

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY FEDERATION
OF AFLC

HELPING HAND

NEWSLETTER



SUMMER/FALL 2020

EDITORS:

WMF President

Lavonne West
288 Brunner Rd
Columbia Falls MT 59912
406-892-2667
low2667@gmail.com

1st Vice President

Anne Presteng
6838 147th Ave NE
Grafton ND 58237
701-352-0911
annepresteng@gmail.com

Executive Secretary

Dawn Johnson
2991 30th Ave
Wilson WI 54027
715-772-4454
ctk@wwt.net

Looking for a program idea?
Need information on the
Missionaries?
Starting a new Bible study
and need material? Check
the **WMF Resource Manual**

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How Are You Serving?

BY LAVONNE WEST,
NATIONAL WMF PRESIDENT

In II Chron. 25:2 it says, "Amaziah did what was pleasing to the Lord...But **reluctantly**" (GNT). "**Not whole heartedly**" (AMP and NIV).

Some of you have been serving the Lord during this pandemic wholeheartedly but others...

Technology challenges set your teeth on edge!

You miss those quiet moments with a cup of coffee and devotions when your spouse went off to work and the kids went off to school. Now there's home school tasks that you didn't expect to be doing and perhaps you even added an aging parent in the mix as well.

And my church family...don't get me started on how you can worship anywhere. This area wrote the book on that one. We lose summer worshippers to hiking and camping often. Corporate worship feeds my soul. (Facebook live. You Tube services. Zoom calls. Skype. Email. Texting. Whew!!! Facetime will never take the place of face to face.)

Governors issued a "shelter in place" order. Believers were torn as we have been called to GO. The introverts loved it...extroverts not so much.

Sometimes we need a road block to wake us up to those core values. No longer was our calendar filled with appointments. We could take time to breathe. We could re-calculate.

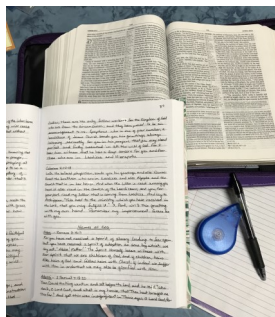
Micah 6:8 "Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God."

Luke 10:27 "Love the Lord with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

What's it gonna be ladies? Your call.

***On Christ the solid rock I stand.
All other ground is sinking sand.***





Scripture Writing

By Dawn Johnson

For a few years now I have been writing out scripture verses, but in the past year and a half, I have started writing out books of the Bible as well. Changing off between the two or doing both. I use journals and I use tablets and place tags on the pages where I might begin a new book or topic of scripture. When I write out books of the Bible, I do so in various ways, sometimes just a verse, a paragraph or sometimes a whole chapter. I try to make a note of the version that I am using also. I am incredibly careful to write each word, each verse out accurately (I have corrections tape or fluid handy). As you are writing out the scripture you pay close attention to each word that you write. I change Bible versions at times also. What a way to take in scripture!!

My greatest discovery on Scripture writing came when I was reading in Deuteronomy. Did you know that the kings wrote out the scriptures? It says so in Deuteronomy 17:18-20. "Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests." They were careful to write them out accurately. Verse 18 gives you the how and what and verses 19-20 tell you why it is important to do it. "It shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes, that his heart may not be lifted up above his countrymen and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or the left, so that he and his sons may continue long in his kingdom in the midst of Israel."

Even without this discovery I plan to continue writing out scripture, both by verses and books of the Bible. It gives a keener awareness of what God's Word says.



Together in Unity

By Jane Swanson

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity! Psalms 133:1

It was good to attend the 2020 Home Mission Retreat at Calvary Free Lutheran in Mesa, Arizona. Thank you to Calvary, the Home Missions Department and all those who had a part in pulling together this event. It was a fun time to reconnect with old friends and make some new ones. It was also good to escape the cold of Alaska in January and enjoy some warm weather!

The prominent theme of the retreat that stuck out to me was the unity that was felt. How true it is when brothers (and sisters) dwell together in unity. It is good and pleasant! (Psalm 133:1)

The gathering reminds me of the lyrics of the old hymn, "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship."

May the Lord bless you all in your corners of the world as you serve Him.



THE ROAD TO TRAINING PASTORS

AFLC. HOME MISSIONS

By Jim Johnson, director of church planting

Where do you find church planters?

That's what we're asking in AFLC Home Missions this fall. The seven-member committee is looking for men, women and children who are gifted to start living congregations.

We know God provides missionaries, pastors, teachers, shepherds and evangelists. They are out there somewhere. Some are in our seminary. Some are leading youth groups. Some are teaching in schools or building houses. It's like Ephesians 4 explains it: "To each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it," says verses 7-11. "He gave gifts to men... some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers."

These planters are rare. But God sends them to us as gifts to spread the gospel. For that reason, we are grateful for the way WMF helps us train them when we find them. We invite them to Mesa in January for four days of equipping at the AFLC Church Planting Retreat. Our speakers this year are Eric Westlake, Andy Coyle, Mike Brandt and Lee Eclov, author of the book about creating home-like congregations, ***Feels Like Home***. The retreat is held at Calvary Free Lutheran in Mesa, January 25-28. We expect 150 attendees.

We're also happy to report a new initiative with the AFLC Coordinating Committee. We are looking for new lay pastors. Our goal is 20 in two years. Last August we held our first event on our Plymouth Campus. Nineteen men came. President Korhonen preached about "The Call" and other speakers addressed the history and dynamics of being a lay pastor.

Thanks to the WMF for helping us provide for events like these. We're looking for church planters. God is sending them to us.



Home Missions Happenings

by Mary Berntson

Here in Jamestown, as I write, we have had one case of coronavirus. It's the day before Easter, and an overcast sky has draped us in dim light all day. Stores and restaurants are shuttered. School yards lie untrammelled, park playgrounds are festooned with yellow tape that flutters forlornly. Churches are dark, within, but many are broadcasting the light and hope of the gospel online or in radio programs. We are encouraging our prayer team to write letters, call friends and family, and continue to connect in deliberate love with others. New Hope Free Lutheran has a strong ministry team to share Jesus' redeeming power through FB livestream. We are astonished at the numbers of people whose hearts are touched by the Gospel in this way.

Please thank the Helping Hand ladies for their prayer support, unseen but so very vital for ministry efforts!!

We pray that many souls will turn to Jesus for the first time during this pandemic crisis.



WMF Day Theme Banner

WMF DAY 2020

HELD AT THE ARC IN OSCEOLA WI

In the absence of President Lavonne West, 1st Vice President Anne Presteng led our WMF Day.



Devotions were led by our 2020 Bible study writer Linda Korhonen on the topic "You're not a Victim, You're a Victor."



Praise and Worship was led by Karen Floan, Anne Presteng, Gwen Berge and Wendy Westlake.



Workshop 1 was led by Natalie Ballman, wife of Pastor Matthew Ballman serving a new church start in Texas.



Workshop 2 was led by Joan Korhonen on "Journey with Jesus." Joan is wife of World Missions Director Rev. Earl Korhonen.



Lori Willard led the Memorial Service



Workshop 3 was led by Rev. Andy Coyle on "Life Through the Lens of Victory."

We were entertained in the afternoon with a couple of skits performed by the New Image Players: Kristi Nelson, Christy Wall and Sally House.



Our Annual Business Meeting was conducted in the afternoon. Pictured are Anne Presteng (1st Vice President), Karen Floan (Recording Secretary) and Deb Benson, (Treasurer).

Chaplain Colonel John Eidsmoe served as our parliamentarian during the business meeting



MISSION FESTIVAL



Missionary Pastor Brent Raan spoke on the topic "The Church: Worthy To Fight For"



Paul and Becky, Matthew and Ednay Abel shared special music for the Mission Festival Service.

Home Missions Conference Summary

By Wendy Westlake



“Getting Out Of The Office.” was the theme of the Home Missions Conference this past January 27-30. On Monday night the conference kicked off with a tasty barbecue followed by a sing-along with the Gospelites, a Mesa Bluegrass band. It reminded me of the enthusiastic singing from some of my early Bible camp days. Calvary Free Lutheran took excellent care of us with wonderful meals and snacks throughout the week.

Each morning Pastor Jeff Swanson taught the nine am hour: “What It Takes.” Jeff challenged us to “love our neighbors to life,” explaining to love our neighbors is: Biblical, Lutheran, practical, beautiful, powerful, challenging and drives us to the cross. Loving our neighbors is radical and costly. We can't do it on our own. What it takes to love our neighbor is... Jesus.

During the second hour the men and women split up. The men heard from Ralph Rittenhouse who has a passion for disciple making. Eric was very enthused by his teaching and ordered some of the disciple-making material recommended. We ladies heard from Bekah Mulvaney a friend of Linda Johnson's. Beka's theme was “Wonderstruck” I so enjoyed her emphasis on the “seeing life through a lens of wonder. Wonder is a choice, to be aware of the grand gestures of God all around us, like a symphony playing all the time whether we stop to listen or not...”

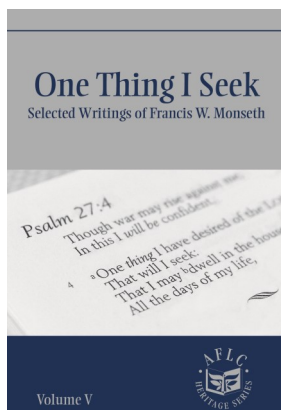
The third morning hour was led by pastor Michael Brandt. He explored very practical ideas in his sessions: Beyond the Office, Ministry Inside the Walls, and Ministry Way Beyond the Walls. He challenged us to make the most of our interactions with others, to assess our ministries and to set goals that prevent ruts and bring glory to God.

Each evening began with energetic singing followed by a brief update from various home-mission starts: Alaska, Canada, Waikiki, and the HCC, Hospitality Center for the Chinese on the U of M campus. Eric Westlake shared each evening “The World is my Office.” He emphasized seeing people for their worth, like God see and values us. He shared the practical side of visiting people at their work and sharing meals together.

The conference was well planned, full of energy and encouragement.

One Thing I Seek: Selected Writings of Francis W. Monseth

Article by Diane Brubakken, Parish Ed



The WMF has given generously towards the support of the publication of Volume V of the Heritage Series, *One Thing I Seek: Selected Writings of Francis W. Monseth*. Though the timing has been delayed from when we initially hoped to be able to present this book to you and all our congregations, we are very excited to now be nearing the publication of this wonderful addition to the Heritage Series. *One Thing I Seek* (430 pages so far) is already in our book format. We are considering the possible addition of a few more articles before we finish editing and cleaning up the final product. We also have several legal and copyright issues to clear up, but if that all goes well we are still hoping to have this book ready for all of you by the end of the year.

TREASURER'S REPORT JANUARY– AUGUST 2020

PROJECTS	INCOME	EXPENSES	BUDGET
World Missions	\$18,548.15	\$19,293.15	\$45,000.00
Home Missions	\$9,277.55	\$10,022.55	\$22,650.00
Christian Education	\$8,413.91	\$9,788.32	\$24,000.00
WMF General Fund	\$27,425.87	\$31,933.77	\$65,200.00
Special Gifts	\$9,489.50	\$9,489.50	
Convention Offering	\$10,356.50		
TOTALS	\$83,511.48	\$80,527.29	\$156,850.00

Not one project is more important than the other—it is all the work of God!

WMF MEMORIALS

GLADYS HAUGEN
PHYLLIS KITTLESON
CAROL HENSRUD
GRACE SYVERSON
RAYMOND PRESSNALL
JOHN LEE
HAROLD MAGNUSON
ETHEL THOMPSON
JANICE PREITAUER
LORRAINE KARCH
BARB WIECZOREK
VERNESR HARTSOCH
LYNN FERGUSON
NEIL NELSON
JERRY KERBAUGH
GERDA NYLANDER
IOLA ROKKE
KENT QUANBECK
DOROTHY RUSSUM
ARDIS ZUNICH
LAVONNE MILLIM

Newly Elected WMF National Officers

2nd Vice President
Liz McCarlson



Treasurer
Margie Lee



**TRANSACTIONS SHOULD NOW
BE SENT TO PO BOX 118,
BEULAH, ND 58523**

Home Missions Graduation Held during the Mission Festival Service



PANDEMIC PONDERINGS

This pandemic has put us all in a different world. How do you keep in contact with your ladies at this time? On the local level: phone calls, texts, notes, zoom? On the district level: letters and notes to the various WMF groups in your district, zoom meetings. It is important to keep in touch at this time when we are encouraged to socially distant. We would encourage you to remember the projects of our WMF and AFLC, remember to support your local, district and national WMF's. The projects continue but with groups not meeting or meeting virtually the funds may not be sent in.



WOMEN'S MISSIONARY FEDERATION OF THE AFLC
 3110 E MEDICINE LAKE BLVD
 MINNEAPOLIS MN 55441-3008

To save on expenses for our National WMF GENERAL FUND we send a copy of this Helping Hand Newsletter to the WMF PRESIDENT and the PASTOR'S WIFE. Please make copies and share them with the ladies of your Congregation.

2021 Bible study

1 Timothy

Written by Jeanette Berntson

Why is what you believe important? Does it matter what we do at church? Does it matter how we live? Should we have requirements for our pastors? Does it matter who we listen to or where we go to church? The upcoming 2021 WMF study, which is focused on 1 Timothy, will endeavor to answer these questions.

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." (1 Timothy 1:15)

"God...desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time." (1 Timothy 2:4-6)

We are "...the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth." (1 Timothy 3:15)

The cost for each study is \$12 which includes shipping.

Number of copies _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church Name _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make checks payable to "WMF of AFLC" and mail to WMF Executive Secretary, Dawn Johnson, 2991 30th Ave., Wilson WI 54027. If mailing to the church please make sure address and/or PO Box are correct.