

NETWORK NEWS

Equipping Laypeople to Give Pastoral Care

Dear Friends,

Yad Vashem is the name of the Holocaust Museum and Memorial in Jerusalem. The first thing visitors see at Yad Vashem is the Street of Righteous Gentiles, a long boulevard of trees, each planted to honor a Gentile who risked his/her life to rescue Jews during the Holocaust. Next is the Children's Memorial. Over the entrance, there are large stone candles of varying lengths, each snuffed out prematurely. We walked through a tunnel representing the entrance to the gas chambers through which 11/2 million children passed to their executions Inside, in a large, dark room, candles flickered, reflected over and over in mirrors; soft recorded voices quietly recited names, ages and towns of the little ones. 'Janina Kuzma, age 14, Warsaw, Madia Novak, age 3'

But even in these death camps, the soul would not be squashed. Some drew pictures, others wrote poetry, others sculpted, and still others expressed their creativity in inventive ways. Even on the walls of the camp, where many of the children were executed, liberating allied forces found children's drawings of flowers and butterflies.

In this terrible time of suffering and death, hope, creativity and life could not be crushed.

Many people who sit in our pews are what Henri Nouwen refers to as "wounded." They have experienced difficult times and need someone who will come along side to listen to them, encourage and pray with and for them.

That is the mandate of Lay Pastors Ministry. We can use such creative ways to be with those who hurt. That home visit can be crucial. The sensitive email that addresses a prayer request that they had expressed can bring peace. That gentle "tap on the shoulder" that nonverbally says "I remember you and your concerns." An invitation to coffee that gave your flock family member a chance to share what was on their heart can have profound effects on an aching heart.

The acronym **PACE** tells us to **P**ray, **C**ontact, be **A**vailable and to be an **E**xample. The **C** for contact my very well be a moment chosen by God to make a difference in another person's life.

That is your calling and your privilege.
To God be the glory!



President, LPMI

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

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

About Success

By Else Rodland

Director of Ministry Operation, LPMI

I came across this article by David Armstrong from Pottstown, PA one day when I was looking through a file of newsletters from churches with Lay Pastors Ministries. I believe we can all relate to Mr. Armstrong's article on measuring success in our caring ministries. I know I can. Sometimes I feel totally energized and on top of the world and then, at times, I feel like I'm accomplishing nothing for the kingdom. How do we get on an even keel?

This is what David Armstrong wrote regarding how we measure success:

How Do YOU Measure Success?

One of the toughest things in life is to keep going when you don't feel like you are doing very well. That's true in a marriage, in parenting, in a job, in school, and in ministry. But how do you measure how well you are doing in the various areas of your life?

Your grade depends on your evaluation tool, doesn't it? Sometimes our tool is perfection – God's moral standard. Often it is not a fixed standard at all – we just go by what significant other people tell us. At other times we measure our performance against a very subjective (and perhaps fuzzy) set of values that we have internalized somewhere along the way.

It is particularly difficult to measure success when we are looking at how we are doing with other people. A major reason why I (Dave Armstrong) am drawn to tasks related to taxes, accounting, and computers is that I get fast feedback – I quickly know whether I did something right or wrong. But in most of my life activities – people things – it is often years before I hear that I was helpful. That sense of success is pretty elusive. And several of you have told me you feel that way about your Care Coordinator ministry – it is tough to know that you are doing well.

I wish I could easily measure how well you are doing. You and I both know that we don't measure the important things. Instead we measure “pointers” – how many contacts are being made; who we are missing. But occasionally someone will affirm you – a thank-you note, a few words of gratitude, friendliness when you make your contact.

As always, your primary sense of satisfaction (of success) needs to come from relying on what our Lord has said to you. Listen to His words once more.

“Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you ... I was a stranger and you invited me in ... I was sick and you looked after me ...” Matt. 25:35





Caring for Those Facing a Serious Illness

- Don't avoid me. Be the friend you've always been
- Touch me...a simple squeeze of my hand can tell me you still care.
- Call me to tell me you're bringing my favorite dish, and what time you are coming. Bring food in disposable containers so I won't have to worry about returns.
- Take care of my children for me. I need a little time to be alone with my loved one. My children also need a little vacation from my illness.
- Weep with me when I weep. Laugh with me when I laugh. Don't be afraid to share this with me.
- Take me out for a pleasure trip, but know my limitations.
- Call for my shopping list and make a special delivery to my home.
- Call me before you visit, but don't be afraid to visit. I need you. I am lonely.
- Help me celebrate holidays (and life) by decorating my hospital room or home, or bringing me tiny gifts of flowers or other natural treasures.
- Help my family. I am sick, but they may be suffering. Offer to come stay with me to give my loved ones a break. Invite them out. Take them places.
- Be creative! Bring me a book of thoughts, taped music, a poster for my wall, cookies to share with my family and friends, an old friend who hasn't come to visit me.
- Let's talk about it. Maybe I need to talk about my illness. Find out by asking me: "Do you feel like talking about it?"
- Don't always feel we have to talk. We can sit silently together.
- Can you take me or my children somewhere? I need transportation to a treatment, to the store, to the doctor.
- Help me feel good about my looks. Tell me I look good, considering my illness.
- Please include me in decision-making; I have been robbed of so many things. Please don't deny me a chance to make decisions in my family, in my life.
- Talk to me of the future. Tomorrow, next week, next year. Hope is so important to me.
- Bring me a positive attitude. It's catching!
- What's in the news? Magazines, photoes, newspapers, verbal reports keep me from feeling the world is passing me by.
- Water my flowers.
- Just send a card to say, "I care!"
- Pray for me and share your faith with me.
- Tell me what you'd like to do and when I agree, please do it!
- Tell me about support groups so I can share my feelings with others.

*from Volunteer Services
Cancer Treatment Centers of America*

Reprinted from the Winter 2002 newsletter of the Lay Ministry of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Statesville, NC





LET LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS NEVER LEAVE YOU

By Dr. Melvin J. Steinbron
Founder, Lay Pastors Ministry

My loving and faithful friends,

I wanted to give a memento to the LPMI Board of Directors which would symbolize “the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love” and etch the core qualities of the Lay Pastors Ministry in their spirits forever. What I saw in a trophy shop clicked—a bronze pendant. I ordered 12 of them, had the LPM logo etched on one side and the words LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS from Proverbs 3:3 on the other. The proverb gave two instructions: *bind them around your neck* (for this I threaded ribbons through each loop) and *write them on the tablet of your heart* (this would hopefully happen in a time of silence during my presentation).

As it turned out, I was unable to be at the meeting. The pendants were presented by another member of the board. For the years since, my pendant has been suspended from the corner of the picture of Jesus on the Road to Emmaus which hangs on the wall two feet beyond my desk. I’m glancing at it as I write. The pendant reminds me of my board-member friends again today and to be loving and faithful. The picture tells me again to value highly “What a Friend I have in Jesus.”

LOVE and FAITHFULNESS are the two spiritual dynamos of I Corinthians 13 supplying energy to the inner-core of the larger action-core of all pastoral care, lay or clergy. They are like warm sunshine, so welcome on a chilly spring day and at the same time like powerful sun rays purifying infections, lighting up dark corners, and warming cold homes and hearts. LOVE is tough—*not easily angered, keeps no record of wrongs, and always perseveres*. FAITHFULNESS never fails—*it is patient, not self-seeking, not proud, always trusts, and always hopes*.

The prize for being loving and faithful is *winning favor and a good name in the sight of God and man*. Let’s get the total message of Proverbs 3:3-4 before us:

Let love and faithfulness never leave you...this will require prayer and intentionality.

Bind them around your neck...place them somewhere so as to see them daily.

Write them on the tablet of your heart...use as a mantra 20 days; will be in your heart for life.

Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man...your prize!



LOVE? What is it? Because it's so central to life, pursued by all, and grossly misunderstood, let's spend a couple of paragraphs on it. Definitions don't help a lot, in fact definitions of an unexplainable experience like love reduces a transcendent human reality to a disappointing intellectual or theological exercise. The best answer may be, "You know it when you see it." Or better, "You know it when you experience it." When we love God, people and self we know it, and when we don't love God, people and self we know it. Besides that, others know when we love God, people, and self. I saw *Jesus* artfully scripted on the bottom of an Olympic snow board. Under *Jesus* was printed, "I can't hide my love." I was awe struck and deeply moved by this witness. I'm sure people who know her, whether they've seen it on her snowboard or not, know she loves Jesus.

Additional love scriptures: *Above all, love each other deeply*¹ *Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence. This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is another to set alongside of it: Love others as well as you love yourself.... You're God-taught in these matters. Just love one another! You are already good at it. Keep it up, get better and better at it.*² "Get better and better at it"—I like that! God plans that we grow in love as a child grows into larger clothes, without intentionally trying. We grow in love, not by learning more about it, but by doing more of it.

FAITHFULNESS? What is what? Like love, you know it when you see it. We see faithfulness lived out by Jesus and taught regularly. In his parable of the talents (one talent = \$1,000), the master, about to leave on a journey gave three servants a trust of \$5,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000 respectively to invest. Upon his return he called for an accounting. The first two increased their trust by investing wisely, "Well done, good and **faithful** servants! You have been **faithful** with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come, share your master's happiness." The third didn't fare that well, he was censured severely for being unfaithful.³

Both love and faithfulness are fruits of the Spirit.⁴ In addition to practice, there are two ways to grow these qualities: (1) be filled with the Spirit who energizes us, and (2) read God's Word which tutors us. "It is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."⁵ Lay pastors, you are given a trust by your Master, "Take care of my sheep." In discharging all the duties of your ministry, let love and faithfulness never leave you.

With love and faithfulness,
Mel Steinbron

1. I Peter 4:8
2. Matthew 22:27-29 & I Thessalonians 4:9-10 (The Message)
3. Matthew 25:14-30
4. Galatians 5:22-23
5. I Corinthians 4:2



Friendly Obstacles

For every hill I've had to climb,
For every stone that bruised my feet,
For all the blood and sweat
and grime,
For blinding storms and burning heat,
My heart sings but a grateful song -
These were the things
that made me strong.

For all the heartache and the tears,
For all the anguish and the pain,
For gloomy days and fruitless years,
And for the hopes that lived in vain,
I do give thanks, now I know
These were the things
that made me grow.

'This not the softer things in life
Which stimulate ones will to strive;
But bleak adversity and strife
Do most to keep our will alive.
O'er rose-strewn paths the
weakling creep,
But brave hearts dare to
climb the steep

Author Unknown

Are You on the List?

The Network News is produced quarterly to inform, encourage, motivate and equip its readers in Creating a Culture of Care.

Who are our readers?

Check out this list of groups and individuals who would benefit greatly from reading our newsletter.

Pastors

Lay Leaders

Lay Pastors

Shepherds

Small Group Leaders

Telecare Ministers

Hospital visitors

Deacons

Elders

Sunday School Teachers

Church Boards

Membership Committees

Did we miss you? To add to this list contact Else Rodland or Carolyn Sullivan.
Email: lpmi@comcast.com

The Network News is a resource you wouldn't want to miss if you're in the Christian caring business.

Subscription prices for hard copies are listed in the back. If you would like the newsletter sent to you free as a PDF file send an email to lpmi@comcast.com. You may also download the newsletter free of charge from our website www.laypastors.com



New



Specific Spiritual Gifts for Lay Pastoring

Written by

Rev. Daniel C. Patrick

Director and Leader of Lay Pastors Ministry Ghana.
President and Founder of Wrlld Christ. Reviv Evang, Inc, Ghana.
Regional Director & Leader, the New Life Mission, Ghana.

Workshop Presented by:

Rev. Thomas W. Corbell – LPMI President

This workshop was held at the 2006 LPMI International Conference in Pearland, TX. It was presented by Rev. Corbell in the absence of Rev. Patrick.

The workshop is focusing on identifying and developing those spiritual gifts that are useful in the lay pastors ministry and how to effectually use these gifts successfully in your church.

This CD from the workshop and the accompanying 12 page workbook will be introduced and available for sale at the 2010 Conference at Christ Memorial Lutheran Church in St. Louis MO on April 23.

Following the Conference it the CD and workbook can be ordered from the LPMI office.

SG-CD\$15.00



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BASIC TRAINING TOOLS

By Mel Steinbron

Track # 1

(The DVD does the teaching)

DVD-01 - Lay Pastors Equipping Seminar..... \$75.00

A 2-disc seminar on DVD (3-hours), covering 13 separate units for equipping Lay Pastors. Designed for - one 10–15-hour training session - 13 one-hour training sessions, or - 6 two-hour training sessions when used with the enclosed guide.

VTLM-01a - Leader’s Notes for the Lay Pastors Equipping Seminar DVD (optional)..... \$12.50

Follows the script of the DVD; useful for facilitating discussion of the main points. 18 pages.

VTPM-01b - Participant’s Notes for the Lay Pastors Equipping Seminar DVD (optional)..... \$12.50

Identical to the leader’s notes except key words are left blank to be filled by the participants. Purchase includes permission to photocopy one set of notes for each participant. 18 pages.

Track # 2

(The Leader in the Local Church does the Teaching)

EM-02 - A Complete Equipping Seminar Leader’s Manual \$30.00

An alternative to the Lay Pastors Equipping Seminar Video, this ready-to-use teaching manual helps to train Lay Pastors in 10 to 15 hours. It includes teaching helps (called LABS) for enabling participants to grasp, absorb, internalize and apply the training. 83 pages.

PM-O4 - A Complete Equipping Seminar Participant’s Manual \$15.00

This manual follows the Leader’s Manual word for word except that key words and thoughts are left blank for the participants to fill in as the leader teaches. Churches may choose either to order copies for each participant or request permission to photocopy. 43 pages

LPMI has trained leaders available to conduct Equipping Seminars. Contact us for information on having someone come to your church to train your Lay Pastors.

**Order from our new online store
on the the Web at: laypastors.com
Or from Else Rodland at the LPMI office
Phone: 609-261-0904, Fax: 609-261-0976
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or

**Marianne Wiegman,
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Home phone: 704-876-4988
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A LAY SHEPHERD IS

- ... someone who realizes they don't have all the answers, but realizes their role as a friend and supporter, not expert or authority
- ... someone who does not make decisions for others, but assists others in finding their own solutions.
- ... someone who takes time to "do the little things," send a card, make a call, bring a flower, bake someone something.
- ... someone who makes a call in spite of fear.
- ... someone who can keep on caring even though there may not be any response from their flock.
- ... someone who realizes that only through close communion with God will they have the strength to help others.

*From "The Shepherd Staff" 1992
Third Reformed Church, Pella IA*

WHAT'S NEW?



This has to be a first. This much snow in Alabama.

Let me introduce to you the family Snowdon from
Montgomery, AL

Creation and Picture by Steve Petrik

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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You may still order multiple copies. However, these copies will be sent via Bulk Mail instead of First Class. The cost of 10 or more multiple copies will be \$10.00/person for each subscription. To subscribe, contact Else Rodland, Director of Ministry Operations, at the above address.

Purpose:

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

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