

Relationships Enhance Witnessing

Witnessing to the Critically Ill

As an extension of a trip to Nagercoil, India, with LCMS World Mission to teach spoken English to Concordia Seminary students, **Apryl Brand**, a Parish Nurse from



Yuma, Arizona, traveled to **Ambur** where she assisted at **Bethesda Lutheran Hospital**. While making her rounds with the chaplain, Apryl had many opportunities to develop relationships and to witness to critically ill patients, many of them Muslim and Hindu, with a Bible reading, a prayer, and a word of encouragement.

One family, whose newborn child was in the neo-natal intensive care unit, felt so close to Apryl after she shared the Gospel message with them that they asked her to name the child. This Hindu family was referred to a local **India Evangelical Lutheran Church** (a partner church of the LCMS) congregation so that all three of their children could be baptized.

Apryl shares, "I thank the Lord for calling me to serve on the mission field in India!"

Witnessing to International Students

Bethel Larsen was the Coordinator for **International Student Ministries** at Ferris State University in **Big Rapids, Michigan**, when she met Ye in 2001. Ye, a non-Christian, had come from China with her student-husband and was expecting their first child. Bethel held a baby shower for her, for which Ye was very grateful. They kept in touch after Ye and her family moved to Missouri.

The women met for dinner three years later and their relationship was rekindled. Ye wanted to join a church, and

Bethel was able to share how Jesus restored our broken relationship with God. Bethel reports, "I'm not sure whether Ye found a church, as they moved once again, but a friendship that began with a shower resulted in an opportunity to tell her of the cleansing shower of Jesus' blood."

Witnessing to the Navajo Nation

Twelve members of the **Pacific Southwest District LWML** not only assisted with the daytime summer school program and VBS at the **Navajo Lutheran Mission School in Rock Point, Arizona**, (teaching first aid, music, exercise, and math games plus VBS activities to 75



youth) but also taught crocheting and quilting to adults in the evening. Because the school's faculty and staff straddle Navajo and Lutheran doctrines, with 75% of the students being non-Lutheran, the team was delighted to foster relationships with the seven adults who stayed after class to participate in Bible study.

At the end of the week-long event, "Jesus, a Gift for Everyone," students were given gifts from the heart including health items and sewing kits. Team members rode home on the school buses with the students that afternoon and met their families.

Team member **JoAnn Bradley** commented, "What a blessing for the entire mission team to be able to share the love of Jesus with our Navajo friends. It was a wonderful challenge and an immense pleasure to step out of our comfort zones and follow Jesus' great commission."

Witnessing with LWML Materials in Panama

Spanish-language Bible studies from the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* were used by **Judith Peterson** from **Word of Life, Naperville, Illinois**, when she and three other pastors' wives spent ten days on a mission trip to

Panama to facilitate women's Bible studies in three congregations. Judith and the team referred the Panamanian women to the LWML Web site, www.lwml.org, as a source for materials when they plan future events in their congregations.

Judith reported, "The women loved the Bible studies!"

