



June 2014

MISSION GRANT STORY

OUR MIGHTY MITES AT WORK

Have you ever looked at a globe and wondered where the coins you put in your Mite Box have ended up doing their work? In addition to the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, eNews, the LWML website, and district newsletters, the book *Wherever God Sends Us* is full of information about LWML mission grants. This book covers many stories of personal information about how LWML funds have been used in the Americas. When you consider that \$100 million has been given to grants in over 70 years of LWML history, consider that many, many lives have also been affected.

In 1950, a \$5,000 grant assisted in building an adobe unit which served as a school for the people of Zacapa, Guatemala. By 1956, there were 75 students and by 1968 that number had increased to 350 when they started to add a boarding option. In addition to the village children enjoying a Christian education, the church there grew as well. In Haiti, a 2011-2013 LWML grant of \$70,000 helped to support Lutheran orphanages which was especially helpful because of the influx of children after the 2010 earthquake. A 1981-1983 grant for \$35,000 supported ministry to the Bahamian children by providing a van for giving the children of the community transportation. That grant also helped with transportation and housing for a Director of Christian Education youth worker at the Lutheran Church of Nassau.

We've reached out to our northern neighbors as well. As far back as 1956-1957, LWML grants have helped colleges and seminaries in Canada at Toronto, Edmonton, and Ontario campuses. We also gave grants to churches in Canada. In 1987, a \$75,000 grant was used to purchase a former restaurant to begin what became Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Moncton, Ontario. A church that had begun as a result of one woman organizing a Sunday school resulted in a 1961 grant of \$67,200 for a church in Montreal. In 1971-1973, LWML granted the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP) \$40,000 for a Cessna 180, and again in 1977-1979 another grant for \$50,000 for a Cessna 185. LAMP purchased the second bush plane and chose the call letters, C-GSPL, representing "Gospel."

The six authors who researched and wrote these stories have also included LWML support for ethnic and multi-cultural ministries. They also included ways in which LWML has assisted other organizations throughout our country; churches and colleges within our borders; and also for special focus evangelism efforts. If you also want to know about mission grants in the continents of Europe, Africa, and Asia, you can purchase and read the book *God Gave the Increase* from the LWML Store. *Wherever God Sends Us* may also be purchased at the LWML Store.