



A service of the  
Northwest District  
of the  
Lutheran Church -  
Missouri Synod

# Youth Supports

A resource to encourage and empower youth leaders for the expansion of the Lord's kingdom.

March 2006 - Volume 7, Issue 3

- Making **HIS Story** Part of Your Story
- E-Newsletter help
- Servant Events
- Ideas for Youth Programs

...through the telling of my story, I inevitably share **HIS story**.

My story is of worth only because of the role Jesus plays in it.

## Making **HIS Story** Part of Your Story

Acts 1:8 *"You will be my Witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Often I am asked by folks to share my conversion story with them. Most are curious or intrigued to find out more about me and my unique background. More often than not, though, through the telling of my story, I inevitably share **His story**.

My story is about how a lost child was rescued by God's saving grace and given hope and the chance to start life over again with a new purpose. Some of you might know my story as a whole; most of you may be aware of bits and pieces.

My story is of worth only because of the role Jesus plays in it. There are many plots, twists and intrigues in my story, which include despair, futility, starvation, discrimination, and abuse. I also experienced joy, family unity, academic successes and exposure to multiple cultures. With this rich and unique background, God has given me the ability to connect with many types of individuals, especially youth. My story has given me many insights into helping guide today's youth who are trying to find their own personal conversion and include Jesus as an integral part of it.

Like me, each of you has a story that is a testament of your faith in Jesus Christ. Sometimes it seems more glamorous to hear a testimony from one who has become a Christian later in their life; yet even for those of you who have been life long Christians your conversion story is as powerful and unique as anyone's. Each story is woven with layers of experiences and is unique to each individual. **His story** is central.

I encourage each adult volunteer or professional church worker who works with youth to identify your personal conversion story. When you have become familiar with your story, please share it first with your family and loved ones. Then allow God to use you as His instrument by sharing your story with others. Through your story, **His story** can be praised and exalted. As each new person hears your testimony you are allowing them to hear **His story** and you're accepting God's use of you as His instrument of witnessing.

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E-Newsletter from Synod

Servant Event Possibilities

Ideas for Your Youth Program?

Jesus used stories to share His message, usually in the form of a parable. He knew the impact that stories have on people. Sharing our stories with youth in today world allows them to see His role in our life and will allow them to identify God in their own life. In sharing our stories with youth, we are essentially giving them permission, and telling them that it's okay to share their story with their world, be it family, friends or peers. In a very non-threatening way, youth are being encouraged to share **His story** without compromising their continual search for acceptance and identity in the world.

You will be **His** witnesses to your family, loved ones, and to your church, your community and all the ends of the earth.

In Christ  
Uma

—*Kanagasabai Umashankar, Youth and Family Minister, Trinity Lutheran Church and Preschool, Hillsboro, OR* <[ajcfreak@trinityhillsboro.com](mailto:ajcfreak@trinityhillsboro.com)>

Find past issues of Youth Supports at:

[http://www.nowlcms.org/educational\\_services/YouthSupports.aspx](http://www.nowlcms.org/educational_services/YouthSupports.aspx)

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## E-Newsletter from Synod Board of Youth Ministry

The Board of Youth Ministry for the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has a monthly e-bulletin with youth ministry information. To subscribe to it, go to <http://www.lcms.org/enews/> and follow the directions.

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## Check Out Servant Event Possibilities

The Board of Youth ministry coordinates and helps to publicize Servant Events hosted by LC—MS congregations and groups. The new list for summer 2006 events is now available. Find out what possibilities there are for your group at <<http://www.lcms.org/ca/dcs/SERVEevents/sehome.asp>>.

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## Want Some Ideas for Your Youth Program?

The Board of Youth Ministry for the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod with a grant from Thrivent started a new electronic youth ministry resource available for free on the internet. Check out <[www.youthesource.com/](http://www.youthesource.com/)> The web page is not just for adults, but for youth too with a number of links to other great web sites. Pass it on to your own youth!

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