



Mission News

An Answer to Prayer

Sherri Smith [photo right], District President of Northern Illinois LWML, shares that in addition to praying, “sometimes God gives us the opportunity to be an *answer* to prayer.” When Sherrie heard about the flood victims in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, she and others in her district prayed for the people and then actually traveled to that city to help muck out houses filled with mud. She likened that mission service event to LWML women who make and distribute quilts, visit at nursing homes, and fund grants to translate Bibles into many languages, and pray for those in need. She asks, “Which prayer is God asking *you* to be an answer to?”



Your Mites are Appreciated!

An LCMS missionary [name withheld for security reasons] to the Muslim Maninka women of Guinea, West Africa, wrote to express appreciation for grant monies received from LWML. The missionary shared that “the Lord has already opened doors for faith conversations with some of my dear friends; I ask for your regular and specific prayers for these women. Pray that they would see the life of Jesus and be drawn to His amazing love. Pray also for me, that God would grant me His wisdom and boldness as I share my faith through actions and words.”



Teenagers Baptized in Kyrgyzstan

Kathy Schweer and other members from Redeemer Lutheran Church, Iowa City, Iowa, traveled to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, last fall on a two-week mission trip. They assisted LCMS missionaries Bob and Sue Pfeil by leading Bible classes on marriage and family, presenting a women’s retreat on “The Fruit of the Spirit,” and assisting in eyeglass clinics. They led devotions at house churches and conducted staff Bible studies at several orphanages, where they also were privileged to teach crafts to the children. Kathy reports that they were able to “witness the baptism of two teen-age girls at one of the orphanages. God has not forgotten the people of Kyrgyzstan and is blessing the work of the leaders and members of His church.”



Reaching Out in Cambodia

LWML women from Michigan who traveled to Sihanoukville, Cambodia, were heartened to see the strength of the Christian Church while they served in that country on a mission trip last fall. They hosted six days of eyeglass clinics, serving over a thousand people with nearly fifteen hundred pair of glasses. Working with Concordia Welfare and Education Foundation and the Cambodian Red Cross, doors were opened for the two entities to participate in other joint ventures. Sandy Hardies shares that the group “recognized the love the Christians showed to one another. All of our translators were Christians, and they were proud to have their mentors come through the clinic. It was very uplifting to see how they encouraged one another in the faith.”



LWML News Makers

One of America’s “Favorite Moms”

Nora Leon [photo right], an independent missionary in Haiti and a member of Holy Cross in Jenison, Michigan, cares for orphans at the Children of Israel Orphanage in Les Cayes. For her selfless work there, she became a finalist in a contest held by NBC television last year. A video clip of Nora’s work was shown on the Today show and on the primetime television show, America’s Favorite Mom. LWML societies and several LCMS churches sponsor her work. Nora says in her blog that the \$25,000 cash prize “will go a long way in helping with some of the many projects” that are planned for the orphanage.



Witness in the Public Square

“When you say ‘mission’ in the LCMS, the next word that comes to mind is the LWML: unstoppable and completely dedicated to mission,” stated Rev. Dr. David Benke as he introduced past LWML President Linda Reiser [photo top of next page], of Grand Island,



Nebraska, recipient of the Witness in the Public Square Award at ceremonies in New York City last fall. Linda thanked two of her mentors present at the event (past recipients **Betty Duda** and **Gloria Edwards**) and shared that “Lutheran women in mission make a difference in the lives of people by bringing Jesus to people.”



Actual “LWML Sisters”

We all are sisters in Christ in the LWML, but four women

from Kansas are “blood sisters” too. Pictured together at a **Kansas District** LCMS retreat in **Wichita** in July 2008, are **Elaine Saffels** from Topeka; **Lois Llewellyn**, Lawrence; **Doris Coen-Sloup**, Hutchinson; and **Naomi Nibbelink**, Topeka.

Is your district/zone/society at a “fork in the road”? One fork leads to doing the same things we’ve always done; the other fork leads to excitement and freshness! Which “fork” might invigorate your group and perhaps involve more women? Here are a few ideas to consider:

District Jump-Starts

Iowa West: District Prayer Retreat

“A barn-full of LWML missionaries” is how **Marilyn Schroeder**, District President of **Iowa District West**, described their Fall 2008 district prayer retreat held on the farm at **Mission Central** in **Mapleton, Iowa**. Over 225 signed up to participate in this event, with some being turned away for lack of space. Attendees enjoyed prayer time, devotions, Bible studies, and writing in their prayer journals. A special guest was Mr. Jeff Craig-Meyer, the department head of World Mission Support Unit from St. Louis. Referring to the LWML’s strong mission emphasis, he commented “you can just feel the electricity in this barn with all of these ladies that really ‘get it!’”



South Wisconsin: MMV Consultants at Work

Two new societies recently formed in the **South Wisconsin District** after visits from a Mission-Ministry Vision (MMV) Consultant. **Joy Ikanih** and **Esther Bauers** from **Bethany** in **Milwaukee**, and **Trish Regula** of **St. Paul’s** in **Union Grove**, invited MMV consultants to help them organize. Trish commented, “The consultant’s visit was very productive and inspiring. My mind is full of so many ideas that she touched upon. I look forward to another visit in the future.” [Note: If you would like help to form a new society or rejuvenate your current one, contact your district president for a list of MMV consultants in your district.]



Oklahoma: Field Reporters

Wanting to open up communication and build bridges between the zones and the district, **Bev England**, District President of the **Oklahoma LWML**, appointed several field reporters. These women are pro-active in obtaining news of zone and society activities that are, in turn, shared with the women of the district. Bev relates that “it has also opened doors for me to talk personally with many of our society presidents when concerns arise and to then address the challenges, providing resources as may be applicable.”

Northern Illinois: Intergenerational Day

The **Northern Illinois District** LWML’s Human Care personnel and their Friends Into Serving Him® teen committee collaborated to celebrate an Intergenerational Day. Eighty-six volunteers of all ages were involved with Bible study, worship, fellowship, and an opportunity to serve by assembling meal packets for hungry children around the world through Feed My Starving Children. **Carol Fuys**, one of the event’s organizers, reported that “over 13,000 meals were bagged, which will feed 37 children for one year.” LWML members were encouraged to bring non-LWML and non-LCMS friends to serve together on this project.

Zones at Work

Caring for Our Troops

An ingathering of care kit items for troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan was sponsored by **Effingham/Shelby Zone** of **Central Illinois District**. Zone president **Nancy Stremming**



reports that the women “responded with more items than we ever imagined.” Snacks, personal items, magazines, socks, games, books, and *Portals of Prayer* booklets were packed into special-rate Priority Mail APO/FPO boxes available from the U.S. Postal Service. Local businesses assisted by donating a portion of the postage to mail the 55 packages.



Ernst. The warmth of Jesus’ love is represented by all who receive them, including clients of the area’s Department of Human Services. They’re also given out at the Lutheran Laymen’s League booth at the county fair and to children who are experiencing stress due to family tragedies.

Hats Off!

Fashionable hats were worn by women who attended the annual ladies’ luncheon on LWML Sunday at **St. John in Darien, Illinois.**



Tables were decorated with tiny hats made from foam cups, and vintage hats were displayed on pedestal cake plates. Guest speaker **Wilma Rupprecht**, on furlough from **Nigeria** where she works as a Bible translator, donned a feathery Kentucky Derby hat that matched her African-print dress.

LWML Sunday Mission Fair

Eight weeks of mission emphasis at **Concordia Lutheran Church in Berwyn, Illinois,**

culminated in a mission fair sponsored by the LWML last fall. Under the LWML Sunday theme, “Opened Eyes... Hearts Ablaze!,”



displays included LCMS World Mission, MOST Ministries, and other mission organizations. Servant events were held, and the Sunday School was involved through special mission-themed lessons as well as enjoying a visit from a Comfort Dog, trained by Lutheran Church Charities for disaster response. As one of the LWML members said, “We have been blessed to be a blessing to others. Through prayer, financial support, human care and service, we are all missionaries extending the kingdom of God.”



“Taste and See ...”

“Taste and see that the Lord is good!” (Psalm 34:8) was the theme of the Spring Joyshop in the **Blue Mountain Zone, Oregon.** Activities included a Bible study on the topic of trust. Zone president **Linda Einspahr** shared that “the women enjoyed an afternoon of making chocolates and thank you cards at the Chocolate Boutique.”

Society Sampler

Got It Covered!

Orange fleece blankets with the words “Jesus Loves Me” in English and Spanish were created and knotted by the Triple Parish churches of **St. Luke, Ricketts, Immanuel, and St. Paul** in



Charter Oak, Iowa. “The blankets serve as an amazing witness to residents, staff, and visitors at nursing homes,” reports **Vivian**

News! News! News!

Call for news items: Fall 2009 LWQ

“The Balancing Act — Understanding Who I Am” is the theme for the Fall 2009 *Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly*. Who am I? *Whose* am I? Am I doing too much or not enough? How do I balance family, work, volunteer commitments, personal care, health, and spiritual growth? Is it OK, and even necessary at times, to say “No”? How do

I handle stress? What returns my life to balance when it’s out of control?

NEWS! NEWS! Please send news of unique, meaningful events and experiences of your society, zone, and district, including pictures (electronic preferred, prints accepted). Be sure to include your name, address, phone and e-mail address. Send to News Editor Carolyn Blum at newseditor@lwml.org or to 911 Tara Hill East, Hartford, WI 53027 by March 15, 2009.

