



## A Mission Blast From the Past!

*Dateline 1959:* "The Mission Mites, a group of girls ages 7-12 organized by the LWML of St. Paul's, Elmira, Ontario, meet every two weeks to learn about missions and bring contributions to purchase wool, which members of the LWML knit into mittens. Twenty-four pair were sent to Missionary Maynard Dorow in Korea."

## Our Readers Ask...

### Teen Talk

**Q:** *I started attending confirmation class this fall, and I actually look forward to going. Mom and Dad are helping me with my memory work, and I guess I'm their teacher as I remind them of all the things they learned in confirmation when they were my age. My pastor tells me that when I get confirmed, I will answer the questions for myself that my Baptism sponsors answered for me when I was young. I know that my sponsors agreed to pray for me, and I would especially like them to pray for me now as I learn more about the teachings of our church. How do I ask for this?*

**A:** Write a letter, send an e-mail, or make a phone call. Just ask. Many times sponsors are not sure how to be involved in their god-child's confirmation education. The simple act of asking will not only give you a person to pray for you, it will also open a door for more talks and opportunities for you to share your faith.

[For a sample letter, go to [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) and follow the links to the teen page.]

**Q:** *My friends are talking about accepting Jesus and committing to Christ. I know that the Holy Spirit is the one who plants faith in our hearts and calls us to Christ. How do I share this information without hurting my friendship?*

**A:** That is a tough one! Perhaps the words "has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and kept me in the one true faith" sound familiar. They are found in the meaning to The Third Article. Luther's Small Catechism has the answers and Scripture passages to back them up. Perhaps you can say something like this to your friends: "I'm so glad the Holy Spirit has given me faith in Christ. I know that if it was up to me, I would be running from God and trying to do things my own way." Keep these verses in mind:

*He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:6).*

*You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9).*



*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last (John 15:16).* Teens from Oklahoma celebrated a specially-designed just-for-teens convention starting with their own ice-breaker following the Oklahoma District LWML Friday night "Fruit That Will Last" worship service. Teens spent Saturday engaged in a host of activities and loved being together as friends into serving Him!

## Topic: Decisions

**Bible Verse:** *You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore (Psalm 16: 11 ESV).*

Decisions, decisions, decisions: which classes to take, which college to attend ... oh, let's face it ... what to wear, where to go on Friday nights, and do I really want to be on the basketball team again this year? There are so many decisions to make. Some may seem so simple, but others can be so difficult.

Take a look at David's praise of the Lord — Psalm 16 — to gain some help in making decisions: *You make known to me the path of life.* Through daily prayer and reading His Word, God lets us know what to do in our lives as we seek Him. Reading the Psalms and Proverbs, as well as rereading the favorite Bible stories we learned

in Sunday School as children, are good places to start.

David continues to share that *in your [God's] presence is fullness of joy.* When we make decisions following the counsel of God's Word, we also have the joy in knowing we have God's guidance in our decision.

So when you have a decision to make, seek God's Word, pray, and relax with joy that we have a Friend, a God who does make the paths of our lives known. Rely on the Lord and enjoy the fullness of His blessings.

**Prayer:** Friend and Savior, Jesus, be with us in our decisions, both the big life-changing decisions and the little ones that may only seem big at the time. May we know Your will for our lives and the fullness of the joy that comes from following You through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. May our decisions give glory only to You. In Your Name. Amen.