

# Mission Opportunities

A newsletter of resources, events, and ideas to help God's people passionately, intentionally, and faithfully extend the Gospel within our communities, throughout the District, and into all the world!

**July 2010**

**#1 request from missionaries? Prayer!** How about participating in the 24-hour prayer vigil during this summer's Synodical convention? It's not too late to sign up – you have until June 25. To sign up as a prayer-vigil participant, go to the vigil Web site at <http://www.lcms.org/ca/convention/prayer/form.asp>. You can even sign up for a specific hour to pray during the week of the convention. Pray that the Lord will keep Satan far away from our Synod and its convention and that He will bless our convention and the work of the Synod with the Spirit's presence.

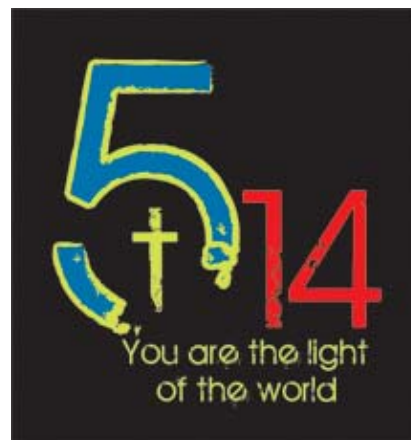


**Speaking of the convention**, want to keep up with the 64<sup>th</sup> regular convention of the LCMS? Everything you want to know about the convention can be found online at [www.lcms.org/convention](http://www.lcms.org/convention) including:

- Quick facts
- Adopted resolutions
- Schedules
- Bible studies
- Official election results
- Videos and photos

Also, gavel-to-gavel coverage—including the opening worship to the closing devotion—will be available for viewing beginning July 10.

**Speaking of events this summer**, there's the National Youth Gathering. If you have teens that are going, spread the word! Lutheran Hour Ministries will be there with an intensive evangelism-training program entitled **five14** and chances to win **five14** T-shirts and other prizes! The name **five14** comes from Jesus' words to His disciples as recorded in the fifth chapter of Matthew: *"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill can't be hidden. People don't light a lamp and put it under a basket but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people in such a way that they will see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven"* (Matthew 5:14-16). "**Five14** will mirror the style of today's teens, attracting their attention aesthetically through cutting-edge media and in-person training by young presenters. While secular media encourages teens to be plastic, **five14**'s equally edgy, yet Christ-based media will encourage them to be themselves and to love others for who they are *on the inside*, the way God loves them," said Sarah Guldalian, Lutheran Hour Ministries' manager of Evangelism Training for U.S. Ministries. She added that Facebook, YouTube, music concerts, and social-service events will also be incorporated into **five14** events. Contact them at [five14@lhm.org](mailto:five14@lhm.org) for more info!



**Speaking of youth**, many of our youth are preparing to depart for college for the first time this fall. What an opportunity to commission them as your missionaries to their campus! CPH has just released a book developed by college students that is designed to help Christian high school students make the transition to college life. Titled *College 101: Campus Life for Christians*, the resource includes a book and Bible study with information about dorm life, move-in day, the social scene, finances, academics and technology, time management, and being a Christian on campus. The 208-page book (\$9.99, item no. 124352WEB) may be ordered by calling CPH at 800-325-3040 or visiting [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org) on the Web. How will you continue to support your college students while they are serving in the mission field of their college campus?



**Speaking of college**, Lutheran Hour Ministries is preparing to unveil this September a university-themed follow-up to *Equipping to Share*, their popular workshop on everyday witnessing. Called **MISSION U**, it will feature detailed curriculum, seminar-style presentations, expert speakers, in-class and online student interaction, and take-home study resources and practice. A course catalog of curriculum options gives congregations choices from which to tailor their own mission strategies. New **MISSION U** course offerings will be “MU-102. Witnessing Methods: Seven Styles of Faith-sharing”; “MU-201. Dealing with Tough Questions”; “MU-202. The Outreach-minded Church: Unified Vision and Mission”; and “MU-301. Christ Alone in a Coexist World.” Additional courses will be developed and offered in response to ongoing analysis of equipping needs that are received from churches. Go to [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org) for more information or to schedule an *Equipping to Share* workshop.

**Speaking of presentations** (yes, the word is in the previous paragraph!), I recently attended a conference where one of the speakers used software from [www.prezi.com](http://www.prezi.com). It was a significant upgrade from PowerPoint and allowed him to have images and phrases visible that summarized his presentation, while at the same time could zoom in on them individually when he was emphasizing that particular point. Check out their Website for a demonstration. Perhaps you could consider putting a prezzi presentation on your Website about your congregation or use it in Bible class, confirmation, or sermons. Different packages are available ranging from free to \$159 per year, depending upon the “extras.” If you do try it out, let me know what you think and how you’re using it!

**Speaking of technology**, you can find an interesting article on using Skype at <http://www.christianitytoday.com/le/communitylife/evangelism/streamingmissions.html>. A great resource for raising mission awareness, Skype is a free (there’s our favorite word again!) downloadable software program that allows users to call each other for free through their internet connections. If your congregation is supporting an overseas missionary, what a great way to bring him into your sanctuary, classroom, or hall!

**Speaking of coming into your sanctuary, classroom or hall**, how about arranging to have myself or one of our District-supported missionaries come to your congregation and share what God is doing across our District? Why not call me today at 515-570-2331 and see what we can arrange!

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