The NID BITS

Lutheran Women's Missionary League - Northern Illinois District

Volume 2012, Issue 1

January 2012

Janet's Jottings…
Going Overboard for Jesus!

"Going Overboard" brings to my mind the Goldie Hawn movie where she literally goes overboard and finds a new and exciting life and love. Of course, that being a romantic comedy, Goldie had many obstacles to overcome before realizing she had found true love with her carpenter.

"Carpenter" then reminds me of Joseph, a most underrated guy in most narrations of the birth of Jesus. Talk about obstacles! Talk about going overboard! Because he listened to God, Joseph accepted the shame of marrying a woman who was already pregnant. He took Mary to Bethlehem and, as hard as it was, found them a place to stay. I am sure he felt some shame in asking his very pregnant wife to rest in a stable. He stayed with her and accepted her son as his own. What was he thinking? When he realized how dangerous it was for his family in their own country, he quickly took them to Egypt and waited to be able to safely return to their own land. Joseph certainly went overboard to do the will of God!

I am thankful Joseph was thinking of what God wanted, not what he wanted or what was easy for him.

What God wants brings me to my own life. Many times I have gone overboard, going my own way in the wrong direction. I could blame it on youth but that seems much too easy, especially since I wasn't always that young. Being independent, forgetting that my God wanted me to lean on Him, was very easy.

In Matthew, Chapter 11, Jesus said: *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."* I truly was weary and burdened with my life and knew I needed to draw closer to my Lord and Savior, take up His yoke, and walk with Him. Working in my church, LWML, and other ministries helped.

My real turning point was attending the 1997 national LWML convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. I could hear Jesus asking me to *Hold up the Light*, to go overboard for Him! The rest is history, not perfect by any stretch of the imagination but daily in prayer and His word, looking for guidance and praying that I am Jesus' hands and feet in a hurting world. It is my prayer that LWML will always be "Going Overboard" for Jesus and the work he has given to us to further His kingdom.

Holding up the Light and going overboard with you by the power of the Holy Spirit,

Your NID LWML President,

Jan Mauer

Inside this issue:

Phil's Friends: A personal story	2
Grant Disbursement Update	3
Going Overboard in Haiti	4
Fall Gathering Reflections	5
Lenten Inspirations Registration	6
Zone News and Updates	7
Executive Committee Roster	8

Image and Inspiration from Rev. Gauss

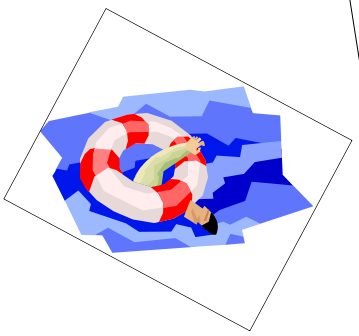
Going overboard makes me think about gaudy Christmas lights. A house in Yorkville has glowing figurines every two feet filling up the entire yard. It glows with the tenacity of a Christmas Sun, you are drawn to it for the shear absurdity of it, and I am pretty sure you can hear the electric meter spinning as you get close. This isn't the good kind of going overboard, in fact neither is the overindulging of the holiday season or the over purchasing in the name of "giving."

Going overboard in its best context is probably the fulfillment of the National theme from Peoria "Living on the Edge." God asks us to be "all in" for Him, going overboard for the sake of His kingdom's reign on earth. Sure, that's right, now we are all going to be Bible Beaters for the Lord, let's go overboard for Him! This probably isn't the best description either as we can go too far with our faithful actions as well, using them for our own ego so we can be proven right.

Going overboard to me is well expressed with the word of God from Romans 12: "*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of kindness. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*" Going overboard by living every breath for Him and His will; rebuking where God wants rebuking and extending grace to the least deserving. Serving, shopping, cooking, visiting, gifting, talking, living, and dying all to the Glory of our God. Now, that will give you peace this Christmas season and every day.

His servant and yours,

Rev. Erik Gauss



What is your favorite Bible verse that can help guide you in "going overboard" for Christ?

Think about it and share the verse with a fellow LWML member. Don't be afraid to go overboard. Christ is our life jacket. Trust Him!

Mark your calendars 71st NID LWML Convention

Save the date!

Friday October 5th and Saturday October 6th, 2012 the LWML NID Convention will be taking place in St. Charles IL.

The convention will open on Friday afternoon with a servant event at the Illinois Food Bank, and a worship service Friday evening at Immanuel Lutheran, Batavia IL.

On Saturday we will experience more fellowship, worship, study and an inspirational message from past NID LWML President, Jan Wendorf.

Be watching for more details!!!

Logo for 71st NID LWML Convention "Bring Salvation to All"

PHIL, PAT, AND US: A Circle of Caring Completed by Phil's Friends

By Charlotte Koelling (St. John, Beecher), NID LWML Co-parliamentarian

At the last NID LWML Convention, my sister, Yvonne, and I put together a Phil's Friends care package to give to Pat, a good friend and St. John member battling lung cancer. I'm sorry to admit that, not being sure how such a gift would be received, I was squeamish about taking this bag to Pat. Instead, Yvonne, who's very nurturing, made the visit. That ended our part, except to get Pat's permission to send her contact information to Phil's Friends.

Pat lost her earthly battle earlier this year. Afterward Warren, her husband, spoke glowingly and gratefully about the great comfort and joy Phil's Friends brought them. Several times he said Pat loved *everything* she received.

As often as two or three times a week—Pat checked every mail delivery—a handwritten envelope arrived with cards designed and executed by children of varied ages. Pat liked that the cards were person-to-person and rarely mentioned cancer or "getting well." Warren said she already knew all about that and didn't need reminding. Instead, cheery, encouraging cards wished her a good day and often shared jokes ("knock-knocks" included!) the children thought she'd enjoy.

Periodically, Phil sent thoughtful articles and prayers, such as "Spending Time in Community," "Do You Have Plans?" and "Prayer for Personal Peace." As the disease took over, Pat's world narrowed and she had less and less to look forward to, said Warren, so anticipating mail from Phil's Friends became an even brighter spot in her day.

Just think! Because of my hesitation, Pat and Warren might have missed the blessing of Phil's Friends. So, if you know of someone battling the "Big C," please don't hesitate to go to www.philsfriends.org and start the process. What a gift you will be giving!

Phil's Friends Care Package

Going Overboard in Haiti

By Barb Copeland Belanski

I chuckled when I read the assignment title for this article as the devotion I wrote for my 2011 mission trip to Haiti was based on John Ortberg's book, "If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat."

My 14 member mission team went overboard in Haiti, but we held onto God's hand, trusted in Him, and were led by His Spirit. The focus of our trip was to assist Pastor Isaac in his churches by providing eyeglass and medical ministries and VBS experiences for the Haitians living in Jeremie and the surrounding villages. So, for seven days last March, our team of six men and eight women (four being nurses) served the people of Haiti and showed them the compassion of Christ our Savior.

Pastor Isaac knows the needs of his people and prepared them for our visit. Lines and lines of patients awaited our team as we arrived to greet them. They had heard of the opportunity to be fitted with free glasses and to see doctors and nurses for their many health symptoms and ailments. In addition to Jeremie, we traveled for hours over gutted and rocky roads to the outlying mountain villages of Marfranc, Corriefour Sanon, Bouduin, and Fond Rouge. In two days we saw nearly 300 patients for eyeglasses and actually depleted our supply. In five days, our medical team treated 150 patients per day and passed out medications and vitamins galore. The need was so great!

Pastor Isaac also values the importance of witnessing to children; we told Bible stories not only to the 30 orphans living in his home, but also to his village schools. After hearing about Daniel in the lion's den, the children made their own lion. Then we sang with them and gave them treats, what fun!!

A fourth part of our ministry was bringing 500 packages of vegetable seeds from "Seeds of Hope." We taught the villagers how to plant gardens, and passed out an assortment of seed and then prayed with them that their little garden patches would thrive and be fruitful.

Saying goodbye to our new friends was very difficult, we'll always remember their smiles, hugs, and words of "Mesi." The Haitians truly touched our hearts. We were aware of God's leadership and protection each day of our trip. He is an awesome God.

Our team truly did get out of the boat. Yes, we went overboard, and at times we even walked on water for a bit but we never sank. God's presence was ever near.

Grant Disbursement Report

NID 2010-2011 Biennium Grants	Grant Amount	Paid	Balance
Voice of Hope Behind the Wall	$ 15,000.00	$3,211.19	$11,788.81
Concordia FW Food Pantry	$ 15,000.00	$15,000.00	0
Trinity/Hope	$ 5,000.00	$5,000.00	0
Voice of Care	$ 20,491.00	$20,491.00	0
Furnishing Group Homes	$ 22,000.00	0	$22,000.00
Morningstar Mentoring Program	$10,000.00	$7265.10	$2,734.90
Textbook Acquisition for Seminary Students	$20,000.00	0	$20,000.00
Special Needs Classroom/Diaconal Center – South Sudan	$8,900.00	$8,900.00	0
Hymnals for Ev. Lutheran Church Kenya	$8,409.00	0	$8,409.00
Total Mission Grant Goal	$124,800.00	$68,276.29	$56,533.71

A Thank You from Scholarship Recipient

Dear Members of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League,

Thank you so much for your kind scholarship award. I was very excited when I found out that I received the scholarship. It has been hard to pay for school and this amount of money will definitely help me out quite a bit. I am looking forward to another year of school and a second semester of methods classes. I have already enjoyed teaching lessons so far and am very glad that I made the decision to become a teacher. While attending school, I also enjoy being a part of Christian youth ministry lock-ins with middle school students as well as Fellowship of Christian Athletes team with my peers. In my free time, I also attend prayer and praise services and small Bible groups for young women. This past summer, Concordia gave me the chance to go to Guatemala for a missionary project to interact with people there. We made frequent house visits and also sang, danced, and constructed crafts with the children. I am encouraged to share this experience with other people and to help this country as much as possible when I am home. I am so glad to have the opportunity to attend a school with these types of activities and groups. Thanks again for your gift and I am looking forward to another great school year.

God Bless,

Kat Albrecht

NID LWML to Assist Seminarians

Luther wrote that Jesus calls men to be pastors in the church—to proclaim the Gospel of forgiveness of sins, to baptize, to nourish people with the Holy Supper and minister to the flock. Concordia Seminary-St. Louis and Concordia Theological Seminary-Ft. Wayne prepare men to serve as pastors in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The cost for one year of seminary is approximately $40,000. For a single student, according to seminary estimates with over $1800 spent on textbooks. The NID LWML $20,000 grant will provide textbooks for seminarians reducing a small part of the financial burden. LWML is partnering with the LCMS Joint Seminary Fund which is matching the grant dollar for dollar.

NID LWML - Got Scholarships?

Scholarships? Yes, NID LWML awards scholarships at Concordia University, Chicago, to senior women who are studying to become church professionals. The Northern Illinois District LWML awarded 4 scholarships in 2011. These scholarships are funded with earnings from invested special bequests designated for this purpose. We are happy to encourage Christian women who will spread the Word and touch many lives with the message of the Gospel.

Lead me in thy truth, and teach me:
for thou art the God of my salvation;
on thee do I wait all the day.
Psalm 25:5

LWML Teen Groups Get Empowered!

LWML Teen groups are popping up across the country. The Northern Illinois District has three teen groups and is looking to have many more. Raising up faith-filled teenagers and equipping them to impact the world around them with the love of Jesus are a vital part of the teen program. You can do this simply by sharing devotions provided on the LWML website and supervising service opportunities for our eager, energetic, and passionate youth. For more information on how to start a teen group, go to www.lwml.org . Click on Resources and then click on teens. The website is filled with Leader ideas, teen devotions, a teen mite calendar, and the teen starter kit. Submit stories and pictures of your teen group to Carol Fuys cfuys14@comcast.net or call if you have any questions 630-319-0551.

Care Card Ministry Opportunity...get involved!

Being the heart and hands of Jesus, by loving people in crisis can take on many forms: prayer, donated meals, transportation to doctor appointments, and home visits. The Human Care Committee would like to expand on this by providing care cards to women and families in the district who are in need of a tangible reminder of Christ's presence and the love of fellow believers. As the prayer requests come in the cards go out.

Please consider supporting the ministry and off set the cost by donating cards and/or stamps. Collections are being taken at NID EC and BOD meetings. Please contact Carol Fuys at cfuys14@comcast.net.

Go Readied, Go Act, Go Speak—Reflections on the Fall Gathering

By Kandace Elliott, VP Communication NID LWML

I don't know about you, but there was one very distinct phrase that really stuck with me after the Fall Gathering. Tim Hetzner, President of Lutheran Church Charities, said it best, "we are Christian, it's what we do." In my day to day interactions with people, I often times find myself using the modified verbiage, "yes, it's part of what we do" or "it's my job and that's what I do." But, do I truly say to people through my words and in my actions each day "I am a Christian, it's what I do?" Time to get out the mirror, and reflect on my every interaction.

We know how exciting self reflection and introspection can be, right? I embarked on an experiment for one week to see how I did. Would I truly find that my actions and words said and demonstrated "I am a Christian and this is what I do." I would evaluate each day and since I am scoring I should pass, right?

As I completed that introspection I found I have room for improvement. I need to live each day and each interaction with the attitude and showing that I am a Christian and THIS is what I do. Whether at work, or with friends or my family, the need for improvement in this area of my life is great. I need to get out of myself and get into others more. And, since I know this….now what? What am I going to do about this? How am I going to "Go Readied, Go Act, Go Speak"?

Tim's talk, "101 Ways to Share the Mercy and Compassion of Christ that don't cost Money" certainly gave some wonderful ideas! I am not a big fan of feet, so foot massages are out for me, but that leaves 100 other opportunities. I know I can find something.

I started one day with looking at and saying hello to every person I encountered as I walked along through my day. As I sat in a coffee shop one afternoon, I looked at each person who passed my table and said hello. Some responded many did not. After an hour or so, a young woman who had been sitting just over from me approached my table, I smiled, said hello. She smiled back and said, "I have seen you say hello to every person who has passed you, and I am curious, why? You are working on your computer, yet you stop and say hello." I smiled back and said, to my own shock and amazement, "I am a Christian, and that's what I do." She looked blankly at me and then said, "I think that's really cool." Is this affirmation I am cool? No, it's affirmation that being a Christian is cool. It's not about me, it's about Christ.

That's why we do!

We saw some wonderful examples of Christian ministries needs in our communities and beyond, and we have to thank, Rev. Don Kretzschmarwith Voice of Care, Mark Zastrow with Bethesda Lutheran Communities, Deaconess Lori Wilbert from Voice of Hope and Sue Gebel, Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. The passion and drive you show to your organizations truly is God inspiring! The attendees enjoyed the sharing and interaction times to learn about your organizations, and I know I was truly inspired by each.

I hope each of you will look at and embrace every person, situation, challenge and success proudly saying, "I am a Christian, it's what I do." It's really cool to be a Christian! Go Readied, Go Act, Go Speak! Amen.

Philemon 1:6b

"I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith,"

Beyond The Edge In Prayer

NID – LWML is pleased to present Lenten Inspirations, The Kings Entry – A Musical Chalking with Diane Kettelson, depicting Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Choose the date most convenient for you!

Saturday March 3, 2012
Immanuel Mokena
10731 W. LaPorte Road
Mokena, IL 60448
9:00 am – 2:00 pm

or

Saturday March 24, 2012
Hope Shorewood
305 E. Black Road
Shorewood, IL 60404
9:00 am – 2:00 pm

We hope you can join us for this inspirational day of devotions, skits, prayer and Bible study. Rolls & Coffee and Lunch are included with registration.

Cost is $15.00 which includes morning coffee/rolls and lunch.

Registration Form – Beyond the Edge in Prayer

I want to be "inspired" and will attend on: (please indicate below)

_____ Saturday March 3, 2012 or _____ Saturday March 24, 2012

Name: _____

Address_____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Congregation: _____ Zone: _____

Send Registration Form and $15.00 check payable to NID - LWML to
Betsey Kurth 6145 West Grace Chicago, IL 60634
Phone: 773.736.9465

Fall Rally and Workshop News from Barb

Zone 3 - Presentation by Julie Klopke on her trip to Middleburg, South Africa, where she worked with the Zulu people and delivered supplies and materials to school children.

Zone 8 - Hosted an afternoon of fellowship and service by tying quilts and rolling strip bandages for third world medical centers

Zone 14 - After a Bible study on Revelation, a servant event of rolling bandages

Zone 20 - The society of Mt. Greenwood hosted a lovely luncheon and tea followed by a program 'The Little Black Dress' on October 30

Zone 21 - Bible study on the theme, "Let the Word of Christ Be within You" followed by society news: Zion-Winston-Zumba exercises and a Thursday food pantry; luncheon at St. Paul, Grand Crossing, on Nov. 2; St. Paul, Dolton bazaar on Nov. 12; Zion-King Drive hosting a Harvest Festival on Oct 29: Christ the King will deliver Thanksgiving meals to five senior citizens as well as have a 'sit down' Thanksgiving meal for any homeless in the neighborhood

Zones 22 & 18 - On September 10, 2011, the ladies of Zone 18 and 22 gathered at Bethany Lutheran Church in Naperville. Following a delicious brunch and a devotion by Pastor Schumacher, Judy Cuchetto of Breakthrough Urban Ministries told compelling stories of how men's lives are changed through this ministry and how the ladies of the LWML were making a difference through the gift of plastic bag mats. These mats take over 70 bags to make and hours of hard crocheting. Each bag then is given to a man who has completed many tasks on his way back to employment and shelter. Even more important, these bags open a way to tell of the love of Christ. Why would women help men they don't even know? Judy gets to tell them how much Christ has loved us and how He loves them. The women of the LWML zones spent about 2 hours olding the plastic grocery bags, then cutting them into strips of loops, looping them together, and then making balls of plastic "yarn" with which to crochet the mats.

Zone 24 - Light refreshments, Bible study, fellowship,and a Mission Trip to Haiti presentation by Barb Belanski

Zone 25 - After a Bible study on Acts 4:20, hands-on mission work resulted in 10 tied fleece blankets for Phil's Friends; 95 wordless stamped books for Hands of Mercy, 26 bibs sewed for Bethesda, and 25 bandages rolled for Global Health Ministries.

Zones 27 & 28 - Presentation by Hannah Kiefer speaking on her missionary trip to Macau, where she taught English; then a Christian growth lesson on how God puts us all together to make beautiful, useful quilts from the scraps of our lives which was followed by tying two quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

Do you have news from your zone you would like to share?

Email Barb at mokenaliving@comcast.net

2010-2012 Executive Committee

****President: Jan Mauer**

janmauer@sbcglobal.net. Leads district in living out the mission of Lutheran Women in Mission; will help with any questions you have about LWML.

**** VP for Servant Resources: Carol Sheppard**

sheppardnurse@att.net. Assists societies in leadership and member development; has servant resource items shown in LWML catalog.

VP for Christian Life: Elvera Ruff

eruff6311@aol.com. Assists societies with Christian growth resources; has items for Christian life from LWML catalog; plans Lenten Inspirations; prepares Speakers List.

VP For Human Care: Carol Fuys

cfuys14@comcast.net. Coordinates servant events and ingatherings; provides information on service projects and events.

VP for Gospel Outreach: Marilyn Hess

marilynhess@yahoo.com. Encourages development of mission grant proposals; presents reviewed grants to the Executive Committee and the convention for selection.

VP for Communication: **Kandace Elliott**

Kelliott.lwml@gmail.com. Coordinator of all district LWML publications, print and electronic.

Treasurer: Nancy Suhs

carlsnansuhs@aol.com; PO Box 1135, Homewood, IL 60430; Makes all authorized payments.

Financial Secretary: Barbara Etter,

PO Box 4254, Naperville, IL60567.

barbetter@comcast.net; Receives all Mites, special donations, Quarterly donations and memorials.

Recording Secretary: Laura Latzke,

lauralatzke@sbcglobal.net, Records and distributes minutes from EC & BOD meetings and convention.

****Corresponding Secretary**: **Kris Blackwell**,

nidlwmlcorrespondingsec@gmail.com; Receives changes of addresses, changes in the amounts of Quarterlies, handles correspondence and loaning of LWML videos.

Parliamentarians:

Carli Zygowicz - czygowicz@hotmail.com

Charlotte Koelling - critdifrnc@comcast.net

Convention Chairman: Jewel T. Sims, jsgrand5@aol.com. Coordinates district gatherings and convention.

Archivist-Historian: Ruth Pralle, rdpralle@yahoo.com. Preserves historical materials from district and zones.

Sr. Pastoral Counselor: Rev. Erik Gauss, egauss@hiscross.org. Serves district league in advisory capacity and presents Bible studies at meetings and conventions.

Jr. Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Robert Bartz, Jr revrob8@sbcglobal.net. Serves district league in advisory capacity and presents Bible studies at meetings and conventions.

Public Relations Director: Barbara Copeland-Belinski mokenaliving@comcast.net. Coordinates PR activities for District LWML.

District Publications Editor: Madlyn Johnson madlyn57@yahoo.com. Produces the monthly LWML page in "The Northern Illinois Light".

NID-Bits Editor: Nancy Glissman lwmlgirl@comcast.net. Produces the NID Bits newsletter at regular intervals.

District Webmaster: Wendy Johnson nidlwmlpr@msn.com. Posts information on the district web page, www.nidlwml.org

Planner: Jan Stantus jlstan21cen@att.net. Serves as planning director for NID LWML.

Short Term Mission Committee Chair: Jan Gerzevske jgerz@netzero.com. Encourages awareness and provides opportunities for participation in short-term missions.

Heart to Heart Trainer/Mentor: Elizabeth (Lisa) Molotla, vegadelis@yahoo.com. NID/LWML liaison to ethnic congregations.

Mission Ministry Vision Consultants:

Pauline Brunke Pauline.4lwml@gmail.com and

Darlyne Watts-Jurgens, darlynelark@aol.com. Pauline and Darlyne assist zones and societies with visioning and overcoming obstacles to become more effective in living out the LWML mission.

Email corrections to this list to lwmlgirl@comcast.net.