

MINI MISSION BIBLE STUDIES – 2009-2012

Prepared by members of the Christian Mission Team, LWML–Canada

#1 – Deaf Ministry

In Ephesians 4:11-16 Paul tells us we all have a special call to participate in the work of the ministry. Each of us should use our gifts to expand the body of Christ. Linda and Gregory have found their calling to teach and minister to a special community of believers and to reach a segment of the population with whom many of us cannot communicate. What is your role in the body of Christ? Remember there are no *small* jobs! Each job is critical to make the body complete

We should follow the example of the disciples, each in our own way. In Acts 5:42 we hear that “daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.” Teaching was also Jesus’ daily practice, as we hear in

Mark 10:1, “Then He arose from there and came to the region of Judea by the other side of the Jordan. And multitudes gathered to Him again, and as He was accustomed, He taught them again.”

In John 8:28-29 we are reminded by Jesus that “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.”

So shine, reflecting the glory of our Saviour and even of God the Father, who promises always to be with each of us!

#2 – Ukraine

Many verses in the Bible encourage the kind of work Alexey is doing. Here are a few for you to look up.

God’s command.
Matthew 28:19-20

The following verses tell about the beauty of the “Good News.”

Isaiah 40:9 and 52:7
Luke 3:18 and 16:16

Acts 5:42 and 14:7
Romans 10:15

Find God’s grace for proclaiming the gospel.
Romans 15:16
1 Corinthians 9:14

Do good to others.
1 Timothy 2:3b-4
Galatians 6:10

#3 – La Ronge

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). The Great Commission; *our* Great Commission; the mission Christ Himself has given us. We say it often. We all know the words, but do we hear them and GO?

La Ronge Lutheran Fellowship is GOing. They are actively reaching out in their community in an effort to make disciples. With a grant from LWML–Canada to purchase a bus (see story next page) they can cast their nets even further. We

know God promised that Christ would not come again until all the earth has had an opportunity to hear the word and know Him. Though La Ronge is not a “far-flung” place, there are many people who have not yet heard. What a blessing that, through Pastor Wayne (Olson) and his congregation, that will change. His purpose is the same as that of Paul. “My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of

wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:2-3 NIV).

As we GO to make disciples we know Christ is with us, just as He was with His disciples and prayed for them. “I have revealed You to those whom You gave Me out of the world. They were Yours; You gave them to Me and they have obeyed Your word. Now they know that everything You have given Me comes from You. For I gave them the words You gave Me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from You,

and they believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those You have given Me, for they are Yours. All I have is Yours, and all You have is Mine. And glory has come to Me through them” (John 17:6-10 NIV).

How wonderful to know that when we step out in faith we do not go alone but with the blessing of Christ upon us and the glory of God in us! So continue to shine in the light of our Lord, casting your glow for all to see.

#4 – Thailand

Women of Faith

I’ve been thinking of our women evangelists in Thailand. They work under the supervision of the local missionary, visiting the homes of women and children in remote villages in the district of Phang-Nga, where they develop Christian relationships with the people. They conduct classes for children and support meetings for women. They make sure the physical needs of the people are met as the missionary meets the spiritual needs of the families.

God is using these faithful women as he has used women in the past, as witnesses to His glory. Over the centuries God has used women in many ways. Let’s look at just a few of these.

Esther risked her life to protect the Jewish people. Esther 8: 11-13

Dorcus (Tabitha) served the sick and poor. Her hands were always busy, and her heart was always open and full of compassion. Acts 9:36

Eunice and Lois loved their Lord and were true teachers of the Word, passing on their faith to young Timothy. 2 Timothy 1:5

Ruth left her family and country to travel with Naomi to a foreign land. There she helped to support her mother-in-law. God cared for Ruth and Naomi. Through Ruth’s marriage to Boaz, her son Obed was the father of Jesse, the father of David who was an ancestor of Jesus. Ruth 1: 8-18

These women of the past join with all the faithful women of today in service to God. They give of themselves to serve with the strength and joy God gives them. At times the path God chooses for them is difficult but with a strong faith and the guidance of the Holy Spirit all things are possible.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, give strength and courage to all whom You call to be witnesses of the faith. May the acts of kindness they do and words of faith they speak work in the hearts of all they touch to bring many people to faith in You. Father, when You should choose to lead one of us to answer Your call, may we be strengthened by the examples set by all the women of God who have gone before. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

#5 – Nicaragua

The Sewing School in Chinandega, Nicaragua, has daily devotions before the lessons begin. Since the program was started by Lynne Wood in 2004, it has grown, and more than 100 students have graduated with the skills to sew. These skills enable the women to apply for a sewing position at one of the local factories, or to establish their own home business. The school not only provides an education and skill allowing women to support

their families, but it is also a chance for the Gospel to be proclaimed!

Before this sewing school began the ladies of Nicaragua had little education, skills, or hope for their future and that of their families. Adam and Eve also, after realizing their disobedience and fall into sin, had to learn to do everything by themselves with no education or teacher (see Genesis 3:7). They left the Garden of Eden under

God's banishment though under His care (Genesis 3:21), and had to work for their food, shelter and livelihood (Genesis 3:23).

But Adam and Eve lived under God's Grace and in the promise of a Saviour to offer them eternal hope and salvation. Jesus Christ, a descendant of Adam and Eve, born of the Virgin Mary, came to offer hope in this hostile world. Jesus Christ came for us all, suffered and died on the cross for all, and rose again three days later for us all, so that "whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16b paraphrase). He ascended into heaven, but not before commissioning His disciples (and all believers, which includes you and me) to

make disciples of all nations. Christ's ministry was further based on acts of love, compassion, kindness, gentleness, patience, helpfulness to all who are in any kind of need. We, too, can proclaim Jesus and His Spirit to our Nicaraguan sisters who live in hopelessness and poverty. They, also, can learn of Jesus as they learn skills with their hands. The skills give them self-confidence and hope in providing for their families. Read Proverbs 31:10-31, notably verse 13 and 24. As we, women in Canada, provide for our families and endeavour to help our community-at-large with our skills and gifts, so may our sisters in Christ in Nicaragua do the same. May "her children arise and call her blessed" (Proverbs 31:28a NIV).

#6 – Costa Rica

The mission field, for all intents and purposes, is a sea of unbelievers. As Christians, each of us enters into this mission field every day. Our area of the field is our family, our friends and our co-workers. It is those we meet at the grocery store while "patiently" standing in line, or at our daughter's dance recital. Our mission field is a familiar and safe environment.

Some, though, go a step further. They go where they know they may be threatened because of their Christian faith. They step into unknown territory, and they step confidently. They go with Christ. They are our missionaries...Christ's missionaries, and our ambassadors!

Read **1 Corinthians 12:25 – 30**. Note especially the mention of missionaries. Missionaries. Some can, and do; most cannot.

God has blessed each and every one of us with a special gift. While some walk confidently into the mission field, many more of us take our walk in the background. Quilts are lovingly sewn and shipped off to northern climates. *We Care* packages are assembled and trucked to a distribution centre.

From there they find their way into the hands of women and children as far away as Nicaragua. Personal hygiene kits are gathered and delivered to the women's shelters in our home towns. We raise money through our mites to help support those in countries we only hear of, helping to spread the word of Christ. And prayers are lifted up.

Read **1 Thessalonians 1: 2 – 5**. Yes, we know God has chosen those who are missionaries, but He has also chosen us to be workers in His field. We need never feel we haven't done enough because we haven't become missionaries in some far-off place. As long as we can serve Christ with unconditional love, and a passion for sharing Him, our work is no less than that of any other.

We are the women of Lutheran Women's Missionary League-Canada. This is something we can state with honour and conviction. We desire to be a part of such an organization in part because of how God has blessed us. We have the desire to share with others some of what we experience on a daily basis because of our relationship with Him. In that we can give praise and thanksgiving.

