

One Family's Answered Prayers

From the time each of our five children were young – a few months old – we taught them to pray. We helped them fold their hands to pray before they ate and again before naps and bedtime. We taught them well-known prayers like “Come Lord Jesus” and “Now I Lay Me down to Sleep.” As they got a little older, we started to teach them to think of things they wanted to bring before the Lord; simple things like “thank you for Mommy and Daddy,” concerns about their health like please help me feel better soon, when they had a cold, and please keep me safe in the dark, when they were afraid.

...and thankfully, His answer to all of those prayers was a Yes.

However, when our daughter Amanda asked God for a baby sister for months before the birth of each of the three babies and was rewarded for her efforts with three little brothers over the next few years, we realized the importance of teaching our children about how God answers prayer. We taught them about how God always hears our prayers no matter how small the concern and that He always gives us an answer. God is much wiser than we are and He knows much more about what is best for us than we know ourselves. Since God loves us very much, He answers Yes to those things that are best for us. Sometimes He makes us wait before He gives us

what we want because He wants to teach us something while we wait, for He knows that right now is not the best time for us. However, sometimes He does not give us what we have asked for because He knows it would not be good for us.

For our family, probably the biggest thing we ever prayed about was when our only daughter, then six years old, had pneumonia. What we had originally been told by a doctor to be “just the flu,” turned into an ambulance trip to Children’s Hospital, an operation to insert a chest tube to drain the fluid from around her lungs and then, a ten-day stay at the hospital as she slowly recovered. It was at that point we knew what it was to rely totally on God’s strength, as we came to Him in prayer asking Him not to take our daughter from us. We prayed with our daughter as well, but she often had little strength to stay awake even through a prayer. Our two sons prayed for their sister, as did grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and close friends of our family. Beyond that, her teacher, our youth worker, Sunday school teachers, and our pastor, all came to visit her and pray for her. At the Lutheran school she attended, her friends, classmates, and teacher prayed for her daily. On chapel day, the whole school brought her before the Lord in prayer. Her name was put on our

church’s prayer chain and one of our aunts put our daughter on her church’s prayer chain and in turn passed it on to a church in the USA. Our entire church family prayed for our daughter during Sunday service and we know many church members prayed for her during that week as well.

When you see your frail child lying in a hospital bed and you see her get worse before she gets better, ten days is enough time to question whether God is listening to your prayers. However, we know He was and thankfully, His answer to all of those prayers was a Yes. On the day her chest tube was taken out, it was announced over the PA system at our daughter’s church school and the principal said that cheers could be heard throughout the school as the students witnessed firsthand God answering their prayers with a Yes. We saw our daughter fully recover and become strong again. For our family and for the hundreds of

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All Bible quotes are taken from ESV, unless otherwise stated.

Remember your faith journey

Remember the journey of your growth as a Christian. Think of a toddler taking her first baby steps, holding tightly to mom's hand, falling and getting back up again, trusting that mom will be there to help. In the same way our faith has grown over the years, and although at times we fall down, we know and trust that God will pick us up and strengthen us through Word and Sacrament. Peter tells us there's a process in our journey of faith, one in which we have an active part: "For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:5-8).

Over and over God told the Israelites: remember the journey – remember how I led you, how I rescued you and strengthened you. As we remember our journey of faith,

we are encouraged for tomorrow for we know, just as God was with us in the past, He will be with us in the future. The promises God made to the Israelites, He makes to us – I will be your God and you will be My people.

Remember the journey Christ made, from heaven, to the manger, to the cross. That journey brought forgiveness of sins and eternal life for all of us who believe. Consider the other journeys in your faith: growing in service, developing the gifts God has given to us, letting God transform us so His will becomes our will. Our journey isn't over and we need nourishment all along the way. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied" (Matthew 5:6). In all these steps of growth, it is God who provides, God who gives wisdom and power and direction.

We also have a responsibility to give encouragement and guidance to one another in the journey we walk together. "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with

which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love" (Ephesians 4:15-16). Invite a friend to Bible study; call a friend when you know she's struggling, pray together.

As we come close to the end of another triennium, remember the journey of LWML–Canada. Recall the blessings of the past and trust God to lead us and enable us to grow in love and service. At times we become discouraged and tired; maybe we question what the future holds for our league. God has placed you in a position of leadership, use the memory of your journey to teach others, to mentor future leaders, to challenge our league to stretch and grow, to see with fresh eyes the mission field around us; and then to serve in joy and thanksgiving. "I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds" (Psalm 9:1).

*Grace and Peace in Christ,
Judy Grande
President, LWML–Canada*

You say — but God answers...

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| You say: It's impossible — | God says: <i>All things are possible</i> — Luke 18:27 |
| You say: I'm too tired — | God says: <i>I will give you rest</i> — Matthew 11:28-30 |
| You say: Nobody really loves me — | God says: <i>I love you</i> — John 3:16 & John 3:34 |
| You say: I can't go on — | God says: <i>My grace is sufficient</i> — 2 Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15 |
| You say: I can't figure things out — | God says: <i>I will direct your steps</i> — Proverbs 3:5-6 |
| You say: I can't do it — | God says: <i>You can do all things</i> — Philippians 4:13 |
| You say: I'm not able — | God says: <i>I am able</i> — 2 Corinthians 9:8 |
| You say: It's not worth it — | God says: <i>It will be worth it</i> — Romans 8:28 |
| You say: I can't forgive myself — | God says: <i>I forgive you</i> — 1 John 1:9 & Romans 8:1 |
| You say: I can't manage — | God says: <i>I will supply all your needs</i> — Philippians 4:19 |
| You say: I'm afraid — | God says: <i>I have not given you a spirit of fear</i> — 2 Timothy 1:7 |
| You say: I'm worried and frustrated — | God says: <i>Cast all your cares on Me</i> — 1 Peter 5:7 |
| You say: I'm not smart enough — | God says: <i>I give you wisdom</i> — 1 Corinthians 1:30 |
| You say: I feel all alone — | God says: <i>I will never leave you or forsake you</i> — Hebrews 13:5 |

From the Internet; Author unknown

Lutheran Women In Prayer

Give your prayer life a boost!

Many of us pray. Many of us pray daily. Many of us pray a few times a day. But how many of us have a regular and planned prayer time in our lives?

God communicates with us through His Word, and prayer is the way we communicate with God. There are many references to prayer in the Bible, and we can find the answers on how, when, where and why God wants us to pray. Through prayer God will establish and deepen our relationship with Him. The more we pray the stronger our relationship with God becomes.

If we want to know God better, we must be diligent about getting to know Him better by reading and studying His Word. How many times have you read through the entire Bible? If you don't read a book from cover to cover at least once, you are missing a lot. The Bible is no different; it was written for a purpose, for us to learn about what God has done for us and how He enables us to live our lives according to His will. How can we do this?

Read God's Word regularly

Pick a time each day to read God's Word. No prayer life is powerful or purposeful unless it is Scripture-centred. You will need to set aside at least a half an hour each day, more if you can.

Pray to be led by the Holy Spirit

No prayer life is complete if it is primarily focused on our personal desires rather than God's eternal purpose and perspective. We can only understand that perspective by reading His Word. The Third Article of the Apostle's Creed helps us to understand that "I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him;

but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith." Prayer should not be about "us" but it should be about God's will for us, and the Holy Spirit leads us to God through Christ.

Learn to pray

Matthew 6:6-8 gives us some suggestions on how we should pray. "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen, then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

In Matthew 6:9-14 Jesus teaches His disciples, and us, to pray.... "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." Jesus gave us this prayer as an example of a prayer that we could use daily.

We learn to pray by praying

- Ask God to help you find the time to be alone with Him.
- Ask God to teach you to pray.
- Ask God to give you very specific requests that are Scripture-based.
- Ask God to show you how and when

"Be anxious for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).

those prayers have been answered. An acronym may help us when we pray: SOAP

S – Scripture – read and focus on only one verse.

O – Observe – the verse as a whole. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to see what God is saying to you in that verse.

A – Application – Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to see how God wants you to use that verse in your daily life.

P – Pray – Call upon the Triune God to help you to apply His word to your daily life.

There are five basic types of prayer you may want to include when you pray.

1. Adoration, Praise, Thanksgiving and Worship:

Psalms 22:3; 50:23; 100:1-5;
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Hebrews 13:15

2. Confession and Repentance:

Psalms 6:8; 23:4-5; 51:6-10;
139:23-24; Proverbs 28:13;
Matthew 5:23; 6:14 1 John 1:9

3. Petitions and Supplications:

John 15:7; Philippians 4:6-7;
Hebrews 4:15-16

4. Intercession: Ezekiel 22:30; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:10-17

5. Meditative Listening: Psalms 1:2; 63:6; 77:12; 143:5; Jeremiah 29:13; 1 John 5:14-15

There does not have to be any specific pattern to your prayers, but including these five types will ensure a balance in your prayers.

If you want to pray more, here are some suggestions:

- Find a prayer partner or get a prayer team together to pray once a week.
- Keep a daily prayer journal. Include who and what you pray for. Remember to journal when a prayer has been answered and what the answer was.

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Get Connected! Summer 2009

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- Encourage others to pray.
- Always pray according to God’s will and He will indeed bless you.
- Just talk to God: When you are struggling with a decision, when you are worried, when you are lonely, when you are sick or hurting, when you are travelling, when you can’t sleep, when you are in the line-up at the bank or grocery store (pray for those in line ahead of you and behind you). Pray when you see a fire truck or ambulance rushing to an emergency, when listening to the traffic report on the radio and you hear of an accident, whenever you need a break.

There are many good examples in the Bible of God’s people just talking

to Him. When we read the Psalms of David we see a man who regularly poured out his heart to God. David passionately shared his feelings with God and praised Him even when he knew he was being punished for his sin. Read Psalm 86. Note how David talks to God; how David includes God in his prayer. Try using this Psalm as a guide in your daily prayer session.

The prayers of Jesus also show us that He felt He could bring anything to His Father and it would be heard. (Read John 17) That’s reason enough for us to take anything to God in prayer and we can be assured He will personally hear us whenever we call.

These are just a few suggestions to encourage you to read the Bible daily. Take your concerns to God in prayer and do it often. Do not forget to rejoice that God does indeed answer prayers.

“I love the Lord, for He heard my voice; He heard my cry for mercy. Because He turned His ear to me, I will call on Him as long as I live” (Psalm 116: 1-2).

*Pauline Huth
Christian Growth Committee*

Bible verses taken from the New International Version.

Prayer Resources

Order from the LWMLC Resource Centre orders@lutheranwomen.ca or call 1-888-596-5226

☐ **Bible Studies:**
A Private Line; 2 pages # 5115
But What Happens When I’m Alone? 2 pages # C-08-01 NEW

☐ **Devotions:**
Slow Me Down, Lord; 2 pages # C2002 –10

Evening prayer 3 pages # C-06-03 NEW

☐ **Dramas:**
Pray Without Ceasing 2 pages; # C1996-10
In Search of Total Confidence; 3 pages # C-07-09 NEW

☐ **Litanies:**
Who will wear the Crown? 4 pages #5432

☐ **Retreats:**
Communication with our Lord through Scripture and Prayer; 15 pages # 59129

☐ **Mites:**
God Blesses Us with His Message of Salvation; 2 pages # C-06-04 NEW

*Irene Warpula,
Christian Growth Committee*

Wait upon the Lord — He answers prayer!

“**B**ut those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31 NKJV).

In my forties I suffered through a depression. I had a negative attitude, and low self-esteem. An only child, raised in a loving Christian family, I attended church regularly, and prayed daily. I was happily married with two children, but when depression hit me I found it very difficult to live my life. Depression hit me hard. I didn’t want to go shopping, or go out among

other people, and had a very negative attitude. I even found it difficult to walk to the post office, only about half a block from my home in a small village.

Very few people, with the exception of some of my family, knew the situation. I kept it to myself but knew I needed help, and I knew that my help was going to come from God’s gift of faith to me and not from the depression pills I was taking. I prayed and prayed, calling out to God for help. Then one of my friends told me about hearing a conversation between two ladies concerning the problems they were

facing where they spoke of a Bible verse about *waiting upon the Lord*. The next morning on a television program, a soloist sang, “They that wait upon the Lord...”

I know that God is with me. My life and lifestyle have changed because of His presence. Knowing I am secure in His love and grace brings me comfort. My prayers are answered according to the will of Him who created me and puts a “right spirit within me”. I’ve had some difficult moments over the last ten years because of the sudden death of both parents, but I know they

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are with God and that He is in control of our lives.

God our Heavenly Father reaches out to us every day. He's there for each one of us. He's a peace-giver. Listen to Christian music; it "soothes the soul." Let God be first in your life, in your giving, in your daily lives, in your words and actions. At a Bible study I attended, one of the participants told about Panic Prayers – simply to call out to God for help.

Thanks to all my Bible study friends and church family who have shared their faith and prayed for me and my loved ones. Thanks to our Heavenly Father for His presence in our lives; His grace to overcome our doubts and fears; His love to overcome our weaknesses and His forgiveness, offering eternal life for all who believe. The following passages from Scripture have helped me greatly: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13 NKJV).

"Every test that you have experienced is the kind that normally comes to people. But God keeps His promise, and He will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm: at the time you are put to the test He will give you the strength to endure it and so provide you with a way out" (1 Corinthians 10:13 Good News Bible).

To God be the Glory

Marjorie Benner
Fisherville, Ontario

You Are God's Gift – unwrap your potential!

Are you all wrapped up in beautiful paper with ribbons and all the trimmings to match? But what is inside that beautifully wrapped gift? That's what really counts!!!

How can you be certain this gift of God – You – is fulfilling its purpose during your lifetime?

Aim: To help reach the potential God has in mind in your personal development.

Goal: To learn what God says about the whole person, to set priorities for your total life – to help identify your spiritual gifts.

The fact is, you didn't become what you are overnight – you developed – via stages in growth, and that process continues as long as you have your faculties. When we talk about **personal development** we're talking about the growth or development of the whole person, spiritually, mentally, and physically – the kind of person God had in mind when He first created you, giving you a body, mind and spirit. He expects you to expand or grow in all three areas of your life. (Ephesians 4:15, 1 Thessalonians 2:12)

Stages of Growth

Let's imagine you are a beautiful flower with six petals, each petal

representing a stage in growth, or development, necessary before you can consider yourself a whole person, spiritually, mentally and physically.

The flower begins its growth from the centre, where it is attached to a stem, representing Christ as the centre of your life. Let's work with this basic concept of a personal relationship with Christ, self-acceptance, growing in grace and knowledge of Christ, which is necessary before we can even begin proper development.

Following are six stages in a Christian's personal development, which help you to become a whole person:

◆ **Identify and develop spiritual gifts and talents:**

If a jeweler wishes to recognize various precious gems, he must first become acquainted with all kinds of gems. So it is with a Christian hoping to recognize and discover her own spiritual gift(s). We must first become informed about the many New Testament gifts. St. Paul urges us to uncover and utilize our gifts. He exhorts every believer "not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly" (Romans 12:3). So a sensible estimate of our abilities is a spiritual necessity.

◆ **Discover and recognize your spiritual gift(s).**

Here are seven D's, principles to help you

1. Delineation – List and study the gifts.

Four key passages of Scripture list the gifts.

- Romans 12:3-8
- 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30
- Ephesians 4:11
- 1 Peter 4:10-11

Since we have to allow for duplications in the four passages, it is difficult to say whether there are 19 or 20 gifts listed. It is well to remember that, while gifts of the Spirit are spoken of throughout the Bible, different gifts were given at different times in history, depending on the needs of the Kingdom.

The Christian must be informed about these gifts before hoping to recognize her own. Failure to recognize a gift does not mean it does not exist nor does ignorance of a gift make it less valuable.

2. Deeds of Service – now get busy.

We need to expose ourselves to various kinds of Christian service within our own congregations and

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wherever the opportunity presents itself. As we begin to obey God's commands to evangelize, exhort, show mercy, help, etc. the Holy Spirit gradually unveils certain gifts. Willingness to try something new may uncover a gift we never knew we possessed.

3. Desire – note your inclinations

A gift will usually be preceded by a desire and followed by opportunity to use it. On the other hand, desire alone in an individual for a certain gift does not guarantee it. Final assignment belongs to the Holy Spirit who gives to every believer as He chooses. (1 Corinthians 12:11)

4. Dedication – prayer

As you begin your search you need to pray for openness and understanding, asking the Holy Spirit to show you what gifts He has for you. Then as you proceed to uncover your gifts it is important to dedicate them to the Lord. You must have the faith to believe that you are gifted and that the Holy Spirit will guide you as He leads you into obedience to Christ.

5. Development

We are to be instruments, not ornaments. The existence of a gift is a call to cultivate and exercise it. "Neglect not the gift that is in thee" (1 Timothy 4:14). Evaluate the results of your efforts as you serve and minister to the needs of others.

6. Delight

There should be joy as a result of using your gifts in a divinely appointed ministry and this is subconsciously

communicated to those who are served by your ministry. Others will be "turned on" as they see how "you are turned on."

7. Discernment by others – confirmation

It is important to remain alert to the responses of your fellow Christians. Often others see a gift in you long before you are aware of it – thus the need of discernment by fellow believers who surround you.

As we go about discovering our gifts, let us remember no Christian is self-sufficient. Each one of us is an essential part of the Body of Christ, the Church. Scripture emphasizes the fact that spiritual gifts are given to edify the church and must be used for that purpose in self-sacrificing love.

Another important principle to remember is the fact that we, as believers, do not possess or control the Holy Spirit. Even though the Holy Spirit dwells in all believers, He is not our property or tool; He by His grace possesses us. When the Holy Spirit comes into our lives, it's not how much of the Holy Spirit *we* get but rather how much the Holy Spirit gets of *us*.

♦ **Increase and develop mental processes and skills**, such as understanding yourself, positive attitude, self-discipline, initiative, organized life, goal setting, communication, listening, etc.

♦ **Care for and sustain a healthy body:** Proper nutrition, exercise, sleep and relaxation, appearance.

A Christian woman must reign over her body, which is disciplined and chaste, gracious and controlled. (1 Peter 3:1-4)

♦ **Care for and sustain nature – God's creation.** (Psalm 95) We are affected by our environment – ecology – energy – pollution. God predicts in His Word that the earth will reach a point where it will no longer be the limitless source of blessing and comfort it appears to have been for thousands of years. (Hebrews 1:10-11)

♦ **Grow in love and service to fellow Christians** (1 John 4:20). We are to live our lives in fellowship with other Christians, in continual openness and honesty, loving, caring and sharing with our sisters and brothers in Christ.

♦ **Grow in love and service to the world.** (Matthew 22:39) Enter into service to the world, with no strings attached – sacrificial ministry to others. We do not serve people to convince them of spiritual truth, but rather because Christ loves all of us.

Take a good look at your life. Are there any petals missing in your personal development? Whether wife, mother, career woman, single parent – are you building a life of eternal consequence?

*Personal Development, modified
Renate Bishopp*

You'll find the complete version of Personal Development on the CD *From A to Z*.

Increasing our numbers — can we do it differently?

Here is food for thought from an excerpt from an article from the Alban Institute.

In response to [the new pastor] Todd's probing, some older women complained, with thinly veiled judgment and annoyance, that the younger women showed little interest

in joining the Women's Guild. Todd asked to be invited to the next meeting, and there he made an ingenious suggestion. "Do you remember the founding story of your group?" he asked. Looks of nostalgia crept across their faces as they began to tell, in increasingly animated ways, the story

of their first gatherings, back when these gray-haired women were the mothers of toddlers. Smiles broadened on their faces. "Remember, Sara, you called me and I called you, Lillian, and we all got together at my house for coffee while our babies napped

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in the living room. That was our first meeting,” Mary reported. “And we each agreed to invite one other woman,” added Lillian, “and soon we were a dozen.” “We began to meet at the church and took turns babysitting,” Eileen reminisced.

Careful not to interrupt, Todd artfully suggested, “Maybe there’s an alternative to trying to get the young women to join your group. Maybe you could help them birth their own group,

just like you birthed yours. Maybe you can help them begin a ‘founding story’ that they can retell years from now.” Quizzical looks gave way to an energetic conversation about just how they might do that. Two weeks later, responding to handwritten invitations, the older and younger women met. Two months later the church bulletin carried dates and times for two women’s groups. Todd gently blew on the sparks, encouraging barely glowing

embers to become a hearty fire.

In another direction, check out the article in the Summer 2009 issue of *Tapestry* regarding using the Internet to include women who want to participate in your LWMLC society but cannot attend meetings, or those who might want to form an e-society. While these ideas may not appeal to those of us who are already involved, they can meet the needs of other women.

LWML–Canada News

LWML–Canada Sunday 2009

A wide variety of materials and ideas will be provided from which you may choose. Information will be mailed in late May (sooner if it is ready). We recommend that you speak with your pastor about it as soon as the mailing arrives because most pastors plan services well in advance.

In an LCC survey of pastors regarding designated Sundays, some expressed the opinion that those

recognized on designated Sundays focused mainly on appeals for funds. Unfortunately, when we have focused on encouraging all in the congregation to give mites for missions we have reinforced that picture. Since we support the same missions as the Church, perhaps the focus should simply be on the missions themselves, whether support is through the congregation or through LWML–Canada.

Posting materials for LWML–Canada Sunday on the web site allows us to be good stewards by saving on printing and postage costs. It saves time for the congregation’s secretary and/or pastor because there is no need to re-type things. **BUT...copies on paper are always available.** Simply call the LWML–Canada Resource Centre at 1-888-596-5226 and ask to have them mailed to you.

LWML–Canada part of community of LCC mission organizations

The auxiliaries and other mission organizations of Lutheran Church–Canada have, for several years, been meeting following conventions and events where most have been in attendance. This group was given more structure when they gathered following the LCC convention last summer. Their next meeting will be held immediately following the LWML–Canada convention in July.

CLAIM (Canadian Lutheran Agencies in Mission) is a network of Lutheran Church–Canada auxiliaries: Lutheran Laymen’s League of Canada, (LLL Canada) Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS) and LWML–Canada; and mission Lutheran Service Organizations (LSOs).

Mission executives of the Synod and its three districts serve in an advisory

capacity. CLAIM is not a new mission society, nor does it carry out mission work. Rather, it seeks to serve the existing agencies by facilitating better co-ordination among them in serving our Synod.

CLAIM’s Mission Statement is: “For the sake of the Gospel, the member agencies of CLAIM are committed to assisting Lutheran Church–Canada in engaging and deploying its members to proclaim the Triune God.”

LWML–Canada’s participation in this group is important for our league as we set future goals, using our time, talents and treasures, each in a unique way, to serve our Church. Working together with other participants in CLAIM we will receive added information, support and advice on the overall mission work of the church.

Communication through CLAIM with LLL Canada, CLMS and the various LSOs will also show ways to support one another through co-operation, and, at times, jointly provide resources and promote the mission work we carry out with and in support of LCC. Read about each organization in CLAIM in the March 2009 issue of *The Canadian Lutheran*, pages 31-38.

CLAIM has put together a website and a booklet of devotions. The website, providing links to each participating organization, can be found at www.lll.ca/claim. The devotion booklet, *Proclaim His Name*, is intended for outreach and can be found on the website and read online or downloaded for printing pages as desired. Hardcopies can be ordered through your LCC District.

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LWML–Canada fund for deaconesses in Nicaragua grows

By the grace of God, the \$4,000 grant from the Mission Opportunities Fund for Christian education materials for Nicaragua deaconesses, has grown to \$6,346.

How has this fund grown? \$1,000 was added by a private donor, an LWMLC society fundraiser merited a FaithLife matching grant, trip participants are receiving donations

Mission Grants completed

At their meeting on March 26-29, the General Council approved one final grant for \$3,500 from the Mission Opportunity Fund. Several other requests were received but they

Convention 2009 – Interest Session added

Those attending the LWML–Canada convention in Ottawa this summer will have the opportunity to attend four of several interest sessions. Another, from which to choose, has been added. It may be "written in" on the registration form.

when making presentations. Anyone, at any time, may add to this fund, administrated by Lutheran Church–Canada and Iglesia Luterana Sinodo de Nicaragua.

To quote Dr. Ralph Mayan, Interim Mission Director, LCC, "First of all, I want to express my thanks to all the ladies involved in gathering funds for Christian education materials for our

did not meet the criteria for this fund. As a result \$500 of the \$30,000 was not allocated.

The final mission grant will assist to support Missionary Peter Gatluak who

Oleg Schewtschenko from Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, who is currently completing his studies at Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines, Ontario will share his story and the story of how God is using the Lutheran Church

Nicaragua Deaconesses. The amount is way beyond what I had ever expected would be raised.

I have been gathering information on the kinds of Spanish materials that can be obtained for use in women's ministry. We will share that with the deaconesses and then begin the process of purchasing materials."

will be called, upon his graduation in May 2009, to serve the Sudanese community at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Hamilton, Ontario.

in Ukraine in reaching out with the Gospel. He will also give an update on new developments he learned about on his visit, with Rev. Bugbee, to Lutheran churches in Ukraine.

WIMSEEs all adopted

Thank you to everyone who adopted one of our little blue bears. They have now all found a good home. See *Tapestry*, Summer 09, for a list of where they went.

Thinking about pre-ordering from the LWLMC store? Check *Tapestry* Summer 2009 for details.

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people who prayed for her, it was a powerful reminder that God hears us when we pray and He does answer.

As I sat down to write this, our seven-year-old son Joshua asked what I was writing about. When I told him, he responded, "sometimes it doesn't seem like God is listening to our prayers." I asked him "why do you

think that?" "Well," he said wistfully, "I've been praying for a long time for my brother (our 26-year-old son who does not live with us any more) to come back to church and for our neighbours to become Christians and they still haven't." I told him that sometimes we pray for things that God desperately wants too, but the people

we are praying for have the free will to turn away from what God wants to do for them. I explained that God has not given up on these people and neither should we. So we must keep on praying for them!

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