

IMPRESSIONS

October 2009

Impressions is a tool to encourage Young Woman Representatives after their convention experience as they serve in their home districts. It can be used as an instrument to educate and inform other young women about LWML.

From the Heart of a YWR

Those who know me best know that I am not fond of clichés nor over-the-top exaggerated experiences. In fact, when people tell me that they are looking for that type of event to occur in their life, I am skeptical. I certainly was not looking or wanting a “mountain top experience.” A “small hill” would have been fine for me. Events in my world are planned and calculated with a known outcome; this is where the LWML National Convention comes in and spins my world on a different axis.

I went into the trip with many stresses about work and family but realized that I was not alone or isolated. I was able to share these troubles with my roommate and other young women. God was not ignoring or punishing me. He was testing my faith and load and the ability to share these burdens at a place where He knew they would be heard and comforted.

I also enjoyed the Bible studies

led by Mary Hilgendorf. They were entertaining and thought provoking. She talked about women having a voice to speak up, encourage change, empower others and most importantly confess your love for God and His creation. I learned how the mite money was being used and heard from young women in the missionary field.

There were so many wonderful women from all over the United States who wanted to know my name and where I was from and hug me! I want to have that same response when I meet new people. I, too, have a voice that can make change, empower others and spread His love, not only in the LWML but also in the other areas of my life. It truly was a “mountain top experience!”

Jennifer Koch

2009 YWR, South Wisconsin District

Farewell from the LD Committee

This is the last issue of Impressions from the 2007-2009 Leader Development Committee. We are excited to announce The Young Woman's Representative program will have a new look this new biennium! A Young Woman's Representative Task Force will work with the needs and management of this program and their only focus will be serving YOU — the YWRs of our organization. The Task Force is being chaired by Anne Hartman who was herself a YWR and served YWRs at the Sioux Falls convention. You will be hearing from her in the future.

Special thanks are due the 2007-2009 Leader Development Committee made up of Amy Bartels, Cheryl Mattil, Patti Ross, Kristy Carter and Chairman Barb Virus. They have served well and provided you with meaningful material and a wonderful YWR experience in Portland. To God be the glory!

Devotional Thoughts | The Power of Sharing

Ask any teacher and she will tell you her students recall stories told in a same presentation more than facts or figures which illustrated the main idea of the lesson. Many communication experts advise speakers to use the power of the personal touch in relating an experience. While facts and figures are beneficial for learning, they are for most hearers dull or boring; an anecdote from real life can motivate the hearer for learning or action.

In Mark 5:1-20 we read the dramatic account of Jesus healing a

violent, self-destructive man from the powerful demons that possessed him. When the restored man begged to accompany Jesus and stay with Him as He traveled, the LORD Jesus told him, “Go home to your family and tell them how much the LORD has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you.” So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.” (v. 19-20)

Knowledge and flowery speech are often overrated in the process of communicating the goods news of

Jesus Christ. Don't underestimate the power of sharing what God has done for you, and don't be afraid to tell your story to others.

Prayer: Jesus, help me believe that You are with me always and help me share what You have done in my life with my family and friends. In your name we pray. Amen.

Barb Virus

Chairman, Leader Development Committee

Pass on the Gift!

The LWML received 69 gifts recently. Presented to the LWML at the Portland convention, they arrived in a variety of packages, with many different potentials and built-in possibilities. What are these gifts? Not what, but WHO! They are the 69 Young Woman Representatives representing their districts at the convention.

With seemingly endless energy and a wide spectrum of backgrounds and dreams, these inspiring women have taken on, and taken in, the LWML experience. Committed to being in the Word, of the Word, and walking with their Lord, they are eager for new leadership.

Does your society or zone need a new perspective? In your planning for the new season, try inviting a Young Woman's Representative to one of your events. By using the "Contact Us" option on this Web site, find the Web site for your district. It will direct you to your district president who can help you find your district's latest gift to the LWML!

A Message from ... the VP of Servant Resources

I love sitting behind Tanner's family in church. Actually, it is Tanner who fascinates and inspires me. He is an athletically built 15-year-old with a mop of straight red hair. He carries himself well, stands tall when the congregation stands, sits straight when we all sit. His gaze sometimes wanders during the sermon, but he participates in the hymns and prayers. It is, however, his physical interpretation of the liturgy that captures my attention. He does a subtle but rhythmic bounce during the singing of "This is the Feast of Victory" and sometimes it sets his red hair into lively action. Tanner puts some movement into it! Words like "victory" and "alleluia" just elicit a kinesthetic response within him.

I sat behind Tanner the Sunday after we returned from the LWML Convention and, as I thought about the tremendous experiences we had in Portland, I wondered how that would make a difference in my life and the lives of those around me. If someone were standing, sitting, following behind me

in these post-Portland months, would they see that I had been with Jesus? Would my actions inspire them to look more closely at the Christ who is my very being and wants to be a moving force in their lives?

Sharing Christ will not happen unless I make an intentional effort to do so. It won't happen unless I look for opportunities to verbalize the hope that is within me. It means I see each person – the young man who washes my car, the checker at the grocery store, the neighbor who stops by to look at my flower beds, the stranger standing alone in the narthex of my church – as a dearly loved child of God and my brother or sister in Christ. It means I look around with mission eyes and then I speak words of victory and alleluia and, yes, *I put some movement into it!*

Eloise Kuhlmann

Vice President of Servant Resources

Learning to 'be ready' during a God Moment

I'd like to share a God moment with you. The other day, as I was rushing around making my mental "to do" list, I raced out of the house on my way to school. I was picking up my daughter for her contact lens fitting. I grabbed the cupcakes off the counter to take to school as well because it was her birthday. Noticing that it was a bit chilly, I threw on my LWML jacket.

I knew I needed to stop at the post office on the way. To save time, I decided to go to the one on the way to school. This is not the post office I usually frequent. In fact, this particular post office is known to have strange hours and is often closed during the middle of the day. Nevertheless, I pulled in to give it a try. The lobby looked dark. I circled on my way out of

the parking lot, but something urged me to check the hours of operation posted on the door. I jumped out of the car with my package in tow and went through the lobby door. I plopped my box on the counter and without even looking up, began to let the clerk know that I was in need of packing tape for the box because in my haste to leave home, I forgot to tape the box shut. Precisely at that moment, she asked me what church I attended. A bit preoccupied, I replied that it was a church in the next town several miles away. She then very calmly stated that she was new to the area and was a Missouri Synod Lutheran and an LWML member. She pointed to my jacket logo.

Suddenly, it was as if time stopped.

The words of past LWML president Ida Mall came rushing back to me, "Be ready." She talked about sharing your story, wearing Gospel merchandise, smiling, etc. So I quickly put on my best smile, pulled a card out of my purse and gave her our church times, Sunday school information, and my phone number. I also let her know about the new LWML circle that we are starting for young women in our society and invited her to Bible study.

It isn't in OUR time, it is in HIS time! Be willing. Be open. Be ready! God will use you for HIS purpose and plan!

Amy Bartels
Leader Development Committee