

Lutheran
Building
Men in
Men for
Mission
Christ

foundations

Our vision is for every man to become a bold, daring follower of Jesus Christ.

"ONE YEAR TO LIVE" BRINGS NEW LIFE

By Peter Ewers

Like many congregations, ours had a men's group. It wasn't much, and it had come and gone over the previous decade. We tried an evening group, and sometimes there was only one man there. We tried a morning group with little success. We thought about Saturday morning pancake breakfasts with speakers, but it just never seemed to happen. We had a vision of committed men who were really going deeper with themselves and with God, but we didn't know how to get there.

Finding a starting point

Then we heard about the One Year to Live retreat. With little information in-hand and a bit of mystery surrounding it, we decided to give it a try. We cajoled the seven men from our Tuesday morning men's group to sign up. None of us really knew what to expect of the retreat or the weeks, months and years that followed it, but we took that uncertain step together.

From the moment we arrived at the retreat we were led through a series of experiences designed to ease the stress of our daily lives, help us reflect on the events that shaped us, learn about each other, and take a bold step into the future. There wasn't a lot of preaching yet we were spiritually filled. We had no contact



One Year to Live retreats change lives by helping men sort out their personal priorities, lead with courage, serve with compassion and give hope to others.

with our families yet we felt closer to them than we had in years. By the end, we were exhausted.

Find a One Year to Live retreat near you in the LMM Events calendar on page 5, and register today!

After the retreat, our small group of men embarked on the 12-session follow-up work. While it is designed to meet once per week for 12 weeks, we found that it took us nearly a year to complete because of scheduling and other issues. During that time we discovered our true "band

of brothers." Through the common bond of the OYTL retreat, plus the ongoing work in our small group, we each gained new brothers that we could lean on in times of trouble and celebrate with in times of joy. Instead of standing around after church with our hands in our pockets waiting for our wives to finish chatting, we were the ones laughing, hugging and sharing until we were the last ones out the door.

Our trek together

In the years since that first retreat, we have had a retreat at least once a year and added dozens more men to our band of brothers. From the uncertain beginning of that retreat, we have moved forward with the vision of men who know Christ and are experiencing a deeper faith with other men by their side. We look forward to including more men, and inviting other congregations and denominations to join us – we are alive!

If your men's group could use new life or if your own spiritual, family or work life could use a boost, then go on a One Year to Live retreat. You may be surprised at what the future holds.

Peter Ewers is a lay leader at Faith Lutheran Church in Golden, Colo.

This 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.

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 or e-mail us, and share your stories of men's ministry that we can use in this newsletter. We're also interested in knowing what topics and issues you'd like to see featured.

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**LUTHERAN
MEN IN MISSION**

From the Executive Director

*"...we are God's servants,
working together"*

1 Corinthians 3:9 (NRSV)



A wealth of ways to reach and work with men

It seems as though we just walked out of the Loews Vanderbilt Hotel in Nashville, scene of the 2014 Lutheran Men's Gathering, for the last time, but, of course, we are already working on the 2017 Gathering.

As big and as great as our triennial event is, our "smaller" events may do as much, if not more, to deepen men's faith and develop strong, faithful leaders.

As you can see from our cover story, One Year to Live has potential to not only impact men's lives but change congregations, as well. Along with the *Master Builders Bible for Men* and ManTalk cards, this experience is in many ways unique to Lutheran Men in Mission and a powerful life-changing experience for those who attend.

Part of the role of the churchwide expression of Lutheran Men in Mission is to lift up those of you who are doing new, creative ministry really well so that we don't reinvent the wheel. That's what happened with the guys at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Reno, Nev., who have led us in, among other things, developing the High, Deep and Wide event. We talk about serious stuff, like father's relationships to sons, but we take breaks and do fun, crazy guy stuff, too.

While the "inner" work done through One Year to Live continues to be a great source that develops individual leaders, Building Men for Christ deals with how congregational structure and programing might facilitate growing men's spirituality even more. This is a one-day event for pastors and church staff, as well as leaders of men's groups.

If you are interested in participating in one of these events, go to our website at www.lutheranmeninmission.org and see where one may be taking place near you. If there is not an event near you, and you would like one, ask us and we will do everything possible to work with you to see that it happens. After all, our vision is for every man to become a bold, daring follower of Jesus Christ. And our mission is, by God's grace, to help congregations build life-changing ministries with men; to strengthen men's faith in relationships for witness and service; to equip followers of Jesus Christ through events, resources and leadership development.

We are ready to work with you to see this happen.

Doug Haugen, executive director
Lutheran Men in Mission
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**LUTHERAN
MEN IN MISSION**

the
impossible
is often
the
untried

MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS ALL AROUND US

Many people may not be aware that in the past year, my wife and I brought two adopted children into our family. They were adopted from Ethiopia and have been a blessing. They increased our household to a total of five girls – that's a whole separate article! While on paternity leave and dealing the adoption processes, my wife and I spent this past July in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

I was technically off work, but I can never really separate from my interest in faith, ministry and relationships. Purposefully, I wanted to observe and take note of men's relationships outside of the United States. Were there subtle differences in how they interact and include one another? What nuances were the same regardless of borders?

First I noticed that no one treats the other like a stranger. Everyone we encountered was open to giving directions or offering a smile. There also seemed to be a completely different level of physical comfort and contact. Men of all ages would walk down the road and have their arm around the shoulder of the man next to him. Or when crossing a congested street they would hold hands in reassurance that the other was safely crossing.

Then there were the two young men that were asking for handouts in the thick log-jam of cars. The younger one, probably around 12 years old, had leprosy. His hands and feet were darkened and disfigured from the disease. The older boy was carrying him piggy-back style from car to car. They had concluded that working together was to the advantage of both of them.

One individual that we had met during our two previous trips was a fun-loving, quirky taxi driver named Begde (Bugadoo). I never wanted him to feel like just a taxi driver when he was with us. If we stopped to eat during our day trips and he was our driver, he was asked to eat with us. This showing of appreciation quickly turned into a strong friendship. Bugadoo didn't own his Toyota van, but drove for the owner and had to give some of his fares to him. To keep the owner happy, impress riders and to take pride in his vehicle he would wash it frequently. When he came to our Guest House he knew he had access to water. Bugadoo quickly learned that if I was around I would jump in and help wash the van. This is where our deeper bond was created. We joked that we were,

"Brother's from another mother." If you know my real brother, there are a lot of similarities. He's another article as well.

One day we asked for a tour of some of the churches in the area. The majority of the country is Orthodox Christian, and Bugadoo was as well. He felt honored to escort us through a couple of the Orthodox churches. The photo included is of us standing in front of a sculpture of the first archbishop of Addis Ababa.



After a month in Ethiopia we were so ready to be home with all our girls. However, that meant leaving some very close friends. They had a party for us on the last day, with a barbecue, music and dancing. Bugadoo showed up in his celebration attire. This included a knitted hat and scarf. Toward the end of the night, he put the scarf around my neck and told me never to forget him. Here was a man who lives day-by-day and has but a few changes of clothes giving me a valued possession. I took off my Jerusalem cross pendant from our One Year to Live retreats and gave it to Bugadoo. If you've been to OYTL, you know how important this pendant is, and I thought I would never give it away. In the photo I am explaining the crosses and sharing the meaning it has for me. Bugadoo now wears it, and I hope he never forgets his significance to me.



These types of relationships are happening all around us. They can be so meaningful and fulfilling in our lives. I encourage you to look at what Lutheran Men in Mission is offering around the country that promotes spiritually strong men. Attend a One Year to Live retreat and find a new band of brothers. Attend a workshop and learn about some of our many resources. Or apply to be a Men's Ministry Specialist, and learn how to equip yourself, your congregation and the community around you with a strong men's ministry. Lutheran

Men in Mission is making some great strides right now.

It's an exciting time to get involved.

Kevin Burke
Lutheran Men in Mission
Program Manager
Kevin.Burke@elca.org



Support men's ministry: take advantage of Thrivent Choice

Looking for an easy, convenient way to help support the ministry of Lutheran Men in Mission?

If you're an eligible Thrivent Financial member, take advantage of Thrivent Choice®, a member-advised charitable grant program.

Through Thrivent Choice®, eligible Thrivent members can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable outreach funds. Over the past two years (2013-2014), Lutheran Men in Mission has received more than \$6,200 in Choice Dollars grant funds from Thrivent.

Eligible Thrivent members are designated Choice Dollars® based on qualifying insurance premiums, quarterly contract values and their status as a Thrivent Financial volunteer leader.

Choice Dollars can be directed to Lutheran Men in Mission by visiting Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or by calling 800-847-4836 and saying "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. You may also contact your local Thrivent Financial representative for assistance.

In 2014, more than 270,000 eligible Thrivent members participated by directing Choice Dollars, and Thrivent distributed nearly \$55 million in Choice Dollars grant funds to more than 24,600 enrolled congregations and nonprofit organizations.

Support what matters. Help make a difference in the lives of Lutheran men. Direct Choice Dollars to Lutheran Men in Mission today!

DO YOU NEED A WILL?

In talking with a number of friends of Lutheran Men in Mission, we have discovered many do not have a will, or their will has not been updated for a number of years and, therefore, does not reflect their present wishes and circumstances.

Do you need a will? Is it important that it is current? The answer is a definite "yes," if you wish all the funds, belongings and assets you have developed and acquired over your life distributed as you desire and not as someone else, usually the state, determines. The answer is also a definite "yes" if you wish to avoid problems for your heirs and to save on costs.

And the answer is a definite "yes" if you wish to include a bequest, which we hope you do, to Lutheran Men in Mission or your church or favorite charity. A bequest has been rightly called "The Last Act of Stewardship." It is a final opportunity to express thanks to a good and loving God for God's many gifts in our lives.

If you are interested in receiving more information about wills, please fill out the following form and we will contact you to provide you with some helpful resources. Don't put it off any longer!

**Clip, Complete,
and Mail to:**

Lutheran Men in Mission
8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago IL 60631

I am interested in receiving resource materials regarding wills.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____



One Year to Live retreats and their follow-up small group work encourage men to look at their lives, make significant decisions about their spiritual journey, and work with other men to support each other and hold one another accountable for those decisions.



Personal reflection and work with other guys in a setting away from the usual busyness of life is part of every One Year to Live retreat experience.

LMM Events

Go to lutheranmeninmission.org for updated events, program information and registration details, or to submit LMM events to be posted.

One Year to Live Retreat

March 6-8
Camp Carol Joy Holling
Ashland, Neb.

March 13-15
Feliciana Retreat Center
Norwood, La.

April 10-12
YMCA Camp Santa Maria
Grant, Colo.

May 15-17
Lutheridge
Arden, N.C.

High, Deep & Wide Retreats

March 27-28, 2015
Camp Kinard
Leesville, S.C.

April 17-18
Lutherdale Bible Camp
Elkhorn, Wisc.

July 10-11
Waypost Camp
Hatley, Wisc.

You can download past issues of Lutheran Men in Mission's *foundations* newsletter at lutheranmeninmission.org > *Resources* > *Foundations Newsletter*.

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These members of the Lutheran Men in Mission Heritage Club have helped to secure the future of this ministry by remembering Lutheran Men in Mission in their will/estate planning. If you would like to know more about including LMM in your will, please contact us at 800-638-3522, ext. 2566.

The ministry of Lutheran Men in Mission continues to grow thanks to the creative, dedicated work of our staff, board and volunteer leadership. We would not be experiencing this dramatic growth without- by God's grace- your generous financial support. The donors have contributed through Dec. 31, 2014. All donors who contributed in fiscal 2014 (Feb. 1, 2014 - Jan. 31, 2015) will be listed in the next edition of *foundations*. Please refer any additions or corrections to this list to Kimberley Moseley-Cannon at Kimberley.Moseley@elca.org or 800-638-3522, ext., 2595. Thank you for your support!

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Tools for moving forward in men's ministry

"How can I get a men's group started at my church?" "A couple of guys want to get together but we don't know what to do, please help us." "Do you have anything that I can use to start a men's ministry at my church?"

These are examples of questions that we get from guys who have a desire to get something going at their congregation but are unsure of where to start or how to begin. I wish that I could say that there is a simple, straightforward answer. Unfortunately there is not one. The good news is that we have two resources which address these questions and provide a process to follow to establish an effective men's ministry.



effective when attended by several guys from a congregation.

Since its first offering five years ago, we have conducted it all over the country with about 400 men and women (some of our biggest supporters are women pastors) participating. We have leaders from around the country who can conduct the workshop, and we would love to do one in your area. No area is too far for us; we have committed to conduct the workshop in Anchorage, Alaska, in June 2015! For more details on the workshop, please go to lutheranmeninmission.org > Events > *Building Men for Christ*.

The first resource is the 32-page Men's Ministry Leaders Supplement found in the front of the *Master Builder Bible for Men* (2nd edition). It outlines step-by-step planning, foundation blocks for men's ministry, the role of a leadership team, a sample survey, event planning helps and checklist, and a recommended time line. It also includes other helpful hints on creating an effective, small group ministry for men.

The second resource is our Building Men for Christ workshop. This is an 8-hour event that explores why men's ministry is important and describes the five different types of men that are in a typical congregation. It uses the concept of a conveyor belt driven by a "create, capture, and sustain" engine to visually show how to move guys along a path to ultimately create disciples. It also describes different types of events that can be effective ways to appeal to each of the five types of men.

The original workshop was based on the book *No Man Left Behind: How to Build and Sustain a Thriving, Disciple Making Ministry for Every Man in Your Church* and its associated training event developed by the Man in the Mirror organization.

We have significantly updated it to include results of LMM's research and experiences. Please note that the workshop is most

We are also exploring conducting periodic webinars to provide a forum for men to share their ideas and experiences with other men. While we are not yet ready to announce any dates or times, stay tuned as our plans continue to evolve.

The vision of Lutheran Men in Mission is "for every man to become a bold, daring follower of Jesus Christ." We see the Men's Ministry Leaders Supplement and the Building Men for Christ workshop as important resources to realize this vision.

Your servant in Christ,

Rich White
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rwhite743@aol.com

Please note the following LMM board member address correction to the Holiday 2014 issue of *foundations*:

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