



A Catholic canonical missionary community  
consecrated to the beating Hearts of Jesus & Mary,  
whose mission is evangelization  
among the materially poor

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*LAMP Missionaries Brooke Pasker (l.) and Maggie Kelly (r.) read Scripture stories to children who come to the LAMPcafé (in background), children who are eager to **listen!** This ministry was created this summer, as LAMP Missionaries are not able to visit families in shelters because of the coronavirus outbreak, and we wanted to continue to share the love of Jesus with children who are often forgotten or ignored.*



## A Heart Open to *Listening*

Dear Friends,

Most of us have certainly had time to **listen** these past months. We were homebound, quarantined, and then suddenly bombarded with important issues of our society that need us to listen. Listening. It isn't always easy. All kinds of obstacles spring up to prevent me from "listening." Many times I am highly distracted, preventing me from hearing God's Word at Mass, in Scripture, in my heart, in my surroundings. I may "hear", but am I "listening?" Am I only listening when I'm not preoccupied, when **I** think the topic is important, or when **I** agree, or when **I** am not threatened by what I hear?

**My heart** has to be open to listening, in addition to my mind. Sometimes I'm afraid to listen. I may not want to disturb

the comfort of my certitude. God desires to continually transform me (convert me), from centering on **me**, to centering on Jesus, through His Word, and sometimes through His word from a friend, or even a stranger.

How can I grow in having God's view of truth, of justice, of His creation, of the person in front of me. I'm realizing that I can't be converted unless I am really willing to **listen**, with a fearless and loving heart, and an open mind, like our holy Mother Mary's when she *heard, really heard* the words of Gabriel.

"Listening" is the theme of this issue.

Respectfully one with you in His service,

*Tom*

*Marybeth + Ed*

Tom Scheuring, Ph.D. Marybeth & Ed Greene  
Director Pastoral Directors

LAMP was awarded a matching grant from the William E. Simon Foundation for 2020. Would there be any readers who could contribute to a matching grant of \$4,000 to support LAMP Missionaries listening to, praying and reading Scripture with, and walking the faith journey with our unemployed, crushed and food-insecure sisters and brothers on the streets. Only the part of a donation that exceeds the previous donation can be considered towards this matching grant.



(Left) LAMP Missionary Hailey Megge. (Right) Hailey praying for a man who had come to the LAMPcafé with heavy burdens on his heart.

## **“Listening to the Message of Truth....”** Eph. 1:13

It was a sunny day at LAMPcafé. I was mingling and praying with the people as they received their hot chocolate and stayed for a moment to receive spiritual support. About half way through our time of service, two little girls, about ten years old, came up to the truck and asked for a hot chocolate. While it was being prepared, we began to chat a bit. They were cousins and were playing together that day since it was Saturday and they had off from school (pre-pandemic). They had bright smiles and outgoing personalities. I asked if they wanted to say a prayer together and one of the girls, Starr, said, “I know how to pray, but she doesn’t!” pointing to Paula. Starr had had the opportunity to attend religious education at the local parish but Paula had not. I began speaking with Paula and found out that she didn’t even know who Jesus is. I then was able to share a Gospel presentation with her, sharing all about what Christ has done for us, why He had to do what He did, and how He is still alive in our lives now—The Garden of Eden, His Birth, His preaching and healing, the Cross, the Resurrection, the Eucharist—all hopefully in a way she could

understand. She listened attentively and enthusiastically as I shared the story right there on the street in the South Bronx. Her eyes grew soft as she heard that Jesus became a little baby and Mary held Him in her arms. Her eyes grew wide with surprise when she heard about Jesus giving sight to blind people. Her face fell when she heard about His suffering and death on the Cross. “Woah! Woah!” she exclaimed when hearing that Jesus rose from the dead. She was confused when hearing about the Eucharist, how it looks like bread but it is not bread; it is Jesus who is there to love her. But maybe when she goes to Church and sees the priest raise the Host at the consecration, a memory will stir in her heart and she will hear, “That is not bread; that is Jesus and He has come down from heaven to love me.”

There is something incredibly special about getting to share the Gospel with someone who is hearing it for the first time! Paula’s example of listening reminded me how I should **listen** to the Gospel—with awe and wonder, attentiveness and love, and to respond always with faith - like a child.

*-Hailey Megge, LAMP Missionary*



## **“Whoever Has Ears to Hear Ought to Hear!”** *Mk. 4:9*

A woman, I will call Ella, lives in a nursing home in a materially poor Brooklyn neighborhood where I have been bringing the Blessed Sacrament for the last two years on behalf of the local parish. She is from Haiti, appears to have an educated background but always seems sad and in despair since I met her two years ago. Whenever I visit her, she barely wants to pray or receive Communion. She speaks English well, but very faintly and mumbles her words so I frequently can't understand her, and yet she talks on and on. I have never seemed able to find a way to “break through” with her. My attentiveness, however, is sometimes compromised because I'm conscious of the long list of patients I still have to visit.

Then the other day when I went to her room, I felt like I was being led to really pay more attention to Ella. It seemed Jesus was sitting there in the wheel chair and I was to listen very attentively, with my heart. I felt a grace come over me and I could hear her better than ever. She started to open up about the abuse she experienced from her husband, about her son not visiting her.

After awhile I saw her take a deep breath. We prayed together thanking God for being with and for us in difficult times, and asked Him to help Ella's life get better for her. I reminded her that God sees all the difficulties she goes through and wants her to know the immense love He has for her. She started to smile and thanked me for the visit with a very lively voice.

The following week, when I walked in her room, she immediately said: “Steve, everything is going to be OK!” After briefly visiting with her, I asked if she wanted to receive Communion, she responded with enthusiasm and a big nod: “Oh yes!”

I am so grateful for how the Lord worked in my heart to renew and strengthen my resolve to see His presence in Ella, and how that affected her heart. It is so beautiful to see how the Lord touches peoples' hearts. What a privilege it is to be His instrument, however inadequate.

*-Steve Patterson,  
LAMP Missionary*



*(Left) Steve Patterson, a LAMP Missionary for the past 7 years, prepares to walk down the line and pray with those who ask for prayer while they wait for a lunch at the LAMPcafe (before social distancing!). (R.) Steve.*

## To God Be the Praise!

Right before NYC went into lockdown, two applicants were received into LAMP as new LAMP Missionaries, and they stayed the course as our ministries were disrupted and the Lord invited us to more and deeper prayer for those suffering all around us. LAMP is most grateful for the presence of: **Maggie Kelly**, a cranial massage therapist originally from Boston; **Erin McAtee**, an artist and Indiana native, combines evangelization with her art. **Joe Talluri**, who is originally from India and studied social work and law, came to serve God's poor this summer, as the city began to re-open.

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LAMP Missionaries pray for all those who suffer from the coronavirus, or from social injustice, all those who are afraid for themselves and/or their loved ones, and all who have lost their lives.

LAMP is registered with **Amazon Smile**, and we humbly ask you to consider making LAMP your "Charity" on their website. If you go to **smile.amazon.com** to place your order, you can register, choose **LAMP Ministries (Bronx, NY), Rom. Cath.** as your charity, and then order as usual. A small percentage of your payment will be donated to LAMP by Amazon. Thank you!

*"...there will arise the sun of justice  
with its healing rays..."*

Mal. 3:20

Please send your prayer requests to us with the enclosed envelope. We will be honored to pray for your intentions.

**LAMP Catholic Ministries is possible only by the grace of God and your prayers and financial assistance. Please help us, by making a donation in the enclosed envelope, or through Paypal, or using Amazon Smile. LAMP Ministries is a 501(c)3 tax exempt, not for profit organization. Thank you!**

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