

foundations

Our vision is for all men to become bold and daring followers of Jesus Christ.



"We're all under construction until our last mortal breath; we're all searching to reinforce our faith through the Word and by recognizing ourselves in the stories of others."

Men from across America gathered in downtown Minneapolis for the triennial LMM Bold Gathering to hear inspirational talks, meet in small group workshops and connect with each other as followers of Jesus.

The Beauty of Being Bold

The 2017 Gathering: Many paths to God's grace

By Vic Williams

For three summer days every three years, hundreds of men of all ages gather in a different American city to build deeper relationships with fellow believers, with Christ and yes, with themselves. They seek to establish common ground on which to state and nurture their faith. They arrive open to the spirit and leave freshly renewed for the joys and travails ahead. There is always emptiness to fill, and they fill it. There is doubt to fight, and they fight it. There is brokenness to repair ... so out come the God-given tools, none sharper and stronger than love itself.

In retrospect, it's fitting that the 2017 Bold Gathering took place in downtown Minneapolis, which could be considered ground zero for many in the Lutheran faith and the ELCA in particular. Even more fitting was that the street

east of the block on which the host hotel stood was under serious construction — just like the folks on the second and third floors of the Marriott, where the bulk of the Gathering took place. We're all under construction until our last mortal breath; we're all searching to reinforce our faith through the Word and by recognizing ourselves in the stories of others. The Gathering itself provided the scaffolding on which to build more fulfilling and adventurous spiritual lives, but it was through the event's keynote presentations, musical interludes and artistic expressions on the main stage — and via a full slate of small group breakout sessions — where the real work took shape.

The opening night banquet, for instance, not only brought men from every corner of the nation together for

Continued on page 4

LUTHERAN MEN'S MISSION

The *foundations* newsletter is sent to all who contribute to the ministry of Lutheran Men in Mission. Your contribution ensures that *foundations* will continue to be sent to you.

Our vision for *foundations* is that it be a source of personal spiritual growth, as well as a source of information for those involved in congregational men's ministries. Please contact us to share your stories of men's ministry that we can use in future issues, or to let us know what topics and issues you're interested in seeing featured in *foundations*.

Lutheran Men in Mission

8765 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631-4101

lutheranmeninmission.org
projecttwelve.net

Doug Haugen

Executive Director

doug@lutheranmeninmission.org
773-380-2566

Kevin Burke

Discipling Consultant

kevin@lutheranmeninmission.org
920-562-1411

Kyle Pedersen

Emerging Ministries Consultant

kyle@lutheranmeninmission.org

Vic Williams

foundations editor/writer

Kathryn Brewer

foundations designer

Men's ministry begins with you

I grieve for young men. I grieve for young men of color who become a target of hatred. I grieve for young men who struggle to find their way with few, if any, older men investing in them. I grieve for young men who, lacking in support and affirmation from elders, find it in cesspools of hate.

The three speakers who recently addressed the Lutheran Men's Bold Gathering — Dr. John Armstrong, Executive Director of Act3, Dr. Jacqueline Bessie, Professor and Director of the Forum on Faith and Life, and Pastor Robert Johnson, pastor of Louisiana Avenue United Methodist Church — challenged all of us to boldly open ourselves to the love and grace of Christ — then boldly lay down our lives in service.

As I was listening to the din of all that was happening on the nightly news the other night, I pulled out my phone and went back to Jacqueline Bussie's message. She described Jesus grieving, weeping at the tomb of his friend Lazarus (who he knew he was going to raise from the dead). With the noise of the news in the background I heard Jacqueline say again, "Jesus didn't 'man up, he opened up' so that we could see God in action. He openly grieved — and took action.

I came into this position a relatively young man twenty-five years ago. For these years I've been hearing church people ask how we reach younger men. The answer has never been more clear. It's not in a program — it must be through you. Ask Jesus to give you his grieving heart, then follow the instructions a young man gave us some time ago.

Several years ago, a young man instructed Lutheran men's leaders on what we need to do. He said, "Identify me (see me!), Invite me (not to 'church' — but into relationship) and Invest in me." *Identify, Invite and Invest.*

This is a call that is at the same time too big for any one of us and yet it begins one man at a time. A growing commitment I have had is to fellowship and work with men's ministry leaders across a wide variety of denominational and para-church labels, because this work is too big for just Lutherans. I do not agree with all of them on all things. But Jesus is our common Source and the growing numbers of disenfranchised, disillusioned men of all ages are our field.

If you think of yourself as a Christian man, I challenge you to:

- Name the name of Jesus, and be open to being Christ's vessel of acceptance, love and grace
- Reach out to serve *with* the other men in your congregation and men from *other churches* in your community and, with them,
- Name evil for what it is and be freed in Christ to experience the emotions that injustice brings forward, and
- Identify, Invite and Invest in another man outside of your race, age, or economic standing.

Who will that be in your life today?

Doug Haugen, Executive Director

Lutheran Men in Mission

doug@lutheranmeninmission.org

Doug.Haugen@elca.org



Spoken word artist Joe Davis and LMM Director Doug Haugen at the Bold Gathering in Minneapolis in July.

Discipling by the book

How to disciple men: Reaching men on the fringe

Editor's Note: *Lutheran Men in Mission's Kevin Burke was one of 45 men's ministry leaders from a wide variety of men's ministries to author the recently released, How to Disciple Men. Here are some excerpts from Kevin's chapter entitled Reaching Men on the Fringe. Permission granted by Broadstreet Publishing. How to Disciple Men may be purchased at broadstreetpublishing.com for \$14.99.*

How do we define "the fringe"? Someone beyond our standards or expectations? Is it a unit of measurement set by society? Is it set by the Bible? If so, Old Testament? Western translation or Eastern?

Often people on the fringe feel as if they cannot be heard. Or perhaps worse, they feel they are heard and are ostracized because of what they say or how they present themselves. In many cases, an individual may have values virtually identical to most of the members of your men's group, but he simply feels like an outsider. In other cases, he is wrestling with unrepentant sin in his life, trying to sort out right from wrong. Of course, Romans 3:23 confirms, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." But as a church, do we exclude some sinners more than others? Are there sins that would prevent you from inviting another man to the table? Those who steal, covet, or commit adultery? What about murder?

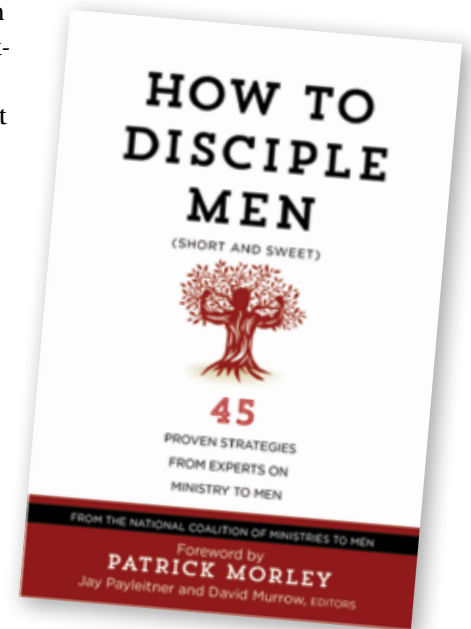
It's also worth remembering that we can thoughtfully invite and warmly love, but there will still be those who don't feel welcome. Never forget, anyone who views

himself as an outsider is an outsider. If you are committed to reaching these men, then you must also commit to affirming their feelings.

Finally, check your motives. Don't seek out men on the fringe — or any man — with the goal of "saving them" or convincing them to join your church. Your motive should be relationship for the sake of relationship.

Relationships are not based on ulterior motives. We are called to talk about discipling in a church classroom, but what about when you are awakened by a 2 a.m. phone call? Are you willing to get into the crap of life with them then? As a friend and pastoral leader, do these men know they can call you anytime, for anything? As difficult as that is, that's the goal.

Once you've acquired that awesome bond, you know it. It's the I'd-walk-through-fire-wearing-gasoline-boxers-for-you type of bond (an actual quote from a men's retreat).



ManTalk® Cards

Poker, Cribbage, Bridge... and ManTalk? Add a new dimension to game night with this deck of cards. Each card features questions written by men—for men—that help move the conversation beyond the latest sports scores.

Card topics include: "Manships" (Relationships), "Man-O-Man" (Sports/Leisure), "Manmories" (Lessons/Reflections), "Wild Man" (Spiritual/Cosmic/Ethics), and "Wild Card" (Bad Men). They're just \$7.95 a deck.

Twitter: @mantalkonline Email: mantalk.online@yahoo.com

Facebook: Man Talk Online page (mantalkonline.org)



Order your ManTalk® Cards at: lutheranmeninmission.org, or by calling 1-800-638-3522, ex. 2580.



Lyman Coleman

the first time. It also marked the introduction of a new Lutheran Men in Mission board including president Hal Derrick, and an updated board structure. Meanwhile the creator of the **One Year To Live** retreat program, Lyman Coleman, was paid stirring, sometimes humorous and much-deserved tribute for his life-long

work on behalf of men's ministry.

Following dinner, the Bold Gathering itself opened with an introduction by pastor Lorne Hlad, which led into a deeply moving and challenging presentation by John Armstrong, author of *Your Church is Too Small* and president of Chicago-based ACT3 network.

He raised the energy in the room by asking attendees to be bold in their relationship with God. "The righteous is as bold as a lion," he quoted from Proverbs while artist William Butler produced a multi-layered (starting with the image of Jesus) portrait of — you guessed it — a lion, which was later auctioned off to support LMM ministries. "Boldness, says the Apostle John, is what we have from God when our hearts are filled with God's love for one another," continued Armstrong, when then referred to the earliest days of the church, when Christ called Peter and the other disciples to boldness. "It was something possessed by all Christians who followed Jesus. It's not a power trip or a way of holding status. It's not related to macho style. It's how we know and experience God."

Leading into and supporting Armstrong's powerful message that love is indeed the answer were the words of Minneapolis poet and pastor Joe

Artist William Butler produced a multi-layered portrait of a lion, starting with an image of Jesus.



Poet and singer Joe Davis performed solo and with his band throughout the Gathering.

Davis, who performed solo and with his band throughout the Gathering. He's also a member of LMM's Project XII team, which, at a breakout session, introduced its new website and stated its commitment to connecting men to the spiritual and social resources they need to grow as modern men of faith.

All breakouts took place on Saturday after a breakfast hosted by Thrivent, and between compelling addresses on how to be a bold Christian at home and out in the world.

Jacqueline Bussie, director of the Forum on Faith and Life and professor of religion at Concordia College-Moorhead, urged men to become "outlaw" Christians by owning their deepest feelings, embracing their doubts and shortcomings, their grief and anger and, above all, not being afraid to cry — in other words, to not "Live inside the jail of other people's judgment." To have an authentic relationship with our families, spouses, each other, and with God, she said, takes raw, rule-breaking honesty. She spoke of finally being truthful with herself after her long faith struggle of her own, and ultimately offered one vital thought: "From silence to stewardship there is but one step: Your voice."

"Boldness, says the Apostle John, is what we have from God when our hearts are filled with God's love for one another."

—John Armstrong

"From silence to stewardship there is but one step: Your voice."

—Jacqueline Bussie

bringing together citizens with local police officials, praying and inviting them, is at the heart of his relationship with God. "All of us can do that when we get out of our comfort zone," he said. "God is calling us to move from the comfort of our church buildings and go to where his people are hurting."

Lamenting the fact that so many young men have left the church, Johnson said he came to the gathering to relay his main message: "Go outside because God's people need us." By the end of his 35 minutes, he had men on their feet, fully behind his challenge to truly be evangelists, to make a difference in their communities — ready to boldly roll into places they hadn't thought to go and share Jesus with folks they'd never met and may never see again.

"As believers, we must go, and find, and teach, and baptize, and bring them to Jesus Christ."

After afternoon breakouts and dinner break, Saturday night brought Lorne Hlad back to the stage for his moving and deeply personal account of his travails in his hometown of Columbus, Ohio, as a child of divorce, of an alcoholic father and fearful mother. Though his family attended church regularly, he struggled with his concept of and relationship with God. He caught fire, then turned away from God. After graduating high school he joined the armed forces, went into the reserves, returned to Ohio to attend college, joined a fraternity, partied, lost his way. He thought he had the stuff to tackle the world on his own, make his own way, to hold onto his ego and pride. He ultimately volunteered for service in Iraq. "I thought I would go, then come home, brag about it and pick up girls." He was in "over my head" and got physically ill. He found out his sister back home was in an abusive relationship and he was powerless to help. He finally "fell in love" with The One through an Army chaplain's

Louisiana United Methodist pastor Robert Johnson took the stage for the afternoon address, relating how his ministry bringing Christ to Lafayette's downtrodden communities, feeding the hungry, meeting the homeless and hurting "where they're at,"

"God is calling us to move from the comfort of our church buildings and go to where his people are hurting."

—Robert Johnson

once-disdained words after coming face to face with death: "I am with you." He surrendered to God at that moment. Months later, after a stint at a German hospital and another deployment, as he prepared to board a plane and finally come home, was to ask God, "If you're asking me to be a pastor, I will follow." Before that happened, he had to go through yet more growth, fight yet more ego and deal with PTSD. It's a story we're all familiar with at some level, and it hit home hard — hard enough to find the cracks and let the light come through. "God will always keep the coals hot and burning beneath the ash," Hlad said. "When you hear the call, it will build into a wildfire."

Well-known singer-songwriter and longtime friend of LMM, Peter Mayer, and his band followed Hlad and kept the fire stoked with great music. Quite a way to end the Gathering's main day.

Before a brief service and communion wrapped up this year's event on Sunday morning, Hlad returned to lead an hour-long roundtable discussion with Armstrong, Bussie and Johnson. All reiterated how important and life-affirming it is to be bold — as simple men, as Christian men, as fathers and sons and brothers. All stated how blessed they were to be there, to share God's glory with a couple hundred intrepid seekers, to help pave the way of grace and joy.

The feeling was mutual.



"God will always keep the coals hot and burning beneath the ash. When you hear the call, it will build into a wildfire."

—Lorne Hlad

A bold beginning

We have just returned from a fantastic and spirit-filled weekend with over 220 of our Christian brothers at the LMM Tri-annual Bold Gathering in Minneapolis this summer. All of us were inspired and challenged by our three keynote speakers, John Armstrong, Dr. Jacqueline Bussie and Pastor Robert Johnson. We were given some very clear and positive guidance on how to live our lives as disciples of Jesus through using the “Up, In and Out” model of discipleship. The personal testimony and faith journey given to us by the Bold Gathering Master of Ceremonies, Pastor Lorne Hlad of Loveland, Ohio, gave everyone in attendance a full dose of just how the Holy Spirit lives in and guides our lives. And finally, Peter Meyer, his son Brannon, and Joe Davis offered inspirational music and poetry. All combined to charge us meet our vision by becoming bold, daring followers of Jesus Christ – thus our **Bold Beginning**.

As your newly elected president, I am humbled and honored to serve you for the next three years along with of a great group of new directors and ministry leaders for LMM. At the LMM Assembly, which was held just prior to the Bold Gathering, significant updates and changes were approved for our Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation that have resulted in reducing our LMM Board from 17 members to 9 elected and appointed directors. The board’s mission: to expand and focus our actions and programs on the four ministry areas that were adopted at the Assembly — Discipleship, Emerging Ministries, Events and Connections. Each ministry will have a full voting and participating member on the new board. For us to live our mission, we are committed to minister to all men by modeling our lives after the character of Jesus and changing from an inward focus to loving and serving our neighbors.

Exciting and new opportunities for reaching more men are being developed and implemented through Project Twelve and I encourage each of you to visit projecttwelve.net to see the resources that are now available to help you become better men, fathers, husbands and leaders. Our One Year to Live (OYTL) retreats are growing throughout the entire U.S. and over 1,200 men have now been a part of this unique and Jesus-filled experience. We plan to hold 10-12 OYTL retreats during the next year and expand into several areas of the country where the retreat has not been offered before. We are planning the launch of a major discipleship training program that will provide you the tools to model your life after the character of Jesus and focus our lives into becoming caring and serving men. Finally, as we seek to expand our connections to all men, we will develop and implement a LMM Ambassador program to provide direct links to men’s groups at the local level. All of these bold actions and opportunities will enable us to live out our mission and work to achieve our vision.

We continue to ask for your prayers, your participation and your financial support as we move forward together in this new **Bold Beginning**.

Your brother in Christ,

Hal Derrick, President
Lutheran Men in Mission
hal.derrick@lutheranmeninmission.org



2017-2020

Lutheran Men in Mission Board

President

Hal Derrick

Flat Rock, NC

hal.derrick@lutheranmeninmission.org

Vice President

Tom Lucas

Marysville, WA

tom.lucas@lutheranmeninmission.org

Treasurer

Jeff Mason

Maple Grove, MN

jeff.mason@lutheranmeninmission.org

Secretary

Jay Wenger

San Antonio, TX

jay.wenger@lutheranmeninmission.org

Development Council

Jeff Kuchenbecker

jeff.kuchenbecker@lutheranmeninmission.org

Discipleship

Tim Crout

Lexington, SC

tim.crout@lutheranmeninmission.org

Events

Bernie Bresson

Louisville, OH

Bernie.bresson@lutheranmeninmission.org

Emerging Ministries

Jason Adams

Las Vegas, NV

jason.adams@lutheranmeninmission.org

The board’s mission: to expand and focus our actions and programs on the four ministry areas that were adopted at the Assembly — Discipleship, Emerging Ministries, Events and Connections.

Lutheran Men in Mission Online

You can find us online at our website lutheranmeninmission.org, or on:



and the Reaching Men blog at reachingmen.blogspot.com



For us to live our mission, we are committed to minister to all men by modeling our lives after the character of Jesus and changing from an inward focus to loving and serving our neighbors.



UPCOMING LMM EVENTS & programs

One Year To Live Retreats

November 17-19, 2017

Strawberry Point, Iowa
— Camp EWALU

April 20-22, 2018

Pinewood, South Carolina

May 4-6, 2018

Arden, North Carolina

Visit <http://www.lutheranmeninmission.org/events/one-year-to-live/> for more information

foundations

Lutheran Men in Mission

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

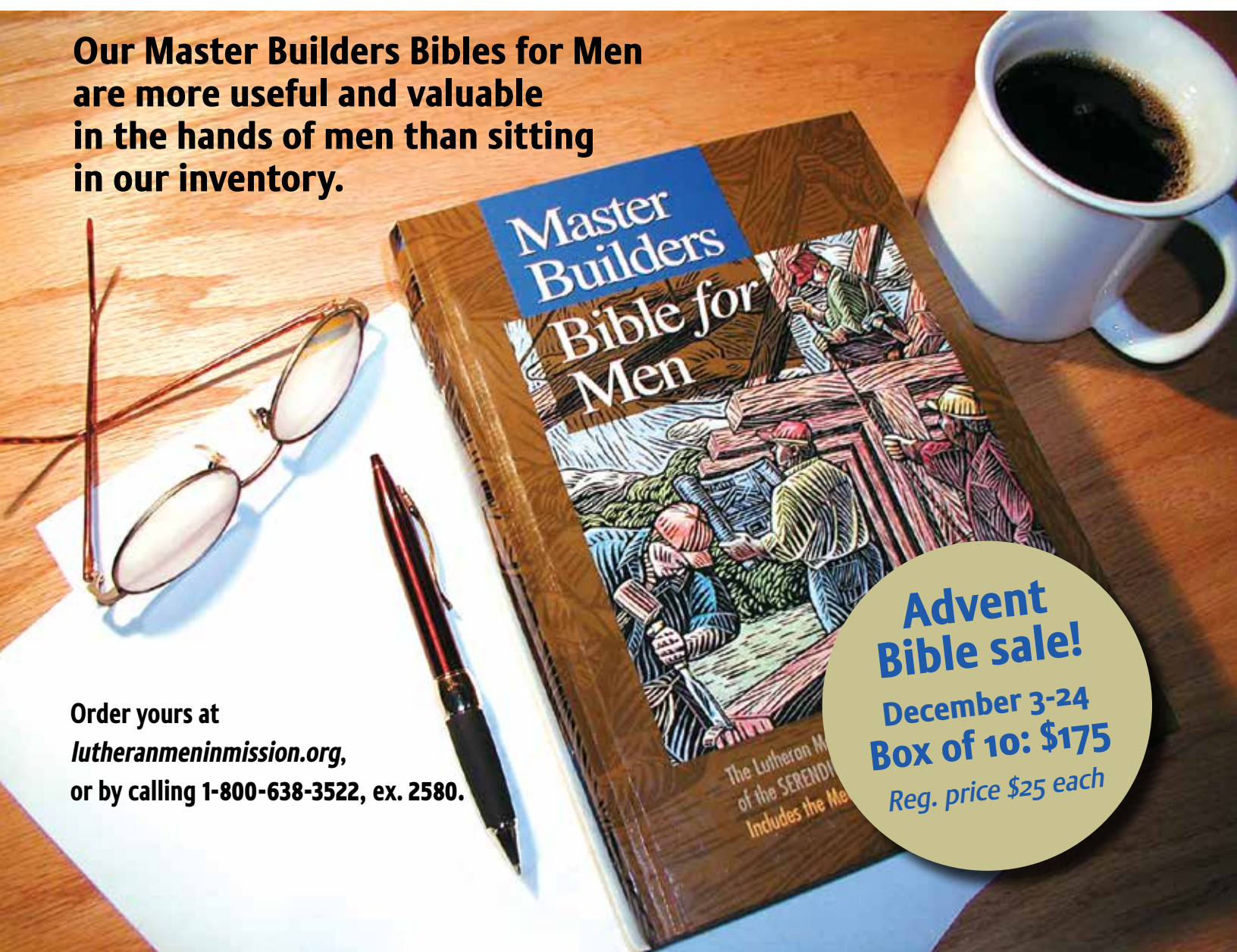
8765 West Higgins Road

Chicago, IL 60631

lutheranmeninmission.org

projecttwelve.net

**Our Master Builders Bibles for Men
are more useful and valuable
in the hands of men than sitting
in our inventory.**



Order yours at
lutheranmeninmission.org,
or by calling 1-800-638-3522, ex. 2580.

**Advent
Bible sale!**
December 3-24
Box of 10: \$175
Reg. price \$25 each