



LWML
Lutheran Women in Mission

The Glad Game—Accent the Positive Devotion

In the Walt Disney movie of the same name, Pollyanna helped change the attitude of a negative town into a positive one by teaching them how to play the "Glad Game." Pollyanna's Glad Game was taught to her by her father, an overseas missionary. When opening a "barrel" from a missionary society, they found a crutch instead of the doll she would have liked. Trying to find something to be happy about, they decided to be glad that they had no need for a crutch. The Glad Game was born.

As Christians we have every reason to not just **play** the Glad Game, but to **live** it.

In Romans, St. Paul, not a stranger to negative events in his life, writes in chapter 8:28, *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.* And the often-frustrated prophet, Jeremiah, writes in Jeremiah 29:11 the well-known verse, *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."*

We see blessings bestowed on us by God that further support these glad tidings:

- We have been called by God through the Holy Spirit to faith, according to His purpose as Ephesians 2:8 says, *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.*
- That faith assures that our sins are forgiven and we will go to heaven. *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death* (Romans 8:1-2).
- Because of that assurance we no longer live in negativity. *For you are my lamp, O LORD, and my God lightens my darkness* (2 Samuel 22:29).

Knowing our future is assured and our God has the plan for our lives and it is for our good, we can face negative events, frustrations, failures, and disappointments and look for the positive blessings of God in them. We can live the Glad Game. And as LWML Women in Mission we will continue to "Serve the Lord with **Gladness!**"

Prayer: Dear Lord God, Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your loving goodness which brings all good things into our lives. Help us to share the gladness our hearts experience knowing we are in Your care with those whose lives intersect our own so that You may be glorified. In our saving Jesus' holy name we pray. Amen.

Live the Glad Game: Try going a whole day where you change negative thoughts into positive ones. Begin the day with prayer. When something negative happens to you, make yourself find the positive in it. If something doesn't work, take responsibility to make it come out positively. If you are dealing with a negative relationship, try to find a way to make it more positive. Turn a negative frown into a glad smile!

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