

We are men coming out of a long and glorious history going back to the early 1740's when Lutherans began to arrive in North Carolina. We have had a number of names through the years, i.e., Lutheran Laymen's Missionary Movement, Lutheran Brotherhood, United Lutheran Church Men, Lutheran Church Men, Lutheran Men, and now Lutheran Men in Mission. We have had a number of names, but one ingredient that has always been present is that we are men in mission! From that day to this, mission has been our focus and priority. Mission is our theme across the world and here at home.

North Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission are often reminded of our successful Loan and Gift Fund through our Home Mission Foundation. Dating back to the early 1920's, this fund has made a total of 169 loans (including 7 refinances) to 108 congregations totaling \$7,833,887.00 and made contributions in the amount of \$5,392,000. As of December 31, 2010, there are 13 loans outstanding totaling \$1,568,302.51. These loans are made to mission congregations or to revitalize existing congregations up to an amount of \$200,000 at an interest rate of 2% if paid on schedule. During the calendar year of 2010, alone, this low rate enabled these churches to save over \$ 160,000.00 in interest. We have had a direct impact upon 45% of the chartered Lutheran Churches in the North Carolina Synod, and thousands of fellow Lutherans. This is truly a remarkable story of vision and love for the Kingdom of God. That same love and vision continues and is the very heartbeat of our work and purpose for existence.

But North Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission is even far more than this. Again we ask, "Who are we"?

We are Men of God! We strive to be faithful to THE ONE who created us. We want to grow in spirituality by being diligent in our prayer discipline, through serious Bible Study, by regular Worship attendance, by practicing good stewardship with our time, talents, and treasures, and by participating in and supporting personal religious growth activities. As men of God, each member of the NCLMM is challenged as good stewards to give a fair share to support the programs and activities of the organization, i.e., Loan and Gift Fund, Disaster Relief Trailer, Seminary Professorship, Operations, Development and Promotion and special projects. Those who go beyond this and go the extra mile by donating \$100.00 specifically to the "Extra Miler" program are recognized as special "Extra Milers".

We are Family Men! We work toward having loving, functional, peaceful families and give priority to the development of these relationships within a Christian environment by loving our wives and being true to them, and by setting good moral standards for our children and leading them to faith and trust in Jesus the Christ. Further, we seek to bring our sons when confirmed into the fold of Lutheran Men in Mission through their own participation and practice.

In addition we are Men of Discernment! We labor to improve the quality of life around us by caring for the broken, disenfranchised, the derelict, poor, aged and disabled. We advocate for justice and for the equal rights of all. We strive to meet the critical emergencies of disasters by providing, equipping, and manning a Disaster Relief Truck and two trailers with equipment

equipment contained therein. The acquisition of these units and the equipment has been possible through generous donations from Lutheran men across the state and Thrivent Financial Services. We are very grateful for this support.

We spent almost \$200,000.00 building the Walter Yount Retreat Lodge at Camp Agape in eastern N. C. and have spent thousands over the years helping to maintain this excellent facility that is used in the NC Synod youth and adult camping program. The nature and outdoor program carried on by this facility is the only one recognized and utilized by the N. C. Department of Education for school programs, serving in excess of 6,000 students annually. We pledged to raise \$75,000.00 to pay for the renovation of this lodge as a part of the overall Camp Agape-Kure Beach capital campaign. While that campaign has closed, we have raised \$65,468.00 of our pledge. We need to raise another \$9,532.00 in order to fulfill our pledge. We encourage you to pray about our commitment and see what you can do to help us finish this pledge as soon as possible.

We have raised in excess of \$24,000.00 to purchase and deliver over 5,400 copies of the devotional book "Strength for Service to God and Country". These have been distributed to military personnel in all branches of the armed services as well as police, firemen, secret service, and others who serve their fellow men and women in all areas of public service both here at home and around the world, wherever their assignments take them. These devotionals are gladly received and used for inspiration and solace on a daily basis by those who get them.

We have purchased and distributed hundreds of the Master Builders Bible for Men. These bibles went to men and women across the state in congregations too numerous to count. This bible is an excellent tool to be used by everyone from individuals to large groups for meaningful bible study, guidance, and inspiration.

We have raised in excess of \$1,000,000.00 to endow a professorship at LTSS in Columbia, S.C. which is known as "The North Carolina Lutheran Men In Mission Chair in Mission and Bible" and it is the only one at any of the Lutheran seminaries funded totally by Lutheran Men in Mission. We believe that through our church loans from the Loan and Gift Fund, the seminarian scholarships totaling in excess of \$50,000.00 per year that we award to seminarians from N.C. and S.C. at LTSS and from N. C. at other seminaries, and the professorship previously mentioned, we are (a) helping to build churches and (b) helping to provide pastors to fill those pulpits. How many people has this affected? Only God knows, but we are sure that it is numbered in the hundreds of thousands.

We are Men in Action! We desire involvement in projects and work programs that promote the good of the community and the Church, i.e., Habitat for Humanity, Lutheridge Adopt A Cabin program, Kure Beach retreat center, and Camp Agape projects, a mentoring program for confumands, Adopt-A-Highway, sponsoring Boy Scout troops across the state and supporting semi-annual camporees at Lutheridge-Lutherock, daughter/son activities, the distribution of Bibles, prison ministry, support of seminary students, missionary support, giving the gift of blood, support of police and firemen, building ramps for handicapped,

at least half of them, we can truthfully say that there are thousands of Lutheran men here in North Carolina who are answering God's call as Isaiah did when he responded to the voice of the Lord saying "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" by responding "Here am I, Send me!"

We are Men Who Share! We share with other Lutheran Men across the nation who are likeminded in purpose and goals through the national Lutheran Men in Mission. Indeed the NCLMM have been instrumental in founding, supporting and leading of this nationwide men's ministry. Under the latest rebirth of this ministry in 1988, we provided the first president for the new LMM (Mr. Harry Arne), a \$ 50,000.00 grant to provide initial funding for the new organization, consistently provided financial support every year, and even in some instances we have funded the development of entire programs (Interact Bible Study Series). In August of 2008, LMM became a separate, self-sustaining ministry of Lutheran Men, because all of us banded together as "Brothers in Christ" to fund our permanent endowment fund under our "Building For The Future" campaign. That campaign raised \$1,502,000.00 by August of 2008 to reach our initial goal of \$1,500,000.00 and we, the men of North Carolina, raised \$102,000.00 of that amount. There were only 2 other sources that raised \$ 100,000 or more. NCLMM is still in front providing leadership by example through this funding and through the services of Clarence Pugh, (a former member of the national board) and Harold Yost, (the current national treasurer)

As we explained in our latest newsletter, we have had to change our funding structure somewhat by going from a dues amount of 15¢ per member of the congregation (ccc members per the parochial report) to asking each group or church to contribute at least \$100.00 to fund our operations. Your support has been very positive in that almost 100% of the groups that have chartered so far this year have given at least \$100.00 Thank you very much for seeing our need and realizing that without your support, we are nothing and we can do nothing. We will not disappoint you.

In addition, we have now been qualified by Thrivent Financial as a organization that qualifies under their Thrivent Choice program to receive contributions from Thrivent members!!! We urge you to go to the Thrivent web site and select North Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission to receive your Thrivent Choice matching dollars.

In short we are:

families, involved in our churches, and who care about our brothers. We are willing to share ourselves, our time, talents, and treasures in the furtherance of this commitment. We have answered the question in Isaiah 6:8 by Men who are committed to Christ, dedicated to our responding:" Here am I, Send me!"

