

Lutheran  
Building  
Men in  
Men for  
Mission  
Christ

# foundations

*Our vision is that every man have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ through an effective men's ministry in every congregation.*

## HOLY RECREATION: REFLECTING ON HIGH, DEEP & WIDE AT TAHOE

By Kyle Pedersen

6,000 feet of elevation isn't very high for a mountain, but definitely high enough for a group of men to wrestle with God about reaching men in the 21st century.

In August, several dozen men from 14 states gathered near Lake Tahoe, CA, to compete in a non-traditional pentathlon, have their paradigm shifted, and experience some holy recreation during *High, Deep & Wide*. John Hindley from Winona Lake, IN, said as he reflected on the weekend, "It was inspiring to be surrounded by guys with a passion to be Godly men, fathers and mentors, as well as having Tim Wright help us realize ways that schools and churches may be lacking in raising boys to men."

Intending to fully engage men, weekends like *High, Deep & Wide* are designed to utilize the physicality of men, and involve active learning. Guys were assigned to teams within moments of the event's kickoff, and there was a playfulness that prevailed throughout the entire experience. Men were challenged and put on the spot during competitions that involved eggs, water balloons and coconuts. Laughter and camaraderie were prevalent even during teaching times, and teams hooted and cheered each other on through successes and epic failures.

### Changing the culture of church

While resting from their victories—or perhaps licking their wounds—men gathered in the lodge to re-think what the 21st century church is doing to reach men. Through 3 teaching sessions, Tim Wright,



**God needs vital healthy men to impact the world. You don't have to be in Olympic shape, but we have to get off the couch for God to use us! (John Hindley & Kyle Pedersen) Men were inspired to be active, especially with Squaw Valley Olympic Village down the road from High, Deep & Wide.**

*"High, Deep & Wide was an awesome experience! A great weekend spent in friendly competition, growing in faith with a group of guys, surrounded by God's beautiful creation of Lake Tahoe."* **Tim Schroeder, Stout, WI**



**Guys explored Lake Tahoe during their free time. When out playing on trails, guys (Tim Schroeder and John Hindley) had to stop check and check their bearings once in a while!**

pastor at Community of Grace in Peoria, AZ, unpacked how the church has followed the culture and has slowly evolved away from being man-friendly in the last two generations. Today the church unknowingly leans toward a feminine mindset through programming, educational opportunities and even worship experiences. This results in 7 out of 10 of our boys walking out of the church and never returning, which should be a wake-up call to everyone.

Wright laid out strategies to reach the boys in our communities and congregations using examples ranging from *Les Misérables* to *Samson* to the NFL. Based on research on rites of passages and the differences in brain function and socialization, guys learned how boys and men naturally learn, and about the importance of cross-generational leadership. Jason Adams, a young father and seminarian in Dubuque, IA, reflects on the weekend saying, "Tahoe opened up ideas about cross-generational leadership, staying active in discipleship, and teaching young men to follow Jesus and walk their own path of faith."

If churches prioritize reaching men and boys and provide teaching and programming in a style that men can understand, men will be drawn deeper into their journey with Jesus, and women will be just as blessed in their relationship with Christ. These concepts were modeled through the weekend by local and national leaders. Larry Moeller from Knoxville, TN, shares that his take-away from the weekend was that "Tim Wright's passion [reaching boys & men] should become our

*(continued on page 6)*

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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Rod Boriack  
*foundations* editor/writer

## From the Executive Director

*"...let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds..."*

Hebrews 10:24 (NRSV)



### What should I do?

My cathartic, "confirmation" moment for my faith came on March 22, 1971 while attending Bible college. It was at that time all of the good teaching that began at home and church came together and ignited the passion I have to this day for all to come to know Jesus Christ as savior and Lord. Not long after that, I ran into a bit of a crisis.

As I strongly sensed God leading me into some kind of "people work," I majored in social work and, by God's grace, actually started my career in the field before I graduated. During the day I worked with some of the poorest people (mostly men) in the area, and in many cases, I worked alongside very capable people who had little or no church or faith connection, but they cared. In the evenings and weekends, much of my time was spent with campus ministries and church with some people whose greatest concerns seemed to be whether they were going to pass a test the next day or if their church could afford a new pipe organ.

This was the crisis that drove me back to the Scriptures. I searched the Bible again, and I discovered God's "litmus test" for the church is always about how those who cannot speak or do for themselves are doing in the community—as a result of the church's presence. Time and again, the stranger, the poor, the ill, and women and children are among those people.

Often groups of men in our congregations will gather around Scripture and get the feeling they need to do something, but wonder what they should do. Well, that's the Spirit's prompting. Take another look at the Scriptures and at those in your circle of relationships—congregation and community—and God will lead you into ministries and relationships that will impact you as much, if not more, than those you serve.

For me, that has led to a special concern for single mothers and their children. In most cases, somewhere along the line a father, a boyfriend, a husband, a man has let them down. If that cycle isn't broken, the results can be catastrophic for the family and community. I try to do what I can with personal involvement, active concern and support.

All across North America, communities are better off because of the way our men are engaging with others. Houses are being built, handicapped ramps are being constructed, and children's lives are being enhanced as a result of men spending time with them. The list goes on...

If you, and a group of men in your congregation, are wondering what to do, take a look at the Scriptures, and take a look around. God will lead into some interesting service and relationships! And then let us know what you're up to!

Doug Haugen, executive director  
Lutheran Men in Mission  
[Doug.Haugen@elca.org](mailto:Doug.Haugen@elca.org)

## TO BE CONTINUED...

My first few months of working for Lutheran Men in Mission have been a whirlwind. I've been describing it like a wind-up toy. Things seemed to be not progressing very quickly (that can be the time that the toy's key is being wound), then all of a sudden the toy is set down and it zooms around at lightning fast speed. As more people became aware of my position, more e-mails started coming in. Then more phone calls, conferences and meetings were landing on my calendar. This is a big change for a "Mr. Mom" who previously only had delivering his daughters to ballet classes on his agenda, but it is a welcomed change, and one that speaks to my passion for men's ministry. The enthusiasm that has been shared in these interactions has been contagious, and solidifies why I am serving you.

One of my first priorities was having conference calls with men all across the country. The intention was to introduce myself and to get dialogue started about LMM and its current ministry. These were phenomenal conversations! Men were able to share stories and ideas for ministry. The great things that are going strong in particular areas of the country were encouraged, and hopefully empowered to continue. I heard about the deep history that men had with LMM; many had their hands in building the framework of this organization. They shared a desire to continue more conversations like the ones we had. I think talking with and among men is the first step in realizing and spreading the excitement that is brewing in our men's ministry.



My next priority is getting a healthy system built for training a group of strong leaders we are calling Men's Ministry Specialists. These are men who exemplify the characteristics of a confident Christian man. They are then equipped to teach others to also be positive role models. Our vision is to identify, equip and support these leaders in every part of the country with specific skills for growing and supporting men's ministry and other leaders.

Having Men's Ministry Specialists will also help transfer information to local communities, from one area to another, and generate input back to LMM on how things are going. I'm constantly trying to find men who have the qualifications to fill such a role, and your referrals for potential applicants are always welcome.

This is a very exciting time for our organization! As everyday life and events go flying past, our responsibility as men remains vital. We need to take the time to have those overdue conversations with each other. Now is also the time to use our skills and passions to help drive Lutheran Men in Mission into an exciting, growing and stronger tomorrow. As each day draws to an end, we will understand ministry as a process that always needs "to be continued."

Blessings on your journey!

Kevin Burke

Program Manager, Lutheran Men in Mission

[kevin.burke@elca.org](mailto:kevin.burke@elca.org) / phone: 920-562-1411

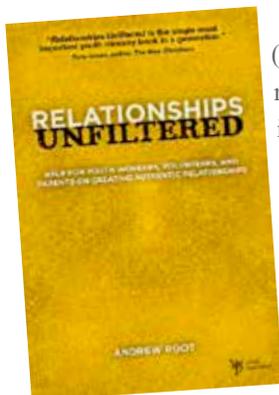
## A RESOURCE SUGGESTION FOR MEN FROM KEVIN BURKE

### *Relationships Unfiltered: Help for Youth Workers, Volunteers, and Parents on Creating Authentic Relationships*

Andrew Root. Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2009.

Why do we develop relationships? Are there ulterior motives to adding someone into our already busy and hectic lives? While I was going through the interview process with Lutheran Men in Mission, I read a book that challenged how I define relationships. The book was *Relationships Unfiltered* by Andrew Root.

*Relationships Unfiltered* uses stories to illustrate that relationships are about place-sharing and accompaniment. As men, we always want to run in and fix things, however there are many circumstances in which we can't do anything but "be there" for the other person. We can walk alongside someone and truly be a disciple. And if that other person makes what we think is a poor decision, that doesn't affect the relationship. Jesus is the



prime example. He came to love us and have a relationship with us knowing that we would sin and make poor choices. However, he still loves us and has an unwavering relationship with us.

His previous book, *Revisiting Relational Youth Ministry* (2007), is more philosophical and geared toward youth ministers. Both are written with a slant toward youth, yet it's very applicable for men's ministry. It will challenge how we approach personal relationships.

Andrew Root teaches classes on youth ministry, young adults, family, church, and culture at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN where he is the Olson Baalson Associate Professor of Youth and Family Ministry. Andrew is also an author, lecturer, and workshop presenter.

*Have you come across a book, Web site, movie, organization, or some other resource that you think is relevant and useful for men and men's ministry? Send the information on to us so we can check it out and spread the word.*  
[kevin.burke@elca.org](mailto:kevin.burke@elca.org)

# Lutheran Men in Mission Heritage Club

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. For information about including LMM in your will, contact us at 800-638-3522, ext. 2566.

Harold and Esther Arne	Larry Moeller
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Daniel Joy	Charles and Geneva Schwartz
Ken Kahler	LeRoy and Ruth Simonson
Douglas and Ann Larson	Kay Synder
Ruth C. Lindahl	Norman and Kathie Smith
Richard Miller	Richard and Christine White

# Guys, Guts & God's Glory

## LUTHERAN MEN'S GATHERING

Nashville - July 18-20, 2014 - Loews Vanderbilt Hotel

*Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.*

1 Corinthians 16:13- (NRSV)

### 2013 LMM EVENTS

#### BUILDING MEN FOR CHRIST WORKSHOPS:

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Gilman, IL - Nov. 16, 2013

#### ONE YEAR TO LIVE RETREATS:

MacKenzie Center  
Poynette, WI - Nov. 8-10, 2013

Camp Kinard  
Leesville, SC - Nov. 8-10, 2013

### 2014 LMM EVENTS

#### ONE YEAR TO LIVE RETREATS:

Camp Ewalu  
Strawberry Point, IA - Feb. 7-9, 2014

#### TEXAS TRI-SYNOD GATHERING:

Briarwood Retreat Center  
Argyle, TX - Mar. 21-23, 2014

Go to [lutheranmeninmission.org](http://lutheranmeninmission.org) for updated events, program information, and registration details.

## CRUTS, CRATS, AND THINGS LIKE THAT!

A CRUT or CRAT? What in the world are they? Well, they are agreements that allow you to make a gift to help Lutheran Men in Mission (LLM) continue to draw men into more effective Christian ministry, and at the same time, receive for yourself an income for life.

CRUT is short for Charitable Remainder Unitrust, and CRAT stands for Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust.

These are wonderful tools for donating appreciated securities or property to Lutheran Men in Mission while benefiting, in turn, from a life income as well as tax savings. By law, the rate of return on a unitrust or annuity trust must be a minimum of 5% but can be as high as 6%, 7%, 8% or even more. The tax benefits include a sizeable charitable contribution deduction plus complete freedom from any capital gains tax. As the securities or property are removed from your estate, there is also freedom from estate or inheritance taxes.

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Would you like to learn more about these intriguing gift methods? To help you do so, LMM has available, free of charge, an interesting booklet which describes the many advantages of Charitable Remainder Trusts. To receive your copy, phone Doug Haugen, LMM Executive Director, at 773-380-2566 or 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2566, or write or send the coupon below to Lutheran Men in Mission, ELCA, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago IL 60631. There is no cost or obligation.

### Clip, Complete, and Mail to:

Doug Haugen,  
Executive Director  
Lutheran Men in Mission  
8765 West Higgins Road  
Chicago IL 60631

Please send me, without cost or obligation, a copy of your folder on Charitable Remainder Trusts.

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## A VERY SPECIAL CHALLENGE HAS BEEN OFFERED

A great opportunity has been given to us as we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Lutheran Men in Mission! **Jim and Cathy Monkman have offered a wonderful matching challenge gift of \$25,000 in celebration and gratitude. They will match every new or increased gift of \$250 or more up to \$25,000!** We need your help to meet this challenge. Here's the list of donors (as of June 15) who have stepped up to the challenge. Please help us meet the challenge today. Please refer any additions/corrections to this list to Kimberley Moseley Cannon at (800) 638-3522, ext. 2595, or e-mail [Kimberley.Moseley@elca.org](mailto:Kimberley.Moseley@elca.org).

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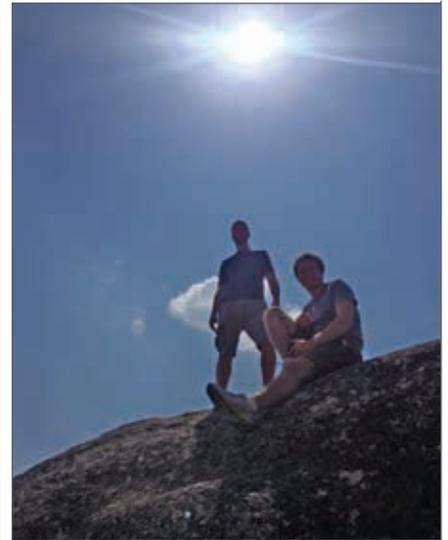
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The west shore of Lake Tahoe offered great views and a chance to climb high and do some thinking about God's plan for one's life. (Tim Schroeder and John Hindley).

*"I was a little hesitant to be going on the LMM retreat in Tahoe. I hardly knew anyone and I was certain I'd be one of the youngest participants. Yet, it was very easy to get to know men in the group. Over the two days we spent together we built a community where we were able to worship, pray, and have a lot of fun."*

Tyler Crabe, Berkeley, CA



Active learning weekends expand a man's perspective on life and faith. When was the last time you took a risk and did something like rock climbing?

## HOLY RECREATION: REFLECTING ON HIGH, DEEP & WIDE AT TAHOE

*(continued from cover)*

passion. [Facilitators] Todd and Vic's servant leadership should become our leadership. May we all experience the 'authentic joy' of a deepened relationship with him [Christ]!"

### We're all different

But guys need more than speakers and games. The men that mentally process better at the close of the day gathered late each evening to do a walking Scripture study. Likewise, the early morning crew met just after sunrise to walk and talk through the Scripture and do ideation. While not a new concept, many guys had never experienced brainstorming sessions in such a masculine, active manner. Several men remarked that it felt more natural to walk and talk than it did to sit around a table.

A key take-away is that a re-masculated man loves the Lord with all his heart, soul, mind and strength, and takes care of himself mentally, spiritually and physically, all beginning from the position of grace. A personal challenge was issued at this event regarding each man's masculine energy and talent. Men get

*"Men who participate with LMM never cease to amaze me. I strongly felt encouraged, loved, and respected amongst men of all walks of life during the event at Lake Tahoe. This unforgettable experience is exactly what I needed to end my summer and enter seminary. Whenever I am going through adversity, I just remember the phenomenal men from this weekend and know that I'm way too blessed to be stressed. This strong group of stand-up gentlemen means a lot to my life and my ministry as a man of Christ."*

Louis Tillman, Atlanta, GA

one body and must be vital, healthy men who God can use. If we are to be men who change the world, then we need to be in peak physical condition. We can't change the world sitting on the couch!

### What LMM offers

As a part of Lutheran Men's vision of every man having a deeper relationship with Christ, active learning weekends such as *High, Deep & Wide* compliment more introspective events like One Year to Live and equipping workshops such as Building Men for Christ. Future active learning weekends are being discussed even as this issue of Foundations goes to press.

To hear Tim Wright's messages from *High, Deep & Wide*, navigate to the LMM Channel on YouTube.

*Kyle Pedersen is a brother, a son and walk-along-sider who is journeying to the foot of the cross with an amazing crew! When not doing his day job in Des Moines, IA, he serves as a Young Men's Specialist with Lutheran Men in Mission.*



Effective communication is important! Men competed to orient giant mural pieces during strong winds while a teammate 20 yards uphill shouted directions.



## Where are the boys?

We have all heard or read about young men leaving the church, especially after confirmation and during their college or young adult years. Ten years ago, Lutheran Men in Mission funded a research project on why this is happening and worked to identify the root cause. The results of that work were published in

the book *Coming of Age: Exploring the Spirituality and Identity of Younger Men*, and has been recognized as a definitive study of that age group's view of church, faith and religion. As a result of that study, LMM formed the Young Men's Council, hired a Young Men's Ministry Specialist, and has consciously reached out in multiple ways to young men and boys.

However, recently I have heard and read of additional research indicating that boys start to disengage from the church at the age of nine—typically the age of 4th grade students! I find that very disconcerting. It says that we have even less time to demonstrate to boys that being active in a faith community is critical. If they start disconnecting that early, how will they realize that having a strong, active faith is a key component to a rich, rewarding, meaningful and productive life as a young person and as an adult?

The season of fall is here, with church ministries restarting and everyone getting back into their "school year" routine. Yes, even we retired guys have a school year routine that differs from our summer routine. Now is a great time to start something new; why wait until New Years? Let me offer some suggestions that you can readily implement and that will demonstrate to boys that being active in a congregation—a worshipping faith community—is important in your life, and can be for them:

- Actively participate in worship each week, whether it's the traditional Sunday morning worship service or an alternate time, day or setting. Make it an important family activity with everyone attending together, even "dear old dad."
- Personally thank boys and girls for their participation in worship as a leader, acolyte, crucifer, singing in a choir, playing music, reading lessons, etc. Affirm their gifts and tell them how it added to your worship experience.
- Attend a regular Christian education opportunity such as a Bible study or adult class to show to the boys that learning is an on-going, life-long process.
- Consider teaching Sunday school, be a youth ministry volunteer or leader, or help with transportation for youth activities.
- Be a mentor to a confirmand. This is a great opportunity to get to know a boy and personally witness to him.
- Be a leader, volunteer or merit badge counselor with a congregation-based Boy Scout troop.

Obviously there are many more opportunities waiting for you, and many that will match your gifts, interests and life experiences. For further thoughts, please read the excellent book *Searching for Tom Sawyer: How Parents and Congregations Can Stop the Exodus of Boys from Church* by Tim Wright. Tim was a leader at our *High, Wide and Deep* men's event at Lake Tahoe, CA, this past August.

For the record, several folks have asked me about my faith life. Was I ever not active in a worship community? The answer is yes. I detached from church at age 13 when my father was deployed to France during the Berlin Wall crisis in 1961. I did not re-engage until I was twenty when I met my future wife who invited me to attend her church—the rest is history. Funny how God works!

Yours servant in Christ,  
 Rich White, President  
 Lutheran Men in Mission  
[rwhite743@aol.com](mailto:rwhite743@aol.com)

## The Perfect Study Bible for Men of All Ages

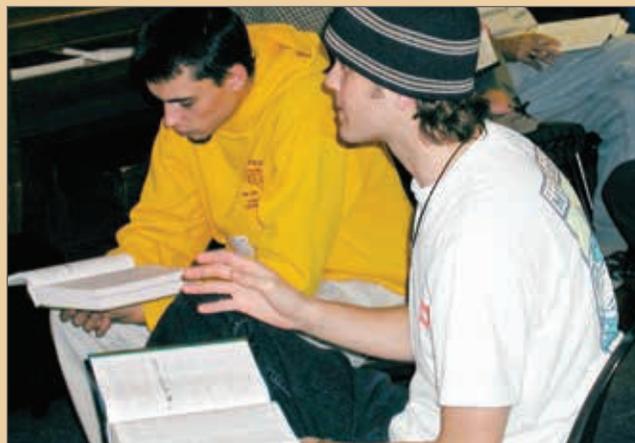
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# LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION®

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Staff of the One Year to Live retreat in Springville, CA in July. Back row, left to right: Peter Walker, Mike Palmer, Matt Love. Front row, left to right: Mark Coleman, Jim Monkman, Bruce Kaufman, Tyler Kaufman.



Men of all ages from across the country attended *High, Wide & Deep* to engage in intentional, meaningful play and to be inspired by Tim Wright's insights on the church reaching and raising boys to be faithful, healthy men in the 21st century.



Participants of the *High, Deep & Wide* retreat in North Lake Tahoe in August participated in challenging, fun games to build relationships.