

## **Theme Introduction – Show Your Ways, O Lord Presented by Mary Ann Cole, Convention President**

My granddaddy taught me signs to look for to find my way when I was lost:

- Moss on the North side of the tree; but I'm not always in the woods
- Follow the North Star; what if it is in the day time!
- Sun rises in the East; Sun sets in the West-and this does me a lot of good at night or if it's cloudy!

Well, I'm ready for my journey. I've taken along all I need to help me to find my way--my tennis shoes, my backpack, and all the tools I need to make this trip successful. Just wait and see what I have in my pack.

When you get ready to go on a trip, there are several things you must do. First, you must know where you are going. It does not do any good to make preparations to travel if you are unsure of your destination. Next, we have to decide how we are going to travel--plane, train, or bus. Anyway we need to purchase a ticket. And finally you must pack what you will need while you are away.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man comes to the Father but by me." (John 14:6) He is the only way to heaven and only He can purchase the ticket. We cannot afford it, no matter how much money, power, or influence we have, no matter how many good works we may have done. Only Christ's blood is a sufficient price to purchase this ticket and only trusting in Christ may we receive it, free of charge.

**GPS** –gives directions, locations of hotels, restaurants, gas stations—we really couldn't do without one. Our GPS is God's Plan Sustains- we are to carry out God's plan for our lives; he will show us the way.

**Good Road Map/MapQuest** – this is needed to find the way; probably some of us used these to get to Convention. But you may have encountered a roadblock or detour. God provides a map - the Bible and He has provided the One who knows the way and can give direction - Jesus Christ. He provides a life plan that starts at our birth and continues throughout our lives with the Holy Spirit guiding us along the way. If we come to a roadblock or a detour we need to simply read the Bible, pray and ask for direction to get back on track.

**Compass** – this can give a real sense of direction for those who hiking or sailing. The Bible is the only compass we need to show us the way. The Bible is our one sure guide in an unsure world.

A traveler always needs a **Flashlight** – one never knows when you will have an emergency and will need a light with new batteries of course. Jesus is the light of the world; he's the only light that we need for God to show us the way. The Bible is "a light unto my path, and a lamp unto my feet."

I mentioned that I have on my **Tennis Shoes**; well you know I really don't need special shoes to walk in Jesus' footsteps as He shows us His way.

I have packed some **Snacks** in my vintage lunch box to sustain me along my way, Jesus is the bread of life and he provides living water and that is all we need to be nourished as we find our way.

**Street signs** and **traffic lights** – these are some important resources to point us in the right direction and make sure we stay safe. And...the **Cross** is **ONLY** sign that we need to have our eyes on to reach our destination.

And of course you could always stop and **Ask for Directions**, that's what women would do, right! But sometimes those giving directions don't know how to get there, and will send you in the wrong directions. As in our lives, we must be aware of false prophets who attempt to lead us away from God and His way for us.

But you know I have all the tools needed to talk to God and get the directions for my life – my praying hands. And if I open my **hands**, my **heart**, and my **mind** to God I will receive direction for my life and God's plan for me.

Theme Scripture: Psalm 25:4-5 NIV

Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

Theme Statement

We have come together from many different places and have traveled many paths with God as our guide. Trusting in God's hope alone, together and individually, we will continue to seek God's truth and direction through our worship, fellowship and service.