

IMPRESSIONS

January 2009

Impressions is a tool to encourage Young Woman Representatives 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 LD Committee

The 2007-2009 Leader Development Committee is ready to serve you! Amy Bartels of Osage Beach, Missouri, was a Young Woman Representative to the 2007 LWML Convention in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Cheryl Mattil of Sherman, Texas, served as Vice President of Christian Life in the Texas District LWML. Patti Ross of Tulsa, Oklahoma, recently completed her term as Oklahoma LWML District President. Kristy Carter of Springfield, Missouri, was also a Young Woman Representative to the 2007 LWML Convention in Sioux Falls. Chairman Barb Virus of Orange, California, is a past Pacific Southwest District President and served on the LWML Nominating Committee. Jesus is our TEAM Leader and we look to Him for guidance as we seek ways to encourage and support present and future leaders.

We want to hear from you!

The Leader Development Committee takes great care to be sure we are giving you information that you need and want about the LWML. Please tell us how we are doing with this newsletter. We would love to hear how you are using *Impressions* to share with other young women in your congregations and zones. Please e-mail us at sabartels@sbcglobal.net and let us know what you think. We can't wait to hear from you!

From the Heart of a YWR

Whenever I'm asked to name a person who has been influential in my life, I always struggle to name just one. There have been so many people who have touched my life, beginning with my parents. Thinking back over the years, my elementary school music teacher and a particular church camp counselor really made an impact on me. I also think of the parents of certain friends, as well as various others that have come and gone in my life. One theme seems to run strong in all of these people: their love for Christ and their willingness to exemplify that in their own lives.

Over the past two years, the LWML has come to mean so very much in my life. I have found a whole new set of influential mentors at my fingertips. I have become more comfortable in my "Christian skin" and am able to talk about my faith in a way that I haven't done since I was in grade school. I am so proud of this organization and the women involved in it that I want to be sure to pass on that excitement to the

next generation.

As a former YWR, I have decided that I will begin to pray for and look for my own mentee. For each YWR, there has been a mentor. Whether silent or vocal, there is a woman out who thought enough of you to nominate you for this special position. By merely suggesting that she thought you were a good candidate for the YWR spot, she placed you in a group of women that God has chosen to lead this organization into the next generation. What an awesome honor! We must not forget our responsibility to uphold the years of hard work and service from the women that came before us.

Therefore, I challenge each of you to pray and ask God to reveal to you your successor. Who is the woman that needs your mentoring? Who is the one that will follow in your footsteps?

Amy Bartels
Osage Beach, MO

Did you know?

LWML conventions are held (convened) every 2 years in the odd years to conduct the business of the organization. This business is carried out in an organized, structured way. To some it may seem dull but to none should it seem unimportant. The Board of Directors, the Executive Committee and various other committees meet between conventions to carry out the programs and business adopted by delegates at the conventions. These delegates are chosen by their congregations and

zones to represent them. They are certified and then seated on the convention floor by districts along with one district pastoral counselor and up to 2 Young Women Representatives. Delegates receive the matters scheduled to be voted on such as bylaw amendments, mission grants and officer candidates prior to coming to convention and are urged to study them and prayerfully consider how they should vote. They then attend a delegate orientation upon arrival at convention. Remember your delegates with prayer.

Patti Ross

A Message from ... the VP of Servant Resources

Help Someone Get a Good Look at Jesus

The Epiphany season gives us the opportunity to look at the Father's Christmas gift to us from several perspectives. It is a time when we celebrate God's "Show 'n' Tell" of His great present to our earth. We see Jesus at His baptism, as He calls His disciples and as He performs miracles. We see Him present His message to all people – not just a chosen few.

One of my favorite stories that allows me to watch Him present His message is the story of Zacchaeus. I love the story because it presents Jesus' earthly ministry in such a *concentrated* form. Remember that "wee little man" with a not-so-innocent past? Read about it in Luke 19:1-10. Wealthy by means of questionable gain, lost in a world of materialism, dejected by society around him because he is a tax collector, Zacchaeus learns that Jesus is coming his way and he climbs a sycamore-fig tree to get a glimpse of The Man. And The Man who has come to seek and to save the lost looks up and invites Zacchaeus to come down and host Jesus in his home. That day Jesus places on this wayward Son of Abraham the full measure of God's grace. Salvation came to Zacchaeus that day!

Zacchaeus was a man who had been missing something. Maybe he was just curious; maybe he just wanted to know who this Jesus was. Maybe he had heard about Jesus -- perhaps how he had healed all manner of hurts -- maybe Zacchaeus had a hurt or emptiness. Zacchaeus was a persistent man, a determined man. He knew he wanted to see Jesus

and he was not willing to let this opportunity go by. Zacchaeus found a tree that he could climb and he used that tree to accomplish his goal.

Zacchaeus had several admirable characteristics going for him:

- He knew where to look for a cure -- he looked to Jesus. You and I know that life is pretty meaningless if we just live everyday with our own interests in mind. Our Spirit-given faith directs our eyes to Jesus for a cure.

- When seeing Jesus became a difficult thing, his creativity went to work and found a solution to overcome the difficulty.

- He didn't give up.

The story doesn't end when Zacchaeus finds Jesus. Now Zacchaeus has a job to do: to find others who are looking and to help them see Jesus. My story and your story does not end when we see Jesus. *For the Son of Man came to seek and save that which was lost.* (Luke 19:10) Our job is to seek the lost and help them see Jesus. Our purpose is to become what the tree was to Zacchaeus. The tree was the creative solution that helped him to see Jesus.

Ask God to send people your way who need to see Jesus. Think of creative ways to help them see the One who came.

(This can be used as a group devotion. Add a step-ladder for the tree, provide participants with cut-out leaves on which they can write the names of people and ways to help others see Jesus. At the close of the devotion they can place their leaves on the "tree.")

Eloise Kuhlmann

Vice President of Servant Resources

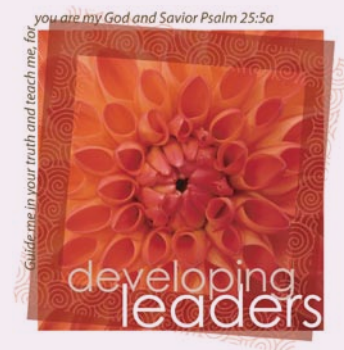
Devotional Thoughts

Military leaders need strength and courage. Government leaders need wisdom and the ability to communicate well. Coaches need to be good at the sports they manage and understand the rules. What do church and LWML leaders need to be good leaders? You may ask, "What does this have to do with me"?

Galatians 5 gives some guidelines for leadership and what it produces. The last part of the chapter summarizes by saying "Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit" (v. 25) and "...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control," (v. 22). (NIV)

Make a list of the leaders in your congregation, your society, zone, and district in the LCMS. Pray for them regularly, asking God to help them follow the Holy Spirit's leading and to increase the fruit of the Spirit in them. While you are praying, include those "in authority" that the Lord would give them wisdom in their leadership (see 1 Timothy 2:1-4). Pray for yourself also that the Lord may lead you to see His plan for you.

Barb Virus



LWML Convention 2009

LOOK! Look at the year! It is time to plan to attend the LWML 33rd biennial convention, June 25-28, 2009, in Portland, Oregon, where you can gather with your LWML sisters and *Look to the Hills...God Reigns*. Come join this activity-filled and action-packed weekend, complete with

worship, Bible study and fellowship with other sisters and brothers in Christ.

- Registration opens March 2. Registration information is now available in the winter issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* and at www.lwml.org.

- **Past YWRs! Plan to attend the YWR Lunch and Alumni Reunion on Friday. Purchase a box lunch (available on**

registration form) and join the current YWR group as well as friends who were part of past convention YWR programs.

Look for more information about Camp Hood (child/youth care), Servant Connections (servant activities), Gifts from the Heart (ingathering), and "Mission in Motion" (pledge walk/exercise) at www.lwml.org.