



Encourager, Motivator, Child of God

BY CAROLYN BLUM

Encourager is a word many used to describe the late Marlys Taege Moberg, who passed into the arms of Jesus on March 18, 2020. Marlys gave a lifetime of service to God through many LCMS-related organizations, including the LWML, in numerous capacities.

The Past LWML Presidents were all touched by Marlys.

Janice Wendorf shared, "Thinking of her brings a smile to my face; she was so encouraging to me personally. In my LWML walk, Marlys is one of my heroes." Gloria Edwards recalled that "Marlys was an amazing woman. Her encouragement and support made leading our organization a true joy."

These thoughts were echoed by Linda Reiser and Kay Kreklau. "Marlys was a great encourager and had the ability to impress upon women how God had gifted them with abilities and talents to use in His service," reflected Linda. Kay brought Marlys to the 2013 LWML Convention stage in Pittsburgh to show appreciation and admiration for her work. She said, "Marlys was a dear, encouraging Child of God."

Virginia Von Seggern recalled: "She was a kind, efficient, strong Christian who did her work with accuracy and timeliness." She also remembers the "encourager" trait, as Marlys encouraged her own daughter, Lauren, to serve the Lord with gladness. Lauren was elected president of the LWML South Wisconsin District, and, four years later, Marlys was elected as Lauren's successor. Virginia noted, "They were the first combination of a daughter preceding her mother in that office!"

Ida Mall described Marlys as "humble, compassionate, and competent. I first met her in the early 1970s, and those same words still described her years later when she signed one of her books for me." Patti Ross recalled meeting Marlys only once, but "I used her LWML history books frequently in my own writing; she was a key person in preserving our history, using her God-given talent for research and writing." Current LWML President Debbie Larson echoes Patti's words, "I had the honor of meeting her once and I continue to have the honor of referring to her writings over and over."

She touched the lives of many.

Marlys served as the first LWML Public Relations Director and, for 11 years, as the editor-in-chief of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*. When Donna Streufert started her term in that position years later, Marlys was the *Quarterly's* Bible Study Editor. Donna recalled, "I was a bit fearful, with such an outstanding former editor on my staff, but Marlys let me lead and shared her wisdom with grace."

Nancy Graf Peters, immediate past *Quarterly* editor-in-chief, fondly recalled working closely with Marlys. "She blessed the lives of many with her gifts and encouragement of future leaders."

A popular speaker at conventions and retreats, Marlys also wrote numerous articles, devotions, and Bible studies for the LWML, as well as authoring two LWML history books: *Women IN God's Service (WINGS)* and *Women In League With the Lord*. In addition, she collaborated with others to write two books on LWML mission grants throughout its history.

One of her co-authors, Janice Kerper Brauer, recalled how Marlys "had a heart for history; she wanted what God had done through the LWML to be remembered. She wanted others to know the heart of Jesus and His redeeming love." Janice wrote an article for the Fall 2002 *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, relating how the Ephesians 2:10 confirmation verse assigned to Marlys — *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works that the Lord had in mind for us even before we were born* — was fulfilled throughout her lifetime.

Marlys was a blessing to the LCMS and the LWML. Her legacy will live on through us as we continue to follow her example of serving the Lord with gladness. Q



Marlys and granddaughter at the LWML South Wisconsin District convention during Marlys's term as district president



Find Marlys's obituary at www.churchandchapel.com.