



Impressions

summer 2010

Impressions is a tool to encourage Young Woman Representatives of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League after their convention experience as they serve in their home districts. It can be used as an instrument to educate and inform other young women about LWML.

GREETINGS FROM THE TASK FORCE

Greetings from the YWR Task Force! Spring just snuck up on me and flew right by. It is one of my favorite times of the year and I feel like I missed it this year. Now the summer season is nearly upon us. Many district conventions have already been held and other district conventions are right around the corner. In my district, we had a busy time with our spring Young Woman, Young at Heart Retreat put on by our Young Woman Committee in the district. What is going on with your Young Woman Committee in your district? Do you have one? Who is your Young Woman Coordinator? I encourage you to find this out and maybe even get involved. As young women in this organization, we have a responsibility to share the vision and the mission of this wonderful organization. Remember, we want to hear how you are accomplishing this. Please share your story with us and other women across the country. Send us your stories and news about what is happening with young women in your district. We can't wait to hear about what is happening at each of your conventions as well. Please send your story to amhartman@charter.net. I will be sure to read each one and contact you if I need more details. Don't forget to take time to relax and enjoy this beautiful season and all that He has blessed us with. Have a great summer!

Anne M. Hartman
Chairman, YWR Task Force

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

This is an even number year. Do you know what that means!? It is a year for district LWML conventions!! Have you had your district convention yet? If you did, we hope that you had the opportunity to go. If your district convention has not been held yet, make plans to attend! Feel the love of many sisters in Christ. Share the excitement as grants are selected for the 2010-2012 biennium! Continue your walk with the Lord as you Serve Him with Gladness. Attend your district convention this spring, summer, or fall, whenever it may be! Follow the link to your district's web site from the "links" tab on the left of the LWML homepage www.lwml.org, click on "Contact Us", look for your district, and put the date of your district convention on your calendar today!

FROM THE HEART OF A YWR

I started going to LWML because my mother went, and so did my grandmother. I thought that was what you were to do after you grew up and moved out. The first year I was not very active, but then the next year I was encouraged to help with the devotions (by a lady who was just starting out as well and is now our zone president). The ladies in my Virginia Beach society were so encouraged and excited at my participation that they asked me to be the zone YWR. I enthusiastically volunteered and I thought, "How hard could a weekend at a hotel be?" I had so much fun that when our local board elections came up in the spring I volunteered to be the vice president. I was then chosen to be one of the YWR's for the district to go to the LWML Convention in Portland. Wow! Another weekend at a hotel, "Of course I can go" was my thought. The convention brought a whole new aspect of LWML alive for me. The opportunity to be down on the floor with our district president, meeting the national board members, and seeing the inside workings of the LWML was awesome. I got the experience of helping pick a mission grant and how hard that truly was. From the floor I saw the Lord in action through so many representatives. Meeting and connecting with other YWR's from around the country was truly amazing. It's encouraging to find people in your walk of life out there sharing the same beliefs and love for the Lord. Finding and connecting with some mentors at the convention was a blessing that will be useful as I continue to be involved in LWML in the years to come. Knowing that the Lord has lit a fire in so many of those women to serve Him whole heartedly and work so hard for His glory was inspiring. I now look at my jobs in LWML more as a ministry and mission than just a fun thing to do. It is still by all means but oh so much more! I am now the vice president of my society and the YWR Chairman for my district and enjoying the challenge and fun serving my Lord and fellow sisters in Christ. I now know why my mother and grandmother did so much in the LWML and keep on doing it today.

Lori Bahn,
Chesapeake District

DID YOU KNOW?

The mite calendar is a great tool to aid in your mite giving. Each month there is a new “Mission Grant Story” as well as a “Prayer Guide for LWML Mission Grants” under the “Missions” tab on the home page. This prayer guide will also encourage you to put a certain amount into your mite box for different occasions. Feel free to print these calendars and hand them out to others in your congregation or post them on your bulletin board at church!

PROMOTIONAL ITEM

The LWML Store now has a new size mite box for sale! These mite boxes are smaller than the large mite box but bigger than the small personal size mite boxes. They are just perfect for use in your church, to fill up at home, or give one to your LCMS District President to put in the district office! Please see page 8 in the LWML Catalog or visit the LWML store online for this product and other products related to mites.

LETTER FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF GOSPEL OUTREACH

We first experienced the power of the Mite box women of the LWML in the 1970s when my husband and I were on the mission field in Guatemala. We focused a lot of our attention and ministry on children as we built schools, a community center, and organized Sunday schools, vacation Bible schools, and a youth group.

We received a national LWML grant for \$50,000 to be used for well-baby clinics. The need was great because in Guatemala only 1 in 5 children who were born lived to the age of 5 years old. God laid on our hearts the need to improve those statistics by teaching mothers how to improve their family's nutrition. We impressed on them how important it was to have their children vaccinated against childhood diseases, and we provided the vaccines. With the aid of an American Pediatrician and a British Midwife we were able to train paramedics and midwives to serve in remote villages where doctors were not to be found.

That program lasted for more than 8 years; thousands of lives were saved, and the effects are still being felt today. God provided many opportunities for us to share the news of the Great Physician, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, with many families.

We saw the LWML at work throughout Central America as other missionaries shared with us what the LWML was helping them do in their areas. I told my husband that if we ever returned to

the U.S., I was definitely going to get involved with the LWML. I can truly say that without the LWML much of what we did in Guatemala probably never would have happened. What a joy it is to see adults who are products of those well-baby clinics, and now serve the Lord as pastors, teachers, and leaders in their congregations. Through this grant they not only became physically healthy, but they also grew spiritually.

As the LWML Vice President of Gospel Outreach, I now have the great pleasure of being the person who sends the checks to the Mission Grant recipients. It gives me such joy because I know how happy they will be when they receive these funds.

Do you know of a project or special need in your area? I urge you to go to www.lwml.org and click on Mission Grants. There you will find all of the information you need to submit a grant proposal.

Yes, and those mites that you give continue to do wonderful things. Through God's power the LWML continues to be a force for extending His love. What a privilege we have to be able to participate in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world by supporting LWML mission grants!

Marilyn McClure

LWML Vice President of Gospel Outreach

DEVOTION

“As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. “I tell you the truth,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.” Luke 21 v1-4

The mite box is based on this biblical account of the widow's mite. The mites that we put into our boxes join with other mites all around the nation and add up to millions of dollars that are used to fund district and national mission grants. We give these mites from our heart to help wherever the Lord has planned. Please consider feeding your mite box today and give thanks to the Lord for all the gifts that He has given you.

Dear Lord, thank you for all of the gifts that you have blessed us with. Please bless the mites that are given to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and the missions that they support.

We pray that your Word reaches those who have not heard it and that your Holy Spirit brings them to faith as well as those that have heard Your Word and choose to ignore it. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

