

ACCENT

On Lutheran Women's Missionary League
English District

VOL. LIV, No. 44

Fall/Winter 2010

When our President, Shirley Holle, asked our English District Board to write their articles for this issue of the ACCENT on HOPE, I was immediately inspired.

I was taken back to thoughts about our English District convention in 2004 that was held in Philadelphia. The theme was: *Faith for today, Hope for tomorrow and Love for eternity*. With that theme in mind, I'd like to share a story of hope from 2010 with you now.

My sister, Jurene, called me in late 2009 and asked if she and her husband Jim could come to New Jersey and move in with us. My brother-in-law Jim was sick and needed treatment that was only available in New York. I said, "YES, absolutely. When are you coming?"

Jim and Jurene packed light, boarded a plane in Albuquerque, New Mexico and arrived a month later.

My husband, Phil, and I picked them up at the airport and we realized immediately Jim was more than sick, he was deathly ill. It took us a long time to get him from the airport wheelchair into our car. He was weak, he had lost 50 pounds from the last time we saw him a few months earlier, and was in terrible pain. Jim was a commander in the US Navy. He had a masters degree in civil and mechanical engineering and was a master swimmer. It was so hard to see him in this condition, he had always been so strong. He tried to smile, which I barely could see through my tears.

In the three months to follow we all rallied around Jim and did everything we could to make him better. Phil cooked anything Jim asked for, made a ramp to get him in and out of the house, brought him a walker and a cane, and helped us carry Jim whenever we had too.

Jurene was unbelievable. She had the hope, strength and will of a thousand people. You would have thought she was a registered nurse with all the tubes, catheters, bandages, and tons of medicine she administered to Jim several times every day. And that's not even to mention the extensive research she did to learn everything she could about Jim's illness. We should all be so fortunate to have a Jurene in our lives.

From the minute I received the call asking if they could move in with us I started to pray. And my prayer was very

specific. "Dear Lord, how can I witness to Jim? He doesn't know Jesus as his Lord and Savior and he has never been baptized. Please help me know what to do."

I knew from Jim's history he did not like to be preached to and I wasn't sure how to witness to him. So I prayed. Each night at the dinner table I prayed out loud. I prayed that our food would be blessed, and then I prayed for healing for Jim. And if there was anything else going on around us I prayed for that too. Each night Jim said AMEN with the rest of us. I prayed at the breakfast table, at the lunch table, and at the dinner table. I even prayed in the middle of nothing. I always prayed out loud so Jim could hear me.

I didn't know what else to do but pray. I was so scared for Jim and for us. If he didn't get better and he died, I knew I would never see him again.

We all had high hopes his treatment would work but our hopes soon turned into reality. Family started coming into town to visit Jim, for what we all knew would be their last goodbyes.

I had to leave and go to the LWML English District convention in Detroit. No sooner did I arrive, then I received a call from Jurene. Jim's body was shutting down and he was dying. I called my pastor and through tears asked him to quickly go to the hospital and baptize Jim. He said, "Cherie, I'll go and pray with him but I won't promise I'll baptize him." I continued to pray and to hope beyond hope.

Three hours later I received a call from Pastor Gerlach. He said, "I went to the hospital and prayed with Jim. I talked about Jesus and then I told Jim the story of St. Paul, about his life, where he was from, his education, and what his life was like, and then I heard Jim's confession. I called the family back into the room and baptized him." I cried hysterical tears of joy! Jim went to heaven two days later.

With the hope of heaven I know we'll see Jim again one day. Thank you Shirley for asking us to write about hope, and for inspiring me to share this story of hope with all of you. *Faith for today, Hope for tomorrow and Love for eternity*.

Cherie F. Voorhees, Accent Editor

“HOPE ”

Shirley Holle, President
shirleyh@longrealty.com



HOPE 1. *To wish for something with expectation of its fulfillment.* 2. *To have confidence, trust.* These are the definitions of hope in Webster’s dictionary.

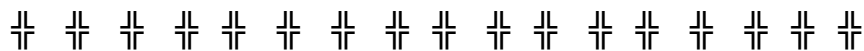
“Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.” Psalm 42:11 The word hope appears 174 times in the Bible. Go check them out – see if you can find them all and the hope that God offers to all.

As I was struggling with cancer one of the songs I would listen to had the line “hope thou in Me.” I knew that was where I needed to place my hope, and I needed to hear it every day. I needed to believe it in my heart. I’m sure we have all had that struggle. The great part is we have friends who encourage us in that hope, who remind us of God’s promises. The CD, ‘Walking with the Lord’ narrated by Jan Wendorf is excellent to listen to for hope and encouragement.

Our hope is our problems will be solved, no matter what struggles we are dealing with. If you hope in God, you will join with the psalmist and praise him for your victory and His goodness.

Our task is to offer this hope to our friends and all those who need to hear the great promises of our God. There are so many people in this world who have no hope in their daily struggles. They are desperately searching for something and are asking the question, “How do I find the hope I need?” They need the hope that only our God can offer. And we can share that hope with those in need by telling them; He loves us and told us that one of these days we will have no fears, no tears, and no more sadness. Our hearts will yet praise Him, our Savior and our God.

Soon we will be celebrating Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year. With each of these seasons is the blessing of hope, hope for a better tomorrow. My prayer is that we share the hope given to us by God in the birth of His Son. This is the hope that our hearts can hang on to, the hope that will see us through 2011 and all of our tomorrows.



Start planning to attend our next District Convention in Tucson April 20-22, 2012. The theme is **Rejoice... Bloom...Shout for Joy** based on Isaiah 35:1-2a NIV. “*The desert and parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.*” Also, if you have ideas for a convention banner please send them to me for consideration.

It is time to select Young Women Representatives to the LWML Convention in Peoria. Details and application can be found at www.LWML.org under Young Women.

If you have questions about the LWML English District check our website www.englishdistrictlwml.org. If you do not find the answer there, send me an email. I will be happy to help.▶

**Everything that is done in the world
is done in hope.**

Martin Luther



“Bringing Hope to the Hopeless.”

Margaret Stuenkle, Vice President Gospel Outreach
rstuenkel@aol.com



Hope deferred makes the heart sick.
Proverbs 13:12

Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ
.....without hope and without God in the world.
Ephesians 2:12

Why such dismal Scripture passages, you may be thinking. Well, think about it. What would life be like without hope, without Christ? Dismal, right? That's what it is like for many in our world today. They have no hope and they don't know Christ their Savior. That's why we are the Lutheran Women's Missionary League – to bring hope to the hopeless with our mighty mites!

Our first mission grant designee has hope in its name – Trinity/Hope. This mission project will feed children in Haiti where they are desperately in need. And if I read the news accounts correctly, they are not getting all the help they need and may well be losing hope. We, you and I, can help to change that. Let's fill those mite boxes so that the children at Trinity/Hope in Haiti can eat even a fraction as well as we do.

Our second mission grant designee will help the work of Bible translation in the Bokyi language in Nigeria. Without the Scriptures in their language, how can the Bokyi people learn about the hope they can have in Jesus Christ? You and I are so blessed to have God's Word in our own language. We are not without hope. Let's share that hope with the Bokyi people by making this grant gift possible through our mites. God has blessed us to be a blessing. Let's do so generously. ►

Excerpts from the Youth Gathering– A story of Hope by Kleo Latasiewicz!

It's been said that high school is one of the most difficult times of a life. You change. You do things you said you never would. Say things you said you'd never say. Forget things you promised you'd always remember. You become something far different from what you once were and a lot of times you become someone far worse.

The older and busier you get the more and more church and God's importance in your life seems to disappear. Time goes on, and as it does it gets harder and harder to slow down and ask yourself, “Is this what God wants from me?” It's easier just to ignore God than it is to realize the path you're following isn't quite the path He wanted for you.

I went to New Orleans thinking I knew exactly what to expect. But I came back with all the answers I expected never to find. A lot of times, especially for teenagers, it's

Our Mission Goal for the 2010-2012 biennium is \$15,000

1. **Trinity/Hope (Feed Lutheran Children in Haiti) - \$3,000.**
2. **Bible Translation at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria - \$3,000.**
3. **Concordia Seminary Food Bank—\$3,000.**
4. **Children's Books for Evangelical Lutheran Church in Latvia—\$3,000.**
5. **Uniforms for Nakuru School, Kenya—\$2,400.**
6. **Let the Children Come—Let the Children Sing, Detroit, MI.—\$600.**

hard to admit you believe in God. Hard to take pride in the fact that you believe in something many would point out as nonexistent. When we listen to these people, we start to doubt, like there's no one to talk to, no one who could possibly know. We feel like the worst people in the world because we love God and we know it, but we don't know how to trust what can't even be seen when that's all God asks of us. We feel alone. But when you see thousands of bright green back packs that believe the same thing you do, that have been there with you, that have asked the same questions, you don't feel so alone anymore and you don't feel the need to continuously punish yourself for your moments of weakness.

I learned that I'm not good enough for God. No one is. But if we let His light shine through us and if we embrace the grace He gives us, then together in each other we can find what is good. What is pure. What is love. There was a part of the mass event in New Orleans where they reenacted Jesus being crucified. From behind him came a man dressed in all black wiping his bloody hands on Jesus and saying “you did this.” He didn't die for you. He didn't die for me. He died for us. He didn't do it so we could deny Him. He did it so we'd know what it meant to love, and forgive, and *hope*. I learned that this isn't MY story, because I'm not the hero, He is. And most important of all I learned that whenever I'm alone, whenever I'm afraid, and whenever I don't know what I'm supposed to do, all I have to do is ask Him, pray to Him, and He will give me everything I need.

*Kleo Latasiewicz, Faith Lutheran Church, Tucson, AZ,
English District*

“The HOPE of Advent, Christmas and the New Year:

Coming Alive in Christ!” Rev. Dr. Robert M. Roegner, Pastoral Counselor



It is the season of HOPE and here is what God is saying to us in the LWML English District. First, from Ephesians 2:1-10:

“You were once dead because of your failures and sins. You followed the ways of this present world and its spiritual ruler. This ruler continues to work in people who refuse to obey God. All of us once lived among these people, and followed the desires of our corrupt nature. We did what our corrupt desires and thoughts wanted us to do. So, because of our nature, we deserved God's anger just like everyone else. But God is rich in mercy because of his great love for us. We were dead because of our failures, but he made us alive together with Christ. (It is God's kindness that saved you.) God has brought us back to life together with Christ Jesus and has given us a position in heaven with him. He did this through Christ Jesus out of his generosity to us in order to show his extremely rich kindness in the world to come. God saved you through faith as an act of kindness. You had nothing to do with it. Being saved is a gift from God. It's not the result of anything you've done, so no one can brag about it. God has made us what we are. He has created us in Christ Jesus to live lives filled with good works that he has prepared for us to do.” (from GOD'S WORD, GWN, Copyright © 1995 by God's Word to the Nations Bible Society. All rights reserved.)

Years ago, there was a very wealthy man who, with his devoted young son, shared a passion for art collecting. Together they traveled around the world, adding only the finest art treasures to their collection. Priceless works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Monet and many others adorned the walls of the family estate. The widowed father looked on with satisfaction as his only child became an experienced art collector. But the day came when war engulfed the nation, and the young man left to serve his country. After only a few short weeks, his father received a telegram that his beloved son had been killed while carrying a fellow soldier to a medic.

On Christmas morning a knock came at the door of the old man's home, and as he opened the door, he was greeted by a soldier with a large package in his hand. He introduced himself to the man by saying, “I was a friend of your son. I was the one he was rescuing when he died. May I come in for a few moments? I have something to show you.” “I'm an artist,” said the soldier, “and I want to give you this.” As the old man unwrapped the package, the paper gave way to reveal a portrait of his son. Though the art critics would never consider the work a piece of genius, the painting did feature the young man's face in striking detail, and seemed to capture his personality.

The following spring, the old man became ill and passed away. The art world was in anticipation! According to the will of the old man, all of the art works would be auctioned. The day soon arrived, and art collectors from around the world gathered to bid on some of the world's most spectacular paintings. The auction began with a painting that was not on any museum's list. It was the painting of the man's son. The auctioneer asked for an opening bid. The room was silent. “Who will open the bidding with \$100?” he asked. Minutes passed with not a sound from those who came to buy. From the back of the room someone callously called out, “Who cares about that painting? It's just a picture of his son. Let's forget it and go on to the important paintings.” There were other voices which echoed in agreement. But the auctioneer replied, “No, we have to sell this one first. Now, who will take the son?” Finally, a friend of the old man spoke. “I knew the boy, so I'd like to have it. I will bid the \$100.” “I have a bid for \$100,” called the auctioneer. “Will anyone go higher?” After a long silence, the auctioneer said, “Going once. Going twice. Gone.” The gavel fell. Cheers filled the room and someone was heard to say, “Now we can get on with it!” But the auctioneer looked at the audience and announced the auction was over. Stunned disbelief quieted the room. Someone spoke up and asked, “What do you mean it's over? We didn't come here for a picture of some old guy's son. What about all of these paintings? There are millions of dollars worth of art here! We demand that you explain what's going on!” The auctioneer replied, “It's very simple. According to the will of the father, whoever takes the son... gets it all.”

That is the essence of Advent, Christmas, and the New Year: Whoever has the Son gets it all. Having God's Son, Jesus Christ in your life gives you HOPE! The Bible puts it like this: *“This is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is found in his Son. The person who has the Son has this life. The person who doesn't have the Son of God doesn't have this life.”* I John 5:11-12 (GWN). The one who has the Son has it all. Advent, Christmas, and the New Year promise new life in Christ because you are once again reminded what God is like. The coming of Christ gives you a living picture of who God truly is. Christ's coming put a face on God. The Bible says, *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. He created all things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible. Whether they are kings or lords, rulers or powers—everything has been created through him and for him.”* Colossians 1:15-16 (GWN). This is what God means by the incarnation — God came to earth wrapped in a human body. The God of heaven came to live among you that you might know what He is truly like. He came to teach you. He came to die for you that you might be forgiven. He rose from the dead to help you know that you, too, will be raised. He promised that He will return so that eternal HOPE would burn in your heart. He opened the doors of heaven to you!

As the people of God coming alive in Christ in 2011, let us together as the English District LWML, get involved in, pray for, and support (through our mites) our mission projects, service projects and more. Because we have the HOPE in Him, and because we wish to share the HOPE in Him with others! ►

“Change is Good !”

Jan Simmons, Vice President Servant Resources
simmfarm@comcast.net



In Pittsburgh, the change from summer to fall is so obvious. We have the leaves turning from green to multiple colors of orange, yellow and red. The temperature turns cold and many nights we have frost. And the days gradually get shorter and shorter. It is a beautiful time of year when people drive to the hills just to see the change in the leaves. It is almost a way of God telling us change is good.

This Biennium we will see several bylaw changes. Like the change from summer to fall, this is a good thing. By updating our bylaws and standing rules, it shows we are a growing and active organization. We realize that bylaws and standing rules become outdated and can be improved. At the Executive Board Meeting this summer we reviewed ten bylaws changes. They will be submitted to the Structure Committee of the LWML for approval and then voted on at the convention in 2012. Also, three standing rule changes were voted on at the Executive Board Meeting, they are as follows:

STANDING RULE 2 : Zones shall be encouraged to keep mission grants within the district.

Rationale: To remove standing rule 2 from the standing rules and add standing rule 2 to bylaws Article XIV, section 2. This will help zones and societies see the importance of considering mission projects in the English District. Therefore, section 2 is deleted from standing rules and rule 3 becomes 2, rule 4 becomes 3, rule 5 becomes 4, rule 6 becomes 5 and rule 7 becomes 6.

STANDING RULE 4:

Rationale: To allow the President to select members of the Executive Committee to attend the LWML Convention that have never attended.

Existing standing rule:

Rule 4:

4. The Vice President of Christian Life or her representative and/or one Pastoral Counselor may be sent to the LWML Convention at district expense.

adopted change:

Rule 4:

4. The President of the English District LWML will select a member of the Executive Committee and a Pastoral Counselor to be sent to the LWML Convention at the district expense.

ADDITION OF STANDING RULE 7:

Rule 7:

The English District LWML will advance the host committee of the District Convention up to \$1000 to secure a hotel contract. The total advancement shall be returned to the English District treasury when the convention books are settled.

There is a new link on our website www.englishdistrictlwml.org for the bylaws. Look for these changes and future changes, plus the bylaws changes adopted at our 2010 convention. Thanks to our webmaster Pat Hirshman, it is now possible to download the updated version of our bylaws at your convenience. ►

**Hope is some extraordinary spiritual grace that God gives us
to control our fears, not to oust them.**

**Other men see only a hopeless end, but the Christian
rejoices in an endless hope.**

Gilbert Beeken

Instead of "Googling" the next time you need a search engine go to

<http://www.goodsearch.com>

and type "LWML" and select LWML St. Louis in the "I'm supporting" box.

Each time a search is initiated, an estimated 1 cent is given to LWML.

GoodSearch could generate thousands of dollars for missions!! Start goodsearching NOW.

“The Need of God’s People”

Susan Fleischmann, Treasurer
bflfleischmann@verizon.net

“HOPE for a New World!”

Sarah Reinstadtler, Vice President Human Care
srein8@verizon.net

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.” *Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Summer is behind us, and we are well into the fall season here on the East coast. The trees are starting to turn glorious shades of red, brown and gold, and football season is underway. We live in a fast paced world with pressures and demands that often sap our time and energy. Many times we miss the wonderful seasons and daily blessings received from God.

We know that Jesus instructed us to love our neighbors as ourselves. As the various zones hold Fall Rallies in October and November, and we come together as Sisters in Christ, let us remember our neighbors in need. Caring for our neighbors must be our priority because it is God’s priority. **We are in desperate need of mites to pay our first mission grant of \$3,000 for Trinity/HOPE (feed Lutheran children in Haiti).** Please generously fill your mite boxes and give them to your zone treasurer. “This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people, but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.” *2 Corinthians 9:12.*

Reminder: Start thinking about any change your Society would like to make for the 2011 *Quarterly* and *Accent* orders. The LWML National Executive Board has approved a price increase for the *Quarterly* to take effect next year with the Spring 2011 issue.

New prices are:

1-9 copies to the same address: \$6.50 per copy per year

10+ copies to the same address: \$5.00 per copy per year

The *Accent* price remains \$3.00 per copy per year.

MEMORIALS

In memory of:

Manny Velzaquez, Elaine Reiser, David Treglown,
and Almeda Vane.

In honor of:

Connie Johnson’s past presidency.

Please feel free to contact me by email or phone:

1425 Washington Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
412-344-3691 ►

I LOVE looking forward to Thanksgiving!!! Not just for the food although that’s good too, but for the extra time a holiday offers. I appreciate the time I have to give thanks for the little things, like green lights when I’m in a hurry, clean bed sheets, sipping tea on a cold day, smells of autumn, my grandson’s silly questions, and so much more. And, there are all the big things to be thankful for too, my salvation, family, health and home.

I always think about the Pilgrims and the hardships they had to endure to be able to worship freely. To leave behind all things familiar and travel across a vast ocean to a place of certain hardships. I can only imagine the hope in their hearts. Hope to just make it there while crammed in a small, dark, cold boat with little food and water, sickness and uncertainty. Think of your worst car or plane trip. It greatly pales in comparison to what they endured. Ashore they had to start from scratch to create a home, a town, and a life so different than what they knew. Scarce food and harsh seasons gave them nothing to look forward to, but they held onto their hope, especially hope in their Lord. No wonder they had a Thanksgiving day celebrating and giving thanks and praise to their loving Father.

Jeremiah 29:11-14 sums it all up. “*For I know the plans I have for you*” declares the Lord, “*plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you Hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you,*” declares the Lord.”

Let us give THANKS and PRAISE to our loving Father for all our blessings. For the extra time whenever it comes, but especially for the hope within our hearts and minds till we meet Him face to face in our heavenly home. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving And take some time to hope! ►

The human body experiences a powerful gravitational pull in the direction of HOPE.
That is why the patient's HOPES are the physician's secret weapon.
They are the hidden ingredients in any prescription.

ACCENT Deadline: February 1, 2011.

Please send current news, zone and society reports, minutes, photos, etc. to: Cherie Voorhees 1305 Lower Ferry Road, Trenton, NJ 08618 or FAX to: 609.896.0341 or send me an attachment through e-mail: voorhees@rider.edu