



## SHARING THE GOSPEL *in Understandable Ways*

see page 3

75 Years in Brazil .....	8
<i>Nurturing Your Faith</i> .....	9-10
Gospel Adventures .....	12-13
Board Election/Nominations ..	13
Advent Devotions .....	17
Decorate Rose Parade Floats ..	19
Changing Lives Globally ...	20-21



# A Place in the Choir

by REV. DR. MICHAEL ZEIGLER,  
Speaker of *The Lutheran Hour*



From where I was sitting by the pulpit, I could see the choir director, but not the faces of the children singing. There were about 20 of them, the taller ones in the back, the younger ones in the front. It's a motley crew. No two of them are alike. It's a miracle of social engineering they fit together at all. But they do. Their eyes are fixed on their director, who signals them in time with the music. Singing together creates a group identity, like marching, clapping, or cheering together. This solidarity momentarily took hold of those children. *E pluribus unum*, as the motto goes, "Out of many, one." But, by the third measure, it starts to fall apart. One voice clashes from the rest, like a cymbal in a string quartet. There is a small boy in the front row who is SHOUTING the words to the song. I can't tell if he is trying for attention, or just oblivious to the fact that his voice is 50 decibels higher than the rest.

I watch the choir director to see how she handles this situation. She is smiling, but she knows she has got a situation on her hands. She looks directly at the boy. Her face turns serious. She turns her chin a quarter turn to the right and then to the left, mouthing the word "NO." It only takes a second, but it works. The boy stopped shouting. And the choir went on singing.

But it made me wonder, which is more important, the choir or the child, the many or the one? Do the desires of the many ever or always outweigh the desires of the one? Or could it be *all for one and one for all*? How do we hold them in harmony without crushing the one to maintain the many, or without disbanding

the many for the sake of just one?

As followers of Jesus, we have been given a place in His choir. We Christians sometimes say that we "go" to church. But we also *are* the church, the body of Jesus, God's Son, our Director. We are a small, but important part of His global, multi-cultural, motley crew. We are not uniform. But we have a long history of singing together. We sometimes clash like cymbals in a string quartet. But our Director keeps us together. And sometimes He tells us "No," not to crush us, but to save the choir from our tyrannies, to save us *for* the choir, and the choir for the world.

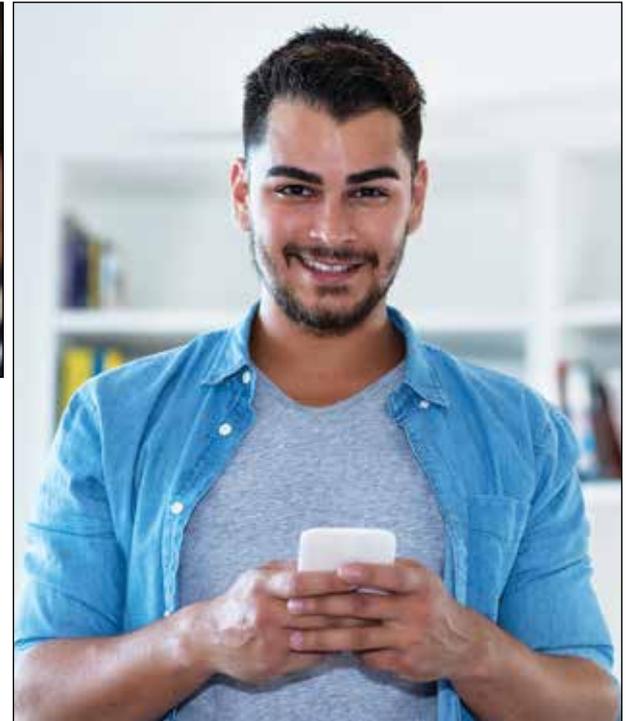
*As followers of Jesus, we have been given a place in His choir.*

After the church service, I complimented the choir director on how she redirected the boy who was shouting. And she gently redirected me: "He's my son," she said, "His name is Greyson, and he is four." Then she shares the back story: "I had encouraged them to sing to the people in the back row of the church so that everyone could hear the words.

Perhaps this was Greyson taking my guidance to heart." Then she explained the heart of the burden—the burden that belonged to her in that moment—the burden that belongs to God forever: "As a parent," she said, "when you're directing the whole choir and the child needing redirection is yours, it creates a fun dynamic of keeping all the positive momentum going while still being the parent of the four-year-old who can't help but sing his heart out."

God knows we need His redirection. He also knows that we are His—His sons and daughters. And there is a place for us in His choir. ♦

*Adapted from a message for The Lutheran Hour aired June 5, 2022.*



## THANK YOU!

Oshin is connected to LHM staff in Central and South Asia through WhatsApp. After he expressed interest in attending a Christian worship service, LHM staff referred him to a local church and met him there. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Oshin soon became a Christian. He is now attending church regularly and is preparing to get baptized.

Because of **YOU**, people like Oshin are experiencing the hope of the Gospel.

To continue supporting our mission, visit **LHM.ORG/GIVE** and put your gift to work **TODAY**.



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*Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church*



## SHARING THE GOSPEL in Understandable Ways



*LHM staff seeks to proclaim the hope and salvation found in the Word of God by reaching out to people of all nations.*



by CHAD FIX

There are a multitude of mass media Christian ministries that span the globe today. Many of these ministries use messages and programming that are developed in the western world and simply translated into local languages. Often, even if translated, those messages do not touch the hearts of the people from other cultures because they are not contextually appropriate. The people often cannot relate to the examples and stories used, meaning the issues or problems they are dealing with are not appropriately addressed.

Lutheran Hour Ministries' global ministry model is different from most mass communications ministries. LHM uses locally established ministry centers to share the Gospel with people around the world more than 150 million times each week. Each ministry center is a center of operation placed in strategic locations around the world and staffed with local, indigenous staff members and volunteers who have a passion for sharing the Gospel and a willingness to proclaim it throughout their community.

LHM's programming and resources are created locally, ensuring maximum impact and accuracy of the message of the Gospel. Our staff members grew up speaking the languages they do outreach in and know the culture intimately as an insider. As local people, they are particularly well qualified to know how to communicate the Gospel effectively in their context. They understand the linguistic and cultural nuances that are essential to effective and accurate communication, especially when it comes to something as important as the life-transforming message of the Gospel.

Since the staff members are from that culture and understand the local needs, LHM can customize our outreach to the particular issues that people are facing and begin establishing a more personal relationship. By identifying, developing, and using resources in local languages that are culturally relevant and attractive, LHM staff seeks to proclaim the hope and salvation found in the Word of God by reaching out to people of all nations and building trust with those individuals to connect them in fellowship to a local Christian community.

In carrying out its mission statement of *Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church*, LHM employs a variety of methods and programs.

*see next page*

## RADIO & TELEVISION BROADCASTS

Many of LHM's ministry centers provide locally produced radio and television programming on topics of interest. These programs attract a wide variety of audiences and invite listeners and viewers to contact the local ministry center to receive resources that address the topic from a Christian perspective, along with opportunities to take a **Bible Correspondence Course (BCC)** and connect with a local Christian community. The staff member may also offer to pray with the new contact.

*"I know God and trust in Him, so I'm happy now."*



### Impact of Radio and Television Broadcasts

Gaew is a 41-year-old seamstress who lives in Bangkok, Thailand. A mother of four and grandmother of two, she spends much of her life caring for others. Oftentimes, her life leaves her feeling drained and discouraged.

One Saturday afternoon, Gaew turned on her radio and heard "Home for Love," one of LHM's radio broadcasts in Thailand. The information and content variety drew her in. Yet the program offered something even more precious: encouragement in her hour of need. Gaew contacted ministry staff to receive the free Bible Correspondence Course she heard about on the air. The

material ignited such happiness in her heart, Gaew believes the Lord used it to provide His leading in her life. She prays regularly.

"My life is not chaos like before, because I know that God is here to take care of my life," she says. "I know God and trust in Him, so I'm happy now." Ministry staff introduced her to a nearby congregation, where she could attend services and receive spiritual nourishment as she grew in her faith. Today, Gaew's faith is growing stronger as she continues her BCCs. She craves to know the Lord better—and desires Him to bring her family members to faith in Jesus, too.

## BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

Over the past year, more than 50,000 people registered to participate in LHM's Bible Correspondence Courses and nearly 33,000 internationally completed their first course. These Bible-based studies enable people of all ages, faiths, and educational levels to explore the Bible's teachings and the Christian faith from the security and comfort of their own homes. LHM's ministry centers present BCC content according to the needs and characteristics of their local cultures and typically offer multiple courses under a variety of titles. Many centers offer courses for both adults and children.

*Brigita enrolled in the BCC program, and the Lord worked in her heart and brought her to faith in Jesus.*



### Impact of Bible Correspondence Courses

Brigita teaches kindergarten in Latvia, where she enjoys answering children's questions. Yet unanswered questions tugged at her own heart. As a child, Brigita had visited church, but that was the extent of her experience. She got married and had children. Life grew hectic. "I always felt like there was something missing in my life," she says. "I always said I believe in God, but I'm not the person who will attend church on Sundays. I felt I don't belong there."

One day, while with a Christian friend, their conversation turned to religion. Brigita shared her lingering questions. Her

friend encouraged her to seek answers. Since Brigita didn't feel comfortable visiting a church, her friend recommended signing up for LHM's Bible Correspondence Courses. This would allow her to explore Christianity at her own pace. The teacher became like a student. Brigita enrolled in the BCC program, and the Lord worked in her heart and brought her to faith in Jesus. Brigita found a local congregation, which she continues to attend today. In receiving the answers to her questions, she learned one of the greatest lessons of all: "Only God can fill your soul," she says.

## EQUIPPING THE SAINTS WORKSHOPS

Around the world, LHM encourages and equips laypeople to help spread the Gospel. **Equipping the Saints (ETS)** evangelism workshops heighten volunteers' interest in witnessing and provide them with the practical tools they need to reach out to family, friends, and neighbors who need to hear the Gospel and experience God's love. These ETS workshops have equipped lay evangelists in every region of the world.

*Yenupan is eager to share the Gospel with those around him.*



## HOLISTIC MINISTRY

During His ministry on earth, Jesus not only taught and preached but also healed the sick and fed the hungry. Our ministry centers follow His example, often incorporating “holistic” approaches to sharing the Gospel by attending to people’s physical and emotional needs as well as their spiritual needs.

In some communities where people may be struggling against the effects of poverty, our ministry centers often assist families by providing vocational training, educational materials, nutritional supplements, or hygiene supplies. When disaster strikes, ministry center staff and volunteers frequently work with partner organizations to distribute emergency supplies of food and clothing and share booklets like *Why Do Bad Things Happen?* to try to help people process their feelings following the disaster. By working with smaller groups of individuals and families, we can build a relationship over time to share the Gospel with them.

Often the recipients of these holistic efforts desire to learn more about the God who motivates these Christians to reach out in love. This opens doors for staff and volunteers to share LHM resources and invite people to participate in our BCCs and other programs.

*Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Ana became a Christian.*



### Impact of Holistic Ministry

Ana participated in a financial training course hosted by LHM staff in Mongolia. The purpose of this training is to provide financial education to families, youth, and single parents to teach them how to manage their finances wisely and sustainably. It encourages them to apply what they learn during the training into their daily lives to result in stronger families, in-depth financial knowledge, and a stable financial outlook where they can overcome debt and avoid a budgetary crisis. The weekly training sessions take place over two months and are focused

on Christian perspectives regarding specific topics each time. After she completed the financial training, Ana continued to meet with LHM staff and enrolled in the ministry’s BCCs to learn more about Jesus. Ana shared that she had a difficult childhood and struggled with anxiety. LHM staff talked with her and shared that she can find her worth in Jesus. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Ana became a Christian. She and her husband were connected to a local church where she can continue learning about Jesus and she is growing in her faith.

### Impact of Equipping the Saints Workshops

Yenupan is 25 years old and recently attended an ETS program led by **LHM–Ghana**. Since completing the program, Yenupan has become the youth president at a local Lutheran church. He made a presentation on how beneficial the ETS program was for him, especially since he sometimes finds personal outreach difficult. Yenupan shared his story on how he plans to share the Word of God with people in his community, using the skills and knowledge he gained during the ETS program. Yenupan knows that he can share the Gospel with others, but it is the work of the Holy Spirit that brings people to faith in Jesus. He is eager to share the Gospel with those around him.

## DIGITAL OUTREACH

As technology rapidly evolves and becomes widely available around the world, LHM constantly utilizes new media to spread the Gospel. Most LHM ministry centers use websites and social media to share biblical messages, provide video and audio clips, links to downloadable resources, and provide information about the ministry center and events. In North America, Latin America, Europe, Central and South Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa, digital platforms are used to establish online relationships with individuals and provide biblically based answers to their lives. Eventually, as God opens their hearts, trained staff and volunteers share the Gospel with them and guide them to a Christian community. Where cell phones are common, ministry centers invite people to subscribe to receive daily Christ-centered text messages or to send text messages in response to radio and television programs.

*Elina is thankful for LHM–Guatemala’s programs.*



### Impact of Digital Outreach

Elina was going through a difficult time in her life and had suicidal thoughts. When she was scrolling through Facebook one day, she saw an ad from **LHM–Guatemala** for an upcoming Facebook Live event. She decided to watch it and found hope in the messaging. She is thankful for LHM–Guatemala’s programs and knows that she can always reach out to the staff with any questions she has about Christianity. Elina is continuing to learn more about Jesus through conversations with LHM staff and reading their materials. *see next page*

## PERFORMING ARTS MINISTRY

In many countries where LHM has established ministry centers, Christianity is a minority religion. In other places it is often considered a relic of a bygone culture. LHM ministry centers respond to the challenge of spreading the Gospel in these countries by presenting it through music, storytelling, dance, dramas, and puppet theatre. From Russia to Ghana to Thailand, ministry center-hosted concerts attract crowds of people, both young and old—and ministry volunteers boldly share Gospel messages through both the music and spoken testimony. From Sri Lanka to India to Vietnam, street dramas and puppet shows depicting parables, Bible stories, or everyday spiritual struggles cross cultural barriers and proclaim God's love to multigenerational audiences. Schools, hospitals, and prisons also regularly invite LHM staff and volunteers to provide spiritual education through these kinds of performances.

Frequently ministry center staff and volunteers will host weekend rallies that combine performance arts with other culturally relevant presentations of God's Word—for example, film showings, testimonies, and sermons. Often some of those who attend respond to the Holy Spirit's call to faith in Jesus Christ; many others—sometimes hundreds—ask to learn more or sign up for the BCCs.



*"That is why I turn to God, Jesus Christ, now."*

### Impact of Performing Arts Ministry

Mealea is 62 years old and lives in a village where she is a farmer. Like most Cambodians, her family had followed another religion for generations. Mealea's family members struggled with sickness for a long time, so the family sought advice from fortune tellers. They told the family they had displeased an ancestor's spirit, who then sent the illness upon them. The recommended solution was to sacrifice something—a chicken, a pig, a banana—to return the family to favor with the spirit. Yet the sickness remained, year after year. The experiences left Mealea in despair. Without resolution, she felt helpless.

Mealea first heard about Jesus

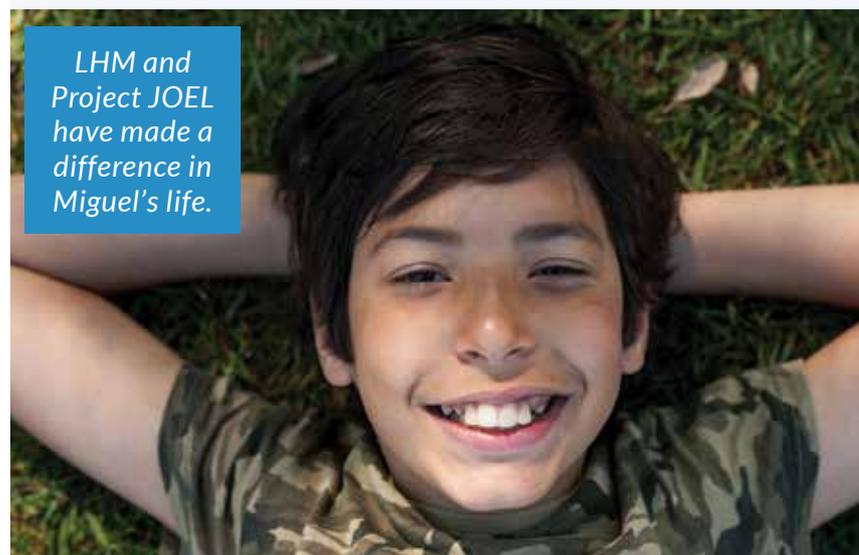
several years ago. However, because she did not understand the Good News or have faith in Him, she mocked the Christians she met ... but God had planted the Gospel's seeds in her heart. Years later, LHM held a film showing in her village, which proclaimed the salvation available to everyone in Christ. The Holy Spirit brought Mealea to faith in Jesus. Finally, she had answers. She had resolution. "That is why I turn to God, Jesus Christ, now," she says.

LHM staff referred Mealea to a local congregation, where she continues to grow in her faith today. She attends Bible studies and prayer meetings. But best of all, she has the Savior's peace that surpasses understanding.

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

In many countries today, more than 70 percent of the population is under 25 years of age. Because of realities such as broken families and secularism, many of these young people receive little moral or spiritual education in their homes, their values often being shaped instead by potentially negative influences such as the media, music, or their peers.

As part of a global strategy for reaching out to youth, Lutheran Hour Ministries offers **Project JOEL** in a growing number of countries. The name JOEL stands for Jóvenes con Espíritu Libre, or "youth with a free spirit," and the program is designed to provide biblically based guidance in making healthy lifestyle choices. Project JOEL has been integrated into school curricula in some countries—particularly in Latin America—but it also supplements its educational content by incorporating opportunities for holding sporting and cultural events.



*LHM and Project JOEL have made a difference in Miguel's life.*

### Impact of Youth Programs

Miguel is in the fifth grade. He lives in a less-privileged area of a large Panamanian city, but he takes part in a program that allows him to attend school in a more stable area. Many children like Miguel come from dangerous places. Oftentimes, exposure to violence at such young ages leads to harassment and other behavioral issues in school. Because of their divergent home lives, children like Miguel struggle to build healthy relationships with other students.

LHM staff first met Miguel when he was in kindergarten. LHM brings its popular Project JOEL program to his school, a program whereby we promote

positive values among youth that will set them up for a safe, successful future. Starting at a young age, Miguel began to participate in LHM's puppet shows, songs, games, and readings. He also participated in presentations for the students and staff every Monday.

Today, LHM and Project JOEL have made a difference in Miguel's life. His confidence has grown as he learns how to make responsible choices. One step at a time, he is learning how to escape the background into which he was born. By God's grace, we celebrate with Miguel as he prepares to enter a bright, more hopeful future. ♦

*Chad Fix oversees the corporate communications of LHM.*



# Reaching the Unreached

by KURT BUCHHOLZ, President & CEO, Lutheran Hour Ministries



**The saving message of Christ does not change, but the way we share it does.**

**G**lobally, there are billions of people who have never heard the Good News of Jesus Christ. That is billions of fathers ... mothers ... children ... grandchildren ... close friends from all walks of life who have not yet experienced the transformative love of our Savior. Many of these people, especially those living in other countries around the world, have had little or no opportunity to hear about the love of God in Jesus Christ.

God has called LHM to proclaim the risen Savior around the world to reach these people. As a mass communications ministry, we are uniquely poised to reach beyond those areas where Christ is already known, to those among whom relatively little effort is being made by most American mission agencies. Most of these unreached individuals live in places that are dominated by other

majority religions and they have often never even met a Christian. This presents a tremendous opportunity to reach so many more for Christ, as 90 percent of the cross-cultural mission resources from American churches go to places where the Gospel is already known.

Our efforts to communicate the Gospel are tailored to take into consideration the mindset of the unbeliever. That is why we focus on identifying and equipping local laypeople who have a passion for the Gospel to build their presence and impact using specific strategies and tactics contextual to the culture and language in which they serve. Several approaches are employed by each ministry center to best reach their specific culture with the Gospel such as radio broadcasts, print media, digital media, social media platforms, events, concerts, holistic outreach, and much more (*check out the*

*lead story in this issue to learn more about the impact of various approaches*). Because our staff customizes its outreach to the needs of the local people, we can begin establishing a personal relationship that ultimately allows us to share the hope and love of Christ.

Since we deploy local staff, we can bring the Gospel to many places where it would otherwise be impossible. Our on-the-ground presence allows us to work directly with local church leaders and government officials to navigate around potential pitfalls. When you combine the cultural awareness and the insider's perspective—people who look and act like local people *because they are*—you have many more possibilities to bring the Gospel into hard-to-reach places such as the Middle East and North Africa or Central and Southeast Asia. In most cases it is also

very cost effective utilizing local people as staff instead of sending a foreign missionary family to establish themselves in a different land, set up housing, learn the culture and language, and spend time establishing rapport and building relationships with local communities.

As we navigate a shifting world culture, we know the saving message of Christ does not change, but the way we share it does. To be most effective, we continually assess and adapt current ministry approaches while also developing new ones as needed.

This life-changing work would not be possible without the support of people like you. We appreciate your prayers, involvement, and financial support that allows millions of hurting people around the world to find answers and relief in the Gospel. ♦

## Access your favorite LHM resources anywhere with our FREE mobile apps!



The Lutheran Hour



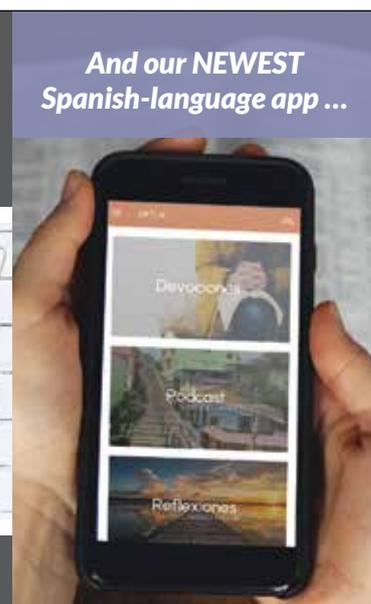
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# Celebrating 75 Years of Ministry in Brazil

by MEGAN MCDANIEL

In June, **LHM–Brazil**, locally known as **Hora Luterana**, celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a ministry. LHM President & CEO Kurt Buchholz attended the celebration event, congratulating Hora Luterana for its anniversary and for accomplishing its longstanding goal of becoming self-sustaining, even with the challenges caused by the pandemic.

Since June 1, 2020, Hora Luterana has no longer received funding from LHM, meaning it is now a fully self-supporting member of the LHM family. This was the first time an LHM ministry center had taken this step, following their three-year plan to accomplish it. Since then, Hora Luterana has continued to partner with LHM in our mission and work together to expand media ministry outreach throughout the world.

As a special evangelistic project during their anniversary year, Hora Luterana is printing 75,000 copies of literature for hospitals, prisons, and drug recovery clinics. Over the past 75 years, many people have been impacted by the Hora Luterana radio program, including many Lutheran congregations that were formed in north and northeast Brazil from a group of listeners. This year, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Hora Luterana, there is a goal to reach 75 new cities in northeastern Brazil with the proclamation of the Gospel through their evangelistic materials.

In an uplifting message at the celebration event, Buchholz shared LHM's global mission, which includes having Hora Luterana as a partner in mission. Together they will address the outreach opportunities and challenges that LHM and Hora Luterana have in the

mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church*.

The ministry's programs now include production and daily broadcast of the *Five Minutes with Jesus* radio program on more than 150 radio stations; podcasts; printing and distribution of devotionals; a group of evangelists who distribute booklets; a mobile messaging service called *Messages of Hope* that is shared through an app; an online Bible course; and a weekly live online Bible study, *The Chaplaincy with Jesus*, that is designed to work in harmony with Christian chaplaincy programs across the country to minister to people in over 120 hospitals and in prisons. The Good News of Jesus can also be read or heard worldwide through the ministry's innovative website and growing social media presence, as well as through LHM's regional digital project, **Vivenciar.net**, that is based out of Brazil.

Another one of Hora Luterana's recent evangelistic projects was a children's Bible school that they hosted at a local church around Easter. During the program, the staff had a challenge for the children. Each child received two copies of *The Easter Story* booklet. The challenge was to take one of the booklets and give it to a friend outside of the class and invite them to participate in the Bible school. More than 10 new children came to the next class after being invited by a friend. The staff was thrilled with the turnout and realizes that we can all learn from this children's program by inviting our friends and family to church. ♦

*Megan McDaniel reports on the impact of LHM's ministry work around the world.*

How can you keep donating to your favorite charity(s) during retirement?

## The IRA Rollover: A Simple Way to Share the Gospel

by CHAD FIX

You spent your working years saving up for retirement. But you also made sure you donated regularly to charity. Once you have retired, your income may be limited, but you don't want to give up on your philanthropic goals. How can you keep donating to your favorite charity(s) during retirement?

One tax-efficient and simple way to make a charitable gift is by using your IRA. You can give during your lifetime and avoid the income tax normally associated with taking required minimum distributions from your IRA.

**Who qualifies?** Individuals who are age 70½ or older at the time of the charitable contribution may transfer funds directly from their traditional or Roth IRA to a qualified nonprofit organization such as Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM). If you are 72 or older, you can also use this transfer to satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

**How much can you transfer?** Each individual may transfer up to \$100,000 per year. If your spouse has a separate IRA, he or she can also make a charitable IRA rollover gift. Remember that any amount transferred counts toward your RMD.

**What are the tax implications?** The amount you transfer will not be included in your taxable income as long as it is transferred directly from your IRA administrator to LHM.

**What factors make this the right gift for you?** 1) You wish to make an outright gift to LHM that will have an immediate impact on sharing the Gospel around the world; 2) you do not need the additional income necessitated by your required minimum distribution; 3) you have already maxed out your charitable tax deductions for the year—a charitable distribution from an IRA operates separately from the tax rules that limit the benefit of individual charitable giving.

**How do you make your gift?** Consult with your tax advisor to make sure that a gift made through your IRA is a good fit for you. After that, simply contact your IRA administrator and request that a distribution be made directly to LHM. To use assets from another retirement plan, such as a 401(k), first move these funds into a traditional or Roth IRA, then transfer them to LHM. You can also designate LHM as a beneficiary of your retirement plan. ♦

Questions about IRAs or other gift options? Contact our gift planning staff at 1-877-333-1963 or [lhmgift@lhm.org](mailto:lhmgift@lhm.org).



Buchholz shared LHM's global mission, which includes having **Hora Luterana** as a partner in mission.



## NURTURING YOUR FAITH:

### *God in Worship*



**W**elcome to *Nurturing Your Faith*. This single-session study examines God’s presence in worship in the Old and New Testament periods—and how we can be certain He is present among us today. God’s people are a worshipping people. In our praise and devotion to the Creator, we declare His sovereignty over our lives and pledge to follow Him faithfully. Both Testaments speak to the worship of God and its significance in the lives of believers. Worship is a key part in our contemporary congregational life as well. And our fellowship, in whatever numbers, is blessed by the presence of Jesus Himself who tells us, “where two or three are gathered in My Name, there am I among them” (Matthew 18:20).

### WORSHIP IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

The presence of God in the Old Testament was often revealed—and concealed—in mysterious ways. It may have been in thunder and lightning, in a burning bush, in a pillar of cloud or one of fire, in smoke, in a fiery furnace, or even in a still, small voice. Regardless of its form, these occurrences let the people of Israel know that God was with them, protecting them, leading them in relationship.

Following the exodus from Egypt, the Ark of the Covenant held the Ten Commandments. The Ark was kept in the Tabernacle or Tent of Meeting. According to Exodus 25:22, it was the place where God would speak to Moses. “There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel” (Exodus 25:22).

While God desired to dwell with His people as a nation of priests (see Exodus 19:5-6), their sin drove a wedge between them and God. God was present with His people but from a distance.

**Read 1 Kings 8:10-21.** This passage takes place after Solomon builds the temple and brings the Ark into the temple.



### REFLECT

1. *Why were there so many rules about being in the presence of God?*
2. *Why do you think God chose to speak to the people of Israel in mysterious ways?*

*continued on next page*

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## WORSHIP IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

In the birth of Jesus, God's presence enters fully into our world. Foretold for centuries as coming by the prophets, the Messiah—both God and Man—came to seek and to save the lost. In fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies, the Christ Child was born to a virgin, born in a Bethlehem manger, born to bear our transgressions on a cross. The barrier between God's presence and sinful mankind has been eliminated with the advent of Jesus. As the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, Jesus' life, death, and resurrection guarantees salvation to all who believe on Him as their Lord and Savior.

God demonstrated the total access Jesus gives us to God's presence in the dramatic tearing of the temple curtain on Good Friday. "And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split" (Matthew 27:51). Now, because of Jesus, there is no separation: "we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through His flesh" (Hebrews 10:19b-20). The shedding of Jesus' blood for our sins makes it possible for each of us to experience the fullness of God's presence.

To celebrate God's saving grace, early Christians gathered together and partook the Lord's Supper, "the breaking of bread" (Acts 2:42b). In Holy Communion we are fed by God. We are nourished through the supreme sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf. This Sacrament was as central to nurturing the faith of the first churches as it is for us today. In it, the presence of Jesus is among us, mysteriously yet visibly, in the bread and the wine, His body and blood given for our sins. "Do this," Jesus tells us, "in remembrance of Me" (Luke 22:19b).

**Read Ephesians 2:11-22.** Paul talks about how Jesus eliminates the separation from God the Father.



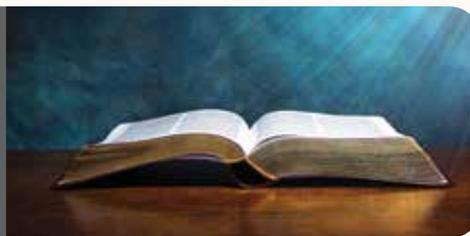
### REFLECT

1. Why did it take Jesus' life, death, and resurrection to destroy the barrier of God's judgment against our sins? How does being mindful of God's presence make a difference in your life?
2. How does the work of Jesus bring us, not only closer to God, but also closer to fellow believers?

## WORSHIP FOR US TODAY

In church we worship in the presence of God as a community of believers. As the body of Christ on earth, God's Holy Spirit works mightily among us, strengthening our faith, drawing us closer to God through Jesus' presence in the Word and the Sacraments. No longer outsiders and unfit to be with God, He has graciously done all things possible to make us His own, to live with Him forever. This He has done in Jesus who told us, "In My Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also" (John 14:2-3).

Watch the video at [lhm.org/studies](https://lhm.org/studies) from Rev. Dr. Jason Broge on "Christ in Worship Today" and then come back here to finish the study.



### REFLECT

1. What do you receive from church that you don't get anywhere else?
2. What are some things you contribute when you go to church?
3. How does it encourage you to know that God's presence is with you among the fellowship of believers?

## CONCLUSION

Jesus has made it possible for us to enter into God's presence, once and for all. Before His atoning work on Calvary and His Easter resurrection—all done on our behalf—the weight of our sins formed an impregnable wall between us and God. But now, the wall lay in ruins: the temple curtain has come down. What we could not do, God has done for us. He has given us the gift of eternity in His house. He has poured His Holy Spirit into our lives. He has given us a taste of His presence not just one day in the future, but right here and now.

And in our congregations He has given us the joy of fellowship with other believers. In this we are strengthened, knowing that God is with us when we are together and that He goes with us when we return to our day-to-day lives. He has promised to never fail nor forsake us; this is God saying we are always in His presence.



### PRAY

Heavenly Father,  
thank You for tearing  
down the barriers that  
separated us from You.  
In Jesus' Name we pray.  
Amen.





# A Virtual View of Ministry in Action

by DR. KURT SENSKÉ, Chairman, Int'l LLL Board of Directors

Recently, I had the privilege of joining the other members of the Boards of LHM and The LHM Foundation for our annual Board monitoring trip, which this year was a virtual meeting with directors from our India and Madagascar ministry centers. What struck me most is how much we can learn from our colleagues and partners in ministry.

I was in awe at how our 16 Indian staff members and numerous volunteers overcome increasing challenges to effectively spread the Gospel in a country where Christianity remains a minority religion. Throughout India, where the caste system is still in place and two thirds of its citizens live in poverty on less than two dollars a day, we saw that, no matter our station in life, we are all members of the same body of Christ.

This experience highlighted the effectiveness of LHM's strategy to utilize innovative mass media and social media programs in combination with local Indian citizens leading Bible studies, counseling sessions, educational programs, performing dramas, and much more to make the Gospel known. We learned firsthand how the power of new media technologies such as WhatsApp, Facebook, YouTube, online devotions, and television and radio programs provide a safe environment for people to learn about the saving power of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. More than 100,000 people throughout India were moved by the Holy Spirit just last year to respond to LHM's programs and resources.

Our time with the director of **LHM-Madagascar** reaffirmed

my belief in the LHM strategy of extending our impact by partnering with sister organizations as they effectively provide human care ministry alongside the sharing of God's Word. We heard detailed information about a two-day youth gathering called *Wear Christ*, how our staff works with impoverished women through its *Naomi Project*, and how we reach people who have been impacted by a cyclone or drought through Project Noah.

*... no matter our station in life, we are all members of the same body of Christ.*

LHM-Madagascar does an outstanding job of creating programs designed to reach people in their local context. Whether in a large city, a local village, a prison, or a school, the amazing staff and volunteers take the Gospel out to people in these fertile areas to provide them with the hope and comfort that comes from knowing Christ. Radio ministry in Madagascar continues to play a critical role in their efforts through programming on 19 stations. LHM-Madagascar also offers a backpack program for students to help keep them in school, **Bible Correspondence Courses** for prisoners, evangelism training seminars for laypeople, and much more.

We were also reminded of the vital role that laity play in spreading the Gospel. In a country such as Madagascar where most citizens do not have access to the internet, the most effective witnessing opportunities are those

where individuals, sensitive to their local customs, build trust with their neighbors and fellow citizens through opportunities to serve and fellowship. This creates an ongoing relationship that allows these volunteers to plant a seed through which the Holy Spirit can then nourish.

Our tremendous ministry impact was driven home through a moving story about a former gang leader named Lemby. After hearing the saving message of the Gospel from our LHM team who had traveled a long distance to his rural village in a dangerous part of the country, Lemby was moved by the Holy Spirit to surrender himself to

Jesus. He then witnessed to his family and former partners in crime, which resulted in numerous individuals asking to be baptized and giving up their life in crime.

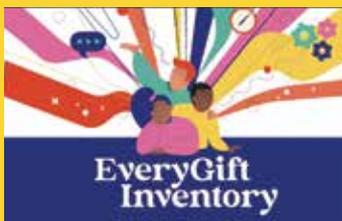
It is such a joy to be involved with an organization whose work is Holy Spirit-led and data driven. This allows LHM as an organization to be good stewards of our donors' resources as we continue to share the Gospel throughout the world. I can think of no better organization to invest our time, talents, and treasures with as we continue *Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church*. ♦

## YOU Are a Gift from God with Gifts to Share!

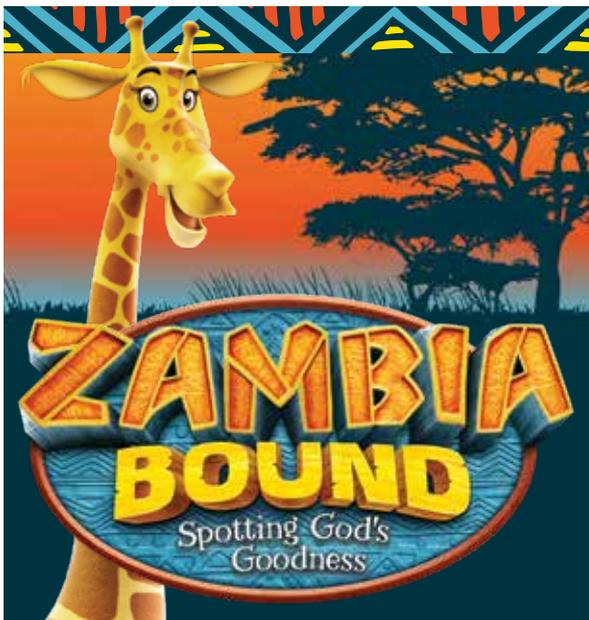


The **EveryGift™ Inventory** will help you discover the aptitudes, innate abilities, and acquired skills that make up your unique gifts in 12 distinct areas. These are the gifts you can share right in your neighborhood.

Go to **EVERYGIFT.ORG** today to take the inventory and get a **FREE** personalized overview of your gifts.




LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES



## Students Learn to Spot All of GOD'S GOODNESS in their Lives

by MEGAN MCDANIEL

**M**ore than 38,000 students have experienced the **Gospel Adventures: Zambia Bound** program so far this year. In addition to learning about Zambia, students have raised \$13,000 in support of the Global Kids Fund. Those donations will be used in our African ministry centers to buy school supplies for students and share Gospel resources with them!

Every year, in partnership with Group Publishing, Lutheran Hour Ministries takes grade school through middle school-aged children, and even some adults, on a week-long adventure. *Gospel Adventures: Zambia Bound*, an informative and interactive virtual learning experience, is complete with five days of FREE curriculum in two formats and bonus materials.

Students are introduced to kids just like them living in another country who carry their faith with them through day-to-day life. They learn about the foods, animals, people, and places of Zambia, with *Gospel Adventures*.

Although many parents and teachers choose to take part in *Gospel Adventures* during National Lutheran Schools Week (NLSW) in January, the curriculum is flexible and can be incorporated into your schedule whenever is best for you. There is still time to register and complete this year's adventure as a group at school or at home.

Even individuals can enjoy learning how God so loves the world with *Gospel Adventures: Zambia Bound*. Visit [gospeladventures.org](http://gospeladventures.org) to sign up now!

*Students are introduced to kids just like them living in another country who carry their faith with them through day-to-day life.*

### **Adventures with Zambia Bound**

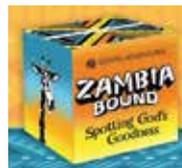
Pam Arguto, a teacher at Immanuel Lutheran School in Plainview, Minnesota, shared how her school participated in *Gospel Adventures* this year.

"Each morning during National Lutheran Schools' Week we meet as a school for 15-20 minutes for the 'lesson.' On most days we met we had kindergarteners through eighth-graders; a day or two we had preschoolers join us. In the second quarter of the school year (January-March), we collected our chapel offering for the Global Kids Fund. The students were reminded each week what the offering they brought would do for the children in Africa like those in Zambia that we saw in the videos.

"The students really enjoyed two things about the program. First, is the music video. We used that music video each morning as the children took their seats. They would end up dancing and singing with the video, even after everyone was present. It was the best part of my day seeing everyone praising God! Second, the videos showing the children of Zambia doing their chores, getting water, going to school, and making their meals were eye opening to us all. From the little kindergarteners to the older students, they all were fascinated with the differences and the similarities between the children of Zambia and themselves. I teach fifth and sixth grade and occasionally we will put that music video on and dance and sing. I've even shown a couple of the videos again. The children definitely remember the water being the thing that is very similar to us all. Whether you get it from a faucet or

walk for a mile to a river to get it, we all need it. It is a gift from God!

"On the Friday of NLSW we had 'Grandparents' Day'. This consisted of the grandparents joining the students for the daily *Gospel Adventures* video and lesson, the children singing the song to the grandparents, and 'quizzing' the students of all ages about what we learned during the week of *Gospel Adventures*. The grandparents loved seeing the children answer the questions (and be the proud grandparent of a genius!) and experiencing the whole school participate in the dance and song with the *Gospel Adventures* video. It was a great day! It was a great WEEK! This is something we are looking forward to for next year's NLSW!"



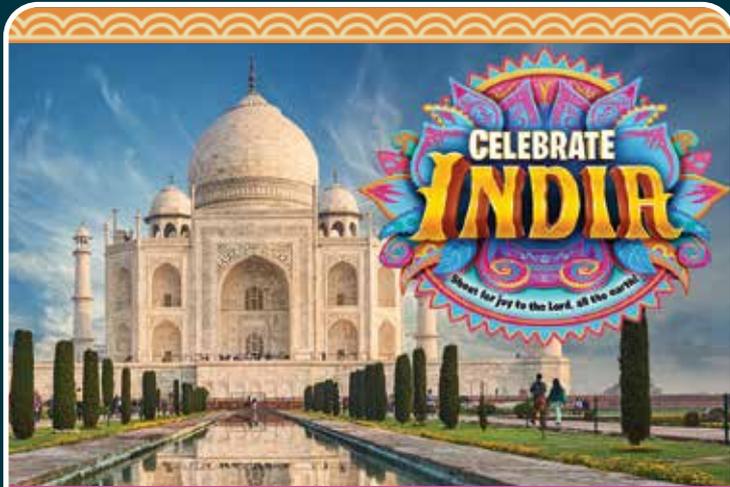
### **Bonus Materials**

Don't forget to utilize the bonus materials included with your *Gospel Adventures* registration. Bonus materials include a middle school workbook to accompany the online experience, a printable coin bank template, coloring pages of maps, and more. To access the bonus materials, simply register for *Zambia Bound* and look for the "coloring pages" header on the curriculum page.

### **Join the Facebook Group!**

Looking for examples of how other schools and homeschools incorporate *Gospel Adventures* into their programs? Join the *Gospel Adventures* Facebook group to connect with others and get inspiration for your next *Gospel Adventure*! Log into your Facebook account and search "Gospel Adventures" in the search field to find the group. ♦





## GOSPEL ADVENTURES IS HEADING TO INDIA!

We are excited to share that Gospel Adventures is heading to India in 2023! Be on the lookout for more information in the coming months about Gospel Adventures: *Celebrate India* and how you can register your school, church, or home school.

### Did You Know?

- The capital of India is New Delhi.
- India has 28 states and eight union territories.
- Indian art and architecture have always been heavily influenced by mythology and religion.
- India is a huge country, and it has many different climates.
- India is the second-largest country in the world when it comes to population.
- India is the second-largest smartphone market in the world.
- The number of people in India who use television, cell phones, or the internet is rapidly increasing.
- India produces chemicals, steel, cement, machinery, automobiles, software, and textiles.
- The currency of India is the rupee.
- India has the largest educational system in the world.
- Getting clean water to drink and wash with is a challenge in some places.



## Results Announced for LHM's 2022 Election

by CHAD FIX

More than 71 percent of Lutheran Hour Ministries' registered voting members cast ballots in this past spring's election to fill open seats on the Board of Directors for the International Lutheran Laymen's League/Lutheran Hour Ministries. **Eric Brown** of Adel, Iowa; **Kristi Matus** of Boxford, Massachusetts; and **Donald Scifres** of Greenwood, Indiana, have been elected to their first terms; **Kurt Senske** of Austin, Texas, was re-elected to his second term.

In addition, based on a Bylaws change approved by the membership in 2021 that allows the Board to appoint up to two individuals at any time (capping the composition of the Board at 15 members), the Board of Directors approved filling the 15<sup>th</sup> spot by appointing **Kirk Farney** of Hinsdale, Illinois. Each of these individuals started a three-year term at the July Board meeting.

The Board is also responsible for appointing its four Officer positions each year from among sitting Board members. The Board of Directors has re-appointed Kurt Senske as Chairman and Patricia Ross of Tulsa, Oklahoma, as Secretary. Gene Partlow of Williamsburg, Virginia, will serve as Vice Chairman and Melanie Braun of Tempe, Arizona, is the new Treasurer.

Visit [lhm.org/about/board.asp](http://lhm.org/about/board.asp) to learn more about your elected Board members.

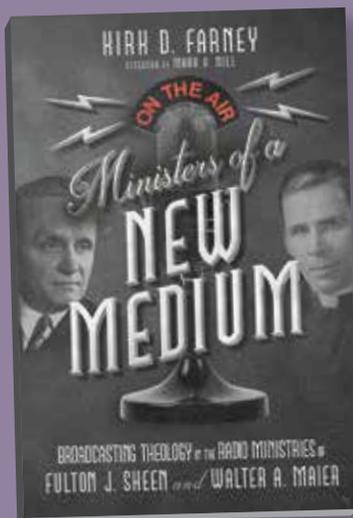
Thanks to everyone who participated this year in the election process! **Want to vote in 2023?** Anyone who gives a gift to LHM between July 1, 2021, and Dec. 31, 2022, and is a member of a congregation of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod or Lutheran Church–Canada, will be eligible to register for next year's voting membership. Look for a postcard in the mail in February 2023 with details on how you can register to vote before next spring's March 15 deadline.

### Nominate a Candidate for 2023

Nominations for candidates to serve on the Board of Directors for the Int'l LLL/LHM are being requested now for next spring's election. The Board is seeking dynamic, visionary, mission-minded leaders who are committed to helping LHM share the Gospel around the world. You are urged to prayerfully consider the God-given talents, skill sets, passion for outreach ministry, and service to the Lord when considering potential nominees from your personal and professional networks. In addition to being an LHM/Int'l LLL member, all nominees must be members of a congregation of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod or Lutheran Church–Canada and cannot be ordained clergy.

The Board's Nominations Committee welcomes and encourages all applications but is especially interested in seeking individuals who have previous non-profit, for-profit, or foundation board experience in addition to a variety of professional backgrounds. To download a nominations form, or learn about additional eligibility requirements for nominees, visit [lhm.org/nominations](http://lhm.org/nominations). Nominations must be received by Nov. 1, 2022, to be considered. ♦

# New Book Traces Origin of ‘The Lutheran Hour’ by CHAD FIX



... the book sheds new light on the beginnings of Christian media in the United States.

In the 1930s and 1940s, two preachers rose to prominence by launching innovative programs that effectively used the power of the relatively new medium of radio to share the Gospel with millions of people. Through weekly nationwide broadcasts, **The Lutheran Hour** and the *Catholic Hour* attracted listeners from a variety of religious affiliations, establishing their hosts as both religious and cultural forces during the period of radio's heralded "Golden Age."

A new book, *Ministers of a New Medium: Broadcasting Theology in the Radio Ministries of Fulton J. Sheen and Walter A. Maier* by Kirk D. Farney, compares the backgrounds and ministries of these two influential broadcasters while also offering a glimpse into the uncertain times of the era.

By providing a wealth of biographical material for both men, followed by in-depth studies of their theologies and preaching methods, the book sheds new light on the beginnings of Christian media in the United States. Farney shows how Maier and Sheen's timely application of God's Word to the struggles of the times combined with their powerful communication skills established a bond between the broadcasters and their audiences. Listeners responded in droves, not only by tuning in each week, but by mailing in letters and donations. As a result, these network broadcasts brought Roman Catholicism and Lutheranism from the periphery of the American religious landscape to a much greater level of recognition and acceptance.

As *The Lutheran Hour* prepares to enter its 90<sup>th</sup> broadcast season, you can take a deep dive into the

program's roots and why Maier fought so hard to launch this broadcast as an outlet to share the Good News with hurting individuals over the airwaves.

"By offering meticulous details gathered through countless hours of research, Farney parallels the lives and teachings of these groundbreaking religious leaders and traces the overwhelming challenges that each faced and ultimately overcame to become two of the top radio personalities of their era," says LHM President & CEO Kurt Buchholz. "By grasping the significance of using radio for evangelism to the masses, Dr. Maier's vision and persistence paved the way for a global ministry that today offers not only *The Lutheran Hour*, but utilizes emerging technologies and culturally relevant approaches to share Christ's love with tens of millions of people in more than sixty countries."

"As a son of radio pioneer Dr. Walter A. Maier, I thought I had ferreted out all the details of his remarkable life, but I was mistaken," says Dr. Paul L. Maier, Russell H. Seibert Professor of Ancient History Emeritus at Western Michigan University. "Farney found significant material that I should have. You can imagine my delight at reading this fresh information! Pairing my father with the equally pioneering Fulton Sheen makes sense, since both were radio forces who brought high skills and erudition to their presentations. Anyone born in the Depression 1930s or wartime 1940s will be able to hear two familiar voices as they read."

For more information, or to purchase the book, visit [ivpress.com/ministers-of-a-new-medium](http://ivpress.com/ministers-of-a-new-medium) or call (800) 843-9487. ♦

## The Lutheran Hour Enters its 90th Season

by PAUL SCHREIBER

For 90 years, **The Lutheran Hour** has broadcast the Gospel to the United States—and to the nations of the world—with unflinching boldness and resurrection joy. Enthusiastically, the program's nine English Speakers and its longtime Spanish Speaker have uplifted the saving mercy of God's Son in their passionate mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church*.

"That passion comes from knowing Christ—for us and for our listeners, too. The Lutheran Hour has aired some 4,680 messages since 1930. Our Speakers have said more or less the same thing every week for 90 years—but it never gets old. The sense of urgency that drives the message has only increased," said Mark Eischer, producer for *The Lutheran Hour*.

Beginning with Founder Dr. Walter A. Maier, *The Lutheran Hour* spoke to millions facing a world in financial tumult and slowly grinding its way toward the ravages of World War II. It was not a world without hope, however, as notes

and letters—which would pour in by the tens of thousands into Lutheran Hour Ministries' headquarters in St. Louis—could amply testify.

Correspondence came from those telling of their newfound life in Christ; they came from those of other denominations, the imprisoned, members of the military, housewives, trade professionals, and those whose faith had been renewed by the power of the Gospel that alone has the ability to transform our lives.

A woman from Carma, Peru, having heard the message on *La Hora Luterana*, wrote, "Every Sunday I worship with you on bended knees. I sing with you when the beautiful hymns are sung, and believe me I have cried, for I love your preaching more than I can tell you."

And there was this remark from a Franciscan friar in Ohio: "I am, of course, not a member of your church, but I found in your sermons immeasurably more genuine Christlikeness and Christianity than in all the 'pious' piffle of the other 'religious' broadcasts."

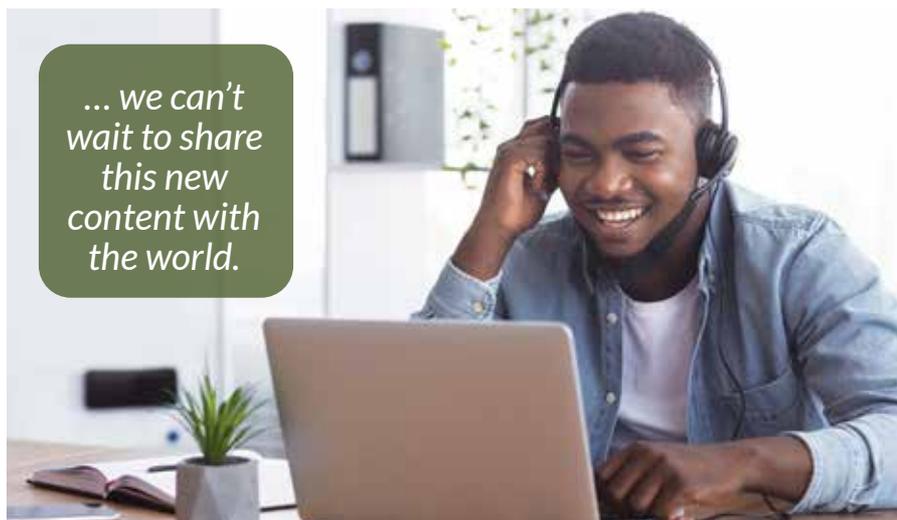


"We shouldn't be surprised that by preaching the Gospel and keeping Jesus Christ as the focus of the message, the broadcast enjoys its continued popularity and relevance. Today's Speaker, Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, delivers a message as timeless as that which inspired the apostle Paul to write to the Romans, 'For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes,'" said Jim Arand, audio development manager for LHM. ♦

Paul Schreiber reports on the impact of LHM's ministry work in the United States.

# Thred Rolls out New Website, Content, Podcasts This Fall

by PAUL SCHREIBER



... we can't wait to share this new content with the world.

Recently, **Thred**, LHM's platform for digital outreach, has reviewed and refined its overall strategy with the desire to continuously serve and reach more people. The refined strategy is leading the Thred team to create podcasts, blogs, and micro-courses designed to equip Christians for more effective engagement in digital spiritual conversations. This thrust echoes its mission statement: "Inspiring and equipping every Christian to share their faith through winsome digital interactions that lead to meaningful spiritual conversations." Thred will target its content towards Christians primarily between the ages of 25 and 35.

Going forward the plan is to "create two to three seasons of podcasts each year, with each season having five to six episodes," according to Rachel Tichich, digital development manager. Podcast episodes will feature host Ken Chitwood, a scholar of culture and religion. Employing both an audio and video format, he will interview individuals recognizable to many in Christian culture. Topics will include spiritual identity, spiritual disciplines, digital evangelism, calling and purpose, and culture and faith.

Blogs will feature fresh editorial content with new pieces published about three times weekly. Making this happen is a cadre of

contributors who put their able talents to good use by writing with clarity and perspective, addressing issues of relevance to those practicing the Christian faith in these heady times.

Micro-courses from Thred will be tailored to people eager to dig deeper into how they can improve their use of digital spaces to enhance their communication with others and gain a hearing to share the Gospel. These learning modules will feature clips from podcast recordings and insights from LHM's research and collaboration with Barna Group.

Thred's website redesign is being undertaken to better utilize SEO or "search engine optimization." In a nutshell, this means making a website more *visible* to people searching for products or services related to what a particular business or organization is about. In LHM's case, that would mean becoming more digitally visible to people querying about God, faith, Christianity, life issues, outreach, serving others, and similar topics.

"A lot of time and research has been put into this refined version of Thred, and we can't wait to share this new content with the world. We hope we can help people see their part in the Gospel narrative, feel empowered to integrate their faith into their digital experiences, and find ways to talk about their faith online," Tichich said. ♦

## LCMS Missionaries Impacting Lives in Mongolia

by MEGAN MCDANIEL



In Mongolia, it is common for families to return to the same area year over year to plant their crops or graze their animals. Sometimes, this leads to families making friends with other families that they see each year and get to know each other while they are living nearby. A family of LCMS missionaries living in Mongolia shared stories of the lasting impact made in the lives of some Mongolians.

Jonathan visited a Christian family who had moved out to a field for the summer. Jonathan showed them how they could have family devotions using a popular biblical children's resource that he and **LHM-Mongolia** staff frequently distribute to share the Gospel. While they were singing worship songs, the children's non-Christian uncle stopped by. He was interested in the song that praised Jesus and decided to stay for the Bible lesson to learn more about Jesus.

On another day, Jonathan was invited by an LHM-Mongolia staff member to meet a young family she had made friends with in an adjacent field while planting beets and carrots. She shared the Gospel message with her friends several times throughout their friendship, and through the power of God's Spirit, they became Christians. They listened eagerly to the Gospel and joyfully prayed with Jonathan when he visited. A Christian woman that Jonathan knows living nearby came over to visit with this young family. The LHM-Mongolia staff member and the woman agreed to continue meeting with this family of new believers during the summer. They planned to read the Bible and pray together to continue growing their faith. ♦

### Do you enjoy telling others about LHM programs and ministries?



## BECOME AN AMBASSADOR TODAY!

Ambassadors receive a 20% discount on LHM products!

Learn more and sign up at

 **LHM.ORG/AMBASSADOR**

# LHM's Presence Continues at Summer Events by MEGAN MCDANIEL

## LCMS YOUTH GATHERING / HOUSTON, TEXAS / JULY 9-13, 2022



We are grateful to ALL who support LHM in various ways, so we can participate in these experiences.

In July, LHM staff traveled to Houston, Texas, for the LCMS Youth Gathering. This event is the largest gathering of members in our synod, with 20,000 youth and adults in attendance. This gathering happens every three years and is an incredible opportunity for LHM to engage with youth. This year, LHM was a major sponsor, participating with a large booth, multiple presentations, and giveaways.

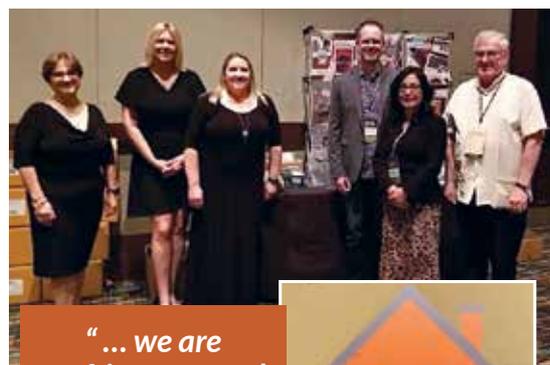
Following the overall theme of “In All Things,” LHM staff prepared presentations that spoke to both youth and adult participants.

- » Rev. Dr. Jason Broge, senior director of design and development, and Deaconess Ashley Bayless, director of production, led three adult sessions on topics related to *Households of Faith*.
- » Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies, regional director for North America, presented two sessions titled *How NOT to Let Issues Prevent Friendships* to the youth audience.
- » Deaconess Noemí Guerra, program developer for Hispanic Ministry, served as an emcee for the mass events, sharing the Gospel with the 20,000 in attendance during five different evening gatherings that brought together everyone in attendance.

» In addition to our presenters, Beatriz Hoppe, Hispanic coordinator for LHM's North America region; Jeff Craig-Meyer, senior vice president and chief strategy officer; Nicole Heerlein, associate director of external relations; Katie Klucker, associate director of marketing; Becky Pagel, director of constituent advancement; and David Timmerman, senior congregational connector, were on hand to cover the booth during the event and some sponsor sessions. They were joined by Dick and Lynn Gast, Petal Pushers Chairmen.

“LHM was humbled to be a major sponsor of the LCMS Youth Gathering,” says Nicole Heerlein. “As a result, we had the opportunity to engage with youth before the Bible studies and entertainment activities, in addition to our booth presence. We are grateful to ALL who support LHM in various ways, so we can participate in these experiences. Youth are ‘Eager to Share’ their faith, and we enjoyed learning from them.”

## LCMS HISPANIC NATIONAL CONVENTION / ORLANDO, FLORIDA / AUGUST 2-5, 2022



“... we are crafting new and original material to connect with growing audiences in the most culturally effective way.”



Soon after the LCMS Youth Gathering, LHM staff traveled to a national convention held in August in Orlando, Florida. This was the seventh LCMS Hispanic National Convention, one that is also held every three years. The convention, supported by the Hispanic Missionary League, was created more than 20 years ago by Hispanic leaders of the LCMS that, until then, had been meeting as the Hispanic conference. Close to 250 leaders and representatives from churches and organizations across the LCMS who are involved in or

interested in Hispanic ministry gathered for this event. This year's theme was “For We Are All One in Jesus Christ,” based on Galatians 3:28.

Lutheran Hour Ministries was also a major sponsor for this event, where they offered ways to engage those who speak either English or Spanish. LHM offered sessions, including Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies' presentation on *How to Talk to Just about Anybody about Your Faith*, and hosted the closing banquet for people who are dedicated to reaching Hispanics with the Gospel.

A major part of LHM's presence at this event was unveiling our new CPTLN (Cristo Para Todas Las Naciones: Christ for All Nations) mobile app and launching the *Spiritual Conversations* and *Households of Faith* workshops, based on research from Barna Group, in Spanish. With the CPTLN app, we aim to offer a convenient way to connect Hispanics to Jesus and equip them to share the Good News of the Gospel with others. Hispanics use their phones all the time. When they are working outside the

## 2022 LCMS YOUTH GATHERING By the Numbers:

- > **20,000** in attendance  
*(mostly youth)*
- > **8,000** LHM “Eager to Share” T-shirts were distributed
- > **5,000** LHM “Eager to Share” glow-in-the-dark bracelets were distributed
- > **2,500** LHM blue light glasses were distributed  
*(a reminder to look at life through the lens of Jesus)*
- > **12** Sponsor session introductions
- > **5** Breakout sessions led by LHM staff
- > **3** days of exhibits

home or otherwise away from a computer, they nevertheless always have access to their phones and can conveniently use our resources on the go. *Learn more in ad on right.*

“Our Hispanic ministry team has been focusing on a ‘by-Hispanics-for-Hispanics’ approach to our Spanish-language resources,” says Beatriz Hoppe. “As much as possible, we are crafting new and original material to connect with growing audiences in the most culturally effective way. We’re excited to see how this new resource is received, and we’re anticipating broad adoption in North and Latin America.” ♦



**Available NOW!**

## CPTLN MOBILE APP

LHM’s first smartphone app entirely in Spanish with access to our Spanish resources.

*This app is a mobile hub for:*

- Para el Camino sermons and notes
- Project Connect booklets
- Daily Devotions
- Bible studies
- Reflections
- Vivenciar.net
- A digital Bible
- A chat function
- And more!



**Download today at  
LHM.ORG/APPS**

## Advent Devotions Declare God’s Glory in the Birth of Jesus

by PAUL SCHREIBER

This coming Advent will again be celebrated with timely devotions written by Lutheran Hour Ministries’ Theological Writer Dr. Kari Vo. In *A Son Is Given*, Vo calls for readers and listeners to step back from the season’s many distractions and turn their attention to an event that changes everything for us. In it, we clearly see God entering our world to fulfill His Word. As foretold by the prophet Isaiah hundreds of years before Jesus’ birth, God made good on His promise to send us a Savior, to send us His Son.

So, God spoke to His people through the prophet Isaiah: “For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His Name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). This Christmas season you are invited to take a few minutes each day to consider a thoughtful reflection written in honor of God’s Son—“the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).

**God made good on His promise to send us a Savior, to send us His Son.**

Each English devotion—as well as this year’s Spanish-language devotion, *Lo imposible es posible*—is centered on a Scripture text. These brief meditations on God’s Word are ideal for individual use, as part of a group Bible study, to share with family or friends before or after dinner, or as a pass-along to others who need a reminder of what Christmas is really all about. Each devotion has three discussion questions for personal reflection or as a jump-start to conversations about the message.

Beginning Sunday, November 27, 2022, you can read or listen to *A Son Is Given* at [lhm.org/advent](http://lhm.org/advent). It can also be received as a daily email during Advent. To use them as an outreach resource, churches can download, personalize, and print them beginning in October for congregational use or for sharing with visitors.

*Lo imposible es posible* (“The Impossible Is Possible”) has been written by Rev. Omar R. Weber of Santa Fe, Argentina. They will be available to read online or to receive as a daily email throughout Advent, beginning November 27. Rev. Hector Hoppe will be reading the texts. Beginning in October, these devotions can be downloaded and printed for personal use or group sharing, too. Visit [paraelcamino.com/adviento](http://paraelcamino.com/adviento) for all the details. ♦



Photo from Karl Roeske

# Maryland Pastor Joins the Ranks of LHM Ambassadors

by PAUL SCHREIBER



Being an LHM Ambassador is being a “point person” for your church.

## Congregation Spotlight: How YOU Can Join LHM’s Mission

by MEGAN MCDANIEL

<b>Congregation name:</b> First Immanuel Lutheran Church	<b>Congregation size:</b> Around 3,600 members
<b>Location:</b> Cedarburg, Wisconsin	<b>Contact person:</b> Karl Roeske

**How does your congregation support LHM?**  
Each year, Lutheran Hour Ministries is included in our Mission of the Month offering, usually in January. During offering time in worship, we highlight the work of LHM, pray for the ministry, suggest ways members can use LHM materials, and point them to your comprehensive website!

To participate in **Gospel Adventures**, kindergarten through eighth grade students at our school meet each day during National Lutheran Schools Week in the sanctuary to “go” on the adventure. The children usually do some sort of coin crusade or other collection to help support not only the Global Kids Fund but LHM in general. As a reward for the students’ efforts, our principal and/or pastors may end up being “slimed” or “silly stringed” in front of the student body. They are very good sports to help a great cause!

**What was the motivation behind supporting LHM?**  
Lutheran Hour Ministries has a long, rich history of bringing Christ to the nations! We consider LHM to be a treasure within the LCMS and desire to support the various outreach efforts that it has developed. LHM has really expanded its outreach over the years, offering more materials and methods to different groups, making the ministry even more important than ever.

**What has been your members’ feedback? What do your members like about LHM?**  
Members appreciate the efforts of LHM to reach all people everywhere with Christ’s message of hope. Different groups in our congregation use LHM’s materials in Bible study and Christian fellowship. For example, our Men’s Club incorporates the resources available to assist men’s groups specifically, encouraging them to be Christian leaders in their family, community, and congregation. We also invite our members to take advantage of the **Daily Devotions** LHM sends via email and use the special devotions produced for Advent and Lent. We also make **Project Connect** booklets and other LHM materials available as outreach resources through the little libraries we have placed outside our two worship locations. May the Lord continue to bless Lutheran Hour Ministries!

If your congregation would like to learn more about how you can support LHM’s mission, contact Robin Forsythe at **314-317-4152** or **robin.forsythe@lhm.org**. If you would like to make a gift of support, visit **lhm.org/give**. ♦

Lutheran Hour Ministries has been growing its Ambassador program. Contributing to this outcome has been Suzie Sallee, LHM’s community facilitator of congregations. Her work in recruiting service-minded volunteers from enthusiastic constituents has helped boost the number to more than 750 Ambassadors now engaged in congregations across North America—and 110 of these are new members!

One of these individuals is Pastor Blaise Sedney of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Bel Air, Maryland (smc.org). He says, “St. Matthew’s purpose is to share God’s love with all that we have, that our loving Father has given to us.” While new to the Ambassador fold, Sedney is not new to sharing LHM’s wide variety of church-building tools and materials with his church’s members and visitors, as a way of “sharing the resources God has blessed us with.”

Sedney said, “I have been using LHM resources for my whole career as a pastor. The **Project Connect** booklets are a great tool for many different circumstances. I have used most of the Bible studies that you have put out over the years because they are well done. I believe that LHM is one of the best organizations that is making a difference both in the U.S. and around the world.”

Work by Sedney and so many others in congregations across the United States helps to energize, equip, and engage laity for outreach and in-church service. Quite simply, Ambassadors nurture a relationship between LHM and their congregation in order to share resources and help others use them. The work is fun and rewarding. Ambassadors receive a monthly email with new product and program info, in order to share these details with their home church. Ambassadors may help lead a Bible study or book study, order resources at a 20 percent discount, host an LHM Sunday, or stock display racks with topical or children’s booklets.

Being an LHM Ambassador is being a “point person” for your church. You are on the frontline of all the new items LHM is producing each year. These include our recent Christ-centered, research-based tools on having spiritual conversations with others, enriching your neighborhood through love and Christian service, and exploring what your God-given gifts may be, along with a host of other resources, many of which are in Spanish.

To learn more about what an LHM Ambassador does, contact Suzie Sallee at 800-944-3450, ext. 4214 or via email at **ambassador@lhm.org**. In Canada, call 800-555-6236 or email **helpful@LLL.ca**. ♦

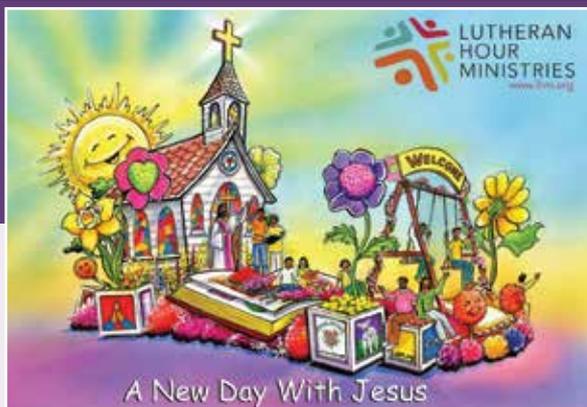
# YOU Can Decorate Floats for the 2023 Rose Parade

by CHAD FIX

Have you ever wondered what goes into creating the majestic floats you see on television during the annual Rose Parade? Witness the magic unfold, create a lifelong memory, and cross off a “bucket list” item by signing up to decorate floats this December in Pasadena, California.

Registration is open to serve as a Petal Pushers volunteer who helps bring to life several of the floats that will be seen during the 2023 parade scheduled for Monday, January 2. The Petal Pushers, a group of thousands of volunteers who decorate the Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) float and up to nine others each year, will begin decorating floats on the three Saturdays prior to Christmas (Dec. 3, 10, and 17) and will then be working two shifts a day beginning Dec. 26 until the floats are completed.

Individuals ages 13 and older can work as little as one shift or as many as they want attaching thousands of roses, carnations, lilies, mums, and other flowers, as well as natural materials such as seeds, coffee beans, and



leaves, to create the beauty and splendor of the floral floats traveling down Pasadena’s Colorado Boulevard on parade day. Volunteers of all skill levels are needed; whether this will be your very first time, or you are a seasoned veteran, there are dozens of jobs to do.

“Only about 40 individuals are needed for the LHM float, so the majority of Petal Pushers decorate other floats for the parade, which brings in funds to lower the cost of the LHM float being part of the annual event,” says Dick Gast, chairman of the LHM Float Committee. “Working on a variety of floats allows our volunteers to work side by side with people from diverse backgrounds, believers and non-believers alike, offering an opportunity to make new friends, network, and share expressions

... the LHM float carries on a mission of providing a Gospel witness to viewers everywhere ...

of the faith that gives true meaning to this experience.”

The 2023 LHM float entry, “A New Day with Jesus,” marks the 72<sup>nd</sup> time our float has been part of the parade. As the only Christian float in the Rose Parade, the LHM float carries on a mission of providing a Gospel witness to viewers everywhere, from along the parade route to televisions worldwide.

The LHM float is a self-funded project of the Lutheran Hour Ministries Float Committee and the Southern California District of the International Lutheran Laymen’s League. The committee’s ongoing work is funded primarily by generous donations from Christian friends and multiple fundraising activities and is not included in LHM’s operating budget.

For more information about the Petal Pushers, or to register to decorate, visit [petalpushers.org](http://petalpushers.org). Information can also be found on the site about the two tour options that the LHM Float Committee is sponsoring through Luther Tours. ♦

## Spiritual Conversations Workshop Equips Individuals

by MEGAN MCDANIEL



The staff at LHM–Guatemala hosted an **Equipping the Saints (ETS)** workshop based on *Spiritual Conversations in the Digital Age* from LHM’s study in partnership with Barna Group in North America. ETS evangelism workshops heighten volunteers’ interest in witnessing and provide them with the practical tools they need to reach out to family, friends, and neighbors who need to hear the Gospel and experience God’s love.

In March, the second part of the workshop on Spiritual Conversations began with a focus on the Spiritual Conversation Curve. Participants were given a brochure on how to talk about their faith, which is an introduction to the Curve. They were also given three Spiritual Conversations Curve cards that they can use to share their faith with non-Christians.

During these sessions, the Curve was discussed, and leaders shared how it is used. The participants saw how Jesus and the apostle Paul spoke with people in different ways, adapting their language to those they were speaking to without losing the meaning of the Gospel message.

Participants also learned about the different stages of conversations and how to assess if the person they are speaking with is unreceptive, receptive, or seeking. They can then gauge their words to adapt conversations to their “spiritual posture,” keeping their faith discussions open and comfortable.

The members at the church where the workshop was held are grateful for the content and know how valuable the material is for personal evangelism.

For more information on how you can use these resources in your daily life, visit [lhm.org/curve](http://lhm.org/curve). ♦

YOU can make a difference!

Did you know that if you are 70½ or older, you can roll over up to \$100,000 from your IRA to charity without paying any federal income tax on your gift? This is a simple, yet powerful way to make an impact on future ministry for LHM.

To learn all the ways an IRA rollover gift can benefit you, contact our gift planning staff today. We are on a mission together, *Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church.*

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# CHANGING LIVES

## Around the World with the Gospel

by MEGAN MCDANIEL



Thailand

Nittaya is 60 years old and works as the cook at a local school. She used to practice a non-Christian religion. When she heard some of **LHM-Thailand's** radio programs, she began to listen regularly. She shared that the programs made her feel peaceful and increased her desire to learn more about Jesus. Nittaya contacted LHM-Thailand staff to enroll in their **Bible Correspondence Courses**. She started the lessons and is enjoying learning more about the Christian faith. Nittaya is encouraged by the Bible and continues to learn about Jesus.

*When Nittaya heard some of LHM-Thailand's radio programs, she began to listen regularly.*

*LHM staff collaborated with a local medical camp to offer Gospel materials, support, and a Christian witness to Hanna.*

Hanna is a 79-year-old widow who depends on her children for support. She has struggled with vision problems for many years, which makes it difficult for her to take care of herself. Her vision problems have also kept her from attending church and engaging in fellowship with other Christians. Hanna was able to receive surgery free of charge from local medical professionals during a recent **LHM-Kenya** outreach program. LHM staff collaborated with a local medical camp to offer Gospel materials, support, and a Christian witness. She was so excited and thankful for the opportunity. Hanna now reads her Bible often and has hope in her life.

Kenya



Chile

Patricia is married with two children. Since she is blind, she subscribes to the **LHM-Chile** SMS program, and her children read her the Bible verses every day. Patricia recently called the LHM-Chile office to thank them for the daily messages. She said they are helpful and precise, and they always come when she needs them the most. She said she was grateful to be connected with the staff members.

*Patricia called the LHM-Chile office to thank them for the daily messages.*

*Oscar is eager to share his faith with others and is thankful for the resources LHM-Guatemala creates.*

One of the ways **LHM-Guatemala** reaches out with the Gospel message is by sending daily devotions via email. After receiving one of the emails from a friend, Oscar responded to the LHM-Guatemala team, saying how much the daily messages mean to him. He requested to get the messages sent to him through WhatsApp because he wanted to easily share them with others. Oscar is eager to share his faith with others and is thankful for the resources LHM-Guatemala creates.

Guatemala



Individuals around the world are reached more than 150 million times each week with the Gospel through Lutheran Hour Ministries' culturally relevant programs and resources. Below are just a few examples to show how God has been using LHM recently to change lives around the world with His Good News.



Laos

Deenice is 19 years old and is enrolled in classes at the local university. She attended an **LHM-Laos** performance program recently where she heard the Gospel message. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, she became a Christian. The LHM-Laos staff connected her to a local church where she is preparing to get baptized. Since she loves singing and acting, Deenice signed up to become a volunteer for the performance program hosted by LHM staff. She is working on growing in her faith and looks forward to opportunities to share her faith through the performances.

*The LHM-Laos staff connected Deenice to a local church where she is preparing to get baptized.*

*... through the power of God's Word, Nina became a Christian.*

Nina is 48 years old and herds livestock. She now lives with her husband and two children. Her first husband was killed while she was pregnant with their first child. Her current husband is an alcoholic and does not work. Nina is suffering in her home and does not know what to do. When she first met the LHM staff in **Mongolia**, she was sad and tired. The staff members gave her an MP3 player audio Bible and shared the Gospel message with her. The staff members also invited her to the women's meeting they regularly host. Nina quickly became comfortable with the staff members and opened up about her situation. She is now learning more about Jesus, and through the power of God's Word, Nina became a Christian.

Mongolia



Russia

In 2018, Jelina and her husband began the *Foundations of Christian Faith* course hosted by **LHM-Russia**. They could not complete the course then, so they recently started again. Jelina shared that the course answered all the basic questions about Christianity that she had. Most importantly, it took away any uncertainties and anxieties when being introduced to something new. She said the course gave her heart peace, and the Word of God was presented in a straightforward manner. The booklets that she received along with the course helped explain what she was learning. Jelina said she would recommend the course to her friends and anyone who is interested in Christianity.

*Jelina said the Foundations of Christian Faith course gave her heart peace.*

*After studying the Bible and learning more about Jesus, Faten expressed that she understands who He is.*

Faten is 18 years old and is a student at a local university. She comes from a non-Christian religious background. Lately she has been struggling with the thought that God is not there for her. Faten discovered a Facebook account run by LHM staff in the **Middle East and North Africa** and decided to watch some of the videos they posted. One of the videos was about fear and anxiety. The video shared that God is our Source of courage and peace. Faten commented, asking if God really exists. The LHM staff shared Bible verses with her and encouraged her to look for God in her life. After studying the Bible and learning more about Jesus, she expressed that she understands who He is. Through the power of God's Word, Faten became a Christian. ♦

Middle East & North Africa



# Sharing Her Heart for the Gospel Beyond Her Lifetime by MEGAN MCDANIEL

Sharon Beyer has a heart for giving and a heart for sharing the Gospel. She likes to stay busy and considers herself a “doer” who is a servant at heart. Her friends like to say, “When someone asks, ‘Does someone want to do this,’ Sharon’s hand is the first one up.”

Born in Buffalo, New York, she and her husband, Carl, now split time between Western New York and Florida so they can visit with dear friends and family, including their two great-granddaughters who regularly wait to see what surprises they bring. Sharon says with a smile, “someone has to spoil them!”

Now retired, Sharon has a history in non-profit work and serving in leadership positions at her church, St. Luke Lutheran Church in Cheektowaga, New York, where she served as congregation president for six years. She also served as president of The Lutheran Service Society of WNY and as a board member of Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center. She worked at Health Foundation of Western and Central New York as grants manager. The focus of the Foundation was serving frail elders and children in communities of poverty. In her position, she, along with program staff, would listen to organizations seeking funding for projects that would make a difference in the lives of those being served by those organizations. This experience is similar to why she gives to LHM. She believes in LHM’s “why.”

“I think it’s very important that the Word be spread, whether that is globally or sometimes very close to home.”

Sharon was first introduced to the Lutheran

Laymen’s League (LLL) by the late Rev. Dr. Arnold Kromphardt, former president of the LCMS Eastern District. He invited her to attend a few LLL conventions, and she has great memories of them. At one of these events, Sharon first heard about The Hoffmann Society, a faithful group of individuals who have decided that they want to support LHM’s mission of sharing Christ’s Name during their life and after they go on to their forever home.



*“I know the work of LHM will go on, and I will still be able to give beyond my lifetime.”*

After learning more about LHM’s global ministry efforts, Sharon knew she wanted to include LHM in her will and become a member of The Hoffmann Society. LHM stands out to Sharon because it has been around for so many years. She shared that while she assumes that there was lower support at certain times throughout LHM’s history, the ministry continued its mission of sharing the Gospel no matter the circumstances. Sharon believes in LHM’s mission, and through her membership in The Hoffmann Society, she will carry on our mission for years to come. She says, “I know the work of LHM will go on, and I will still be able to give beyond my lifetime. Please use these funds to continue your great work.”

“Sharon said to me that people have so much missing in their lives and are looking for answers,” says Rev. Phil Esala, planned giving counselor for LHM. “She sees that LHM meets them right where they are, providing answers and meaning. By including LHM in her will, she hopes many more can know Jesus.”

She also has a longstanding connection to **The Lutheran Hour** broadcast that stems from her grandmother. Going to church was a major part of her grandmother’s life, so when she got older and couldn’t hear as well, attending services became difficult.

Her grandmother decided to listen to The Lutheran Hour at home on Sundays. Her husband had passed away, and no one lived in the unit above her, so she thought she could turn the volume up as loud as she wanted and not annoy anyone. When Sharon would visit her grandmother during the week, her grandmother would recite the sermons for her, so excited to share what she heard that week. Having The Lutheran Hour as an at-home option was so helpful in continuing to hear the Gospel message since she could no longer attend services in person. Now that her grandmother has passed away, Sharon gives gifts to support The Lutheran Hour in her grandmother’s name as a way to honor her.

Sharon also remembers LHM tracts that came out and says the Bible studies are very useful for devotional life. Sharon is an LHM prayer warrior and loves the seasonal devotions for Advent and Lent.

To learn more about how you can continue LHM’s mission for years to come, visit [lhm.org/giftplan](http://lhm.org/giftplan) or call 877-333-1963. ♦

## Youth Gather Online for Summer Bible Camp

by MEGAN MCDANIEL

In April, **LHM-Myanmar** hosted a summer Bible camp in Pyin Oo Lwin, Mandalay Region. At the end of the camp, many youths wanted to continue learning the Bible, so during the month of May, LHM-Myanmar staff hosted an online Bible camp for youth using Zoom.

Every Saturday at 8 a.m. LHM-Myanmar staff and a group of youth between the ages of 14 and 22 came together virtually to share the Word of God and their life stories. Each week more participants told their friends about the experience and invited more people to attend. Some who don’t have access to a phone would meet up with another person to participate together.

The weekly lessons focused primarily on the fruits of the Spirit and how we can apply them to our daily lives. After the camp ended, participants reached out to staff to share the impact the lessons had on them.

*“I thank God and LHM-Myanmar. Now I take more time for reading the Bible. I am applying the nine fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—into everything I do and I’m trying to love others who have hurt me. I look forward to meeting all the teachers again.” - Chan Nyein*

*“I thank God for giving me a chance to attend this Bible camp and thank you to all the teachers from LHM-Myanmar. My life has changed after the Bible camp. I read the Bible every day and now put God first in everything I do by using the nine spiritual fruits in my life.” - Bee Yair Mee*

*“First, I thank God for giving me a chance to participate in the Bible camp. Now I am reading the Bible more, praying every day, and applying the nine spiritual fruits in my life. Thank you to all the teachers. I wish to meet again at next year’s Bible camp.” - Angel*

*“I am thankful to my parents for sending me to this Bible camp. I thank God because He has changed my life.” - Yang Lay*

*“After the Bible camp, I take more time for reading the Bible and praying every day. I learned to put God first in my life and now understand how to apologize for my mistakes. I also enjoy memorizing scriptures with friends.” - May V ♦*





## Being Neighborly Was Never So Easy

by PAUL SCHREIBER

On September 28, National Good Neighbor Day turns the spotlight on putting your good-neighbor skills into action. In Missouri, it kicks off Missouri Good Neighbor Week 2022, which runs through October 4. **The Hopeful Neighborhood Project (HNP)** is partnering with the MU Extension at the University of Missouri to “foster compassion and respect for our neighbors.” At [missourigoodneighborweek.com](http://missourigoodneighborweek.com), participants can register their act of neighborly love and nominate a notable neighbor for his or her impact on the place where they live. The goal is simple *and* ambitious—accomplish 10,000 Acts of Neighboring.

Stumped for ideas? The HNP website offers a dozen suggestions of things you can do to become a neighborhood *superstar*. They’re easy and fun to do, and they can open doors to conversations and relationships you may never have had otherwise. You can find them at [hopefulneighborhood.org/good-neighbor-day](http://hopefulneighborhood.org/good-neighbor-day). This year the HNP is challenging everyone to “show an act of neighborly love and kindness.” It doesn’t have to be spectacular to be meaningful. Sometimes a cup of coffee is the only ice-breaker necessary for a friendship to begin—and for great things to follow.

Nationwide, we can all “Start with Hello” as a first step to impacting our neighborhoods in positive

ways. To confirm your intention, at **NationalGoodNeighborDay.org**, you can take an affirming pledge to be a “Good Neighbor,” whenever and wherever you can. There, you can register for the Better Neighboring Workshop; it features a four-step process of intentionality, introductions, invitations, and involvement to jump-start your real-time efforts. Also available is a social media kit to promote Good Neighbor Day and a newsletter with ideas on how “good neighbors make great neighborhoods.” And be sure to get inspired by Tim DeTellis in his TED talk; he speaks to the need for us to love and serve our neighbors, as we come “together” in our communities.



You can also get your church involved in Good Neighbor Day. At the HNP website, you will find ideas for your congregation to come together and contribute to area neighborhoods and communities. Being nice to the people who live around us is a great way to share the love of Jesus, and there are lots of ways to do this. Enlisting a neighbor for an hour’s worth of picking up trash or volunteering at a local community garden is a great way to start. Whatever it is you do, be sure to share your acts of kindness on social media and tag **@hopefulneighborhood** with the hashtags: **#ilovemyneighborhood** **#goodneighborday**. ♦

“show an act of neighborly love and kindness.”

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

# Get Involved with an LLL District Near You

by CHAD FIX

Over the past century, tens of thousands of people have been involved with Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) districts across North America to provide prayers, volunteer service, and financial support for the global outreach of Lutheran Hour Ministries which, under the blessings of God, have accomplished remarkable things for the Kingdom. At this ministry's heart, we are a collection of individuals working together for a shared purpose; *our purpose is God's purpose, and our ways are meant to follow His ways.*

LLL districts serve an important regional volunteer leadership role by hosting events, meeting with congregations to encourage outreach, conducting local outreach activities, and representing LHM at district conferences and conventions of The Lutheran Church Missouri—Synod and events hosted by other organizations.

Today, through the work of more than 30 districts throughout the United States and Canada, the LLL continues to support LHM's mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church.*

As times change, some LLL districts have looked at new ways of involvement to maximize the impact of members. One recent change involved the Mid-South and Tennessee LLL districts voting to merge, leading to the Tennessee LLL adding the state of Arkansas and other parts of the state of Tennessee into their district.

"We give a prayer of thanksgiving for both Walter Carle, Mid-South LLL district president, and Karl Zeh, Mid-South LLL treasurer, for their decades of leadership and service," says Polly Gregali, LHM's community facilitator who works directly with LLL districts. "What a blessing they, as well as everyone involved in our district structure, have been to the church at-large and to the Lutheran Laymen's League."

Districts are always looking for more involvement at the local level. If you would like to learn more about an LLL district near you, or if your area does not have an active LLL district and you would like to find out how to become involved, contact Polly Gregali at [polly.gregali@lhm.org](mailto:polly.gregali@lhm.org). For information about districts in Canada, call (800) 555-6236 or email [info@lll.ca](mailto:info@lll.ca). ♦



- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Dist. # 1 Central Illinois          | Dist. # 21 North Wisconsin                    |
| Dist. # 2 Ohio                      | Dist. # 23 Oregon                             |
| Dist. # 5 Iowa East                 | Dist. # 26 Southern California                |
| Dist. # 6 Iowa West                 | Dist. # 27 Southern Illinois                  |
| Dist. # 7 Kansas                    | Dist. # 28 Minnesota South                    |
| Dist. # 8 Lone Star                 | Dist. # 29 South Wisconsin                    |
| Dist. # 9 Michigan                  | Dist. # 30 Tennessee                          |
| Dist. # 11 Missouri                 | Dist. # 32 Utah-Idaho                         |
| Dist. # 12 Nebraska                 | Dist. # 33 Washington-Alaska                  |
| Dist. # 13 New England              | Dist. # 34 Eastern                            |
| Dist. # 14 Mid-Atlantic             | Dist. # 38 Capital                            |
| Dist. # 15 California-Nevada-Hawaii | Dist. # 42 Wyoming                            |
| Dist. # 16 Minnesota North          | Dist. # 43 Grand Canyon                       |
| Dist. # 17 North Dakota             |   |
| Dist. # 19 Northern Illinois        | Gray states do not currently have a district. |
| Dist. # 20 Indiana                  |   |

## Two Virtual Events Not to Miss ...

### FALL 2022 LLL VIRTUAL EVENT

*Bringing Christ to the Nations™:*  
An LHM Global Overview

Saturday, September 24,  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m. CST

- » LHM President & CEO Kurt Buchholz and Vice President of Global Ministries Rev. Dr. Tony Cook sharing information on LHM's plans for future global expansion;
- » Regional Director for North America Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies and team sharing ministry through Spanish resources; and
- » Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, Speaker of *The Lutheran Hour*, leading a devotion.

Online registration is open  
through September 22 at  
[lhm.org/LLL2022](http://lhm.org/LLL2022).

### GLOBAL MINISTRY UPDATE VIRTUAL EVENT

Tuesday, October 4,  
4 p.m. CST

- » Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer Jeff Craig-Meyer providing opening remarks;
- » LHM Chief Development Officer, Major and Planned Gifts Terry Biesboer introducing the event speaker; and
- » LHM-Latvia Ministry Center Director offering updates on our global ministry.

Online registration is open  
through October 3 at  
[lhm.org/global2022](http://lhm.org/global2022).

## Be a Part of the Rose Parade!



On January 2, 2023, LHM's float, "A New Day with Jesus," will make its way down Pasadena's Colorado Boulevard during the annual Rose Parade. It will be adorned with a beautiful array of flowers and other natural materials, and we need your help to bring it and other floats to life.

For information on how to volunteer with Petal Pushers to be a float decorator, visit [petalpushers.org](http://petalpushers.org).

 LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

