

Serve with a Heart of Love

WMU Leaders Installation Service

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Time: Approximately 10 minutes



Ahead of time

- The “Leader” can be the incoming or outgoing WMU director or another appropriate missions leader.
- Ask the new leaders to sit close to the front of the room.
- Ask the pastor, another church staff, or another individual to lead the closing prayer.
- Prepare a list of Scriptures to give to each new leader as a reminder of their commitment or you may want to attach one Scripture to a heart to give to each person.

LEADER: The heart of any Christian leader must listen to the language of God’s heart. Being a leader by any title automatically means one must take on certain qualities. In the Christian leadership role the expectations are higher because we serve a leader who is so much greater than ourselves. That leader is Jesus Christ Himself. As His followers we are to take on His character and His love. We are to imitate His actions and obey Him in all things.

A group of leaders has been elected to serve through Woman’s Missionary Union in our church. Today we would like to install them into their leadership roles.

Will those who have been asked to serve during this new year please make your way to the front? As you come forward please face me.

(Say to the WMU leaders): As a leader you have not been shaped in isolation. You are part of a community of like-minded Christian individuals who believe that missions is important. You are not a self-made leader. God shapes your heart. He does that by placing you in a community of missions- loving people like those who are in this place.

I will give you several challenges. I will make a few statements then ask you to respond with, “We will.”

In Psalm 27:1, we find these words, “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”

Jesus, the ultimate leader, grew patiently as He waited for the right time to step forward. He listened to His Father’s voice. His move into the public eye did not come lightly. He listened and waited and learned. As a leader of women, girls, and preschoolers in missions, are you willing to gather strength from God as Jesus did?

If so, say, “We will.”

RESPONSE: We will.

LEADER: Jesus listened to the instructions from His Father before moving ahead. He must have known the words of Psalm 130:5, “I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope.”

Jesus knew what His mission was yet He did not rush the process. As a WMU leader you will be asked to make decisions. When you do, you must consider the good of all not just one piece. Your choices will affect other missions leaders, members of our WMU organizations, and sometimes our church members.

Every decision must answer the question, How will my decision today affect the hearing and understanding of the gospel? Will you wait patiently for Jesus' instructions?

If so, say, "We will."

RESPONSE: We will.

LEADER: Our WMU past is full of stories of individuals who loved God and who wanted women to be involved in God's plan for the world. As Hebrews 13:7 reminds us, you are to be imitators of the faith of those who went before you. You have a high standard to fulfill.

We are not to stay in the past but we are to be initiators of the future. Will you use what you have learned from the past as a stepping-stone into the future to strengthen our missions education efforts, to start new groups or organizations, and to strengthen our existing ones?

If so, say, "We will."

RESPONSE: We will.

LEADER: As a missions leader you will need to know when to say yes and when to say no. You may be asked to spend your energy on things that do not have eternal value. Sometimes you will need to do the asking.

In Philippians 3:14 (KJV) Paul said of his life, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." As leaders in WMU pay attention to the difference between human need and divine assignment. Are you willing to live a life that reflects the higher good, the higher calling in the mission of God?

If so, say, "We will."

RESPONSE: We will.

LEADER: Serving God is accomplished through serving others. In 2 Timothy 1:9, Paul reminded the church at Ephesus that they must lead a life worthy of their calling. He mentions these things that will bring peace—humility, gentleness, patience, bearing one another's burdens in love, and maintaining the unity of the Holy Spirit. With the help of the Holy Spirit are you willing to lead a life that is worthy of God's calling to missions education?

If so, say, "We will."

RESPONSE: We will.

LEADER: The Apostle Paul reminded the young Timothy to rekindle the gift of God that was in him, for God did not give him a spirit of cowardice, but a spirit of power, and of love, and of self-discipline. Are you willing to rely on God's strength for the task ahead? (2 Timothy 1:7)

If so, say, "We will."

RESPONSE: We will.

LEADER: Knowing that your ultimate purpose as an individual is to fulfill your part in obeying the Christ who gave His Great Commission in Mark and again in Matthew 28, are you willing to lead others to discover their part in the church, the association, and the world? (Mark 16:15–16; Matthew 28:18–20)

If so, say, “We will.”

RESPONSE: We will.

LEADER: As incoming elected leaders you represent the women, girls, and preschoolers in missions. More than that you represent our Lord who was the greatest leader of all. You must rely on the Lord for everything. Trust His guidance. Serve Him with a heart of love.

Please turn and face the audience. I will call out the job title and the name of the person who is being asked to serve in that position. As I call your name will you take a step forward, please? (Call out names and positions.)

I want to present this challenge to the audience: Will you promise to follow these WMU leaders as they seek God’s leadership? Will you help them to rekindle the gift of God that is in them so that they may serve with a heart of love? (2 Timothy 1:6)

If so, say, “We will.”

RESPONSE: We will.

LEADER: Thank you and may God bless us as we work together. I have asked _____ to lead us in a closing prayer.

PRAYER

–Prepared by Sheryl Churchill, WMU, SBC.

SCRIPTURES

Psalms 27:1 "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (KJV)

Psalms 130:5 "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope." (NIV)

Hebrews 13:7 "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith." (NIV)

Philippians 3:14 "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (KJV)

2 Timothy 1:9 "Who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time." (NIV)

2 Timothy 1:7 "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline." (NIV)

Mark 16:15–16; Matthew 28:19–20 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Ghost . . . and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." (KJV)

2 Timothy 1:6 "For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands." (NIV)