

A Story to Tell: *The Legacy of Louise Mueller*

By Janice Kerper Brauer

“If the LWML doesn’t publish the stories of missionary women, who will?” Louise asked.

Louise Mueller had a passion and a dream. Her passion was that the contributions made by Lutheran women to further God’s kingdom would be remembered. Her dream was that the LWML would play a part in making sure that happened.

With Louise as the driving force, the LWML published three books highlighting the lives of LCMS missionary women: *A Rainbow of Saris* (1996), *One Cup of Water* (1997), and *Dreams Dawn in Africa* (1999). Louise wrote many of the missionary accounts herself, while also conducting research, scouring maps and diaries, and encouraging other authors. All told, the books provide a permanent history of more than 30 women missionaries in India, China, and Nigeria.

As editor-in-chief of the *Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly* from 1981–1987, Louise opened a forum for women to share their stories of faith. During the 1980s, Louise also served on LCMS President’s Commission on Women, which produced a Bible study called, *The Therefore Woman*. The study addressed contemporary issues facing women and defined a “therefore” woman as one who has experienced the love of God, been redeemed by the blood of Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, and **therefore**, lives for Him. That describes Louise exactly.



Louise Mueller, 1920 – 2008

Louise also was an encourager who knew the power of God’s Word to strengthen women. With that in mind, she collected and edited a devotional booklet, *Golden Nuggets from God’s Word*, with meditations based on the fruit of the Spirit and godly virtues such as mercy and hope. The booklet was published in 1991 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the LWML. Louise also wrote many Bible studies for the *Quarterly*. In the most recent, “Total Trust” (Fall 2002), Louise shared numerous Scripture verses that encourage us to place our total trust in the Lord Jesus.

Many LWML sisters in Christ remember Louise as a kind friend, supportive mentor, gifted writer, efficient office manager, and gracious hostess. Standing less than five feet tall, she was nevertheless a giant in service to her Lord and the LWML. Her legacy is twofold: the lives she touched as she served the Lord with gladness and the stories she told about the spread of the Gospel.

If you would like to help continue the telling of the Gospel story, consider a gift to the LWML Endowment Fund in memory of Louise Mueller.