



Encourage
Others,
Tell a story!

LCR/Pastor Ministry Moments for Work Day Offering

Share the following stories with your congregation during worship announcements.

Sunday, September 6th, 2015

Next Sunday we will have an opportunity to invest in the lives of children, and I ask you to join me by making a generous financial gift to the ministry of Epworth Children's Home. We participate in the Annual Work Day offering because Epworth does not receive funding/apportionments through the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. Instead, the conference sets aside the second Sunday in September as a day to collect a offering for Epworth. Today I am asking you to give for a different reason.

I ask you to give generously because Epworth's ministry matters. It matters for children like Tywan. Tywan came to Epworth from a broken family system where he was the target of abuse. As a teenager he had few prospects to escape this destructive cycle, until he came to Epworth. Epworth surrounded him with a safe and caring environment that supported him and encouraged him to aim higher in his life. He went on to graduate high school with honors, earn a full academic scholarship to college, and just a few days ago, began his second year at Lander University.

His success story is not the only one. Again this year 100% of Epworth's high school seniors graduated and are continuing their education, either at college or through job-preparatory programs. Epworth funds their higher education endeavors as they work toward independence. Epworth is breaking the cycle of abuse, neglect and shame and replacing it with lives of self-respect, responsibility and productivity.

This is the kind of ministry we are providing by giving to Epworth. I ask you to prayerfully consider what God is calling you to share with the children of Epworth next Sunday.

Sunday, September 13th, 2015

Today we invest in the lives of the children who call Epworth home through our generous financial gifts. God has entrusted these children to us during their time at Epworth, and it is our call and responsibility to ensure they receive all the tools and care necessary to live lives of self-respect, responsibility and productivity.

I invite you to read about Alexis and Epworth's ministry on the back of the Work Day bulletin insert and consider the investment made each year into the lives of God's children. I challenge our church to exceed the average of \$6.00 per member giving goal set for the SC Conference. Remember that Epworth is not an apportioned item, special offerings like this are the number one way Epworth receives support. Let us all give generously today and provide for these children and their futures. Let the children at Epworth like Alexis know that there are Methodists all over our state who care for them! Thank you.

Video Introduction *(optional, videos at www.epworthchildrenshome.org or by calling Sherri Mims at 803-256-7394)*

Epworth Children's Home is a vital part of the ministry of this church and of the United Methodist Church in South Carolina. For most of us, we have never heard the actual voices of children who have suffered abuse and neglect. This morning we have the opportunity to hear the voice and see the smile of one of those children, who with the help of Epworth, has a transformed life and future. Let us take three minutes to listen to this story.