

# NETWORK NEWS

Equipping Laypeople to Give Pastoral Care

## LPMI Logo



### Shepherd's Staff

Pastoral Care  
Tend the flock ...  
1 Peter 5:2

### Cross

Faith in Jesus Christ  
Jesus is Lord ...  
Romans 10:9

### Flame

The Holy Spirit  
Be filled with the Spirit ...  
Eph. 5:18

### Person

The Joyful Shepherd  
Serve the Lord with  
gladness...  
Ps. 100:2

### Water

The Living Water...  
John 4:10



## Dear Friends,

Have you ever felt that your life is limited and may not make much difference? I think we all have had thoughts like that at one time or another.

I read a story that helped me understand that God can do things with a surrendered life ... period.

Lonnie Porter was a janitor for almost all his life at United Theological Seminary. When he wasn't mowing the lawn or washing windows, he was talking with students. His income was small, but his heart was large. Or as he put it, "My mother taught me to do two things: sew and save." So he did. He sewed together a life of service at a seminary, and he saved as much money as he could for that seminary. When he died a few years ago, Lonnie Porter left over \$100,000 in his will for the work of the seminary. By action of the trustees, who were moved by this large gift from a small income, United's premier program in African American Ministries is now known as the Lonnie Porter Program in African American Ministries. It is the only known endowed educational program in the church named after a janitor.

A few weeks ago I taught a Lay Ministry Equipping Seminar. In Topic #2, *The Need for Lay Pastoring/Lay Ministry*, there is a quote I share from Thomas Gillespie: "Pastoring will be realized only when **the non-clergy** are willing to **move up**, **the clergy** are willing to **move over**, and **all of God's people** are willing to **move out!**"

Attending that seminar were people with incredible potential. Each has gifts that God can use. The same is true for you.

When we walk in the Spirit of Jesus, He can take our experiences, our prayers and our hopes for His glory. In the process we can affect others in their Christian walk. I join you in the journey.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Thomas W. Corbell  
President, LPMI

## In This Issue:

Here, There and Everywhere.....	Page 2
God is Bigger Than .....	Page 3
Lay People can Pastor .....	Page 4
God Provides .....	Page 6

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

## Here, There and Everywhere

A Lay Minister Equipping Seminar was held Friday & Saturday, September 23-24, 2011 at the Knightdale United Methodist Church in Knightdale, NC

### Presenters were

LPMI President, Rev. Thomas W. Corbell, and LPMI Board Member Marianne Wiegman, both from Statesville, NC.



### LPMI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

It's not too early to mark your Calendars for the Lay Pastors International Conference at the King Street Church in Chambersburg, PA on April 20 and 21, 2012.



**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.

**Phone: 609-261-0904**  
**e-mail: [lpmi@comcast.net](mailto:lpmi@comcast.net)**  
**Website: [laypastors.com](http://laypastors.com)**



## Sink or Swim?



People's stories about learning to swim often sound like this:

"My dad tossed me into the water. I didn't have a choice --- I flailed around until I found myself swimming!"

But an elderly Christian tells a variation of this story:

"Wanting to teach me to swim, my father threw me off the dock into the lake. I sank." But then he goes on: "So my father jumped in with me."

The storyteller's wisdom shines in this application:

"God doesn't toss us into life and leave us alone to sink or swim. By sending Jesus, God jumped right in with us to save us from death, hold us protectively and help us navigate life."



## Late Bloomers

The pink crepe myrtle finally bloomed - two full months after every other tree of its kind in the area and just as the changing weather signaled the season's end. Between the rocky soil, too much shade and not enough water, the tree was doing the best it could under the circumstances.

Sound familiar? Like that tree, we're often "... afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed." (2 Corinthians 4:8-9 NRSV). At times, everything seems to go against us. Nothing comes easily. Life is a struggle.

But in Christ, we are not undone. We can persevere. We can bloom, even under the hardest circumstances.

From the Newsletter/Newsletter  
August 2011





## God is Bigger Than... a Quarterback Sack

Karen Tripp, <http://ktripp.com/blog>.

Posted August 10, 2011 Devotion of the Week

Having grown up in the south, I was taught there are 4 seasons: winter, spring summer and football season. I grew up yelling at football players on TV to “Get him!!! Get that guy with the ball!” Which really sums up football. There’s these guys trying to stop the ball and there’s these guys trying to move the ball but there’s only one guy with the ball. For me, the most painful thing to watch is a quarterback sack. Usually from the quarterback’s blind side, a beast of a man plows him down and the game screeches to a halt. Everyone waits to see if the quarterback is going to get back up.

Now imagine that your life is a football game and God’s plan for the world is the ball. Carrying the ball for the Lord means living your life more for others than for yourself. It means striving to be the guy in the end zone scoring a crucial goal for the Lord. Whether it’s standing out as a Christian at work or inviting the neighbor kids to Vacation Bible school , you’ve scored a goal for the Lord.

But what’s easy to forget is that sometimes, you get tackled hard and do not want to get back up. In God’s football game, Satan and his team are the ones dishing out the hits. We feel the hits when we begin to believe the things Satan wants us to believe. Things like:

- “You can’t do this.”
- “Who do you think you are?”
- Are you sure this is a good idea?”
- “Maybe you didn’t hear God right.”
- “You’ve done enough. Just forget about this.”
- “Those people think you’re nuts.”
- “If it’s God’s plan, it wouldn’t be this hard.”

I’ve been sacked by each of those hits more than once. It’s so tempting to drop the ball and quit stepping out for the Lord. Is living God’s plan really supposed to be hard? Yes. In John 17:15 Jesus’ prayed this for His followers: “My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.” In this verse, Jesus is telling us to expect 2 things. The first is that we should expect to go out into the world and to stand out as followers of Christ. The second is that when you step out, you’re going to need some protection from Satan. It makes sense to me that the more you step out and carry the ball, the more protection you’re going to need.

But do you know the thing that blows me away about this verse the most? It’s that Jesus knew that stepping out into the world as His believer would be hard so He already arranged for you to not go alone. That’s why He prayed that prayer.

When the hits come- and they will come- turn to the power of prayer and scripture to get back up and head for the goal. Cuz there’s nothing like scoring one for the Lord!

- Karen Tripp will lead a Workshop at the International Conference on April 20 and 21, 2012 (see Events)





## Lay People Can Pastor

This example of lay ministry is certainly not the normal experience of those in the program. What it showed us is the fact that lay people can minister effectively to other lay people in the most difficult circumstances of life. It can happen with good training and a willingness to be used by Jesus Christ.

### Sharing experiences

Once a month the lay ministers and I meet together.

At these meetings we look at Scripture, discuss our joys as well as our frustrations, pray, minister to one another and plan for incorporating more lay people into the Lay Ministry Program. At these meetings a variety of feelings are shared concerning their experiences.

### Procrastination

The Lay ministers all agreed their worst enemy was procrastination, putting off that phone call or visit with the families under their care. Generally they found the contacts to be joyful but difficult to get around to on a systematic basis. Then they began to experience a sense of guilt for not having made more contacts within that past month.

One lay minister made a most interesting comment.

He stated that he had come to see there was a big difference between being a Christian who witnesses and serves and being a Christian lay minister who is responsible for the care of those in his flock. This particular lay minister cares for two families in the congregation but has already begun to sense the joy and burden of caring for the spiritual well-being of others.

### Bonding

They also began to experience a process of bonding.

As they shepherded the families within their flocks they came to know them as individual people. They came to know where they worked, their hobbies and their needs. They began to enjoy each other and desired to know each other beyond the morning worship setting. Instead of *knowing about* each other, they began to *really know* each other.





**The Squeaky Wheel**

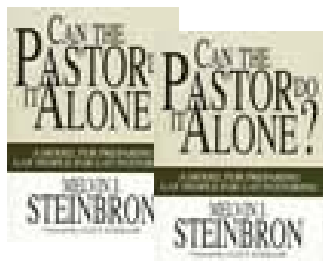
We also discovered that more and more people were open to lay ministry, both being ministered to and ministering to others. As one of the members of Bethel stated:

“The squeaky wheel always gets the oil, but those who don’t squeak need oil, too.”

Many Christians at Bethel seem to be open and expectant of being included in a lay ministry family. Their needs are not gigantic, but they are real. They need the love and acceptance that can come only from others who get close to them and get to know them personally. As they are ministered to a multiplication effect begins: they, in turn, begin to look for ways to minister to others. The key to the process is consistent contact and ministry by the lay minister, which results in the effective care of those receiving ministry.

Excerpt from Can The Pastor Do It Alone?  
by Dr. Melvin J. Steinbron

\*\*\*\*\*



**Can The Pastor Do It Alone?**

By Dr. Melvin J. Steinbron

Used as a text by hundreds of churches to start their Lay Pastors Ministry. Includes 12 units to equip lay people for ministry. (258 pages)

**BK-01 ..... \$21.95**

10 or more copies at a discount price of \$17.95 each

The prices include free shipping and handling.

**You can order this and other resources from:**

**Lay Pastors Ministry, Inc.  
P. O. Box 368  
Lumberton, NJ 08048-0368  
609-261-0904  
E-mail: lpmi@comcast.net  
Website: www.laypastors.com**



**The Lay Pastors' Official Pin**

**SHEPHERD’S CROOK** A symbol of the Lay Pastor’s shepherding ministry. “Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care.” I Peter 5:2

**CROSS** A symbol of Jesus Christ giving his life for us; also a symbol of the sacrifice Lay Pastors make for their people. “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.” John 10:11

**PERSON** A symbol of the Lay Pastor rejoicing about the privilege of serving God, and worshipping the God they serve. “Serve [and worship] the Lord with gladness.” Psalm 100:2

**FLAME** A symbol of the Holy Spirit surrounding the Lay Pastor and the ministry. “He (the Holy Spirit) lives with you and will be in you.” John 14:17

**GOLD** A symbol of the worth of the Lay Pastors Ministry; also a symbol of the genuineness of the Lay Pastor. Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” John 21:16 “[The Lay Pastor] takes a genuine interest in your welfare.” Philippians 2:20

**WHITE** A symbol of the glory which surrounds this ministry of love and the glory yet to be revealed. “And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of glory that will never fade away.” I Peter 5:4

The Official Pin is a reflection of the Lay Pastors’ Logo without the water. See page 1.

**PN-01 Lay Pastor Pin ..... \$4.25**  
(gold or silver)  
includes shipping and handling





## Just Be Patient

By Rev. Tim Osborne

“Just be patient.”

That’s all he said. Yet it struck me to the core. My spirit reso-nated. I smelled God allover those three tiny words. I was humbled, encouraged and empowered all at once. This is simply not the response I am used to when I talk with people about my house not selling. Most people bemoan the real estate market or blame the recession. Others offer tips, criticism, skepticism or worry. Many of you have been praying for most of the 11 months it has been on the market. A lot of you pray for my commute. No one has found it easy to be patient, especially me. Yet when I told this pastor that it was wearing on me he didn’t flinch. He reached out, put his hand on my shoulder, looked me in the eye and in one sentence turned me to Jesus.

Maybe you are wondering what the big deal is. Most of us hate patience. We do not enjoy waiting, delays or inaction. We want to do it now, make it happen and end the stalemate. When told to be patient we usually respond with excuses, annoyance and deaf ears. Patience seems like doing nothing. Doing nothing will not get us what we want. As true as that may feel, Psalm 37:3-9 show us that patience might be more active than we realize.

*Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret-it leads only to evil. For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land.*





Patience is anything but sedentary. Do you hear all that action? Patience requires us to trust God, do good, enjoy God, commit to Him, make our selves still, wait, not fret, stay calm, control our temper, and actively hope in God. Did you notice all of those blessings connected to patience? Patiently waiting in reliance on Him is really important to God. That is why there are such negative consequences to impatience, worry and angry actions. Patience marks the road to growing fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

I took that pastor up on his offer. I decided to be patient.

Amazingly enough peace slowly seeped into my life, forcing my stress into a leave of absence. It is simply not up to me. I know that. I have known that since September. God called me to serve as your pastor. God will move me here. No matter how badly I want Him to speed this thing up, I have to be patient. I cannot do what only God can do. Patience is how I stop trying and start relying. Otherwise I am leaning on my own understanding and not really trusting Him. That is a serious challenge. I have made my choice. I choose patience.

What about you? Will you take the challenge and be patient? If we believe that God is sovereign than His seeming inaction is for a reason. Let us not waste God's blessings by considering them inconvenient. Let us not miss our opportunity to grow. Let's grab hold of it with both hands.

There are just too many things in our lives that we need this God-given patience for. My commute is just the tip of the iceberg. It is small potatoes compared to the suffering many of you face daily. Patience is how we take the focus off of us and put it where it belongs.

Let God be God. Your task is to trust Him with each thing, each day, every day. Start by asking for patience from God. Then, choose to use it. In doing so we begin to be who we were made to be - human arrows pointing to our God.

Rev. Tim Osborne is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Mount Holly, NJ. The article is reprinted from the September 2011 issue of the church's Monthly Newsletter, From The First



## Ways to Give

Lay Pastors Ministry, Inc. is a not for profit organization that relies fully upon the Lord to meet the needs of the ministry. All contributions to Lay Pastors Ministry are tax deductible in the United States.

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

1. **Cash/check donation sent to:**  
LPMI - P O Box 368  
Lumberton NJ 08048-0368
2. **Credit Card**  
Go to our website,  
[www.laypastors.com](http://www.laypastors.com)
3. **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.
4. **Remember LPMI in your will.**  
A person may specify in their will to have a portion of their assets given to LPMI.
5. **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



## SAVE THE DATE

### International Conference 2012 King Street Church, Chambersburg, PA April 20, 21, 2012

We are so excited about being back at the King Street Church in Chambersburg, PA, for our 2012 LPMI Conference.

The theme of the Conference is:  
***Responding to a Hurting World.***

Sounds almost overwhelming, doesn't it? But we serve a Great God, and through Him we can make a difference.

The Conference Committee began in early spring collecting names and contacting Speakers and Workshop Leaders. We met again in September in Charleston, WV.

Mark this date on your calendar, let the Church Board and the Budget Committee know, and bring as many people as you can. We are working on making this "The Best Conference Ever."



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

Lay Pastors Ministry, Inc.  
P O Box 368  
Lumberton, NJ 08048-0368  
Phone: 609-261-0904  
E-mail: [lpmi@comcast.net](mailto:lpmi@comcast.net)  
Web site: [www.laypastors.com](http://www.laypastors.com)

**Editorial Team:**

Carolyn Sullivan, Editor  
Else Rodland  
E-mail: [lpmi@comcast.net](mailto:lpmi@comcast.net)

**Purpose:**

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

Published quarterly by  
Lay Pastors Ministry, Inc. (LPMI) and  
printed by Good Impressions Printing, Inc.  
Riverside, NJ

All parts may, except those written with special permission, be copied for local ministry use only and not for profit.

Lay Pastors Ministry, Inc.  
P. O. Box 368  
Lumberton NJ 08048-0368

*"Equipping Laypeople To Give Pastoral Care"*

Fall 2011

NETWORK NEWS  
Lay Pastors Ministry, Inc.

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 48  
Vincentown, NJ  
08088-9998