



# ignite

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IGNITE is the official publication of Lutheran Campus Mission Association, a mission society working in partnership with LCMS World Mission, dedicated to the campus mission field.

Lutheran Campus  
Mission Association  
1115 Chamberlain Dr.  
Iowa City, IA 52240  
Phone: 319.351.5262  
campusmission@yahoo.com  
Website: www.lcma.info

## Reaching out with God's love

### No better place than here; no better time than now

"Today's college students have very high levels of spiritual interest and involvement," according to the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at UCLA.

Earlier this decade HERI launched a major, multi-year program of research to examine the spiritual development of undergraduate students during their college years. Data was collected from more than 112,000 students from 236 colleges and universities from across the United States. Here are some of the results:

- 80 percent are interested in spirituality
- About eight students in ten believe in God
- Three-fourths are searching for meaning/purpose in life

Of course, if you ask 100 students what they mean by spirituality or who God is you may get 100 (or more) different answers and their search for meaning/purpose in life often leads them down harmful paths. Still, this information is excellent news for those who seek to share the love of Jesus Christ with college students.

"Campus mission fields are one of the most strategic fields in the United States," said Rev. Dr. Robert Scudieri, LCMS World Mission Associate Executive Director for National Missions. "It is on the modern day university and college campuses that the best and brightest from the United States and from around the world are located. Influences here are ones that will continue for years to come."

"There is no greater, more fertile, and more accessible mission field anywhere," said Rev. Mike Ruhl, executive director of the Center for U. S. Missions in Irvine, Cal., and a former Michigan District LCMS mission executive. "But many campus minis-

tries have suffered from a lack of mission, vision, and goals."

Many such ministries, including those with untapped campus ministry potential, may lack mission, vision, and goals because they have never been taught how to see and seize their opportunities. It is highly unlikely that any ministry will bear much fruit if it does not know what to do or how to do it. And it certainly will not bear fruit if it does not take appropriate action. These ministries simply need help, and help is available.



Bonding, building. Campus Mission Confabulation helps prepare student leaders for faith-sharing and a life of service.

One place a ministry can get help is at the annual **Campus Mission Confabulation**. Confabulation is a training event designed to help college students, campus workers, volunteers, and others learn how to share their faith on campus. It's hosted by the Lutheran Campus Mission Association and Lutheran Student Fellowship, in partnership with LCMS World Mission. This year's Confabulation will be held May 22-25 in St. Louis. You can learn more about it on page 3 of this newsletter.

Want more? Visit [www.lcma.info](http://www.lcma.info) for additional resources and information about other equipping events.

# Campus ministry happenings

## New outreach at Florida community college

To reach out to students, faculty, staff and neighbors of Manatee County College in Bradenton, Fla., nearby Hope Lutheran Church has inaugurated a ministry called The Meeting Place of Real CHANGE (a Community Helping a Non-believing Generation Elevate).

According to Bruce Bragg, Hope's campus ministry leader, college students and others from the community come to the church Sunday evenings for a weekly event

consisting of a "café and coffee hour" and a concert. In the two months after it began, CHANGE attracted more than 150 different persons, says Hope's Pastor Andy Toopes. Although it is geared toward students at Manatee, Toopes observes that participants range in age from young children to senior citizens, and some young adults who attend are not students.

"Anyone is welcome," says Toopes.



Sunday evening concert at The Meeting Place of Real CHANGE

## LCMA Board sharpens strategic focus at winter meeting in St. Louis

*Lutheran Campus Mission Association equips leaders to make disciples who make disciples on campus.*

This pithy declaration is Lutheran Campus Mission Association's new, sharpened mission statement. At the LCMA Board's Feb. 2-4 meeting in St. Louis, the top priorities were honing the organization's Guiding Principles and moving strategically from "working board" to "governing board," with implementation of an "Accountability Model" for governance and leadership.

"The Board's progress on these matters is critical as we walk forward," said Rev. David Dressel, President of the LCMA Board. "Our vision is for campus communities to be transformed as students involved in LCMS campus ministries grow in their faith and share it with others. Sound mission, governance, and leadership rooted in God's Word will keep that vision focused."



Participants in the February meeting of the LCMA Board included (back) Ann Summerson; Rev. Greg Fairrow, Campus Mission Catalyst; Rev. Gene Wyssmann; Rev. Richard Boring; Rev. Kent Pierce; Jon Jensen; and (front) Greg Koenig, communications consultant; Alyce Renberg, LSF representative; Rachel Schafer, campus ministry student representative; Rev. Jay Winters, National LSF Pastoral Counselor; and Rev. Dave Dressel

## Search the Web, support campus ministry

The verb "To Google" may be relatively new as verbs go, but to find someone who doesn't know what it means is a rarity. Searching the Web: it's what we do. And because advertisers know that, they spend \$8 billion every year hawk-ing products and services on our favorite search engines. This is what inspired a group of do-gooders to introduce GoodSearch in 2005.



Support campus ministry by using GoodSearch for your Web search projects.

LCMA has just received verification by GoodSearch! Now you can go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com), identify "Lutheran Campus Mission Association" as the charity of your choice, and then whenever you use GoodSearch to search the Web, 1 cent is designated for LCMA. That's not a lot, you say? Maybe not—if you search once, alone. But the more you use it, and the more people, the more gets donated. So tell your friends—and your friends' friends. Use GoodSearch for your major research projects! Make a difference for campus ministry.



### Is professional church work for you?

To explore a career of service in the church or learn how to support the recruitment and care of church workers, check out **What a Way** at [www.whataway.org](http://www.whataway.org) or [click here](#).

What a Way is an initiative of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to recruit and retain professional church workers. Do you know someone who has the gifts and abilities to serve in a church vocation? You can help; find out more at <http://whataway.lcms.org/pages/whataway.asp?navid=72>



# Lutheran Student Fellowship

A student-led fellowship of Christian college students and a ministry partner of Lutheran Campus Mission Association

## Report: LSF National Council Winter Meeting

By Emily Goff

This past December, the national council members of Lutheran Student Fellowship (LSF) met in St. Louis, Mo. for their winter meeting. Typically the council meets monthly via phone conference, but this semi-annual meeting provides an opportunity to meet in person and assess future plans for LSF.

During the meeting, council members examined LSF's current role on campuses, looking for ways to improve its visibility and activity in campus ministries. To promote greater activity, current members will seek future council members from regions that are currently unrepresented on the council. This will provide a link to more regions, and hence, promote more LSF ministry on campuses. Council also decided to work on assembling orientation information for new members, which will ease their transition onto the council.

Another pressing issue was to revamp the LSF website: [www.lutheranstudentfellowship.org](http://www.lutheranstudentfellowship.org). The goals are to make it more user-friendly and up-to-date. Reorganizing the website will make priority items more accessible and provide a forum for connecting LSF chapters. This project is underway and we hope to see the results

in the coming months.

Other projects under way include clarifying and reorganizing our structure concerning the operation of finances; this goes hand-in-hand with making the LSF scholarship award process more fluid and available to interested college students.

The meeting was productive and fun, providing members with a clearer vision of LSF's future as it serves on college campuses.



LSF National Council meeting participants were Greg McDuffie, Texas A&M; Chris Rall, Boston College; Emily Goff, University of Georgia; Erik Michael Christensen, Texas A&M; and Dan Harders, Concordia Theological Seminary.



National LSF Pastoral Counselor Rev. Jay Winters, third from left, and National Facilitator Bruce Wall served in advisory roles during the winter meeting.

### Confabulation 2009 reduced-fee registration deadline extended

The May 22-25 Campus Mission Confabulation 2009 is fast approaching, and here's some good news: the "early bird" deadline for registering at a reduced rate has been extended! Students can now sign up through **April 20** at the original early registration rate of \$145; all others may sign up through April 20 at the original early registration rate of \$195. Don't miss out on this great Memorial Day weekend event in St. Louis! (See ad at right)

Visit LCMA's [Confabulation page](#) for full registration details.

Confabulation is hosted by the Lutheran Campus Mission Association (LCMA), in partnership with LCMS World Mission and Lutheran Student Fellowship. LCMS World Mission and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans have generously provided grants to help sponsor Confabulation 2009.

always be prepared

# 2009 CAMPUS MISSION CONFABULATION

Equipping college students, campus ministry workers, and others to share their faith in Christ on campus

MAY 22-25

ST. LOUIS, MO

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." - 1 Peter 3:15b

FEATURING THE BAND

**LOST AND FOUND**

Crown Plaza St. Louis Airport Hotel  
11228 Lone Eagle Dr.  
Bridgeton, MO 63044

"Cancelled - A Story You Will Never Forget," as told by Julius, a Centurion, featuring Rev. James Likens as Julius, will highlight the Friday evening, May 22 opening banquet.



**LCMS CAMPUS MINISTRY**  
1115 Chamberlain Dr.  
Iowa City, IA 52240

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**International Student Ministry, Inc.**

**Biennial Equipping Conference  
for ISM Workers and Volunteers**

**May 28—31, 2009**

on the campus of

**Concordia Seminary**

St. Louis, Missouri

Register by April 15. Visit [www.isminc.org](http://www.isminc.org) for details.

To support LCMS Campus Ministry with a tax-deductible financial gift, send a check, payable to Lutheran Campus Mission Association, to:

**Lutheran Campus Mission Association**  
Rev. Richard Boring, Treasurer  
152 South Columbia Ave.  
P.O. Box 407  
Seward, NE 68434-0407

Please include your name, mailing address, e-mail address, and phone number. You may also contribute via a secure online connection at [www.lcma.info](http://www.lcma.info).

## Prayers and praises

- Give God thanks for His blessings on the work of **Lutheran Campus Mission Association** and Campus Mission Catalyst Rev. Greg Fairrow; pray for continued growth and increased opportunities for LCMA to serve new and existing campus ministries.
- Pray God's continued blessing on **The Meeting Place of Real CHANGE** ministry of Hope Lutheran Church in Bradenton, Fla. to the campus community at Manatee County College.
- Give God thanks for the leadership of the **Lutheran Student Fellowship National Council**; pray for God's continued guidance as LSF leaders work to raise awareness about LSF and bring about increased opportunities for community and faith-sharing.
- Ask God to continue to bless the preparations for **Campus Mission Confabulation 2009**—as well as all students, leaders and supporters who will attend.
- Ask God to bless the May ISM Equipping Conference.

### Become an LCMS Campus Ministry Prayer Partner!

Join our growing host of Prayer Partners! E-mail us at [campusmission@yahoo.com](mailto:campusmission@yahoo.com) and tell us, "Please add me as a Prayer Partner!" We'll send you prayer and praise updates periodically—along with information about supporting LCMS Campus Ministry in special ways.