

Sherrie Shares



The bus ride from Chicago home to Mt. Vernon took five hours. My sister, Donna knew I was capable of talking the whole time so she often found a seat for me next to someone

else.

This particular ride, she found someone that would change my life. I asked the young man I was sitting with what he did. He answered, "Nothing." I repeatedly kept at him. "You must do something – you can't really do nothing." Finally, he answered, "I sell drugs. But don't worry – I don't have any on me." I thought he had spoken the unspeakable. I could only respond "OH."

I slid as far away from him as possible while sharing a bus seat. A wall slammed down between us. I was done with him.

I remember wearing a white sweater and blue pants that my mother had made. Yes, I was the picture of an innocent, sweet Concordia College student. My cross necklace completed the picture.

The drug dealer noticed that necklace and asked why I wore the cross. Previously I had uttered "OH." Now a beautiful story of how much Jesus loves me came out of my mouth. It was a Gospel presentation my Concordia professors would have been proud of. Those words were not my words. The Holy Spirit used me to share the story of Jesus' love with a drug dealer. The Holy Spirit tore that wall down and we talked. The Holy Spirit taught me that there is no difference between me and a drug dealer. We have all sinned and need a Savior.

My seatmate left the bus at a college town. He shook my hand – a cold clammy handshake – but it was from the heart. He thanked me and was gone.

I will never know the impact that bus ride had on my new friend's life. I do know the impact the bus ride had on me. I now know that the Holy Spirit can use me to share the story of Jesus' love with the most unlikely people. The Holy Spirit

will give me – and all of us – the words to share the story of Jesus' love with those who so desperately need to hear.

Finally, he answered, "I sell drugs. But don't worry – I don't have any on me."

Mission: Ghana

By Carol Fuys

NID LWML Chairman of the Short Term Mission Committee,
630-637-0550

Northern Illinois District (NID) Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) will travel to Kumasi, Ghana, West Africa *July 30 to August 12, 2008*. The team has been invited to equip key women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana to mentor other women for leadership by teaching basic biblical truths in small groups. It will be a privilege to serve

the Lord as we assist the women of the ELCG in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of Ghana and the world. Please pray that the team will be used according to God's purposes and that he would provide all that is needed for this mission.



TEAM: GHANA, Pictured first row (l to r) Linda Arnold, Rebekah Litfin, Pauline Brunke, Rebekah Mumm
Second row (l to r) Kathryn Williams-Link, Elvera Ruff, Carol Fuys, Marge Franzen, Marlene Vician, Kris Blackwell, Jennifer Gruening; Back row (l to r) Diane Thomas, Amy Heuer

Convention In-Gathering

*By Carol Fuys
NID LWML Chairman of the Short
Term Mission Committee,
630-637-0550*

This year's convention in-gathering gift is supporting the local efforts of CareNet Pregnancy Centers. The offices of Wood Dale, Glen Ellyn, and Downers Grove are in need of baby products including wipes, shampoo, powder, bath wash, lotion, and diaper cream. Please bring your donations to the convention center by 10:00am on Saturday October 18th.

The service project (Friday Oct, 17th from 10:00am to 2:00pm) will take place at Second Chance Resale Shop located at 1131 Fairview Ave. Westmont, IL 60559. Women and children who suffer from domestic violence are given hope and opportunities through the resale profits. Servant projects include sorting donated clothing, tagging merchandise,

organizing shelves, cleaning the shop and reorganizing displays. For more information please contact Elvera Ruff at 630-904-0310 or Carol Fuys at 630-637-0550.

Mite Money



Speak\$

*By Kris Blackwell, NID
LWML V.P. for Gospel
Outreach*

Many of the NID LWML projects address populations who are on the fringes of society and often are dealing with unspeakable living conditions. Through our grants, we speak the healing and encouraging words of the Gospel message. One such grant, LCMS World Relief –HIV/AIDS Medical & Biblical Care in Kenya, addresses the tragic HIV/Aids pandemic in Kenya. Not only did our \$7,750 bring medical aid but also the Biblical message of the sanctity of life and marriage.

Another area that we regard as unspeakable are children with emotional and behavior disorders. Lutherbrook has continually provided a safe and residential place for these

children. Through the recent funding of our mite money, they will continue to reach out to these children to help them grow spiritually through Bible study and Christian speakers.

While as a society we aim to speak up for those with disabilities, 95% of the 12 million visually impaired people in the United States are unchurched. Our grant to the Lutheran Blind Mission for \$10,000 will supply congregations with materials and training to reach out to these people.

We still have much to do to finish reaching those in

unspeakable circumstances such as the Dhimba project of LBT where they attempt to reach out to people in Angola, a country that currently is not friendly to Christians. We also still need to fund the project to bring the Gospel to Muslims. Closer to home, we can reach the shut-ins through our support of Lutheran Media Ministries. Just as the need to speak the Gospel to the people of unspeakable circumstances never ends, so does the need to continually give our mites.

2008 Northern Illinois District LWML Convention

October 17th & 18th at Drury Lane, Oakbrook

Special rate at the Hilton Garden Inn (adjacent to Drury Lane) is available for those wishing to stay in Oakbrook.

Song Leader,
Lana Gibbons →

Guest Speaker,
Kristi Roegner,

wife of Dr. Roegner, LCMS Director of World Missions.

Questions, contact Diane Kettelson at 815-467-2458.



Speaking the Unspeakable

By Susie Kolterman, Short Term Mission Team Member

As a team of ten women of LWML, we were called to Olanchito, Honduras in November 2007 to provide a ministry to the women of the Lutheran Church. We knew that our hearts were filled with His love, but how would we SPEAK His message to those who did not know Him? How would we share the grace that is offered through His death and resurrection which is too often UNSPOKEN? Our first opportunity to SPEAK in Olanchito was in an open market, presenting the gospel through a drama based on Max Lucado's book, *You Are Special*. Men and women, and children climbing into trees, came to listen that they are special because God created them in His image. The truth of God's grace and forgiveness had been UNSPEAKABLE to these people until the Spirit opened their hearts that Sunday afternoon and they became children of God.

In our country, where the

name of God is UNSPEAKABLE in our public schools, God opened the doors for us to SPEAK His words to the young boys and girls of Olanchito in their public school. We had been given a gift by Christ to tell over 600 children how God



created this world and each of them, and how He showed His love by sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. God used us to SPEAK His UNSPEAKABLE message as we entered their school walls each morning for four days.

And as we led bible studies with the women and children at the church every afternoon, there were times when each of us was unable to SPEAK in

their own language. Yet, we smiled and gave God the glory as we watched how He used these useless, UNSPEAKABLE vessels to share His love. The women and children would smile and giggle too, as we tried to understand one another, but in God's language...love is love. We can SPEAK His love to the UNSPEAKABLE at any time He chooses to work through us.

Sometimes, He used our mouths and words, but more often, He used our feet to go, our hands to hug and our faces to SPEAK THE UNSPEAKABLE.

Unspeakable Truth Spoken Clearly

*By Pastor Kris Whitby, NID LWML
Jr. Pastoral Counselor*

To say the least it was a high-pressure moment. The religious leaders of the day, under the shroud of night, had arrested and were trying the prophet from Nazareth who was so popular with the people. They needed a solid conviction to carry out their plans, but the witnesses were bringing an

unconvincing case, their stories conflicting. Finally the high priest, Caiaphas, cuts to the heart of the matter, "[Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?](#)" The world's future would hinge on the answer that would follow. For Jews, it was considered wrong to speak the name of the Lord. To even hint at being the Lord Himself would certainly be grounds for a death sentence.

Jesus, abandoned by friends, abused by soldiers, carrying the world's sin, does not hint at His identity but boldly answers in the Gospel of Mark, "I am," the proper name for God. In the ears of the religious leaders, Jesus speaks blasphemy. Jesus clearly speaks the unspeakable truth of who He is, God and Savior. For that He is condemned which is the very reason He takes on our flesh, to die granting us salvation.

The world, lost in sin, still wants to silence the truth of who Jesus is, the one true God, the Savior. Yet, grounded in His Word, may the Holy Spirit always give us a bold witness to joyfully speak the Gospel clearly as followers of Christ, as fellow servants in LWML.

Speaking the Unspeakable

By Barbara Etter,
NID LWML Nominating Committee
Chairman

The unspeakable word came to me in a hospital when the Dr. said my husband would not come out of a coma after brain surgery. This could not be happening - I couldn't be hearing what I was hearing. But it was so and five days later, as I sat by the bed watching his heavy breathing, his eyes flew open, then closed, and he breathed no more. His soul had gone to be with his Heavenly Father - and I remained here.

After nearly 48 years of marriage, I was alone, by myself, as I had never been before. The plans that lay ahead - a plan to attend the LWML Convention in Sioux Falls, a plan to see the mountains God created - a plan to see the wonders of Alaska - a plan to move to a new house - to enjoy grandchildren and to serve the Lord together would never happen.



But other unspeakable words have come to me also. Our children have prayed and cried with me - spoken words of comfort and support - Mom, do you want to come to dinner tonight...my LWML sisters stopped on their way to Sioux Falls and prayed with me in the hospital corridor "The Lord is my Shepherd"...Friends from childhood called...a friend from church calls every day or so "just to check"... and other widows who know the path well are leading me. God led me to a grief support group, where two women who surely are the hands of God, encourage me to cry - and I excel.

Unspeakable words of comfort from God's Word have a real personal meaning for me now as they never had.

"The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love" Zephaniah 3:17.

"For He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways." Psalm 91:11.

And finally I look forward to meeting my Savior and seeing my husband in the new heaven.

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine." Isaiah 43:1b

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.

*** V.P. for SERVANT RESOURCES: GENE MILLER**, 15461 Ridgeway Ave, Markham, IL 60428-3866, (708) 331-5075, gml1953@aol.com; Assists societies in leadership and member development. Has servant resource items shown in LWML catalog.

V.P. for CHRISTIAN LIFE: JEWEL T. SIMS, 1434 S. Pulaski Rd., Chicago, IL 60623-1252, (773) 277-2690, jsgrand5@aol.com; Provides mite boxes to zone presidents. Assists societies with Christian growth resources. Has items for Christian life from LWML catalog. Plans retreats. Prepares Speakers List.

V.P. for HUMAN CARE: ELVERA RUFF, 25501 W. Wolfs Rd, Plainfield, IL 60585-9701, (630) 904-0310, eruff6311@aol.com; Coordinates servant events and gatherings. Provides information on service projects and events.

V.P. for GOSPEL OUTREACH: KRIS BLACKWELL, 2917 Brentwood Ct, Woodridge, IL 60517-3736, (630) 234-1491, kbwrk@sbcglobal.net; Encourages development of mission grant proposals. Presents reviewed projects to the Executive Committee and the convention for selection.

TREASURER: DONNA SIMUNDIC, PO Box 693, Westmont, IL 60559-0693, (630) 241-2625, simundic@juno.com; Makes all authorized payments.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: HELEN MILLER, PO Box 7565, Algonquin, IL 60102-7565, (847) 854-1176, hlm2748@sbcglobal.net; Receives all mites, special donations, Quarterly donations and memorials.

RECORDING SECRETARY: JANET MAUER, 940 Holbrook Rd, #11B, Homewood, IL 60430-4519, (708) 798-0691, janmauer@sbcglobal.net; Records and distributes minutes from EC & BOD meetings, and convention.

*** CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: JOANNE GAUDETTE**, 300 W 60th St, #B303, Westmont, IL 60559-3622, (630) 515-8315, gaudetjm@bp.com; Receives changes of addresses, changes in the amounts of Quarterlies, handles correspondence and loaning of LWML videos.

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN: DIANE KETTELSON, 16801 Ridge Rd, Minooka, IL 60447-9657, (815) 467-2458, dk88keys@ix.netcom.com; Coordinates district gatherings and convention.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: BARBARA ETTER, 28 W 205 87th St, Naperville, IL 60564-9604, (630) 420-0626, barbetter@orsinl.com; Receives nominations for NID LWML officers for elections.

*** ARCHIVIST-HISTORIAN: RUTH PRALLE**, 1220 Village Dr, #345C, Arlington Heights, IL 60004-8122, (847) 255-1713, rdpralle@yahoo.com; Preserves historical materials from district and zones.

*** SR. PASTORAL COUNSELOR: REV. WALTER SCHOENFUHS**, 7901 W. Seminole St, Chicago, IL 60631-2935, (708) 867-8216, darev@stpaulcanfield.org; Serves district league in advisory capacity and presents Bible studies at meetings and conventions.

JR. PASTORAL COUNSELOR: REV. KRISTOPHER WHITBY, 102 S. Derbyshire Ln, Arlington Heights, IL 60004-6712, (847) 255-0332, pastorkris@saint-paul.org; Serves district league in advisory capacity and presents Bible studies at meetings and conventions.

STRUCTURE CHAIRMAN: NANCY SUHS, 940 Holbrook Rd, #10C, Homewood, IL 60430-4517, (708) 799-4872, carlnansuhs@aol.com; Prepares and presents bylaws for delegate approval at convention. Receives all bylaws and constitutions from societies and zones.

PARLIAMENTARIANS: DORCAS MEISSNER, 1165 Holly Ln, Algonquin, IL 60102-1973, (847) 854-5761, bwdmmeissner@dls.net; and **CARLI ZYGOWYCZ**, 9910 Badger Trail, Belvidere, IL 61008-8012, (815) 547-8639, czygowicz@hotmail.com; Assists president with parliamentary procedures at all meetings and the convention.

*** PUBLIC RELATIONS CO-DIRECTORS: BARBARA COPELAND**, 10940 S. Millard Ave, Chicago, IL 60655-3317, (773) 779-8334, mokenaliving@comcast.net; and **CAROL SHEPPARD**, 11019 S. Hamlin Ave, Chicago, IL 60655-4015, (773) 881-8126, sheppardnurse@wowway.com; Coordinates PR activities for district LWML.

NORTHERN LIGHTS EDITOR: TRACY RADATZ, 226 Astor Ct, Villa Park, IL 60181-2901, (630) 834-8523, nidlwmleditor@aol.com; Produces the monthly LWML page in The Northern Light. Send her LWML events you want publicized.

NID-BITS EDITOR: TEENA DORN, 4251 W 183rd St, Country Club Hills, IL 60478-5337, (708) 957-4491, teenadorn@aol.com; Produces the NID-Bits insert for The Quarterly.

DISTRICT WEBMASTER: WENDY JOHNSON, 6288 Ral-Mar Rd, Rockford, IL 61109-4454, (815) 874-2304, nidlwmlpr@msn.com; Posts information on the district web page, www.nidlwml.org.

PLANNER: ELIZABETH BERTELS, 859 S. Princeton Ct, Elmhurst, IL 60126-4610, (630) 833-6050, ebertels@d15.us; Serves as planning director for NID LWML.

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

MISSION MINISTRY VISION CONSULTANTS: PAULINE BRUNKE, 2 S 716 Timber Dr, Warrenville, IL 60555-2726, (630) 393-6380, psbrunke@yahoo.com; and **DARLYNE WATTS**, 227 E. Roosevelt Rd, PO Box 344, Stillman Valley, IL 61084-0344, (815) 645-1348, darlynelark@aol.com; Assists zones and societies with visioning and overcoming obstacles to become more effective in living out the LWML mission.

* Please send copies of Zone minutes to these officers.

Last updated 9/17/07 by Joanne Gaudette, Corresponding Secretary

visit the NID LWML website at www.nidlwml.org