



TREASURED NEWS



Volume 3

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Issue 6

WHERE IN THE WORLD HAVE OUR MITES GONE??

CHRISTIAN EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN—INDIA \$85,000—PAID IN FULL!

This grant will help to reach 20,000 elementary-aged children in India with the Gospel message through Christian educational resources, provided by Concordia Gospel Outreach.



Our mites are reaching many children in India and Southeast Asia with the Gospel message. Praise God they have this opportunity to learn that Jesus loves them!

LUTHERAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA PAID \$40,000



This grant will provide Luther's *Small Catechism* and *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories* in languages of Southeast Asia.

MITE REPORT BY DISTRICT — JANUARY 2015

DISTRICT	CURRENT	TOTAL	DISTRICT	CURRENT	TOTAL
ATLANTIC	962.24	19,284.79	NEBRASKA NORTH		20,230.11
CAL-NEV-HAWAII	1,214.15	37,518.32	NEBRASKA SOUTH	4,025.63	35,017.88
CAROLINAS		11,117.43	NEW ENGLAND		12,700.93
CENTRAL ILLINOIS	6,573.44	38,613.17	NEW JERSEY		5,026.60
CHESAPEAKE	1,736.61	19,302.98	NORTH DAKOTA	1,539.15	26,732.76
EASTERN		9,790.35	NORTH WISCONSIN	1,087.00	30,861.00
ENGLISH		9,797.86	NORTHERN ILLINOIS		33,009.08
FLORIDA-GEORGIA	2,148.28	38,604.38	OHIO		28,939.86
GULF STATES	1,092.05	13,886.17	OKLAHOMA	3,257.19	53,351.23
INDIANA	2,295.57	30,545.13	OREGON	2,923.67	19,253.65
IOWA EAST		24,362.73	PACIFIC SW		45,190.75
IOWA WEST		36,466.94	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	1,317.91	28,789.17
KANSAS	5,427.21	31,689.44	SELC	521.01	3,515.31
LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI	207.51	9,719.43	SOUTH DAKOTA	3,407.63	24,600.56
MICHIGAN	7,008.79	65,916.23	SOUTH WISCONSIN	2,360.13	43,121.15
MID-SOUTH	1,153.22	25,955.30	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	946.85	15,964.87
MINNESOTA NORTH	7,128.74	35,127.94	TEXAS		63,656.83
MINNESOTA SOUTH	4,016.19	54,157.13	UTAH-IDAHO	410.41	11,217.34
MISSOURI	4,751.70	66,318.32	WASH-ALASKA		30,581.37
MONTANA	376.23	11,051.06	WYOMING	998.78	16,103.68
			TOTAL	68,887.29	1,137,089.23

MITES FROM OTHER SOURCES

Mite Donations	9,343.04	106,183.73	Annual Appeal	5,171.00	77,956.38
Mite Donations Restricted	500.00	9,418.48	GoodSearch		3,157.24
Conv. Offering #1		54,017.32	Thrivent Simply Giving		345.00
Children's Miss Adv	135.90	1,560.06	Thrivent Choice Dollars	932.00	42,620.00
Mission Pledge Walk		73,791.04	AmazonSmile Foundation		185.35
Golf Tournament		7,218.74	OTHER MITE TOTAL	16,281.94	376,803.34
Joyful Response	200.00	350.00	GRAND TOTAL	85,169.23	1,513,892.57

District Treasurers: A sample acknowledgement letter can be found at www.lwml.org/giving-resources.
Check out the website at www.lwml.org/mites-received to get a printable monthly Mite update for your members.

Dear Fellow Redeemed:

With this installment of some stewardship thoughts, we begin our journey, five months hence, to my final contribution to Lois' most excellent Treasured News newsletter. It has been a blast. We will leave it at that since I am burning up precious words in the word count! 😊

As we begin to wrap up these articles, I would like to review a little of what we have considered thus far, beginning with the fact that **everyone on the face of this earth has the same amount of time.** No matter who it is, from the President of these United States (the leader of the free world) to the newborn baby resting in his or her mother's arms, and to everyone in between, we all have exactly 24 hours in each day, 168 hours in each week, and 525,600 minutes in each year. What is different among people is how they choose to use that time. As we have said, and as you are very aware, we can "waste time," "spend time," "invest time" (wisely or foolishly), "make the most of our time," etc.

That is where Christian stewardship once again comes into play as **we look for godly ways in which to use our time, talents, treasures,**

Blessed to use gifts wisely!

testimony, touch, tissue, and even trash, to the glory of God and for the good of our neighbor both here in time and forever in heaven. We do this in response to all that God has done and continues to do for us, His dear children, who have been redeemed, bought back, through the blood of Jesus Christ. Those are the two parties that make up this owner/steward relationship—God the owner of everything—each of us the caretaker of those gifts God entrusts to us to care for, for a time, always being accountable to Him as the Giver. In short, **we own nothing, God owns everything,** and He allows us to use, enjoy, and care for these gifts. James says it like this in James 1:17, *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

Bottom line: *Every good gift, and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father. . . (James 1:17).* As hard as it is for us to admit, we bring nothing to the relationship. **It is all about God.** He puts everything on the table. He brings everything into the Father/child relationship and we benefit from it all. Then, every decision we are blessed to make **becomes a spiritual decision** as we live our lives as Christian stewards.

Rev. John Heckmann
LWML Senior Pastoral Counselor

"People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

1 Samuel 16:7, NLT

THE SUCCESS OF LOVE

**The success of love is in the loving;
it is not in the result of loving.
—Mother Teresa**



I PRAY
THAT YOU
MAY... KNOW
THE LOVE
OF CHRIST
THAT
SURPASSES
KNOWLEDGE.
EPHESIANS 3:17-19, NRSV



In the Cross of Christ I Glory

John Bowring—1825



*So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole.
And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live (Numbers 21:9).*

When the World Trade Center collapsed on September 11, 2001, following the terrorist attacks, workers excavating the site found a cross-shaped beam that, standing upright amid the ruin and debris, became a make-shift center of worship. The picture of that cross was published around the world and served as a symbol of hope.

A similar story is associated with this hymn. In the region of Hong Kong, on the island of Macao, a magnificent cathedral was destroyed. However, the front wall remained standing with a great metal cross on top, blackened with age and silhouetted against the sky. As the story is told, the hymnist John Bowring was inspired when he heard of this cross and wrote the hymn, “In the cross of Christ I glory, tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time.”

The validity of this story is questionable, but there is a verified story about RATHBUN, the tune to which this hymn is set. The tune was composed by Ithamar Conkey, organist at Central Baptist Church in Norwich, Connecticut.

In 1849, the pastor of Central, Dr. Hiscox, had planned a series of sermons based on the seven last words of Christ on the cross. The *Norwich Bulletin* told this story: “One Sunday during the series it was a very rainy day.

Mr. Conkey was sorely disappointed that the members of the choir did not appear as only one soprano came. Mr. Conkey was so discouraged and disheartened that after the prelude he closed the organ and locked it and went to his home on Washington Street. The pastor and choir gallery were on opposite ends of the church, and he could leave without attracting the attention of the congregation.

That afternoon, as he sat down at the piano for practice, his mind was distracted with the thoughts of the sermons Dr. Hiscox had prepared and the words of the hymn, ‘In the Cross of Christ I Glory.’ He then and there composed the music that is now so universally familiar in churches of every denomination, known as RATHBUN. He admitted afterward the inspiration was a vivid contradiction of his feelings at the morning service.”

Why did he name his tune RATHBUN?

The one choir member who showed up on that rainy Sunday in 1849 ... that one faithful soprano ... was named Mrs. Beriah S. Rathbun!

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

LENTEN LIVING



Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2015. Christians have observed this season of the church year since the fourth century. It’s traditionally a time of reflection, penitence, and spiritual renewal before Easter.

During Lent, some Christians give up something that hinders their relationship with God. Others do something extra for their spiritual growth or make a special sacrifice. The key is to make Lent a memorable season of sincere spiritual growth—a time that can set the tone for the rest of the year.