



TREASURED NEWS



FEBRUARY 2013

Issue #6

Each of us receives many gifts from a gracious and giving God. **Christian Stewardship** is concerned with our God-given gifts and the way we use them. Last month we read about the gift of TIME. *"My times are in your hands,"* God tells us in Psalm 31:15. Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us that *"there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven."*

Did you find extra hours to add to your 24-hour day? I haven't. Perhaps you prioritized your activities for the 24 hours that you have. Those are the hours God has given us each day to live our lives and to do the deeds He has already planned for us. Do we always make good use of our TIME? Sometimes yes and sometimes no; however, this is a reminder to look at how we use our gift of TIME and then use our 24 hours each day in a way that honors God and blesses others.

Now, let's move on and read about the second "T" of Stewardship: TALENT. Do you recognize the talents God gave you? Sometimes we don't but others do. When you recognize talents in others, let them know what you see in them and then watch that talent grow!

TALENT

Our TALENTS include the gifts, skills, and abilities that God has given to us. We often hear people talking about their "God-given abilities." And this is right on target because all we are and have is a gift from a good and gracious God.

Our TALENTS include the gifts that God has entrusted to us. The 12th chapters of Romans and 1 Corinthians speak about some of these gifts and remind us that the Holy Spirit gives various gifts according to His will, and He desires that we use these gifts for the common good (1 Peter 4:10).

Using our God-given TALENTS wisely and well produces the fruit of the Spirit that Paul mentions in Galatians 5:22: *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."*

Just as God provided skilled workers to help with the building of the Old Testament tabernacle and temple, so He continues to bless His people today with special gifts and skills to be of service in ways that honor God and bless others. We are members of the body of Christ (in our congregations and LWML) and each of us has TALENTS to put to work within that body so that it may be built up to be the worshipping, witnessing, and serving community that God intends.

Make every effort to discover your gifts, skills, and abilities and find ways to put them to work in your community.

Rev. John Heckmann
LWML Junior Pastoral Counselor

Other Bible passages relative to this topic:

Matthew 19:19 - Love your neighbor
Matthew 25:15-30 - Parable of Talents
Luke 10:30-37 - Good Samaritan
Luke 16 - Faithful stewardship

Romans 12:1 - Offer yourself to God
2 Corinthians 5:16 - 6:2 - Work together
Ephesians 2:1-10 - Created for good work
1 John 4:13-21 - We love because of God's love for us

MITE REPORT BY DISTRICT - JANUARY 2013

DISTRICT	CURRENT	TOTAL	DISTRICT	CURRENT	TOTAL
ATLANTIC	2,873.03	13,800.62	NEBRASKA NORTH	1,237.26	23,692.29
CAL-NEV-HAWAII		37,073.47	NEBRASKA SOUTH	5,367.93	34,684.93
CAROLINAS		8,728.83	NEW ENGLAND	1,093.82	12,042.32
CENTRAL ILLINOIS	1,449.26	35,850.06	NEW JERSEY	228.64	3,960.73
CHESAPEAKE	2,674.56	21,952.11	NORTH DAKOTA	1,660.77	25,052.67
EASTERN	958.56	13,695.03	NORTH WISCONSIN	1,276.00	29,589.00
ENGLISH	1,006.64	10,351.80	NORTHERN ILLINOIS	2,361.84	39,605.21
FLORIDA-GEORGIA		29,022.10	OHIO		37,946.54
GULF STATES	2,096.63	12,107.62	OKLAHOMA	5,435.39	37,556.23
INDIANA	4,971.57	29,969.16	OREGON	2,772.06	17,333.51
IOWA EAST	8,259.18	28,291.42	PACIFIC SW	4,933.27	54,506.91
IOWA WEST	4,627.40	42,418.47	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	1,005.03	34,399.80
KANSAS	5,075.20	32,123.57	SELC	546.92	2,990.78
LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI		13,457.51	SOUTH DAKOTA	863.12	19,401.39
MICHIGAN	4,289.28	67,851.26	SOUTH WISCONSIN	4,810.04	47,474.77
MID-SOUTH	1,959.50	25,810.31	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	3,913.23	20,559.79
MINNESOTA NORTH	2,142.27	33,858.02	TEXAS	2,868.18	64,575.95
MINNESOTA SOUTH	3,718.74	51,614.15	UTAH-IDAHO	403.66	10,174.11
MISSOURI	4,311.40	69,611.93	WASH-ALASKA	1,922.35	28,497.71
MONTANA	461.54	13,310.63	WYOMING	1,433.84	11,514.56
			TOTAL	95,008.11	1,146,457.27

MITES FROM OTHER SOURCES

Mite Donations	12,560.82	125,303.12	Annual Appeal	15,151.24	116,425.82
Conv. Offering #1		51,150.79	GoodSearch		5,198.32
Children's Miss Adv	39.64	10,489.11	Thrivent Simply Giving	40.00	1,675.00
Mite Walk		60,385.67	Thrivent Choice Dollars	1,178.00	46,146.00
Golf Tournament		7,332.06	OTHER MITE TOTAL	28,969.70	424,105.89
			GRAND TOTAL	123,977.81	1,570,563.16

All totals are unconfirmed pending verification from the accounting office.

WYOMING DISTRICT SHARES IDEAS

1. An Ash Wednesday Soup and Cinnamon Roll Dinner for donations (this has brought \$200-\$300 in the past for the Riverton congregation).
2. Give a mite information talk after services and hand out Mite Boxes to the whole congregation. Be sure they know it can be an ongoing gathering of those mites (don't just turn the box back in once it is filled).
3. Use a bulletin insert for a particular grant from the website and have it in the bulletin one Sunday, then collect mites the next Sunday for that project.
4. Have a "MITE O METER" with the goal on it. Possibly challenge your own society to meet a certain amount, making your own portion more manageable, rather than saying "we need \$400,000.00" which sounds ominous and not very reachable.
5. Utilize the national LWML prayer service on a Saturday inviting other societies for a lunch and letting them know there will be a special mite collection.
6. Have the big Mite Box at the back of the church the second Sunday of every month (on a continuing basis).
7. Place the wooden (large) Mite Box on the back pew the fifth Sunday when it occurs (this happens about four times a year).
8. Mission dinner using website resources and send the offering collected to mites.

BULLETIN BYTES --- USE FOR YOUR CHURCH BULLETIN OR NEWSLETTER

The LWML grant for Missionary Family Care and Education provides resources for the children of missionaries, so that they can receive the schooling they require. The parents who are in the field serving can do so with the assurance that their children are well cared for and will be able to keep up with the quality of education to which they are accustomed. The educational services can range from home school support to public schools, international schools, or boarding schools.

Dollar support provided by the LWML grant for Missionary Family Care and Education assists the approximately 59 missionary children who are of school age. Their ages range from elementary school through college. The children of missionaries go to the mission field because of their parent's calling. The families want them to be able to re-enter the American school system, educationally and culturally well prepared. Serving God in a foreign field is a challenge, and this fund helps alleviate some of the family's stress.





So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith--that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:17-19).

A beautiful townhouse in New York City was the home of a successful attorney, Henry Whiting Warner, and his two daughters, Anna and Susan. However, because of the "Panic of 1837" that ruined their finances, they had to move into a rundown home on Constitution Island across from the West Point Military Academy.

The girls began writing poems and stories to bring in extra income for the family. Say and Seal was one of their most successful novels they wrote together. The story tells about a boy, Johnny Fox, who is dying. A caring Sunday School teacher took Johnny in his arms and rocked him and sang the words from his heart: "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so ..."

Uncle Tom's Cabin was the best selling novel at that time followed by Say and Seal. Hymn writer

William Bradbury read the words in the novel and composed a single, childlike tune to fit the words. This children's song soon became the best known children's hymn on earth.

Even though the sisters were successful with their songwriting, they could not recover from their financial setback. Despite these difficult times, Anna told a friend as she held a delicate shell in her hand, "There was a time when I was very perplexed, bills were unpaid...when someone sent me this exquisite thing. As I held it, I realized that if God could make this beautiful home for a little creature, He would take care of me."

West Point cadets were honored to have the Warner sisters, Anna and Susan, conduct Bible studies for them. When the sisters died, they were both buried with full military honors and are the only civilians buried in the West Point Military Cemetery. In their honor, their home on Constitution Island is now a museum and is maintained by West Point.

—Taken from Then Sings My Soul
By Robert J. Morgan 2003
(Thomas Nelson, Inc. Publishers)

Support the Endowment Fund

The LWML Endowment Fund was established in 2001 to celebrate our history of more than 60 years as a mission-minded organization dedicated to helping people around the world with physical and spiritual needs.

Regular LWML leadership training, such as Inspiration 2012 (PING), is made possible from the interest accumulated from the Endowment Fund. This training enables our leaders to grow in their leadership roles and thereby supports the mission ministry of the LWML.

By supporting the Endowment Fund, you are investing in the future of your district and your leaders.

MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE

Imagine the noise of coins being poured into a metal container - a purple one at that! The children loved it! Every fifth Sunday, members of my congregation bring their Mite Boxes forward and pour the coins into the container. A mission grant poster shows the faces of those who will be reached with God's love because we shared our blessings.

Lois

