



TREASURED NEWS



Volume 2

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Issue 8

THE GIVING CHRISTIAN #3

This month we consider the fact that the giving Christian gives **gracefully**. The apostle Paul asks in Romans 8:32, *“He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all - how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?”*

Everything we have – everything – is a gift from God. I can't think of anything that I have in my life, big or small, no matter what it is, and tell you truthfully that I earned it or deserve it. The house my family lives in, the cars we drive, the clothes we wear, the food we eat, or the money in our bank account — whatever it is, without exception, I have because God graciously gave it to me. He does the same for you as He gives graciously.

The giving Christian gives gracefully.

So, when it comes down to how I am going to give, I look first to how my Heavenly Father constantly deals with me. I see that He gives graciously, and I know that He would have me give graciously too. Graceful giving draws no attention to itself, but directs attention to God. Graceful giving seeks to glorify God, not to better one's bottom line.

That, my friends, is how the giving Christian gives gracefully. Next month we will consider how the giving Christian gives proportionately.

Rev. John Heckmann
LWML Senior Pastoral Counselor

THE PERKS OF GIVING

Although National Volunteer Week is officially observed in April, every week thousands of volunteers help people in need. As volunteers can attest, sharing one's time and talents leads to many intangible benefits.

New research shows that volunteering and giving also provide physical and emotional advantages. Givers report an improved sense of well-being, lower stress levels, better physical health, an enriched sense of purpose in life, and increased happiness.

As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “It is one of the beautiful compensations of life that no man can sincerely help another without helping himself.”



Did you receive your words of “encouragement” in the first 2-Minute Tuesday email message on April 1?

You did? That's good!

You didn't? Well, that's an easy fix!

Go to lwml.org, click on “The Time is Now” button on the home page, and follow the instructions. You'll receive a brief message every other Tuesday of timely tips, insight and/or wisdom in ways you can share your faith, fellowship, and LWML mission with your friends. The Time is NOW!

MITE REPORT BY DISTRICT — MARCH 2014

DISTRICT	CURRENT	TOTAL	DISTRICT	CURRENT	TOTAL
ATLANTIC		7,403.22	NEBRASKA NORTH	2,069.00	10,495.59
CAL-NEV-HAWAII	2,742.23	19,484.91	NEBRASKA SOUTH	1,204.74	17,640.39
CAROLINAS	1,134.13	7,178.63	NEW ENGLAND	1,036.33	7,029.82
CENTRAL ILLINOIS	1,331.66	17,776.52	NEW JERSEY	360.92	2,082.62
CHESAPEAKE		8,200.48	NORTH DAKOTA	740.03	14,099.86
EASTERN	760.43	5,722.83	NORTH WISCONSIN	1,343.00	15,980.00
ENGLISH	877.65	7,011.87	NORTHERN ILLINOIS	1,711.60	17,459.86
FLORIDA-GEORGIA		17,427.13	OHIO	1,370.99	17,089.59
GULF STATES	223.83	5,993.94	OKLAHOMA	3,608.77	20,662.17
INDIANA	779.94	15,588.66	OREGON		9,075.86
IOWA EAST		12,222.12	PACIFIC SW	4,299.35	25,048.88
IOWA WEST		19,836.28	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	1,478.05	14,921.47
KANSAS	6,235.21	18,201.39	SELK		1,250.48
LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI	2,897.48	5,779.70	SOUTH DAKOTA	3,013.21	12,047.74
MICHIGAN	2,000.00	25,324.31	SOUTH WISCONSIN	2,295.83	21,249.68
MID-SOUTH	3,222.58	13,677.04	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS		6,248.06
MINNESOTA NORTH	3,638.08	15,615.57	TEXAS	4,337.64	33,778.75
MINNESOTA SOUTH	1,493.07	24,004.88	UTAH-IDAHO	748.97	6,286.07
MISSOURI	2,418.07	32,570.75	WASH-ALASKA	2,422.82	14,264.33
MONTANA	598.87	5,298.37	WYOMING	1,260.01	7,814.93
			TOTAL	63,654.49	558,844.75

MITES FROM OTHER SOURCES

Mite Donations	1,012.39	37,908.27	Annual Appeal	861.37	48,005.93
Mite Donations Restricted		1,729.45	GoodSearch		1,807.49
Conv. Offering #1		54,017.32	Thrivent Simply Giving		345.00
Children's Miss Adv		581.28	Thrivent Choice Dollars	3,825.00	22,234.00
Mission Pledge Walk		73,791.04			
Golf Tournament		7,218.74	OTHER MITE TOTAL	5,808.76	253,321.52
PayPal	110.00	5,683.00	GRAND TOTAL	69,463.25	812,166.27

All totals are unconfirmed pending verification from the accounting office.

WHERE IN THE WORLD HAVE OUR MITES GONE??

SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF in JAMAICA, CHINA, and INDIA



PAID IN FULL!!

This grant request for \$100,000 has received the final payment and the funds are being used to produce Bible story books in sign language and written text. Each book tells of Jesus' love and life and is translated in several languages.

They are used in schools for the deaf in Jamaica, China, and India. In some cases, this is the first book some children have ever owned.



Our mites are telling others about the



of Jesus in sign language and in written text.

William S. Charon, Interim CEO/Lutheran Friends of the Deaf, says, "Thank you! LWML!"

SCARRED FOR ETERNITY



If God raised Jesus from the dead, why didn't God fix him up? Why scars? Why the print of nails that you could feel with your fingers? Can it be that the Gospel ... is saying to us in our waiting: "You will not see Jesus Christ unless you see the wounds"? Somehow we must understand that the resurrected Christ is forever the wounded Christ. Living, but never fixed up. Not bound by death, yet scarred for eternity.

The deaf have a sign for Jesus. Quickly they make this sign many times during their worship: the middle finger of each hand is placed into the palm of the other. Jesus, the one with wounded hands. And when they touch the place, they remember. They hear the name in their own flesh.

—John Vannorsdall





HE LIVES

Alfred H. Ackley



“He is not here; for He is risen, as He said” (Matthew 28:6a).

Two things inspired the writing of this hymn: a startling question and a dreadful sermon.

Alfred Henry Ackley, born in Pennsylvania in 1887, showed great promise as a child. His musician-father personally tutored him for some time and then sent him to New York City to study music. After studying at the royal Academy of Music in London, Alfred returned to the States to attend Westminster Seminary in Maryland. In 1914 he was ordained into the Presbyterian ministry. His first parish was in his home state of Pennsylvania and then he was called to a congregation in California.

Alfred met a Jewish man in 1932 and began witnessing to him. However, the man resisted the Christian faith by saying, “Why should I worship a dead Jew?”

This question was on Alfred’s mind as he prepared his Easter Sunday message early on Easter morning. As he was shaving and listening to the radio, Alfred was astonished to hear a famous liberal preacher in New York say: “Good morning - it’s Easter! You know, folks, it really doesn’t make any difference to me if Christ be risen or not. As far as I am concerned, His body could be as dust in some Palestinian tomb. The main thing is, His truth goes marching on!”

Enraged at what he had heard, Alfred wanted to fling the radio across the room. “It’s a lie!” he yelled. His wife, rushing into the room, asked, “Why are you shouting so early in the morning?”

“Didn’t you hear what that good-for-nothing preacher said?” Alfred exclaimed!

During the Easter morning and evening services, Ackley proclaimed the reality of Christ’s resurrection with much vigor. Later that evening he was still worked up over his friend’s question about worshipping a dead Jew and that morning’s dreadful radio sermon.

“Listen here, Alfred Ackley,” his wife said. “It’s time you did that which you can do best. Why don’t you write a song about it and then maybe you’ll feel better?”

He went to his study, opened his Bible to the Gospel of Mark and re-read the resurrection account. Excitedly, he began to write the words to “He Lives.” Then he found himself at the piano, putting the words to music. Little did he know this hymn would become a triumphant Easter hymn.

*I serve a risen Savior, He’s in the world today.
I know that He is living, whatever men may say.
I see His hand of mercy. I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him, He’s always near.*

*In all the world around me I see His loving care;
And tho’ my heart grows weary I never will despair.
I know that He is leading thro’ all the stormy blast.
The day of His appearing will come at last.*

*Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing,
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King.
The hope of all who seek Him, the help of all who find.
None other is so loving, So good and kind.*

—Taken from Then Sings My Soul
By Robert J. Morgan 2003
(Thomas Nelson, Inc.)

