

# NETWORK NEWS

Equipping Laypeople to Give Pastoral Care

## VALUES STATEMENT

LPMI gives a high priority to the following nine values:

**Lay Ministry** - Every Christian is a minister and gifted by God for ministry.

**Equipping** - The spiritual leader of the congregation is to assume responsibility to equip God's people for ministry.

**People** - 1) Every church member needs and deserves the loving attention of a person, who is gifted, equipped and called to the ministry of pastoral care. 2) Every church member needs and deserves the opportunity to discover and use their God given gifts in ministry.

**Commitment** - The foundation of mobilizing lay people for ministry is commitment to Jesus Christ and acceptance of the authority of Scripture

**Scripture** - Congregational care is one of the two great commissions mandated by Scripture: 1) Go make disciples; 2) Go shepherd the disciples you make. (Matthew 28:19-20 | Peter 5:1-4)

**Growth** - Ongoing growth in spirituality and ministry skills is required for excellence in ministry.

**Love** - Love is the primary hallmark of all ministry.

**Ministry** - All ministries are to be done with excellence and to the Glory of God.

**Networking** - Networking among the churches raises the level of effectiveness for all.

10/22/99

## Dear Friends,

Hal Brady of Dallas, Texas, tells the story of a young man who came to a pastor and said he wanted to be a Christian. The pastor instructed him to read the Book of Acts as preparation for this important decision. Weeks passed, but the young man did not return. The pastor began to think he had made a serious mistake in his suggestion. Finally, almost a year later, the young man appeared. When the surprised pastor asked where he had been, the man said, "You told me to read the Book of Acts. Every time I started to read it, it told me to do something. So, I stopped reading and went and did it. I have just been too busy to get back."

Brady adds: That's the idea – thinking and acting like Jesus!

People who care and act about others in the Body of Christ bring a special love that changes lives. However, this does not happen without preparation. First people must begin seeking God's direction. This begins with a bowed head and bowed heart in prayer. It is then guided by the principles of Holy Scripture.

Lay Pastors Ministry has been about the holy business of preparing lay people to provide Christian care. As our beloved founder, Dr. Mel Steinbron says: "It is one thing to project an image for others to see. It is another thing all together to 'do' i.e., live out, put flesh and blood on what we say we are."

I Timothy 4:12 "... set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." Mel teaches us that this teaching provides the basis for *The Timothy Principle*, i.e., people understand and believe the teaching, when they see it in the life of the one who is teaching.

None of this is happenstance. Preparation is the key. As I type this letter I am literally preparing to go to N. Little Rock, Arkansas. The Planning Committee for the 2010 LPMI International Conference is meeting to do some final preparations before the conference brochure is sent out across this country and to countries around the world.

Preparation is the key. Preparation is critical and a privilege. How is God preparing you to care even more in Jesus' name?

God bless and keep you always,



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*"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care." - 1 Peter 5:2*

## October - Fall has come

by Letitia Kelley, Northeast Regional Director



October has arrived with cool nights, brilliant colors, and loads of leaves to rake! At my home we have now fallen into a routine, and it is easy to allow that routine to let you fall into a rut. Yet there are the brilliant colors, and one of the most brilliant is prayer. Prayer is the P in PACE. For me it is the lifeline for my shepherding ministry.

Years ago I participated in a Bible study called “All the time you need” by Pat King. One chapter was devoted to prayer, and finding the time to pray. Pat King suggests a four-part “slogan” for setting a consistent prayer time. They are **Purpose, Goals, Priorities, and Planning**. The following words are taken from Pat’s lesson:

I believe we all know that prayer changes lives, both of the person praying and the one who receives prayer. Take the time to complete this sentence.

- (1) Dear God, I need to pray because . . . This will set your purpose for \_\_\_\_\_ prayer. You decide the time of day and the amount of time that is good for \_\_\_\_\_ you by completing this sentence,
- (2) Starting on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ (the time) I will \_\_\_\_\_ (kneel or sit) beside/on the \_\_\_\_\_ and spend \_\_\_\_\_ minutes \_\_\_\_\_ with my heavenly Father. Now set your priorities by answering the \_\_\_\_\_ following:
- (3) This prayer time is more important than \_\_\_\_\_. It is less important than \_\_\_\_\_. Finally plan your schedule to meet your goal. Try to set a time of day when you pray and don’t do anything else. You need this time to develop a relationship with the Lord.

O.K. I’m ready to pray. How do I fill this time? If you’re already praying you probably have developed your own communication with the Lord, but if you’ve backslidden or are new at a set prayer time, Pat King suggests the following format for your time with the Lord. I will list this format with corresponding Bible verses for you to look up. These verses are ones Pat King suggests, but there are others that the Lord may give to you.

**Begin with praise.** Open your Bible and read verses from Psalm 8, Psalm 47-48, and Psalm 145-150, or sing scripture and/or praise songs. The importance of praise is found in I Peter 2:9 and Psalm 68:48.

**Continue with Thanksgiving.** I’m thankful for store bought bread and washing machines! Some key thanksgiving verses are Deuteronomy 8:10. Colossians 1:12, I Thessalonians 5:18.

**Continue with Confession** - Psalm 139:23-24, Proverbs 28:13, John 1:9, and Isaiah 1:18

**Go on to Intersession.** Write out the needs of your family, your fold, your church and your community. I personally cannot pray for all these needs every single day because I feel like I’m sounding like a broken record and not really communicating these needs to the Lord. I choose to pray for a different family in my fold every day.

**Finally end with Petition.** It is not wrong to pray for us. Matthew 7:7, Luke 11:11-13, John 16:24.

Catch the brilliant leaf of prayer and begin a deeper communication with the Lord.



### News from Kenya



#### ***Greetings in Jesus Name,***

The pictures above are taken from the last two seminars done late July and early August.

LPM, Kenya is holding a three days annual General Conference from the 4TH - 6TH of October this year.

Also, soon after the Conference, we are going to lay the foundation stone for building of the LPM, Kenya and East Africa Head quarters which will also hold the LPM, PACE Institute,

Please pray with us. More details will be sent to you later.

In His service,

John Ogillah,

LPM, Kenya.



### *Monographs by Mel*

**All Monographs are \$3.00 each**

- MM-01 Motivating Lay Pastors  
Keeping Enthusiasm High
- MM-02 The Twelve Foundation Blocks  
Essentials for all lay ministry
- MM-03 Shall We Call Them Lay Pastors?  
The right name for the right task
- MM-04 A New Mind-Set for a New Day  
A critical paradigm shift
- MM-05 The LPM Leadership Group  
How to organize for success
- MM-06 Do You Know What You Are Doing?  
Keeping the vision bright
- MM-07 People Who Resist  
A successful solution
- MM-08 Some Common Problems  
Managing challenging situations
- MM-09 What Do You Mean By Family?  
Those who comprise a "household"
- MM-10 When The Honeymoon Is Over  
Perpetuating passion for ministry
- MM-11 A Seasonal Concept of Lay Pastoral Care  
The four seasons of ministry
- MM-12 When Love Doesn't Sell  
Overcoming resistance
- MM-13 You Too, Can Be A Success  
Three personal convictions
- MM-CD All 13 Monographs on one CD .... \$30.00

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## EVENTS

# Here, There and Everywhere



### SAVE THE DATE

It's not too early to plan for the LPMI International Conference, April 23-24 2010, at Christ Memorial Church in St. Louis, MO

The Conference committee is already hard at work making this a Conference you don't want to miss.

**NOTE:** These events provide an opportunity for churches inquiring into the Lay Pastors Ministry.

- *Do you want more information about the ministry?*
- *Are you ready to start a ministry in your church?*
- *Does your current ministry need a boost?*

LPMI Consultants and Seminar Leaders are ready to help you. You may arrange for an Initial Training Seminar in your church or group of churches, or have one of our speakers come to your church for ongoing equipping, motivation and encouragement. Contact Else Rodland at the LPMI office.

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## LETTER TO LAY PASTORS

### THE CHURCH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST



I know you are a member of your church, and I know it expects you to: "Confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' 'Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,'" and then live out what you confess and believe - Rom. 10:9-19. (One wag gave his spin on church expectations: Join up ... Show up ... Pay up ... Shut up.)

I also know you're a member of another Church (it's written all over your faith) the Church Universal and Eternal (CUE), aka "the mystical body of Christ." Look at these five striking comparisons of the CUE with your church: (1) the CUE neither overshadows your church nor disparages it, but glorifies it and is mystically in communion with it; (2) the CUE is universal and eternal, yours is local and temporal; (3) Jesus is the "head" of the CUE, your pastor is the head of your church; (4) the CUE is invisible, yours is visible; (5) the CUE is spiritual, yours is corporeal. Summary: the two are separate but congruent. .. *amazing!*

The CUE is a supernatural wonder, rooted in Judaism, founded by Jesus Christ, overarching myriads of God's people past, present and future. Think of it as a transparent overlay on all believers of all ages, no matter what form the Church has or had in the PAST-Judaism, God said, "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob," PRESENT-church: mega, small, house) or FUTURE-who knows?

**Pearl # 3: The Church Universal and Eternal** The following biblical Churchscape helps grasp the connectedness of your church with the overarching CUE:

Jesus: *I will build my Church.* Just prior to the cross, with cup in hand, he said to his disciples: *This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins* - Matt. 16:16-18; 26:27-28

*In Christ we who are many form one body* - Rom. 12:5. *Christ is the head of the church .... each part does its work .... This is a profound mystery -but I am talking about Christ and the Church* - Eph. 4:15-16; 5:32.

*I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth is named .... To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus through out all generations, for ever and ever* - Eph. 3:14,21.

*To the seven churches ... I am the alpha and omega, says the Lord God, who is, and who was and who is to come* - Rev. 1:4 & 8 *The blessed hope-the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ* - Titus 2:13.



The following six *Alphas* and *Ome~as* are the mountain peaks in the Churchscape:

- Jesus is building his Church out of people whose sins are forgiven.
- Jesus loves his Church, he gave himself up for her.
- Jesus is the “head” of the “body,” his Church.
- Jesus’ Church submits to its “head,” each part is to do its work.
- The true nature and future of the Church is a “profound mystery.”
- Last but not least, the hope of the world is the return of Jesus.

This is the Church of which your local church and all individual Christians past, present and future belong. What a special privilege! What a great joy it is to be members-simultaneously-of both your church and the CUE in your lifetime!

For the rest of my letter I’ll focus on your church, the highly visible one with its spire reaching upward. Sociologically, your church is one among many institutions in our society, others are schools, government, banks, casinos, industry, and more. Some people are turned off by “the institutional church.” True, “organized religion” is faulty. I know it is, I’m one of its faulty clergy. We’re always in need of three R’s-Repentance, Renewal and Reform. Only the Founder was perfect.

In spite of all its faults, in its 2000-year history no other societal institution comes close to the church as a force for good. For starters, the church founded public education at all levels, built hospitals, spawned charitable organizations, and most of the founding fathers who created our unique democracy were leaders in their churches. In spite of its own guilty conscience, it is the best “conscience of society” in existence, a sure “shelter in the time of storm.” Our challenge is to be a part of our church’s strength, not of its weakness. Your lay pastoral care ministry definitely includes you as a part of your church’s strength! In some way you and the Apostle Peter have two things in common: You confessed your love for Jesus, and you stepped forward when he summoned you to “Take care of my sheep.” Perhaps you can affirm the other laypastors by sharing this at your next meeting.

You may also want to share the following: Laypastors belong to something far bigger than themselves. Your church is both organization and organism~ at one level ... human, at another ... divine. It bridges the span from temporal to eternal. Jesus makes the difference-he infuses the organization with his life, making it an organism~ he himself is the bridge connecting the church (you know the church is people, it only *has* a building) to the Kingdom of God, granting dual citizenship to his followers. His bridging words are authoritative: “I am the way and the truth and the life, no one comes to the father except through me” (In. 14:6). Know you are doing a great job by pastorally caring for those in the Way, Truth, and Life!

Happy laypastoring,  
Me! Steinbron



## Ways To Give



**These are a few ways you can support this ministry:**

- 1. Cash/check donation sent to:**  
Lay Pastors Ministry, Inc.  
PO Box 368  
Lumberton NJ 08048-0368
- 2. The giving of stock**  
As you evaluate your giving options, you may consider contacting the individual that manages your financial portfolio to donate stock. This allows you to deduct fully from your taxes the value of the stock upon giving, regardless of your original cost basis. You will not be required to pay capital gains upon that stock if the value has increased.
- 3. Remember LPMI in your will**  
A person may specify in their will to have a portion of their assets given to LPMI.
- 4. Gifts may be given in memory of or in honor of an individual.**

Your support of LPMI with your gift will be a blessing to you and to those who will benefit from our services.

The Lord Jesus himself said:

*“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”*

**- Acts 20:35**

## Stepping Up the PACE

By Else Rodland  
LPMI Director of Ministry

The idea of PACE, step I and II came to me the other day while I was at the doctor's office. I asked the doctor how much I should be walking every day. He said, "Thirty minutes are good." "Should I increase that time after a while?" He said, "No, you don't have to increase the time, just step up the pace. You will walk further and get more exercise using the same amount of time." Stepping up the PACE?

Well, that got me thinking.

### Step I - Using basic principles and skills

P - Prayer - Praying for others faithfully

1. Prayer builds concern for people\*
2. Prayer unexpectedly builds a relationship\*
3. Prayer deepens your sense of responsibility\*
4. Prayer is a creative time\*

A - Availability - Being Available in good times and in times of need

1. Making time for people in our busy schedule
2. Sometimes we have to say no
3. Sometimes we have to make a sacrifice and make others a priority

C - Contact - Make regular Contacts. Reaching out to others in the name of Jesus

1. Home visits
2. Hospital visitation
3. Making phone calls
4. Sending Cards
5. Talking to a neighbor at home or at Church

E - Example - Be an Example in your commitment to Jesus Christ and His Church. We can examples in the way Jesus was

1. One who loves the Father\*
2. One who loves people\*
3. One who loves his/her Church\*
4. One who prays and serves\*

\*From *A Complete Equipping Seminar*  
by Dr. Melvin J. Steinbron's

### Step II – Stepping up the PACE

P - Passion – knowing God's unconditional love and His passion for people

1. Passion for Jesus
2. Passion for people

A - Active Listening - making sure we hear our people correctly and understand their circumstances and emotions.

1. Paraphrase
2. Perception checks
3. Creative questions

C - Caring communication - Dos and don'ts of building or burning bridges

1. Bridging to the communication style of the speaker
2. Turtles and Skunks (about introverts and extrovert)
3. Fogging (absorbing criticism)
4. Story listening

E - Encouragement –

1. The right motivation behind our words
2. Purpose – to build up "... *giving grace to those who hear.*" Eph.4:29b
3. Committed to unconditional love

### Step I

Prayer + Availability + Contact  
= Example

### Step II

Passion + Active Listening + Caring Communication  
= Encouragement

Just what the doctor ordered



## USABLE IDEAS



### *Intersession for healing*

Let us pray:

Lord, Jesus Christ, long ago in Galilee many who were sick and suffering needed friends to bring them to your side. Confident of your goodness, we now bring before you those who need your healing touch.

We lift up to you those who are ill in body; whose illness is long, or painful, or difficult to cure; who suffer restless days and sleepless nights.

Jesus Christ, lover of all,

We lift up to you those who are troubled in mind, distressed by the past, or dreading the future; those who are trapped and cast down in fear.

Jesus Christ, lover of all,

We lift up to you those for whom light has been turned to darkness: by the death of a loved one; the breaking of a friendship; the fading of hope.

Jesus Christ, lover of all,

We ask your blessing on doctors and nurses; on all who look after those who are ill; who give friendship to those who are distressed, or sit with those who are near to death.

Jesus Christ, lover of all,

We ask your guidance for those who are engaged in medical research, that they may persevere with vision and energy; and for those who administer the agencies of health and welfare, that they may have wisdom and compassion.

Jesus Christ, lover of all,

Loving God, the care of every soul is in your hands, the cure of every sickness comes from you. We do not know your will for us. If by our lives your grace may be known, then in us, through us, and even in spite of us, your kingdom come, your will be done. Amen

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

*Adapted From the Bulletin of the First Presbyterian Church of Mt Holly Sunday, September 20, 2009*

*Carolyn Sullivan received an email that she forwarded to Sandy Sisson. See their comments following the email: "THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD"*



## INSIGHT



### **\*THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD\***

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter.

Little Rick was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, 'The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know.'

How true!  
Carolyn

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Carolyn,  
Ah...yes...what a lesson for us all to learn...and to allow people to come to the Lord out of faith...without knowing all the nuts and bolts of the Bible, the church doctrine, etc...come as you are...and then the openness to learn more makes one realize what a SHEPHERD we do have...

LOVE THIS -  
Sandy

## SAVE THE DATE



### 2010 International Conference CREATING A CARING COMMUNITY April 23-24, 2010

**Presented by:** Lay Pastors Ministry, Inc.  
**Hosted by:** Christ Memorial Lutheran Church  
5252 Lindbergh Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63128  
**Email:** revedjoan@sbcglobal.net.

**Our Mission:** *Mobilizing and equipping lay people to provide consistent and loving care to congregations*

To be added or deleted from the mailing list, to offer suggestions for content, to submit writings, or to inquire about the Lay Pastors Ministry, the Network News, conferences or resources for your lay pastoral care ministry, contact:

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**Purpose:**

To share lay pastoral care ministry information and resources with churches, individuals, denominational leaders and seminaries.

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