



LIFE WITNESS Summer 09 Connection

A publication to strengthen communications between Life Witnesses, Branches, and the national office of Christian Life Resources.

Change for Life Promotion

By now you are well aware that our *Change for Life* program is a great way to raise awareness and funds for *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers*. Many of you have participated and experienced the blessings first-hand.

In order to promote the program to a larger audience, we recently sent information to all the ladies' groups in our WELS/ELS churches. The *Change for Life* program seems like a natural fit for these groups, because they are eager to support ministries and they want to help fellow women.

We are eager to see some positive response from that mailing, and we hope that many groups take advantage of this excellent opportunity.

Please encourage your ladies' group to conduct the *Change for Life* program. The benefits are certainly worthwhile, and the ladies will feel that they have made an important contribution to a wonderful ministry. Also remind them that the materials are all provided at no cost.

On a related note, we recently created a new DVD that tells the story of *New Beginnings*. The short video production is called, "A New Beginning," and is a great motivational tool for anyone who wants to learn more about this vital ministry. Our plan is to send a free copy of "A New Beginning" to each Life Witness. Watch for that special gift in your mail in late summer and see what you can do to share this valuable resource within your congregation.



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Life Sunday Planning

Many pastors use the summer months to plan their sermons and Bible studies for the coming year. Now is a good time to talk to your pastor about a 2010 Life Sunday. Any date can be chosen during the year, but here are some specific dates that might be considered:

- **January 24** – The Sunday closest to the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* (January 22);
- **March 21 or 28** – In celebration of the conception of Jesus which is traditionally celebrated on March 25 (nine months before Christmas);
- **Any Sunday during the Trinity season** – Pastors often look for ideas during this time and a Life Sunday could fit nicely;
- **Sundays in November that correlate with the season of End Times** – This can be a good time to focus on some end-of-life issues;
- **Mission Festival Sunday** – Life issues have proven to be effective bridges that enable us to share our faith.

If you want to talk to your pastor about conducting a Life Sunday, consider these suggestions:

- Go to the CLR website (www.ChristianLifeResources.com) and find the link for Life Sunday Materials. Become familiar with the variety of options that are available;
- Contact your pastor and ask for a time to talk to him about this idea;
- When you meet with your pastor, have a few good reasons in mind to hold a Life Sunday.
 - 1) Mention the value of raising awareness of life issues in the congregation;
 - 2) Highlight the growing attack on the Christian ethic involving life issues;
 - 3) Suggest conducting a Change for Life program with a Life Sunday;
 - 4) Mention that all the materials are already prepared and easily adaptable for your church;
 - 5) Tell him that you will gladly help promote and organize the service.

By offering your encouragement and support, your pastor might agree that holding a Life Sunday is a good decision. If he is unwilling to hold one next year, you should still thank him for his time and encourage him to consider holding a Life Sunday in 2011.



Memorial Flowers for the Unborn

Many churches request flower donations each week to help beautify the altar. These flowers are often purchased from a local flower shop, but in the summer, members are more inclined to bring some from their own gardens.

Here is an idea for you. You can pick some of your own flowers, donate them to church, and place a note in your bulletin stating that the flowers are given as a memorial to the unborn.

This is a wonderful way to add color for the church service, while also acknowledging the loss of those unborn children.

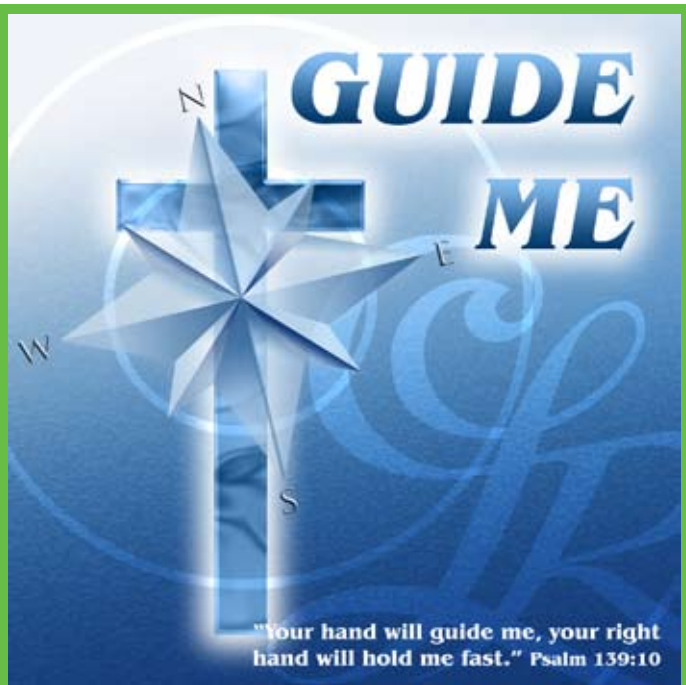
The bulletin announcement could say something like this:

The altar flowers today were given to the glory of God and in memory of the unborn children who have lost their lives through abortion.

This donation comes from (insert your name) who serves as a Life Witness in our church.



This is also a wonderful way for the members to learn that there is a Life Witness in their congregation.



CLR National Convention November 7, 2009

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 7**, as the date for our annual Convention. The day is going to be filled with lots of energy and information. You can come to learn a lot about life issues, and how you can help make a difference in your own congregation. Some of the workshops are even designed specially for Life Witnesses!

The Convention will be held at **St. Paul Lutheran Church in Slinger, Wisconsin**. The volunteers at St. Paul are wonderful and eager to welcome you to their home church.

Watch for more information regarding the agenda and registration details in the next issue of *Life Witness Connection*, but for now, save that date of **Saturday, November 7!**

Fill-A-Need (FAN) Program

More groups are needed to participate in our Fill-A-Need (FAN) program so we can help our pregnancy counseling centers throughout the country. The FAN program is quite easy to do. You start by getting a wish list from Paul Snamiska, you pick an item or two on that list, and you “fill a need” for one of our centers. We will help you with every step of the process so you don’t have to do this alone.

For more information on the FAN program or to obtain a current wish list, contact Paul at the CLR office. You can reach him at 800-729-9535 or PaulS@ChristianLifeResources.com.

Be a Life Witness Author

Would you be willing to submit an article for future issues of the *Life Witness Connection* newsletter? We would like to include some of your stories in this publication so our Life Witnesses can share their experiences.

If you would like to submit an article, contact Helen and talk with her. We would really like some stories about the work you are doing in your congregations and any special stories that you would like to share. We already have one Life Witness who is prepared to write an article, but we need more.

You don’t need to be a journalist, or even a great writer, to contribute! Just let us know what’s going on – CLR can help with editing concerns. Stories, or just the facts, can be emailed to Helen at HelenF@ChristianLifeResources.com or sent via snail mail. Remember too that a picture is worth a thousand words!

Check Out Our CLR Website:

www.ChristianLifeResources.com

If you haven’t been on our website lately, now is a good time to visit. When you get there, look at the current news stories (they change just nearly every day), note the various topics that are listed, and review the menu buttons on the left to see all the free materials that are available. If you have email, you can also sign up for a free subscription to *LifeWire*, our bi-weekly email service. These *LifeWire* articles can be used for placement in your church bulletin, newsletter, or bulletin board.

Also check out www.LifeWitness.com. It is a website designed completely for Life Witnesses.

Both of these websites provide resources and information that are valuable for you as a Life Witness.



Christian Life Resources

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Clearly Caring Bulk Subscription

Free bulk subscriptions of *Clearly Caring* are available for your congregation. If you do not currently receive a bulk subscription, contact Helen at [800-729-9535](tel:800-729-9535) and request your free order. If your church already receives copies of each issue, you can distribute them personally to your fellow members after services. *Clearly Caring* is a valuable resource that should be in the home of every member of your congregation.

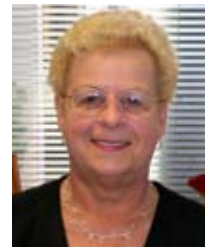
Have You Moved?

If you have recently moved, or are ready to move, please let us know. We will process the address change promptly and make sure that you keep getting *Clearly Caring*, *Life Witness Connection*, and other CLR mailings in a timely manner. To report a change in your contact information, call Helen at [800-729-9535](tel:800-729-9535) or email her at HelenF@ChristianLifeResources.com.

Enjoy Your Summer

What a blessing to have a few summer months in which you can relax and enjoy the blessings of God's creation. As a Life Witness you work hard all year and deserve a little time to get refreshed for the next year. Even though we included a number of activity ideas in this issue of *Life Witness Connection*, you will notice that they do not require a huge effort.

Watch for the next issue of *Life Witness Connection* which will come to you in late summer. That issue will include more great ideas to promote life and family issues. As always, contact me with any questions or ideas. I love to hear from you! May the Lord bless the work we do in His name!



Helen Fleischmann



Life Witness Connection is an official publication of Christian Life Resources

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