



## Dress yourself with...Gentleness

What do washing machines, dish soap, a grizzly bear named "Ben," and *you* have in common? You, the bear, and those other items can all be *gentle*.

St. Paul encouraged the members of one of his churches, "Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near" (Philippians 4:5).

Too often we associate gentleness with being a wimp. That is not true. Washing machines can rip clothes to shreds. Soaps can irritate the skin. Bears can maul people. And just turn on the news to see what destruction human beings can do.

Nevertheless, we can be gentle. We can learn to be unselfish and considerate in all we do.

Think what the world would be like if everyone showed unselfish consideration for others! There would be no road rage. Children wouldn't fight over a particular toy. Customers and cashiers wouldn't stall checkout lines by bickering over sale prices. Divorce might even come to a halt.

Of course, we will never be able to be perfectly gentle in this life. But, Jesus was. With a word, Jesus could calm a raging sea or cause a tree to wither. Yet he never failed to heal the sick, preach good news to the poor, and offer forgiveness to the worst of sinners.

Jesus even offers forgiveness for the times we have failed to be gentle, those times when we insisted on getting our way and didn't care whom we hurt to get it. When we think of Jesus' willingness to forgive us, it makes us want to be more like him – gentle and caring.

There was a Christian man whose very presence was a visual definition of words like *strong*, *tough*, and *thoroughly masculine*. Yet for twenty-five years he spent nearly every Sunday afternoon leading a worship service for a hundred mentally retarded women at the state mental hospital.

That man let his gentleness be evident to all. Do you desire that same gentle spirit in your life? See and hear how as you worship and study God's Word with us!

## WELS NEWS November, 2021

### 60 Years Of God's Grace And Blessings

On Sat., Oct. 9, a special worship service will be held at 5:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church in downtown Milwaukee to mark the 60th anniversary of the WELS Central Africa Medical Mission. As the theme of the celebration states, members of our synod will thank God for 60 years of his grace and blessings on this important work.

The Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM) is a mission of WELS supported entirely outside of the synod budget through gifts from WELS women's groups, Lutheran schools and Sunday schools, and individuals. Its work is administered by the Central Africa Medical Mission Committee, with input from Medical Mission Councils in Malawi and Zambia and the WELS Board for World Missions. We thank the many committee members who have served as volunteers throughout the years.

CAMM began its work in 1961 when it established its first medical mission on the Sala Reserve near Lusaka, Zambia. A permanent dispensary was built and opened later that year. By 1963, as many as 4,000 people were being treated at the Mwembemzhi Lutheran Clinic each month. Special prenatal clinics began in 1965, and an under-fives clinic began in 1968.

Work was expanded to Malawi in July 1970 with a mobile health care unit. The nurses traveled to five designated bush areas to set up a clinic for the day and then returned to their home in Lilongwe by night. Permanent structures built to serve as clinics during the week are used as churches on Sunday.

Dozens of faithful workers have carried out the work of this mission for six decades. The mission has faced many challenges, and, as circumstances changed, adjustments were made to the way in which the mission carried out its work. Despite the challenges and changing circumstances, God has blessed the work richly. With God's help, hundreds of thousands of patients have been served and countless lives saved through the work of the Central Africa Medical Mission. Many adults and children have been baptized.

We take time to thank God for what he has accomplished and for the people he provided to carry out this work faithfully for 60 years. Learn more at [camm.us](http://camm.us).

Serving with you in Christ,  
WELS President Mark Schroeder

## **2022 WELS National Education Conference**

The Commission on Lutheran Schools (CLS) is announcing the 2022 WELS National Education Conference, June 20-22, Pewaukee, Wis., with preconference sessions on June 19.

Mr. Paul Patterson, CLS associate director and member of the conference planning committee, says, "This conference is focused on teaching and designed by teachers for teachers. We have six compelling strands that offer sectionals in topics that are the focus in professional journals: social emotional learning, feedback and assessment, higher order thinking and questioning, student achievement, student-centered classrooms, and leadership in ministry."

Three keynote speakers have been announced: Rev. Rich Gurgel, Martin Luther College president; Mr. Eric Jensen, a nationally known writer and trainer who connects brain research to the classroom and to enhanced attention and learning; and Dr. Dipesh Navsaria, a Wisconsin pediatrician specializing in early literacy.

Patterson says, "We also have seven awesome preconference strands including early childhood; a new *Christian Worship* conference style presentation for those who missed the 2021 Worship Conference because it was canceled; special education; ministry development plan primer; and more!"

All WELS teachers are encouraged to save the dates. Registration will open in January 2022.

For more on the conference, check out a [short promotional video](#) and check out the [conference website](#), which includes the opportunity to sign up for the conference newsletter.

## **New Mission Opportunities In Europe**

A new mission in London is one step closer to reality. After a trip to England earlier this month, Rev. Larry Schlomer, administrator of the Board for World Missions, is recommending that the board call a full-time missionary to London.

During his trip, Schlomer met with a group of WELS families in London to talk about the possibilities. These members will serve as the "core group" for this mission and its work. "They are more than excited," says Schlomer. "A couple of the members even shared with me that they have been praying for a pastor."

In the past, this group in London—about 30 people—has been served with the Word and sacraments by the [WELS European chaplain](#), who travels monthly from Germany where he is based. The chaplain, part of [WELS Military Services](#), ministers to WELS

military personnel on large bases in Germany as well as serves civilians and troops in Germany, England, Switzerland, and scattered throughout Europe. Currently Rev. John Hartwig fills that role.

According to Schlomer, besides serving current members weekly with the Word, a new missionary will be able to explore opportunities for reaching out to the many immigrant populations that settle in London. WELS already has connections with several groups, including members and pastors from WELS' sister synod in Hong Kong who have recently relocated to London. Once initial exploration has been completed, a second missionary may be called to work specifically with these immigrant groups. Funding has already been approved for both positions. "Right now our priority is to get someone there with this group of believers, and we'll let the Spirit guide it as the Spirit will," says Schlomer.

Phil and Sandy Parker, who have been members of this group in London since 2000, are excited about the possibilities. "London is such a multicultural area, and we think that the field amongst these immigrant populations will be particularly ripe because we can offer useful services, such as English as a foreign language classes, that can benefit them as they try to integrate into their communities," says Sandy.

They also recognize the need for their English friends and family to hear the pure gospel message, something that is in short supply in London. "We know that the Holy Spirit is stronger than even the most stoic Englishman, and so, with a missionary here to help us with these conversations, we might be able to rest assured that our loved ones know God's salvation too," says Sandy.

During Schlomer's visit, Hartwig led worship in person for the group for the first time since he arrived in Germany in June 2020. COVID-19 had made it impossible for him to travel to England, so the group had been worshiping through Zoom video meetings.

"It was such a happy experience," says Hartwig about the service, which included communion and a baptism affirmation. "And on top of that, seeing that we may have an opportunity to have a permanent pastor—we're definitely excited about that."

He continues, "The European Chaplaincy has been thankful to have the opportunity to work with the military and the civilians in the U.K. for many years. We're excited about the new turn this is taking and want to do everything possible to help that to happen."

London is one of five new world mission opportunities being explored by WELS Missions.