



WonderFull World Retreats

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” JOHN 3:16

In September and October, LWML Texas District held three retreats in which 118 ladies heard the message that God’s love is with us everywhere. God’s love is Awesome! Extravagant! Vast! Amazing! Wonderful!

We explored many wonders on our trip around the world with this re-

treat. We wondered if anyone really cares about us ... how life would be different if we were royalty ... if we matter to God ... where God is when life is hard ... if we can really rely on God ... and if we can make a difference. As we wondered, we confirmed God’s Word has *the* answers. We know we can turn to God, our Bibles and fellow Christians as we go through those times of wondering and as we go into the future.

At these retreats, we also shared God’s love with others. We made

blankets that say “God loves me!” as a tangible demonstration of love. These blankets were shared with pregnancy centers and other locations.

Everyone wonders about the future. The Bible answers this wonder too. We can read Jeremiah 29:11 or Psalm 139:16. But more guidance can be found in Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT):

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.

Mission Grant Spotlight

Houston Coalition for Life (HCL) was a grateful first-time recipient of an LWML Texas District grant in 2022. Funds enabled the purchase of Christian devotionals — *Dear Mother*, *Christmas Story*, and *Redeeming Mama* — as well as 200 Bibles to be given to the women in crisis pregnancies served by HCL.



Founded with the mission of ending abortion in Houston peacefully and prayerfully, HCL operates five Blue Blossom pregnancy centers, including four mobile crisis units: Big Blue, Baby Blue, Little One, and Little Two, and the main office. All offer free pregnancy tests, free ultrasounds, and free Christian counseling to abortion-vulnerable women.

The majority of women served through the pregnancy centers are underserved and do not have a network of support, which includes the lack of a church family. They consider abortion because they are oftentimes pressured by the father of the baby, their family or friends; or feel like they have no other choice. However, once moms are introduced to their baby via a free ultrasound, 93% will choose life.

The team at HCL provides individualized counseling and each mom is invited to free Curriculum of Life classes provided through the Maternal Assistance Program. One of HCL's clients who had been struggling and received a devotional and a Bible said: "Nobody has ever been so nice to me," and "the Bible means so much to me. I started to read it and I know that God put you into my life and I am so grateful."

Alexandra Sizemore • Director of Development



Paul writes in Gal. 6:10 that "as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone."

The Bible Brigade is a ministry that cares for the whole person (body and soul), providing Bibles and devotional materials for spiritual care; and to meet physical needs gift cards are provided to those affected by disasters. The Bible Brigade mission goes hand-in-hand with services provided by Lutheran Disaster Care (LDC).

LDC has teams that travel all over the United States, helping victims of disasters. They also train volunteers around the state to serve on the teams, including using a chainsaw. In the training sessions, LDC emphasizes the importance of listening to the victims and how to appropriately share the hope that we have in Christ. Sharing the love and mercy of Christ through personal witness and the use of devotional materials through the Bible Brigade is a vital, integral part of the Lutheran disaster response.

Most recently, the Bible Brigade was present in Maui after the devastating fires. Bibles and gift cards were presented to two soldiers who lost everything. This put a smile on their face and hope in their hearts. Bible Brigade thanks the ladies of the LWML Texas District for their partnership and support of this ministry!

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Invite a female member of your Texas District congregation attending an LCMS college or university and studying to become a full-time professional church worker to apply for the Texas District LWML scholarship for the 2024-2025 school year.

For more information and to apply, visit lwmltxdist.org. Click "Committees," choose "Scholarships" from the drop-down menu, and download the 2024 scholarship application packet. You may also contact Melissa Houchin, Scholarship Committee chairman, at scholarship@lwmltxdist.org. Completed application packets must be sent or emailed to Melissa, time-stamped or postmarked by March 31.

GREAT IS HIS Faithfulness!



Totals as of October 31, 2023

2022-2024 Mite Goal	\$390,000
Mites Received	\$291,794
Total Mites Still Needed	\$ 98,206
Mission Grants Paid	\$171,346

Send your mite offerings along with a remittance form to: LWML Texas District Attn: Kathy Walther Financial Secretary, PO Box 124, Giddings, TX 78942

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