

# Epistle



South Carolina  
Lutheran Men in Mission

www.sclmm.org

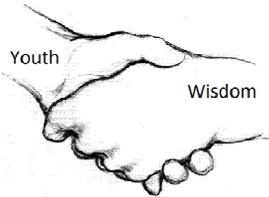
July 2011

## From the President

Wow, it's nearly August. It seems like our Convention was yesterday. How time slips away. This is going to be a challenging year for us in the SCLMM. With the current state of our economy, the Committee of 100 is well behind in donations versus last year. Our churches in the ELCA have their ongoing problems. And the Church's problems directly influence us.

Our 2011 theme is

"Reach out,  
Bridge The Gap,  
Pass The Torch".



We have a lot of work to do to get young men in the ELCA involved with our Mission.

I would like to issue a challenge that we all dig in and get to work. Let's find new people to join the Committee of 100. Maybe make some personal sacrifice and give a few extra dollars to help make up for those not as blessed. Let's all try to visit one of our mission churches Sunday service this year and show our support. And most important, let's find a way to involve young men in our Mission. The future wellbeing of SCLMM depends on the success of this goal. "Us old guys" aren't going to live forever!

The coming months are going to be fun for me and I am blessed to be given the opportunity to be a part of the best organization on the face of Earth — The SOUTH CAROLINA LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION.

In Christ's Service,

**Amen for Lutheran Men!**

Joe Fulmer

2011 President of SCLMM

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**Send your articles for  
the next Epistle:**

By Mail: Ralph Wessinger  
709 Otis Blvd  
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Or Email: [epistlenews@sclmm.org](mailto:epistlenews@sclmm.org)

## Heber Rast

I personally thought that we had a very good Convention this year. While we wished that more would have attended, I think that those who did were rewarded with inspirational worship, a truly dynamic keynote speaker and a great Banquet Saturday night. It is always a highlight to present the Gift Fund checks to our Mission Congregations! This year we all need to work hard to insure that we do meet our Gift Fund Goal, as we came up short last year.

While at the convention, I discussed with Howard Leonard the possibility of updating the history of men's ministry in our synod. He and I have begun that task and we are finding some truly remarkable results that you men have achieved. As an example, do you realize that through the New Mission Start Program, SCLMM has helped fund the start of 11 new mission congregations in our synod by giving \$949,500 to support Mission Developers? That is amazing and was accomplished through your support of the Committee of 100. The "history update" task will not be an easy one but we hope to have a document that will be "user friendly" when finished and one that can be easily updated each year. As the expression goes, "stay tuned for further information!"

On the flip side, I was disappointed that we had to cancel the One Year to Live retreat scheduled for Camp Kinard this spring due to lack of participation. These retreats offer what I think is the best opportunity for our Christian growth that we have. I urge you to take advantage of the retreat planned for this fall at the Coastal Retreat Center. Put the dates of October 28 - 30 on your calendar and make the commitment to grow your Christian faith!

In May of this year, the LMM unit at The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Newberry, spearheaded a project to raise money and needed supplies for Christ Lutheran Church in Cullman, Alabama. This parish was served in the late '60's and early '70's by Rev. Ron Smith and wife Helen. Two of their children were baptized in Christ Lutheran. Two of Redeemers men delivered a trailer load and pick-up load of supplies along with a check in the amount of \$6774.00. The check was presented to the congregational secretary on May 31. The LMM of Redeemer wish to thank all the churches and individuals in the Heartland Conference for their generosity. We plan to make Christ Church an ongoing project of our LMM unit. Thanks for all donations and prayers on behalf of Christ Lutheran, Cullman, Alabama.

Financial Secretary  
Lutheran Church Of The Redeemer  
[redeemerfs@bellsouth.net](mailto:redemerfs@bellsouth.net)



I hope your summers are all going well. And for those that are going to Denver for the LMM National Convention, it is almost upon us and promises to be a spirit filled weekend.

That brings me to my invitation. In October is our next One Year to Live Retreat. I urgently invite you all to attend for what has been, and continues to be, one of the most spirit filled weekends I ever attend. I think of Larry Madden, a gentleman who attended OYTL at Lutheridge and passed away one month later. What if that was the weekend that got him close to God? I think of my father who, quite frankly, has had a distaste for organized religion for a very long time, but since OYTL he has been attending church regularly, getting involved in building projects around the church and he and I have had the deepest conversations in all my 39 years. And I think of the other people, for early 20's to their 80's that simply went to have a spiritual experience like no other with some friends.

SCLMM is not merely a money raising organization. As a member of a mission church, I am EXTREMELY grateful for the support we receive through SCLMM. However, as a christian, who is always looking to grow closer to God, I am just as thankful for what OYTL has given me and the other people who have went through the programs. OYTL is what has propelled me to do more for my church and to join the executive board of SCLMM.

As executive board members I feel that we are not only stewards of money but stewards of programs like OYTL and MIA. How often do you talk to folks about OYTL? And when you do, do you simply say we have this program and to contact Tim Crout or myself if you want to know more? I am urging you to not only think about going to OYTL in October, but just go. You will be affected in a supremely positive way and your story will draw more people to OYTL. We do not want more people to OYTL simply to support the program, we want more people to OYTL to become closer to God. All of us can get closer, otherwise we would no longer need church, fellowship or bible study.

As the summer rolls on, I hope you have wonderful days with your families, and please give hard consideration to attending and help keep the state of South Carolina the jewel of Lutheran Men in Mission across the nation. I look forward to seeing you there!

God bless, Brian Dooley DC, ACP



# To Truck or Not to Truck

*"You, my brothers, were called to be free*

*But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love." (Galatians 5:13)*



Nashville, TN brings to mind country music, *Dolly Parton*, *Chet Atkins*, The Grand Ole Opry, Vanderbilt University, Ryman Auditorium and Loveless Café, where sopping up red-eye gravy with homemade biscuits is the norm. Not many Americans were aware of the damage done in May 2010 to the downtown area of Nashville by the rising Cumberland River which winds through the downtown area. Torrential rains for several days caused the river to crest at almost 52 feet, a level not seen since 1937. Tennessee's Governor, *Phil Bredesen* declared 52 of 92 counties a disaster area.



THE TENNESSEAN FLOOD OF 2010

Metro government is looking at more than \$250 million in building and other infrastructure repairs after the May flood, from water and sewer plants to roads, bridges, parks and sports venues

Nashville officials sent out the call for help, but not many heard the request as the Gulf Coast's problems were hot news with the mainstream media. Also in the news was the failed car bomb attack in New York City. The request for help from Nashville was for caring folks to lend a hand, a hammer, or to make a donation. Over the past 10 months, Nashville has been blessed, as group after group from all around the country have answered the city's appeal for volunteers to help with the clean-up and assist displaced families.

The call came to *Smitty Holland* of St. Michael Lutheran Church in Greenville, SC. Smitty, a veteran of several mission service trips, has a group that has been doing projects for a number of years. As he was putting another trip together, *Rev. Hobby Outten* of Resurrection Lutheran Church, Kings Mountain, NC got involved and suggested taking "THE TRUCK".

*Rev. Outten* was the Pastor when *Eric Olsen* and the men of King of Glory Lutheran Church, Myrtle Beach, SC adopted the idea of building and equipping a Disaster Response Truck. After working with several groups including The SC Lutheran Men and Thrivent, "THE TRUCK" became a reality. Because of his relationship with the men at King of Glory and their experiences with "THE TRUCK", an offer was extended. *Tony Cherney* King of Glory Myrtle Beach assembled a group to go to the Nashville area for a week.

Ten men (The Nashville Ten) from Kings Mountain, Greenville and Myrtle Beach decided to take "THE TRUCK" to the Nashville Riverfront area March 20-26, 2011. Needing funds to support the mission trip, they solicited help from each of their congregations... and how those congregations stepped up! With funds in hand and a challenging project ahead, the group left from three different places with an unknown challenge, but with the purpose of helping those in need. Following *Paul's* words, "You were called to be free." You cannot serve God until you've been set free by Jesus. It is the prerequisite for serving. These men were practicing their faith on the front lines. They gave of themselves.



Once arriving in Nashville, they were assigned different projects, with one group reworking a riverfront house's washed-out floors, while another replaced cabinets in a flooded house 30 miles away. This group was carpenter savvy and complimented the Nashville coordinators for putting each of them in areas where their expertise could be used. Every one of the men enjoyed the trip and is ready for another challenge.

The Nashville Ten decided "To Truck". The projects in Nashville had tools available, but what this group was pleased with was that "The Truck" had everything they needed, with easy accessibility and the equipment worked. *Toney Cherney* complimented "THE TRUCK" while being fully loaded, still tackled the mountain highways with no problems. *Smitty Holland* was so pleased with "THE TRUCK" that when he starts to plan the next mission trip, he will try to again involve it in his plans. *Hobby Outten* and the men from King of Glory Lutheran Church were tickled to death to see their dream, "The Truck" being utilized.



Under the auspices of Lutheran Family Services, "THE TRUCK" is available for service to a church, or a group for a specific need. *Ronnie Huffman* (803-461-2628), Director of LFS of South Carolina, worked with the Nashville bound group so they could get all the details taken care of before taking custody of it. *John Matthews*, a certified emergency responder and caretaker of "THE TRUCK AND TRAILER", instructed the group on safety and operation of the truck and equipment in the truck. Lutheran Men in South Carolina provide the manpower to look after "THE TRUCK". SC Lutheran Men also acts as a communication link for "The Truck".

For upkeep and equipment replacement there is an active account "Disaster Truck Fund" sponsored by the SC Synod to handle donations. The reliability of the unit and the equipment depends on funds from that account. **We thank you in advance;** donations may be sent to:

The SC Synod, ELCA  
Disaster Truck Fund  
P.O. Box 43  
Columbia, SC 29202-0043

The question asked by the title: TO TRUCK OR NOT TO TRUCK?  
It should be: HOW CAN I HELP? *Toney Cherney, Smitty Holland and Hobby Outten* and the rest of the Nashville Ten's question was..... HOW CAN I HELP? These gentlemen gave of themselves, shared their talents, left their families and furloughed from their jobs for a week...and will do it again! We give thanks for these men, their families, their talents, their leadership, and their love of God and his people



*"Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, 'How can I help?'" (Romans 15:2) Dan Camp*

## Spring 2011 Epistle

Most mainline denominational churches are in a tough situation right now. The numbers of their members is on a steady decline or stagnated for about 90% of them. The media makes fun of us. 60% of all teens have no association with a church. 90% of all males will leave the church by age 19. 90% of all men incarcerated did not have a positive role model while growing up. We have beautiful buildings we use once a week but do not get in the surrounding neighborhoods to repair homes, feed and clothe them to share God's love.

There are real reasons these things are happening. I would say that we have gotten away from the purpose Jesus intended when he began His church: To take care of the less fortunate, disciple everyone around us and to worship Him by doing these things. Jesus blessed His church and anything He blessed should not shrink.

I believe LMM can help in all of these tasks. We support mission churches to reach into communities that we could not before. We have distributed about 48,000 bibles in to the hands of men. We have researched what young men want from the Church and produced a seminar and the book, *Coming Of Age*. The National LMM has a young men's council to learn from and work with and has started a LEAD program to identify and teach leaders. SCLMM has a young men's ministry called Men In Action for the men 18-35. All ages are welcome. We do not ID. We are discipling men with the One Year To Live retreats October 28-30, 2011 and March 23-25, 2012 at the Coastal Retreat Center. We have a Building Men For Christ seminar to show you how to start a men's ministry.

Brian Dooley and/or I will be glad to visit with you or your men to show how you can build a real and effective men's ministry. We would like to hold a Building Men For Christ workshop in your conference one Saturday for about 5-6 hours. Just let us know when and where.

Lutherans have a hard time with evangelism. I understand. But we must move past a faith statement of a grunt, a jab on the arm and a "You know". We must start expecting things from our brothers and sisters. We must trust the Holy Spirit and go.

This all begins with personal relationships. First with Jesus, then each other. Without a PERSONAL relationship with Jesus Christ you will not feel the power to do what is asked of you. Stop throwing money at people in need and our young men. They want YOU! And when they see what God has done in your life, they will want some of it too. Then you grow and give God the worship he desires.

Tim Crout

-261-7011

BTCROUT@YAHOO.COM

Well, summer came early this year. I think it actually started in May based on the unseasonably hot temperatures. Hope you all have found a way to stay cool.

And, as is normal, the summer months and the hot weather mean a slowdown in giving to the Committee of 100. It seems to be a re-occurring natural phenomenon. Through June, we have collected \$41,306 in donations and interest this year for the CO100. Although \$41,000 is a grand number, this remains the slowest year for the CO100 since I began keeping records in 2004. So, we have our work cut out for us for the remainder of the year. And, our mission congregations in South Carolina are surely counting on us.

As I explained at the Saxa Gotha CO100 dinner earlier this year, one of my goals for 2011 is to "find the lost boys" and to "make up for lost years." To do this, during the summer I will be sending to each of your churches a spreadsheet of all your CO100 members and the years they have contributed since 2001. Your mission, if you accept it, is to take ownership of that list and make contact with those members who have been inactive or have not made donations during some of those years. Missed years can be "bought back" for \$100 per year. If we can fill in the blanks of that spread sheet for the past two years, and have full participation this year, we will blow the lid off that \$100,000 goal and set a record for giving to the CO100 since its founding in 1976!

If you want to get a head start on this challenge, just let me know and I'll e-mail or "snail mail" you the spreadsheet for your congregation right away.

Thank you all for what you do for our mission congregations in South Carolina. After all, it is God's work, but its our hands.

Hope you all have a safe and enjoyable 4th of July weekend.

God's blessings. Your brother in Christ,

Kevin — kwicker@lowcountry.com

977 Quail Drive Walterboro, SC 29488 (843)538-5618



**SCLMM Committee of 100**  
**Supporting Mission Churches in S.C. Since 1976**



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Congregation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Conference:** \_\_\_\_\_

**e-mail (print clearly):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Loan Fund**

**New Mission Start Program**

**\*undesignated gifts go to the NMSP**

**Memory/Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:           Kevin Wicker**  
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**Walterboro, SC 29488**

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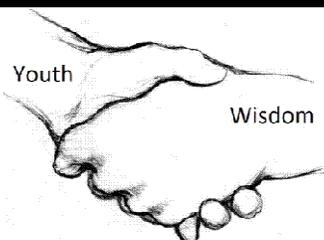
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**SCLMM Theme for 2011**

**Reach Out**  
**Bridge The Gap**  
**Pass The Torch!**



# South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission

## 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Highlights

Messiah Lutheran Church, Mauldin SC

Saturday February 19, 2011

Outgoing President Ken Heckel opened the convention and gave the welcome.

John Anderson of Messiah Lutheran Church, Mauldin SC also gave a welcome.

VP Joe Fulmer introduced the keynote speaker Pastor Ernie Hinojosa, head of Mission Development North Carolina

Pastor Ernie talked about the changing times and how our LMM organizations are perfectly designed to get the results we are getting right now. If we want different results, we need to change how we are doing things. The key obstacle is the needed change in culture. But as Lutheran men we need to decide if we want to be right or in a relationship with men, especially the younger men. We must be willing to enter their world on their terms.

Joe Fulmer presented Pastor Ernie with an Honorary Lifetime Membership in SCLMM

Greetings were given by: Bishop Herman Yoos, Virginia Herlong- WELCA, Dale Nettin- NCLMM, Norm Smith- President of Tim Crout- Region 9 Director National LMM,,Dennis Barry- Thrivent,, Pastor Jan Setzler- Lutherock/ Lutheridge, Sandra Cline- Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary,& Pastor Mark Scott- Lutheran Planned Giving of SC

Ken Heckel and Heber Rast announced this year's winner of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary - **Gregory Brown.**

### **YOUNG LUTHERAN MEN for 2010**

<b><u>Conference</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Church</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
1- FOOTHILLS .....	Paul Best .....	Messiah .....	Mauldin
5- HEARTLAND .....	A. J. Peeples .....	St. Jacobs .....	Chapin
8- SAXE GOTHA .....	Brad Sox .....	St. David's .....	West Columbia

### **LUTHERAN MAN of the YEAR for 2010**

<b><u>Conference</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Church</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
1- FOOTHILLS .....	Scott Lyerly .....	Faith .....	Pickens
3- EPIPHANY .....	Richard Zuck .....	St. Peters .....	Pawley's Island
5- HEARTLAND .....	Don Byers .....	Bethel .....	White Rock
6- MIDLANDS .....	Fulmer Shealy .....	St. Andrew's .....	Columbia
8- SAXE GOTHA .....	John Matthews .....	Emmanuel .....	West Columbia

Ken Heckel and Heber Rast gave out the Outstanding Units of the Year award for 2010

Executive Director Heber Rast presented Norm Smith, president national LMM, with an honorary life membership.

Ken Heckel, outgoing president, thanked all the groups he visited for their hospitality. He also thanks the executive board and pastoral advisor Pastor Mark Cerniglia

Heber Rast, Executive Ddirector, thanked the assembly for the privilege to serve as the executive director of SCLMM. He also thanked former executive director Dean Ganis and the executive board. Heber stated there was still much work to do and we needed to find young men and go to where they are.





JULY 2011

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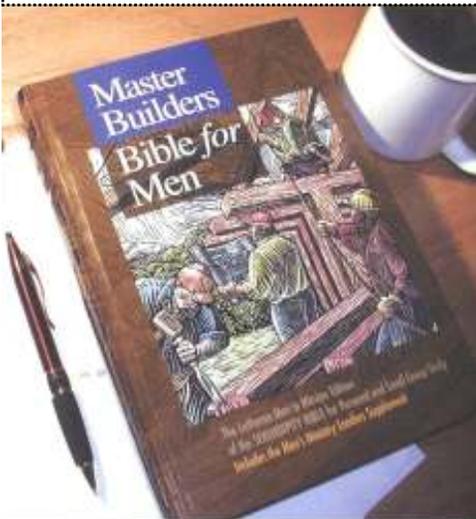
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**The Epistle has three publications a year, and is available to current Committee of 100 members. Non current members can continue to receive the Epistle from our Web site, [www.sclmm.org](http://www.sclmm.org).**

**If you are a current member, and wish to review the Epistle on the Web site, please send your mailing address (as it appears on the Epistle) to [epistlenews@sclmm.org](mailto:epistlenews@sclmm.org), or to Ralph Wessinger, 709 Otis Blvd., Spartanburg, SC 29302, so we can remove you from our hard copy mailing list.**

**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.**

### 2011 SCLMM DATE LOG

Friday-Sunday August 26-28	** SCLMM Executive Committee Retreat; Isle of Palms
Saturday August 27	10:00AM SCLMM Executive Committee Meeting; Isle of Palms
October 28-30	OTTL Retreat- Coastal Retreat Center
Sunday November 6	2:30PM **SCLMM Executive Meeting; Synod Office - Columbia

### 2011 GOALS as of 7/20/2011

CATEGORY	BUDGET GOAL:	% OF GOAL
Promotional Fund	\$23,000	41.0%
Loan Fund	\$22,000	16.2%
Gift Fund	\$35,000	22.0%
LMM-ELCA	\$ 9,000	16.6%