

# Master Designer, Weave Us Into Your Tapestry

Theme Interpretation by Evelyn Tully

“We were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly.” Ephesians 4:4, The Message

So you have a strand of thread. Look around, others do too! Think. How can I interlace, interweave my thread with others and continue to craft a beautiful tapestry of missions? How did we each get our strand of thread ... how did it, the story, come to us?

When speaking to the Ephesians' church, Paul had an audience of Jews and Greeks, slaves and masters, male and female. There was no way for them to stay together without some binding by the Master Designer. That is where we are ... traditional and emerging, a mixture of ages, grandmothers, mothers, singles, married, single moms, educationally and culturally diverse. How do we hang the tapestry of the vibrant colors of our 100 years of Illinois WMU?

A tapestry is known as a richly complex pictorial cloth. Tapestry weaving is labor intensive. An image may take many months to design and weave; a large piece can take years. The weft and the warp on the loom brings the individual elements into a complex but complete whole. How do we weave the story of missions ... of our childhood ... of our calling and commitment?

For 100 years Illinois WMU has provided the warp of lengthwise threads ... the frame under and over which the side-to-side threads, the woof, could be woven. Proud are we of our mothers', our grandmothers' and our “very own” WMU. Original fibers were wool, flax or cotton. Nowadays, other “woman-made” fibers are used in weaving. Just as the hand looms progressed to the powered frame and on to the power loom, so do we take on the innovations and inventions of the younger generations of WMU.

We will continue to be excellent mission weavers if we are patient, committed and use the available tools. In a tapestry a wide range of equipment is used. A strong frame can best hold warp threads under good tension. Good lighting is required to see one's work clearly. A diverse selection of weft materials and range of colors provides a rich imagery.

Tapestry has been described as a “pliable plane, with a forgiving surface which ages slowly and graciously;” it has far broader ranges of material, patterns and expression than other medium. Does this not sound like what we would choose as our tapestry of not only the past, but also the future of radical missions involvement in the future ... through our WMU!

Let us remember that as we win the hearts of any age listeners, their minds and actions will follow. Let our commitment to God and to the listeners of today be even stronger than the voices of yesterday. We are not just story tellers of the past, but story weavers of the present and future.

“That He Who started a great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish.” Philippians 1:5-6, The Message