



## Love, the first Mission Project

A Devotion

Some years ago a group of Christian women decided they would like to serve their Lord God by doing mission work. Specifically they would give their nickels, dimes and pennies to fund mission projects. A good idea that has grown and is now responsible for hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants that fund mission projects around the world.

But mission projects (Today, with a name change, they are overseen by the Christian Mission Committee.) did not originate in the thoughts and minds of the women of LWML or LWMLC.

### **In fact it was not an original thought of mankind at all.**

*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are ... higher than the earth so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55: 8-9).*

Christian Mission originated in the mind of God and the first mission project was LOVE, thought of and announced, paid for and completed, by God Himself. The first man and women and every man and women after them were the reason mission work was needed at all. Mankind was the crowning glory of God’s creation, created in LOVE to live forever with God. But man listened to Satan and brought sin and death into the world. God in His great LOVE put the first mission project in motion.

### **God announced the first mission project.**

*“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel” (Genesis 3:15).*

### **And so God began the first mission project**

*“And the angel said to them, fear not for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).*

*“And she gave birth to her first born son; and she wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn” (Luke 2:7).*

*“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John1:14).*

That very first mission project was put into action by our God who’s **LOVE** is never ending. It is a **LOVE** so great that it’s mercy and grace is beyond our comprehension. It is impossible for us to fathom how much that first mission project must have cost the Father. Which of us would contemplate paying the price He paid?

### **The price God paid for the first mission project.**

*“For God so LOVED the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).*

*“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. But God demonstrates his own LOVE for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:6-8).*

**God completes the first mission project.**

*“When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Him there, along with the criminals, one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, they know not what they do’” (Luke 23: 33-34).*

*“When he had received the drink, Jesus said, ‘It is finished.’ With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit” (John 19:30).*

**The result of that first mission project.**

*“For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God” (1 Peter 3:18a).*

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).*

*“For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He LOVES, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:14).*

Why do we LWMLC women come together for fellowship and prayer, for laughter and singing, for praise and worship in His name? Why after all these years do we still encourage one another to collect our mites to provide mission grants that support mission projects? It is that we are kept on the true path of **LOVE** for others by His example and His Word which tell us...

*“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).*

*“We LOVE because he first LOVED us. And he has given us this command: Anyone who LOVES God must also LOVE their brother and sister” (1John 4:19:21).*

*“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me’” (Matthew 25:37-40).*

For God so **LOVED** the world...our sins have been paid for...we are free of the fear of death...mission projects are done to spread this **LOVE** and good news and to give God all the glory.