



WORLDS APART, HEARTS TOGETHER

Cast: *LWMLe in the U.S. (L)
Missionary wife in the Philippines (MW)
Radio Announcer 1 (RA-1)
Radio Announcer 2 (RA-2)
Inday (foreign woman)*

Props: *2 chairs
2 Portals of Prayer
2 piles of laundry
Pen and paper
Mail*

(Two parallel scenes alternate showing contrasts between the encouragement available to an LWMLe in the United States and a missionary wife in the Philippines. Scene opens with LWMLe sitting in her home in the U.S. and a missionary wife sitting in her house in the Philippines.)

L: Morning devotions...now where is my *Portals of Prayer?* (*Finds and opens it*)

MW: (*Looking at Portals of Prayer*) This morning's devotion is entitled "Encouragers."

L: (*Reading from P of P*) "Encouragers"....hmmm...Colossians 2:2. *My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love...*

MW: ...so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ.

(Pauses as LWMLe finishes devotions)

L: Oh, there's so much to get done today. (*Stands*) I think I'll start with the laundry.

(Flips on radio and begins to sort clothes)

RA-1: This is WJUS bringing you the latest in U.S. contemporary Christian music for your edification, enjoyment and encouragement. (*May continue playing Christian music quietly in the background*)

MW: It's quiet today. Maybe I can finally get some letters written. (*Flips on the radio and sits down to write.*)

RA-2: (*In a loud, obnoxious voice*) This is WDXC (*loud gong sound*) Boom Ba Radio, top radio station in the Philippines. Our Boom Ba Radio Drama is being followed today by callers answering, "Should Sara dump Roger?" What do you think?

MW: I think I'll turn off the radio. (*Turns it off*) Later I'll have to look for that Christian music tape that my church just sent.

(*Knock on the missionary's door*)

Inday: Ma'am, do you have some laundry I can wash for you? I need the money to buy some rice for my family.

MW: Sure. Please wait a minute. (*Exits to get some laundry*)

(*LWMLer phone rings several times*)

L: Hello...Oh, Jane, is something wrong?... (*Pause*)... Oh, no... (*Pause*) ...I'm so sad to hear that... (*Pause*) ...When did he lose his job? (*Pause*) Oh, I see, you don't have time to talk right now. Okay, I'll pray for you and I will call our prayer chain right away. Good-bye.

(*Hangs up and dials a new number*)

L: Sue, I have a request for the prayer chain. Jane's husband, Jim, just lost his job. She's really down... (*Pause*) Tonight I'll call my sister and ask her to put Jane and her family on the prayer chain at their church, too... (*Pause*) Yes, that is the only request right now. I'll talk to you later. Good-bye. (*Hangs up the phone and sits down to pray silently*)

MW: (*Returning with laundry*) You look very sad today, Inday. Is everything okay?

Inday: My husband has no work. We have no money to buy rice. Thank you for the work. I will wash and dry the clothes and bring them back this afternoon. (*Takes laundry and exits*)

MW: (*Calls after her*) I will pray for you and your family. (*Sits down to write letters*) I wish some others could pray for her, too. There aren't too many Christians around here. It's so expensive to call anyone and ask them to pray. I guess I can write it as a prayer request in this letter. Then the LWML group back in the U.S. can pray about it at their next meeting. They've been very supportive with their letters and they've been asking what they can pray about. Maybe there will be a letter from them again next week when we go to the post office to pick up our mail. (*Returns to quietly writing her letter*)

L: (*Doorbell rings*) Oh, there's the mailman. I wonder what I got today. (*Picks up several pieces of mail and opens a card*) Oh, good... (*reads it*) ...how nice, a card from my prayer partner. (*Looks at another piece of mail*) And here's a special invitation from church about the Anniversary Worship Service Sunday. There will be

a guest organist, bell choir, special music, and Holy Communion. I certainly won't miss that! (*Returns inside and sits quietly looking at her card*)

MW: Okay, letters done. I'd better take a little prayer time before I get busy and forget.
(Bows her head to pray)

L: This card from my prayer partner is a good reminder that I'd better take some time to pray right now.

MW & L: Heavenly Father, thank You for this new day and for this place where You have called me to serve You.

MW: Be with Inday and her family.

L: Be with Jane and her family.

MW & L: Help her husband to find work and help them all to have food on the table each day. Most of all, help them to know that you love them and care for them. Help them to see and trust in Jesus.

MW: Thank You for the new believers here and their desire to learn more about You. It's so exciting to see them coming together and wanting to be Your Church in this place. Help them as they learn about worshiping You. Help the leaders as they teach.

L: Thank You for my church and for everyone who gathers there to worship You each week, especially our new members. Bless our pastor and elders as they teach.

MW: Help me as I struggle to follow along and worship in this new language.

L: Help me as I struggle to pay attention and focus on You in worship.

MW: Thank You for the Bible study groups. Help them grow into churches that worship, make use of Your sacraments and reach out to everyone around them. Lord, You know how I miss being able to take weekly communion. Please help these newly forming churches to grow and organize quickly and be able to use Your sacraments properly. It's such a joy to see the growth, Father, but I'm often impatient.

L: Thank You for the coming anniversary of our church. Bless all of the preparations and help our worship to truly give glory to You. You have blessed us so much. Help us to move forward and continue to grow.

MW & L: Give us all an extra measure of Your Spirit to help us grow today.

MW: Thank You for the LWML groups and many churches that support our work here and pray for us and the people we work with. Bless these groups as they reach out to people in the U.S. with the Good News of Jesus.

L: Thank You for our missionaries and for the family our LWML group is supporting in the Philippines. Bless them as they reach out to people in the Philippines with the Good News of Jesus.

MW & L: I thank and praise You as I pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Things to think about:

1. How are the two women and their situations similar? How are they different?
2. What resources for Christian encouragement were available to the LWMLer that were not available to the missionary wife?
3. How could you encourage a missionary or missionary wife today?

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