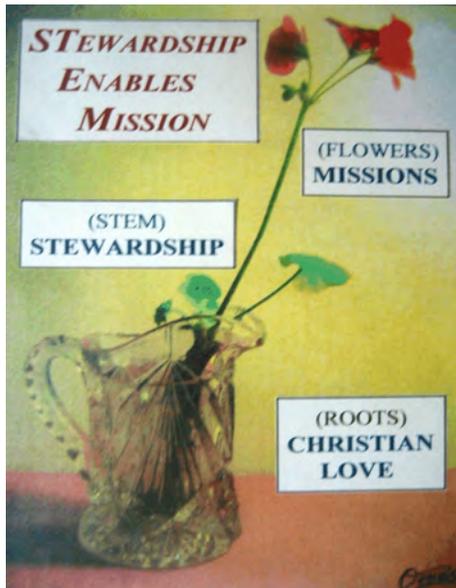


STEWARDSHIP ENABLES MISSIONS

by Rev. Thomas Soltis, SELC Stewardship Director

God, the Perfect Steward

God's stewardship of His creations is truly astoundingly amazing. His continuing power of preservation is clearly evident in plant life. I once purchased a plant which continuously produced beautiful flowers indoors and out. In an effort to perpetuate the plant, I cut a stem and placed it in water. The stem produced roots, a very long stem and three flowers. The graphic for this article was made from a photo of it.



STEM

STewardship Enables Missions

Some years ago, synod's stewardship department produced a program titled, "STEM", an abbreviation for "STewardship Enables Missions". My plant with its long stem and trinity of flowers reminded me of the program and the important role stewardship plays in the creation of new missions.

Roots of Love

The roots of God-pleasing stewardship are nourished in the soil of Christian love. Rom. 13:1 states, "Love is the fulfillment of the law". Heb. 11:6 reminds us that, "without faith it is impossible to please God". Love stimulated stewardship flowing from faith is the life source of stewardship pleasing to God. Stewardship activities motivated by pride, selfishness or greed are unacceptable..

The Stem of Stewardship

The stewardship of time, treasure and talents, motivated by Christian love, is the stem which produces mission flowers and nurtures their growth. Pastors using their talents - lay members offering their time and abilities - SELC District Christians generously contributing financial resources - these are the life conduits for the establishment and growth of missions.

SELC Mission Flowers

Rev. Gerald Kovac, EM, Executive Secretary of the SELC District Mission Board, prepared a summary of past and present SELC mission activity. We are grateful for his faithful service of 29 years as Executive Secretary.

SELC Past Missions:

- + Resurrection, Crown Pt., IN
- + Christ the King, Lodi, OH
- + Family of Christ, Tampa, FL
- + Holy Cross, Lake Mary, FL
- + Living Word, Orland Park, IL
- + Concordia, Macungie, PA
- + Redeemer, Manchester, NJ
- + Peace, Galloway, NJ
- + Faith, Viera, FL
- + Chuluota, FL (St. Luke's, Oviedo, satellite)

Current SELC Missions

- * Ascension, Montreal (Muslim/Chinese Missions)
- * Hope, Melbourne, FL
- * Cross Downtown, Orlando, FL (Holy Cross, Lake Mary, FL, satellite)
- * Cross, Mt. Dora, FL (Holy Cross, Lake Mary, FL, satellite)
- * Indian Missions of Zion, Clark, NJ
- * Hispanic Ministry of Family of Christ, Tampa, FL
- * Mercy House of Peace, Galloway, NJ, (meeting human needs and offering counseling services)
- * SELC pastoral mission trips

Cooperative Efforts with Other Districts

- > Center for Asian Missions & Evangelism
- > Center for North American Missions
- > Acts 1:8 Ministries (servant events for youth)

Nourishing the Stewardship Stem

You can help support ongoing SELC missions by contributing to the "SELC Foundation".

Call: 1-407-365-5676 ext. 1168

Email: www.rparis@lutheranhaven.org