



TREASURED NEWS



JUNE 2013

Issue #10

THE SEVEN T'S OF STEWARDSHIP

TIME — As maturing stewards we receive time as a gift from God and strive to make the best use of it in our family relationships, work, and other life activities. We do this as a free and joyous activity.

TALENT — 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.

TREASURE — There are only a few things we can do with money—earn it, give it, save it, spend it, and bequeath it. Good stewardship means striving to keep a healthy balance with these uses. What joy will follow us into heaven when our glorious Lord commends us for our wise use of money!

TRASH — God created all things in heaven and on earth; trash refers to our care of God's creation. We are God's caretakers of this marvelous earth with all its beauty and bounty; how we manage this creation is of critical importance.

TOUCH — This refers to our relationship we have with God, our families, neighbors, and others in society. We are blessed to have many opportunities to "touch" others in positive, God-pleasing ways.

TESTIMONY

It might seem a bit strange to talk about the stewardship of **testimony**. But Jesus instructed His disciples of all ages to make disciples, teaching and baptizing and encouraging people to follow God's teachings (Matthew 28:18-20). He also told His first disciples that they were to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

As modern day disciples we also desire to be faithful witnesses, saying and doing all that we can to give witness to our Lord Jesus Christ *who desires that all people be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth* (1 Timothy 2:4).

St. Peter in his first letter (3:15) instructs us with these words: *But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.*

With that in mind, I would like to share with you a thought or two about a concept borrowed from the business world. It is called an "Elevator Speech." What it is, very simply, is a presentation you have

worked on, planned, thought through, practiced, refined, and worked on again that will tell a person the message you would like to share with them, in our case the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, in the amount of time you have with others on an elevator. (If you have more time you will, of course, be blessed to expand on your speech.) In short, it is a quick (the two minutes or so that you are on an elevator with someone) sharing of the Gospel that will excite the hearer, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, hopefully lead them to want to know more, either then or at some other time.

What a privilege to be able to do the work that the angels of God long to do—that is, give our testimony of the joy, peace, and hope that are ours because of the redeeming work of Jesus Christ! And what added joy we will have to take into eternity when the words of Daniel 12:3 are fully fulfilled: *Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.*

Rev. John Heckmann,
LWML Junior Pastoral Counselor

MITE REPORT BY DISTRICT — MAY 2013

DISTRICT	CURRENT	TOTAL	DISTRICT	CURRENT	TOTAL
ATLANTIC			NEBRASKA NORTH	818.76	818.76
CAL-NEV-HAWAII			NEBRASKA SOUTH		
CAROLINAS	483.15	483.15	NEW ENGLAND	390.63	560.70
CENTRAL ILLINOIS	1,780.75	1,780.75	NEW JERSEY	306.39	306.39
CHESAPEAKE			NORTH DAKOTA	1,450.27	1,450.27
EASTERN			NORTH WISCONSIN	1,575.00	1,575.00
ENGLISH	820.06	1,089.84	NORTHERN ILLINOIS	2,148.83	2,148.83
FLORIDA-GEORGIA			OHIO	1,632.92	1,632.92
GULF STATES	606.09	606.09	OKLAHOMA		
INDIANA	1,735.81	1,735.81	OREGON		
IOWA EAST			PACIFIC SW		
IOWA WEST			ROCKY MOUNTAIN	941.97	941.97
KANSAS			SELC		
LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI			SOUTH DAKOTA	773.52	773.52
MICHIGAN	2,718.45	2,718.45	SOUTH WISCONSIN	2,819.01	2,819.01
MID-SOUTH			SOUTHERN ILLINOIS		
MINNESOTA NORTH			TEXAS	2,391.85	2,391.85
MINNESOTA SOUTH	2,268.37	2,268.37	UTAH-IDAHO	1,239.32	1,239.32
MISSOURI	2,772.04	2,772.04	WASH-ALASKA		
MONTANA	425.25	425.25	WYOMING		
			TOTAL	30,098.44	30,538.29

MITES FROM OTHER SOURCES

Mite Donations	1,138.48	4,016.48	Annual Appeal	115.00	290.00
Conv. Offering #1			GoodSearch		
Children's Miss Adv		18.25	Thrivent Simply Giving	40.00	80.00
Mite Walk			Thrivent Choice Dollars	1,715.00	7,743.00
Golf Tournament			OTHER MITE TOTAL	3,508.48	12,647.73
PayPal	500.00	500.00	GRAND TOTAL	33,606.92	43,186.02

All totals are unconfirmed pending verification from the accounting office.



SUPPORT FOR LUTHERAN ORPHANAGES IN HAITI - \$70,000



Over three years ago a 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti causing massive loss of life and property. Because of the devastating effects of the earthquake, many children were injured and lost their parents. Thousands of children had to live on the streets or in emergency camps without adequate food or water. The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod World Relief and Human Care continues to work with several other Lutheran church groups in Haiti to build and maintain orphanages in four locations across Haiti.

\$70,000 of our mites have provided food, clothing, bedding, and qualified staff for one year at two of the four orphanages.

We pray for these children, for their physical comfort, for enough food to eat, and for the message of Jesus' love to reach their hearts.



DWELL IN UNITY

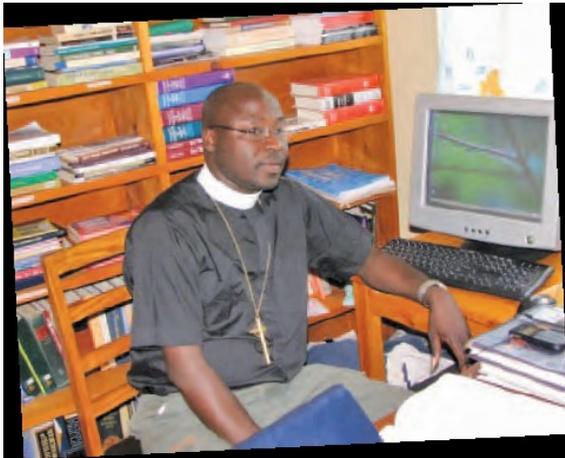
Considering the staggering height of the redwood trees, we would assume they would need incredibly deep roots. But these giants have extremely shallow roots, growing only 4 to 6 feet deep.

Instead of heading downward, the roots extend outward - spreading as far as 125 feet. Stability occurs because the roots intertwine with those of neighboring trees. This network allows these redwoods to stand tall despite strong winds and storms.

In a similar way, such interconnectedness keeps the body of Christ standing strong. *Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!* (Psalm 133:1). In order to inhabit one another's lives, we must share our stories, offer forgiveness, and provide encouragement. Through those actions, our roots spread wide as we support our brothers and sisters in Christ.



WHERE IN THE WORLD HAVE YOUR MITES GONE??



Our mites are reaching across the globe? How? By providing \$50,000 to assist two of fifteen international graduate students with their tuition, books, and living expenses as they study advanced theological courses and receive leadership training. Many of the international students come from third-world countries and cannot afford education-related expenses.

Our financial support will help prepare these Concordia Graduate Seminary School students in St. Louis to be future leaders of church bodies and to serve as qualified educators in seminaries in their home countries. They will have a significant and lasting impact on the mission of the Lutheran church in today’s world by proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our mites are impacting the world!



STEWARDSHIP TIPS FROM GIFTS OF LOVE

When God asks us to be faithful stewards, He is not trying to diminish our estates. He is trying to extend and preserve them by linking them to His work for His Kingdom.

Charitable trusts and gift annuities can provide donors and their families an income for life, special tax deductions and joy in knowing that the gift remainder can be designated to LWML and other LCMS ministries you designate.

For more information, please contact our own LWML Gift Planning Counselor, Linda Gage, toll free, at 1-800-741-4138 or via email at lindagage.lwml@gmail.com. More information is also available on our website: www.lwmlgiftplan.org.



Gifts of Love is an official ministry of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League





MY COUNTRY, 'TIS OF THEE



Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD ...

Psalm 33:12

Samuel Francis Smith, who was born in Boston on October 21, 1808, wrote this hymn. After attending Harvard, he enrolled in Andover Seminary and was fascinated by the work of Adoniram Judson, America's first missionary. From this point on, Samuel developed a lifelong passion for world evangelism.

While at Andover, a hymn publisher, Lowell Mason, contacted Samuel because he had a stack of German songs and materials that needed to be translated. Knowing Samuel was proficient in German, he asked Samuel to translate them.

On a cold February evening as Samuel was looking over the materials, he was struck by the words of "Gott segne Sachseland" ("God Bless our Saxon Land") which was set to the tune we know as "America." This was used in Great Britain for "God Save the Queen."

Samuel instantly felt moved to write a patriotic hymn for his own land and in half an hour, the hymn, "America," was written. A copy of the hymn was taken to Boston's Park Street Congregational Church. The hymn was first sung there by the Juvenile Choir at a Sunday School Rally on July 4, 1831.

Samuel pursued his passion for world evangelism by becoming a pastor, college professor, hymnist, writer and missionary advocate. His heart filled with joy when his son became a missionary to Rangoon. Samuel died in his late eighties at the Boston train station en route to a preaching engagement.

Samuel will be most revered for this patriotic hymn he wrote as a 23-year-old student:

*My country, 'tis of Thee,
Sweet land of liberty, Of Thee I sing:
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrim's pride.
From every mountain side, Let freedom ring!*

*Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of liberty, To Thee we sing:
Long may our land be bright,
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King!*

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

