



# TREASURED NEWS



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Issue 7

## WHERE IN THE WORLD HAVE OUR MITES GONE??



### COLLINSVILLE, ILLINOIS

The mission grant, **Support for Lutheran Public Radio (LPR)**, has been blessed to receive another \$10,000, leaving a balance of \$5,000. These funds will help provide adequate staffing needs to produce the weekday Internet radio show “Issues, Etc.”

For 20 years LPR has proclaimed the Word of salvation and provided a better understanding of contemporary social issues in a Christian context.

Listen at your convenience at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org).

### FARMINGTON HILLS, MICHIGAN

An additional \$25,000, added to the funds previously given to the **I CAN** grant of \$54,000, will assist Lutheran Special Education Ministries (LSEM) to reach children with learning needs in nine states.



Our gifts have provided scholarships for at least 55 students to attend an after-school program that promotes and encourages spiritual growth and academic progress.



Thank you for providing this outreach opportunity for sharing God’s saving grace with His precious children!

MITE REPORT BY DISTRICT — FEBRUARY 2015

DISTRICT	CURRENT	TOTAL	DISTRICT	CURRENT	TOTAL
ATLANTIC		19,284.79	NEBRASKA NORTH		20,230.11
CAL-NEV-HAWAII	2,528.25	40,046.57	NEBRASKA SOUTH	1,725.40	36,743.28
CAROLINAS		11,117.43	NEW ENGLAND	1,386.72	14,087.65
CENTRAL ILLINOIS	2,216.07	40,829.24	NEW JERSEY	370.01	5,396.61
CHESAPEAKE		19,302.98	NORTH DAKOTA	1,363.44	28,096.20
EASTERN	1,774.13	11,564.48	NORTH WISCONSIN	1,855.00	32,716.00
ENGLISH	2,360.05	12,157.91	NORTHERN ILLINOIS	7,559.62	40,568.70
FLORIDA-GEORGIA	1,714.58	40,318.96	OHIO	10,225.56	39,165.42
GULF STATES		13,886.17	OKLAHOMA	5,000.00	58,351.23
INDIANA	2,776.08	33,321.21	OREGON		19,253.65
IOWA EAST		24,362.73	PACIFIC SW		45,190.75
IOWA WEST	1	36,466.94	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	1,573.15	30,362.32
KANSAS		31,689.44	SELC		3,515.31
LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI	1,078.01	10,797.44	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,008.05	25,608.61
MICHIGAN	2,642.73	68,558.96	SOUTH WISCONSIN	1,692.89	44,814.04
MID-SOUTH	1,565.48	27,520.78	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	1,063.17	17,028.04
MINNESOTA NORTH		35,127.94	TEXAS	7,418.57	71,075.40
MINNESOTA SOUTH	2,534.33	56,691.46	UTAH-IDAHO	497.65	11,714.99
MISSOURI	2,691.25	69,009.57	WASH-ALASKA		30,581.37
MONTANA	495.14	11,546.20	WYOMING	696.91	16,800.59
			TOTAL	67,812.24	1,204,901.47

MITES FROM OTHER SOURCES

Mite Donations	17,775.34	123,959.07	Annual Appeal	1,864.00	79,820.38
Mite Donations Restricted	32.86	9,451.34	GoodSearch		3,157.24
Conv. Offering #1		54,017.32	Thrivent Simply Giving		345.00
Children’s Mission Adv		1,560.06	Thrivent Choice Dollars	2,474.00	45,094.00
Mission Pledge Walk		73,791.04	AmazonSmile Foundation	162.83	348.18
Golf Tournament		7,218.74	<b>OTHER MITE TOTAL</b>	22,529.03	399,332.37
Joyful Response	220.00	570.00	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	90,341.27	1,604,233.84

One month to go in this biennium and \$225,766.16 is needed to reach all the 2013-2015 grant recipients.

May God bless the gifts given in support of His kingdom work here and into eternity.

This month, let's spend a few moments considering a very well-known parable, The Parable of the Talents, as it is recorded in Matthew 25:14-30. You remember that there were three servants who each received from the owner, the master, an incredible amount of money to care for during his absence as he went on a journey. (Just to give you a little more information, a talent was the largest unit of measure of weight being usually reserved for the measurement of precious metals. It seems that a talent weighed 75 pounds and that a talent of silver would have been what a common laborer could have made over a 20-year career.) He **"gave" them the money to care for as stewards, trusting that they would do what was best for him.** He gave them the opportunity to showcase for him their skills and abilities as stewards, possibly leading to a greater position in his company.

**And what did they do with the opportunity?**

Two of them invested the money and one buried his portion in a field, either forgetting (or not wanting to believe) the master was going to return, or being so scared of him that he chose to bury the gift and at least be able to give the master back what he had entrusted to him before he left.

**What do we learn from this stewardship parable? One, that the master does not give everyone the same gifts in the same quantity.**

We see the same thing happening in our lives as our heavenly Father gives to people various gifts and talents in various proportions, but each according to what He knows they need and can manage. And that is okay with us, trusting always that God knows what He is doing and it is for our good. It does us no good to spend our time pouting that someone has received a gift we wanted.

*God's gifts to us are incredible!*

Instead we are blessed to be able to praise God for the gifts and talents He has given to us, rejoicing in the fact that He has deemed us worthy through the blood of Jesus Christ to receive gifts from His gracious hand, as He sees fit and knows is best.

**Two, that the size of the gift is not what matters, but what we do with the gifts God gives to us.** You see, even though the first two men returned to the master different sized gifts, he said the exact same thing to both of them: <sup>21</sup> *His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master"* (Matthew 25:21, 23). All the Master is concerned about is how we use the gifts He gives to us.

**Third,** just a brief thought about the third servant who chose to do nothing more with the money his master loaned to him to take care of than to bury it in the ground, so if and when the master returned he could return it to him just as he received it. When the master returns and the servant starts with the excuses, the master does not condemn him for doing bad things. The servant did not lie or cheat or steal or anything like that. And that is really the point. **He did nothing with the gift that was entrusted to him by the master to care for in his absence, and that is where the problem lies between the master and this steward.**

What a blessing is ours to see how God has gifted us in so many incredible ways, and how He also has given us opportunities to be good stewards of those gifts as we use them for the good of His Kingdom, both here on earth and ultimately in heaven, as we impact the lives of those He places in our lives!

Rev. John Heckmann  
LWML Senior Pastoral Counselor

**THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®**

Thanks to many Thrivent members, \$45,094 Choice Dollars have been given in support of the 2013-2015 biennium's mission goal as of February 28, 2015.

The last day to direct 2014 Choice Dollars is **March 31, 2015.** Check your account online at [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) or call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" and follow the prompt to reach a "live" Thrivent representative who will assist you.





## All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Theodulph of Orleans—A.D. 820



*Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey (Zechariah 9:9b).*

The mighty Charlemagne (742-814), King of the Franks, united most of western Europe under his crown. He was a visionary who advanced education and reformed the laws, economy, and culture of Europe.

When he died, his son, Louis I, assumed the throne. All went well until in 817 when he began dividing the empire among his nephews and his four sons. This action caused no end of problems, including being deposed twice by his sons. Although he regained his throne both times, he was never able to rest securely.

Caught in the middle of this family conflict was Theodulph, Bishop of Orleans, a city south of Paris. He was born in Spain and had gone to France as a church leader at Charlemagne's request. He was a brilliant man, worked hard to reform the clergy, established schools, advocated high morals, built churches, and composed hymns of praise to God.

During the political intrigues of Louis' reign, Theodulph was accused (falsely, it seems) of conspiring with King Bernard of Italy. On Easter Sunday, 818, he was imprisoned in the monastery of Angers, a city southwest of Paris.

With time on his hands, Theodulph meditated on our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem prior to His crucifixion and resurrection and wrote the great Palm Sunday hymn, "All Glory, Laud, and Honor."

The following incident can neither be confirmed nor denied. When King Louis later visited Angers, he momentarily halted by the monastery where Theodulph was held, and the bishop appeared at the window, singing, "All Glory, Laud and Honor." The king was reportedly so moved that he ordered the bishop's release.

For whatever reason, Theodulph *was* released in 821. During his time in his prison-monastery, he had composed 78 verses to this hymn! The first several are the ones we commonly sing today.

March 29



—Taken from Then Sings My Soul  
By Robert J. Morgan 2003

The rooster is reminiscent of Peter's threefold denial of Jesus on the night of Jesus' trial (Matthew 26:34, NIV); thus, it may represent faithlessness in general, especially in the face of danger. Because of the rooster's early-morning call, it's also symbolic of watchfulness: "*Therefore keep watch,*" said Jesus, illustrating the return of the Son of Man, "*because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back — whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn*" (Mark 13:35, NIV).



**MISSION STORY**  
**by**  
**MARY HARRINGTON**  
**NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT PRESIDENT**

*What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving him the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead (James 2:14-17).*



In 2014 I was blessed to go on two mission trips. The first was in August and I traveled by car with other members of the LWML North Wisconsin District to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to host a Bible school for the children who live on the abandoned Air Force base near Gwinn, Michigan.

We also presented a Bible study for the women of the area, picked blueberries, and canned jam with them. We sorted clothes at the thrift store and helped in the food pantry. It was an amazing experience.



**Women from Gwinn, Michigan, who helped to make the jam and also participated in the Bible study.**

Our message was simple—Jesus loves you and has a plan for your salvation.

Offering hope and showing love is a powerful message to those who struggle to find their way!

