

# Following a Mission Roadmap



Doug Kallesen  
Director of Outreach

Roadmaps — they are useful when you need to know how to get to some place new and the best way to get there. Our Florida-Georgia Convention, to me, was a kind of a Mission Roadmap; it would definitely take us to a few new places that our District had not yet totally gone and would inform us as to the best avenues of getting there.

There are four roads or emphases that our Florida-Georgia *Ablaze* goals addressed:

- Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with 2 million people by 2017.
- Starting 200 New Missions (from 2000-2017)
- Strengthen 22 Existing Congregations (each triennium) to be more missional and outreach focused in their community.
- Send Members into the Mission

These four emphases will ultimately see a culture of mission and outreach emerge. We might also see that our District would double in the number of campus ministries, weekly attendance, baptisms and number of congregations.

### “God’s Word will not return unto Him void or empty.”

God the Holy Spirit, working through His Church, the Word and Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Communion, utilizing the gifts of His Kingdom of Priests, will expand His Kingdom spiritu-

ally and I believe in most cases also numerically. As we proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in Word and Deed the Lord indeed is at work to expand His Kingdom and call people from darkness to light. That’s what *Ablaze* is about!

The Florida-Georgia District has a strong commitment to mission work and has seen some 39 new missions begun since 2000. For this we thank God. At the Convention we — that is you, me and the rest of our District — committed ourselves, with the blessing of God the Holy Spirit, to start 200 new missions or approximately 15 new missions annually. That’s doubling annually the number of new missions we are currently starting.

At the Convention we also said that we would share our faith with 2 million people, yet as I visit in many congregations the evangelism committee is often either non-existent or one of the weaker ministries. We must admit, we struggle sharing our faith.

The third “S” is Strengthening Existing Congregations to be more missional and outreach in nature. For the past several

years our congregational membership records as a District have shrunk though our geographical district has grown by another 2.5 million people, and it is estimated that more than 9 million people have no religious affiliation.

Our final “S” is Sending Members into Mission, and we are seeing several of our congregations involved in servant events and mission trips. Many congregations, sadly, are however concerned about just getting by inside their own congregations.

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While I was on the District Pastoral Conference cruise one of our pastors asked me, “Do you have trouble sleeping at night worrying about all these *Ablaze* goals?”

My response is, “Yes, sometimes I do have trouble sleeping because of the excitement of seeing the hand of God moving across an entire District in such a mighty way . . . people excited about sharing their faith daily, congregations stepping up to daughter a new congregation or reaching out to a new ethnic

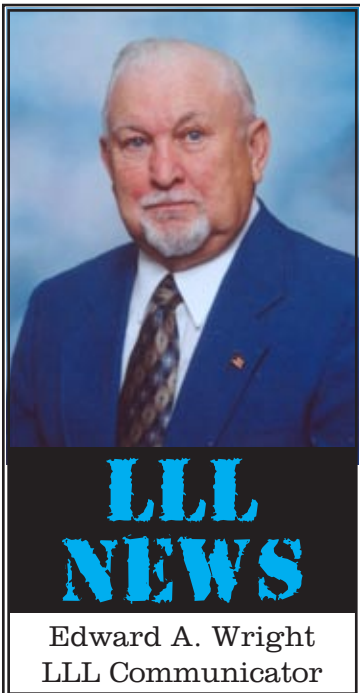
group in their community. I get excited about seeing people see the plans God has for their church and how they are a part of it!”

I want you to know that the *Ablaze* goals are challenging, God sized — but by His grace we will see each of these goals met! We also, as His Church, must work together as Paul says, “for the common good.”

At this writing I will be meeting with our District Outreach Counselors hearing of your initial plans for your congregations and circuits — how you will be involved in these *Ablaze* goals. This will include a kind of a circuit blueprint for outreach that would suggest: possible mission starts, how your congregation plans to share our faith, what kind of training needs to occur, how do we need to be strengthened in our congregation and circuit to do God’s work and how we can be involved with our missionaries both locally and overseas.

I hope and pray that as you read this you ask, how can I be involved? How can my congregation and circuit jump in? Jesus said in Matthew, “With men this is impossible. but with God all things are possible.” □

## Lutherans Soon to be on the Great Wall



Edward A. Wright  
LLL Communicator

There’s still time to be included in the February 9-22, 2007, Lutheran Hour Ministries trip to China. The registration deadline is December 1 for this trek led by Walt Winters, LHM’s Director of Int’l. Ministries, and Guyna Na Thalang, LHM’s Area Counselor for Asia.

They will be leading visits to Tiananmen Square, the Great Wall, the Terra-Cotta warriors of Xian as well as Beijing and the Forbidden City, Shanghai, and Hong Kong. The group will meet with Chinese Church leaders in Shanghai, and tour the Ai-Ji (Love Christ) Printing House which is supported by LHM. For more details, including cost information and registration

forms, go to [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org) or call 800-944-3450, ext. 4275.

### Tool Kit Expanded

New research is available on the League’s Tool Kit that can help you plan to reach out to collegestudents or young adults. Recent updates include special religious research reports for a variety of groups like college students or adults raised in a non-religious home. Be sure to visit often online because new tools are being added monthly.

The Tool Kit offers customizable TV, radio and print advertisements to help increase visibility within the community. It is available online at no cost; or on a six-CD set for \$50. To order the CDs call 800-752-9636.

### Convention on DVD

LHM is offering five 2006 Convention DVDs for \$10 each. Available are:

- 19E05 Convention Highlights
- 19E07 Convention Sermons
- 19E08 “A Different Gospel” (Pastor Klaus’s message about how the Lutheran Hour will never preach false teachings)
- 19E09 Division Ministry Presentations
- 19E10 The Lutheran Hour Rally & 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Event

As I worked the Convention Sales Booth, the most wanted

DVD item was Pastor Klaus’s great presentation, #19E08.

To order call the Response Center at 800-876-9880 or [lhmin@lhm.org](mailto:lhmin@lhm.org).

### LHM at Many Events

Your reporter was part of three events of interest in the Florida-Georgia District. As a registrant and LHM Exhibitor I was glad to be part of the LWML’s District Convention in Palm Beach Gardens. The following week I was the LHM

Exhibitor at the Lutheran Educator’s Conference in Orlando.

At the beginning of October, I joined the District Pastor’s Conference on the good ship “Sovereign of the Seas.” The cruise destination was Nassau, Bahamas, particularly to our church on the island, the Lutheran Church of Nassau. Matins were held every morning. A servant event was held at the church for maintenance work and painting the outside of the building. In the evening we attended worship at the

church, which was filled to the rafters. The parishioners feted us with homemade pastries at an outdoor reception.

The conference was held on the day before returning and was led by Rich Bimler, author and humorist and by Dist. President, Dr. Gerhard Michael. At the evenings reception, arranged by Mary Kolb of Go Travel, a check for \$4,000 from Royal Caribbean Lines, was presented by the ship’s captain to Pastor Boodle to be used at the Nassau Lutheran Church. □

## Calendar Briefs

**St. Paul-Boca Raton, FL**, will host Nova Singers — Nova Southeastern University’s premier community chorus — on Friday, December 1. The Christmas-themed concert will launch Nova Singer’s 31st season. There is no cost to attend the concert; a free-will offering will be collected to help cover expenses. The performance begins at 8:15 p.m. in St. Paul’s Sanctuary. At intermission, the St. Paul Male Chorus will be featured as five St. Paul men sing with Nova Singers.

Concert selections include *And the Glory of the*

*Lord, Glory to God and Hallelujah Chorus* — all from G. F. Handel’s *Messiah*; Pachelbel’s *Canon*; and Francis Poulenc’s *Gloria*. Familiar Christmas carols will also be included.

St. Paul is located at 701 W Palmetto Park Road, east of I-95. For directions or additional information, call the church office at 561-395-0433.

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Theologian Dr. Marva Dawn and entertainers Barb and Dave Anderson will highlight three **Florida SeniorFests** planned for 2007.

Next year’s events are set for Thursday, February 8, at DaySpring Conference Center near Ellenton; for Tuesday, February 13, at John Knox Village in Pompano Beach; and for Thursday, February 15, at the Life Enrichment Center near Leesburg.

The main program will be the same at all three locations. The breakout sessions and social opportunities will vary slightly at the different locations.

Additional information and registration forms are available on line at <http://www.aloaserves.org/events.html>. □