

IMPRESSIONS

June 2008

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 Leader Development Committee

The 2007-2009 Leader Development Committee is ready to serve you! Amy Bartels of Osage Beach, Missouri, was a YWR to the 2007 LWML Convention in Sioux Falls, SD. 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. Chairman Barb Virus of Orange, CA is a past Pacific Southwest District President and served on the LWML Nominating Committee. We pray God's blessings on you as you seek ways to use your gifts to serve the Lord with gladness.

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 c/o Amy Bartels at sabartels@sbcglobal.net and let us know what you think. We can't wait to hear from you!

Coming Soon

LWML Sunday is traditionally celebrated on the first Sunday in October, but your congregation may celebrate it another Sunday. Ask your society president when you will celebrate LWML Sunday and how you can get involved.

From the Heart of a YWR

In an age where we see so much need and read of the suffering of the world, we can feel overwhelmed. We can feel helpless. We can feel disconnected. Our mailboxes are overflowing with cries for help. We may shut down in the face of such need. I believe our Mite Box helps to focus on how God is in control.

One person's spare change may accomplish little, but God has called the LWML to gather the change together for his purposes, just as Jesus gathered the paltry bread and fish in the face of the hungry thousands. We find that when we offer up our mites to God, He uses our prayers and gifts and multiplies them in ways we cannot even fathom.

After returning from my first LWML Convention last summer, I was determined to show my home

congregation how easily they can support the mission field one penny at a time. I was so impressed by the list of Mission Grant recipients, so on fire for missionaries in the field, and so amazed by what God can do with spare change.

When Mite Boxes are placed in new hands, share the Gospel. God provides us opportunities to be givers, and in this way He changes our hearts. Let's use these simple boxes to teach others what God accomplishes when the church body works in unity. What are we waiting for? I challenge each of you to share Mite Boxes and the Gospel together. Spare change. Change lives. Good news. Rock on!

Heidi Storr

Grand Blanc, MI
2007 Michigan District YWR

Did you know?

League Pledge

Were you ever part of a scouting organization or similar club? These types of groups have a pledge that is recited at each meeting. The LWML has a pledge, too, that was adopted in 1955. It reads:

In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love
and His blood-bought gift of redemption

we dedicate our selves to Him
with all that we are and have;
and in obedience to His call for

workers in the harvest fields,
we pledge Him our willing service
wherever and whenever He has

need of us.

We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him,
our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises,
our lips to proclaim His redeeming love,
our silver and our gold to extend His kingdom,
our will to do His will, and every power of our life
to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring
into eternal fellowship with Him.
Amen

What rich meaning lies in these timeless words. Pray them often! Encourage your LWML to recite it together.

A Message from ... the VP of Human Care

First Things First

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you as well." Matthew 6:33

Seeking first the kingdom of God implies the need to set aside time to get to know God, His ways, and His desires. Imagine the relationship that would result if a husband and wife shared a general commitment but never saw or talked to one another. As seekers after God we must plan into our day time to read and study the Bible, pray, and worship.

It is only as we spend time with the Lord that we begin to take on His likeness. What an awesome adventure—to be like Jesus. Jesus not only knew His purpose and mission in life, but by His example He taught us the importance of regularly spending time seeking direction and gathering strength to accomplish that mission. Luke's account of Mary and Martha provides a vivid lesson of how we should spend our time. Like Martha, I seem to be so focused on doing good things for people that I need to be reminded to take time for the best, to hear Him, to learn from Him, and to enjoy His presence in my life.

Time management experts may suggest we be like Martha and get

more done in less time. However, Jesus said it was Mary who chose the good thing. When we choose to sit at Jesus feet, the Martha-like tasks more easily fall into place. It is in the daily process of taking the time to sit at the Lord's feet, and in regularly taking time off, that we identify and gain the

"Set aside time to get to know God, His ways, and His desires."

power to live out our priorities.

At one point in my life, my daily devotional time jumped from one method to another, trying to find just the right one for me, being easily distracted from the task by interruptions and other responsibilities. I also felt guilty when, in my busyness, my quiet time would wane into time of planning, list making, and organizing my day. Somehow, even through the guilt, the activity seemed to have a sacred effect when, first thing in the morning, I thought over my day and made lists, schedules, and agendas, and then prayed about the tasks of the day. I knew it wasn't what all the books said

to do in a quiet time, but part of it felt right.

Then I read that when we read a prepared devotion or a few verses of Scripture out of context, our quiet time is isolated from the concerns of our normal daily activities. The author suggested that we make our devotional time more connected with our everyday life. If our personal planning and time management includes space for a quiet time, why shouldn't our quiet time contribute to our planning or time management? If we include a time for planning in our quiet time, we can orient our entire day towards God instead of trying to find a few moments here and there to squeeze Him in.

Don't forget to take time off for leisure! This does not mean taking time off from God's plan for our life. Rather, it is refreshing ourselves for the work He has for us to do. We must learn to follow the example of the Master Manager, who regularly took time to pray, plan, and even relax. It is in taking the time for a daily quiet time with God, periodic get-aways for planning and renewal, and regular time-off for leisure and relaxation that we find the needed direction and strength for the journey ahead.

Deaconess Sylvia Johnson
Vice President of Human Care

Devotional Thoughts

"Where's your walk taking you?" The headline splashed across the magazine cover caught Deb's eye. "To your best body ever!" read the next line. "Melt fat, boost metabolism, burn calories!" The article outlined the benefits of regular walking. Deb was motivated to give it a try. Maybe she could convince her neighbor to walk with her.

While walking leads to a healthier life, nothing compares to walking with our Lord throughout

our Christian life. Close, daily companionship with Jesus yields the greatest joy! St. Paul urged the Philippian Christians, *Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus* (Phil. 4:4-7 NIV).

Jesus has shown us the path that

leads to life. *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit* (Rom. 15:13 NIV).

Prayer: Jesus, my walk with you leads to life. The journey gives me joy! Bring me to my heavenly home where there is pleasure forever. In your name. Amen.

From Mustard Seed: Walking with My Lord. Written by Donna Streufert LWML Catalog Item #40205