



INSIGHT FROM AN ACTUAL TEAM: (Lay Members—Couple)



Dick and Jean Evers – Serving The 72—multiple districts

As Partners in The 72 ministry, we are thankful that we have been able to witness the Holy Spirit working in the lives of the members of the 11 congregations we have served. Although all of us in this ministry would like to see the fruits of our labors develop quickly, we also recognize that it takes time for the churches to digest what we present to them, finalize their priorities, and begin to develop or revitalize their ministries.

We are excited and very thankful as we see, through the pages of the church newsletters we receive and periodic telephone or personal follow-up contacts, how the Lord is leading the congregations to develop and use various portions of the modules we used to equip them for outreach. We feel, without any reservations, that God has truly blessed us by leading us to serve as Partners on the Road in The 72 ministry.

Our experiences while we are with the congregations, together with the time spent in preparation and follow-up, have challenged us in many positive ways. These experiences have strengthened our own personal faith, and grants us the privilege of serving our Lord together as a couple in ways that we had not envisioned before we became involved in this ministry.



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The Global Gospel Outreach of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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INSIGHT FROM AN ACTUAL TEAM: (Commissioned Minister: Teacher—Couple)



Loren Rehmer—Veteran Team (12 years experience)

Throughout my teaching career in the LCMS school system, I always had a heart for outreach. During my first year of teaching, one of my students was baptized. Those opportunities stayed with until I retired after 40 years.

In 1996, my wife, Marge, found an article written in the Reporter stating a new program called “Harvesters” was about to begin. So, we signed up not really knowing what we were going to experience. The two of us went to the first training session in St. Louis and received our first assignment 12 years ago to Onalaska, Wis. Over the years, we have experienced a myriad of positive outreach happenings in 13 assignments.

Being involved has expanded our outreach eyes and efforts. It is really rewarding to come to a parish that has little or no outreach program, meet wonderful Christians, and help them develop a plan of action to reach the lost in their community.

We have had the opportunity to work with many pastors that had a strong concern for the lost. Canvassing neighborhoods has been very rewarding for one who can readily share the Gospel message in these encounters.

Working with various boards and committees brings fulfillment to us as they start to develop a plan of action. Our main aim is to help each parish get out of their comfort zone, and in this capacity we have seen a multitude of marvelous happenings. Many congregations desire a quick fix to fill the pews. Our aim is to bring people to a saving faith and strengthen the members of a parish.

It has been a great experience that people with outreach eyes would really enjoy. If you see yourself as someone who is passionate about the lost and has a gift for equipping others for service, please contact The 72’s office and find out more information about how you can join us in this ministry.



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INSIGHT FROM AN ACTUAL TEAM: (Lay person—Individual)

Ron Raschke—Equipping members for Tract Ministry

I love being a part of The 72 because it has afforded me another opportunity to carry out my mission of sharing the Gospel in the world and training gifted brothers and sisters in witnessing techniques, etc.

I have many new-found friends within the ministry and the churches I have served. There are always positive outcomes during and after our assignments. I have many stories to share about people who I have met along the way, but I would like to share one specific experience from an assignment when I served with Deanna and Mary in 2007.

The following story is about how God uses us to equip LCMS members for witness and watching God act:

While on assignment, I have learned to see the Holy Spirit work in mysterious and unanticipated ways. I have also learned to go with His flow and be prepared to teach and witness.

On this particular assignment, we were encouraging and equipping members to work with tract ministry to share the Gospel. As is sometimes the case, members do not see how something so little as leaving a tract with a waitress, newspaper boy, or the bank clerk can be used by the Holy Spirit and this assignment was no different.

It is customary on assignments for members to take us out for meals. On one specific day, Jeff offered to take us out for a meal. We had been discussing tract ministry with him, but he was not necessarily interested in using them as a witnessing tool. As is my practice when paying the bill, I took a small New Testament and a tract out of my pocket and left them for our very pleasant waitress as part of the tip. When we returned to the car and looked back, our waitress was coming up to us. She asked if we would sign her husband's name to the tract and New Testament we had left for her. One month earlier, her husband had been diagnosed with fourth stage cancer and she wanted to give him these items. In our brief conversation, she indicated that she did have a church where she attended, but that she and her husband would think about visiting the congregation where we were serving. Before she returned to work we formed a circle in the parking lot and Jeff prayed for her.

Truly the Holy Spirit works and teaches right along with us when we are on an assignment. Sometimes it is as bold as this experience and other times we do not get to see it so clearly. But, He directs us where we go, and on that day, He directed us to that restaurant and that waitress who was in need of a blessing from our Lord. Our original plan was to go to a restaurant closer to church, but Jeff could not find a parking space there. That's why we ended up at this restaurant, what seemed at the time a secondary place, but God had different plans. He blessed our waitress with a reminder of His love, and we watched as He used our work to continue equipping His child for witnessing.



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