

## Theme: Fruit of the Spirit – compassion

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### Write for Tapestry

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### ISSUE PREVIEW

Shine! Shine like stars, as this triennium's theme invites and encourages us to do. What a privilege it is to let the light of Jesus shine through us to others – a light that is revealed by the fruit the Holy Spirit produces within us as our faith matures. In this issue of *Tapestry* the focus is on one aspect of that fruit: compassion.

Compassion most often begins as an emotion, but, as Christian women, that emotion moves us to action, the sort of action described in Scripture: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: *just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another*" (John 13:34). Jesus follows it up by saying in verse 35 that such action reveals we are His followers: "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Kathy Birkett, page 8, explores how showing compassion is related to "shining like stars" as it moves us to action, even when the love that motivates that action might be rejected.

Valerie Rempel captures some of the faces of compassion in her photographs on the cover and on page 5.

Chelsea Jones, page 6, is a shining example of a young person beginning to develop a sense of compassion for others. No doubt she is learning from her mother's example and from what is taught and modelled by others in her congregation.

Madeline Honderich describes where compassion and a desire to share the Good News with others in Northern Canada, took her and a friend, Barb Berg, this past summer.

In this issue we remember former president Dorothea Korcok and her love for LWML–Canada, and not just for the organization, but with thanks to God for all the women she encouraged and mentored

You will also find some updates on a variety of mission activities, and Bible studies to help you explore the meaning of the compassion God has for us and that He wants us to share with others.

*Marion Hollinger, Editor*



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## 1. Remembering Dorothea

Dorothea Korcok was born in Garfield, New Jersey. She was baptized and confirmed at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Garfield and received her education at Holy Trinity Lutheran School. In 1952 she married Rev. Dr. John Korcok ...

## 2. "Cancer Connection"

I was diagnosed with breast cancer in August 2008. My first reaction was being scared to death that I would never live to see another year, never grow old with my husband, and never get to see my five grandsons grow up or get to see my brand new granddaughter. Then I was angry and asked God why ...

### 3. Upon you I bestow...the gift of hair

My name is Chelsea Jones and I am 11. I donated my hair to make a wig for someone with cancer. I raised over \$700 and gave 13 inches of hair. I donated it because ...

### 4. My girl shines

As is so often the case, a mother and a daughter see and remember things differently. Let me tell my side of the story of how my daughter shines! I have a daughter; Chelsea is her name. She is a joy to me. We live in a house with three guys ...

### 5. Showing compassion as we “shine like stars”

As Rev. Dr. Ludwig, keynote speaker at the LWML–Canada convention in Ottawa pointed out, we don’t “gotta” shine, we don’t “gotta” reach out in compassion. God gives us the great privilege of doing so in His name...we “getta” shine. We, my husband Murray and I, experienced this first-hand.

My mother-in-law suffered with breathing problems all her life. Yet she married and had four children, my husband Murray being the youngest. In her late 70s ...

### 6. The “A” list and the “B” list

It’s 6:05 a.m. on October first, and you hear a knock at your front door. Someone is pounding an alarm. You are in the kitchen and have just finished an early breakfast. Your husband is asleep. Your son, who has been wakeful since 3:00 a.m., is lying in bed watching old movies on television. You call out through the door, “Who is it?” The person identifies himself as RCMP Constable “John Doe,” someone you know. You run to get your robe ...

## COMING UP

WAIT UPON THE LORD (Fruit of the Spirit: Patience), Summer 2010 – This issue will look at the subject of patience from a variety of angles, examining how this fruit is shown in everyday lives.

## WRITE FOR TAPESTRY

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: KINDNESS, Fall 2010 - Consider writing about any of the following ideas. Send them to editor-in-chief, Marion Hollinger at [tapestry@lutheranwomen.ca](mailto:tapestry@lutheranwomen.ca).

“In both the New and the Old Testament, kindness may be described as the practical application of compassion and mercy [the theme in Spring 2010]. Like the other fruit of the Spirit, God’s own kindness models and shapes the kindness of His people.”<sup>1</sup> We invite you to write about an act of kindness in your life, going beyond the story itself and using it to reveal God’s kindness and His character.

Sometimes, perhaps because kindness is so often in short supply in today’s world, we are encouraged to practise “random acts of kindness” with no expectation of that kindness being returned and often without the person receiving the kindness knowing who has performed the loving and caring act. Have you participated? If this is the basis of your story, show how such acts, when done by a Christian, differ from those of other faiths or no faith.

“We tend to improve on those things we practise the most. ... If we do not practise or spend time doing an activity, our abilities will generally decline and perhaps disappear altogether. It is also true that those things we practise frequently we also notice more readily in others.”<sup>1</sup> Have you found this to be true? As sinful people, we often become busy with the world’s agenda and begin to neglect the source of our ability to be kind. Have you experienced such a time in your life? What brought you back to a close relationship with your Lord?

How have time spent in God’s Word and in prayer given you the ability to regularly and often practise kindness to others? Use illustrations from your experience to encourage others.

<sup>1</sup> *Fruit of the Spirit: Patience, Kindness, Goodness*. Lane Burgland. Copyright 2005. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.