

Being ‘heart to heart’ in a social-distancing world

By **Giovanne Turincio**
Heart to Heart District Leader

In March I traveled to Belize for a mission trip with MOST Ministries. I had always wanted to go on a mission trip and since I had retired after 28 years with the State of Texas, I applied and was selected to go. It was a wonderful experience and I look forward to going on another trip with MOST Ministries.

However, no one is going anywhere right now. After returning from Belize, the world changed dramatically. I was in quarantine for 14 days following my return. Church services are on YouTube and voters meetings are on Zoom.

As the Heart to Heart district leader, I was looking forward to reaching out to the many multi-ethnic congregations. So many of the plans have had to be canceled or rescheduled, which indeed saddens our hearts. To the sisters in Houston, Dallas and Harlingen, don't despair. Be patient, wait on the Lord and our time will come again. And instead of grieving the lost opportunities in Corpus Christi, let us start planning for the 2022 convention in Houston! How exciting would it be if we double the number of our participants by then! And watch out Corpus Christi — we will see you in 2024.

All of this leads me to say, reach out to one another. Whether by FaceTime, Facebook Messenger or Zoom, reach out to the women of your church and your society. The ladies of Our Savior, Austin, recently had their first Zoom meeting. It was wonderful to see them again. If you don't know how to work the technology, reach out to your pastor or someone at your church. If you



▲ From left, Belizeans Roldan Rios and his wife, Ruth Belancourt, hosted Barbara Hoffmeier and Giovanne.

► Giovanne performs an eyeglass fitting.



have children or grandchildren, chances are they can help. I do anticipate holding a meeting with my Heart to Heart Sisters over some platform. I have not figured out which to use yet, but I will get it figured out.

I know I am not the only person feeling disconnected. There has been a lot of social unrest stories in the news recently. However, we are all brothers and sisters in Christ and He died for all our sins — Jew and

Gentile. My message is reach out, write a letter, pick up the phone, send an email, meet virtually. We need to stay connected any way we can in this time of social distancing.

I am sending everyone a huge virtual hug right now and I look forward to the time when we will all be united in Christ again.

Our new district officers

From left, Kathy Walther (financial secretary), Frances Molitor (president), Rev. David Bass (pastoral counselor) and Debra Heckmann, (vice-president of organization resources).



FROM THE PRESIDENT

‘Here to serve’

As I begin my term as president, my heart is full of gratitude to my Lord and the women of LWML Texas District for blessing me with this opportunity. I am touched by the many words of encouragement shared with me and look forward to the time when we can again gather for healthy, safe, hug-filled fellowship, free of the ugly grip of COVID-19.



Debbie Curry (left), outgoing LWML Texas District president, pins Frances as the new president.

The world has forced us to enter uncharted territory. The current circumstances have greatly hampered our usual, most treasured opportunities to gather in fellowship and service as well as hindered our attempts in conducting necessary business. Now more than ever, maintaining healthy communication within our district, zones and groups is so particularly important.

As I seek to become more familiar with my new duties, I know it is critically important that I remain consistent in sharing information and encouragement through the various platforms technology has provided. I encourage all of you as members of LWML to be proactive in using available means to encourage one another, share ideas and concerns, and stay in touch with each other until such a time our groups can once again gather in closer fellowship. Your Executive Committee is here to assist in any way possible. Do not hesitate to reach out to us.

We cannot let the health crisis throw us off course. Our faith must remain firm in knowing God can and will provide our district with all that is needed to continue the LWML mission. Let us remind ourselves each day that we are not charged with determining the results, only to seek the Lord’s will and let Him produce each day’s results. Remain firm in the hope our Lord has provided. Step out and adapt to changes, seek new ways of meeting, embrace the times. Find ways to continue with the mite offerings and serving our Lord with gladness.

I so look forward to the time I will be able to travel and meet many more of the wonderful women and supporting pastors of the LWML Texas District. I am anxiously awaiting invitations to your LWML activities. I am here to serve and assist you. Please feel free to contact me.

It is my prayer the Lord will bless and keep you all safe in His arms as we continue forward in our roles as Lutheran Women in Mission.

Frances Molitor • franceslwml@outlook.com

2020-22 Mission Grants

Grant Recipients	Amount	Disbursed	Balance
Scholarships for Seminarians – Texas District LCMS	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000
Mercy Meals – Orphan Grain Train	\$5,000	\$1,000	\$4,000
DCE Scholarships – Concordia University Texas	\$24,000	\$0	\$24,000
Blessings and Bibles – Lutheran Disaster Care	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000
Lutheran Student Center Improvements – Lubbock	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Urban Base Camp Outreach – Camp Lone Star	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000
Creating a Network of Hope – Driving Hope of Texas	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
Let the Little Children Come – St. Paul, Dallas	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
E-Kids After School Program – Expansion Ministries, Inc.	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
Laundry Love – St Paul, San Antonio	\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000
Reaching Immigrants and Refugees – Multi-Ethnic Ministry of North Texas	\$10,084	\$0	\$10,084
Translating LWML Bible Studies – WORDrus	\$9,243	\$0	\$9,243
Total (includes \$10,327 abundance from last biennium)	\$210,327	\$11,000	\$199,327

Mites received through July: \$53,895

Mites still needed to meet goal: \$323,605

Send mites to:
LWML Texas District
Attn: Kathy Walther,
Financial Secretary
PO Box 124,
Giddings, TX 78942

Stay connected
lwmltxdist.org

Send news and photos to
districtnews@lwmltxdist.org