



THE MESSENGER

November 2009

Submittals of articles for the Messenger are due the 15th of each month for the next month. Please send to Margery Richter at m.richter@rm.lcms.org

“You Go Figure ... \$500,000 for South Africa!”

by
President Randall Golter

“We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord ...” (2 Cor. 8:1-3a).



You go figure. God’s people at the 2006 Rocky Mountain District Convention voted to seek to raise \$500,000 for the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Pretoria, South Africa, and two human care projects. LCMS Human Care and World Relief pledged to match this amount dollar-for-dollar.

Then the recession hit, and congregations, schools and ministries were hard pressed to sustain their own ministries. What would the Lord do for the MISSION: Southern Africa Project through His people?

I remember sitting with Dr. Weber in January of THIS year, stating that the total amount was around \$170,000. We both expressed gratitude to God for that amount and believed that whatever the final amount, God would be praised.

Heading toward the June 2009 Rocky Mountain District Convention, the amount had surged to \$350,000. Many, many congregations sent in funds. During the Lenten season, congregations called for more collections. All Convention delegates were encouraged to bring a South Africa offering to the opening worship service. Dr. David Tswaedi, Bishop of The Lutheran Church in

Southern Africa would preach, and the seminary President, Dr. Wilhelm Weber, would be present as well.

The Convention offering totaled nearly \$76,000, absolutely amazing! The Convention then voted to fulfill the commitment. And without much fanfare, dear people of the Rocky Mountain District, you reached the offering goal! As of the first week in October, the goal of \$500,000 came to a reality. One church in Wyoming—Shepherd of the Valley in Ft. Bridger—even helped with the project, sending in a check for \$2,400!

Dr. Weber and Dr. Tswaedi are very thankful for your help and grateful to God for what He has done through His people. And I am thankful to the Lord for what you have done, helping out God's mission in Africa, letting their need become yours. You have joined the congregations of Macedonia, letting a "wealth of generosity" support those in need.

And, many, many thanks to Rev. Matthew Harrison, Executive Director of LCMS Human Care and World Relief, who asked us to be a partner in this mission project. Now, a million dollars will be given for the mission work in South Africa because LCMS Human Care and World Relief has matched the RMD contributions dollar-for-dollar. The money will be used to build more student housing and other facilities in order to aid the training of more students to be pastors.

The 2009 RMD Convention voted to continue the support of the work in South Africa as well as the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute. The first \$40,000 raised each year will be marked for this training center for Hispanics.

You will be hearing more about this as a committee is being formed to coordinate the fund-raising efforts.

Finally, it is really about the Lord and His mission to reach more people with the saving news of His Son, not about the RMD. "Lord, thank You for letting us participate in this effort. In Jesus' name. Amen."



Meditation from the Spiritual Growth Team

In his book *UNChristian*, David Kinnaman concludes (page 212, paragraph 5), "To look more like Christ-followers, we must cultivate deep concern and sensitivity to outsiders (non-Christians). This is what Jesus did." Of course, our motivation to "look more like Christ-followers" is first of all gratitude for the saving work of Jesus Christ on our behalf and secondly in response to the Great Commission. Kinnaman provides a list of Bible passages that encourage a concern and sensitivity for the lost. This month we suggest the same passages for your personal devotion and meditation. Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit, working through the power of Word found in



these passages, strengthen your faith and open the eyes of your heart for the sake of the lost. Please read Genesis 12:2-3, Isaiah 58:10, Micah 6:8, Matthew 5:44, Matthew 25: 34-40, Mark 9:35, Luke 15:3-7, Galatians 5:13, Colossians 1:21-22, I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 3:2, 2 Peter 3:9, and 1 John 3:16-19.

From Paul Albers, on behalf of the Spiritual Growth Team

Martyred for Their Christian Faith!

Though Christians in America are often mocked, ridiculed, and even disadvantaged for their faith, martyrdom is little known in our country.

This is not the case for Christian brothers and sisters in other parts of the world. The ministry of the Biblical Orthodox Lutheran Mission (BOLM) has many such stories to tell.

BOLM's November newsletter includes the story of four recent martyrs. Three of them were in Egypt. One couple came to faith in Christ eight months ago through BOLM's mission outreach and were baptized. Subsequently a group of Muslims ambushed them, shot and killed them while in their car. As usual, the government made little attempt to catch the criminals because the blood of "infidels" is considered to be of no value.

Another Egyptian convert was attacked in his own home. He was stabbed 34 times and beheaded after his death. This man came to the Lord through BOLM's Internet seminary two years ago and had been very active as a missionary, reaching hundreds of Muslims with the Gospel.

Three months after coming to Jesus and growing rapidly in his faith, a Moroccan brother lost his life for Christ. After holding a Bible study for potential believers, Islamic groups followed him, shot and killed him.

These are terribly graphic and tragic stories, yet they are reality. They are also inspirational stories, stories that serve to remind us of the true value of our Christian faith. These Christian brothers and sisters certainly understood the truth expressed in Dr. Martin Luther's great Reformation hymn,

*And take they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone, Our victory has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.*

We do rejoice over the faithfulness of these saints and the victory they have in our Lord Jesus Christ. We thank God for their bold and steadfast witness. And we must pray for those fellow Christians throughout the world who continue to face persecution and daily threats because of their proclamation of the Gospel.



Please pray for the ministry of BOLM as it continues to reach people around the world with the message of God's saving grace in Christ. Also, if you are able, please consider a gift of financial support so that this ministry of our Rocky Mountain District might continue to expand, reaching more and more with this treasure of the Gospel. (Gifts of support may be sent to the Rocky Mountain District, 14334 E. Evans Avenue, Aurora, CO 80014. Please designate "BOLM" on the notation line.)

Pictured is Rev. Dr. George Naeem

To receive BOLM's monthly newsletter, contact our Rocky Mountain District office at (303) 695-8001.

Lutheran Family Services Presents



November 14th, 2009
9:00am - 12:00pm

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Life Center
7755 Greenstone Trail - Fort Collins, CO 80525

Tickets: \$5 In Advance, \$6 At the Door
(Kids 12 & under are Free)

First 50 Families Registered Receive an Ornament!

Purchase Tickets @ www.lfscolorado.org or call 800.579.9496

Entertainment: The Luke Ham Sandwich Band and The Original Dickens Carolers

Wreaths * Centerpieces * Holiday Decorations Visit from Santa * Holiday Food Fun Activities for Kids...and Much More!

All proceeds help support the programs of Lutheran Family Services of Colorado

Last Chance! - January 1, 2010 Deadline

Luther Sites of the Reformation and the Oberammergau Passion Play



Spend 10 Terrific Days visiting: Munich, Augsburg, Rhine Cruise, Worms, Erfurt, Wittenburg, Leipzig & Nurnberg.

Hosted by: Rev. Devon Woodyard

Travel Dates: June 9-18, 2010

\$3595.00 from Chicago / \$3795 from Denver / \$3995.00 from Albuquerque

(Price does not include: US & Int'l Taxes & Gratuities for guide, driver & hoteliers)

Call: 505-281-2430

email: woodyard3@gmail.com

Need a Place to Stay for a Weekend? Check This Out!



Christ Lutheran Church in Breckenridge, CO is offering the use of their fellowship hall for youth groups who are interested in a weekend stay for skiing or a weekend of getting away. The facilities includes: bathroom and showers and has a kitchen for use. The cost is \$10.00 per person.

If you are interested, please contact:

Rev. Christian Rasmussen at christlutheranco@aol.com or 970.453.8019.

A Reformation Walking Tour

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, CLOVIS, NM sponsored a "Reformation Walking Tour" on Saturday, October 31, for their surrounding community. Four special "stops" include rooms featuring the early apostles, Christopher Columbus, Martin Luther, and modern missionaries. Each room will also have an activity or game for the children, complete with abundant treats. Last year I.L.C. hosted a similar "Tour" featuring events in the life of Martin Luther, including his lightening storm, nailing of the 95 Theses, Diet of Worms, and Wartburg Castle (translation of the Bible). Last year over 60 visitors came through the tour. Some even commented, "Thank you for offering this wholesome alternative to Halloween!" At the end of last year's tour, visitors also received a *Gospel of John*. This year the give-away is a color book featuring the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and a couple of pages on Luther and the Reformation. The color book, written and illustrated by Rev. Scott Blazek, also includes puzzles and word games along with a note to the parents about the tour. Many I.L.C. members get involved and excited about decorating the rooms for the



tour. Volunteers will pass fliers throughout the neighborhood, and PR announcements were shared through the local newspaper and radio stations.

Grace, El Paso, Hosts Seminar

On September 19th Grace, El Paso, Texas, hosted a four-hour Evangelism, Outreach, and Assimilation Training Seminar. The seminar, which is geared toward the laity, covered



confessional church growth through the process of evangelism and outreach, and the retention of new members through good assimilation practices. It emphasized a return to activities where the Holy Spirit is in charge and His people spread the Word through their congregations as well in their vocations. Topics introduced were Reasons for a Church, Introduction to

Evangelism and Outreach, Assimilation, and Action Plan. The topics and presentation contributed to discussions between and among seminar attendees and the instructor. The seminar was attended by members from LCMS parishes in Las Cruces, Deming, and Roswell, two non-LCMS parishes, and members from Grace. This seminar, along with other distinctly Lutheran topics, is conducted by the CLCC (Confessional Lutherans for Christ's Commission) across the United States at no cost to the host congregation. Grace will host a seminar in spring 2010 which discusses Lutheran Worship and the Divine Service.

Roster Reports

CALLS ACCEPTED

Rev. Quinton Anderson, Associate, Bethlehem, to Concordia University, Irvine, CA

CALLS EXTENDED

Gethsemane, Northglenn, CO to Rev. Andrew Wehling, Grace, Liberal, KS

Mt. Olive, Loveland, CO to Rev. Mark Nierman, Faith in Christ, Albuquerque, NM

Faith, Woodland Park, CO to Rev. Peter Woodward, St. Peter, Lodi, CA

Christ Our Savior, Elizabeth, CO to Rev. Geoffrey Wagner, Lincoln City, OR

CALLS DECLINED

Rev. George Hesse, Mt. Hope, Boulder, CO to Faith, Johnstown, CO



Upcoming Events – Rocky Mountain District

November

6-7 Conversations of Grace - Albuquerque, NM
26-27 Office closed – Happy Thanksgiving!

December

10 Conversations of Grace Web Meeting
24-25 Office closed

January 2010

25-26 RMD Board of Directors Meeting

February

20 Older Adult Seminar, Bethlehem, Lakewood, CO

April

13-15 NM Area Spring Pastors' Conference, Bonita Park Camp and Conference Center

13-15 Southern Spring Pastors' Conference

August

9-10 RMD Board of Directors' Meeting

November

1-2 RMD Board of Directors Meeting

We Encourage your Prayers



Our Father, help us to trust and live in the sure hope that every sorrow finds its joy in Jesus. May Your Holy Spirit comfort **Rev. Daniel Burhop**, University Lutheran Church, Boulder, Colorado, whose grandmother died recently, and **Rev. Dustin Lappe**, Cross of Christ, Aurora, Colorado, whose grandfather died recently, and **Rev. Gary Buss**, Messiah Lutheran, Grand Junction, CO, whose mother died recently. May the hearts and minds of Pastor Burhop and Pastor Lappe be at peace in knowing that their loved ones are safe in our Savior's arms, freed from the cares of this world. Amen.

Lord God, Father of all, thank You for Jesus' rest in the grave. He thus sanctified the graves of all who rest in You. Grace **Kevin Grein**, LCEF vice-president, and his family with Your peace as they mourn the death of his son Joe. May those who loved Joe, especially his wife Susan and their young son Jacob, and Joe's father Kevin, trust that our Lord Jesus "has put death's dark shadows to flight" so that they have solace for their loss, grief, and heartache. Amen.