

## President Jan's Mission Trip Challenge Update

Cambodia, Poland, Honduras, Macau, Costa Rica, Slovakia, Guatemala, Canada, Thailand, Nicaragua, Hong Kong, Mexico, Ghana, the Dominican Republic, Uganda — these are the countries where LWML districts have served in response to President Janice M. Wendorf's

February 2008 challenge for each of the 40 LWML districts "to send two short-term teams to the mission field by March 2010." Approximately half of the districts are currently participating in foreign mission trips, with others just starting the process.

LWML Districts have also sent women to locations here in the United States — servant-event trips — to accomplish mission outreach by sewing curtains for a Lutheran camp, stocking food pantries, assisting flood and hurricane victims, leading ethnic-outreach VBS classes, sorting and packaging donated items for shipment to the needy, cleaning buses and unloading furniture for a new Lutheran school, painting, and serving food at homeless shelters.

Acts 1:8 gives encouragement that all mission outreach, both locally and distant, is pleasing to God: *you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

"How greatly God has blessed our LWML with willing servant-hearted women who reach out to the eternally lost," stated President Wendorf. "Setting a priority to support all mission work, including hands-on projects both locally and afar, is the heart of our LWML. I praise God for you and the work you are doing in His name."

Innovative approaches have been tried: two districts have joined together to go on a mission trip; some districts are starting the process with local trips, planning to expand into foreign fields later; a few LWML districts are writing grant proposals to supply funds to district women who wish to participate; and those districts presently unable to sponsor a full team may wish to sponsor their district president to attend a "district president" trip — as a mission-training opportunity.

"It's important for each LWML district to offer some type of hands-on mission event," President Jan commented, "open to all women, not just to those who are privileged to belong to a congregation that sends teams. Resources to help a district get started are readily available. LCMS World Mission has personnel who will walk a district through the whole process. This includes helping them find places to serve our LCMS missionaries either through LCMS World Mission, MOST Ministries, or other LCMS mission organizations."

President Jan's Mission Trip Challenge to the Districts has been extended until June 2011!



## Answering the Mission Call at Home in St. Paul

The little fifth grade girl raised her hand, volunteering to play the part of Mary in the VBS Christmas pageant. "I want to be Jesus' mother," she said, "because I love Him and He loves me!"

This child was one of 70 who attended the VBS for Ethnic Missions initiated by the **Minnesota South** LWML. Many of these children had never heard of Jesus; only half of them were baptized. They came from the metro areas of **St. Paul** and **Minneapolis** where ethnic pastors ministering to African and Hmong immigrants have started eight LCMS mission churches.

Twenty-eight LWML women answered the call to participate in this servant event in response to **President Janice M. Wendorf's** challenge for each LWML district "to send two short-term teams to the mission field by March 2010." With the encouragement of their **District President Nancy Kohrs**, they traveled to the campus of **Concordia University, St. Paul**, where they lodged five nights and led the group under the theme "Pray, Praise and Give Thanks ... for Jesus."

Each day the children were bused to the campus and treated to breakfast, lunch, a puppet show, singing, and devotions led by the missionary or pastor from the mission churches. **Francis Beko**, an Ethiopian pastor, said, "I love to see the smiles on each of the children as they learn about Jesus."

**Carol Zemke**, who chaired the outreach event with **Teddy Koeppen, Wanda Hall, Darlene Johnson, and Joyce Lanie**, stated that children were invited to attend their local congregation's Sunday worship service the following week to sing one of the VBS songs. "Can you imagine the joy in heaven to hear these children, some of whom had never before been inside a church, singing praises to God?"



The children were not the only ones taking things home. The LWML women carried away the joy of teaching the children during the daytime, while spending the evenings sampling ethnic

Through the generosity of donors, each child took home a Gideon Bible, a New Testament Bible, craft items, four Arch books which told the story of each day's lesson, and a fleece blanket hand-crafted by LWML women. (Extra blankets went with the missionaries for future outreach.) As Wanda Hall, Minnesota South LWML Mission Trip Challenge Coordinator, shared, "The children also took home many hugs which were given to them."

foods, delighting in melodies from an African praise group and a Teen Challenge Choir, shopping at Global Market, and making memories of their fellowship time with people from all over the world. Many are enthused about returning next year!



## Mission Trip Sparks Prayer Requests



*Jim Pindras (LBT staff), Ed Rupprecht, Sherrie Smith holding Digby the dog, Sherrie's sister Lorrie, Wilma Rupprecht.*

"Please pray for all of our missionaries," requested **Sherrie Smith, Northern Illinois District President,** after her mission trip to **Nigeria**

them in prayers of thanksgiving for the joy that comes when someone is finally able to read the Bible in their heart language."

Sherrie says the highlights of her trip were seeing the **Nigeria Bible Translation Trust** buildings, funded with LWML mites over 30 years ago and still being used today, as well as teaching a women's Bible class and becoming an honorary member, complete with a matching uniform!

When a new Nigerian pastor asked what LWML groups look like in the United States, **Ed Rupprecht** (an LBT translator) replied, "LWML women are in the Word, know the Lord, and want everyone else to know Him, too!"



*Sherrie's car got stuck in the mud!*

## Faith Talk

### Face-to-Face Talk with Missionaries



James and Christel Neuendorf

A presentation by LCMS World Missionaries **James and Christel Neuendorf**, who serve in **Panama**, inspired the women of **Christ Lutheran Church in Birch Run, Michigan**. The LWML society sponsors these servants of God with their treasure and their prayers. **Jill Eischer**, evangelism chairman, said the group was “very pleased to meet the Neuendorfs face-to-face.”



### Personal Witnessing in Poland

“I don’t know who that Jesus is they talk about,” commented one of **Anita Beyersdorf’s** students on a recent ESL **MOST Ministries** trip to **Poland**.

His assignment was to

write in his journal about how Jesus had opened the door to heaven for him, but Anita could see that he needed to hear the basics about God’s love first. She told him, “Jesus is God’s Son and He died to pay for all of your and my sins.” After further explanation to him by one of the translators, Anita was heartened when he showed her his journal entry expressing his new faith in Jesus. “He was excited to see Jesus in heaven someday,” Anita shared. Anita counts the one-on-one witnessing to this student the highlight of the mission trip, whose multi-generational team members ranged in ages from 18 to 72.

### Witnessing with LWML Liquid Glass Cross



Rev. Kuhlmann with Nurse Kathleen Wittler, Hospice Director

When **Rev. Robert Kuhlmann** dressed for casual Friday recently in his role as Chaplain at the Thomas E. Creek Veterans Medical Center in **Amarillo, Texas**, he wore his liquid glass cross. The beautiful cross was a gift from his wife **Eloise**, the LWML **Vice President of Servant Resources**.

“Many employees at the Center asked about the cross,” Rev. Kuhlmann remarked. “It gave me the opportunity

to share the message of the cross. The employees knew Whose team I was on! The LWML *Catalog* describes the cross as ‘no two are alike,’ which is true of the crosses and of us. I thank the Lord and the LWML for giving me the opportunity to share the beauty and message of our Savior with veterans and employees that day!”

## Witnessing through Hymns

When **Carol Becker** of **Horicon, Wisconsin**, was hospitalized at the University of Wisconsin Medical Center in **Madison**, she



Carol Becker

brought her lifetime of musical talent with her. Each day while waiting for medical tests, she relaxed and played hymns on the piano in the lounge.

Often other patients, visitors and staff members, drawn like a magnet to the music, joined her. A favorite song was “How Great Thou Art”; a patient told her, “That made my day!” One of the nurses professed, “We have many doctors around here, but we should not forget that there is only One that counts and that is Jesus, our Great Physician!” One of her doctors reported that another patient was singing hymns in his room! A nurse slipped Carol a note that read, “Thanks for your beautiful music which my patients need. God bless you.”

One of Carol’s surgical team members joined in singing a chorus of “Jesus Lover of My Soul.” “Isn’t it a comfort to know someone like that is on your surgical team?” her nurse remarked.

## Faith Walk

### Ingathering of Towels for Detroit

Responding to an urgent call from faith-based ministries for used bath towels for the desperately needy in



Jan Simmons and Sarah Reinstadtler completely fill up a mini-van of towels destined for Detroit.

**Detroit, Michigan**, LWML women from the non-geographic **English District** living in **Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**, recently filled a mini-van that was driven to Detroit, site of their upcoming district convention.

**Sarah Reinstadtler**, **English District** LWML Vice President of Human Care, had heard that the need was so great in the Detroit area that each donated towel had to be torn into four equal parts to increase distribution. “Have you, as an adult, ever tried to dry off with one quarter of a towel? Have you ever been thankful to have one quarter of a towel to dry off with after washing yourself?” remarked **Mary Kenzel**, district convention chairman.

“There are many challenges when a district is non-geographic,” explained Mary Kuenzel. “When we put our faith into action, however, we find that God blesses our effort. We can be openhanded toward our brothers and sisters even when the need is distantly located. Fortified by God’s Word, we can stretch our arms a little further to make the connection.”

## Undie Sundays

Nearly 1,000 pair of “undies” and over 600 pair of socks were collected on “Undie Sundays” by the **Women’s Guild at Grace Lutheran in Winter Haven, Florida**. The items were given to migrant children at nearby Wahnetta Elementary School. Society chairman **Jan Behrens** shares, “We continue in our faith walk by doing service projects like this.”



Lives!” and filled them with hygiene items, a New Testament, and jelly beans (with the “Jelly Bean Prayer”) for local shelters. **Jan Witte** remarked, “We pray that these boxes will be a wonderful witness to the homeless and working poor in our community.”



## Ministry to Pet Lovers

A pet food and supply drive was the very first service project of the **Mite-y Angels**, a newly-formed

LWML society at **St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Hyde Park, New York**, reports their society president, **Linda Olson**. This group of animal lovers saw an economic need in their community and, by reaching out with this unique project, ministered to pet owners who might otherwise have been unable to stretch their limited resources in caring for their precious companions.



## Celebrating Over Fifty Years of Mission Service

Since 1959 when the LWML society at **St. Peter’s in Lebanon, Wisconsin**, was formed, the group has participated in a host of mission-related projects. Gathering mites, cancelled stamps, and religious material for inner-city missions, as well as making bandages, sewing quilts, assembling layettes for needy children, sharing “cheer” gifts with nearby **Bethesda Lutheran Homes** residents, and sponsoring Muffins for Mites on LWML Sunday, these women continue to serve the Lord with gladness. **Betty Hildebrandt** shares, “We keep walking and working in faith; all praise and glory to God!”

## Easter Shoebox Ministry

The LWML and the **Women’s Ministry** groups at **Hosanna Lutheran Church in Mesa, Arizona**, decorated shoeboxes with a picture of a cross and “Happy Easter—Jesus

## LWQ Updates

### Camo Quilt Request from Slain Fort Hood Victim

A news story in the *Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly* (see Winter 2009) about **South Wisconsin** LWMLers stitching “camo quilts” for the military took on a poignant aspect when the group received a request from one of the victims of the **Fort Hood** massacre, **Staff Sgt. Amy Krueger**. Amy’s hometown of **Kiel, Wisconsin**, is near Plymouth where the quilts are made.

In an e-mail dated in late September, only a few weeks before she was killed, Amy said, “Thanks to all who are involved in this wonderful project!” She had received a quilt and was planning to take it to Afghanistan. She requested 45 more quilts be sent to comrades in her unit.

Camo Quilt project member **Diane Meyer** said, “The Saturday we made the quilts for Amy’s fellow soldiers, Amy’s mom, grandparents and other relatives came to help. Through visiting with them, we feel they are finding peace that Amy is now with the Lord.”



### Heart Pillow Witness in Arkansas

A witnessing opportunity was provided through heart pillows sewn by the LWML group at **Our Redeemer in Fort Smith, Arkansas** (see *LWQ* Winter 2008). **Kathleen Thomas** reports on the *Ablaze!* Web site that a message was left on the church’s answering machine from a woman whose mother received one of these pillows, which are used to help with coughing rehab after heart surgery.

Her mom had read the Bible text that accompanies each pillow, Matthew 25:40 (TNIV): *Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.* Kathleen shared, “Through the working of the Holy Spirit in her life, the mother asked to be baptized. The pillow was probably just one part of the story of God bringing her to faith, but it was a joy to be part of it. To God be the glory!”



## LWML News Makers

### LWML Member Named Mrs. Georgia Queen

Nicole Belcher, member of Oak Road Lutheran Church in Lilburn, Georgia, was named Mrs. Georgia 2009 in the American Queen Pageant held last May. The American Queen Pageant supports the Domestic Abuse Stops Here (DASH) foundation, a nonprofit group that combats domestic violence through education and support of victims.



Nicole Belcher

Secretary of her church's LWML society, Nicole also served her church as a Young Women's Rep to the Florida-Georgia District LWML Convention. She is married with two children and is employed full time.

During her reign, Nicole has traveled to domestic violence support centers, speaking to victims and encouraging them. She also has addressed the topic to middle and high school youth, and states, "If we equip young men and women with the skills they need to recognize and avoid domestic violence at an early age, we hope to prevent them from being victimized or victimizing others."



Terry Kieschnick and Maureen Consiglio, Atlantic District LWML President

### Terry Kieschnick Named "Witness in the Public Square"

At ceremonies in New York City last fall, Terry Kieschnick received the "Witness in the Public Square" award for her caring, nationwide support

of pastors' wives and, in particular, for her courageous post-9/11 response to pastors' wives in the Atlantic District, as well as her steadfast encouragement of all LCMS women in their faith walk.

### Barbara Volk Elected Mayor of Hendersonville, North Carolina

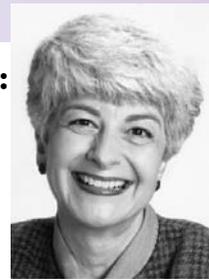
Congratulations to LWML Parliamentary Barbara Volk who has been elected mayor of Hendersonville, North Carolina. She received 66 percent of the vote, with two other candidates also on the ballot. LWML President Janice M. Wendorf states, "The City of Hendersonville is getting a fine Christian woman as mayor. May God's love shine through her in this avenue of public service!"



Barbara Volk

### Women of Faith: Equipped to Speak and to Write!

Would you like to write Bible studies or devotional materi-



Ruth Koch



Dr. Jane Fryar

als that touch people's hearts and lives with the Gospel of Christ? Have you wanted to communicate the saving grace of our Lord more effectively through public speaking?

Ruth Koch and Dr. Jane Fryar, noted authors, speakers, and contributors to the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, will conduct a Speakers School and a Writers School on April 13-16, 2010, at Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, just prior to the Women's Leadership Institute national conference. Enrollment in the schools will be limited to provide for personal interaction and feedback from the leaders. Consult the WLI Web site ([www.wlicuw.org](http://www.wlicuw.org)) for more information.



Marguerite Christman (left)

### Marguerite Christman Receives MVP Award

Congratulations to LWML Convention Manager Marguerite Christman, recipient of the 2009 Outstanding MVP Award, for her dedicated service as a volunteer at the Oklahoma City Memorial and Museum, where she serves as tour guide for visi-

tors. Having been involved with the Memorial since the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in 1995, she was on the scene shortly after the bombing, searching for her sister, who survived.

### LWML Women are Ablaze!

Encourage one another by sharing your witnessing experiences! Lutheran women in mission can now report their stories on the new LWML account on the *Ablaze!* Web site. Go to [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org), click on "Ablaze! Movement" and then on "Share your Ablaze! faith-sharing." Click on the login icon, enter the user name "lutheranwomeninmission" with the password "lwml" and type in your stories of how God has enabled you to speak of Jesus to others. Be sure to read others' stories, too, to see how powerfully God is working through us to share His love with the world!

