



We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done . . . so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Psalm 78:4 and 6

Leader: We begin in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Leader: God is in His grace, wisdom, and mercy brings people of many nations to the United States seeking refuge and safety from the turmoil and persecution they have faced in their native lands at the hands of people who intend to harm them.

All: With Joseph in the Old Testament, we pray that these refugees from persecution will one day be able to say: *You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.* Genesis 50: 22-21

Leader: In inner-city Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, many refugees from Africa and Hmong people from Southeast Asia have begun making new lives. Often the families face extreme dysfunction because the fathers have been killed as part of civil war in many countries in Africa and the Hmong adults do not speak English. The children have become "parents", yet they are still in need of guidance themselves.

All: Dear Lord, raise up people to guide and nurture these children in both body and soul.

Leader: Even before we ask, God knows and answers our prayers. He has moved congregations in Minneapolis/St. Paul to develop specific ministries for these children and their families.

All: We praise You, O Lord God. You have not forgotten Your children, but have brought compassionate and willing servants to help them in the name of Jesus.

Leader: The funds granted in the 2007 LWML Convention will assist these 11 congregations to provide a variety of crucial services such as: Feeding the children one hot meal a day; teaching "English as a Second Language" classes to both parents and children; providing materials for Sunday School and Vacation Bible School; providing needed furniture and warm winter clothing - very needed in Minnesota by these African and Asian immigrants; paying for upkeep on a van used to transport children to and from religious classes; and much more.

All: Dear Jesus, as Matthew recorded in his Gospel, You once said "*I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure,*" (Matt. 11:25-26). And again you promised, "*And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.*" (Matt. 18:5), and You further commanded us, "*Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.*" (Matt. 19:14). You have shown us how important all children are to You, and often You provide the opportunity for their families to knowledge of You through the witness of these precious little ones. Please increase the mites we bring, give wisdom and success to those who work on the programs funded, and bless the children whose lives are touched, for their good, for the good of their families, and for Your glory. In Your Precious Name, we pray, Amen.