

Lutheran  
Building  
Men in  
Men for  
Mission  
Christ

# foundations

LIVING IN GOD'S AMAZING GRACE

## \$1.5 Million-Dollar Opportunity to Meet a Challenging Future

The leadership of Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) is pleased to announce the acceptance of a \$500,000 challenge gift to benefit the Lutheran Men in Mission Endowment Fund. Under a plan being instituted by the LMM board, the endowment fund, which currently stands at \$115,000, will grow to \$1.5 million.

This challenge gift from an anonymous donor is very timely because recently, the LMM leadership started moving in a systematic way to re-position men's ministry to meet a challenging future by taking steps to be self-sustaining. (The Division for Congregational Ministries/ELCA currently provides about \$80,000 annually in support for the program of LMM.)

The churchwide LMM Board has sharpened its program focus to concentrate on improving administration as well as find new funds to support a very worthy program.

Current major LMM projects and programs include:

- The *Master Builder Bible for Men* with a new Spanish-Language New Testament
- Young Men's Ministry
- Inspirational Men's Gatherings, such as the Lutheran Men's Gathering in Charleston, SC, July 22-24, 2005, as well as regional events.

The *Master Builders Bibles* are in the hands of over 25,000 men. This Bible ministry is being expanded with easy-to-read Spanish New Testaments that will be given to congregational groups



The challenge gift and campaign will enable LMM to move toward financial self-sufficiency and strengthen such ministries as the Young Men's Ministry. Pictured here are members of the Young Men's Ministry Council.

doing global mission work. The Young Men's Ministry Council has begun to produce events (such as the recent "Road Trip" in Estes Park, CO) and resources (based on extensive research with young men conducted last year). Attendees of all ages in record numbers are anticipated at the 2005 Gathering. LMM is commit-

**\$1.5 Million-Dollar Opportunity** *continued on page 6*

What race are you running? For whom are you running it?

**Run the Race**  
**Keep the Faith**

**Lutheran Men's Gathering**

**July 22-24, 2005 in Charleston, South Carolina**

**Pull-out poster for your congregation bulletin board inside!**



## FROM THE DIRECTOR



This newsletter is sent to all who contribute to the ministry of Lutheran Men in Mission.

Your contribution will ensure that *foundations* will continue to come to you.

It is our desire that *foundations* will be a source of personal spiritual growth, as well as a source of information for those involved in congregational men's ministries.

Please drop us a line and let us know stories of men's ministry we could use and/or issues you would like to see featured.

**Lutheran Men in Mission**  
8765 West Higgins Road  
Chicago, IL 60631

**Doug Haugen**  
Director  
800-638-3522 ext. 2566  
Doug.Haugen@elca.org

**Jedidiah Scharmer**  
Intern  
210-849-8940  
Jscharme@luthersem.edu

**Nathan Anenson**  
Intern  
719-495-2221  
nanenson@luthersem.edu

**Kimberley Moseley**  
Executive Secretary  
800-638-3522 ext. 2595  
Kimberley.Moseley@elca.org

**Rob Blezard**  
*foundations* writer  
rcblezard@hotmail.com



[www.elca.org/lmm](http://www.elca.org/lmm)

## Never Stop Building Relationships

This morning I was reflecting on Luke 18:1-8, the parable of the widow who pleads for justice against her adversary before the unjust judge. As a widow, she was one of the most powerless people in that society, but she was so tenacious, the judge finally granted her plea.

When I think of this widow and prayer, I am reminded of the words of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill speaking to the young men at Harrow School during World War II: "Never give in. Never give in. Never, never, never, never — in nothing, great or small, large or petty — never give in, except to convictions of honor and good sense ..."

By the grace of God, Lutheran Men in Mission is experiencing tremendous growth in a variety of ways:

1. our Bible ministry,
2. we are making significant inroads in reaching young men,
3. more men than ever are actively involved in our ministry and, yes, with the extraordinary challenge gift before us, we are taking a great step forward.

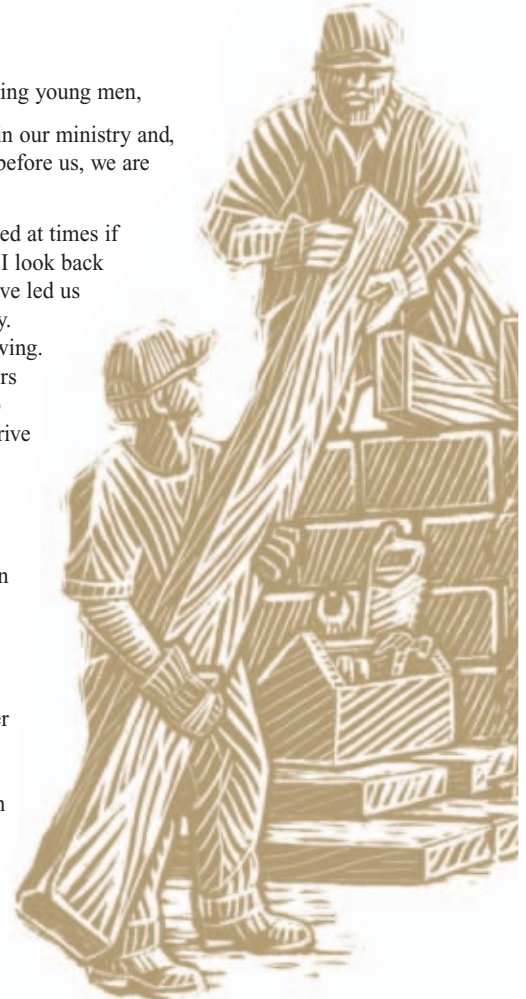
Like any men's ministry leader, I have wondered at times if we were making any progress at all. And then I look back on the many small steps we have taken that have led us to the great ministries that are happening today.

There are many reasons our ministry is growing. But the bottom line is that because our founders gave us a heritage of being men of prayer who never gave in, our ministry will continue to thrive into the future because of men (and women) who have not given up praying for men and this ministry.

We know that when Jesus Christ captures the heart of a man, his family, his congregation and his community benefit. There is too much at stake to take this lightly. If you have not heard it already, I invite you to be a man who hears the call to pray.

Having done that, I encourage you to "Never give in. Never give in. Never, never, never, never — in nothing, great or small, large or petty — never give in, except to the conviction of every man knowing Jesus Christ."

*Doug Haugen, Director*  
*Lutheran Men in Mission*



**MAKING FRIENDS. EXPLORING FAITH.**

# The Road Trip Diaries

*A Report from the Young Men's Event in Colorado*

**The Road Trip turned out to be quite a journey into our own hearts and minds, and into the hearts and minds of other men from all over the country.**



**Gus Brockman, minister of worship and children's ministries at First Lutheran Church, Longmont, CO, attended the Road Trip event and wrote this article on his experiences there.**

At first I was nervous about sharing my faith, talking about Christ and, in general, feeling foolish about sharing my feelings with other men. But now I want to share with you the experience of the Road Trip; it's like describing the exhilaration of riding a roller coaster for the first time.

We laughed — not nervous laughter, but deep belly laughs. We heard stories of courage and the grace of God that brought us to tears. We rejoiced in victories of faith and love, and grieved the loss of friends, family and relationships. We learned again how to pray, and found new meaning in the simplest of prayers. Above all, we reaffirmed that God has claimed us, and that we are free people of God through the gift of

Jesus Christ on the cross, and his resurrection.

OK, when I put it that way, it's a little scary to me, too, but you have to believe me that it was the safest and most affirming group I have ever talked with.

The first speaker was not a pastor or a professor, but a construction worker who told us of his struggle with substance abuse, his unsupervised adolescence, and the consequences of his actions. The amazing part was not the trouble or the pain, but the phrase, "by the grace of God ..." "By the grace of God" he has recovered, he has saved his marriage, and he strives to be the father he never had.

Vance Brown, founder of Band of Brothers Ministry, talked about his ministry, goals and faith struggles. His ministry is aimed at the relationships between men, based on the idea that just as Christ surrounded himself with a band of brothers, we, too, should find and build a support network of close friends.

Nate Frambach of Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA, brought a clear biblical message of the power of older male mentors through the story of Moses and Joshua. He asked us to

**The Road Trip Diaries** *Continued on page 6*



**Judson Merrill, Salisbury, NC and Peder Johanson, Steven's Point, WI, grab an opportunity to sit in on a jam session with Peter Mayer, lead guitarist for Jimmy Buffett.**

# MAKING FRIENDS. EXPLORING FAITH.

## The Road Trip Diaries

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talk to each other about our relationships with other men and Christ. At first, this seemed like the most uncomfortable thing we could possibly do, but it became the most liberating.

And the music! Mark IV led us in worship, Charles Atkins Jr. taught us to combine Hip Hop and Christianity, and Peter Mayer (lead guitarist for Jimmy Buffet) was simply stunning.

One of the most powerful moments came when we prayed the Lord's Prayer before Communion. Nobody "spoke" the prayer — we prayed!

There's so much more I'd love to tell you, so ASK ME! Better still, come with me next time. The next Lutheran Men in Mission gathering is in

Charleston, SC, July 22–24, 2005. I know that I'm going, I wouldn't miss it for the world, and I'd love to take you with me.

*This article is reprinted by permission from The First Lutheran Reminder newsletter.*



Clockwise from left: Nate Frambach, professor at Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, IA was one of the presenters; Charles Atkins, Camden, NJ, joined in concert with Peter Mayer; Brian Konkol, student at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN, LMM intern Nathan Anenson and Young Men's Ministry Council Chair Sean Forde; Mark IV, from Aurora, CO, was the house band.



## \$1.5 Million-Dollar Opportunity

Continued from page 1

ted to supplying congregations with access to resources they need to engage men in a strengthened relationship with Jesus Christ.

According to Dr. Charles H. Oestreich, volunteer campaign director, the plan for the 2005 LMM Master Builder Challenge calls for the \$500,000 challenge gift to be matched by \$500,000 in cash and \$500,000 in planned gifts from leaders and friends of LMM. The corpus of the endowment will not be spent.

"God has blessed our *current* fund through faithful supporters

with steady growth for the past 10 years," said LMM Director Doug Haugen, "but this challenge gift will enable this ministry to stand on its own and secure continued growth for many years to come."

Mr. Heber Rast, LMM board president, said, "We intend to be at the half-way point on December 31, 2005 (first phase) and then we will announce plans for the completion (second and final phase) of the challenge."

A campaign plan that will involve over 200 LMM leaders, as well as staff from the ELCA Foundation and ELCA Mission Investment Fund, will be announced in the next issue of the *foundations* newsletter.

## Growing for the Future

I am often asked, "Is LMM growing?"

There are many ways a ministry such as Lutheran Men in Mission can be considered to be "growing," and I never know exactly what the intent of the question is. The reference may be to the number of participants, financial growth, growth in diversity or spiritual growth.

I can confidently say the answer is a resounding YES to the growth question. I see LMM growing in all areas. I want to address the growth in diversity of ages.

For the past two years we have been excited about our initiative to reach out to the young men of the church. We have reported on the research and the Young Men's Ministry Council.

I recently attended the *Road Trip* gathering held in Estes Park, CO. This event was planned by and aimed at younger men ages 18-34. The speakers and music were equal to any event that we have had, but that is not what made this one special; it was the participation of the young men who attended.

From the men in attendance, we can see that the future of our ELCA looks bright indeed! There are truly many young men in our church who possess a deep commitment to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We heard testimonies from several of them as to their struggles and what the church and their faith means to them in these struggles.

The goal of LMM is to provide an atmosphere where men can share burdens and concerns with their brothers and not feel intimidated or fearful. More importantly, we want an atmosphere where men can confide and know that their problems will remain confidential.

Such was the atmosphere at *Road Trip*. During that weekend, we all experienced true spiritual growth, along with the growth in

age diversity. Pray for this group of new leaders in our men's ministry as they go forward in service to our Lord.

Most of the young men gathered in Estes Park are committed to attending *Run the Race: Keep the Faith* – the Lutheran Men's Gathering in Charleston, SC July 22-24, and they will bring friends! Join with us as we live out our vision that every man has a growing relationship with Jesus Christ!

*Heber E. Rast Jr., President,  
Lutheran Men in Mission  
herast@aol.com*



LMM Board President Heber Rast and Young Men's Ministry Council Member Judson Merrill.

**Help  
Lutheran  
Men in  
Mission  
Grow  
for the  
Future!**



- Enclosed is my one-time gift to help meet the challenge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I would prefer to pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month
- Send information on how I might participate in the endowment challenge grant.

**Method of Payment:**

- Contribute online at [www.elca.org/lmm](http://www.elca.org/lmm) by clicking on the "ELCA Giving Basket"
- Check payable to Lutheran Men in Mission
- MasterCard  Visa  American Express  Discover Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount to be charged: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  one time  per month

Name (as it appears on card): \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ State/ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Master Builders/Lutheran Men in Mission Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631-4101



**Division for Congregational Ministries  
Lutheran Men in Mission**

8765 West Higgins Road  
Chicago, IL 60631

“SOMOS HERMANOS Y HERMANAS EN LA FE.”

## Expanding our Bible ministry with Spanish New Testament

*“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, reproof, correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.”*

—2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NRSV)

Lutheran Men in Mission takes seriously the words of the Apostle Paul to young Timothy, and has taken steps to support individuals and congregations involved in short-term missions in Spanish-speaking countries.

With 25,000 copies of the *Master Builders Bible for Men* in circulation, LMM is expanding its Bible ministry with Spanish-language New Testaments.

Lutheran Men in Mission will make the New Testaments available at no charge to congregations and individuals involved in short-term mission trips to Spanish-speaking cultures. They will be offered at cost to those involved in domestic mission projects.

**If you and/or your congregation are planning a mission trip**, you can receive your New Testaments by contacting the LMM office at (800) 638-3522, Ex. 2595, or e-mailing [Kimberley.Moseley@elca.org](mailto:Kimberley.Moseley@elca.org).

**If you wish to order copies for domestic mission**, please call Augsburg Fortress at (800) 328-4648 and ask for ISBN number 6-0002-0174-5. Cost is \$1.50 each plus shipping.

**To make a donation toward this effort**, please use the donor coupon on page 7.

