



## **Planting Together**

Information of interest in  
Iowa District West  
**October 2009**



*"I (Paul) planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow...  
you are God's field." (1 Corinthians 3:6-9)*

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**Mission Statement:** Connecting, Resourcing, and Partnering with the member congregations for the extension of the Gospel within our communities, throughout the District, and into all the world.

### **Planting the Seeds of Truth**

*"The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land..."*

(Deuteronomy 28:8)



These words serve as a theme verse for Mission Central. A part of planting and harvesting is storing in barns. What a blessing to have our barn at Mission Central. If Jesus was born in a stable, we really should be able to educate and enrich from a barn!

A lot of people come together in the barn, and many seeds of mission are sown each day. We have had more than 30 bus loads come to be "seeded" this year. It's not about us making the seeds of mission grow, rather it's all about how God "calls" and "grows" people at "just the right time." We have frequently seen how God has His "harvest" arranged so that the seed of mission matures at just the right time. When people work together to plant and to grow, so much more can be done. We have been blessed to see God call 48 "volunteer seed planters" who plant in His mission field. Using all of these people, so much planting can be done! Sometimes we think we have to have a lot of seeds sown, but we have also seen how God can work with one little seed of mission to grow into something very special. Rev. Dennis Konkell is one seed in the field of deaf mission here in our District. From that one seed we have over 20 deaf Bible studies that have come to be harvested. Wow, God can do ANYTHING!

Gary Thies, Mission Development Counselor

### **Sharing the Truth Together**

177 congregations of Iowa District West are blessed to gather around the truth of God's Word each week. The Iowa District West Convention challenged congregations to share that truth with their community and into the

world. Thanks to over 70 congregations that were part of the fall "What Does This Mean?" dialogs around the District. Convention proceedings will be made available to each delegate by mid-October. Other convention responses and partnerships will be shared on the District Web site.

### **Pastors as Truth Proclaimers**

In the last year fifteen new pastors and vicars have begun ministry in Iowa District West. Those workers will be welcomed by District staff and given an orientation to the context and opportunities of the District at a New Worker Orientation. The annual event will be held at Camp Okoboji on October 5-6. Pray for these new ministry partners and missionaries at the mission outposts of the District. All District pastors will be part of the fall pastors conference on October 12-13 at Gloria Dei, Urbandale.

### **Teachers as Truth Tellers**

The teachers of the eight Iowa District West and eleven Iowa District East schools will gather at Gloria Dei, Urbandale on October 22-23. The theme of the conference is "A Changeless Christ for a Changing World." Educator and author (and native of Rockwell City, Iowa) Dr. Jane Fryar will be a keynote presenter. In a culture which makes truth relative, our Lutheran schools become increasingly important.

### **Truth for Teens**

Praise God for the dozens of congregations that will share the "Keys" of Christ's forgiveness with junior youth at the October 31-November 1 gathering. Registrations for the "ImpACT" youth gathering (November 27-29) continue to be received through October 13. information on District gatherings is available at [www.idwyg.org](http://www.idwyg.org).

Congregations can also begin registering online for the July 17-21, 2010 "We Believe" National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Registrations for young adult volunteers are also being accepted. To keep up on gathering details visit [www.lcmsgathering.com](http://www.lcmsgathering.com). Iowa District West will again provide a District sponsored activity at the gathering.

### **Thy Word is Truth**

The weekly Bible study insert produced as part of "The Monthly" is only one tool to encourage personal and group Bible study. Concordia Publishing House provides a wealth of resources. The youth ministry Web site ([www.youthesource.org](http://www.youthesource.org)) provides Bible study resources for teens. Explore starting a small group in your home or in your church.

### **Timely Truths**

October 12-13 ... District Pastors Conference, Gloria Dei, Urbandale  
October 22-23 ... District Teachers Conference, Gloria Dei, Urbandale  
31-November 1 ... Jr. Youth Gathering, Des Moines  
November 5-7 ... Rural Ministry Conference, Nebraska City, NE  
November 8 ... IOWAY Banquet, Carroll  
November 26-27 ... Thanksgiving Holiday, District Office Closed  
November 27-20 ... District Youth Gathering, Des Moines

Visit [www.idwlcms.org](http://www.idwlcms.org) for information on District resources and events.