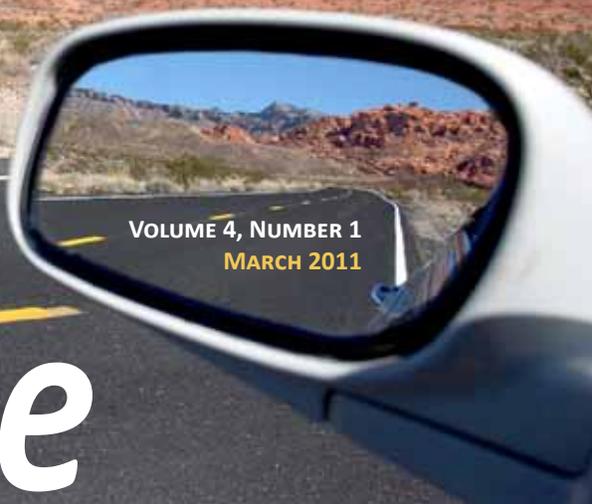


Partners' Voice



VOLUME 4, NUMBER 1
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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 72® —PARTNERS ON THE ROAD

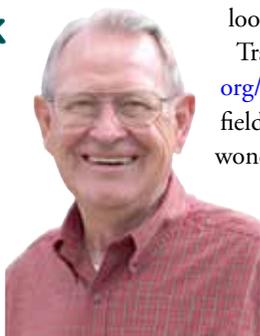
LCMS members are the laborers!

The director's desk

My dear partners,

When Lois and I began serving as team members of The 72 (then known as Harvesters for Christ) in 1996, our tool box contained about six or seven modules that we could offer a congregation. To name a few we were provided with: "Dialog Evangelism 2," "Media and Evangelism," "Network of Caring (TeleCare)," "Returning Church as Home," and "Assimilation." Although these tools were provided, our primary focus was on Evangelism and Canvassing, since most of those first assignments were for the purpose of canvassing neighborhoods to identify prospects for the congregation to follow-up with after we left.

We now offer congregations modules in at least 15 areas of ministry. You may want to



Rev. Al Tormoehlen

look at our pamphlet "Areas of Training" by visiting www.lcms.org/the72. Over the years, I have fielded questions from some who wonder why we have ventured into other areas of ministry, and in their thoughts, buried the main focus of evangelism training. I contend that we haven't buried evangelism training; we've just expanded it.

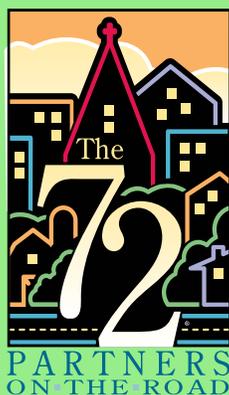
A long-time friend of mine, Dr. Irwin Kolb, once said, while serving as the secretary of the LCMS Department of Evangelism, some sound words as he studied the Great Commission that I think speak to this point. Erv, as he was known, to me, stated:

"It seems to me that the tension today is seen between missions, means and goal. What is our mission? What is the goal we seek to accomplish? What is the means by which to reach that goal? ... As you know, there are four verbs in the

basic commission: go, make disciples, baptizing and teaching. And which is the imperative? Make disciples. The others are participles which indicate the means needed to carry out the command, by going, baptizing and by teaching. The emphasis is not on the participles, but on the imperative. ... To summarize, the Church is sent on a mission equipped with means to accomplish the goal. The goal is to make disciples of all nations. ... The means are not to be used as ends in themselves."

Teams of The 72 are sent to congregations to provide training so that their ability to make disciples is strengthened. While equipping people to share their faith in Jesus comfortably remains primary, the other areas of our ministry—such as assimilation and reaching out to inactives, and outreach through children or day school ministry—hopefully provide a well-rounded basis for

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Assignments — Winter 2011

Congregation	Location	Team Assigned	Dates
Our Redeemer	Jacksonville, Fla.	Dick and Jean Evers	Jan. 8-9
Bethel	Round Lake, Minn.	Brucy Manzey	Jan. 15
Zion	Albilene, Texas	Dalton and Deanne Novack, Don and Karen Little	Feb. 13-March 8
Zion New Life	Winter Garden, Fla.	Dick and Jean Evers	Feb. 19-20
Holy Lamb	Myrtle Beach, S.C.	Ron Raschke, Marian Parker, Lois Schaefer, Marilyn Newstrom	March 19-April 9
Holy Cross	Ashland, Va.	Dave and Dee Allen	March 25-April 14
St. Paul	West Allis, Wis.	Jim and Lorri Schumacher, Loris and Lois Rather	March 25-April 15
Shepherd of the Valley	Oceanside, Calif.	Al and Joy Axelson, Joyce Roberts	April 4-8

Continuing short-track seminars

Trinity	Ft. Pierce, Fla.	Dick and Jean Evers	TBA
Concordia	Sarasota, Fla.	Dick and Jean Evers	TBA
Hope	Bradenton, Fla.	Dick and Jean Evers	TBA

Upcoming and potential assignments — spring/summer 2011

Trinity, Cape Coral, Fla. (Dick and Jean Evers); Trinity, Fergus Falls, Minn.; Christ, Eagan, Minn.; Ascension, Landover Hills, Md. (Dave and Dee Allen, short-track seminar); Holy Cross, Scottsdale, Ariz.; Ascension/Abundant Life, Tuscon, Ariz.; Grace, Banning, Calif.; Trinity, Cedar City, Utah; Trinity, St. George, Utah; Our Shepherd, Searcy, Ark.; St. Peter and Paul, Lorain, Ohio.

The director's desk

Continued from page 1

equipping members to accomplish the goal. We never want people to think that once the seed is sown, the goal has been accomplished. If that happens, then the harvest may be lost. Jesus said to the crowd, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." We are those laborers, members of our LCMS churches are the laborers. We have something to share and to then rejoice over one who was lost and is now found.

It is my prayer that The 72 ministry we will be able to equip more LCMS members so that they can go confidently into their local community, bringing those who are lost home to live in our Lord's family and be His disciples.



Your partner on the road,

Rev. Al Tormoehlen, Director

The 72—Partners on the Road
LCMS World Mission, Outreach Ministry

In the field



- St. Paul's Lutheran Church
- Jim and Lori Schumacher, Loris and Lois Rather
- Oct. 31-Nov. 21, 2010

What's in a name?

This was Rev. Tom Petersen's sermon title that caused The 72 team to giggle slightly during our first church service and commissioning at St. Paul.

Rev. Petersen's intent was to share the Reformation idea of how the Lutheran name came about and how it has changed in its meaning today. The four of us, however, had flashback memories of our beginnings back in September. Biographies were sent to introduce The 72 team of Loris and Lois Rather (pronounced "Ray-ther") and Jim and Lorri Schumacher.

Computers have a way of causing glitches at the most inopportune times. The Rathers' bios were lost and wanting to get their resumé in the first issue of the church newsletter, a quick check was made into The 72 website and, unfortunately, Loren Rehmer's testimony was found and used. It seemed to be the one. After all, Loris Rather and Loren Rehmer sound almost alike. After one more subsequent newsletter issue, it was



Lori and Jim Schumacher



Joan Kongslien made this banner

finally resolved.

A new problem became clear as we began our three-week assignment. Each "commissioning" service found Loris and Lois Rather having a different pronunciation of their last name during each ceremony. Congregation members also got into the act as we were referred to as "Loris, Lois, Lorri and Lim." All of us enjoyed our beginnings and even listened to Pastor Tom's sermon. We were reminded that our real names have been written in the Book of Life and that we were at St. Paul to bring glory to Christ's name. A happy beginning was a foretaste of even better joys awaiting us.

A St. Paul family offered the use of their second home located 15 miles away at a beautiful small lake. An itinerary of the 23 families providing meals was given to us. A

night was also planned to be with Pastor Carl Selle from Peace Lutheran Campus Center, who invited 40 university students to his country home for food, fun and fellowship. It was great being able to share with the young adults, including several who were international students.

Our days were filled with presentations, Bible studies and workshops. There were 165 people who came to at least one presentation and a total of 466 attending all events together. They are a congregation that enthusiastically looked for recommendations, offered many suggestions as well, and even began making positive changes while we were there. The staff, volunteers and leadership team were always helpful, served us well and made us feel welcome.

Power, Montana

- Zion Lutheran Church
- John and Caroline Boll
- Oct. 6-21, 2010



Dedication strengthens partnership

Power is 25 miles northwest of Great Falls. The community has about 180 citizens and is primarily a rural farming area for a large geographical area. Zion was started more than 100 years ago, and after 57 years decided to begin a daughter congregation in Fairfield—St. John Lutheran Church. The two congregations form a two-point parish, served by Rev. Justin Herman.

Pastor Herman has served this congregation as full-time pastor since 2007, and as a vicar in 2004-05. He and the ministry are much appreciated as he has an enthusiasm for reaching out to members and the unchurched in the communities he serves.

After our partnership concluded, Pastor Herman was called upon to conduct the funeral for a family who had no church home after their 17-year-old son was killed by his younger sister in a hunting tragedy. This speaks so much toward his passion for those who do not know Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. We do not know the opportunity that will come from this response, but it is our prayer that our Lord will send His Holy Spirit to minister to the family through Pastor Herman and the members of Zion Lutheran Church.

As sometimes happens in a partnership, our schedule did not proceed exactly as planned. But as we spent time with Pastor

Herman the first week, we were able to enjoy his hospitality at the parsonage, where we stayed as well as enjoyed several evening meals and fellowship with welcoming members of Zion.

We led Bible class the first Sunday and were amazed when half of the average worship attendance joined us. And it was wonderful that a number of adults requested the Gospel witness bracelets we gave to the children during the children's message that same morning to help them share the faith they have in Jesus.

As the congregation requested, we spent a good deal of time equipping them to identify the four different types of inactive members. We emphasized a plan of action to start with those who were considered short-term inactives and develop a relationship of trust with personal contact. Prayer precedes and continues during the entire process. We felt a real sense of concern and caring by those in attendance..

The congregation also requested to learn skills for personal evangelism so members will feel more confident sharing their faith. The best module for this was the Bible study "For All to See," where emphasis

is focused on how we relate to people in everyday life. The major points of "Live Your Faith by being real," "Be yourself and not a program," "Be a Servant" and "Act in Faith—God is Acting" were well received and provided the time for each participant to identify whom they could share God's story.



Caroline and John Boll

We concluded this partnership by showing the video "The Harvest." We know that other teams have used this video as the first study with the congregation, but we felt it was a fitting reminder for each of

us how God has provided a harvest of souls needing the love of Jesus shared with them, and a great way to conclude our partnership.

We recognize that the members of Zion were dedicated to being in attendance for the training by driving many miles, and continuing to work with all activities like wrapping up their local harvest and preparing the fields.

Their concern for reaching the lost with the Gospel of Christ and to grow in caring for one another is truly a response to the love of Christ in their lives. We have been blessed by our time with them all.

First impressions

God provides

- Loris and Lois Rather
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Stevens Point, Wis.
- October/November 2010

It was with a bit of fear and anxiety that we became a part of The 72 team. After our training in June 2010, we immediately began preparing modules. We didn't know when or where our first assignment would be, but we wanted to be prepared. We went through each of the online modules and made notes to make them our own.

When Pastor Al Tormoehlen called and asked us if we were willing to serve at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Stevens Point, Wis., at the end of October 2010, we were elated. Once the teleconference was held and the modules were chosen, we went back to those modules and prepared in earnest. We then had an enjoyable weekend when our team leaders, Jim and Lorri Schumacher, spent a weekend at our house and we outlined our three weeks in detail. We thank God daily for both their friendship and their competent leadership. We hope to be able to partner with them again in



Loris and Lois Rather

the future. It made working together easy.

Our enthusiasm for the work of The 72 has not diminished after our first assignment. Instead, we are more convinced than ever that it is a worthwhile endeavor of the LCMS. We were guided and directed by the Holy Spirit and felt His presence and Pastor Al continually supported us with prayer. We were graciously received and accepted by the St. Paul congregation.

Great ground work had been completed before our arrival thanks to great leadership by a young lady, Sherrie Wallerman.

We are more convinced than ever that this (The 72) is a worthwhile endeavor for the LCMS.



When we arrived, all materials we planned to use for the three weeks were already duplicated and laid out in our conference room. We saw signs of great anticipation to our coming—bulletin boards, a great banner, a sign-up table with many names already registered for the sessions and the people were most gracious in welcoming us.

Housing was provided—a new, furnished cottage by the lake about 15 miles from town. It was an ideal location for relaxation after our busy days and for a private work area for last-minute preparations. Our meals were furnished. We were invited into members' homes

almost every evening for delicious home-cooked meals. The noon school

lunches were some of the best we have eaten.

And then there were the sessions—of course the

highlight of the weeks. We went to Stevens Point two days early to be part of a “Touched Twice” weekend where the area churches worked together to provide food, clothing, doctors, lawyers, dentists and other services for the needy. They did it in connection with the LCMS *Ablaze!* initiative. We and the Schumachers were privileged to present 23 sessions, including Bible studies.

The enthusiasm for the module presentations was high. Some ideas were already implemented or in the process of being implemented before our assignment was completed. This was exciting. “The 21st Century Church Leadership” and “Greeter/Usher Training” modules were very well received, with 36 and 43 respectively in attendance.

We look forward to our next assignment and pray that the Lord will bless all our partners on the road and all assignments—those completed and to be completed.

The yield

The Gospel is worth the effort

■ Zion Lutheran Church,
Power, Mont.

■ Oct. 6-21, 2010

■ By Rev. Justin Herman

We at Zion Lutheran Church in Power recently invited The 72 to help us in some evangelism training. The two volunteers we received were John and Caroline Boll. It was great to have them with us. They are both retired workers in the LCMS school system and have a true passion for sharing Jesus with the lost.

Before they arrived, John made sure that Zion understood that they were not going to be miracle workers. They would only pass on the tools; what we did with them was up to us.

The Bolls led us in seven involved workshops. In my opinion, the best of these workshops was “Touching Friends with the Gospel.” In this workshop, we learned to share the Good News of Jesus with others in ways that were natural to our individual personalities. It was eye-opening how easy it could be to tell of God’s love to others.

Using the tools provided by John and Caroline, we developed a program to reach out to first-time or infrequent visitors and non-attending members. The possibilities of this program excite us as a congregation. Whether or not people come back, we know that our efforts will share God’s love with that person.

As a pastor, I have a few suggestions to make to the congregations that host a team from The 72. I would advise that a pastor



goes over the material with the volunteers before each session, as John and Caroline Boll did with me. I advise this so that the pastor knows what is being presented to his congregation and can add any insights or recommend changes. Also, in this way he can personally encourage his people to become involved and direct which modules he would like for them to attend.

By participating in The 72’s training, your congregation will need to make a commitment, both financially and in terms of time. I would not recommend getting involved without having a good base of people in the congregation committed towards this evangelism training effort.



Overall, I am glad that we put forth both the time and effort. We have already had some members invite their friends to church—and those friends have come and then came back again!

People are hearing the Gospel of Jesus. That is always worth the effort.

Go and make disciples ...

- St. Paul Lutheran Church, Stevens Point, Wis.
- Oct. 29-Nov. 21 2011
- By Sherrilee Wallerman

To evangelize means to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel of Christ. Jesus, in giving the Great Commission to the 11 apostles, says in Matt. 28:19-20, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you.”

Imagine that Jesus was saying these words today, and we were one of the 11. What would be our reaction?

Impossible!

Incredible!

Absurd!

Or possibly, Lord don't you see there are only 11 of us?

The word *evangelism* seems to scare many people. We often say to ourselves, “I don't feel comfortable enough to share my faith with others, or I don't know enough about the Bible to share my faith, let the pastors and lay leaders do that.” But Jesus says, “go” out and tell others about Him. So how can you gain the self confidence and tools to evangelize?



By having a team from The 72, a ministry of LCMS World Mission, come to your congregation and present their modules on evangelism, you will revive your member's

desire to share their faith with others.

These workshops gave us the tools that we needed to evangelize and let us practice those techniques in a safe environment.

The 72 team showed us that the approach to evangelism can be a simple and straightforward approach to sharing God's love. God ultimately oversees the

process of evangelism in each person's life. We are the seed's fingers. He is the Master Gardener. And we get to bring in the crop!

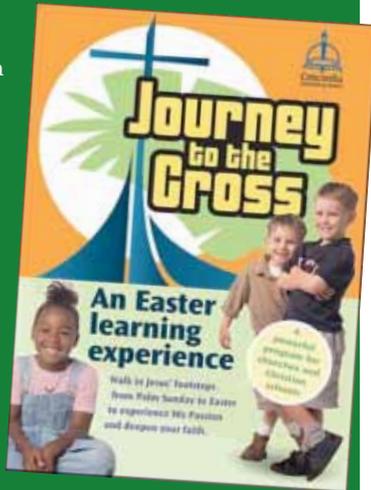
God uses numerous connections to bring new children into His family. Perhaps our motto should read, “Small Things Done with Great Love Are Changing the World,” because that's what's happening. Christ-followers from all over the world have discovered the power and impact of showing God's love in practical ways to others.

The members of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Stevens Point, Wis., would highly recommend that your congregation consider bringing a team of The 72 into your church. The whole experience of having an independent, outside view of your congregation's approach to evangelism, welcoming visitors and assimilating members will only help your congregations grow and thrive in years to come. If you would like to know more about our experience, feel free to contact us.



Resource

“Journey to the Cross” is more than just a program; it is an outreach and educational event which you can offer for your congregation and community. Through activities based on Scripture, participants experience the joy of Palm Sunday, the disappointment of Judas’ betrayal, the devastation of the crucifixion and the jubilation of the resurrection to name a few of the pieces in this learning experience.



This event invites children and adults to walk the path that Jesus walked. Small groups of people walk to as many as 13 or as few as nine sites for activities related to the Passion event. At each station, the participants’ senses are engaged through experience-focused activity that teaches the biblical account.

Site activities include:

- Tasting Passover foods and learning about the Lord’s Supper.
- Praying with an olive garden owner who tells about the Garden of Gethsemane.
- Touching a crown of thorns and seeing a whip to imagine Jesus’ suffering.
- Listening to an angel and Mary, wife of Clopas, report about Jesus’ resurrection.

Watch a video to learn more about this resource by visiting www.cph.org and search for “Journey to the Cross: An Easter Learning Experience.”



Prayers

- † Heavenly Father, keep protective watch over all The 72 team members as they travel to their assignments in February, March and April. We thank you for protecting all who traveled to their fall and January assignments.
- † As Matthew says in His Gospel, “The people living in darkness have seen a great light.” Lord, we have seen Your light. Provide us with hope, that as the light shows us opportunities to witness that we also repent for not always taking them, resting in the confidence that Your sacrifice has forgiven our sins and that we will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit so that we can share the love you have given to us with all people.
- † Holy Spirit, enlighten us with Your gifts as we learn to share the Good News about Jesus. Continue to give us love, gentleness, kindness, faithfulness and patience; keeping us in the one true faith, so that we may share it boldly with those who do not know You.

Prayer Warriors

Members at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and School in Milwaukee, Wis. are prayer warriors for the teams of The 72. Contact Mr. Jim Berg to let these warriors know to pray for your partnership with each congregation.

Partners’ Voice is published by LCMS World Mission—
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Visit us on the Web at: www.lcmsworldmission.org/the72