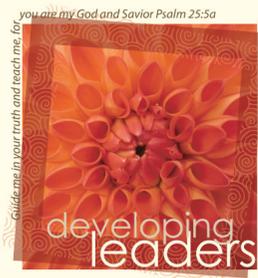


# follow the leader

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are my God and Savior. Psalm 25:5a

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## Leadership Resources Sought

The Leader Development Committee is seeking resources that support developing leadership qualities and mentoring relationships. If you have any questions, suggestions, or experience with these topics, we would like to hear from you! Please email [depor@lwml.org](mailto:depor@lwml.org) and put Leader Development in the subject line so the message can be forwarded to us. Thank you!

## GIFTED FOR IMPACT! Discover, Engage, and Expand

In previous issues of *Follow the Leader*, we have looked at leadership in different ways. We provided encouragement and hands-on resources to help you become a more effective leader. But the reality is that God has gifted you as a leader and those gifts have been given by Him to make an impact in your life and in the lives of those you touch through the LWML.

Each of us in leadership positions has been gifted by God for impact in our role(s). The gifts of leadership are given so that we can participate in ministry and serve the Lord with gladness in our daily walk. The process of the discovery of our gifts is opening us up to hearing God's voice and urging us in a certain direction. Very much like hidden treasure, our gifts await discovery so that we will impact His people for service. *There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit ... All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines* (1 Corinthians 12:4-9, 11 NIV).

Once we **discover** the gifts given to us, they become like a compass leading us toward those areas of leadership that

God has uniquely created us to fill. Without that compass, we can find ourselves frustrated and disillusioned, spinning our wheels in areas where we are not gifted to serve. Through constant prayer and study of His Word, He opens to us a world of discovery as to who we are and **Whose** we are! Embracing our gifts impacts us as we seek His purpose.

Have you ever put teaspoons of sugar into coffee without stirring? Doing that does nothing to enhance the taste of the coffee – it needs to be stirred to be flavorful. Just as sugar in coffee is tasteless until stirred, so our gifts for leadership become useful and effective only when stirred, engaged, and used. We each have valuable gifts and to use those gifts for the purpose for which they were given, we must **engage** them daily as God gives us opportunity for the benefit of His Kingdom. *Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration ...*

*Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? ... But eagerly desire the greater gifts* (1 Corinthians 12:27-28a, 29-30a, 31 NIV).

Instead of just saying, "That woman might be a potential leader in our district, zone, or society," actively seek to put yourself in a mentoring relationship with her. Encourage her and share your experience and excitement for LWML. Show

***For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:6-7 NIV).***

**continued >>**

>>Gifted for Impact, continued from page 1

her how to be engaged in LWML through her daily walk. Leaders who motivate others also pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to find ways to bring out and use an individual's God-given gifts. This makes you a **leader – gifted for impact!**

We have discovered our gifts of leadership; we have found ways to take those leadership gifts and engage them in service to our Lord. Does it end there? I don't think so! We need to take those gifts of leadership and continue to expand them in ministry and service. Like a small flame, those leadership gifts expand and grow. We perfect them in our interactions and opportunities within our districts, zones, and societies. *For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline* (2 Timothy 1:6-7 NIV).

We reflected on this 2 Timothy Scripture text in the Winter 2012 issue of *Follow the Leader*. As we expand the use of our leadership gifts we can be less fearful – we embrace leadership which will lead to success, joy, and fulfillment. We expand

in our leadership role by being in constant prayer, studying God's Word, and seeking His guidance at every turn. We will soon find ourselves taking on additional responsibilities and facing challenges with insight and perseverance.

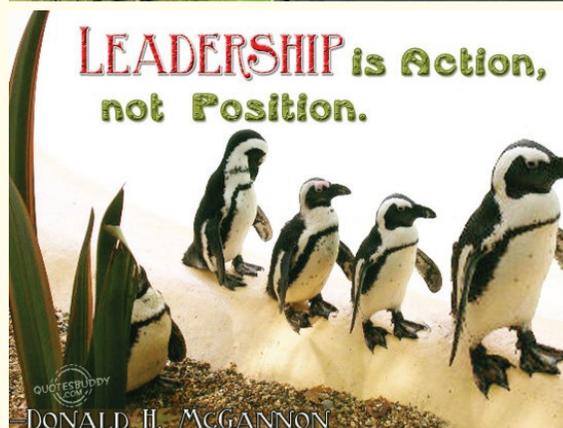
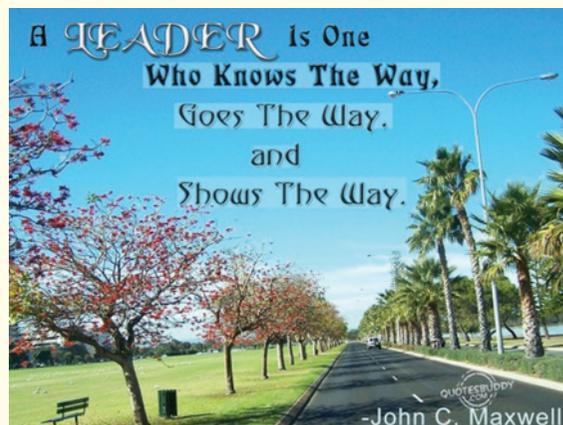
Often we think that God is most interested in us using our leadership strengths. But it is in our weakness that we are more responsive to God's guidance as He helps us expand our roles and reminds us that leadership is not something we do alone. It is a team effort which requires strength, wisdom, and a clear vision from God. We are then **leaders – gifted for impact.**

LWML Pastoral Counselor Rev. John Heckmann has written a three-part Bible study for Christian leaders. When it becomes available, we urge you to utilize this Bible study. In part three of the series, Pastor Heckmann takes the usual leadership characteristics of a Christian and provides Scripture texts that offer an opportunity for additional study and insight as you look at leadership in a totally different way – **gifted for impact!**

## LWML Resources Spotlight

- **Discover** – You may ask, “How do I discover my gifts?” Check out *Gifted for Service* (# 71530) for a Bible study which defines spiritual gifts and provides your spiritual “job description.”
- **Engage** – One of the aspects of leadership is engaging women through mentoring. Two excellent resources are:
  - » *Woman to Woman Mentoring* (#11601) which guides Christian women in intentional mentoring and encourages one-on-one mentoring among diverse groups of women, especially as they serve the Lord with gladness.
  - » *Motivation is Contagious* (#71350) offers insights into motivating others and stimulating enthusiasm. What better way to be engaged as a leader than to motivate others in service!
- **Expand** – Growing and cultivating is what God does for and to leaders. Be inspired by *Flowering LWML Leaders* as you gain insight in expanding your gift of leadership. (This is only available as a downloadable resource.)

These resources can be downloaded by going to [www.lwml.org/resources/leader\\_development/](http://www.lwml.org/resources/leader_development/).



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