

John & Harriet

Wiebe

## *Their Story*

***John and Harriet Wiebe*** were passionate people. They were passionate about their family, community, country, business interests and many other things.

First and foremost, however, each had a lifelong passion for Jesus Christ. Each was brought to faith in Jesus through baptism. By His grace, they each remained faithful to Him and the message of forgiveness of sins and eternal life until the day the Lord welcomed them into heaven. For Harriet that day came in 2006 and for John in 2009.

During their lives, the Lord blessed John and Harriett with substantial business success. John's company was instrumental in the development of many commercial properties in their hometown of Omaha, Neb., and their business interests also extended to many parts of the globe. With that success came significant financial blessings for both the company and for the Wiebes.

The Wiebes shared much of that financial blessing with others through widespread charitable giving. Among their particular passions was the planting of new congregations, the expansion of outreach efforts within existing congregations, and ministries that brought love and care in the name of Christ to children.

One of the stories told by those who knew the Wiebes was that during the 1950s and 1960s, John, a licensed pilot, flew over Omaha to scope out possible locations for future congregations. He then worked with the mission board of the Nebraska District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) to help make these mission visions a reality.

At least five Omaha-area congregations trace their roots to John and Harriet's initiative. The Wiebes

would regularly become members of a newly planted congregation, help it get organized and established, and then move to another congregation to start the process anew.

"We stayed until the pews and the organ were in," remembers one of the Wiebe children. "Then it was off to someplace else to do it all over again!"

While they were extraordinarily generous during their lifetimes, the Wiebes also made arrangements to be generous after their deaths. Through their estate plan, the Wiebes made a significant gift to the LCMS Foundation, directing the Foundation to distribute funds according to its discretion for the advancement and benefit of the Lord's kingdom through ministries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The Wiebes chose the Foundation to serve as custodian for a portion of their charitable estate plan after the Lord called them home. The Foundation in turn established the John and Harriet Wiebe Mission Advancement Fund in 2009 and since that time has made a significant number of gifts to LCMS ministries as a result of the Wiebes' generosity.

Under the custodianship of the LCMS Foundation, the gift of John and Harriet Wiebe continues to have an immediate impact in the kingdom of God and will continue to do so until Christ comes again. The Foundation, established in 1958, exists to help individual Christians make the very best gifts to family and ministries of the church – providing blessings to others today, tomorrow, and forever.

For further information about how you or your congregation might further plan and direct your passion for giving, please contact the Foundation at 800-325-7912 or visit [lcmsfoundation.org](http://lcmsfoundation.org).