

Update to Moderator's Challenge
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My Moderator's Challenge is still on. I went to our website for the stories that I included in my PW report at the Synod Meeting this Monday, Jan. 25. These stories are great and varied, but I *know* that there are lots more mission projects going on in all of our churches.

Please, please have someone put your stories on our website. We all like to hear about what is going on, and sometimes one projects sparks another. I believe that our sharing allows God to do Wonders Among Us!

Here is the report that I gave at Synod:

Take a minute to look at your hands. What do they do on a daily basis? Two years ago this spring I challenged women at the Spring Gathering of PW for the Presbytery of East Tennessee to use their hands to serve the Lord in Mission Projects. I used the following text as part of the challenge:

The Statue

After World War II, German students volunteered to help rebuild a cathedral in England, one of many casualties of the Luftwaffe bombings.

As the work progressed, debate broke out on how to best restore the large Statue of Jesus with His arms outstretched and bearing the familiar inscription, "*Come unto Me.*" Careful patching could repair all damage to the statue except for Christ's hands, which had been destroyed by bomb fragments. Should they attempt the delicate task of reshaping those hands?

Finally the workers reached a decision that still stands today. The statue of Jesus had no hands, and the inscription now reads, "*Christ has no hands but ours.*"

Since that time, women all over the synod have taken that challenge to our hearts—and to our hands! On our website (www.pwslivingwaters.org) you can find stories of how women are using their hands for mission. Some are knitting baby caps, some are gathering, sorting, and packing food into backpacks for children who would

otherwise not eat on the weekends. Some are supporting active military troops in creative ways. Many are preparing and delivering food.

One PW started a flower ministry. She started by arranging flowers from her garden and delivering them to shut-ins, hospital patients and the like. Donated flowers started coming in, and she eventually led a retreat where she taught others to break down large arrangements into small ones that could be used at bedsides. Her project delivers as many as 200 arrangements each week and also provides more than 400 individualized trees at Christmas time. WOW! One project often sparks another. This flower ministry could lend to a vegetable ministry. Use your imagination.

In Lexington, KY, PW are collecting outdated medical equipment from hospitals and doctor's offices. Project C.U.R.E. sends it to 3rd world countries. They invite you to join in with this project in your area. This speaks to the current situation in Haiti. I heard on NPR that field hospitals are having to operate without x-ray machines.

If your heart is with our Presbyterian Seminaries you will be happy to know that women all over the Synod are supporting a PW scholarship program, Mission Haven, and a thrift store at Columbia. We are also working to get a PW presence reestablished at Louisville Seminary.

And then there is our necklace project! Together all of the necklace projects that I am aware of have raised over \$35,000 for various mission projects. You can learn about it in the Jan-Feb issue of *Horizons Magazine*.

This project exemplifies a concept that was brought to my attention by Hunter Farrell by way of Dean Vandegrift in Sheppards and Lapsley. Hunter pointed out that our project fits the description of leaderless organizations as found in the book, The Starfish and the Spider. I highly recommend that book to you.

The sub-title of the book is, "The unstoppable Power of Leaderless Organizations," and it contains a lot of food for thought. An example—in my own church, where we are happy to have 70 in worship each Sunday, some of the working women wanted to start a second circle that would meet at night. When I met with them it became obvious that they endorse the PW purpose, but they do NOT want the structure. They do not want to send in reports, keep rigid books, be supervised. Yet, they are meeting monthly, studying Joshua, talking about supporting local mission projects, and figuring out their own journey.

I think this approach may be onto something that we have been missing in the church. Many younger people seem attracted to less structure, and our mainline churches do not seem to be meeting their needs. PW tries to be responsive to this type of issue. Always seeking for God's leadership, and "empowered by the Holy Spirit" we will continue to work to witness to the promise of God's kingdom.