

Women of the Word

“WOW” News



A District of Lutheran Congregations
in Mission for Christ (LCMC)
Spring

Greetings and peace with you all,

As I was thinking on our theme verse for the Gathering on Sept. 20th "You are called" based on the scripture from Isaiah 43:1, just how seriously do we take this passage? Do we spend time in our relationship with God or are we too busy with living our lives? Do we take the time daily to do a devotion and spend time in prayer? What does this mean to be called a child of God, remember Jesus paid a very high ransom for us. I was fortunate to be a delegate to the national LCMC convention in Dearborn, and the theme was "The Grace of Giving". Our speaker talked about how we put our vocations and just about everything else ahead of what we give back to God, and ANYTHING we put ahead of God is our idol! It brought to my remembrance a children's sermon some years ago in which the Pastor would peel a banana, eat it and toss the peel back on the altar. Is that what we do in our lives, give God the left-overs? Everyone a person talks to always says how busy they are, there just aren't enough hours in a day. My prayer for you is to take "A DAY" (surely one day out of 365 days we can spare) and come to the Gathering for a renewal of our Spirit and to find out how to make more efficient use of our time. Praying to see you all on the 20th!

Your sister in Christ,

Marian Thorston,

Coordinator

Bible Study Information

I had been wanting to read Francis Chan's book, Crazy Love for a couple of years. I finally bought the book last summer and had started it a couple of times but either got distracted or busy. I even packed it for the flight to Ethiopia in January and cracked it open a couple of times while there but it wasn't until I got home that I read it almost cover to cover. I didn't want to put it down. I'm convinced I wasn't ready to read it until then. I've been in third world countries on mission trips—Brazil, Jamaica, Haiti and Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, so much of what I saw in Africa was not new to me. Maybe it was because it had been more than a decade since these trips or maybe the Holy Spirit was filling me anew but the connection between what I observed in Ethiopia and what I was reading was clear and convicting.

I'm challenged by probing questions in the book, one of which is this; "Has your relationship with

God actually changed the way you live?”

Chris Tomlin in the foreward says this; “The life Jesus calls us to is absolute craziness to the world. Sure, its fine and politically correct to *believe* in God, but to really *love* Him is a whole different story. Yeah, it’s nice and generous to give to the needy at Christmas or after some disaster, but to sacrifice your comfort and welfare for another may look like madness to a safe and undisturbed world”. That resonated with me based on the love, commitment, faithfulness and perseverance to the Great Commission I had just witnessed and made me pause for self-reflection. I continue reading these words by Francis Chan in the preface; “This book is written for those who want more Jesus”. He goes on to say God put him in California to “lead a church of comfortable people into lives of risk and adventure. I believe He wants us to love others so much that we go to extremes to help them. I believe He wants us to be known for giving—our time, our money, and our abilities—and to start a movement of “giving” churches.” Now, I’m thrilled to belong to a church that budgets for missions as a priority and privileged to participate in recommending how to distribute those gifts but get this—as I read, I learn this church in California gives 55% of their income to missions. That’s right 55% and now I’m really challenged--as we should all be!

Perhaps we in the Augustana District are being led into lives of risk and adventure for God. We have an incredible opportunity to partner with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (which means the dwelling place of Jesus) through the Tabor congregation, the Augustana District, our churches and our own pocketbooks. I’m eager to share more of the Ehiopia story at the WOW Fall Gathering in September and hope to see you all there!

Helen Hoftiezer
Education Secretary

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**SAVE THE DATE: The Fifth Annual Gathering of Women of the Word –
Augustana District will be held on Saturday, September 20, 2014, at Living
Word Church in Alexandria, MN.**

*Highlights of the Fourth Annual Gathering
"Empowered by the Spirit"
September 21, 2013
Watertown Even Center, Watertown, SD*

**Women of the Word, Augustana District, meet in Watertown, SD
for Fourth Annual Gathering**

Empowered by the Spirit..... The Fourth Annual Gathering of the Women of the Word – Augustana District was held on September 21, 2013 at the Watertown, SD, Event Center. There were approximately 100 people in attendance from 21 different congregations. The theme for the day was “Empowered by the Spirit”, based on the theme verse

from Acts 1:8 – “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the Ends of the Earth.

Pr Steve Ferguson began the worship service with Music. Pr. Jan Rew-Werling, of Hosanna Lutheran in Watertown, led the worship service, with Pr. Sara Sorenson, of Long Lake and Leola, SD, Lutheran churches giving the sermon, based on the theme verse. An offering was taken and \$1574.51 was divided equally between Building Leaders for Global Harvest, the New Hope Mission Society, and support for seminary students in Ethiopia.

Three workshop sessions were available to the participants:

1. Pastor Tim Swenson of the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) in Brookings, SD greeted the gathering and gave a presentation on ILT, explaining the programs and studies that are available.
2. Carolyn Fiskness and Beverly Tellefson, of the WOW Board, gave a presentation on card making and card giving. Handouts of resources of Bible verses to be used on cards in different circumstances was also provided.
3. Pastor Paul Knudsen, Chairman of the Mission Board for Augustana District, shared information with the group regarding the missions that Augustana District has chosen to support. The ones he spoke about were: New Hope Mission Society; Building Leaders for Global Harvest, and Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekan Yesus (EECMY).



WOW Boutique raised money for Augustana District

Many activities were available for the approximately 50 participants who chose to come to Watertown on Friday afternoon. A trolley took the group to the Mellette House, the Watertown Historical Society, The Terry Redlin Art Center, and to the Past Time Restaurant for dinner.



Getting off the trolley at the Mellette House

SAVE THE DATE:

The Fifth Annual Gathering of Women of the Word – Augustana District will be held on Saturday, September 20, 2014, at Living Word Church in Alexandria, MN.

Activities available in Alexandria for people arriving a day early: Visit the Maritime Museum, Runestone Museum, historic Knute Nelson home, winery tour, or enjoy shopping the unique boutique stores downtown.

There are numerous lodging options available with varying rates.

We are looking forward to seeing you in September.

WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION