

News Update!

From the cover of the *Quarterly* to the halls of the United Nations

Cynthia Khan, Director of Women's Ministries for POBLO (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach), was recently asked to become a permanent member and consultant on Asian affairs for the Commission on the Status of Women, an RSO of the United Nations.

The opportunity began when Cynthia was asked by a friend to replace her as the representative of a U.N.-registered nonprofit service organization at the winter meeting of the Commission. But it was only when the head of that organization, a gentleman from a Lutheran church in Chicago, read the cover story about Cynthia in the Spring 2009 *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, that he decided she definitely needed to attend.

"There were women from all over the world," reports Cynthia, "and the delegation from Pakistan was very happy to meet me. A lot of opportunities for ministry were opened. I met Christian women from Africa, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and Malaysia who are doing the same outreach work that I do — offering social services and human care. It's amazing how God could use the article from the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* and take the ministry to an unlimited extent! I don't know where it will go from here."

Praise be to God for working through the *Quarterly* to place Cynthia in a position where she can share her Christian faith with so many.



It Just So Happened ...

It *just so happened* that Elaine Stier heard my talk about charitable planning at the Minnesota North LWML convention, and it *just so happened* that I was at my booth when she walked by, and it *just so happened* that she wanted to learn more, and it *just so happened* that

her husband, Pastor Don Stier, was nearby, and it *just so happened* that she pulled him in to hear more — all of which ultimately led to a charitable plan that serves them with income (and their children later on) plus some handsome gifts for LWML.

A lot of coincidences? Hardly! "The Lord had His hand in all this!" Pastor Stier reflected with a warm smile.

After that initial meeting at the district convention in Duluth, we met several times at their home in Hinckley, Minnesota, so they could learn more about the benefits of charitable planning based on their own circumstances.

Eventually, our meetings led to their decision to fund a charitable trust with land that Pastor Don had inherited from his father. This provided a number of blessings for them: lifelong income from the trust for both, income for their children after Pastor Don and Elaine are called to their heavenly homes, a direct gift for LWML, a handsome charitable income tax deduction, and the elimination of a capital gains tax. It also removed the need for the eventual probate process in another state.

"We're very happy that we decided to go this route," Elaine commented. "It has relieved us of selling and all the maintenance that goes with real estate. This has been a great way to multiply a talent that the Lord blessed us with. It was a big step to take, but we're glad that we moved forward."

For more information about charitable trusts funded with appreciated farmland, stock or depreciated farm equipment (for retiring farmers), please do not hesitate to contact me at 1-888-482-8425 or e-mail bilowp@oh.lcms.org. I'll be very glad to answer all your questions.

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By Pat Bilow