

## OUTREACH

# Each One Reach One or Two or ...



## MISSION IN ACTION

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God has a plan on how to reach the world with the Gospel message of salvation and it involves you! Paul put it this way, "He [God] has committed to **us** the message of reconciliation. **We** are therefore Christ's ambassadors **as though God were making His appeal through us.**" (2 Corinthians 5:19-20)

### God has chosen to bring His Word to the world through us — this is God's plan and He has empowered it.

As God shared with Adam and Eve the stewardship of "having dominion over the earth," He has creatively chosen, commissioned and called us to be His witness in our "Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria." (Acts 1:8) This is God's plan for us both personally as Christians and publically as His church. We are His witnesses and ambassadors.

God's Word empowers our witness! As God spoke in Genesis and said, "Let there be ... and there was," Christ again has spoken in Matthew and said, "All authority in Heaven and earth has been given me ... go therefore and make disciples ... baptizing and teaching them all things whatsoever I have

commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20) God has chosen to bring His Word to the world through us — this is God's plan and He has empowered it.

What does this mean for me as a child of God or our Church as the body of Christ? Adam and Eve's purpose was to pursue "having dominion over the earth." Our role as God's children and Church is to pursue being His witness in every way possible. I say this not as law, but as understanding our true nature and identify in Christ that we ARE His witnesses. Being His witness or ambassador of reconciliation is a creative redemptive fact of **who** we are in Christ! Now, in this, we see our calling, our life's purpose.

Our mission is to be His witness, and being a witness is merely telling your story of His story in your life! I believe that all of us would do well to know and be prepared to articulate what Peter calls the "hope with in us." This is our story of answered prayers, our life's journey with Jesus. From this will come witnessing words of hope that

there is, evangelism has been relegated to the few who make up that committee.

In an age of political correctness and in a society that speaks of cultural diversity and plurality of faiths, the true Gospel could

*Ablaze* that are free and downloadable off the web. These resources will help engage the people of God in the mission of God. If I may be of any assistance in training or explaining these resources please contact me.

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easily be sacrificed and silenced even in Christ's Body. Where else can the world go or turn? "You alone [Christ] have the words of eternal life!" (John 6:68) Jesus again says, "**I am the way the truth and the life, no man comes unto the Father but by Me!**" (John 14:6) There is no other road to heaven.

Through the working of God the Holy Spirit in the words that God has called, chosen and commissioned us to proclaim come life and salvation. God is eager for us to share the gospel with those who do not yet know His Son as their Lord.

God has blessed the LCMS to respond to His calling in this missional moment called *Ablaze!* I would encourage you to earnestly pray about "who" you should share the gospel with. Next, if you feel ill prepared to share your faith, call your pastor and tell him you need help to carry out God's calling for you. He will put you in touch with training and resources but make sure you share your faith, the sooner the better! You want others to know the joy and the hope that you have.

others need to hear and see how God has interacted with us. Those with whom we witness think that perhaps He would do the same for them. Knowing the Bible is a plus, and I would encourage you to read your Bible daily and to attend small group Bible study and Sunday School; however God never said you first needed a degree to be His witness!

What's our plan to do His plan? As God's children and as His Church many of us could confess we have no real outreach plan. In many churches today there is no evangelism committee or if

As a church it is my hope that each congregation will plan on ways to encourage, equip and celebrate the witnessing of their membership. There are many resources offered through

Here are some resources you and your church might want to consider.

### Circuit Blue Prints for Outreach.

I have asked our circuit outreach counselors and pastors from each of our congregations to submit an outreach plan that includes goals for sharing the gospel, starting new churches, strengthening our existing congregations and for sending members to serve in a mission either locally or internationally. Questions to help facilitate this are located on the web at [www.flga-lcms.org](http://www.flga-lcms.org), tab to MISSIONS and OUTREACH, then tab to RESOURCES. You will find a link, "**Circuit Blue Print.**" This blue print will be useful for you as a church and as a child of God to

### Counting Faith Sharing Stories

Cultures are changed through the habits we adopt and the stories we tell. I believe that the much downplayed counting of faith sharing events in *Ablaze* can actually be a very effective tool in creating a culture of mission and outreach. Trinity-Holly Hill, FL. uses pew pads to register their membership's faith sharing events that occur throughout the week. Could these faith sharing stories be gathered and shared with the church in a variety of ways to encourage others to do the same? Could those witnessed to be prayed for during the service to continue the work which God has begun in their lives? Could the congregation celebrate the work of God the Holy Spirit through the fruits of "being His witnesses" in the form of baptisms, confirmations, weddings, forgiveness and lives changed?

Another church that is *Ablaze* is Forest Oaks Lutheran-Spring Hill, FL. The church has made a large *Ablaze* banner with a large flame. Each week the Sunday School children are asked if they shared their faith with someone. If they did they receive a small flame and then go up to the front to place their small flame inside the large flame on the banner. Together they are *Ablaze* carrying out the

### Being a witness is merely telling your story of His story in your life!

pursue a plan for being a witness unto the Lord Jesus Christ. The Florida-Georgia District will also use the circuit blue print to plan for new mission starts, provide mission grants, offer training and resources. Please help make this happen at your church and in your circuit so that together we can be about our Father's business.

mission of God for them to be His witnesses. At Forest Oaks the children are now sharing their faith sharing stories during the sermonette thus carrying this message to the entire church.

Paul writes in Ephesians: "His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known." (Ephesians 3:10) This is my prayer for the body of Christ. God's blessing on your mission! □

## Outreach Festival Draws 100+

Holy Cross Lutheran-Riverdale, GA, hosted a Spring Fling Outreach Festival on April 26. The multi-cultural event

promoted the "fellowship of all God's children," according to Holy Cross Pastors Khampheuy Munnicha and Don Schroeder.

Jump and Slide; and youth volleyball. Traditional Lao dancers shared their culture and history. Authentic egg rolls and hot dogs were prepared and served by the members of the congregation.

for our church as we continue to reach out to our community so that all may come to know Him." □

Holy Cross has weekly services in Lao and English, with monthly combined worship. □



Holy Cross Pastor Khampheuy Munnicha mingles with participants of the Spring Fling.

"Just as the season of spring brings the anticipation of new life and abundant growth, so does sharing the Gospel of the Lord," Munnicha added.

Highlights of the festival included separate Bible Story, Good Samaritan and Prayer Booths; face painting;

Guest ventriloquist Mary Pedersen of Faith Lutheran-Marietta GA, shared her talents in two separate shows attended by children of all ages. Pedersen recruited an assistant from the crowd to demonstrate the story of David and Goliath.

"With the support of the Florida-Georgia District and Thrivent Financial, we had more than 100 people in attendance," said Schroeder. "Continue to pray



Holy Cross members perform a traditional Lao dance