



Impressions

winter 2010

Impressions is a tool to encourage Young Woman Representatives of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League after their convention experience as they serve in their home districts. It can be used as an instrument to educate and inform other young women about LWML.

GREETINGS FROM THE TASK FORCE

Welcome to the first issue of *Impressions* put together for you by the new Young Woman Representative Task Force. During the last few biennia, the YWR program has been organized under the Leader Development Committee. A new task force has been formed for the 2009-2011 biennium specifically to meet the needs of the young women in our congregations and districts. The members of this task force are all experienced YWRs. The task force is chaired by Anne Hartman of Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Anne served on the Leader Development Committee in 2005-2007. Her experience includes organizing and facilitating the YWR Program in Sioux Falls, serving as the YWR Coordinator in her home district of North Wisconsin and being a YWR to Oklahoma City in 2003. Serving with her are Caroline Hayes of Grand Junction, Colorado, who served as a YWR at Sioux Falls in 2007, and Brandi Bucholz of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, who served as a YWR in Portland in June. We are blessed to be led by the Vice President of Human Care, Deaconess Sylvia Johnson. It is an honor to have been called to serve on this task force for the 2009-2011 biennium and we are very excited to see what the Lord has planned for us for the next two years!

SHARE YOUR STORY

The YWR experience is different for every woman who has the opportunity to attend a national convention. We want to hear about your experience. How has God touched your heart through this experience? How did it change you? Are you serving now in your own district? What kind of impact did it make in your life? Please consider sharing your story with us like Brandi did in this newsletter. You can check out other stories that YWRs have shared on www.lwml.org. Just go to the Young Women page found under Resources and find the *Impressions* archived issues. There are many great stories that have been shared in the past. Please send your story to Anne Hartman at dephc@lwml.org.

FROM THE HEART OF A YWR

If you would have told me last October where I would be today with the LWML, I would have thought that you were talking about the wrong person. Wow, what a difference a year makes! I was encouraged by my zone president to apply to become a YWR for the national convention in Portland, Oregon. I never thought of myself being involved in LWML at the national level, but I decided that I would submit my application anyway and see what happened.

When I received the call that I was one of the YWR's chosen to represent Michigan at the convention, I immediately thought that she must have meant that I was an alternate. Wrong! I was truly going to look upon the hills surrounding Portland! What an amazing experience! I wish that I had the words to describe how it feels to be in a convention hall filled with women who love their Lord and are so excited to have the opportunity to serve Him, to hear thousands of beautiful voices singing His praises, and to take communion with *thousands* who share the faith and love of the Lord Jesus Christ. I wish I had the words to tell you how amazing it was to see the mission grants being selected for the 2009-2011 biennium. The truth is, I just don't! If you have ever been to an LWML convention, national or district, you know what I am talking about. If you have not, *please* take the opportunity to do so! I cannot urge you enough to attend! It is truly an uplifting experience. Since the convention I have grown so much in my relationship with Jesus Christ!

"I have plans for you declares the Lord" and does He ever! After attending the national convention, I was called to serve on the YWR Task Force for the 2009-2011 biennium. After complete shock and much prayer, I answered His call to serve. I know that He will equip me for all that He has planned for me, and I am very excited to be going on this walk with my Lord! Who knows what the Lord has planned for you? Are you listening to His voice? Are you answering His call?

Brandi Bucholz,

Michigan District YWR, Portland 2009

DID YOU KNOW?

At the convention in Portland, the women of the LWML adopted a new Mission Grant Goal for the 2009-2011 biennium of **\$1,825,000.00!** This grant money will be dispersed among 19 mission projects in the U.S. and abroad! Please see the home page at www.lwml.org and follow the grant link for a detailed list of the different mission grants and the amount awarded to each grant.

Each district is now in the planning process for their own conventions in 2010. All will be adopting Mission Grant goals and mission projects to support as well. You can access district Web sites from the LWML Web site. Just find your district link on the “contact us” page of www.lwml.org and click on your district to find out more about your own convention.

DEVOTION

From *Mustard Seed: Living as a Woman in Mission*.

Author: Mary Smith.

A mentor is defined as a trusted teacher or wise counselor. For me, being a mentor means positively encouraging someone in even a small way.

Mentoring preteen girls as they move from childhood into Christian womanhood is full of challenges. Sometimes weeks pass and I see little change in attitude or behavior. My warnings of danger go unheeded. When that happens I ask God to help me walk with them through the consequences. I pray that the final outcome will be that the young women will honor God with their bodies and lives.

What benefit is there to investing so deeply in another person's life? I grow in faith. I learn to lean on Jesus. I learn to trust His Word. I learn to pray constantly. I learn to thank Him again and again! Finally, I can say along with the Apostle John: *It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us* (2 John 4).

Thank You for opening my eyes and heart to see the work that You have entrusted to me for the advancement of Your kingdom. Father, I know that apart from You I can do nothing. Strengthen my faith, for in You I trust. In Jesus' name, Amen.

LETTER FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF HUMAN CARE

We have spent the last 29 years of our ministry in cold, blustery Milwaukee, where every year we look forward to being on the other side of that long Midwestern winter. Ready to welcome warmth, light, and activity back to our world, we wait for spring to arrive so we can get “back to normal”. But when spring finally does arrive, our rush to get “back to normal” is often stalled by too many potholes in the road – potholes we usually don't see until our front tires fall into them! It would have been nice to have someone point them out before we got stuck.

Life has its potholes, too. But God has a way of using these cracks in the road and the unexpected lessons they can teach. Throughout my life I've been touched by women who have shown me where these potholes were or, if I already had my two front tires firmly entrenched as I sometimes did, have told me how to get out. The lessons of life they have passed on are practical and encouraging.

Fresh out of the Seminary, in a two-point rural parish in South Dakota, I knew nothing about being a pastor's wife. In one of our congregations God had in place the widow of a Pastor who took me under her wing, prayed for me, guided me, nurtured me, encouraged me, corrected me, helped me discover my gifts, and most of all loved me. She introduced me to LWML and to women in our zone and district, showing me what our “mighty mites” can do—the rest is history. Her encouraging words and love helped me avoid many a pothole and even pulled me out of several.

A description of this special woman who so impacted my life is nestled in Titus 2:3-5. Paul is describing mentoring to his young friend Titus, as he tells about the kind of relationship women in God's family are to have with one another. Mentoring is indeed a biblical concept, though not a biblical word. These directives are intended for you and me. You may be 70 with much to offer a 35 year old or you may be 35 and find a 15 or 20 year old looking up to you. God calls you in no uncertain terms to pass on to other women your passion for Him and your commitment to His ways.

Think about your experience as YWRs. You have the opportunity in your districts to pass on your passion, your enthusiasm for the LWML to the young women who will be attending your district conventions. This is your chance to develop mentoring relationships and to share your experiences. The time you have spent with Christ and the fact He dwells within you enables you to be a beacon, an encourager, and a guide to others.

Deaconess Sylvia Johnson

LWML Vice President of Human Care

