

Theme: Fruit of the Spirit – patience

In this issue:
Summer 2010

1. Never give up hope!
2. Wait upon the Lord
3. Their “shining” helps others hear
4. To Nicaragua—with love
5. Patience—a precious gift
6. Volunteer at the Olympics? In a heartbeat!
7. Examining an earthquake—God’s hand in the midst of disaster

Write for Tapestry

Download guidelines
and themes

ISSUE PREVIEW

“The patient Jesus was gently persistent...” Having worked on the theme of patience for this issue of *Tapestry*, this phrase in a Maundy Thursday sermon caught my attention and left me considering it long after the sermon was done. Often we think of patience in terms of “waiting patiently.” I don’t know about you, but I picture that as something passive...not *doing* anything, just waiting. As you explore this issue you will discover there is more to it than that.

In the Scripture behind this particular sermon, Jesus, before beginning His last meal with His disciples, washed their feet. More than that, when they protested, He gently persisted, saying it must be done.

For three years He had worked at helping His disciples understand who He was, His purpose, and how it would be accomplished. So often they proved they didn’t quite “get it.” Time was running out.

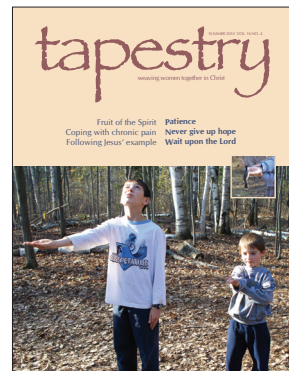
I couldn’t help thinking about today’s “succession planning,” training the person who will follow us in a job (whether paid or volunteer), to supposedly make the transition seamless. And yet, here was Jesus, training His followers to follow Him and they were still objecting to His actions. Patient Jesus indeed!

As you will discover in this issue, patience, like a diamond, has many facets. A diamond must be cut and polished to reveal its beauty. In like manner, we are tried and tested to reveal the fruit of patience growing within us as we sink our roots deeply into God’s Word...into Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Some of our stories detail the growth of patience as women deal with chronic illness, not alone but in Christ. Two leaders, who are deaf themselves, patiently spend time studying to increase their ability to minister, as a pastor and a deaconess, to others in Canada’s Deaf community. And Bible studies guide as we dig more deeply into the meaning of patience.

May God work within each of you a full measure of the fruit of the Spirit—especially patience—as each day you face less than perfect people and events in need of our patience...and our forgiveness.

Marion Hollinger, Editor



Watch for your
copy to read
these stories
and more.

Not a Tapestry
subscriber?

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

1. Never give up hope!

PERHAPS HER MOST POIGNANT MEMORIES are those of sitting on the back step of the family farmhouse with her father, each trying to staunch yet another nosebleed that just didn’t want to stop. It would be many years and many doctors before Delaine Parsons could put a name to this chronic, inherited condition with unusual symptoms. ...

2. Wait upon the Lord

“Dear God, Give me patience, and please give it to me right now!” HAVE YOU EVER PRAYED THIS PRAYER? Maybe not literally, but if we examine our lives, we may recognize when we have prayed it by our actions. ...

3. Their “shining” helps others hear

SECOND YEAR STUDENTS at the Deaf Institute of Theology (DIT) of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, Gregory and Linda Desrosiers hail from Surrey, British Columbia, and are members of Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Vancouver. A four-year distance-education program, DIT will enable Gregory to become a pastor and Linda a deaconess. ...

4. To Nicaragua—with love

EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON from Thanksgiving through April, Renate Bishopp and five other women from Faith, Saskatoon, gather at the church to work on quilts and blankets for Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR). The group, which at one time included as many as ten, has been active since 1976. ...

5. Patience—a precious gift

I HAVE WITNESSED PATIENCE TIME AFTER TIME throughout my life. My mother possessed this precious gift. She is no longer in this world, but her legacy of patience is part of me. Mom spent most of her lifetime with the reality of impending blindness. ...

6. Volunteer at the Olympics? In a heartbeat!

WHEN THE CALL WENT OUT LAST NOVEMBER for volunteers needed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Richmond, B.C., it took five seconds to say “YES!!—I’d love to do that!” After contacting Don Hindle, Director of Parish Services at Trinity, to find out their needs, it became even more exciting, so I coerced my friend Barb Berg of Cambridge, Ontario, to share this opportunity. ...

6. Examining an earthquake—God’s hand in the midst of disaster

WHEN I WENT ON MY FIRST MISSION TRIP to Haiti in March 2007, I expected it to be my first and only visit. I certainly did not expect to have a permanent heart for Haiti missions, nor did I expect to meet my future husband there. During that first trip our team’s rental van passed one of the many colourful buses travelling the streets of Port-au-Prince, Haiti’s capital. Painted on its side was the French motto *L’homme propose, Dieu dispose*. Literally this translates to: “Man proposes, God disposes.” It is a shortened form of Proverbs 19:21: ...

COMING UP

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: KINDNESS, Fall 2010 – How does time spent in God’s Word and prayer given you the ability to regularly and often practise kindness to others? Writers have been asked to use illustrations from their experience to encourage others.

WRITE FOR TAPESTRY

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: GENTLENESS AND HUMILITY, Winter 2010 - Consider writing about any of the following ideas. Send them to editor-in-chief, Marion Hollinger at tapestry@lutheranwomen.ca by July 15, 2010.

“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” (Matthew 11:29 NIV).

“In essence, gentleness represents the courage of faith. It is a bold statement to the principalities and powers above that we rest secure in the hand of God, since faith has freed us from our fears. Only the faith-filled man or woman can afford to risk such gentleness in life” (from *Higher than I* by Rob Des Cotes).

Humility: A personal quality in which an individual shows dependence on God and respect for other persons. God’s holiness and our unworthiness or sinfulness, as well as the discovery of our limitations, introduce us to humility.

Where are gentleness and humility in today’s world? What do they look like with “skin on”? Using your own experiences or those of others as examples, help readers recognize God at work in their lives to produce the fruit of gentleness and humility. How are these a witness to the world?