

foundations

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

Ride Across Iowa for LMM

Join the RAGBRAI Team in July

It's a lot of fun and is a great workout, but is also a chance to have great conversations about faith.

RAGBRAI bikers tour Iowa in a 7-day 500-mile scenic ride.

LMM knows that men's health is made up of physical, mental, and spiritual components. If any one of the three is squishy, our lives are often out of balance. While ministry to men should first point people to Jesus and provide spiritual healthcare, we know that being in healthy community supports mental health, and men should focus on being as physically active and healthy as possible.

Lutheran Men in Mission is sponsoring **TEAM LMM for RAGBRAI 2018**. For the past several summers, a group of

men and women rode across Iowa on the seven-day non-competitive bike tour, and we're doing it again. It's a lot of fun and is a great workout, but is also a chance to have great conversations about faith, and raise awareness and support for LMM.

In 2018, the 7-day ride is July 22-28, and is called RAGBRAI – The Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa.

In 2018, the almost 500-mile ride goes through portions of all three Iowa synods. Anyone from around the country,

RAGBRAI, *continued on page 3*





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

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Project XII: Discipling Locally, Thinking Globally

We are starting a movement. Great things begin with small groups of people with God's heart. Time and again in the Gospels we see Jesus spending time in secluded places with His father, returning to nurture and be nurtured by those who he had chosen to be closest to — Peter, John and James and the rest of the twelve disciples. Having invested in each other, they poured themselves into others.

If you are like me, you are overwhelmed with the need that you see in the world through daily news, what you see and experience personally and in your own network of relationships. You wonder how you're going to survive, much less thrive, yourself- never mind what you may have to share with others.

With all of that, I call you to join me in taking a stand. I'm calling you to join me in making an impact on the world around you and beyond. I'm calling on you to follow Jesus and:

- Spend regular time with God at places and times that you can soak in God's grace, love and passion.
- Invest in a small group of men, similar to you — and different from you — who will encourage and challenge each other to be all God has designed you to be.
- Realizing the gifts and passions God has given your group, step out and serve others.
- Reach beyond your group to others — Lutherans and guys in other churches in your community that you might impact and influence each other- and serve.

What I'm calling you to do locally is, in many ways, what we are doing nationally with an initiative called Project XII. Sometime ago we realized that our mission is much larger than one church, or one denomination. We are blessed, strengthened and encouraged by working with other men from not only other Lutheran Churches, but United Methodist, Episcopalian, Disciples of Christ and others as well. We have all gained much from each other and our joint ministry is strengthening the impact of men's ministry across the United States.

I envision a world where women and children are not only safe, but thriving because men are sold out to God and in healthy relationships. I envision a world where the Body of Christ is having dynamic impact because men step forward and sacrificially serve with our sisters in Christ. Our work is one man at a time, but it is not done alone.

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Executive Director Doug Haugen
with spoken word artist Joe Davis,
a member of the Project XII team.

RAGBRAI, continued from page 1

men or women, Lutheran or not, is encouraged to join us to ride. If you would rather support us financially, we would love your support toward LMM or event being a “jersey sponsor” which gets your company logo on the team jersey. Doug Haugen, Kyle Pedersen, and some national LMM leaders will ride with Team LMM. Besides riders, the group welcomes pledges from individuals who want to support the mission of LMM and help grow men’s ministry throughout the Lutheran Church. The opportunity to pledge your support or to be a jersey sponsor will become available after Easter on the LMM website and giving portal.

For more information, or to join the LMM group and register with RAGBRAI, contact Kyle Pedersen at Kyle@lutheranmeninmission.org.

Learn more about the history and details of the world’s oldest, largest, longest bike tour, which just happens to be across Iowa, check out RAGBRAI.com.

Check Team LMM’s daily updates from 2015 and 2016 at ReachingMen.Blogspot.com. Updates from this year’s ride will be posted there as well. You’ll feel like you are pedaling alongside them! Well, almost.



LMM had riding teams at RAGBRAI in 2015 (above) and in 2016 (below). A great start to a great tradition!

In 2018, the 7-day RAGBRAI ride is July 22-28.

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.

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EMERGING MINISTRY

Reaching Across the Generations

Millennials are old news. Get ready for Generation Z!

Gen Z was born between 1998 and 2016, meaning the oldest of this generation are turning 20 in 2018. The men of Gen Z are just entering college, and they need Christ as much as any of the previous generations. Millennials, if you remember, were born from 1981 to 1998, and were dubbed millennials because they graduated starting in 2000.

While many men and leaders in our churches may be content just to have a couple social media accounts, we need to be aware that more changes are on the horizon for how we approach inviting men to be involved in our small groups and church.



Here's what you need to know about Gen Z!

Smaller Attention Span, But Better Multi-Taskers: Gen Z lives in a world of continuous updates, which is learned behavior based on smartphone notifications. Gen Z processes information faster than previous generations and their attention spans

are expected to be lower than Millennials. Gen Z can effortlessly shift between work and play, with multiple distractions going on in the background...working on multiple tasks at once. Talk about multi-multi-tasking.

Higher Expectations for Speed:

Gen Z was born into a world overrun with technology and are considered to be "digital natives." The incredible advances in technology over the last decade are now a given for teens. Instead of having to wait for a show to be broadcast once a week, they can watch an entire season over a weekend. Per Marcie Merriman, executive director of growth strategy at Ernst & Young. "When it doesn't get there that fast they think something's wrong. They expect businesses, brands and retailers to be loyal to them. If they don't

feel appreciated, they're going to move on. It's not about them being loyal to the [organization]."

Greater Independence and Individuality:

Smartphones and the ability to google search have diminished traditional

knowledge acquisition methods. If a Gen Z man knows they are capable of learning something themselves, or through a more efficient, non-traditional route, it's been observed that they take the opportunity. Additionally as a result of the celebrities and media they follow, Gen Z seeks uniqueness in all walks of life primarily through the brands they consume and organizations they participate in.

Lutheran Men in Mission has long advocated the importance of cultivating relationships instead of creating programs. With Gen Z being naturally more nimble than many of our churches, we need to double down on the cultivation of relationships with men in this demographic, because by the time we attempt to create a program, it will be out of date by their standards.

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Questions to reflect on:

■ What men of Gen Z has God placed in your circles of influence? Do you know anything about them? Consider using the I-Go model (eg. Identify, Invite, Invest) and begin to cultivate a friendship.

Be in prayer about how God can use you to help them in their identity in Christ.

- We need to consider how short attention spans and multi-tasking will affect our Christian education classes, small group curriculums, and even the weekly worship experience. Does the programming that your church or ministry provides offer enough stimulation to attract men of this upcoming generation?
- How will the culture of googling for instant answers impact our discipleship models where those being discipled have often journeyed with a spiritual father for a season; learning the rhythms of the Christian faith?
- If what Merriman says is true about needing to be appreciated, we need to continually message the value-add and freedom that comes with following Christ. How do we ensure that Gen Z feels appreciated and valued by our ministry?
- As we journey alongside men of Gen Z, how do we demonstrate the uniqueness of following Christ, and how by being true to their identity in Christ, that there is nothing more unique?

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A LEAP OF FAITH IN THE FOREST

First OYTL Was an Inside Job for Men, and Jesus

By Vic Williams

“**T**his is *way* out of my comfort zone,” I told the dozen men gathered in front of me as we dug into Lyman Coleman’s One Year To Live game plan. “I’m not a great speaker, don’t consider myself a natural leader and this is my first time doing this retreat in this capacity, but it’s where Jesus wants me to be. And clearly you’re all where you need to be.”

So began the first-ever Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd OYTL retreat, at a wonderful facility about an hour northwest of Reno, Nevada, where I’ve been a Good Shepherd member since 2001. Outside the late afternoon shadows of yet another sweet early October day in the Sierra spread through the meadows and pines. The men joining me on this adventure — eight recruits and four fellow leaders, with eight previous OYTLs among us — are all regular worshippers at Good Shepherd, save one, who was invited by his son.

This was the original intent of OYTL: One congregation at a time. So in that sense we were right on point. And even though we didn’t take advantage of direct help in terms of manpower from Lutheran Men in Mission (which was enthusiastically offered), we made full use of their standard materials and advice on matters of execution and equipment. These days most retreats are made up of guys from different congregations, or none at all. So, we settled into a familiar space with familiar faces, taking a chance we’d somehow dull the power and passion of this journey.

One Year to Live, continued on page 7

Our Focus on Ministry

As the New Year has arrived, I want to highlight our focus on the ministries that have become an integral part of Lutheran Men in Mission. While we previously discussed the significant change in the organization of the LMM Board that was adopted at the 2017 Tri-Annual Assembly last July, we need to provide you with the details of how our new organization will impact the growth and support for men's ministry across the entire U.S. and in your local community.

Our newly configured Board has four directors who are specifically dedicated to promoting, supporting and facilitating those ministries that we believe can help achieve our vision for all men to become bold, daring followers of Jesus Christ. These four ministry areas are **discipleship, emerging ministries, events** and **networking and communications**.

The discipleship ministry is led by Director Tim Crout of Lexington, South Carolina and this ministry centers on establishing, promoting and sustaining a culture of discipleship among men throughout the entire United States. We will provide training, contacts and resources that enable men to become disciples of Jesus. In addition to facilitating small group training in discipleship, LMM has been fully engaged for the past nine years in this ministry through our One Year to Live (OYTL) retreats. Over 1,200 men have been inspired to live more responsible and mission driven lives through their participation in these Jesus-centered retreats. We will conduct between 10-12 OYTL retreats across the country during 2018 and plan to continue growing and supporting discipleship for men through these retreats.

Pastor Jason Adams of Las Vegas, Nevada is our Director of Emerging Ministries. Our focus for **emerging ministries** is the emergence and growth of Projecttwelve.net (Project XII) as the online resource and platform that can help all men to become better individuals, fathers, husbands and leaders. Jason is one of the founders in the creation of Project XII and continues to be actively involved in its growth and operations. This multi-cultural, multi-denominational ministry is led by men that have the passion to become involved in other men's lives in accordance with Jesus' mission as given to us in the Gospels. Project XII has the goal be a partner with all men in their journey through life. As a member of the LMM Board, Jason will be our direct contact with Project XII and any other emerging ministries that can provide men with the resources to become bold and daring followers of Jesus.

Four directors are specifically dedicated to promoting, supporting and facilitating those ministries that we believe can help achieve our vision for all men to become bold, daring followers of Jesus Christ.



LMM conducts and sponsors various **events**, retreats, programs and gatherings for men across the country each year

and our Director of Events, Bernie Bresson of Louisville, Ohio leads the promotion and support for each of these events. We will hold new regional Bold Gathering events during 2018 that will stream live across the U.S. and enable men from all parts of the country to participate and be inspired. In addition, LMM will hold its first Annual Business Meeting via video conference in May of 2018 and Bernie will help determine the content and format for this new event. These promise to be new and exciting events that will allow greater participation without having the time and cost associated with travel for the men who participate.

Our fourth ministry is for effective and purposeful **Networking and Communication** to all men. Pastor Sean Forde of Albert Lea, Minnesota is our director for this ministry. Having effective communications in every direction with the LMM Board and all LMM groups is essential to meet our vision. We will strive to be flexible in this ministry to move LMM with the changes in men's ministry; reflective in being adaptive, progressive and swift; and utilize inflexion for each situation as needs arise to become passionate or tenderhearted in our support for men's ministry. In addition, the new LMM Ambassador leadership program for local, state and regional leaders of men's ministry will be under Sean's oversight.

All of these ministries are exciting new steps that LMM is taking as we strive for every man to live out our mission. As always, we will continue to ask for your prayers, your participation and your financial support as we move forward together.

Your Brother in Christ,

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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



One Year to Live, continued on page 7

Not to worry. The genius of Mr. Coleman's craftsmanship and ever-present, relentless, bright force of the Holy Spirit took our small, committed group into the realm of serious safety and stark honesty. Together we ventured to that sacred place all men's retreats must reach to break through the day-to-day dullness of earthly life that threatens to send us off the path of Christ for years at a time.

Sure, we had a few fits and starts. Just a couple hours in, one of our recruits fell ill, so our "roving" leader, Todd Mauldin, stepped up to drive the gentleman home, then returned in the wee hours of Saturday morning, in time for him to join us getting "baptized" into the program and start digging deep.

We were now an even dozen, a small but committed group that included several generations — guys in their 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s. One of them was our current co-pastor (the other is his wife, and they have three young kids); another was our previous full-time pastor, who retired in 2014 and has now returned to the Good Shepherd family. That made for an interesting dynamic; for me, as the retreat leader, their presence challenged my small group-making abilities. We had to get the balance right because, as all OYTL vets know, the true transformations and breakthroughs take place in those small group sessions. That's where the veneer between our human woes and the divine promise of healing and caring is at its thinnest, and disappears completely at some point.

In fact, the veneer dissolved as the weekend progressed and we moved toward the darkness we all carry, and back toward the life-affirming light we all seek. After doubting my own ability to pull this off, even with my co-leaders' help and support, I eventually recognized that I was being swept along, however gently, by the Holy Spirit. It emanated from the men's words and actions from the retreat's opening moments and only intensified through our silent and powerful goodbyes.

And the spirit didn't dissipate in the weeks following our return to the world. Texts and phone messages and in-person asides at church came my way, and still do.

We held a check-in about six weeks after the retreat, asking for and receiving and processing the comments and feelings that our recruits offered up freely — giving us a strong foundation for this year's retreat and what we hope will be annual OYTL excursions.

We created new leaders. The brotherhood remains strong. The bonds we hoped to create among this small sample of men from our congregation are unbreakable. Now it's up to us to reach beyond our church's walls and bring this gracious gift from God to men we have not met — churched and unchurched, leery or enthusiastic, young and not so young.

We are fired up.

But have I expanded my comfort zone? Not at all. I am who I am, flawed and never a finished product, just how Jesus takes me, no questions asked, no qualifications demanded beyond just being there for other men.

***Together we
ventured to that
sacred place all
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UPCOMING LMM EVENTS & programs

One Year To Live Retreats

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

RAGBRAI *(The Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa)*

July 22-28, 2018

See page 3 for registration information.

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Lutheran Men in Mission

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

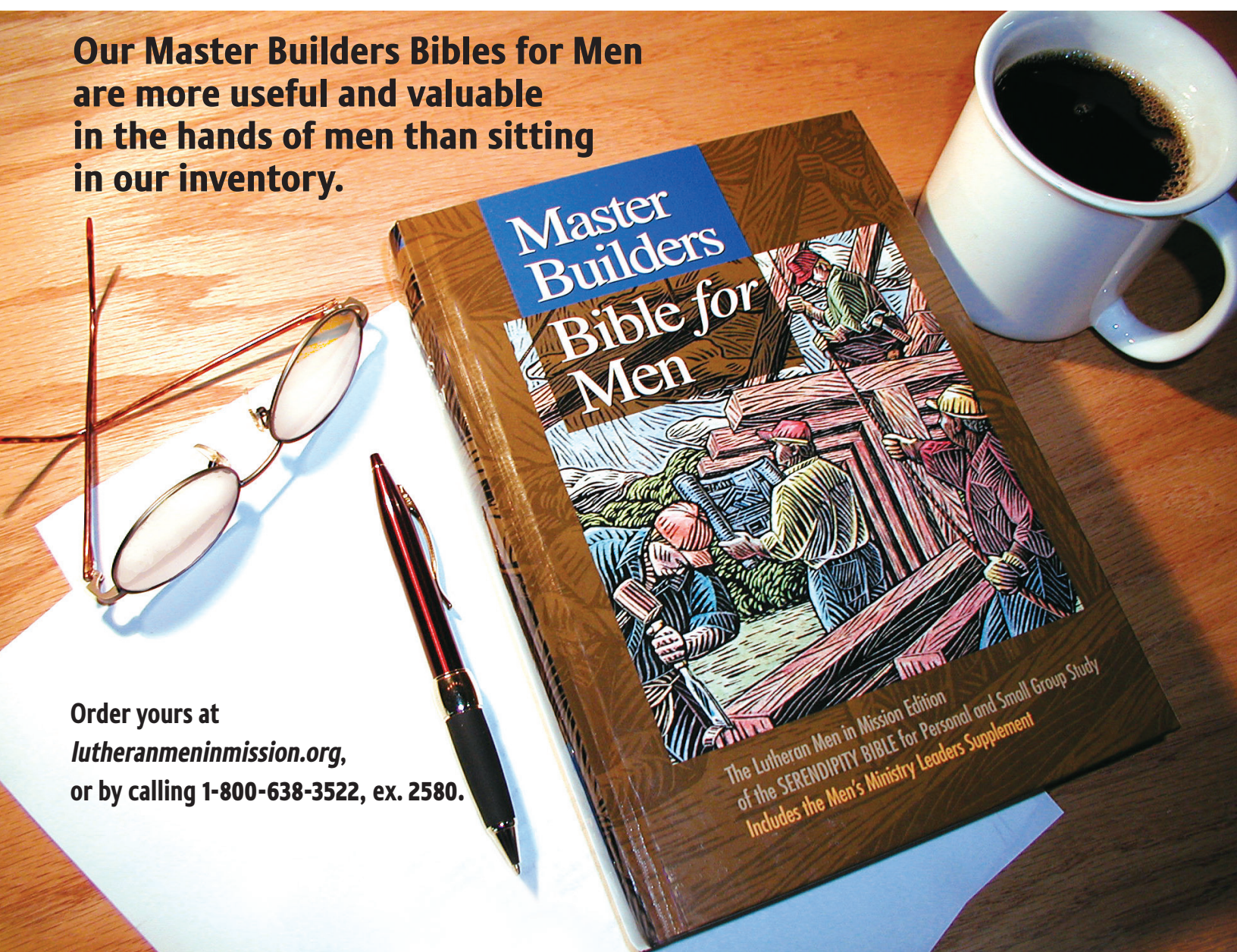
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