

Installation Service
For Leader of Presbyterian Women
Synod of Living Waters
October 16, 2009

God Is Our Leader

In lesson 2 of this year's Bible Study on Joshua we thought a lot about leadership. For our Installation today I want to focus on a small part of our lesson. That is that God is our leader; when we trust God, we are taken to places that we could never imagine on our own.

In Psalm 32:8 God says, "I will show you the path." Recently I talked to Ben, who as a young man, served on a military base that was a weather station. It was 49.5 degrees below zero. Ben had finished at the weather shack and was headed back to quarters. Wind came up; snow blew; there was zero visibility; he couldn't figure out which way to go. He sat down and from above saw himself sitting there. A vision of his parents came to his mind. Not wanting to let them down, he got up, looked up, and saw a power line overhead that led him to shelter. When he entered the door to safety his eyes were totally covered with ice and he couldn't see at all.

In my own life I can also give testimony to God's leadership. I am sure that each of you can give examples too. Here's mine. My husband and I were parents of two children and hadn't planned on a third. When I realized I was pregnant again I was not exactly happy. That third child is the parent of our only two grandchildren. God's plan was better than ours.

Another example of God's leadership is the amazing necklace project that most of you are familiar with. I had no plan to raise money with these necklaces, no plan to support Living Waters for the World by raising funds for them. Of course, I had challenged all Synod PW to use our hands to serve God. It didn't occur to me that God might want my hands to respond to that challenge. Now, 1400 necklaces and \$7,000 later, my hands are still busy. This is truly a GOD thing! (The total for all of the necklace projects that I am aware of that have sprung from my first necklace is nearing \$33,000.)

Today I want to present each of you with a necklace to help you remember that God is leading our way. We may not always see it; we may not always want to be led, but God is in charge. To me there is extra significance in these necklaces for Presbyterian Women. To make a necklace, you start with a circle of yarn, pull more yarn in from outside, form a new circle, pull more in, etc. PW meet in Circles, we continually look for ways to attract more women, we include them...and perhaps they bring new women in, start a new circle, and

keep the chain going. PW groups are also connected to each other like the strands of a necklace are connected.

As you continue your service to Presbyterian Women, please accept your leadership roles by answering the following questions:

1. Will you turn to God as our leader and always seek for His direction for PW?
2. Will you trust your sister PWs to encourage, support, and trust you as you lead?
3. Will you seek out the connections between all of us—in our churches, our Presbyteries, and our Synod as we continue the journey of PW?

I now declare each of us duly installed as leaders of Presbyterian Women for the Synod of Living Waters.

Prayer

Mary Weber, moderator