



Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are my God and Savior. Psalm 25:5a

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Living for the Next Generation

A young person I know commented one day that she was very sorry that she had not been exposed to the teaching of "creation" as well as "evolution" in her science classes at school. She felt that she somehow had been robbed of an opportunity to learn about Bible teachings as this is something that she had not learned from her parents, and she also shared of her sadness that many people of her generation also did not have a solid spiritual foundation. As Christian leaders, we have an opportunity to share our faith and life experiences with others, just as others have before us. The Bible gives examples of Elijah and Elisha, Elizabeth and Mary, Naomi and Ruth. Jesus, of course is the perfect Mentor.

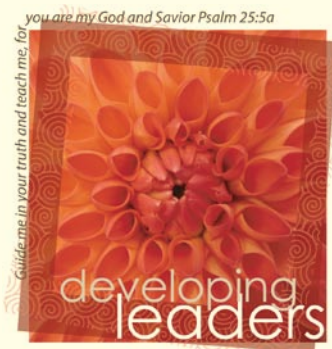
In the book MENTORING: The Strategy of the Master, Ron Davis gives the following definition of mentoring: "A

process of opening our lives to others, of sharing our lives with others; and a process of living for the next generation."

In Psalm 145:3-7, David writes of the importance of sharing the mighty deeds of our Lord with the next generation so they may also share with the next generation. And while it is impossible for us to be perfect mentors (Rom. 7:19-20), if we confess our sins, then we will find forgiveness from our loving Savior, Jesus, who sent the Holy Spirit to help us with whatever tasks the Lord has prepared for us.

So dear leaders, how will you mentor the young woman in your congregation, your co-worker of a different cultural and ethnic background, your neighbor who just lost her job? Pray for guidance as the Lord brings you opportunities to be mentors.

Barb Virus



Greetings from the LWML LD Committee

The 2007-2009 Leader Development Committee is ready to serve you! Amy Bartels of Osage Beach, Missouri, was a Young Woman Representative to the 2007 LWML Convention in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Cheryl Mattil of Sherman, Texas, served as Vice President of Christian Life in the Texas District LWML. Patti Ross of Tulsa, Oklahoma, recently completed her term as Oklahoma LWML District President. Kristy Carter of Springfield, Missouri, was also a Young Woman Representative to the 2007 LWML Convention in Sioux Falls. Chairman Barb Virus of Orange, California, is a past Pacific Southwest District President and served on the LWML Nominating Committee. Jesus is our TEAM Leader and we look to Him for guidance as we seek ways to encourage and support present and future leaders.



Time to Change?

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 3 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven... a time to tear down and a time to build...

The congregation I serve needs to tear down the building in which it worships. I know that sounds drastic, but the shifting soils in North Texas have taken their toll on an A-frame building that is now over 50 years old. Cracks in the foundation and the walls are past the point of repair, although we have made repeated efforts to do so in the last ten years. So now we have started the process of planning and funding in order to build a new facility in which this congregation can meet for worship and praise and fellowship and study and service. We hope to build something that can be used by many future generations as they rejoice in God's forgiveness and share that message with the people of this community. And you can be sure that we will pay close attention to make sure the foundation of this build-

ing will be one that will last a long time!

There is indeed a time for everything. Some things need to be torn down so that something new and of greater service for God's kingdom can take their place. You don't want to tear something down if it doesn't need to be torn down. But if it is time, do it!

There may be some attitudes and behaviors in your life that are counterproductive to the mission of sharing Jesus Christ in your sphere of influence. Those things need to be torn down.

After tearing down, you will want to build up. The proper way to build up yourself and others is by hearing the words of Jesus and putting them into practice. That is building on a rock solid foundation (Luke 6:47-48). If you are able to do that in your life, think of the example and witness you will provide to those around you.

*Rev. Michael Mattil,
LWML Junior Pastoral Counselor*

Leader Tip 2009-1

Mentoring Wisdom

✓ Pray for the Lord's guidance in mentoring relationships.

✓ Allow God to work through you. You are not the answer to someone else's problem. We do the planting and watering of the seed, but it is God who grows faith.

✓ When you make mistakes in mentoring relationships, ask for forgiveness and learn from your mistakes.

✓ Help plan or be involved in

intergenerational and multi-cultural activities where other women share their special skills

✓ Make an effort to meet new people. The person God chooses for you to have a mentoring relationship with may not be someone who is in your usual circle of friends.

*From Woman to Woman Mentoring.
Lutheran Women's Missionary League
HOPE Committee, 2001*

LWML Convention 2009

LOOK! Look at the year! It is time to plan to attend the LWML 33rd biennial convention, June 25-28, 2009, in Portland, Oregon, where you can gather with your LWML sisters and *Look to the Hills...God Reigns*. Come join this activity-filled and action-packed weekend, complete with worship, Bible study and fellowship with other sisters and brothers in Christ.

Registration opens March 2. Registration information is now available in the winter issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* and at www.lwml.org. Take "A Closer Look" at the Saturday luncheons listed in the registration information. These luncheons give attendees an opportunity to look into the lives and work of our convention speakers. Luncheon topics include:

- **Heidi Floyd** – God Reigns... when breast cancer strikes
- **Dr. Mary Hilgendorf** – God Reigns ... with Biblical women of influence
- **LCMS President Jerry &**



Terry Kieschnick – God Reigns ... in our church body

- **Ruth Koch** – God Reigns ... in my grief

- **Missionaries Michelle Hoepfner and Danelle Putnam** – God Reigns ... in the mission field

- **Jan Struck** – God Reigns ... in my life story

Look for more information about Camp Hood (child/youth care), Servant Connections (servant activities), Gifts from the Heart (ingathering), and "Mission in Motion" (pledge walk/exercise) at www.lwml.org and sign up for LWML e-News to receive the latest news about convention in your e-mail inbox.

Quotable

*I do, you watch. I do, you help.
You do, I help. You do, I watch.*

From www.Crosswalk.com



Product Promotion

Woman-to-Woman Mentoring #11601 is a practical resource that can be used as a one-day retreat or in a series of gatherings to help women learn the art of helping one another. Contains opening and closing devotions, ice-breaker, Bible studies and a sketch.

Taking a Risk

To lead means we are out of our comfort zone, that we lead from the front, that we take risks, aware that Christ's hand hold ours and goes before us. For our organization it means we go first, we push to the edge, we take the risk.

What percentage of your time do you spend out in the front? What percentage of your time is spent outside your comfort zone. If it's less than 10 percent, you need to take action as soon as possible!

Leadership is not a matter of position. We are not leading when we begin to rely on our position as "leader." We must never forget that leadership is a choice. The moment we articulate a vision and take responsibility for achieving it ... leadership begins.

Help Fellow Leaders

Do you have an idea or leader tip to share? Has your district or zone presented a successful leadership event? Share the details with the LWML Leader Development Committee for a possible future *The Team Leader* article. Send your ideas to Barb Virus at bvirus@juno.com.