

Stewards of the Word

By Pastor Nancy Larson

Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop

What would you think if someone gave you a briefcase containing diamonds and asked you to deliver them to another address?

Gus Amssoms died years ago. He retired, after working for 45 years as a laborer not having missed a single day of work because of illness. He was a trustworthy man.

Upon retirement, Gus became a part-time diamond courier. If you had walked the streets of Antwerp you likely would hardly have noticed an elderly workman walking through the narrow streets with his gentle smile carrying an old, worn-out briefcase, and if you did notice him you would never have guessed that his briefcase contained diamonds worth thousands of dollars. He did not have a gun or a bulletproof vest or an armored vehicle. He had something that the diamond merchants considered much safer and more secure. He had a gentle, innocent appearance and he was a completely dependable man.

We also have such a treasure to watch over and carry in our lives and hearts. God's Word has been entrusted to us for the sake of our faith and for the sake of the world. We say over and over that stewardship is not just about your money. And that is 100 percent true! Stewardship is about how we care for everything that God has given to us. It's how we care for our families, our homes, our bodies and our environment. It's how we use our God-given talents

and how we live as Christians in the workplace. And it is about God's Word.

Daily Bible reading is a discipline that many think is meant just for pastors. Actively participating in a Bible Study is a terrifying thought to others. For all who are children of God and disciples of Jesus Christ, however, the Bible is a precious means to experience God's presence.

I would like to invite you to open up that Bible and begin to hear and see God. If you don't know where to begin, turn to the Gospel of Mark in the New Testament. If you want to strengthen your prayer life, turn to the Psalms. If your congregation doesn't offer an adult Bible study, ask your pastor to start one. Ask your spouse, closest friend or next door neighbor to read it with you. Embark on a journey of discovery and see where God takes you.

Yes, indeed, we are stewards of God's Word and by the Word we are blessed and enriched beyond our wildest imagination!

To download this article or for more stewardship and mission support resources, visit www.neiasynod.org/synod_resources/Stewardship-MissionSupport.asp.



LYO Mini-Event Set for Feb. 18

Senior high youth are invited to attend the

LYO Mini-Event "Reconnect with Jesus" Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012

Decorah Lutheran Church
309 Winnebago St., Decorah

Games • Lunch • Fun
Music by Dan Baldwin
Workshops on Prayer by
Pr. Mark Anderson & Lisa Kammerer, AIM

Registration is \$5

Congregations can register by contacting the synod office by Feb 15 at 319-352-1414.

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We welcome story ideas related to the 2012 theme, *Strengthening Leaders*.

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