren't. I am curious to know why, what's going on? How is it that only one seed sprouted, yet they all were planted at the same time, with the same amount of water and sunshine?

"On Friday I teach catechism class and normally the participation for 8th grade isn't that great (green pepper seeds). The 7th graders (tomato seeds) participate more and are more active than my own 8th graders. Tyson never participates in anything that has to do with Jesus. In fact, he has professed doubt and unbelief in God (being an atheist). He is one of the students in my class I pray for hoping that the Holy Spirit will be at work in him. Well, those prayers are being answered and I realized that Tyson is paying attention, listening and hearing God's Word.

"On Friday during catechism class I asked a question, 'How did God reveal His Kingdom of Power to us?' Many of the students struggled with revealing the correct answer. Suddenly Tyson raised his hand. He was able to answer the question correctly, 'Through Moses and the Ten Commandments.' Tyson not only answered that question, but he answered several questions throughout the morning. He was active in catechism that day. He was growing. He was that only green pepper seed that started to sprout that morning.

Give God the Glory!! God is working in my class. I pray that Tyson will one day renounce his lack of faith and believe in Christ as his Savior, but for now I will continue to pray and let the Holy Spirit work in him."

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## Share In The Miracle Results

The mission of Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School was blessed again this year! The four dinners were truly spiritual events as we learned about God's wonderful work and let His resources flow. All of our guests are committed Christian people, and it is a joy to be with you.

The total number of guests was lower this year, which was cause for concern. God can do mighty things through His people, however, and income was the highest it has ever been. Thank the Lord and praise His name!

The highest total prior to this year was in 2013 when total gifts were \$236,156. This year the gift total is \$262,877. That's undeniably another of God's miracles. This total is before the match. I will be meeting with our donors soon to give a report. The original offer was to match up to \$200,000. I will ask if they would be willing to match the full amount. (Prayers, please.)

One of my goals as I look to retirement was to make sure the school is on solid financial ground. God has granted that request. When our new Development Director arrives, there will be enough funds to provide a breaking-in period before serious fund raising has to happen again.

Thank you to all of our generous donors, those who attended and those who were unable but still made a gift. God bless you.

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## SITM Follow Up

I received this email shortly after the last dinner.

"Paul, I wanted to stand up and say something last night but didn't. So I decided to tell you. You have had students, staff & families speak, but I've never heard from a donor. I wanted to say thank you to God, you, the families, the staff and the students for the joy and the blessings that being able to donate and volunteer at Unity have brought me. Everyone has enriched my life. You have shown me the importance of always keeping your eye on the goal and never losing faith that God's timing is perfect. God bless you and Unity."

I believe all of our donors would say the same. How about you?

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## Development Director Search

We continue to learn that God's plan is not necessarily our plan. (Can you imagine that?) Fortunately, His plan is **always better** than our plan. We have been through three candidates for the next Unity Development Director, and we still do not know God's plan.

The Call Committee will re-convene soon. Several new names have been submitted. Meanwhile, plans are being made in case the new Development Director is not in place on July 15. Mr. Miller has pledged that he will continue to serve (part-time) in that event.

We covet your prayers. Please plead with God to make His plan known to us (soon). We believe His answer is going to be just right.

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## Retirement Celebration

Saturday, July 15, 2017  
Celebration Worship Service at Unity Lutheran Church, 1:30 p.m.  
Open House at Unity School, 3:15 - 5:30 p.m.  
Please join us in giving thanks to God for Mr. Miller's 41 years of service.

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### **Wish List**

Electronic Keyboards, used  
Volunteer painters for this summer. Could be youth or adults, any day of the week  
A new Development Director ASAP:)

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