



January 2019

Devotion

Nursing Students Serving with Mercy Medical Team - \$80,000

And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me ... (Matthew 25: 40).

How often do we 'pass by on the other side' when someone asks for our help as the priest and Levite did when seeing the man lying beaten on the side of the road in Jesus' parable? Do we judge the needy person by thinking less of them or do we see Jesus' in them?

Jesus taught the disciples and us to *be merciful as our Father is merciful ... (Luke 6:36)*. So how does that affect our lives? Jesus taught a radical new way of living to His disciples by serving the people He encountered with compassion and healing. We are to follow His example by helping others as our Father has provided for all our needs.

How do we step out of our comfort zone and reach out with God's mercy to those who need our help? One answer may be to send others in our place. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod provides an opportunity through Mercy Medical Teams for qualified individuals to go to an area of the world underprivileged and in need of medical help. Our mites gathered together with our LWML sisters can make a difference in the lives of countless hurting people. Through care and words of God's mercy toward all, through this grant, we will send volunteer nursing students to Madagascar. They will be our hands, feet and hearts as they reach out to those suffering and in need of medical care with the love of Jesus.

Going into the mission field can bring another blessing as many who go on short term trips also commit to longer missionary work. We may become the reason for one or more of these student nurses to know their calling is to mission work abroad. What an amazing feeling to take part in the mission of our Savior to tell the world of His love, forgiveness and mercy.

We live in a country of countless blessings. We have many freedoms and opportunities not known in other lands. We have access to medical facilities and care which we may take for granted. Jesus calls us to make a difference in the lives of others. We are blessed to be a blessing.

How will Jesus' example affect how we see 'the least of these' today?

Prayer:

Merciful Father, forgive our lack of empathy for the needs of others. As You have blessed us, give us grateful hearts to willingly and generously give our mites for the mission grant funding of nurses willing to serve in our place by going on a Mercy Medical Team to Madagascar. Help us to see the needs of others

who come into our lives as opportunities to be Jesus to them. May our lives be changed as we remember this mission in our daily prayers. In Jesus' powerful name. Amen

Sing together: "Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old" LSB #846

