

**NID - Bits***News You Can Use***Sherrie Shares**

“Did you really want your highlights to be green?” Roula puts blue gunk in my hair and I trust that my hair will be a presentable color. “Do green beans and

hamburger meat ever go together in one casserole?” The recipe looks tasty in the magazine and I trust that my family will find it edible. “Did you know that two high school students were shot across the street from our high school?” My daughters continue to attend that high school.

These are just a few of the risks I am willing to take on a regular basis. Do I really consider the consequences or do I simply act? What is it I am willing to take risks on? I take risks with my hair color, new recipes, and even the safety of my daughters.

But am I willing to take risks when it comes to trying new programs in LWML? What if everyone thinks my idea is too different and will never work? I may be laughed at. What if no one attends the event? That would be a waste of time. What if we lose money? We have no money to lose. Do I stop to think of the spiritual implications of the event? This

should be my number one priority. We exist to affirm relationships with the triune God so that we are enabled to use our gifts in ministry.

Most importantly, am I willing to take risks when it comes to sharing my faith? Of course I am – I fly to third world countries to reach the lost. But wait a minute – that is easy. Am I willing to take the risk of sharing my faith with those I come in contact with on a daily

basis? What if they laugh at me? I’ve gone through years of being labeled a goody two shoes. I cannot do that again. What if they shun me? I need my friends. What if I cannot find the words? I get nervous and my hands sweat.

Jesus did not promise that every new program we try would work. But He did promise to be present when two or three come together in His name. Jesus did not promise that no one would laugh at us or shun us. His friends deserted Him and denied Him. When we have no words, the Holy Spirit

will teach us what to say.

We are commanded to go and take the risk of sharing the Gospel. But we are empowered with the assurance that Jesus will be with us to the very end of the age. Take the risk of trying new programs. Take the risk of sharing your faith. Be empowered knowing that Jesus is with you always.

Am I willing to take risks when it comes to trying new programs in LWML?



# Targets or Traps?



*By Elizabeth Bertels*

I have learned that it is always dangerous to state personal targets or organizational goals because they have the tendency to become criteria for assessing achievement or failure, and this means trouble!

When I become comfortable with the targets and goals, and feel that I am reaching some or all of them, I am tempted to assess others – especially those who are not as “successful” as I. I begin to group others on the basis of their reaching the targets – some get close like me, others have a long way to go to catch up, and others don’t even seem to be trying. I have a propensity to become self-righteous and I shun those who fail to hit the target or envy those who do. The targets and goals can become occasions for pride and division.

When I take a close look at what appears to be my successes I recognize that they fall far short of expectations. I

can’t seem to meet those targets to the fullest extent desired, and my organization isn’t anywhere near achieving the goals. I resolve to try harder and do better, but the harder I try the more frustrating it becomes. Sometimes, after repeated failure, I feel like just giving up. So why identify personal targets and organizational goals?

The Christian woman is courageous to set targets and goals because she knows that in Christ she is justified in God’s sight and is freed from the need to judge herself or others. She has been declared righteous for Christ’s sake. She has the assurance that God is doing wondrous things in and through her and she has every right to anticipate growth and improvement. Goals and targets for Christian maturity become expressions of anticipated growth in Christ and have God’s promise of blessing. In reviewing the goals and targets the Christian woman’s confidence is, “I can do everything through Him who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:13 NIV). So go ahead and review the following goals and targets each day, and trust that in Christ you will be more than victorious.

Christ Centered Living: Being

nourished by the Word and guided by the Spirit, each woman is actively demonstrating Christ's love.

Telling the Good News: In response to our Lord's Great Commission, each woman is compelled to share the Gospel, pray for, and recognize opportunities to do so and then confidently live and speak her faith.

Partnering for Diversity: Oneness in Christ is strengthened through intentionally teaming with our LCMS sisters of varied ethnic, cultural, generational, and organizational backgrounds.

Building Up Our Sisters in Christ: LWML members grow and mature through mentoring relationships and through training and support of current and potential leaders.

These are worthy goals and those of every Christian and also targets and goals of both the national LWML, NID LWML and our local societies.

## 2008 Short Term Mission to Ghana, West Africa

By Carol Fuys

A mission two years in the making is finally being realized in the NID-LWML!! In 2005, Rev. Dr. Paul Kofi Fynn,

President, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana requested a team of NID women to come to Ghana to present a seminar for the women in leadership in his congregations.

Dr. Fynn met with Dec. Kris Blackwell to launch his vision and to discuss the possibilities. Plans were set in motion, but when Katrina hit the US in 2006, the mission to Ghana was set aside as the NID-LWML turned its' attention to aid and support the Southern United States.

In 2007, Dr. Fynn visited the US whereupon a plan was



*Olanchito, Honduras - Many neighborhood children heard about Jesus*



*Girls learning to pray at mission in Olanchito, Honduras*

initiated to develop a program and a team. Dr. Fynn is requesting a team of 12 NID women to teach approximately 150 women in leadership on three specific topics.

**1 Train Leaders** for Small Group Bible Studies

**2 Present Strategies** for Mentoring New Leaders

**3 Present Basic Biblical Foundation** that is easy to learn and teach.

As of this writing, the details surrounding this trip are as follows:

We know that we are being called to serve out Lord and sisters in Ghana, Africa. The mission team will consist of 10-12 women from the NID-LWML. The dates of service are *July 30-August 10, 2008*.

The cost of the trip is estimated at approximately \$2,500-3,000 and a scholarship fund offered by Peace Lutheran Church of Lombard will offset \$1,000 per participant. Three to four planning meetings will be required for participants.

If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more about this mission opportunity, please contact Carol Fuys immediately at [cfuys14@comcast.net](mailto:cfuys14@comcast.net) or 630-637-0550. Space is limited and filling fast.

## Co-Ed Mission Opportunity— New Orleans

May, 2008

*By Carol Fuys*

The NID-Lutheran Women in Mission, LWML is sending a team to help rebuild the Southern District of New Orleans after the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. This mission team will incorporate volunteers, both men and women, from all over the district who have a passion for helping those in dire need and who are willing to be flexible with the work assignments given by the

facilitator, Camp Restore. Camp Restore is a Christ-centered ministry of the Southern District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. Established in October, 2006, Camp Restore became a center where both long term and short term volunteers could assist in the rebuilding process that New Orleans was faced with after the levee broke spilling flood water into the city. LCMS World Relief and Human Care, Orphan Grain Train, Thrivent, and other corporations have given generously to help support the camp thus far.

The NID-LWML is preparing to get directly involved by sending a co-ed team of 20 people to help make a difference through their personal involvement and participation. Camp Restore will see to it that individuals

with varying construction skill levels will be used at job sights. Individuals interested in neighborhood prayer walks, cooking, and cleaning are also needed. The mission is scheduled for May 3 through May 10, 2008.



*Mission church in Olanchito, Honduras*

## Taking Risks in Relationships

*By Jan Mauer  
Recording Secretary*

When asked if I want to take a risk, I most likely would ask what kind of risk. My response just might be I don't think so depending on the type of risk and the possible consequences. The dictionary defines risk as the possibility of suffering harm or loss or to be in danger and generally that isn't something I want to do. I want assurance I will attain my goals. I want



*Olanchito, Honduras - Children at public school learned that God created the world*

opportunities for positive experiences. I want to share experiences, thoughts, feelings, love and food with family, friends and even strangers. Yes, I said family, friends and strangers! Sounds risky! Will they listen? Will they care? Rejection hurts.

Jesus took all those risks and He suffered rejection but He did not give up! He gave everyone he met the opportunity to see him as the Redeemer, the Healer, the only Way to the Father. He shared his great concern for all people. He died and rose again that we might live and have the hope of eternal life. He took all the risks!

Jesus loves us and asks us to love our neighbor as ourselves and most of all he asks us to take the risk and share his love with friends, family and strangers. Loving Him compels us to take the risk and turn it into an opportunity to share the Way, the Truth and The Life with everyone we meet. I choose to turn risk into opportunity and I will not give up! I will share the love of Jesus Christ. Will you?



## Risk Not

By Rev. Walter Schoenfuhs

*I do NOT believe in taking risks! I know that the theme of this Quarterly is "Willing to Take Risks", but I don't believe in taking risks!*

The dictionary describes risk as 'the hazard or chance of loss.' It's the possibility that you might lose something important or that you might be hurt. Well, Christians are not called upon to hazard the possibility of loss. Rather, we are called upon to live 'risk-free!'

Consider the following quotation from Jim Elliot. On October 28, 1949 Jim Elliot made this journal entry: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." Less than seven years later missionary Jim Elliot was martyred by the Huaorani people of Ecuador along with four others. Did he risk his life when he became a missionary? No! Because Jim never once risked that which was most important: his eternal relationship with God!

I know what you're thinking. Sure, Jim Elliot did not risk his eternal salvation, but he did risk enjoying a normal life span or enjoying his family. But that's

thinking in short-sighted, worldly terms. That which is most important – that which is eternal – he never once risked.

Live life knowing that God's grace is yours. Live life knowing that your salvation is secure through Jesus Christ. Live life knowing that nothing separates you from the Love of God that yours through Jesus. Once you've got this understanding firmly in place, you can recognize that there really are no hazards. You might find yourself in physical danger, financially strapped or on the outs with others because of the witness you give... but you haven't endangered anything of eternal consequence!

Jesus put it all this way: "Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life." (Matthew 19:29 NIV)

Risk? What risk? Jim Elliot was right on the money. Through faith in Christ we have gained what we cannot lose! We need not worry about losing what we cannot keep! On behalf of God's kingdom, risk it all to live as God's people, because in reality – you're not risking a thing!

## What will You Risk in Service?

*By Elvera Ruff  
VP NID Human Care*

A risk is not always a physical risk. Many times it is a risk of the spirit or a risk of failure. When we do anything in the Service of The Lord we do it for Him and He is always with us. Maybe the risk is a new idea. Are you willing to risk coming up with a new idea or way of serving?

Are you willing to risk going out of your comfort zone to do for others in a way that you have never done before?

Is it easier not to risk? To just let things be and sit back and not get involved?

Maybe someone else...Someone who knows how to do it better will do the things that need to be done to help others...Why risk something when you do not have to risk anything...

We all know the answer of why we should risk our Service to The Lord. And we also know that when He is with us there is no risk or only the risk of the results of doing nothing.

## 2007 NID LWML EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**\* PRESIDENT: SHERRIE SMITH**, 7418 Figura Dr, Justice, IL 60458-1048, (708) 594-7442, bsmith0708@sbcglobal.net; Leads district in living out the mission of Lutheran Women in Mission. Will help with any questions you have about LWML.

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**COMMITTEE ON YOUNG WOMEN CHAIRMAN:** vacant, Assists zones and societies as they seek to meet the needs of young women.

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*last updated 9/17/07 by Joanne Gaudette, Corresponding Secretary*

visit the NID LWML website at [www.nidlwml.org](http://www.nidlwml.org)