

"Full Bow" Courage ... Sounds Good!

btw...

By Stephanie Kardia

I could tell as I watched her during the orchestra practice. My daughter wasn't using her whole bow. She was playing her violin timidly, without passion. On the quiet ride home I asked what was wrong. She sighed, then began to talk.

She had overheard a conversation between the violinists who were sitting behind her, during which a girl had asserted that the only reason the section sounded good was because five of the violinists were from a particular ethnic background that is not shared by my daughter. "She says stuff like that all the time," said my daughter. "Someone should say something to her."

"Yes, someone should," I answered. "Maybe you could say something." I told my daughter she would have to be ready to risk the anger of the girl if she said something to her about her prejudiced remarks.

"What good would it do?" asked my daughter. I answered it would have some effect but wouldn't have nearly the same impact that a rebuke from someone from her own ethnic friends would have. "You know her friends probably aren't prejudiced and probably don't agree with her." I said. "Yeah," said my daughter, "They're just afraid to say anything."

We aren't always afraid to say something. In the 1950s, LWML President Lillian Preisinger wasn't afraid to cancel the national convention slated for New Orleans when she was told that the conven-



tion hotel was segregated, thereby prohibiting black women from staying in the same hotel as white women. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod publicly condemns racism and abortion and advocates protection and sheltering of immigrants. We aren't always afraid to risk the anger of others and speak for those who do not have a voice.

If we can bravely speak against such wrongs, how much easier is it for us to proclaim the love of Jesus!

The fact that we are God's children and are proclaiming the Good News is the reason we sound so good. We know God's Word is eager to be heard in a world that is hungry for a better word: the truth spoken in love. We know others are waiting for someone courageous enough to brave the potential ridicule and clearly proclaim the words which will, through the Spirit, immediately ring true: *For God so loved the world he gave his one and only Son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life* (John 3:16). That is music to a world filled with fear.

Use your whole bow, daughter and sister, and play it out!

btw... btw is the acronym for "by the Way (Jesus)." It sets the tone for the current issue.