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## 63rd Annual Iowa District West LLL Convention

Greetings from the Iowa District West LLL District Board of Governors.

We want all of our LLL/Lutheran Hour sponsors in Iowa West to know about our 63rd Annual LLL/LHM District Convention to be held on Saturday, June 13, 2009. It will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 612 Jennings Street, in Sioux City, Iowa. The convention will begin at 9 am and will feature an opening devotion with our District Pastoral Advisor, greetings from our synodical district office, hymn singing led by guitarist Wayne Smith, election of district officers, and two international reports from Mr. Bruce Wurdeman, Director of US Ministries for the International Lutheran Laymen's League. Bruce will be speaking about the new Men's Network program.

The noon luncheon will be highlighted by a Wisconsin style fish boil meal prepared by volunteers from Orphan Grain Train's Norfolk office and entertainment. We hope and pray that you can join us for the day. Please use the registration form provided on the last page of these LLL articles. We plan on being done by 5 PM. Please mark your calendars and plan now to attend.

LLL/LHM District Board of Governors

## Bruce Wurdeman



Bruce Wurdeman serves as director of the United States Ministries division at Lutheran Hour Ministries, a position he has held since February 2008. In his current position, Wurdeman oversees the production of The Lutheran Hour® and Woman to Woman® radio programs, seasonal television specials, and print materials. His division also manages ministry fulfillment and referral services. He has been a leader in the creation of the Men's Network ministry.

Wurdeman previously worked at Lutheran Hour Ministries from 1994 through 2002 in the Volunteer Opportunities department as an assistant director and manager, positions that allowed him to recruit and train more than 100,000 volunteers throughout North America.

He most recently served as a mission and ministry facilitator for the Texas District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri

Synod (LCMS), where he was a resource person for 100 congregations in West and South Texas. Prior to his first stint at Lutheran Hour Ministries, Wurdeman filled a variety of roles throughout Lutheran circles, including principal and director of adult education at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Eureka, Missouri; director of campus ministry for the North Dakota District of the LCMS; director of youth ministry at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Fargo, North Dakota; and a math/science teacher and youth director at Zion Lutheran Church in Bethalto, Illinois.

Wurdeman has a bachelor's degree in Education and School Administration from Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois, and a master's degree in Exegetical Theology (Old Testament) from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He is a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lubbock, Texas. He and his wife, Marijane, have three children and one grandchild.

Wurdeman will be the International Rep and speaker at the 2009 Iowa District West LLL Convention to be held June 13, 2009 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Sioux City, Iowa.

## Upcoming LLL Events

- June 13, 2009 - IDW LLL Convention – St Paul's Sioux City-Bruce Wurdeman-US Ministries
- July 16-19, 2009 – Int. LLL Convention – Greensboro, North Carolina
- August 1, 2009 – Harvest Deadline for LLL articles to LLL Editor
- August 13-23, 2009 – IDW LLL Fair Booth at Iowa State Fair
- September 12-20, 2009 – LLL Fair Booth at Clay County Fair
- September 18-19, 2009 – Orphan Grain Train Convention – Norfolk, Nebraska
- October 31, 2009 – Harvest Deadline for LLL articles to LLL Editor



*Reverend Allen Miller, shown here giving an opening devotion to the LLL District Board of Governors, has accepted the assistant pastoral advisor position for the Iowa-West Int. LLL.*

## 92nd International Convention of the International Lutheran Laymen's League

Join us for the 92nd annual International Convention of the International Lutheran Laymen's League, July 16-19 in Greensboro, North Carolina. The convention promises to be a great time of worship and fellowship under the theme "Share His Story." Psalm 66:16 says, "Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what He has done for me." By God's grace, those who attend will be emboldened to share the greatest story ever: the true story of salvation!

Speakers and events include Pastor Ken Klaus, Speaker of The Lutheran Hour®; Phyllis Wallace of Woman to Woman® and her interview with Pattie Petty during a women's luncheon; NASCAR great Ned Jarrett, who will serve as keynote speaker at the Fellowship Lunch; character re-enactments and bluegrass music as the "LLL visits Mayberry" for Family Night; banquet entertainment from local theatrical group Peculiar People; and workshops to help you "Share His Story" with family, friends, and others. You will also have opportunities to hear the inspiring stories of LHM international directors from Chile, Madagascar, Russia, and Sri Lanka during a special breakfast.

Returning this year is Reach, the popular outreach conference targeted to younger adults, whether single or married. Reach will feature speakers and workshops that address this generation's unique outreach challenges, enable them to effectively engage their community in conversations about faith, and teach them how to share the life-saving message of Jesus' love in a way that is natural and informed. Reach 2009 takes an environmental tone in its Bible studies and workshops, delving into the question of how Christians should view themselves in relation to the world around them.

Greensboro offers something for everyone in the family. From Revolutionary War battlefields and other historical sites to being in the middle of NASCAR racing country to experiencing why North Carolina is called the "furniture capital of the world," come see why this year's convention location is a great place for your summer vacation. Travel options make this an easy convention to attend. Fly into Greensboro, Raleigh-Durham (an hour away), or Charlotte (two hours away) or take Amtrak into Greensboro (the station is about seven miles from the convention hotel).

A four-day registration costs \$95, a two-day registration (or registration to the Reach Conference) costs \$65, and a child/youth

registration (ages 6-18) costs \$65. Lodging, meals, and entertainment options have an additional cost. Call 1-800-876-9880, fill out and return the registration form in the March/April issue of *The Lutheran Layman* newspaper, or register online. Visit [www.lhm.org/convention](http://www.lhm.org/convention) for more information about the convention.

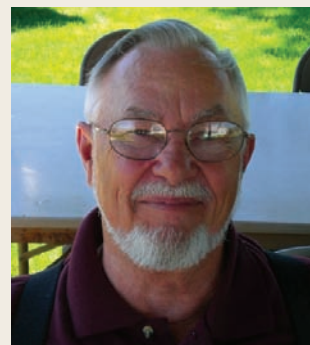
### LHM is a Mission Worth Supporting!

Lutheran Hour Ministries is unlike any other outreach in the Lutheran Church. What started as a group of laymen pulling together to support the church has grown into a global outreach ministry, sharing the message of the Savior in diverse and effective ways. This group of laymen of many years ago can be called CATALYSTS. So what is a CATALYST? A CATALYST is "Someone or something that helps or encourages progress or change without being changed in the process." God's Word is a CATALYST, never changing, but always changing lives. You and I are CATALYSTS each time we proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to someone we meet or are acquainted with. But what about those people we do not know and are located all over the world? You and I can be a CATALYST for those people also. We can support a ministry that can and does reach people we do not know and people all around the world. First by offering our prayers and then our time and financial support to help Lutheran Hour Ministries, "Bring Christ to the Nations and the Nations to the Church."

Lutheran Hour Ministries is sponsoring events called "catalyst events." They will be presented by LHM's staff members or volunteers, sharing LHM's mission with the hope that God will move people to join the ministry by praying, volunteering, and financially supporting LHM's Gospel outreach. These presentations can be done in many different settings such as, Bible studies, council meetings, worship services, circuit pastors' meetings, short time periods, extended time periods, and more.

It is no surprise that in these economic times LHM's leaders have taken a hard look at how the organization functions. They want to ensure that we are good stewards of the resources the good Lord gives us. With your help and the Lord's blessing, LHM can continue to touch the lives of people at home and across continents with the sure and steady love of Jesus.

Ambassador Roger Ploeger won a polo shirt for participating in a Lutheran Hour Sunday drawing. Thank you Roger for holding Lutheran Hour Sunday at Our Savior, Denison, Iowa; and many, many, thanks



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Lutheran Laymen's League



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# Lutheran Laymen's League

### Mission Statement

In loving response to Christ, the Servant, the Orphan Grain Train movement encourages and enables God's people to share personal and material resources in bringing Christ's name and character to needy people both far and near. Sometimes that character expresses itself as a word well spoken, sometimes as a bandage well applied, and sometimes as a child well fed.

### Accomplishments During 2008

By God's grace and blessing, the many hands of Orphan Grain Train's volunteers from 18 regional divisions and Norfolk, Neb., continued to lift up the downhearted and downtrodden with humanitarian aid and disaster relief supplies in 2008. The numbers tell the story: 147 total semi-loads, including 63 sent overseas and 84 sent in response to domestic disasters. In addition, 52 smaller 14-ft. or 16-ft. trailer-loads and van-loads were dispatched in response to floods and tornadoes here in America. "We thank the thousands of volunteers and contributors who supported Orphan Grain Train in 2008 with donations of time, talent, and treasure," said Richard Jostes, Director of Development. "They make this ministry possible as a faith response in the name of Jesus Christ, bringing relief for human need worldwide."

### Disaster Response

Hurricane Katrina, Gustav, and Ike relief efforts continued during 2008 with nine semi-loads of aid delivered to relief camps and distribution centers on the Gulf Coast. More than 135 pieces of Orphan Grain Train-provided equipment are in use throughout the Gulf Coast area, from 14-foot-long tow trailers to semi-trailer sized bedroom units, storage units, and water tankers. The 45-ft. kitchen trailer, delivered to Camp Restore in New Orleans in September 2006, is still in daily use there. This equipment has been committed for an additional year as the clean up and rebuilding efforts continue. "The Lutheran volunteer camps in Louisiana and Mississippi continue to welcome clean up and construction volunteers year-round," said Jostes. After three years, over 2,000 homes have been restored. More than 2,000 are still on the list. More than 50,000 vacant properties remain in New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina struck in August 2005. Meanwhile, 16-ft. and 18-ft. trailer-loads carried a merciful outpouring to flood survivors in Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, and Ohio. Orphan Grain Train's Indiana and Ohio Regional Divisions sent four semi-loads and 45 small trailer-loads of relief supplies

to flood recovery areas of Ohio for distribution by Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of Ohio. LSS-Ohio has been in non-stop flood response since 2007. The Indiana Division also responded to a flood in its region by adding a distribution warehouse in Columbus, Indiana, which served more than 300 families before Christmas.

### Other Domestic Relief Efforts

Other shipments in America included 45 semi-loads to Texas border missions such as Ysleta Mission and Cornerstone Children's Ranch. Another 13 semi-loads were sent to the aid of Native Americans through special ministries in South Dakota and New Mexico.

### International Shipments

Thirty-five of the 63 foreign shipments in 2008 went to republics of the former Soviet Union. The total number of sponsored orphanages in Estonia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, and Russia rose to 53 last year. These orphanages are part of Orphan Grain Train's "Adopt an Orphanage" sponsorship program whereby donors give monthly gifts restricted to their Orphan Grain Train-sponsored orphanage. After 17 years of ministry, the most requested items continue to be food, clothing, quilts, medical equipment, and Bibles. Details about Orphan Grain Train projects and outreach efforts can be found in Orphan Grain Train's quarterly newsletter.

### Iowa West 2008/09 Activity Report

Jan. 17 - 1180 boxes of winter clothing and bedding shipped to Latvia.

March - Clothing and blankets sent to a family of five in Avoca, Iowa who lost their home in a fire.

April 3 - Container of 1,171 boxes of clothing, bedding and shoes sent to Latvia.

April - Container ready for Nigeria with medical supplies, clothing, bedding, two ATV's, utility wagon, water heaters, show-ers, tools. Supplies are for Gembu Center for HIV/AIDS advocacy.

December - A 40-ft.-long container was shipped to Kyrgyzstan filled with used clothing. Also, container number 834 arrived at Gembu, Nigeria, for the Orphans and Vulnerable Children program. It contained medical supplies for the clinic, plus clothing, tools and equipment.

On March 3, 2009, another shipping container was sent to Latvia filled with used clothing, shoes, wheelchairs and crutches.

On April 21, 2009 a container loaded and shipped to Uzbekistan with used clothing, bedding and medical equipment.

63rd Iowa-West District Convention  
Of the  
Int. Lutheran Laymen's League

When: Saturday June 13, 2009 9 am. to 4:30 pm.  
Where: St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School – 612 Jennings St. Sioux City, IA  
What: One day annual convention of the Int. LLL  
Speaker: Bruce Wurdeman – Director of Int. LLL US Ministries  
Pre-Registration fee by June 1, 2009 - \$15      Registration after June 1, 2009 - \$20

Noon Luncheon: Free Will Offering for Orphan Grain Train Wisconsin Fish Boil

To pre-register please print your name, address, and phone number on the form below. Cut and send to: Steve Segebart, 33701 Frelon Drive, Sioux City, IA 51108. Please include your fees to help with convention expenses. Checks should be made to the LLL Midwest Zone. For more information you may call Steven Segebart at 712-239-5847. You may also register the day of convention. Pre-registration is encouraged to help with planning for the convention. Everyone over 18 must register and pay appropriate fee. Please send pre-registration by June 1, 2009.

Theme: "Live by the Spirit" Galatians 5:16  
Registration Form

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Zone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the appropriate categories below that best describes your affiliation with LLL.

LLL Sponsor    Guest    Pastor    Congregation Ambassador    Zone/District Officer



*International Lutheran Laymen's League Denison Zone Treasurer Garry Gruhn receives a check for \$1651 from Crawford County Thrivent Chapter President Roger Ploeger at the LLL Spring Rally held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church on Sunday evening April 19th. Crawford County Thrivent supplemented funds raised by the zone at a Dartball Tournament held in Schleswig for 4 scholarships to students from Crawford County, Ben and Seth Kaiser, Joy Sewing, and Dylan Teut.*



Lutheran Laymen's League

