



WMF Helping Hand

NEWSLETTER



WE SANG FOR JOY

Lavonne West, National WMF President



“For you shall go out with joy; and be led forth with peace.” Isaiah 55:12

Our Helping Hand for your summer/fall edition is full of joy. We certainly had a joy-filled day together at the Association Retreat Center. Perhaps you could

join us next year for WMF day in Sioux Falls, SD.

We are praising the Lord for His provision for our general fund this year.

We are encouraged by the remodel of the Trygve Dahle entry into the women’s dorm with your generous donations. Ongoing gifting for FLBC will enable more furniture to be purchased.

Thank you for your prayers for Home Missions – Hawaii, Killdeer, and Minneapolis with our Chinese Church there close to the U of M. Prayers for a new Home Mission Director. We loved hearing of the Alaska Mission work first- hand with Pastor Jeff Swanson attending the annual conference. FLAPS have had 23 years of safe flights up there!

The cost of printing Pastor Lee’s book - #6 in the Heritage Series has gone up with rising costs all over, but we are hoping to help underwrite this for Parish Ed.

We join in prayer for World Missions as well. We saw Hannah Lee, Andrew Olson, Steve and Glenda Kvale, and Michael Rokenbrodt. For our Mission Festival we watched a missionary greeting and a wonderful video clip which gave our Apostle’s Creed in every language. I loved it.

Go out with joy today ladies as you rejoice in what the Lord is doing across our AFLC family. Be led forth with peace as you pray for His will to be done. Give a new mom a call perhaps or one of your church’s shut ins. The Lord promises:

I will be with you
I **will** be with you
I will **be** with you
I will be **with** you
I will be with **you** as Rachel Mattson so lovingly reminded us.

WMF National President

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

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Anne Presteng
6838 147th Ave NE
Grafton ND 58237
annepresteng@gmail.com
701-520-3138

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Dawn Johnson
2991 30th Ave
Wilson WI 54027
ctk@wwt.net
715-505-4454

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Devotions..... 2
Christian Ed-(Parish Ed) 2
Christian Ed-(Schools)..... 3
WMF Day 2022 4
Home Missions..... 6
World Missions 6
Information 8

SING FOR JOY

BY JEANNETTE BENSON

“O Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.” Psalm 95:1

Sing for joy is the WMF theme this year.

I love to sing, and music has a part of my life for as long as I can remember. But am I always able to sing for joy?

We are reminded in Philippians 4:4 to, “Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, rejoice!” Then Paul repeats these words in I Thessalonians 5:16, “Rejoice always.”

How can I rejoice always, have joy, when everything around me is full of doom and gloom? God’s word and music can help us find that joy.

The psalms are full of God’s promises, His encouragement and comfort. They remind us that He is our rock, our strength, our comforter, our ever-present help in times of trouble; Psalm 121:1-3 for example, “I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; from where shall my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber.” The list can go on. When we need to find joy we can read the Psalms. Also, memorize those Psalms that are especially meaningful to you. Then when you need that little bit of encouragement, you can meditate on God’s promises.

I also find joy in music. The hymns and choruses that I have learned over the years remind me of God’s faithfulness, His love for me, that He is always with me to lead and guide me. They encourage me and help me focus on the God I love. As I am doing those mundane tasks around the house, I can sing those songs that lift my spirits and bring me joy.

Sometimes I think that some of the simplest children’s songs can be the ones that bring me the most joy and help me to focus on my Lord and Savior. Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Such simple words, but what peace and joy they can bring to one’s soul.

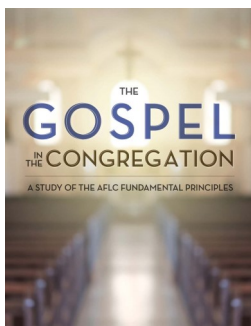
Psalm 100 verses 1-2 tell us “Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful singing.” The reason we can sing for joy are found in verses 3 and 5, “Know that the Lord Himself is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. For the Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting and His faithfulness to all generations.”

Praise the Lord and sing for joy!



REFRESHING

BY DIANE BRUBAKKEN



Every spring I wait for the summer slowdown, the pause where we can catch up on some things; and each year, between conference and other events, getting books published, and orders shipped, that slowdown never quite gets here.

Now don’t get me wrong,

I love getting to see and talk with everyone at events that happen each summer like conference, family camp, SIT, etc. and equally love the books we’re able to publish and all the resources we are able to provide for our congregations and the students on campus. Nevertheless, it is easy for it all to get overwhelming and just start to feel impossible. Luckily, that’s generally when God steps in (He’s always been there of course, but we aren’t always the best at letting go and relying on Him fully). Many times, these summer months remind me how dependent we all are on God for giving

us the energy as well as the rest we need to thrive as a ministry. We can’t (i.e. I can’t) function without His ability to provide what I need. We are dependent on Him with each project we undertake, every event we attend and every resource we provide.

This summer has been no different, and that reminder of God’s provision is a refreshing one. One of the reasons for the busyness this year is a new resource we are thrilled to be able to provide, a Bible study called *The Gospel in the Congregation: A Study of the AFLC Fundamental Principles*. When we think about the reasons why we as an AFLC do the things we do it is very easy, especially over the course of 60 years, to forget those reasons and the Biblical foundation behind them. We pray this study will be a blessing our congregations by providing them with the biblical foundation for understanding why the ALFC operates as it does. I hope that this study will meet that need over the course of the next 60 (and many more!) years. In addi-

tion to this Bible study, we have also reprinted a small booklet entitled *Do You Really Want the Congregation?* Georg Sverdrup for *Our Day*. It would be useful to use with the new Fundamental Principles study, but it is also a good resource on its own that we hope will be beneficial for our churches to have on hand.

As we move in to the second half of the summer, regardless if it's busy or happens to slow down, we know God has this all under control and we remain blessed to be able to serve our congregations through this work. Thank you to the WMF for faithfully encouraging and supporting the ministry of Parish Education!

JOY

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. James 1:2

I don't know about you, but when I am in a season of trial, counting it all joy isn't a natural response. Counting it all joy is much easier when we consider the popular saying "share your blessings-spread joy" and we feel the pleasure of doing so. Yet isn't that what we desire, a steadfast faith?

Considering it all joy is an action, an attitude of mind that reflects the knowledge and confidence that God is at work within us to produce steadfastness of faith in Him. The Bible is full of actions when it comes to joy. Sing for joy, shout for joy, be joyful, count it all joy, see with joy, filled with joy, they celebrated with joy, and find joy are all efforts or processes that produce a result.

In a particular time of sharing with a friend, her response to me was, "I will pray for you to find a renewed strength of spirit and a fresh sense of joy." Her prayer wasn't that God would simply give me strength of spirit but that I would find it in God, that I would seek and be refreshed in Him. She is a treasured friend who always steers me first to the Giver of faith, the One who gives the gift of joy, restores joy, and sustains joy. This joy is something much bigger than ourselves when God is God in our lives.

I sense the Women's Missionary Federation is like my friend: edifying others, promoting spiritual growth, offering encouragement, and

BY SHERRY MORK

steering others to the Giver of joy for steadfast faith in Jesus Christ. He is the One who is able (more than able) to restore, renew, refresh, and revive, enabling us to "count it all joy." How encouraging it is to have WMF reflect Philemon verse 7, "*Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.*"

Over the years, the WMF has refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people through leadership, prayers, and financial support. We are grateful to the Lord for the support they provide FLBCS. We have seen the Lord at work, experienced His provisions, and we praise Him for His gift of joy.

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. John 15:11



TREASURERS REPORT 1/1/2022-6/30/22

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>
World Missions	\$25,321.18	\$25,321.18
Home Missions	\$11,572.09	\$11,572.09
Christian Education		
Parish Ed	\$11,550.75	\$11,550.75
FLBC	\$13,702.18	\$13,702.18
FLS	\$3,100.64	\$1,935.34

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>
WMF General Fund	\$27,811.61	\$27,899.61
Non project Income	\$1,156.03	\$1,156.03
	\$94,214.48	\$93,137.18



We were welcomed by National President Lavonne West and Minneapolis District President and ARC representative Ruth Rautio.



Devotions began with the Snipstead sisters singing and then Gwen leading in devotions on Behold Our God.



Vicki Johnson led the Memorial Service under the theme "The Perishable Art of Leaving a Godly Legacy"



Our workshop leaders for the day were Andrew Hanson (Sing for Joy...In the Morning), Rachel Mattson (Sing for Joy...All our Days) and Jan Strand (Sing for Joy...While we Wait).



The WMF Day Banner with the Memorial Flowers



The Community Choir included all in attendance as Anne directed and taught with the help of her sisters a new song entitled "Behold Our God."

WMF Day Offering \$4743 (1/2 to WMF and 1/2 to Christian Education divided into thirds)
Mission Festival Offering \$3870 (1/2 to World Missions and 1/2 to Home Missions)
Conference offering that were mailed in \$2824 (divided evenly by our 4 projects).



2022 Officers conducting the annual business meeting.



Advisory Committee meeting following WMF Day.

MISSION FESTIVAL SERVICE



Pastor Jon Langness was the service leader. There was an update on Living Stone Chinese church plant from Pastor Miao Zhao (Holmes). Our main speaker for the evening was Missionary Pastor Andrew Olson.

WMF BREAKFAST



Liz McCarlson shared at our WMF Breakfast.



Thank you so much for your generous donations to the National WMF, and our projects that we support! I thought I would give you a quick explanation of the numbers. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. The World Missions, Home Missions, Parish Education, FLBC, and other specific designations are passed on as designated 100% monthly. The Seminary Fund started the year with a \$3000 carry over so that we are able give out a \$100 book gift to each seminarian for each semester. We did that in January and I need to be prepared to do that again in September. Once those scholarships are given out, and the FLS account balance goes over \$3000, then I will again be sending any additional donations to the Seminary for scholarships. The non-project funds are sent on as designated. This year we have received some funds for the ARC and also for Mission Aviation Training Academy and we distribute those funds as designated when we receive them. Now as far as the General Fund goes, we have received \$27,811.61. This puts us a little behind on our 2022 Budget of \$61,150 (1/2 year should be at \$30,575) so any donations to the WMF general fund are greatly appreciated. The General fund is used for Salaries, stipends, mileage and travel expenses, office expenses, printing, postage, mailing, speakers, and gifts to our bible study authors and editors. Margie Lee, National WMF Treasurer Call or text; 1-701-870-2259 or Margieleend@gmail.com.

***More WMF Day pictures will be posted on our Website.

DOING MINISTRY

BY HEATHER HANSEN

I first started children's ministry in Alaska the summer of 2016 when I came up to teach Vacation Bible School, or VBS. Since that summer I've taught VBS every year there's been a team. At the end of September 2020, I moved up here.

Ministry is some of the hardest and most rewarding moments. Living in a remote Alaskan village, only accessible by plane or boat, you have some unique challenges. The suicide rate in bush Alaska is 3 times the national average. Drugs and substance abuse rates are high, along with other forms of abuse and neglect. About 25 % of the kids in the school systems are in foster care. Knowing these things helps guide my ministry decisions.

I'm always intentional about having relational time first with the kids/youth. This gives me a better understanding of how to best come alongside in their life. On Sundays, it means eating a cookie or bar with the youth before we start talking. During Covid restrictions, I led Kid's Club and did a 5-minute Bible lesson, crafts, and lots of games. On Saturday, game nights, which means playing games. These times are open settings that are welcoming because I never know when the next foster kid will show up.

We also have to say goodbye quite often. Most times we don't get much warning before they are gone back to a different home or back with their biological parents. For the ones that don't know Jesus I present the lies and counteract it with God's truth. I want his truth to reign in their hearts because I know they will face hard times and have already faced them.

This carries through the summer too. We allow any age to come to VBS. We always make sure to hang out with the kids outside of the VBS time. It's these times that make the kids want to come back for more. This summer we had 10 kids over for supper before we took 25 of them hiking. They hold onto those moments. They'll hold onto the moments of being prayed over as they are dealing with grief. They'll remember the love that was shown to them and hopefully the words that will sustain them.

Doing ministry where, in the winter, the sun doesn't rise until 10 can have its challenges. Hearing the children's stories can be heart-breaking at times. There is a hope and healing from the pain in a Savior who said, "Let the little children come to me." We let them!

ENCOURAGE AND STRENGTH

BY JOAN

For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you- that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. Romans 1:11-12

Spring season after a long winter is an exciting time. It is like a refreshing and encouraging visit with a special friend. The spring season reminds me of the sweet fellowship between believers in Christ when testimonies are shared and believers gather together to pray.

When visiting our AFLC World Mission fields or churches, one of the most humbling requests we are asked of is to pray for individuals. It is so humbling to hear believers ask in their native language, "Would you please pray for me? Please pray for me, we would like to have a baby. Please pray for me as I seek a job. Please

pray for our new home. Please pray for my health condition. Please pray for me as I tell my neighbors about Jesus. Please pray for me to be free from evil spirits. Please pray for me as I work with the children's Bible classes."

To be asked to bring these requests to the throne of God in faith is so humbling. Paul recognized the importance of encouraging and praying for one another as he shared with those who "belong to Christ Jesus" in Rome when he stated that he did not cease in mentioning them in his prayers. He also mentions that their faith is proclaimed in all the world (vs 8). It is a great privilege to share with AFLC churches in Brazil, Paraguay, India, Uganda, Switzerland, Mexico, and in the USA that there are faithful ones who "belong to Christ Jesus" praying for them. Their faith is being proclaimed in all the world today.

How are you encouraging and strengthening other believers' faith? Vardhini, wife of Pastor Luther in India, shared with her Bible women's group that prayer does three things: 1. Prayer draws us to the Lord God. 2. Prayer cleanses our hearts, 3. Prayer teaches us God's will. When we pray together with sisters in Christ, we strengthen

and encourage our own faith as well as others. I encourage you to attend a WMF Bible study or Spring Rally in your area this spring. Learn how you can encourage and pray for each other, for our AFLC Missionaries, and for our AFLC national churches. It will strengthen and encourage your faith, and mine.

MISSION TRIP EXPERIENCE

BY TROST FAMILY

Greetings WMF!

Thank you for all of the support, prayer, and encouragement you give to everyone, at home or abroad, that is part of Christ's mission. We are amazed and humbled by how many people God inspired to make our Uganda mission work possible.

Our family traveled to Uganda February 25 through April 5, propelled by the prayers and financial support of many believers in America. While in Uganda, we lived with and assisted the Raan family in their mission work and we can confidently say there was never a dull moment! Here is a brief description of some of the things we did while in Uganda. We helped teach Ambassador Institute (<https://www.aflcworldmissions.org/ambassador-institute/>) classes in several settings: a village, a market, a church, and a juvenile detention facility; we saved a young man from drowning, we helped drill a water supply well, we attempted to drill another well, we played soccer with village children, we taught a local gospel singer how to upload her music to Youtube from her cell phone, we developed relationships with Ugandans and learned as much as we could about the language and culture, and we just generally tried to provide assistance to the Raans in day to day life.

Despite the many challenges that Ugandan people face, they are incredibly warm, welcoming, and willing to work for the Lord. One aspect of Ugandan culture that really struck us is how generous the people were with their time; this characteristic really brought some Bible stories to life. God showed us in Uganda how time is much more than a resource for accomplishing tasks; it is a resource for building and being in relationships. Here are a few examples. First, an example of Old Testament hospitality. When we (strange white people) arrived in a remote village, a man named Richard

welcomed us and immediately the women of the village brought chairs out and began preparing a meal for us. This interaction was reminiscent of the way Abraham dropped everything and jumped into action to show hospitality to three strange men in Genesis 18. Second, we saw several members of the Ambassador Institute leadership team willing to drop everything and give hours, even days, of their time for a Christian brother or sister in need. This reminded us of the fellowship of early Christians described in Acts 2:42-47. Third, we witnessed Ugandans who had an intense desire to understand God and be in relationship with Him. People dedicated hours of time on multiple days each week to attend Ambassador Institute class and to help us teach class by serving as translators. This dedication reminded me of Jesus' disciples who willingly gave their time to learn from Him.

We are no longer in Uganda, but Uganda is still in our hearts; the Holy Spirit is using our experiences in Uganda to push our daily lives toward stronger faith and loving action. Your prayers are still needed! Many people of Uganda are faced with intense challenges: alcoholism, gambling, orphanhood, poverty, broken relationships, deep emotional wounds and loss from war, and many more. Please continue to pray for the resilience of the people of Uganda and continued effectiveness of the missionaries who are there helping to alleviate the pains of this world and sharing the Gospel message. Also pray for America-that we would awaken to the great need for meaningful relationships; that time is more than money, it is an incredible resource for building relationships.

Thank you for taking the time to read this summary. To be honest, fitting into 600 words all that God did and we learned while we were in Uganda is an impossible task! It is sort of like fitting a camel through the eye of a needle. If you are interested in reading more about

Women's Missionary Federation
3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd
Minneapolis MN 55441-3008



WMF Memorials

1/1/22 -6/30/22

Deb Benson
Arlene Carlson
Vernon Nelson
Nellie Grace Jenson
Marilyn Quanbeck
Eleanor Qualley
Gary Ruud
Alms Johnson
Annette Rorig

Back: Tammy Vukonich, Karen Pederson, Tami Demo, Linda Korhonen, Faith Nelson, Rosalie Larson, Molly Wiesen, Barb Gustafson, Anne Presteng, Lori Willard, Lynn Wellumson, Margie Lee, Lavonne West.

Front: Dee Berkas, Barb Moland, Karen Floan, Jeannette Benson, Liz McC Carlson, Deanna Larson, Linda Hensrud



Uganda mission work, you can visit our family's blog here:

<https://sites.google.com/view/trostugandamission/home>.

In Christ,
Jared, Erica, Josiah,
Micah, Denae, Eliya Trost

PAST AND PRESENT OFFICERS

