

**A Letter from John D. Armbrust, member of Peachtree Presbyterian Church,
Atlanta, Georgia, USA**



Dear Dr. Victor D. Pentz,

I've met you once at church, but seeing as there are about 10,000 members, I'm certain you don't remember me!

Anyway, my name is John Armbrust and I graduated from Duke in 2004 and have been teaching in Atlanta the past 3 years through a program called Teach for America. During my time in Atlanta (I just moved to L.A. a few weeks ago), I attended Peachtree (and absolutely LOVED your sermons, by the way), and during the summer of 2005, I was one of seven teachers who went over to Lahore, Pakistan to help train teachers for the P.E.B. Well, this is where the story takes a strange twist...

I play poker as a hobby, and I was lucky enough to win a seat to the Main Event of the World Series of Poker (\$10,000 buy-in) last year for \$33. I missed out on winning lots of money last summer, but during my time out there, I wrote numerous Emails to friends and family, and they had the time of their lives watching me progress through the tourney, and they all "wanted to be a part of it again..."

So this summer, I sold "shares" of myself. Basically, for \$140, you could have 1% of whatever I won at the World Series of Poker's Main Event. Well, through a combination of good skill and good fortune, I finished in 18th out of 6,458 entrants...which was good for \$381,302!!! Crap! That's a lot of money for a teacher!! So the story gets even more interesting...

I believe in tithing, and I wanted to lead by example and find a good cause for my money, so I decided that I'd tithe my portion of the winnings (about \$108,000 after shares were paid out to my investors). So, without going into gushy, loving detail, there is no organization on the planet I'd rather support than the P.E.B., so I wrote an Email to my supporters telling them what I was doing with \$10,800 of my winnings...and within a few short weeks, not only were many people following suit, some people who didn't even win money through my poker win were sending me checks! Not only that, my initial Email got sent to Bilal Musharraf (the son of the President)...and who knows, it may have even been sent to President Musharraf! Well, the dust is finally starting to clear, and it barring any large final donations, I've now raised over \$40,000 for the P.E.B. in Pakistan. Not bad considering my teacher's salary last year was hardly any more than that! Oh, and of interest to you perhaps is that the donation will be going through Peachtree Presbyterian on the way to the P.E.B. Veeda explained to me that, for tax purposes, it was easier to go through a church here in the U.S.

Anyway, just thought you might find this story to be interesting, if nothing else.