

# *Lutheran Women in Mission*

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## **Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Summer 2000**



### **Turning & Returning** *by Martha Hartwig*

#### **Opening Prayer**

Dear Father, Thank You for being present for us to turn to. As we begin this study, fill us with Your Spirit so that we see Your will for us. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

#### **All About Turning**

One good turn deserves another. Turn the other cheek. Turn over a new leaf. Turn about is fair play. Turn on, turn out, turn under, turn in. There are so many phrases we use that include the word "turn." Maybe that's because every time we turn around, something has changed.

Even with all of the changes, every once in a while we think we know what life has in store for us. We confidently go on our way until there is an unexpected turn in the path. Something like that happened to a man named Saul. He was confident in his path until God turned his life upside down. Read what happened to him in **Acts 9:1-19**.

What was Saul's path and how did God change it?

God has turned all of our lives through unexpected changes like moves, new family members and illness. Take a moment to share a change that happened in your life path.

Sometimes it seems as though these changes make life more difficult. We aren't sure how to stay close to God. Read the following passages and discuss what God tells us to do. Then share some difficulties and successes you have had in following these directives.

- Joshua 1:6-9
- Joel 2:12-13
- Philippians 3:14-16 and 4:8
- 1 Peter 5:6-7

God gives us His directions, His Word, to help us. He wants us to follow His will and not turn away from Him, but often that doesn't happen, especially when times change and things are difficult. We do fear. We don't follow God's loving commandments. We sin. That is when we need to return to our loving Father and trust His promises.

The Bible is filled with wonderful promises we can turn to any time we need to be reminded of our gracious Father's love. Read the following verses and note the promise(s) in each one.

- Zechariah 1:2-3
- Isaiah 41:10
- Romans 8:28
- Philippians 4:7
- Matthew 19:26
- Nahum 1:7
- 1 Thessalonians 5:9

Do you have another Scripture promise that has been especially comforting to you? Take time now to share that promise.

## Closing

Having been reminded that we are welcome to return to our loving Father at any time, let's turn to Him now in prayer. Have a circle prayer thanking God for His gracious gifts to us, or say together the following prayer.

Heavenly Father, thank You for speaking to us through Your Word. You have reminded us through it that we can always turn to You and that You love us. Please forgive us for our doubts and continue to strengthen us through Your Holy Spirit. Help us to live as Your confident children. In Jesus' precious name we pray, Amen.

All may join in singing "I am Trusting You, Lord Jesus" (LW 408, TLH 428).



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