

Lillenas Drama Experience

When Margie Learn became drama coordinator at The Christian & Missionary Alliance Church in Northwest Pennsylvania, she wanted to find great drama resources that would touch peoples' hearts. Fortunately, as she was searching for dramas at her local Christian bookstore, she found just that.

Lillenas, a Christian publishing company in Kansas City, Missouri, quickly became Margie's primary source for drama material. Not only did Margie and her team members enjoy the stories themselves, they found the material to be very user friendly. "Everything we need to put on a performance is included," Margie indicated. "We don't have to come up with anything on our own. Lillenas drama resources have suggestions for stage presentations and props written out in great detail. In fact, when we performed a play about WWII, they even had directions on how to make an old fashioned radio."

Today, Lillenas is one of the largest church music and drama publishers in the world. Each year, Lillenas provides dozens of musicals, solo pieces, ensemble collections, drama scripts and much more to churches around the world. As the company continues to grow, so does the ministry of the churches it serves.

Last February, Margie and her husband traveled to Kansas City to attend the Lillenas Music and Drama Worship conference. She reports that they came home with an abundance of useful and relevant information, which she has been able to incorporate into the church's drama ministry.

The church Margie attends has approximately 200 members. Although the church has not started using dramas at every service, Margie has dreams one day of being able to do just that.

Margie and the drama committee are always looking for a good story to tell to bring individuals and families closer to God. They look for dramas, musicals and skits for all different ages and stages of life. Currently, the team is working on a Lillenas children's musical for Christmas and a drama from the Lillenas Reader's Theatre Series *Bridge of Blood*. The latter drama is a powerful story of how Jim Elliot and four others died at the hand of the Auca Indians beside a river in the jungles of Ecuador. A story of dedication and courage, and of how seeds planted in one season grow the trees of faith in years to come.

Margie reports that the drama ministry is making a difference in peoples' lives through their performances at special services and seasonal events. Every age group enjoys the dramas. She said the Christmas drama draws over 900 people and is performed on three different nights to accommodate the crowds.

"Of course, the dramas Lillenas produces aren't simply words on a page. They are an experience." Margie started, "We've even had about six people find Christ from the dramas we have performed. Plus, we consider our dramas a community outreach and have seen our church attendance grow due to those outreach efforts."