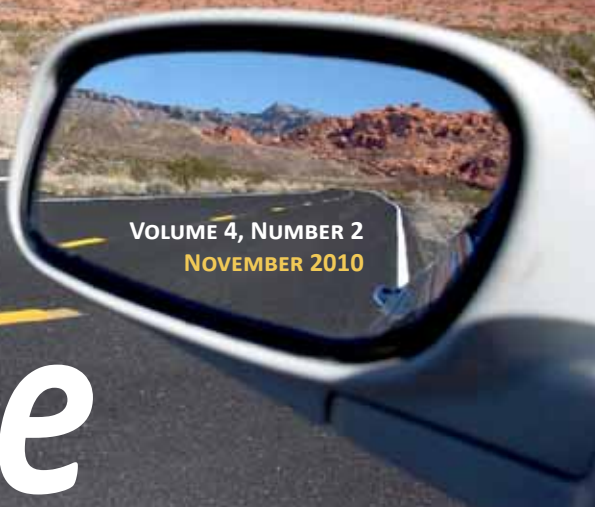


Partners' Voice



VOLUME 4, NUMBER 2
NOVEMBER 2010

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 72® —PARTNERS ON THE ROAD

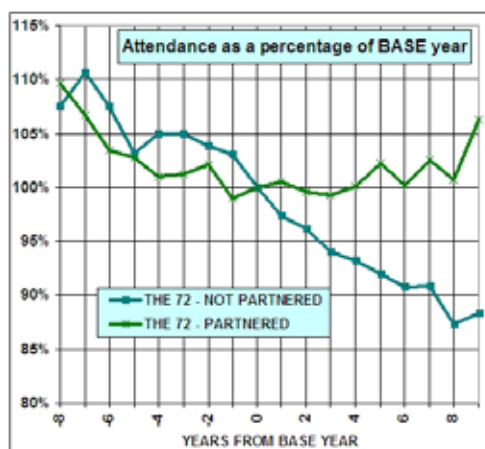
The results are in ...

Congregations served by The 72 experiencing increase in attendance again!

Research has been conducted, using information gathered from LCMS Rosters and Statistics congregational data.

The first group studied consisted of the congregations who have partnered with a team to equip them for outreach ministry from 1999 to 2006. The second group consisted of congregations who have inquired about partnering with a team, but have not partnered with a team as of August 2010. (Note: Congregations who have inquired about partnering with a team from The 72 are considered potentials until The 72 office is notified otherwise.)

As can be seen by the chart, congregations who have partnered with a team from The 72 ministry, as a whole, were declining in their average weekly attendance. After the base* year, represented by the zero on the horizontal axis, the congregations leveled out



and then began to experience an increase in attendance again. Congregations who just inquired, but did not partner with a team, continued their downward trend.

A member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Garner, Iowa, shared with the district news after the congregation partnered with team members of The 72, Bob and Shirley Brandt, for a three week partnership, "I see things happening in the church right now that I've never seen happen before. People are excited for the Lord and His work."

You can read more of this article by visiting:

www.idwlcms.org/publications/the_lutheran_witness/index.htm

* the term base year represents the data attained from LCMS rosters and statistics for the end of the year prior to the actual partnership with a team. In congregations who did not partner with a team, the base year is comprised of data from the year of their inquiry.



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The director's desk

The ripple effect of The 72 in our LCMS

My dear partners,

When I grew up in southern Indiana, my father had a couple of small lakes on the farm. When I would bring the cows home for milking, I would take a few minutes to stop and throw a few stones into the lake and watch the ripples form.



Rev. Al Tormoehlen

Have you thrown a stone into water and watched the ripples form—getting larger and larger until they fade into the smooth surface of the body of water? Have you ever counted how many ripples one stone's throw can make? Some ripples large and some small makes counting them seem impossible.

The most significant ripples set into motion are those that will connect people, who do not know Jesus Christ, with His people and the witness that they have to share.

Just like a stone being thrown into a body of water, our behavior and words or even our entire life can have a ripple effect on other people. This can be intentional and also unintentional.

Lately, we've been looking at the values and goals of The 72 and have noticed that this ministry has a

ripple effect within our Synod. We can look back on completed assignments and see how they are still experiencing ripples—implementing ideas—that came through their training. We can look at our present goal of placing field representatives in 11 LCMS districts in the last three years and see how those field representatives are creating ripples of information to connect The 72 with congregations in their district. Through these relationships, the ripple effect becomes larger, and The 72 increases the possibility of partnering more congregations with a team from our ministry.

Our present field representatives are:

- Mr. and Mrs. Dick Evers, Florida-Georgia

- Ms. Marilyn Newstrom, Kansas
- Mr. and Mrs. Kerry Koestler, Minnesota North
- Mr. Bruce Manzey, Minnesota South
- Ms. Dicie Mueller Balash, New England
- Mr. and Mrs. Al Axelson, Pacific Southwest
- Mr. and Mrs. Tim Hutchison, Rocky Mountain
- Mr. and Mrs. David Allen, Southeastern
- Mr. John Carver, Southern
- Mr. and Mrs. Jim Berg, South Wisconsin
- *English district congregations should contact the geographical field representative or the office of The 72.*

And the largest ripple effect that I find most significant is that in our work the ripples that we set into motion are ripples that will connect people, who do not know Jesus Christ, with His people and the witness that they have to share. Through this ripple, even at quite a distance from our office here in St. Louis, Mo., brings people into Christ's eternal kingdom so that more people will delight in the gift of eternal life with our Father for an eternity.

Serving our Lord and His church with much joy,

Your partner on the road,

Rev. Al Tormoehlen, Director

The 72—Partners on the Road

LCMS World Mission, Outreach Ministry



Assignments — Fall 2010

| Congregation | Location | Team Assigned | Dates |
|---------------|---------------------|---|-----------------|
| Our Redeemer | Jacksonville, Fla. | Dick and Jean Evers | Sept. 25-26 |
| Zion | Power, Mont. | John and Caroline Boll | Oct. 6-19 |
| Zion New Life | Winter Garden, Fla. | Dick and Jean Evers | Oct. 9-10 |
| St. Paul | Stevens Point, Wis. | Jim and Lorri Schumacher, Loris and Lois Rather | Oct. 29-Nov. 21 |
| Trinity | Cape Coral, Fla. | Dick and Jean Evers | Nov. 13 |

Continuing short-track seminars

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|---------------------|-----|
| Trinity | Ft. Pierce, Fla. | Dick and Jean Evers | TBA |
| Bethel | Round Lake, Minn. | Bruce Manzey | TBA |
| Concordia | Sarasota, Fla. | Dick and Jean Evers | TBA |
| Hope | Bradenton, Fla. | Dick and Jean Evers | TBA |

Upcoming and potential assignments — winter/spring 2011

St. Paul, West Allis, Wis.; Trinity, Fergus Falls, Minn.; Holy Cross, Ashland, Va. (Dave and Dee Allen, Marian Parker); Zion, Abilene, Texas (Dalton and Deanne Noack, Don and Karen Little); Ascension, Landover Hills, Md. (Dave and Dee Allen. short-track seminar); Shepherd of the Valley, Oceanside, Calif.; Holy Cross, Scottsdale, Ariz.; Ascension/Abundant Life, Tuscon, Ariz.; Grace, Banning, Calif.; Trinity, Cedar City, Utah; Trinity, St. George, Utah.

Short-track seminars: Another approach to partner with a team from The 72

The 72 piloted a new approach to help congregations enhance or expand their outreach ministries in the districts of Florida-Georgia and Minnesota South. Short-track seminars, presented on a weekend by a team from The 72, are expanding in more districts, such as Pacific Southwest and Southeastern districts based on the availability of a team in those areas.

One to three modules can be provided during the weekend, with the areas of training

selected by the congregation. Sunday morning Bible studies are also offered.

The weekend seminars provide an economical and effective way for a congregation to attain the skills to expand their outreach ministry. One of the ways the cost is reduced is by partnering teams from the local area to work with the congregation.

Modules on how to share our faith in non-confrontational ways, how to reach out to the community, how to conduct a prayer canvass, and other

important and helpful training can be presented. As with all of the partnerships with The 72, the modules are custom-designed to meet the needs of the particular congregation.

Four weekend seminars are suggested during a 12 month period. The application fee to partner with a team for four weekends is \$325.00. The two or three team members are housed in homes provided by the congregation's members, when housing is necessary. The remaining cost is for food and

travel expenses.

Since January 2010, six congregations have partnered with a team of The 72 through the Short-track seminar approach and have found it to be very effective. For more information on how your congregation can partner with a team in this way, please contact the office of The 72 by sending an e-mail to the72@lcms.org.

In the field



- Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
- Dave and Dee Allen, Marian Parker
- Jan. 8-28, 2010

When Pastor Al called and asked me to take an assignment in Florida in January, I was thrilled. First, I was excited to be serving with Dave and Dee, fellow members of The 72 and fellow parishioners of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Fredericksburg, Va.; second, I was delighted to be going to sunny, warm Florida in January. So, imagine our surprise when we arrived in 30 degree weather, to be welcomed with frozen pipes and oranges!

The weather quickly warmed to a lovely 70 degrees, but even warmer was the welcome of Amazing Grace Lutheran Church. Rev. James Rockey and the congregation are on fire for the Lord; they have a heart for outreach and a passion for the lost.

Our time with Amazing Grace was spent focusing on three areas which the congregation identified for us in its application and our conference calls.

The first area was to train members to develop a personal testimony using a non-confrontational approach. We offered three modules to accomplish this.

The second area of focus was to help them build an intentional assimilation ministry so



they could further strengthen their welcome ministry and integrate guests and members into their community where they could grow, serve and witness. We offered two modules to address this focus.

The third area of focus was on training ushers and greeters. We led one module on this topic and reinforced the duties of ushers and greeters and expanded their focus a little toward being involved in the worship process and setting up a welcoming center.

When we began the partnership, we identified that only 19 percent of the participants share their faith on a regular basis, while 78 percent seldom share their faith. At the end of our partnership, we asked the group about the impact of our training. Thirty-nine percent indicated they were significantly better equipped for sharing their faith and 55 percent indicated they are significantly more confident about sharing their faith with unchurched friends, family and acquaintances. It was wonderful to see the percentages flip as 85 percent of the participants said they were willing to commit to beginning a personal relationship with at least one unchurched person in the next month with the intent of sharing their



Christian faith. We recommended they set a goal to have at least 50 percent of their congregation regularly sharing their faith.

Our time at Amazing Grace has been a time of sharing, teaching and growing. We have been truly blessed by our association with Rev. Rockey and the members. It was wonderful to hear personal stories about how God has been at work in the members' lives and witnessing opportunities.

We've noted that when we partnered with this church they were worshipping once each Sunday. In October 2010, they will implement a second service. We pray this growth continues and that they will keep strengthening their relationships and ministries to reach more people for the kingdom of God.



- St. Paul Lutheran Church
- Dalton and Deanne Noack, Toni Ruiz
- Jan. 29-Feb. 22, 2010



The 72 team, Dalton and Deanne Noack along with Toni Ruiz, visited God's choice people in Miami, Fla. As the congregation celebrated their 50th Anniversary, they took 11 months to prepare for our partnership with them. Through the ordinary steps of orientation, modules that would best fit their needs were selected. What was ordinary is that every course had a prayer captain from the congregation with a focus on The 72 team members leading the course and the participants who would attend.



We found out quickly that the church and school have great potential as a Mission Outpost to the immediate and surrounding communities. The pastor and principal are both bilingual, both exceptionally gifted and mission-minded individuals and working together with equally gifted and mission-minded staff and lay leaders/followers.

The organization by St. Paul Lutheran Church was exceptional. A rental car was approved, the calendar was set and confirmed, housing was in place, and food provisions were likened unto a banquet every day. Participation in the courses for the most part was pre-arranged and in line with their normal meeting schedule of events and open to anyone else interested in any given

topic. After every class there was a reminder and encouragement to participate in each of the three scheduled Saturday prayer canvassing opportunities. God be praised, we had 17 teams of two who prayed for 106 people with 61 overlapping prayer needs.

Together, we discovered opportunities to share Christ's love in two major areas: the mission field northeast of the church where prayer canvassing took place those three Saturdays and a greater awareness of the mission field in their Lutheran school where approximately 70 percent of the families are unchurched.

Praise God for the special opportunity we had to join hands with St. Paul Lutheran Church and School in this three-week mission training and action focus!



First impressions

- Jim and Lorri Schumacher
- Trinity-St. James Lutheran Church, Munger, Mich.
- September 2009

When Les and Carol Roth first approached us about being part of *The 72—Partners on the Road*, we weren't really very interested. Then we saw the video explaining the ministry and became a little more intrigued. When we retired, we talked about doing some type of short-term mission work overseas. However, we always felt there is just as much need (possibly more) in our own country. So we prayed about it and sent in our application.

We began our training online and completed it in April 2009 at SPIFE in Concordia, Mo. After that, we felt more confident because of the thoroughness and professionalism of the material. We were also impressed by the enthusiasm of all the partners we met. We had a lot in common with our mentors, John and Caroline Boll.

A couple of months later, we received our first assignment, Trinity-St. James Lutheran Church in Munger, Mich., with our good friends, Les and Carol. Even though we look forward to traveling to other places in our country, this was a good way to ease into working in this ministry as it was only a half-hour away from our home. Because of the close proximity, we were able to have a few

face-to-face meetings with the congregation leaders, Pastor Theodore Roll, and the Roths before the assignment actually began. We now feel that we would be ready to share with another congregation anywhere we are sent.

It was exciting to get back into the teaching mode again. Jim was a Lutheran principal and teacher for 40 years, and Lorri taught in Lutheran schools for 18 years and then as a special-ed teacher. How true it is that as a lesson is being prepared, the teacher learns more about the subject than the students. Both of us taught or helped with several of the modules. Jim taught two Sunday morning Bible classes, and Lorri taught Sunday school classes.

One highlight occurred when Jim was presenting the first "Assimilation" module and was talking about entertaining a stranger who might really be an angel. He asked if anyone knew someone who might be an angel, and one of the ladies said, "You are!" For once, Jim was speechless! Later, the woman explained that he was a messenger to her.

Other highlights were the Witness Workshop and the Prayer Canvas. These concepts were repeated often and will be remembered as we reach out to



more congregations:

Urgency

The time is growing short for people to be reached by the Gospel.

Intentional

Things will not happen unless there is a vision and plan for action.

Practice

We have to put into practice the things we learned. It was great to see that a committee was already formed during the last assimilation session. They will be working on some of the ideas from our presentation.

All of the sessions were well attended, and Rev. Voll said several people came who never go to Bible studies at church. He said that it was a good way to show members that getting into the Bible can be interesting and fun. Many of the leaders said that much was gained from our presence in their congregation.

We were surprised at how close we became to many of the members at Trinity-St. James. Several of them attended every

session, and we saw them almost every day. Rev. Voll and his wife, Linda, were extremely supportive and welcoming. The church has a few dinners throughout the year, and we look forward to attending them when we can and seeing our "new friends" again.

It was wonderful to have such an experienced team like Les and Carol to work with us and lead the way. As we saw each other every day, the bond of friendship grew even closer. Also, we are very grateful to Pastor Voll and all of the Trinity-St. James members who did such an excellent job of promoting our visit and making us feel so much at home. Although we were exhausted by the time our work and summary report was finished, we felt exhilarated and ready for our next assignment.

The yield

■ Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, Oxford, Fla.

■ Jan. 8-28, 2010

Mission plants present a challenge to a team from The 72 in that the few leadership members are heavily involved in holding numerous positions in order to get the fledgling congregation off the ground. So The 72 team of Marian Parker and Dee and Dave Allen listened carefully and designed a schedule that would meet the few specific goals identified by our leadership of Amazing Grace (AGLC) in Oxford (The Villages), Fla.

Early on, AGLC's DNA was identified to intentionally reach the lost as a mission outpost to two demographics: the massive population of the growing retirement communities of nearly 100,000; and the established nearby town of about 4,000, 80 percent of whom are below poverty level.

Listening to the community through canvassing helped us identify unmet needs of youth and their families. Nearly all members of AGLC (and many of our members' friends) are involved in outreach as we take Christ to the local elementary school, where we also encourage and support the teachers, and to the government-funded apartment complex and surrounding neighborhood, where ongoing relationships are developed and our efforts are warmly welcomed.

Everyone in the congregation was encouraged to attend "Touching Friends with the Gospel." This was a very user-friendly workshop that helped us develop our story and learn how to better tell Jesus' story to improve everyone's witness.

Our small-group participation increased through their witnessing study, and this had a lasting effect on the congregation. Our ushers and greeters have a greater appreciation of their roles in being an intentionally welcoming congregation, and their responsibilities were more clearly identified with formal documentation.

Assimilation is key to retaining new and existing members. AGLC is establishing a process to familiarize new members with the ministries and activities of the church. AGLC is also intentionally inviting new members to participate in ministry and church activities through a strategic plan to make sure no one is accidentally overlooked from using their talents, gifts and abilities to serve the Lord in His church.

AGLC is grateful for The 72 team and its objective input and training that has significantly moved us along, and the blessing it was and is to our members.



Jacksonville congregation warms to outreach help

■ Redeemer Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

■ Rev. William Reister

Following a Short-track seminar congregation

"How our hearts burned within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us" (Luke 24:32).

"It's with the excitement of those Emmaus disciples that I write to you in behalf of the members of our congregation. The week-long ministry of The 72 team was a wonderful experience in the Word and Christian fellowship. It left us eager for more!"

Those are the words from Pastor Reister after he and his congregation partnered with The 72 ministry's team of Marian Parker and Ernie and Kathy Freudenburg in October-November 2008.

Today, Pastor Reister is able to see their eagerness has started to be satisfied by the partnership of another team from The 72, Dick and Jean Evers. Yet, this time that team has not been with them for three consecutive weeks, but rather for three weekends, with the anticipation of a final weekend sometime in January or February 2011.

Outreach idea

Consider putting a new twist on an old tradition. Many congregations provide bags or boxes of food for holiday meals to families in need over the course of the holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas. You may consider adding one more item to the box or bag to provide an ongoing object lesson of God's love for each recipient—a new compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulb.

Purchase the CFL bulbs and wrap each one individually, putting one in each bag or box. The wrapping will bring attention to the item, making it stand out from the food. Then, attach a card with a short statement about Jesus' gift to His people. You could include any of the following quotes, all three, or create your own ideas and include your worship times:

Jesus is the Light of the World.

Been waiting for the light at the end of the tunnel—fear of death, illness, heartache, cancer, boredom, disappointment, depression? Let us tell you about the Light Who already came into the world to bring peace and joy.

Jesus Saves.

Although this bulb has the potential to save you \$46 a year in energy costs, we are in need of something much more than money. We all need someone to right our mistakes and to save us from our guilt. Jesus' love does that over and over on a daily basis. Come and meet the One who has come to be your Savior this Christmas (Rom. 5:6-9).

Jesus Gives Eternal Life.

This bulb claims to have a life expectancy of 10,000 hours. Scientists say humans have a potential life expectancy of 70-80 years. But no one knows how long they will live on this earth. With Jesus, life is filled with joy for an eternity (1 John 5:13).

Make the package extra special by getting a group together from church to hand write these notes on Christmas cards or a small note card.



Prayers

- † Heavenly Father, keep protective watch over all The 72 team members as they travel to their assignments in November, January and February. We thank you for protecting all who traveled to their fall assignments.
- † Lord Jesus, thank you for giving us an everlasting hope. As You faithfully promise, stay with us while we share Your love with those we encounter in our daily lives.
- † Holy Spirit, give us patience as we learn to share the Good News about Jesus. Continue to enlighten us with Your gifts and keep us in the one true faith, so that we may share it boldly with those who do not know You.
- † Lord Jesus Christ, our Great Physician, we pray that you bring healing to Dalton's hip as it heals, grant him patience and strength to continue serving You as You desire him to do.
- † Holy Spirit, our comforter in times of trial, grant Your peace to Toni as she mourns the death of her mom. As Jesus grieved over the loss of his friend Lazarus, we trust that our grief is known. And although we grieve now, we anticipate the final reunion through the One who is the resurrection and the life, give her confidence and strengthen her faith in this hope.
- † Heavenly Father, during the upcoming holidays, provide safe travel for all those who travel, strength and resilience to all who serve You during these times of more services and opportunities to witness the love You have for us.

Prayer Warriors

Members at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and School in Milwaukee, Wis., are prayer warriors for the teams of The 72. Contact Jim Berg to let these warriors know to pray for your partnership with each congregation.

Partners' Voice is published by LCMS World Mission—National Outreach Ministry

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