



your HUG-IN-A-MUG

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And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28 NIV).

"In All Things" was the phrase given to me by the Spirit hours after my friend of over half a century, Renee, (I love saying that quote aloud!) urged me in my post-convention battle: fatigue, mental, emotional, and physical, not to pass on sending out a July HUG. "A short one will do," she said. "Just do it." God love her.

Convention 2022 was, for all intent, an ebullient gathering of over 120 women plus guests, on new turf with new challenges, and it worked! So, Sunday, as I just "putzed on home," using every wine-country, back road I could find, *reflecting* on the many events during the 3-days we were together, the joy of LWML turning 80, and the beauty of the grand, wide Willamette Valley, I was in no hurry to go home to an empty house.

Most of all: we had done what Paul instructed us.... We were called to gather and we came according to God's purpose in scenic and gorgeous McMinnville. We accomplished so much in our outpourings, prayers, Communion, Mites offerings, voting for a new slate of officers, while ironing out kinks in By-Laws to make it easier for us in the future. Thanks to the Structure Committee's hard work over these past two years.

We adopted a workable operating budget for the 2022~2024 Biennium, to include a Mission Grant Budget of \$100,000, and rang out for all fourteen proposals submitted, many of them new, and all exciting, as enjoyed in a fine power-point presentation. To God be the Glory for our Mighty Mites and traditions of the "little offering boxes!"

Two wonderful evenings were filled with celebration. On Friday *we all hailed our LWML on her 80th "rock star" birthday*. In the Fellowship Hall we had purple and white gooey cupcakes and punch.... On Saturday we were mesmerized by *Timeless*, a Gospel-Rock Quartet from the Rogue Valley, who kept us clapping and tapping our feet for exactly one hour. We closed the evening out with Vespers. Looking around the room, I was truly hit hard with nostalgia, knowing I would not see the bulk of these, my wonderful sisters in faith here, for another two years....

We had survived two years plus of Covid and a cancelled 2020 Convention. We had stuck together and somehow survived countless flat-screen, annoying ZOOM meetings just to get "the wondrous works of we women on a mission" done, despite countless odds. We had "ponied up" spontaneous garage sales and pie bakes to put our goal nearly \$7,000 over the top those last 25 days of the Biennium. WHY/HOW?

Because that is what we do. We do hear Paul again in Rom. 8:18, where he entreats us to wait patiently and to trust that the Spirit intercedes for us when we don't know what to pray for. That all things work for our good, reassuring us that no matter the circumstances, the only two qualifiers for God to be working all things for our good is that: He works for "those of us who love Him," and that we know without a doubt He works for "those who are called according to His purpose."

What a privilege then, to have been a part of this body of Christ's church for these, sun-soaked days. I was emotionally drained in a way, frosted with happiness, a JOY only women know from being so joyful! It took me two full hours to unpack my car of four exhibit displays, assorted bags, three proverbial & heavy notebooks, and that recognizable pillowcase of dirty clothes. A long hot shower and evening snacks led to catching up with those "pesky" phone catchups and plethora of unwanted e-mails. And suddenly, my life went tail-spinning in a round of dizziness. Urgent and prayerful, in need of prayer was I!

I had come home to the belated and somber news of my spouse's grave health, taking a turn. while I was away, a shock for sure. And in these days that have followed... here I am being spoken to by the Spirit, trusting in God the Father; it is the only overt comfort I seek in my sorrow.

I have known firsthand this week, one must submit to a loving God, knowing we are all just this side of heaven. And that as many days as lie ahead for each of us, *in all things*, He will work for our good. He gives me comfort day in and day out. All I can do is pray, "Father in Heaven, Thy Will Be done."

Respectfully Yours, Pat Reck, *Leader Development Chairman/Servant Resources*