

get connected!

program resource

Career opportunity in LWML

NEEDED:

Writers of Christian inspirational material: devotions, Bible studies, litanies, skits, songs, and prayers. Manuscripts covering all topics are required especially for Mother's Day, Remembrance Day, Lent and Easter.

QUALIFICATIONS:

No degree required. Personal experience as a Christian woman serving her Lord and Saviour and knowledge of His Word an asset.

STARTING DATE:

Manuscripts are needed now and on an ongoing basis to add to the materials available

continued...

United we stand, divided we fall

Where does the expression come from? Who knows? We do know we would like it to happen: in families, in marriages, in friendships, in congregations (especially when they are vacant), and in organizations. Psalm 133:1 says, "How good and pleasant it is when brothers (and sisters) live together in unity." Unity is not a given. Unity has to be worked at, especially when spouses disagree, when siblings compete ruthlessly without supporting each other, and when branches of an organization criticize or are insensitive to the work and difficulties of other branches. Agreement is not always possible but unity through Christ is. A Bible study called *Together We are Strong*, by Rev. Ron Reisdorf (available from LWML-Canada) will help in this effort.

Kick off a study this fall for families, couples, youth, elders, or women by hosting a gathering with a unity theme. Here are some samples based on "A cord of three is not easily broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:12).

- ★ A braided craft to be given to children or seniors, shut-ins or as an invitation to the study. The braiding needed for the craft can be done in prayer pairs (it takes two to braid, one can be the anchor). As you work pray for success of the study or discuss some things that unite us and some that divide.
- ★ Serve braided bread at a fellowship meal.
- ★ Braid a rug from rags or strips of cloth and use it as a symbol of unity or a gift to a community crises centre or shelter.
- ★ Braid strips of crepe paper to form a tight

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...career opportunity continued

from the LWML-Canada resource catalogue.

REMUNERATION: Giving praise and glory to our risen Lord and Saviour.

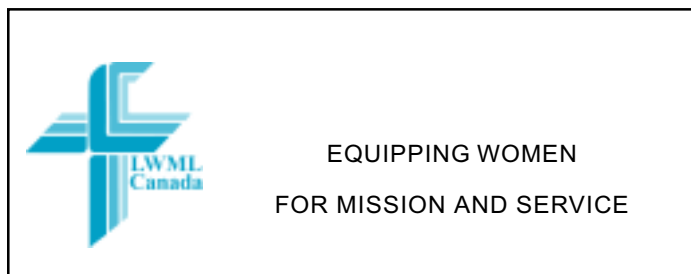
REFERENCES: Society, zone and district presidents are urged to encourage their members to write.

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chain. Encircle the bottom of a blown-out egg and form a strap to create a basket. The egg basket can be stuffed with nuts or smarties as a treat.

★ Form a braid as a book mark and advertise the Bible study.

★ In the study Pastor Reisdorf quotes Ephesians 4:3, “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Be zealous to *preserve* the unity. Have a preserve-tasting party

and recipe exchange. Keep the preserves going by inviting this group to the Bible study.

★ Make a braided basket like those used at the last national convention in Thunder Bay, use as a centrepiece at your Fall supper and invite those to attend the study on unity.

Another helpful resource from the Mission Inspiration Department is the Society Program Planner. It has meaningful devotions and skits for the church seasons and also

devotions which match the *Tapestry* themes for this next biennium. Some titles are: *Refreshing Waters—a devotion on Baptism, Vitamin C for the Souls, Christmas Crisis: Depression or Opportunity?* and *Live Until You Die*. The new Bible study and the Society Program Planner are both available for purchase from the LWML—Canada office in Winnipeg.

Linda Mayan
Christian Growth
Committee

When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, “I used everything you gave me.”

Erma Bombeck



editorial notes

This *Get Connected* issue will reach you after the LWML convention in Calgary. New officers will be in place and new committees will be formed. I would like to thank the outgoing committee members and their chairmen for the diligent work you have performed during this past biennium. *Get Connected* was born during your term, has gone through growing pains like everything that is new but has developed quickly into a tremendously useful tool for the societies. I was simply amazed by the wealth of ideas and innovations submitted for the newsletter and I pray that God would grant the new “crew” the same enthusiasm and resourcefulness!

As we are on the subject of new there is more: Marion has been playing with the layout of *Get Connected* and it may reach you with a “face lift.” There also is a new charge: \$3.00 per year which is still a steal for all the information in this newsletter. The last “new” thing is that I have no longer email access due to the fact that I am now retired from my job. I do hope, however, that by the next deadline I will have my own email address. In the meantime, you can send me messages via lwml.canada@sk.sympatico.ca. Please mark them for *Get Connected!*

Renate Bishopp, Editor

constructive criticism

Can this oxymoron really apply for a leader? No one likes to have critics. But as you think back on your leadership experiences, consider when you have changed positively because someone took the time to give you constructive criticism. How can you do this tight-wire act constructively rather than critically?

- 1 Pray about your role and the timing of constructive criticism. Think before you speak or write. How would you want it shared with you?
- 2 Always give your criticism out of love for the person.
- 3 Use this as a mentoring technique to help that person as a leader.
- 4 Always surround your criticism with positive comments.
- 5 Remove yourself from the situation before giving constructive criticism. This will give you time to think before you speak in order to use your words sensitively.
- 6 Never give your constructive criticism immediately following an event the person has just completed. She or he will be too closely tied to the situation and

continued next page

7 too tired from all of the presentation. Time is needed to separate oneself from the event.

Follow up with favourable comments later as you see positive results. Notes of encouragement are always a good way to show your support.

Words from a wise man's mouth are gracious (Ecclesiastes 10:12a).

taken from Sent by Lutheran Women's Missionary League (U.S.) Sandy Hardies, Leadership Development Committee

getting on-line

When the ABC District of LWML–Canada established their web site it was their dream, not only to use the internet themselves, but also through their equipment and connections to assist LWML–Canada and all the other Districts to also develop web sites. This spirit of generosity is a wonderful boost for everyone.

You will soon find a number of LWML–Canada items on their site as well as copies of the convention newsletter, *Footprints*.

www.abc-lwml.ca

When asked to lead a devotion ...what should you do?

- Accept the honour and privilege of serving you Lord and your society.
- Pray for wisdom and guidance.

Many devotions are already prepared for you. Look for them in your LWML–Canada resource catalogue. If you still haven't found what you are looking for, how about writing a devotion yourself? It can be as simple as choosing an appropriate hymn and/or prayer from the hymnal. Here are some helps as you prepare.

- Begin your preparation with **prayer**.

- **Select** the subject or theme and write it down in one complete sentence. In some way, include the Gospel message that Jesus lived and died so that by grace through faith we are forgiven.

- An **Invocation** may be used at the beginning: "In the name of God, our Creator; Jesus, our Redeemer; and the Holy Spirit, our Sanctifier. Amen."

- A **Hymn** based on your theme will help prepare hearts and minds for worship.

- Include the reading of **Scripture**. Use a Bible with a concordance and topical helps to complete your theme.

- A **Short Inspirational Message** in your own words based on the Scripture passage may follow. Share your faith in simple language: cite an example from your Christian life.

- A **Prayer** or **Litany** may be used. The prayer may include adoration to our great God, confession of our sins, thanksgiving for the many blessings God provides, and supplication for the special needs of your group and for His continued blessing.

- A **Benediction**, another hymn or the last stanza of the previous hymn could close the devotion.

Those who share the devotion with you will be blessed, and you will grow as you prepare it and share your faith. God will speak through you and to you.

Kaye Cairns, Christian Life Committee
Lutheran Women's Missionary League: *Sent*

Building Team Spirit

James Miller suggests the following ideas for building team spirit:

- Trust builds trust.
- Motivate...don't manipulate.
- Praise in public, criticize in private.
- Communicate, don't confront.
- Let no-one dominate the team. Everyone is needed.
- Share problems with teammates. Take their solutions seriously.
- Respond to ideas. Listening is not enough. Act!
- Empower team members.
- Keep promises.
- Treat each one fairly. Team members don't expect "special" treatment, just fair.
- Catch them doing something right.
- Appreciate.
- Always give credit.
- Make team members look "real good."

from "bottomline"
September 1995

Meet our new mission partners

information on 2001-2003 mission projects

The following information pertains to the projects chosen at the LWML convention in Calgary but was not published in the convention manual. The Mission Projects Committee encourages societies to use this information in their meetings and to pray for God's blessings on these projects.

Christian Seminar for Women \$10,000

Seminar 2000 "Thumbs up! Thumbbuddy Loves You! Jesus!" was written by four members of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, reviewed by LWML-Canada pastoral counsellors and presented to over 1,000 women at five District LWML conventions in 2000. Requests show a continuing need for Christian seminars for women.

The benefits to LWML and the Church include the following.

- Spiritual growth and personal encouragement are important for women of the Church. What strengthens them strengthens the entire body of Christ.
- This growth enables the women of the Church to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. How can we reach out to others if we are not confident of ourselves and our faith?
- Outreach to the women of the Church and to the community is a form of mission outreach. We are an army of Christian soldiers — we need to feed and equip the troops so we can continue our fight against 'sin, death and the devil,' bringing hope to the world.
- The spiritual and personal growth of members is reflected in their dedicated service and "from-the-heart" giving of mites for missions.

Reaching children through The Rock Lutheran Inner City Ministry in Edmonton, Alta. \$20,000

The Rock Lutheran Inner City Society, an outreach arm of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Edmonton, is devoted to caring for less-fortunate members of the downtown core. Four years ago they began a twice-weekly

breakfast program which provided a hot, nutritious meal to children and adults of the inner city. The program exceeded their expectations. On an average day more than three hundred show up for breakfast. While this program provides for physical needs, it also gains credibility for St. Peter's in the community and paves the way for them to address the spiritual needs of the people.

Less well-known is the Monday evening program with community children. With a few dedicated volunteers, this program has attracted as many as thirty children, just scratching the surface of the potential. Often these children have been physically and sexually abused and need much one-on-one attention. They especially need to hear of a Saviour who loves them in ways they have never experienced. They are hungry for the Word of God as it comes to them through Bible stories and interaction with the volunteers. The Rock is now shifting attention to this Monday evening program while continuing the breakfast program. Immediate plans call for introducing a hot meal for the children and developing creative ways to reach them with the Gospel, possibly through a tutoring program, videos, arts and crafts and counselling.

To reach these inner city children more adequately with the Gospel of God's love in Christ The Rock needs additional professional help such as could be provided by a Director of Parish Services. They are confident they can support a full-time worker in a year or two as they have already begun raising funds to pay for a worker. In the meantime they need help for a year in covering the costs of having an intern from the Director of Parish Services program. The grant will pay the DPS intern's wages and benefits. As a side benefit, this project provides an exciting setting for a Director of Parish Services intern to gain experience working with children in an inner city setting.

Sending Bibles to LCC mission in Nicaragua \$20,000

Since the arrival of Lutheran Church-Canada missionary, Rev. Sandor Arguello, three years ago, the Lutheran Mission in Nicaragua has grown from zero to more than 3,000 in 14 or more congregations. Through

contacts with friends, neighbours and a whole gamut of circumstances, the message of the Gospel has caught on like wild fire, a holy fire controlled by the hand of God. This remarkable growth has been overwhelming. The challenge is keeping up with the Lord's leading through His Gospel. It is difficult to capture the intensity of the dynamics of the Spirit's moving in the Lutheran Church-Canada mission in Nicaragua, but all eyewitness reports speak of a conversion that is real, deep and extensive.

Here is the problem: lack of the full Bible in Spanish. New Testaments have been distributed by the thousands, thanks to the generosity of the faithful, but only about 100 full Bibles have been made available through the mission. What a wonderful need for the Lutheran Church that has as one of its basic mottos: Sola Scriptura, Scripture alone. The need to equip Nicaraguan Christians with the Old Testament is urgent in responding to the many Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons doing mission work in their country. Although providing Bibles is perhaps the most obvious of all initial outreach activities, attempts at obtaining funding for the 3,000 and more Bibles needed have failed. This project will supply 1,000 Bibles at a discount price of \$9.50 each.

Providing vicarage placement with LCC mission in Maritimes \$4,000

This project is for a one-summer vicarage in one of the missions currently operating in the Maritime provinces. A panel including two missionaries, the mission executive of LCC East District and the seminary's Director of Placements will select the vicar from eligible seminary students who apply. Priority will be given to those who have expressed an interest in serving in a mission upon graduation.

The Lord has opened several new mission fields to Lutheran Church-Canada. The seminaries constantly seek opportunities to provide educational experiences in mission situations for their students. Now the Lord has provided the Church with two mission congregations in the Maritimes allowing for ease of travel and an experienced missionary as supervisor.

If this summer vicarage proves successful, the seminary will ask the LCC East District for continued funding on a shared basis. This short term project also provides the District with an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of an ordained missionary and a second worker in a team ministry in the mission field.

Building Ranchos Escuelas in three mission congregations in Nicaragua \$6,000

Where do you go if you cannot afford to go to school? The poor children in many villages of Nicaragua, where new Lutheran churches are growing, are faced with that question. Church members, especially in the poorer parts of the cities and villages, have found a creative solution. With the assistance of Lutheran Church-Canada, they have built simple structures they call Ranchos Escuelas. Each structure has a concrete slab floor with upright posts holding a palm frond roof. It is a gathering place where children are tutored to prepare them to enter school. It is a place where they learn the basics of an elementary education and learn of God's love and gift of salvation.

The people are willing to build and maintain the structures but they do not have funds to buy the material. This project would provide materials to enable the new members of the Church to construct Ranchos Escuelas allowing their children to be educated. These buildings can also be used for community gatherings, worship and Christian education for adults. There is an immediate need for three Ranchos Escuelas and there will be an increasing need as the Church spreads to more communities where there are many poor.

Reaching out to remote areas of the British Columbia coast through B.C. Mission Boat Society \$3,000

This mission outreach began in 1999 with a mini Vacation Bible School conducted on Lasqueti Island off the coast of British Columbia by Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Parksville, B.C. and Crew Ministries. This island had no church, was widely known for its illegal crops, and had no Christian

community. Satan had made large inroads, almost completely controlling this island of 350 people.

In 2000 the B.C. Mission Boat Society was formed and a 72-foot fishing boat, "Misty Moon," was commissioned in God's name. In July the mission boat and its crew spent four weeks of mission outreach in remote regions of the West Coast visiting twenty-two communities including eight which are Native.

The mission boat team once again visited Lasqueti Island where they presented a Christian Day Camp for eighteen children: two Buddhists, seven atheists/agnostics, one witch, six idolaters, and two Christians from another community. Only five of these children were under ten years of age.

The experiences and blessings shared by the teams and the residents of these isolated

communities during the summer of 2000 included:

- seeing the joy on the faces of children;

continued on page 6

continued from page 5

- sharing with Christian people isolated and alone in their faith;

- singing Christian songs with local people in a remote pub/restaurant;

- seeing communities open their hearts and doors to Vacation Bible School and other outreach;

- hearing the heartfelt requests for the return of the Mission Boat teams in 2001.

The mission is ongoing and expanding. The BC Mission Boat Society invites youths and adults from across Canada to spend a week with them during summer vacation.

Marilyn's musings

Marilyn Schultz, president

As I write I have been the president of LWML–Canada for just over one week! Already it has been busy and at times a bit stressful! My family is adjusting to the amount of time I spend on the telephone and computer! And I am very grateful for a long distance telephone plan! I thank God for the capable leaders He has placed in LWML–Canada who give me the encouragement and support I need at this time. I also thank you for your prayers as they give me courage, comfort and strength.

Get Connected! is designed for leaders and enables us to be more effective in our leadership roles where ever we serve. It is my hope that all societies are using this excellent publication to promote mission and service in their congregations.

More than once I have been asked about my vision for LWML–Canada. I tend to be a *big picture* person. I dare to dream of the many possibilities that can come with the finer details and so I share the following statement with you.

My vision for LWML–Canada is that we become an organization that is willing and able to encourage and support all women in Lutheran Church–Canada as they grow in and reach out with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

By the grace of God, filling in the details is a challenge and a responsibility that will be shared by each member of LWML–Canada.

what are we thinking?

Over 300 copies of the research survey by LWML–Canada were received. A number of them represented all the members of a society who discussed the questions and filled out a single copy. That would probably bring the total to just over 400 members. Thank you for the input. It will prove very valuable as the General Council and various committees meet this fall to plan for the biennium.

To give you a sample of some of the information received here are some items gleaned and some of the questions they brought to mind.

- ◆ We've got that "long distance feeling" — between societies, between zones, between districts. Mostly it's geographic. How can we cut down the sense of isolation, whether from other societies or from our national level?

- ◆ Sometimes newer members or new societies feel isolated because they aren't always familiar with the lingo or the processes of LWML. They also don't know for what information they should be watching out. Someone suggested a guidebook, "LWML for Dummies." What else might help?

- ◆ The internet—both web site and email—were seen by many as having great potential, both for internal use in providing members with information and resources as well as for outreach. Might the outreach potential be as great as any mission project?

- ◆ Those golden years aren't so golden when everybody in a society is in their 70s and 80s. Would it be

a heresy to suggest that if younger women won't join our group, we could encourage them to form their own LWML circle within our congregation? The older group might become more informal in organization and looking after business could be shared. How could this be made to work? What other ideas would work?

- ◆ Concern was expressed that when encouraging younger women to be part of LWML what we say and how we act does not always match. What can we do so they feel needed, valued and appreciated?

- ◆ We have recycled executives...just rotating the jobs around and around. What alternative leadership structures have societies tried?

- ◆ Many members do not differentiate between the resources and activities of various levels of LWML. How might the levels work more closely together to eliminate the extra time required by societies (and members) to process, absorb and keep it all sorted out?

- ◆ Submitting a mission project is a mystery and far too complicated for some. Others want more frequent updates on what is happening in a mission we support. How can we streamline the process? What format should updates take that would be most useful for societies?

And there were more...both problems and possible solutions. A quote from a Saskatoon city councillor comes to mind. "If you have a problem you need to be part of the solution." It's good to keep in mind.

Marion Hollinger, Acting Director of Communication

The information below gives details to the projects which were on the ballot at the convention in Calgary but were not adopted by the delegates. These projects are now available for district use and may be submitted to your district Mission Project Committee after ensuring they are still current and appropriate as written.

Director of Parish Services Intern to serve in Lutheran Church-Canada Mission Field \$7,000

To be eligible for a Director of Parish Services internship a student must earn a four-year B.A. degree in Religious Studies—Applied Emphasis. As part of this degree program the student completes a Religious Studies major, a Parish Services minor and three field work experiences in Edmonton-area congregations. Normally a DPS student will enter a ten to twelve-month internship in a Lutheran Church—Canada congregation during his/her fifth year to become certified to receive a call and enter full-time service in the Church. Frequently a DPS student will express interest in serving on a foreign mission field.

The following pilot project was developed by Concordia University College of Alberta and Lutheran Church—Canada. During the first nine months of the student’s internship, he/she is placed by the Council of Presidents into a congregation with the cost borne by the congregation. During the second nine months this person is placed on a Lutheran Church—Canada mission field as recommended by Dr. Leonard Harms, Executive for Missions and Social Ministry, and approved by the Board of Missions and Social Ministry Services. The student intern would maintain contact with the congregation while on the mission field and report back to them upon return. Advantages for Lutheran Church—Canada:

- Additional full-time missionaries may develop from these interns.
- Present needs on the mission field will be met as the intern assists a full-time missionary.

After the completion of the foreign mission internship, the person may receive a

call to full-time service to a congregation in Canada. The enthusiasm for missions and the experience will influence members of the calling congregation.

French language theological education for French-speaking seminary student \$7,500

The pastoral colloquy committee of Lutheran Church—Canada accepts students who fit the following criteria: “members in good standing of a Synodical congregation who belong to a special ethnic or linguistic group, who have a college-level education, and who have had considerable experience in church work.” Under this provision the committee has accepted student Razafy Razafindrakoto. The student normally enrolls in a LCC seminary and receives the required courses. However, in this unique situation, Razafy does not speak English. Theological instruction can be provided in the French language but requires individuals who are proficient in French to travel to Razafy’s home in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

Razafy was raised as a Lutheran in Madagascar. He has a strong desire to become a pastor in Lutheran Church—Canada because of our strong Biblical and Confessional stand.

For over two years Razafy has worked with a group of students at the University of Sherbrooke, leading Bible studies, film discussions and prayer retreats. He also works with a Malagasy community of believers in Montreal and does evangelism work among the Malagasy in Ottawa. He believes God is calling him to continue building upon this beginning by becoming a pastor to French-speaking people.

Specifically, funding is needed to provide transportation and accommodation for those who provide Razafy’s instruction. Part of this cost will be covered by Razafy’s tuition, part by Lutheran Church—Canada and part by Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines. The seminary and Rev. David Somers will oversee the project.

TIDBITS

The following quotes are from a personal collection.

On a sign:
"Thou shalt not whine."

Because God can do great things with weak people, we ought not to whine about what we think we lack.

Rev. Tom Rogers

What you want to do betrays who you are.

Anon.

If you're going to be able to look back on something and laugh about it, you might as well laugh about it now.

Marie Osmond

Life is the childhood of our immortality.

Anon.

From *If I Were a Clown*

Jesus promised three things to people who decide to follow Him.

1. They will know joy and happiness.
2. People will think they are crazy.
3. They will probably get into trouble (fools for Christ).

Mission Centre building in Chinandega, Nicaragua \$20,000

When Lutheran Church–Canada sent its first missionary to Nicaragua, they could not anticipate the tremendously positive response to the proclamation of the Gospel. Many people are coming to the faith every day and forming congregations. The need for an educational and administrative centre increases each week.

The mission operates from a rented office in the city of Chinandega. Because of lack of space, only the most pressing activities can be done in the office. Room for teaching, correspondence and the production of evangelism materials is inadequate in these crowded quarters.

The ABC District of LWML–Canada chose, as a mission project, purchasing the land on which the centre will be built. There remains the construction of a first-stage building, expanding as the need and the available funding grow. This grant would provide for the construction of a first-stage building for the basic operation of the mission. The building would be of simple construction yet capable of containing the materials, production equipment and communications equipment, as well as the missionary's office.

Native mission and ministry to Northern Canada \$3,000

The provinces of Alberta and British Columbia as well as Yukon and the Northwest Territories are home to a significant native population. Historically, Lutheran Church–Canada has done very little in outreach to aboriginal people. However, some doors of mission opportunity may be opening for us to do Native mission and ministry.

Native communities are expressing growing interest in spiritual matters. In addition, because of the ABC District, LCC's commitment to remote and isolated area ministries, we inevitably have more contact with Native communities.

To begin doing mission work among any culture or people group, it is necessary to do some exploratory work. This is especially true of Native missions and ministry. The

ABC District Department of Mission Services proposes to establish a study team consisting of individuals who are Native and others who have done Christian ministry among native Canadians. Preliminary assignments would be given the five to seven team members. Following completion of these assignments everyone would come together to study the results and formulate a strategy to recommend to the ABC District Department of Missions and Social Ministry Services.

Quebec mission outreach expansion in French and Malagasy Community \$15,000

The East District French Mission in Montreal, served by Missionary Rev. David Sommers has, since its inception, been reaching out well beyond the confines of Montreal. One such community it has served over the years has been Sherbrooke, Quebec. For several years one of the member families, living in Sherbrooke, has almost singlehandedly carried out a ministry of Bible studies and regular worship in their home inviting students and discipling them. Mr. Razafy Razafindrakoto, a Lutheran from Madagascar and math teacher by profession, has been sharing his faith wherever he lives. He applied to be received as a pastor of Lutheran Church–Canada and was recently notified of his acceptance as a colloquy candidate.

The Board of Directors of the East District, LCC engaged Mr. Razafindrakoto on a part-time basis (up to eight days per month) for a six-months period. A request will be submitted to the East District, LCC regarding expanding this ministry for 2001 and beyond. The cost is projected at \$19,000 per year. The resources of the district's mission department are stretched to the limit for 2002 and 2003 because of a commitment to two other new ministries and the expansion of an existing remote ministry in 2000. Therefore assistance of \$7,500 per year is required.

FOLLOW IN HIS STEPS

The Member Development Committee challenges you **to follow in His steps**. This theme is taken from I Peter 2:21 which says, *“For this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.”*

Certainly **following in His steps** involves suffering, therefore our first section in this issue of *Get Connected!* is titled “Enduring suffering.” In a broader sense **following in His steps** also involves

follow in His steps

Enduring suffering

When Christ walked the path of suffering He chose to do His Father’s will. Jesus could have chosen to continue ruling from His throne in heaven, but He suffered on earth as a servant. He could have chosen to remain isolated from hearts infested with sin, but He chose to mingle with the downtrodden. He could have chosen to wear a golden crown, but chose instead a crown of thorns. He could have remained free from sin, yet He became sin on our behalf to make us right with His Father.

We **follow in those steps** when we endure the results of seeking to do what is good and pleasing to God. Christ’s experience as the suffering servant transforms the suffering of His followers from misery into blessing.

The example our Lord Jesus left us entailed unjustly suffering physical abuse. Though He “knew no sin” He entrusted Himself to the Father’s care and *“bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins*

and live for righteousness.” (1 Peter 2:24) Those who have suffered persecution for the Name of Christ have followed the example Christ laid before us. Through the centuries many devoted Christians suffered humiliating torture, imprisonment, and martyrdom because of their faith in Christ. Missionaries, following Christ’s example, endured the dangers of disease, political unrest, and hatred. Others were spat on or pushed around because of their faith in Christ. They could endure because suffering on His behalf transformed their misery into blessing.

Have you faced physical torments as you sought to **follow in His steps**? Perhaps not, but Christ’s example is not limited to physical suffering. He also endured emotional suffering. He suffered the rejection of others, heartache over the unbelief of others, and a lack of appreciation from those He helped.

When faced with suffering as a result of your Christian faith, turn to the example of our Suffering

modelling the life of our Lord and Saviour. For this reason we also included sections on “Retreating for prayer,” “Helping those in need,” “Leading others to God” and “Looking forward to our eternal home.”

We pray the Lord’s blessings upon you as you seek to **follow in His steps**.

In Christ, Sandra Schaeffer,
Rosalie Schallhorn, Patricia Kreutzwieser
Member Development Committee

Servant and **follow in His steps** by *enduring suffering*. Let Him turn your misery into blessing!

Misery 1

Suffering ridicule and isolation for living your Christian faith.

Example of Suffering Servant

His hometown rejected Jesus. See Matthew 13:53-58. His family thought He was out of his mind. See Mark 3:21.

Blessing

We have the companionship of a Saviour who understands rejection.

“He who listens to you listens to me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me.” (Luke 10:16)

Misery 2

Experiencing heartache over an unsaved loved one.

Example of the Suffering Servant

Jesus loved the rich young ruler. See Mark 10:17-22. Jesus feels compassion for those people who are like sheep without a Shepherd. See Matthew 9:36.

Blessing

We are comforted knowing our gracious Lord desires to save all people.

“God wants all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.” (I Timothy 2:4)

Misery 3

Enduring financial difficulties because you live by your Christian values.

Example of the Suffering Servant

Jesus had no place to lay His head. See Matthew 8:20.

Blessing

We are rich in God’s mercy and our eternal treasure is stored in heaven.

“Do not be afraid little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.” (Luke 12:32-33)

Misery 4

Suffering a lack of appreciation for your works of service, especially when you take on a job no one else will do.

Example of the Suffering Servant

Jesus took on the job no one else could do. He healed ten lepers and only one returned to give thanks. See Luke 17:11-18.

Blessing

We are privileged to find comfort and rest in the arms of a Saviour who once wondered, "Where are the nine?"

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in

heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Misery 5

Struggling to forgive someone who has hurt you deeply.

Example of the Suffering Servant

As Jesus hung on the cross He asked for forgiveness for those who put Him to death. See Luke 23:34.

Privilege

We can forgive each other with the love only Christ can give.

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."
Ephesians 4:32

Now it is time to put this formula into practise in your own life.

Step 1 Choose an area of your life where you experience suffering because you are doing what is good and pleasing to God.

Step 2 Find an example of the Lord suffering this same kind of misery.

Step 3 Find a passage promising a blessing as the Lord transforms your misery into a blessing.

May our Heavenly Father grant you grace to **follow in His steps** by *enduring suffering. "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the suffering of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed."* 1 Peter 4:12-13

follow in His steps

Retreating for prayer

Jesus' earthly life was not so different from yours and mine. He was a busy man. He healed the sick, preached to the people, and taught His disciples. There was much work to be done in only three years of ministry before He would die, rise again, and finally ascend to His Father in Heaven. But even with his realization of "so much work, so little time" He did not put off retreating from everyone and everything to spend time in prayer with His Father.

As a friend whose heart is gladdened by hearing your voice over the telephone, God is never too busy to listen when you pray and it gladdens His heart to hear your voice. But in your busy schedule, when do you squeeze in a

devotional time? If a daily retreat for prayer is not part of your day, take your day planner, calendar, or schedule and mark in a time. When you make a conscious commitment to a devotional time it will become a habit you will not want to break. If you are at home for most of your day, choose a time, set your oven timer to remind you, and take the opportunity to spend time with your Lord. If work takes you outside your home, what better way to leave home than after spending time in prayer and meditation. Don't just make a mental promise to pray, write it down as a reminder to do it. It takes 21 consecutive days of doing an activity for it to become a habit. We challenge you to test this.

Prayer partners can be important in your prayer life. Being a prayer warrior for someone, or knowing

someone is prayerfully concerned for you is a great strength. Many have secret prayer partners where everyone picks a name out of a hat and privately prays for that person for an allotted time. Usually the secret partner is revealed at a special gathering. (I was involved in a secret prayer partnering, and upon picking my name the lady approached me and revealed it on the spot. "I'm, not good at keeping secrets like this, but if you have any things you would like me to pray about in the next year, just call me and I will secretly pray for you." I thought this was a wonderful gesture.)

Become a prayer warrior for a young person in your church. Gather the names, birthdays, baptism birthdays, and other special occasions of the youth in your church and distribute them to your LWML society members.

Then pray for these young people. No gifts are required during the year, just prayers and maybe a card of encouragement now and then.

If you belong to a Bible Study group, share prayer concerns among the group and make a prayer list for your private devotional time. Please remember to take these concerns only to the Lord, and not to *anyone* outside the group (that isn't your task). Or distribute small pieces of paper to each member. They enter their name and any concerns they have. The papers are put in a hat and picked like names for Christmas. It is exciting to see who you will add to your prayers for the week.

Christ, who was God, *retreated for prayer*. We should **follow in His steps**.

follow in His steps

Helping those in need

“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his steps.”
1 Peter 2:21

Helping those in need is an overwhelming topic because in today’s world NEED is all around us. Yet Scripture shows Jesus, our Saviour, met many needs, especially our deepest need — being saved from sin. We also see, from the above passage, we are to **follow in His steps** — to help others in their need just as He did.

Our Bible says Christ met a basic need — HUNGER. When the 5000+ were hungry, He didn’t send them away, He fed them. (Mark 6:30-42) When the disciples were hungry on the Sabbath, He

let them get something to eat. (Matthew 12:1-7)

How do we help meet the need of HUNGER in our world?

- Give canned goods to local food drives.
- Serve soup in a local soup kitchen.
- Start a food bank or special account at your church. Finding out from your pastor how many people come to the church seeking aid may surprise you.
- Support charities which not only feed people, but help them put practices into place so they may learn to support and feed themselves.

Jesus also met another need — HEALING.

Countless examples show Him healing the body, for example, the man with the shrivelled hand (Matthew 12:9-14) or blind

Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52).

We are not miracle workers but we can promote HEALING.

- Write a note telling the person who is ill that you are praying for him or her.
- Take over a simple meal.
- Offer the patient a ride to the doctor.
- Visit.

Take care of yourself by eating properly, resting, exercising, and taking time for your spiritual walk with God.

This brings us to the next point. There is much SPIRITUAL NEED around us today just as there was in Jesus’ time. Jesus did everything from driving out an evil spirit (Mark 9:14-29) to healing the Samaritan woman’s spirit at the well (John 4:1-42).

- Pray.
- Be a good example. (*“... if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words...”* 1 Peter 3:1)
- Tell others your story — when you became a Christian; how Christ has helped you personally; why you need Him.
- Invite someone to Bible study.
- Listen.

Just as our Saviour had compassion on those whose needs weren’t met, so should we. After all, 1 Peter says, *“To this you were called!”* As you **follow in His steps** seek His help to guide you in meeting the physical hunger, spiritual hunger, and healing needed by others.

follow in His steps

Leading others to God

Through His ministry Jesus attracted the weak and the downtrodden to Himself by gently being among them. (Only with the Jewish leaders, who should have known better, did He lose His patience because they rejected Him as the Messiah.)

Many of us shy away from being on the evangelism committee because we aren’t gifted with that particular talent. But you can lead others to God by gently being among your family, friends, and acquaintances. The ways you can be examples of Christ are too numerous to chronicle. But I encourage you this

way...ask God to guide your heart, your mind, your lips and your actions today. He will use you to lead others to know Him. You are His creation and therefore His tool to be put to use. The Spirit will work through you as God sees fit. There is no pressure on you, as God works through you. Sharing Christ among

family, friends, and acquaintances is a no “palm sweating” endeavour when you see yourself as God’s assistant leading others to **follow in His steps**.

follow in His steps

Looking forward to our eternal home

A story circulated widely on the internet tells of a woman diagnosed with a terminal illness. Getting her things in order, she asked her pastor to come to her home to discuss some of her final wishes.

She told him which hymns to sing at her funeral, what Scripture passages to read, and what outfit she wanted to wear. She asked to be buried with her favourite Bible.

As the pastor prepared to leave, the woman suddenly remembered something else. "There's one more thing," she said excitedly.

"What's that?" said the Pastor.

"This is important," the woman said. "Bury me with a fork in my right hand."

The pastor looked at the woman not knowing quite what to say.

The woman explained. "In all my years of attending church socials and potluck dinners, when they cleared all the dishes of the main course,

someone inevitably leaned over and said, 'Keep your fork.' It was my favourite part of the meal because I knew something better was coming — like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. So Pastor, when people see me in the casket with a fork in my hand and ask, 'What's with the fork?' I want you to tell them what I've just told you. (*Author Unknown*)

Like the woman who knew to "keep her fork" we can **follow in His steps** by *looking forward to our eternal home*. Looking forward to heaven keeps

daily life in perspective. Problems and burdens don't seem so heavy, tasks don't seem so overwhelming and little things don't appear so earth-shattering.

Here are steps to help you *look forward to your eternal home*.

Step 1. Read about it

Fill your heart with the wonderful promises about heaven found in the Scriptures. Create a list of passages which remind you of your eternal residence!

market place



BIBLE STUDY

Together we are strong: a study of our unity in Christ

This six-session Bible study looks at "The Incomprehensible Number One," "United with the Incomprehensible," "United With Each Other," "A United Family," "A United Nation, Eh?"

and "One With the Saints in Heaven."

Code CCG BS 2001-01 \$4

MEMO CUBES

These 3" x 3" x 3" cubes of memo paper feature the convention poster and theme printed on the sides. Handy by the phone or great for gift-giving.

\$7 each



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Comes in M, L, and XL

\$15 each

Consider inserting a separating zipper into the front and turning it into a cardigan...so handy for cool summer evenings. The zipper can be inserted alone or a band of fabric can be used on either side of it. Pockets can also be added if you wish.



CONVENTION

SPECIAL CONTINUES

The packets of new materials sold at the convention were sold at the reduced rate of \$20 each. They can still be purchased for that price (plus shipping and handling) until October 31, 2001.

After that date each item will be sold separately.

Consider buying a sample packet to take to your fall rally or renewal and encourage those in attendance to order their own.

FOR SALE

There are some extra convention manuals available on a first come, first served basis. Cost: \$5 each. Contact the LWML-Canada Office, 3074 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3K 0Y2.

Several of the skits from the Leadership Workshops, as well as the skits featuring Gertie Guilt and her friend, will be available from the LWML-Canada Office. Details were not available at press time.

Shipping and handling costs will be added to all orders. Please pay the bill promptly.