

Lutheran
Building
Men in
Men for
Mission
Christ

foundations

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



Choosing to do what matters

By Kevin Burke

Let's go for a walk. Are you curious as to where we may be going or how long we will be gone? Do you have something better you could be doing with your time? That seems to be a big challenge these days – allocating our time to do the many things we want to do. The truth is we have the same amount of time we've always had – back “in the day” and in this modern digital era – but we now have a constantly expanding crazy amount of choices to make.

Lutheran Men in Mission has resources, but they too take time and require choices, commitments. The Men's Ministry Specialist process is a two-year commitment. There is the one-day workshop Building Men for Christ. The One Year to Live (OYTL) retreat lasts from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon – 45 hours of shared experience with others. The response I hear most about OYTL from participants is, “I wish I had done this years ago!”

OYTL is happening all across the country. This experience started more than ten years ago. On average, we have about twenty new participants at each retreat. It wasn't designed that we could just go and drop it in any part of the country. Instead, men have to want it, go and be a part of it, and then take it back to their areas. Just this last spring, enough men were trained in Northern California so that in the coming year we can have retreats in Southern California, Nevada and

Washington. The West Coast is exploding with passion for more men to experience this retreat!

You are a powerful influence

Author and public speaker Seth Godin (sethgodin.com) explains how to make an idea spread. First the concept starts with a small group. The key to this group is that it includes people who are interested and engaged. This group he calls a tribe. From there the idea spreads to create other tribes. The passion for the ideas goes from one area to another, from one church to another, from one brother in Christ to another. This is different than mass marketing where one person speaks and disseminates information to the masses. I can have a strong influence on my tribe or circle of friends, but my approach may not be successful with your circle. By each of us working in cooperation, we can share our passion and completely transform a larger community.

People are familiar with tribes. There are church tribes, work tribes, social tribes and special interest tribes that are made up of people who want to connect. Tribes have the ability to change the world because they align like-minded people. Through tribes, things multiply and become bigger than ourselves. From my first time participating, I understood OYTL was bigger than our group because the Spirit was involved and working through us.

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This newsletter is sent to all who contribute to the ministry of Lutheran Men in Mission. Past issues of *foundations* are archived at lutheranmeninmission.org.

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 email 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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“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us...”

Ephesians 3:20 (NIV)

Living beyond our imagination

Dreams are mentioned over two dozen times in Scripture – visions even more. Scripture challenges us to open our imagination to what God has for us several times. Bucket lists aren't mentioned anywhere.

When God encourages you to consider what he wants to give you and do through you with the dreams, visions and all you can imagine, why would you want to choose your own plans from a bucket?

Last year, I made the comment to my family and close friends that there were two things I would like to do before the end of the year – a multi-day bike ride and a mission trip to Africa with my friend Tom Eggum. I thought both of those opportunities would, yes, be fun, but also be opportunities for growth and service. The faithful who read this know that, along with a team of others, I rode across Iowa. It was wonderful. I learned from every member of the team. It was a great time of service. Thanks to this effort hundreds, if not thousands, know about the ministry of Lutheran Men in Mission.

The mission trip to Africa was another story. I was looking forward to being of service, learning how to understand someone else's suffering and drawing close to old friends and meeting new ones. That could have happened with the mission trip to Africa, but God had something else in mind. My wife Doris was diagnosed with breast cancer in April 2015. This last year has included twenty weeks of chemotherapy, major surgery and five weeks of radiation. While it has been a year I wouldn't wish on anyone, words cannot express how Doris and I have seen God at work, not only in healing, but bringing a us new understandings of service, seeing God's grace as we've shared in suffering, and being supported with the love of family and friends – new and old.

When I consider the woman I am married to, the family I have, the experiences I've had and the places I've been with the people I have met, well, I just would not have been smart enough to put it all together myself. Africa may still be part of the unfolding story, but I'll wait to see what God has in store for me.

With Lutheran Men in Mission, as well as my own life, I look forward to all that God has in store for us – immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine – not a bucket list.

Doug Haugen, executive director
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Disciple: To teach and to learn

In the past couple of months, something has changed about me. Back in April when the LMM board met in Minneapolis they changed my work title. I am no longer the Program Manager. My business cards now say, Discipling Consultant. Nothing has changed specifically, but maybe this will explain my role better.

I really hate the word “program.” Too often, groups think that a program is what is lacking for their ministry to be successful. However, most times I find that the opportunities and ways relationships are being formed are the culprits. Programs are good for transferring information and as a tool to help develop intentional relationships.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Mathew 28:19

This text in the Bible is known as the Great Commission. These are some of the last words Jesus shared with his disciples. My duty is to work and train others to be stronger leaders and bold disciples. One of the best ways we can understand how Jesus taught the disciples is when we use the model of an apprentice. An apprentice not only worked with the master, but they lived together in constant practice. The master craftsman doing the training would take years sharing, showing and taking turns with the apprentice so he could work on his own and learn by experience. Over time, the two grow as disciples together – learning and doing together. The Norwegian language has a word that fits perfectly here: “Å lære” means to

learn or to teach. Only by context can you know the difference. In the process of discipleship, we teach and learn constantly.

Another big concept is that discipling doesn’t happen in solitude. It’s communal. We learn together in community, not alone. Some of the most powerful men’s ministry is happening with this model. Men are working together in practicing faith, doing life. They are embodying the Spirit and living in the fruit of the Spirit. Men around us often see and desire this because it’s missing in their own life, and they want to be part of it.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

Galatians 5:22-23

These are not the normal words you would hear describing a man. Men who live out these words are bold and daring. These are men who are changing the culture and expectations of what it means to be a man in our modern community. To shift the culture in such a way is a long and strenuous task. This is a large part of men’s ministry today. A couple years ago, a pastor said I used the word “disciple” a lot, and that it wasn’t very Lutheran. Could that be a sign of what we’ve been doing wrong? We are to build disciples and to love and serve in Christ’s name, the one who gives us the power to transform lives.

Each one of us is called, equipped and sent. What fruits are you bearing? Do you have a desire to be a part of a strong discipling community? This September a new round of Men’s Ministry Specialist (MMS) training will begin. Come and become a stronger leader. There are men that are broken and are looking for guidance. A Men’s Ministry Specialist learns how to better help individuals and groups find their identity, build deeper relationships, grow in faith and care for others.

Contact me, and I’ll be happy to answer any questions and explain the process more in detail. I want to *å lære* – learn and teach – with you!

Kevin Burke, Discipling Consultant
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Noah's Fund reaches out to young men – with opportunity and hope

Noah's Fund and One Year to Live retreats should be made known to every man, young man, men's ministry leader, family and congregation. It's that important!

Noah's Fund is named for Noah Ewers, the younger son of Peter and Beverley Ewers, members of Faith Lutheran Church, Golden, Colo. Noah completed suicide at the age of 16, and though he professed a faith in Jesus Christ, he did not appear to see the value of his own life and his own contribution to the many friends he left behind. Noah was a fun, adventurous young man who brought joy and meaning to other's lives while not able to see that same joy and value in his own life. His father Peter dedicated much of his life to men's ministry, helping men see their personal value and the value they bring to the world, and helping lead One Year to Live retreats.

The fund is dedicated to the spiritual uplifting of young men in today's world. This is accomplished by providing funding to attend One Year to Live (OYTL) retreats that encourage young men to connect with other men. Noah's Fund, through the OYTL retreat, provides a venue to discover personal value, reveal your passion and pursue your mission. It's dedicated to the notion that everyone deserves to know they are valued and significant in the eyes of God and each other. By allowing other men to walk beside you and hold you up with love and respect, you can know how to be a man – a man like Jesus Christ.

Noah's Fund exists because the fee for the One Year to Live retreat can be burdensome or discouraging for young men. By offering a reduced cost, more young men will be drawn to OYTL and able to participate. The hope is that by making this retreat more affordable and accessible more young men will experience the freedom, hope and life-affirming love of Christ experienced through One Year to Live.

Eligibility

Noah's Fund is available to any man 20–30 years of age to offset the cost of attending a One Year to Live retreat. The typical cost of the retreat is between \$175 and \$200, and Noah's Fund will pay up to 90% of the cost. Reimbursement for additional expenses, such as travel, will also be considered on a case-by-case basis.



The funding process

Funding requests can be submitted to the Noah's Fund board of directors by the OYTL retreat organizer. Young men requesting assistance from Noah's Fund should discuss their needs with the local organizer of the OYTL retreat that they plan to attend. The granting of any funds is decided by the board members, and the decision of the board is final. Actual funds collected or disseminated will be administered by board member Bill Ernstrom and facilitated by Faith Lutheran Church, Golden, Colo., under the direction of the board of directors.

How to submit funding requests

To submit a request to Noah's Fund, please submit the following information through the One Year to Live retreat organizer:

1. Name, address and contact information of the young man being sponsored.
2. Location and date of the One Year to Live retreat (include date when the funds are required).
3. Name of the OYTL event organizer.
4. A brief statement (one or two paragraphs) explaining the need for financial assistance, what the applicant hopes to gain from the experience, or any other statement explaining the need and desire for assistance.
5. Submit the above information via email to Noah's Fund board member Bill Ernstrom at wpernstrom@msn.com.

You can contribute to Noah's Fund

Noah's Fund is a new scholarship fund that needs some capital growth. LMM is asking anyone who wants to make a direct impact on a young man's life to donate. This will enable young men to participate in a life-changing experience, and go on to improve and influence their families and relationships, congregations, work places and communities. Please send contributions, with "Noah's Fund" noted in the comment section, to:

Faith Lutheran Church
17701 West Sixteenth Avenue
Golden, Colo. 80401

Lutheran Men in Mission online: lutheranmeninmission.org

Reaching Men blog: <http://reachingmen.blogspot.com>



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Support men's ministry: Direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to LMM

Thrivent Choice Dollars is 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, including to Lutheran Men in Mission.

Eligible Thrivent members are designated an amount of Choice Dollars based on qualifying insurance premiums, quarterly contract values and their status as a Thrivent Financial volunteer leader. You can direct your Choice Dollars directly to Lutheran Men in Mission by visiting Thrivent.com/thriventchoice online, or by calling 800-847-4836 and saying "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. You may also contact your local Thrivent Financial representative for assistance.

Lutheran Men in Mission continues to grow thanks to the creative, dedicated and generous work of our donors, volunteer leadership, board and staff. With your generosity, and by God's grace, we will continue to support, equip and encourage ministry with men of all ages across the country. Listed are donors who have contributed through July 2, 2016. Please refer any additions or corrections to this list to Kimberley Moseley-Cannon at kim@lutheranmeninmission.org or 800-638-3522, ext., 2595. Thank you for your support and prayers!



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Lutheran Men in Mission Heritage Society

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

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(continued from cover)

Growing a life-changing movement together

Seth Godin also states that you don't need everybody to start, but you just need 1,000 people to keep the process going. Guess what, OYTL has had over 1,100 men who have attended the retreat. That's on the precipice of creating a movement!

LMM is offering connection and guidance for men with a longing to improve; connection and guidance for those who want to be part of something bigger than themselves, and to grow closer to Christ. LMM is changing lives by leading men to a more intentional life and faith, in every aspect. This is done through a trusting relationship rather than pressuring others to want something.

LMM understands that men don't always have safe places where they can work through the feelings of being alone, standing on the fringes and struggling with brokenness. LMM wants to equip men to step beyond these struggles so that they can live fully into the identity that God gives us. Together we can move men's ministry forward and away from the isolation and restlessness of the status quo.

We are choosing to value and support young men

The men who said they wished they had experienced OYTL years ago have motivated us. A scholarship fund – Noah's Fund – has been established to help the young men we know. Noah's Fund was started as a memorial to a young man named Noah. He was an

adventurous 16-year-old who had faith in Christ, brought joy to others, but was not able to see the joy in his own life. He ended his own life in April 2015. His father Peter has dedicated much of his life to men's ministry, has helped lead many OYTL retreats and is helping operate Noah's Fund in partnership with Faith Lutheran Church in Golden, Colo., One Year to Live and Lutheran Men in Mission.

Scholarships provided through Noah's Fund are available to help make the OYTL experience affordable and accessible to any young man 20-30 years of age. The fund is dedicated to the notion that everyone deserves to know that they are valued and significant. Read more about Noah's Fund on page four.

We are moving men's ministry forward

Lutheran Men in Mission has created quality resources that are effective and adaptable with men of all ages across the country. Our organization is improving upon them and stands behind them. One Year to Live is important because it focuses on what matters – you, the people in your life and your faith. Please commit yourself to the growing movement of men's ministry by attending a OYTL retreat, contributing to Noah's Fund, supporting Lutheran Men in Mission with your generous gifts and spreading the word among your tribes.

Walk alongside us and each other, and help us do the work that matters!

LMM Events

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

2016

Aug. 14-19

**Compass Points –
Men's Backpacking Trip
Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp
Hillside, Colo.**

One Year to Live Retreats

**Sept. 16-18
MacKenzie Center
Poynette, Wisc.**

**Sept. 30-Oct. 2
Camp Chrysalis
Kerrville, Texas**

Building Men for Christ Workshops

**Nov. 12
Ascension Lutheran Church
Deer Park, N.Y.**

2017

**2017 Lutheran Men's Gathering
July 21-23, 2017 (LMM Assembly
business meeting: July 20-21)
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Face Book: Man Talk Online page (mantalkonline.org)



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Grandkids – God’s Gift to Parents

Recently, Chris and I had the opportunity to host our two granddaughters, ages 7 and 9, for our very own Nanagrampa Camp. They spent a week with us (without their parents), and kept us extremely busy. We went to the neighborhood swimming pool several times, visited Grampa’s museum (Smithsonian Air and Space) and had meals at several kid-friendly restaurants. We played board games and card games every day including an on-going game of Hearts with our older granddaughter. Nana taught them how to use a sewing machine, make a skirt and helped them with quilt projects.

While it was a fantastic week and a blessing to be with them, it reminded me of what I did not get to experience growing up. My father was the youngest of nine children and his father, my grandfather, died when dad was 16. My mother’s father abandoned my grandmother when my mother was a baby. Thus I never got to know or even meet either of my grandfathers. I often feel sad about it; especially given how much fun I now have with my grandkids.

I wish that I had the chance to have Granddad teach me how to fish, or grow vegetables and flowers, or how to repair a car, or play chess or checkers. I would have loved to talk with him about what it was like when he grew up, what he did during the war (WWI) or what was it like to live through the Great Depression. So many things that we could have done together – Granddad and me!

While Nanagrampa Camp is about having fun, it also provided us the opportunity to share our faith and its importance in our lives with our grandkids. As such, we all attended worship on Sunday

and we said prayers before each meal. The grandkids helped us set up and make the Sunday morning coffee and clean up afterwards. We picked up the food offering collected in our church’s narthex and delivered it to our local food pantry – simple but

important examples of being actively involved in a faith community and living a life as directed by Christ.

We are all role models – be it to our children, grandkids or those unknown to use who we interact with each day. It is imperative that we demonstrate to all, but especially to our kids and grandkids, that we live a life directed by Christ. So enjoy your interactions with them and show them that you are a practicing, hope-filled, loving Christian!

Your servant in Christ,
Rich White, President

rich.white@lutheranmeninmission.org



2017 BOLD GATHERING

Minneapolis, Minnesota

July 21-23, 2017

Lutheran Men in Mission Assembly is July 20-21

- Mark your calendars.
- Make a list of guys and young men to bring with you.
- Watch for more details. See you in Minneapolis!

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Along with members of "Team LMM", Executive Director Doug Haugen completed the 450 mile RAGBRAI ride across Iowa on July 30. Half of the funds raised for the ride will go to support Tim Wright Ministries with boys and men, the other half will support Project XII – the first initiative of the A-Team. Please see "From the Executive Director" (pg. 2). Doing the ride for the second time was a dream come true!

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