

Epistle



South Carolina
Lutheran Men in Mission

www.sclmm.org

July 2010

From the President

Many thanks to the participants and golf hole sponsors for the 24th Annual Cliff Bourguignon Golf Tournament on May 10, which was held at two courses in Lexington. Funds raised during the golf tournament will help fund a scholarship at Newberry College, South Carolina's Lutheran college.

At the recent Synod Assembly, the South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission Executive Committee approved a grant from the Segelken Fund for Faith Lutheran Chapel in Pickens to get a new church sign. SCLMM Executive Director Heber Rast gave the keynote speech at the annual Mission Breakfast on Saturday, June 5, during the Synod Assembly. On Friday night at the Synod Assembly, checks from the worship service offering at the 2010 SCLMM Convention were presented to our five mission churches: Faith Lutheran Chapel (Pickens), Crossroads Lutheran Church (Indianland [Fort Mill]), Manatial de Vida (north Columbia), Cristo Rey (West Columbia), and Breath of Life (Blythewood).

Participants in the Men in Action ministry will be traveling to the Ocoee River in Tennessee in July.

A second One Year to Live Retreat is planned for the autumn.

Amen for Lutheran Men.

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Heber Rast

Summer 2010 Epistle Article

It seems that our lives just keep getting busier and busier no matter what we do. We find ourselves getting caught in a rut and not getting out. Sometimes I think that the same thing applies to SCLMM. We have as our motto, "Missions Are Our Business" and this is our number one financial focus. However, this is not the main purpose for our existence. We had a men's ministry in our synod long before we began supporting mission congregations. I think that now is a good time to "stop and smell the roses" as the old expression goes! Now is a good time for us to re-examine our purpose.

If we look at the "Purpose" in our constitution, you will find that before financial support for missions comes the statement that we are really about aiding the spiritual development of our men and deepening their commitment to Jesus Christ and participation in His church. This is indeed a lofty purpose as it is about building men! This is where we receive real benefit from our church wide Lutheran Men in Mission. They publish the Master Builders Bible for Men which we are all familiar with and many of us use for bible study. In addition, they have developed the One Year to Live retreat format and local leaders are now trained to lead these retreats. This is a special weekend to help our men improve on their discipleship and relationships with those closest to them. We plan on holding another retreat later this fall. Look for additional details and if you are serious about building your relationship with Jesus Christ and your loved ones, then you cannot afford to pass up this opportunity for spiritual growth!

Another tool from LMM is the Building Men for Christ workshops. This 24 hour workshop is not as much about personal spiritual growth as it is about building leadership. This is intended to provide you with the tools necessary for starting or re-invigorating men's ministry in your congregation. The goal is to help you develop a life changing men's ministry on your local level. These are being held at several locations across the country. We are fortunate that there will be one Nov. 12-13, 2010 at the NC Synod office. Keep this weekend in mind for leadership building.

I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities to "build men" and men's ministry in your congregation. Missions Are our Business and the real mission starts within us!

Heartland Conference

We have had two successful quarterly meetings so far this year. The first was at Mt. Olivet, Chapin, with a presentation by Captain Chris Cowan of the Richland County Sheriff's Department.

The second quarterly meeting was held at Summer Memorial in Newberry. We had a presentation by Charles Ruth, the Statewide Deer and Wild Turkey Program Coordinator for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. This was an excellent program for the hunters and land owners, plus those that are just interested in the outdoors.

Our Youth Meeting will be held at Grace Lutheran Church in Prosperity August 15. The program is still being formulated at this time. We are planning on youth from area churches doing short programs.

As stated in the last Epistle, we are very excited about Ladies Night this year. Hannah Horne, of WIS-TV has agreed to be our speaker this year. The meeting will be held at Holy Trinity in Little Mountain and will be on November 18, 2010. I invite any member of Lutheran Men in Mission to attend. You can access Hannah's biography at:

<http://www.wistv.com/Global/story.asp?S=179651>

Well, that's about it for this report. I hope to see you at one of our meetings in the Heartland Conference

Foothills Conference #1 Q2, 2010

Atonement The LMM members have been meeting on a regular basis and have held Bible studies.

Christ the King They are having Bible study at their monthly off-campus meetings. The group continues to participate in Church property maintenance projects. They have had an increase in attendance this year.

Faith Lutheran Chapel

The men of Faith Lutheran have kept up with Bible studies at their second Saturday of the month breakfast meetings. In addition, they worked on the new building in preparation for the renovation of their new worship space. The Faith men sponsored a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. They are also in the planning stages of constructing a building to house a cotton gin at the Hagood Mill in Pickens.

Holy Trinity The Holy Trinity men continue to hold their regular meetings with an average attendance of 20. At their next meeting, the guest speaker will be the Anderson County Sherriff. Their recent service project was a Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper with the proceeds going to local charity.

Immanuel The LMM group has continued to have guest speakers from the local community at their monthly meetings. They are sponsoring "Angel Flights" as their service project. IHOP is coming to their church the first Sunday in March to cook pancakes and Fixings. The men will do the setup and serve the meal. The proceeds will go toward the "Angel Flights".

Lutheran Church by the Lake The men have started their 2010 year with a diner meeting on Wednesday 2/10/2010. They also hosted a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner for the congregation.

Messiah The new Messiah officers took their place at the January meeting. They hosted Valentines night out dinner at a local venue with

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

30 couples in attendance on a snowy night. As a fundraiser, the men split and delivered firewood on several weekends. Some of the wood was delivered to families in need. As a church activity, the men of messiah hosted a Christmas pancake breakfast. The messiah men recently voted to directly support the 5 mission churches in the synod.

Our Saviour The men of Our Saviour have been very busy in preparation for the SCLMM Convention in February.

Redeemer The LMM of Redeemer continue to be very active by continuing to hold monthly meetings, supporting outreach programs and having social events.

St. John The men of Saint John's continue to have their monthly meetings. They hosted a pancake supper and talent show to raise funds for their mission trip to Atlanta. The men met with Luther Lisle from

the Cherokee Nation for an outing to find original Trail Trees. They discovered over 40. At the January meeting, they planned future programs.

St. Matthias Faith Chapel LMM has been working with the men of St. Matthias to get their chapter back into action. St Matthias is exploring the possibilities of reactivating their LMM chapter.

St. Michael The St. Michael has continued to meet and hold Bible studies. They are moving their meeting time from Sunday morning to Saturday to accommodate a larger cross section of men from their congregation.

University Men from the University Chapter continue to join with the men from Faith Lutheran at their monthly meetings.

One Year to Live - Men's Ministry

Are you satisfied with the ministry your church is doing in your community? Are your members being intentionally discipled? Do you have a christian brother or sister you can count on in a critical time without being judged? Are you helping the folks that have lost their jobs or homes? Is everyone afraid to pray aloud so you have to ask the "God Guy" (Pastor) every time?

80% of our congregations are stagnated or declining. Are you ok with this? The answer is not more programs. It is relationships with each other and Jesus. Real ones.

I think this is what Jesus had in mind when he talked about the "church". Not a building with events. I think he had a cooperative ministry in mind that focused on mission inside AND outside our doors. To be a rock in the community for anyone and everyone.

LMM is focusing on discipleship with its One Year To Live retreats. These retreats were created to disciple the men in your congregation. This scares most of our men. I understand. I also understand that Jesus told us to disciple all nations, that means everyone including your neighbors, fellow Christians and workmates. We as Lutherans generally do not know how to do this or even where to begin. I ask you to invite the men in your congregation to our retreat November 5-7 near Columbia, site to be announced. I have personally witnessed great changes and relief in the men attending.

If you disciple your men, your congregation will thrive. You will have real men's ministry. You will have more volunteers than places open on committees. You will have more money than is needed for your budget. Get them there and the Holy Spirit will change them. We cannot help them if they are not there. I believe this is how Jesus had things planned

for us. Any pastors interested in this?

BUILDING MEN FOR CHRIST:

This is a Friday/Saturday seminar on how to start a men's ministry. You do not go fishing for bass with a small hook, a cricket and a cork. You need to know your target. We will share what it takes to reach your men. BMFC is November 12-13 in Salisbury, NC at the Synod House. Your pastors should come with you and 3 other men. We especially invite our lady pastors/ partners.

MEN IN ACTION:

Men in action is a SCLMM ministry aimed at the younger men. Look around and you will see that less than 5% of your congregation is 18-35 year old men at your next church service. We know how to reach them. You must form a real relationship with them. You must: IDENTIFY, INVITE AND INVEST in them. It works every time. Ask God to give you the courage and wisdom and trust Him. It will work.

Ask some guys to go whitewater rafting with us July 9-11. We will have a blast and they will see that all we want from them is their friendship and for them to have what we have found, peace in Christ. Take them camping, hiking or boating or fishing, whatever they want to do. And then show them what God has done for you in your life. All ages are welcome at our events.

Please pray for our ministry and the lives we touch. Consider offering your time for us and your resources. SCLMM does not fund MIA.

If you are interested in joining our Young Men's Council let me know.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT TIM CROUT @

Region 9

Region 9 has a few upcoming events that you will wish to involve your men and yourself. If you have an event planned and wish for me to help, contact me and see if we can work it out.

Building Men For Christ is a overnight seminar to teach you and your pastor how to work together to create an environment that is conducive for a real, working men's ministry where men have someone to talk to and be held accountable without judgement from his brother. The Master Builders Bibles have an index that tells you how to start a men's ministry. A local seminar is scheduled for Saturday, November 13 in Salisbury NC.

One Year To Live retreats are building new leaders for your ministry, congregations and families. It is a 44 hour retreat that is lay led with Lutheran theology. OYTL is not for everyone but should be an opportunity for most of you. You will remove what it is that is holding you back from being the man God intended you to be. We will host the third retreat east of the Mississippi River outside of Columbia, SC November 5-7. LMM is helping reshape men's roles and responsibilities in the Lutheran Church with this hands on ministry.



Mission Breakfast @ The College

GOOD FOOD, GOOD FELLOWSHIP, AND WHAT A MESSAGE



“The Brotherhood”, “Lutheran Church Men”, “Lutheran Men”, or for today’s church men’s organization, “Lutheran Men in Mission”(LMM), the message has progressed over the years. Men’s ministries and building the body of Christ is the business of Lutheran men in South Carolina.

Hitting the road running, new Executive Director *Heber Rast* addressed the Mission Breakfast attendees at Newberry College by highlighting the successes of the organization, making possible mission congregations, Young Men’s Ministries, Master Builders Bible programs and the emphasis on men’s responsibility to the church, to the community, to the family, and to one’s self. Success did not come from the support of a few, but by many Lutherans in South Carolina. Lutheran Men in Mission did not get to their present stature by going it alone – they had partners....Lutherans in South Carolina. WHAT A MESSAGE!



The THANK YOU’S were from mission developers as they excitedly talked about *GOD’S GRACE* working in each of their congregations. *Rev. Mikki Gay, Rev. John Setzler, Rev. Bob Kasting, Rev. Andres Leone, and Rev. Sandy Jones* mentioned that without the **Mission Gift Fund** and the **New Mission Start Fund**, their ministries would not be possible! Support for mission congregations in South Carolina comes from Lutheran Men in Mission, the SC Synod, the ELCA, and from a lot of individual churches. Each Pastor had a story about how Lutherans all over South Carolina have participated in the success of these fledgling ministries. Pastors from *Breath of Life (10 am), Crossroads (9:30 am), Faith (9 am), Cristo Rey (5 pm) and Manantial de Vida (12:45)* invited everyone to attend

Sunday services and feel the Holy Spirit working in their congregations. WHAT A MESSAGE!

Rev. Christine Stoxen, Living Springs, Columbia Rev. Pat Riddle, St Stephen, Lexington and David Swartling, ELCA Church-Wide Representative were presented LMM Honorary Life Membership pins by *Von Metts, Gift Fund Director*. The gathering honored former mission developers *Rev. Dick Webber, Rev. John Yost, Rev. James Addy, and Rev. Bob Beaver*. Those in attendance were asked to keep in their prayers



Dean Ganis and Dick Hankins as they were not present because of personal and family conflicts.

Heber concluded his comments reminding everyone that one of the purposes and objectives listed in the SC LMM Constitution says, “*The SC LMM shall seek to aid in the spiritual and social development of the men of the Church and to deepen their commitment to CHRIST and participation in the life of HIS CHURCH.*” The challenge now is to not forget our calling and use our time and talents to help chart new directions. “Be part of the solution, not part of the problem.”

We are reminded in Job’s conversations with GOD that when *HE* speaks,

we must be listening and mindful of what he is saying.

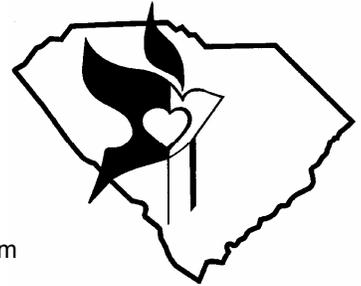
There is strength in the words of GOD.

WHAT A MESSAGE!

Dan Camp

Promotional Secretary

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2010 SCLMM Themes for 2010

**Also I heard the voice of the LORD, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”
 Then said I, “Here I am; send me.” Isaiah 6:8 (KJV [quotation marks added])**

**Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the grave, where you are going, there
 is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom. Ecclesiastes 9:10 (NIV)**



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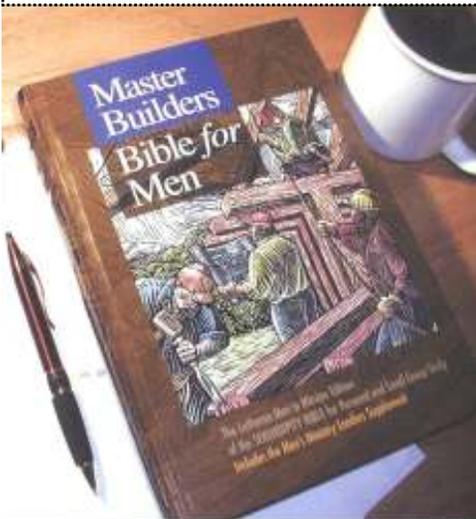
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Increasing printing and postage fee's are making this publication more expensive to print, and we are asking for your help in saving money in the Promotional Fund.

2010 SCLMM DATE LOG

Friday-Sunday August 20-22	SCLMM Executive Committee Retreat Isle of Palms
Saturday August 21 10:00am	SCLMM Executive Committee Meeting Isle of Palms.
Sunday November 7 2:30pm	SCLMM Executive Meeting Synod Office—Columbia

Friday November 12, Epistle Deadline for November 19 Mailing

December 15th 2010 Deadline for reports for the 2011 Directory

2010 GOALS

CATEGORY	BUDGET GOAL:	% OF GOAL
LMM-ELCA	\$ 5,000	34.7%
Loan Fund	\$14,000	18.3%
Promotional Support Fund	\$23,000	35.5%
Gift Fund	\$28,000	23.9%