

God's work. Our hands.

Stories of mission and ministry

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

It's time to tell the story!

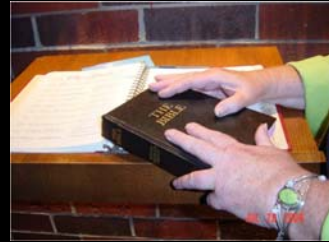
by Merry Soyck-Doring, Synod Communicator

I get to read a lot of newsletters--a task I like because it's always interesting to see what's going on around the synod. The other day while scanning a publication, I noticed this quote from Corrie Ten Boom, "Security is having the Word of God in your own language. Peace is having the Word of God in your heart." My immediate reaction was to add these words: "Mission is sharing the Word of God with others." A little further down the page in the newsletter the following plea appeared, "Lord, walk beside me with your arm over my shoulder and your hand over my mouth." I murmured to myself, "how very Lutheran (or Midwestern or whatever it is that makes us reluctant to speak out--even to share the Good News of Jesus Christ)!"

It's time to tell the story--and that's precisely what this new publication ("God's Work. Our Hands") is intended to do! Many people throughout our synod are busy doing God's work with their hands. Let's share those stories! Let's tell everyone how God's ever-present love is manifested through our efforts, large and small. When you bake cookies and ship them off to a college student who is away from home for the first time; when you take time to visit the elderly neighbor who recently lost a spouse; when you rake a lawn with your youth group; or read a Bible story to your grandchild, you are doing God's work and I want to share your story.

Years ago, a friend of mine commented, "There are two kinds of people--those who do the work and those who talk about it." I'm not sure I agree. I'd like to think that those who do the work can also be those who talk about it. Let's set aside our Lutheran/Midwestern modesty and talk about it. Why? Not because it lifts us up, but because it lifts others to hear the stories, to realize that God is indeed among us, working through us, because there are no hands but ours. Part of the "work" involves sharing the story so others may know that God's love surrounds us on a daily basis, even in the mundane chores.

What about the quotes from that newsletter? Maybe we should change the message to "Lord, walk beside me with your arm over my shoulder and give me the words to say so others will



know you, too!"

Share Your Story

If you have a mission story to tell, please contact Merry Soyck-Doring at msoyck-doring@nswi.org. If you would like help writing the story, assistance is available. Photos are a great addition to the message, but not required. To get started, download "[Telling the Story](#)."



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