



## THE MISSIONARY BAG

**Characters:** Grace, Nancy, Jane, Marge

**Props:** Card table, 3 chairs, a dime, newspapers, dust cloth, broom, magazines, phone, plastic trash bag, envelopes with postage stamps on, Sunday school books, old clothes, bar of hotel soap, big dress, 3 cups, small and large mite box.

**Sound Effects:** Phone ringing, doorbell ringing

**Setting:** Living room - 3 chairs, card table.

**Grace:** *(comes out wearing curlers and robe, goes to door and waves out to children who are outside but can't be seen)* Good-bye, children! Watch the street! Button up your sweaters. It's cold outside! Do well in school today. *(Turns back into living room)* Well! Now that everybody's out of the house, maybe I can get the place cleaned up. *(Picks up dust cloth and starts to clean house. Phone rings. Grace picks up phone.)* Hello!

**Nancy:** *(from off stage)* Hi, Grace. I suppose you're doing housework already this morning?

**Grace:** *(sigh)* Yes, just got started. How come you're calling so early?

**Nancy:** Well, some of us are going to visit the shut-ins this afternoon. Would you like to go with us?

**Grace:** Oh, I'm up to my ears in housework. I'm sure you don't need ME. Thanks for calling anyway. *(Hangs up. Starts cleaning again. Have big trash bag to put various objects in as she makes comments about the junk the family leaves around. Toss in the bag the old letters with postage stamps on, old Sunday school lesson books, old clothes - make comments about some of these items.)* If there's one thing we DON'T need around here, it's clutter! Just LOOK at this mess! Well, for heaven's sake! What's this Ramada Hotel bar of soap doing on the table? Oh, I remember, Harry stayed there on his last business trip. We don't need it - into the junk bag it goes! Oh, look at this! One of my old dresses I used to wear before I went to Weight Watchers! *(Hold up BIG dress and toss in bag)* Thank goodness, I don't need THAT any more...not since I lost so much weight! *(Door bell rings, Grace goes to door)* Oh, Jane and Marge! It's you. Come on in. *(They enter.)* You'll have to excuse the house. It's a mess! Have a chair. Can I get you something to drink?

**Jane:** Oh, that would be fine, Grace. (*Carries a small Mite Box. Leaves the large one outside the door*)

**Marge:** Thanks, Grace. Coffee will be fine! (*Grace brings 3 cups over*)

**Jane:** Say, Grace, we've wanted to come over and invite you to our LWML meetings. Marge is the secretary this year. We've got many worthwhile projects and I KNOW you'd enjoy the fellowship with the other women.

**Grace:** You know, I don't have much time for that. I have to keep the house clean, and then there's the kids to chauffeur around, and ...

**Marge:** But that's the beauty of LWML. We meet only once a month and it's at night. Our programs and Bible studies are SO good! We've all learned a lot about how to serve the Lord with gladness.

**Grace:** Well, what ELSE do you do besides Bible study and programs?

**Jane:** Oh, we have several savings projects. We save bars of soap for refugees and old Sunday school literature to send the missionaries. They can really use them.

**Marge:** Our circle has various crafts we do each month. They can always use help even if you can't come to the monthly meetings.

**Grace:** Oh, that sounds real nice.

**Jane:** And everyone saves used postage stamps. Eventually they are sold to stamp collectors. The money goes for mission projects.

**Grace:** I'll bet a LOT of people would just throw away all those valuable postage stamps if it weren't for your savings program.

**Marge:** Yes, other things people often throw out are household items and clothes they can't wear anymore, but we ask everyone to save these items for our annual rummage sale. Half the money we make goes to missions and the other half is used for projects at our church. It's for a good cause.

**Grace:** Why, Jane, I had no idea LWML was into so many useful projects. Tell me - are you women allowed to just go hog wild with all these ideas with nobody to guide you?

**Marge:** I should say not! We've got our own LWML advisor, and if we get an idea of something we'd like to try we can always ask his opinion. He gives us good advice on how to keep things in proper perspective. Well, we've got to go now. Do plan to come to LWML. It's tonight at 7:30 at the church.

**Jane:** Oh, by the way, have you heard about the mite boxes? You remember the story in the Bible about the poor widow who put her two coins in the offering -- all she had? Well, during the month, we drop our pennies, dimes, quarters - whatever we have - in the box. It's our way of saying thank you to God for His blessings, and we offer a prayer for missions. Lutheran women all over the United States join in and together our mites do so many good things. I brought a mite box for you, Grace. (*Go to door and bring in the BIG Mite Box*) I'll drop in a dime to get you started (*drop in one*). There! Now bring it to the meeting each time you come.

**Marge:** Well, we've got to go now - taa! taa! (*Jane and Marge leave*)

**Grace:** Wow! Those women are really on fire for the Lord! I feel like I'm missing something. I guess I'll go to LWML and find out more about serving the Lord.

*(Stage Sign: Later that night)*

**Grace:** (*put on hat, fix face, purse under arm, put on earrings, get Mite Box*) Well, I'm off to my LWML meeting. Have I got everything now? (*Look around*) Oh, yes, I forgot my MISSIONARY BAG! Let's just check and see if I have everything - used postage stamps for missions, hotel soap for refugees, old Sunday school books for missionaries, used clothes for rummage sale. Oh, I mustn't forget the MITE BOX! I wonder if they'll take a check. I want to thank God for my church, for sending His dear Son, my Savior, for Jane and Marge who cared enough to come visit. (*Pick up the bag and leave*)

*(Stage Sign: At the church)*

*(All ladies come out and talk loudly to one another - all except Grace. Each lady has a small mite box. One calls meeting to order. All of them quiet down. Grace shuffles all the stuff she carries as she stumbles in. Everyone looks in amazement.)*

**All:** Hi, Grace! We were just about to start. Come join us!

**Song:** League Song

THE MISSIONARY BAG - *Written by* Lois Bennett  
*Published by* Lutheran Women's Missionary League  
July 2002