

Workers Together

Kansas District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

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January 2004

Connecting with Congregations

by President Keith E. Kohlmeier

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One of the first "goals" that I set when I began the work of the office of District President in July of this year was to dedicate at least the first six months of my work to being in and among the congregations of the Kansas District as much as I possibly could. To date I (and my trusty co-pilot Marlene) have logged almost 15,000 miles in and around the state of Kansas visiting congregations and church workers.

That same spirit and goal is reflected in the fifth and final "target" set by the Board of Directors of our district. To "Connect with Congregations" bespeaks an understanding of the old, but oft forgotten, truth that "we" are not the district. Properly understood the Kansas District is the men, women, children, and workers who comprise the 170 congregations and ministry centers connected with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod throughout the entire state.

That said, it is a target of the Board of Directors of our district to ensure that our work together as a district is always focused on the reality that the heart and home for the work that God is accomplishing through the church is the local congregations of our district. The "connect" of all that we pursue, decide, and accomplish regarding our work together is rooted firmly in the mission we have together. Namely, that we always remember that "The servant mission of The Kansas District is to equip, empower and encourage each congregation in its mission vision and Christ-care ministry."

In the midst of all of the wonders of technology and know how of today, the key to that connection is still the same as it always has been. We desire to connect with each other. You hear the scriptural admonitions of brothers and sisters in Christ to "go to one another," "encourage one another," "join together in spiritual songs," etc. Dr. Samuel Nafzger of our Synod's Commission on Theology and Church Relations recently caught my ear when he said, "One of the real struggles of our church today is that are never talking about the same thing at the same time. Even when we are talking to each other, we're not talking about the same thing." His remedy? "It's time that we consciously honor the covenants of love that we have made in our walk together. First we need to listen, really listen to each other. And then, we need to trust one another, and the God who has formed us together to be about His work in this place."

Please pledge with me that we shall keep "going to one another," and also hear the pledge of your district's Board of Directors and of us who serve you all, that we shall continue to strive to grow our connection, which ultimately finds its root in the Savior whose loving and dying has bonded us to Him and to one another into eternity.

I can think of no better way to summarize the five "targets" and close than to let St. Paul collect these thoughts, as well as our plans, targets, and goals. "And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3: 13-17)

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Church - Missouri Synod for
congregations, schools, professional
church workers and lay leaders.
If you have any news items to
share with congregations in our
district, please direct them to:
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Deadline: 15th of each month

Calls Declined

- Richard Andrus to Peace, Greensburg/Our Savior, Pratt
- Greg Manning from Grace, Kansas City to Kansas District as Missionary at Large with African-Americans
- Royce Rinehart from Rocky Mountain District to Immanuel, Ellsworth as Intentional Interim
- Steve Schulz from Storm Lake, Iowa to Hope, Shawnee as Senior Pastor

Calls Pending

- Craig Boehlke from King of Kings, Gardner to Our Savior, Shreveport, La.
- David Gruoner from Zion, Linn to Zion, Newton
- Timothy Henning from Peace, Owensboro, Ky. to Peace, Greensburg/Our Savior, Pratt
- William Rusnak from Harvester, Mo. to Prince of Peace, Topeka as Senior Pastor
- Nathan Schaus (Associate) from Faith, Topeka to Faith Community, Las Vegas, Nev.

Calling Congregations

- *Zion, Argonia
- *St. John, Easton
Immanuel, Ellsworth
Peace, Greensburg/Our Savior, Pratt
St. Paul, Haven
Zion, Hillsboro/Our Savior, Marion
Trinity, Leavenworth (Sr Pastor)
Grace, Lyons
Zion, Newton
St. John, Oberlin
- *First, Plainville
Holy Cross, Scott City
Hope, Shawnee (Sr Pastor)
- *Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove
Prince of Peace, Topeka (Sr Pastor)
- *Christ, Wathena
St. Luke, Wheaton
Ascension, Wichita (Sr Pastor)
Bethany, Wichita (Sr Pastor)
Holy Cross, Wichita (DCE)
- *vacant, not calling

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LCEF press 3
Larry Crume (205)

Mission & Stewardship press 4
Gary Rueter (222)
Lori Hennessey (223)

Education press 5
Al Gunderman (208)
Joyce Tate (206)
Beth Eubanks (100)

Planned Giving press 6
Garry Niehoff (101)
Doris Wilson (101)

Directory press 8
Extension by name press 9
Operator press 0

District Calendar

January

- 1 New Year's Day, District Office closed
- 10 Lay Ministry Mentor Pastor Training, Salina
- 16-18 Lay Ministry Training, District Office
- 19-21 Pre-Lent Retreat, Hesston
- 21 Family Life Committee, District Office
- 23-24 DYMC Retreat, Wichita
- 23-25 Family Life Academy, District Office
- 30-31 Board of Directors, District Office

February

- 2-3 Principals Conference and KAIRS Annual Meeting, Topeka
- 20-22 Lay Ministry Training, District Office
- 27-28 Pastors' Wives Retreat, Salina

Prayers

- Pastor Jeff & Laura Geske, Trinity, McFarland, at the birth of Joshua Lynn on Dec. 29th.
- The family of Milt Brueggemann, Principal at Hope, Shawnee at the death of Milt's father Rufus on Dec. 3rd. Services were held Dec. 6th at St. Paul, Clay Center.
- The family of Marilyn Bruenger (teacher, Linn Lutheran School) at the death of her brother.
- Rev. Glenn Bitter, Topeka, recovery from a broken leg.
- Michelle Brown, daughter of Milt Brueggemann, Principal at Hope, Shawnee, recovery from a severe stroke.
- Joyce Pool, wife of Rev. John Pool, Wichita, health concerns
- Donna Mease, wife of Chaplain Rocky Mease, Wichita, health concerns.

Area Chaplains

Wichita - Contact Reverend Rocky Mease. Home: 316-788-9627 Cell: 316-993-0746 Email: chaprm@aol.com.

Topeka - For hospital visits in Topeka, contact Reverend George Bruening at 785-273-5769.

Vicar Assignments

This coming year there will be 262 vicars available for placement. Congregations interested in receiving information related to the assignment of a vicar should contact Prof. Glenn Nielsen, Concordia Seminary's director of vicarage, at 314-505-7211.

Buffalo River/Tuttle Creek Cabins

There are still dates available for both of these cabins during the winter. The rate for the Buffalo River Retreat Cabin in Arkansas is \$30 per night with a minimum of four nights. The rate for the Tuttle Creek cabin is \$15 per night with a minimum of two nights. Please contact Doris Wilson at the District office, 785-357-4441 ext. 101, to make your reservations.

Mission & Stewardship

Reverend Gary D. Rueter, Executive

Mission Congregations Accept Differences

Differences can make a group stronger or they can tear a group apart. Congregations in mission for Christ recognize that differences are God's idea. They accept that living with those differences is one of the challenges of reaching out to people.

All human relationships exist in a tension between two forces – separateness and closeness. Irrespective of age, class, race, or gender, people have in common needs for self and needs for togetherness. In every relationship a person is struggling with how much to remain apart from others and how close to be to others. A healthy person is one who balances these forces, who can be separate and responsible for self, and can also be connected and responsive to others.

Because separateness and closeness are opposites, the potential for tension exists in all relationship systems, including Christian congregations. To relieve themselves of this anxiety, people tend to go to one of the extremes, emotional fusion (extreme closeness) or emotional cutoff (extreme separation).

Emotional fusion is intolerant of differences and distinctions. When people become emotionally fused, they push for sameness. “We” must think, feel, or act alike. We must all worship in the same way, like the same kind of music, dress in like fashion, and speak in similar terms. To preserve oneness members will band together or circle the wagons.

Emotional cutoff has the opposite effect. People “keep their distance” or “protect their turf.” They avoid contact with one another. They gather in little groups in the parking lot after meetings and talk about those who are different. If they don't get their way, they become inactive

or leave. “Distancers” appear to be emotionally separate from others. But they are actually emotionally connected because the distance is emotionally driven.

The needs for separateness and closeness can drive a congregation apart if members allow their differences to push them to either of these extremes. St. Paul gives us an image to help us deal with these tendencies.

In 1 Corinthians 12 and 13 Paul deals with those who contend that only those who speak in tongues are truly spiritual. He reminds them that the gifts of the Spirit are diverse. Each gift produces a different way of serving the same Lord in the congregation. Using the human body as example he shows that there can be no living organism without many different parts. If the body were all “eye,” where would the hearing be? All Christians together are one body of Christ, and each member is a separate and necessary part. We are both together and distinct.

The congregation in mission for Christ welcomes and encourages diversity. Its strength is in blessing the diverse gifts of the Spirit and focusing them on serving the good of the whole body. Members are engaged, connected, and clearly related to one another. At the same time they are differentiated within their interdependence. Knowing they are loved and valued for who each is, they are freed for diverse, multiple expressions of gifts, talents, interests and functions. There is space for difference and sameness.

To grow in your own mission for Christ, contact us at the district office (1-800-357-4421 ext. 223) for the assistance we can give. And to learn more about how God uses human relationships to build his church, schedule a Healthy Congregations workshop in your congregation.

Outreach Leadership Institute 2004

“Building Blocks for Today's Great Commission Congregations” is the theme for the fourth annual Outreach Leadership Institute (OLI). The institute is a training event for leaders who have a heart for evangelism and outreach, including directors of Christian outreach, directors of Christian education, Lutheran school teachers, deacons and deaconesses, school administrators, pastors and volunteer lay workers.

OLI is sponsored by a partnership between the Oswald Hoffmann School of Christian Outreach (OHSCO), Lutheran Education Association and its Outreach Network (REACHnet) and LCMS World Mission. OLI will help congregations rekindle their vision for sharing the Gospel and equip them with the requisite skills to work effectively in those areas. Representatives of LCMS congregations that have developed “cutting edge” outreach models and strategies will teach the institute modules.

OLI is scheduled for July 29-31 at Concordia University, St. Paul. Registration is limited to 200. The early registra-

tion cost of \$160 covers registration, housing and meals. After May 1, 2004, the registration fee is \$175. For those who wish to stay in housing off-campus, the registration fee is \$125.

The plenary address will be delivered by Rev. Robert Roegner, LCMS World Mission Executive Director. In addition to the opening plenary session, each participant chooses two five-hour, in-depth modules on outreach topics. David Horn will present a special concert on Friday evening. Horn will also serve as chaplain for OLI 2004.

For further information, contact OHSCO at 651-641-8701 or OHSCO@CSP.edu. See an on-line brochure and registration form at www.lea.org/oli/index.htm or go to LEA's home page at www.lea.org. You may complete the registration form from your computer keyboard, print it and fax or mail it to LEA. Brochures are also available upon request by calling 708-209-3343 or by sending an email request to OHSCO at the address listed above.

Caring Ministry **Reverend Rocky Mease, District Chaplain**

“I Have a Dream”

I have borrowed this title from words in Dr. King’s famous speech to describe how chaplaincy is developing not only in Wichita but in Topeka and Kansas City as well. The biggest change for chaplaincy in the past year has been the addition of lay volunteers visiting patients two days a week in Wichita. Sheila Esposito and Wanda Wiechman each visit patients in the Wichita hospitals once a week. This has allowed us to explore wider avenues of service.

Beginning in December of 2003, I am making rounds at least two days a month in Topeka hospitals. George Bruening will continue to be the Chaplain who takes referrals, however he will no longer be responding to middle of the night emergencies. If you need a pastor to visit someone at a Topeka hospital in the middle of the night I would encourage you to call one of the other Topeka pastors.

I will continue taking all referrals for patients in the Wichita hospitals. The voice mail on my cell phone will give you directions for what to do when I am out of town or unavailable for an emergency. Our goal is to always have a pastor visit anyone who is referred to us.

Now here comes the dreaming part. This dream is not just mine but one that is shared and has been fostered by many persons in the District. Our hope, prayer and dream is that once a regular pattern of visitation has begun in the

Topeka hospitals, lay volunteers could be found to expand that ministry. We would then move on to Kansas City to work the same process there.

Our dream is that every person who identifies themselves as being Lutheran will have someone from the Lutheran community pay a visit to them while they are in the hospital. This is NOT to replace the regular ministry of local pastors and congregations. In fact we are not visiting those who have a local congregation. Our goal is to reach out to those who are from out of town and especially to those who have no congregation of their own.

Currently in the Wichita hospitals, about 75% of the people we visit have no congregation of their own. We expect to find about the same in other communities. These persons, who still claim a Lutheran identity, need our special attention.

The wider dream is to create a Lutheran Caring Ministry not only within the hospitals but also in nursing homes and assisted living communities. Increasingly we are seeing greater numbers of unchurched Lutherans living in these institutions.

All of this will take years to develop and will undoubtedly change as time goes on – but I wanted to share this dream in hopes of getting your feedback as well as beginning to enlist persons who might want to share in this dream. You may call me at 316-993-0746 (cell) or email me at chaprm@aol.com.

Planned Giving **Garry Niehoff, Counselor**

Estate Tax Changes

With the coming of the new year, a major change takes place concerning estate taxes and gift taxes. Up to this point, the exclusion was the same for both estate taxes and gift taxes. What that means is there is a uniform tax credit that everyone has no matter how large their estate is. This uniform tax credit could be used to offset either estate taxes or gift taxes at the same rate.

At the beginning of 2004, the uniform tax credit will offset the taxes on the first \$1,500,000 of your estate. The uniform tax credit will offset the taxes on a gift of \$1,000,000. Keep in mind the uniform tax credit does not apply to both estate taxes and gift taxes. It applies to one or the other. You have the right to decide which one you want to use the tax credit for. This will be somewhat confusing because they have been the same up to now.

There may be some who feel their estate is below \$1,500,000 and for that reason they do not need to have a

plan in place or even a will. I have read several surveys that very clearly say that an estate plan is still very much needed

There are four reasons people plan the distribution of their estate with the use of a will or a trust. The top reason is to be able to care for each other. The spouses want to make sure the money they have will be available for both spouses as long as either of them is living. At their deaths, they want to make sure the children are cared for. The third reason is they want to leave money to their favorite charity. The fourth reason people gave for wanting to have a good plan in place was a concern for taxes. Three of the four top reasons people plan are still there after all the tax issues have been addressed.

For more information on this subject or other help on your estate plan, please call my office at 1-800-357-4421 ext. 101.

Educational Services Al Gunderman, Executive

EPIC - Replay

The Kansas District Youth Gathering (Every Person In Christ) was held November 21-23, 2003 in Topeka. Five hundred twenty-five of our best and brightest came for a weekend packed with service projects, worship, and some fun on the side.

Friday evening began with opening worship by Modern Day John. Then our speakers for the weekend, Kurt Bickel and Lee Bickel, introduced us to EPIC, God's Story. We were inspired by the wonderful works that God has done throughout all of history and began to be transformed by the powerful story that Lee shared with us of her childhood.

Day two had an early start, as the sleepy-eyed yet excited youth and adults were loaded onto 12 buses and sent to over 30 service organizations across Topeka. They were involved in activities such as picking up trash in a park, wrapping presents, visiting with nursing home residents, and ringing bells for the Salvation Army. Each person was encouraged to live his or her faith in excellent service.

We then convened for a session on "How Do I Tell my EPIC Story?" Lee, Kurt and Lisa Hellyer from Lord of Life led us through the process, sharing their EPIC story along the way. Saturday ended with a celebratory worship

service led by our "Pastor on call" Tom Harmon from Risen Savior in Wichita. After worship the youth danced and sang (Karaoke) the night away.

Sunday morning we stepped outside for our annual gathering picture taken on the steps of the Expocentre, then rushed back indoors to spend the next few hours worshipping and being encouraged to take our EPIC stories and pass them on to others. The morning ended with tearful good-byes and promises to keep in touch. All in all this year's gathering was a great success.

Thank you to all the gathering youth and adults. You served your Lord well and we hope you learned a little along the way. (Written by Heidi Koehler, DYG Chair)

Upcoming Events

- ◆ January 21, Family Life Ministry Committee, District Office
- ◆ January 23-25, Family Life Academy, District Office
- ◆ January 23-24, DYMC Retreat, Wichita
- ◆ February 2-3, Principals Conference and KAIRS Annual Meeting, Topeka Holiday Inn

Lutheran Church Extension Fund Larry Crume, Vice President

Kansas District Receives Award

LCEF honored the Kansas District with an outstanding performance award on Nov. 23 in Miami at LCEF's annual conference. "The LCEF performance awards recognize districts that have shown outstanding efforts and results within their Church Extension Funds," says Merle Freitag, LCEF President.

Led by Larry Crume, Kansas District LCEF Vice President, the district maintained a positive trend in its investor payables and realized a 35.6% growth in loans. Actively involved in introducing the Strategic Ministry Planning process to its congregations in 2003, the Kansas District also worked closely with Capital Funding Services, the fund-raising ministry of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

The mission of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund is to provide opportunity to make funds and services available in support of the Great Commission through The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The not-for-profit organization provides low-cost loans and facility-planning services to churches and schools of the LCMS through the investment support of church members. For more information about LCEF, call 1-800-843-5233 or visit the LCEF website at www.lcef.org



Lutheran Church Extension Fund Interest Rates - January 2004

Steward Account Rates:

Congregational Certificates	
Demand	1.750%
Steward Account	2.250%

Individual Accounts

Less than \$1,000	1.125%
\$1,000 - less than \$5,000	1.375%
\$5,000 - less than \$10,000	1.500%
\$10,000 and over	2.000%

LCEF provides loans for LCMS Congregations, Schools and Professional Church Workers

Monthly, quarterly or annual adjustable	5.250%
5 Year fixed	5.500%
10 Year fixed	6.000%

Congregation Endowment (60-Month Fixed or Floating)

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$1,000	3.250%	3.290%
\$10,000	3.375%	3.418%
\$100,000	3.500%	3.546%

Business Office Debbie Crites, Business Manager

Year End Checklist

For the end of one calendar year and the start of a new one, congregational treasurers need to plan for the following activities:

✓ **Housing Allowance**

Housing allowance for Pastors and Commissioned Ministers should be approved by December 31 in order to obtain the full annual benefit of housing allowance exclusion for 2003. The designation should be adopted during a regular or special meeting of the church board and should be contained in the minutes of the meeting. A worksheet for calculating the housing allowance is included in the Congregational Treasurer's Manual.

✓ **W-4**

Have all full-time and part-time employees complete a new W-4 for 2004. This will ensure that your withholding for the year will be accurate. If the employee does not provide a completed W-4, the employer must withhold federal income tax as if the worker were single with no withholding allowance.

✓ **Charitable Contributions**

Charitable contributions for 2003 must be received before the first worship service in 2004 in order to claim the deduction. Contributions received after that date are counted as contributions for 2004 for income tax purposes even if the check was written in 2003. However, checks that are written, mailed and postmarked 2003 will still be deductible. A reminder in your weekly bulletin would be appropriate.

✓ **Gifts to Church Workers**

Christmas gifts to Church Workers from the congregation in most cases represent taxable income and not a tax-free gift. Be sure to report correctly on the recipient's W-2 or 1099 the amount of these gifts. It is also important to note that donations made by members for these gifts are not included as tax deductible contributions recorded by the church office.

Salary Guidelines Available

Salary Guidelines for 2004 are available on the Kansas District website, www.kslcms.org. Just click on the "Departments" tab and select "Business Office." If you are unable to download and view this on-line, call or email Debbie Crites at 800-357-4421 ext. 204 or debbie@kslcms.org.

Fiscal Year to Close

The District will close its 2003 fiscal year on Thursday, January 15, 2004. Any receipts received after that date will be credited to the fiscal year 2004. Please work to meet this deadline. In order to meet the standards for a not-for-profit corporation audit, we cannot credit any 2003 mission gift received after the close of our fiscal year. If you are sending any 2004 gift prior to January 15th, please indicate that the gift is for 2004 so that we may credit it correctly for your congregation.

2004 Congregational Commitments

Letters were sent to your congregations requesting the amount of your commitment to Synod and District for 2004. The District staff would appreciate receiving your commitment as soon as it has been decided by your Voters, Council, or other governing body.

If you would like to know the current status of your 2003 commitment or need another form to complete for 2004, please contact Lori Hennessey at 785-357-4441 ext. 223 or lori@kslcms.org.

Treasurer's Manual Available Now

The updated 2003 Congregational Treasurer's Manual is now available. In order to keep the cost of the manual down, you will not automatically receive a copy. The 2003 manual will soon be available on the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod website by going to www.lcms.org and clicking under the link "Resources." You are able to view or print the manual from this site. If you would like us to send you a copy, call the business office at 785-357-4441 ext. 200 or email to brenda@kslcms.org. Cost of this year's manual is only \$6.75.

IRS 2004 Mileage Rate

The Internal Revenue Service has released the new standard mileage rates that go into effect January 1, 2004: business mileage - 37.5 cents per mile (up from 36 cents per mile in 2003); charitable mileage - 14 cents per mile (no change); moving/medical mileage - 14 cents per mile (up from 12 cents in 2003).

Happy New Year!

**Attention Pastors!
PRE-LENT RETREAT**

January 19-21, 2004

Crosswinds Conference Center, Hesston
Opening - 1:00 p.m. Monday
Closing - Wednesday noon
More information coming soon!

Share Life Workshop

Trinity Lutheran Church in Salina is sponsoring the Share Life Workshop on Saturday, February 14 from 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. Rev. Gary Rueter is the presenter. Learn how to share the love we have in Jesus in your own personal, unique way.

The cost is \$10 to help cover the noon meal and materials. Call 785-827-3184 for more information and reservations.

Lay Ministry Program

The Kansas District Lay Ministry program will soon be accepting applications for the sixth class which begins in August of 2004. Information about the program and application forms can be found on the District website at http://www.kslclms.org/ks_layinstitute/index.htm or contact Marie at the District office, 800-357-4421 ext. 219 or marie@kslclms.org. If your congregation would like to arrange for a presentation and discussion on the Lay Ministry program, please contact Lay Ministry Director Jim Jorns at 785-539-6052 or jorns@flinthills.com.

Lay Ministry Mentor Pastor Training

Saturday, January 10, 2004
Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina

Crossways Workshop

Crossways International *Living Word* workshop is scheduled for the greater Lincoln area, February 2-6, 2003 at Holy Savior Lutheran Church, 4710 N 10th, Lincoln Nebraska. Representatives from all denominations are welcome to attend the 2½ day Introduction or 4½ day Complete session. Witness firsthand the impact of Crossways International's (CI's) highly visual approach to biblical teaching that helps students at any level of sophistication to learn, retain, share, and live essential scriptural truths. This workshop is designed to equip you with the tools and techniques necessary to help you transform ordinary church members into impassioned disciples of the Living Word, Jesus. Each year over 100,000 people undertake a Bible study using CI courses and materials.

Crossways International is a nonprofit, transdenominational ministry providing training, resources, and support to churches, seminaries, colleges, and special ministries around the world. For more information about Crossways International or to access a registration form, visit www.crossways.org. To register for this event call 1-800-257-7308.

Choir Member Workshop

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will offer its 12th Annual Schola Cantorum, a choir member workshop, on Saturday, January 24, 2004. This workshop is open to all choir members and directors.

The day will begin with registration at 8:30a.m. and conclude at 3:30p.m. Prof. Eldon Balko, emeritus associate professor of music at Valparaiso University, Indiana, is this year's clinician.

The cost is \$75 per congregation (\$65 for congregations with less than 200 members). Lunch and the choral music to be learned are not included in the fee. For more information or registration forms, call 314-505-7123.

Lutheran Student Fellowship

Lutheran Student Fellowship, the LC-MS organization for college students, will hold its annual regional retreat March 5-7, 2004, at Living Water Ranch, a Christian retreat center overlooking Tuttle Creek Lake near Manhattan, Kansas. LSF region five includes three states: Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. College students and other young adults from the region are encouraged to attend, whether or not they are involved with a local LSF chapter. The retreat theme will be "Gifted," based on 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, and the main speaker will be Dr. Mark Blanke, director of the DCE program at Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska. Student leaders and campus ministry staff from the region work together to plan and lead the retreat. LSF encourages young adults to grow in the areas of leadership, service, and faith. Questions about the retreat may be addressed to Pastor Eric Wood, Kansas District campus missionary and LSF region five pastoral advisor, at 785-539-2604 or campusmn@flinthills.com. Registration information is available from LSF region five secretary-treasurer Kelsey Kahle, 2175 28 Road, Kearney, NE 68847 or sunshine24_7@hotmail.com. Registration, including a fee of \$80, is due February 9, 2004.

Executive Director for CCCS

Children's Christian Concern Society has appointed a search committee to hire an Executive Director. Committee members include Eugene Schmidt, Richard Hahn, Marlene Ernsting, Edie Jorns, Alfred Aufdemberge, and Arthur Vogel, chairman. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Arthur Vogel by phone at 816-810-8942 or by mail through CCCS, 1000 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66604.

Pastors' Wives Retreat Feb. 27-28

Country Inn & Suites  Salina, KS

More information coming soon!

Updating Kansas District Email List

The Kansas District email list is used to send out timely information such as missionary newsletters, changes or additions to scheduled events and new postings to the website (such as new editions of Workers Together). If your current email address has changed or you would like to be added to the list, please contact Lori Hennessey at lori@kslclms.org.

Guinea Prayers

Prayer requests from the Oetting family:

- ✠ Thank God for the Norton family's successful move to Siguiri and ask God to provide for them as they settle into their new home and ministry location.
- ✠ Thank God for Audrey Roglitz. She has volunteered to come out in mid-January 2004 for six weeks to help us teach Joel and Anna. Ask God to help provide her with a furnished house in Siguiri.
- ✠ Sharon is back to teaching three children for the next three weeks while Joel's and Anna's current teacher is in the States. Please intercede on Sharon's behalf, as teaching three different grade levels is quite a strain considering that her day is already packed with plenty to do.
- ✠ Rachael has been given an extension from Calvert School in Baltimore, MD to finish seventh grade requirements in February, 2004 (we were on a November 2002-November 2003 schedule). We ask for your prayer support for Rachael so that she and Sharon can finish three more months/units and complete seventh grade and bring to an end a very long school year.
- ✠ Praise God for Jon's successful trip to Siguiri. He has found several potential houses to rent, though none of them are finished or ready for an immediate move.
- ✠ Pray that Jon, despite the business of moving, will be able to advance his language proficiency to a level 2+ by February 2004.

Prayer requests from the Heiney family:

- ✠ Thanksgiving for Tim's safe trip to Guinea. Praise that God was working in Guinea already to plan ahead for future trips.
- ✠ Praise for the 120 people baptized in a village near N'Zerekore.
- ✠ Pray that God will provide an administrator for Guinea and another missionary to take over the work in the Forest Region.

Prayer requests from Dr. Schmaltz:

- ✠ Pray for the 100 plus Forest Region churches and preaching points to continue to grow and mature and evangelize amongst our neighbors - the Muslims, Animists and other unbelievers.
 - ✠ Guidance and wisdom for the entire Forest healthcare ministry, a veritable Muslim mission field right at our back door!
 - ✠ Thanksgiving for the healthcare opportunities in the Christian, Muslim and public schools. May the children see God wants them to have healthy bodies as He created them each special and that Jesus loves them.
 - ✠ Kouranko work has restarted by our diligent God serving evangelists near the camps and is showing fruits after a lack of effort and support. One village is in Bible study and others are making inroads. Praise God! Also Christian healthcare assistance possibilities are there. Pray that a way may be found to spread out and work there.
 - ✠ Thanksgiving that Dr. Schmaltz has started to settle into her house. Pray for strength, time and ability to clean, rearrange all the mission items stocked there, and to make it a home, her first one in 3 years.
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