

Mission Opportunities

June 2009

Finally, summer is here! Although summer provides many opportunities for friends and family to relax, get together, and slow down a bit, let me urge you to resist giving the impression that the ministry takes time off during the summer months. Rather, summer provides many opportunities to connect with your community. Check out the first link for ideas to start your brainstorming for making summer a time in the Son, as well as the sun!



There are many possibilities that summer presents to connect with your community. Go to http://www.outreach.com/print/articlem.asp?article_name=p-0904_promo_summerideas&sourcecode=09E148 to access a list of possibilities suggested by the folks at Outreach Marketing. Although they're hoping you'll purchase some of their products, you can simply check out the link to get your creative juices flowing!

Give your church an adventure of a lifetime and change the culture of evangelism in your church forever. That's the premise behind the offer from Lee Strobel and Mark Mittelberg. They invite you to order their book (at half price!) and invite your members to read a chapter a day. Their prayer is The Unexpected Adventure will help your church members take easy steps into a natural evangelistic lifestyle that will energize their own faith while making an eternal difference in the lives of people they encounter.

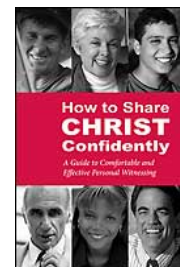


Promotional materials and samples are available from <http://theunexpectedadventurebook.com>. Order a copy for yourself and see how it can best be adapted for use in your congregation!



Send Your Church Out on a Mission is a compelling article that challenges us to not only proclaim the Gospel, but reach into our communities with ministries that reflect Christ's love and compassion. If our congregations are preoccupied with only our own concerns, we will miss out on the powerful ways that God wants to use us in the world. Visit <http://www.crosswalk.com/pastors/11602809/> and then let me know what you think!

How to Share Christ Confidently is a booklet that offers tips and techniques to help people boldly and confidently share the Gospel message. Practical and hands-on, this resource addresses the number one obstacle to personal witnessing—fear! Each chapter concludes with exercises designed to confront and overcome that fear. Available from www.cph.org for \$2.99 each or \$1.99 when ordering 25+. Free copies available from me while supplies last!





Speaking of fear, all of us can relate to the crippling effect it can have on our attempts to not only witness, but to lead our congregations in trying something different in ministry. To watch a brief video message by Erwin McManus, a leader in the Emerging Church Movement, go to http://www.sermoncentral.com/Video.asp?Video_ID=584

Fan Into Flame continues to progress both in Synod and IDW! To date over \$47 million Synod-wide and almost \$300,000 in IDW has been pledged for the support of missions. For information and assistance as to how your congregation can be involved, please contact me today!



Kansas District to offer deaf ministry workshop. Interested in starting a deaf ministry in your congregation or reaching the deaf in your family or community? I just received word on an intensive emersion program, Deaf L.I.T.E.S. (Lutherans in Training, Equipping and Serving) Workshop to be held in Topeka, KS June 15-18. For more information, including on partial scholarships, contact Lori Hennessey at faithluthdeaf@yahoo.com or call 785-357-4441.



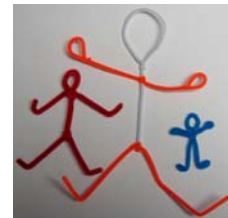
October 31 is the deadline for submitting an application for an LWML grant to be considered at next summer's LWML District convention. Partner with the wonderful mission-minded women of the LWML for an outreach idea your congregation is considering. Grants must be submitted by an individual IDW LWML member, society or zone, so contact your local LWML group for more information.



The State of the Church in the U.S. is a short video presentation of the state of the Church in the United States and why church planting is so critical. Full page includes all statistics and sources used in the video. Watch Church Planting in a Post-Christian U.S. at <http://www.goodmanson.com/wp-content/Post-Christian-ChurchPlanting.html>. Ponder what it has to say; ponder how we might become more involved in reaching out to the many unchurched in our world through church planting and strengthening our missional thinking in the local church. (Not an endorsement, just a resource.)



Sermons and Bible studies for June 7, 14, and 21 and coinciding with the convention theme, *Joy In Serving*, are available from the District website (www.idwlcms.org). Please note that you and your members are invited to make additional "pipe-cleaner people" and bring them to the District convention June 21.



Your partner – As always, I stand ready to assist you in any way that I can to equip the people of your congregation to passionately and intentionally impact their community and beyond for the kingdom of God. Why not call me today at 515-570-2331 and let's start praying and planning!

Celebrating the Victory,
Rev. Mark Gerken, Executive Assistant for Missions
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