

# 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** – Every church member needs and deserves the loving attention of a person, who is gifted, equipped and called to the ministry of pastoral care. 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, I 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.

*Dear Friends,*

After Noah built the ark, the animals started to board the ship two by two. Pair after pair of animals passed by Noah, heading up the ramp into the ship. Finally a lone hippo waddled up and Noah asked him where his mate was. “I was hoping to meet her on the cruise!” the hippo replied.

Hope – what a driving force hope is in our lives. The apostle Paul believed this to be true.

In Romans 5:5 he wrote: *And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.*

Lay Pastors Ministry is built on the foundation of hope that is found in Jesus Christ our Lord. When a Lay Pastor holds the hand of a person in need they provide hope. When they listen to one in need they give hope. When they visit a person in their home they may become Christ to that person giving them hope and peace.

Alexander Irvine once said: *God takes a hand whenever he can find it and just does what he likes with it. Sometimes he takes a Bishop’s hand and lays it on a child’s head in benediction. And then he takes the hand of a doctor to relieve the pain, the hand of a mother to guide a child. And sometimes he takes the hand of a poor old creature like me to give comfort to a neighbor. But they’re all hands touched by his Spirit, and his Spirit’s everywhere lookin’ for hands to use.*

Throughout this newsletter you will find ideas and hopes that can take on flesh when the hands of hope are touching our people in their need. How is the Lord Jesus using your hands to touch others?

God bless and keep you in His holy hands,



Rev. Thomas W. Corbell  
President, LPMI

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*“Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care.” - I Peter 5:2*

## The Power of Prayer



Prayer can change your life. I strongly recommend that you learn the art or science of prayer and put it to work in your life.

Now this may seem to you to be just one more religious idea, without much life or sparkle to it. But that is where you could be wrong. It is the way to life itself.

When I say this of prayer I do not mean any mere mumbling of words. I do not mean formal affirmations either, although formal prayers sometimes help and some formal prayers are toughed with the glory of God.

What I mean is a deep, fundamental, powerful relationship of the individual to God whereby his whole mind and heart become changed and he receives power from God within himself.

I have seen such prayer change the lives of so many.

- Norman Vincent Peale (1898-1993)



## Grief and Hope

by Else Rodland  
LPMI Director of Ministry Operation

I am sure you have all heard of the bombing in Oslo, Norway and the massacre on Utoya (A small island outside of Oslo) on July 22. It was the worst act of terror to hit Norway since World War II.

I am writing this from Norway. I was here on the day of the tragedy. My husband and I have a small apartment in the town where we both grew up and we try to get back at least once a year to visit family and friends. When I am here I use a Daily Guidepost book from 1993 for my daily devotion. On this particular day Pam Kidd wrote the devotional and this is what I read:

“Mass murderers, rapists, embezzlers, drug dealers. The world’s darkness marches across the daily paper and chills my morning coffee.”

Then, in the next paragraph, I read, “On the evening news I see a man planting apple trees wherever he goes, another opening his hotel to parents of hospitalized children. A lady welcomes “hopeless” drug addicts into her home; another cares for babies of addicted mothers. A sparkle of hope, a glimmer of good. *Light*. It is the glue that holds this crazy world together.”

The Scripture for the day was, “*The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord ... Proverbs 20:27.*”

That is what I read the morning of July 22. That afternoon the bombing and massacre happened. A sea of candles and flowers kept growing in front of Oslo Domkirke (Cathedral) through the night and the days that followed. A Memorial Service was held in the Cathedral in Oslo and in Churches around the country on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The theme of the service was GRIEF AND HOPE. This theme plus the placing of candles and flowers kept spreading as parades with roses were held in every city around the country.

The thought came to me, having read the scripture in the morning, that, we do not just light candles, we are candles. The Lord has chosen us to light up this dark world with His love and the hope we have in Christ.

In Romans 12:21, we read, “*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*”

It doesn’t take great deeds of heroism to make a difference. Small acts of kindness can change a person’s life. We can send that card, make that visit or phone call that we have been dreading or putting off. I see how important it is to make **contact** with people who are hurting, lonely or in need of help. We can hug, we can listen, we can come alongside, we can pray, and we can bring hope to those who are grieving. Even doing the wrong thing, as long as we reach out in love, is better than doing nothing at all.

A young girl, a survivor from Utoya, who was interviewed by CNN after the tragedy, made this statement, “If one man can show so much hate, think how much love we all can show.”



# Praying for God’s Grace

By Marie Parma. Board of Directors, LPMI

Often I hear people say ... I pray for my family ... My friends and others every day ... I just wish I could pray specifically about something. If you don’t know something specifically to pray about ... I’m going to suggest a way for you to pray for the people in your life. I learned it from an experience my daughter had several years ago.

My daughter and her family relocated to north Alabama and became actively involved in a church. She shared with me that her pastor was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gerhrigs Disease). Lisa kept me informed about his condition. I was inspired by the way their congregation rallied around him and his family during his illness.

Their pastor, Brother Bill, wrote an insert for their bulletin and Lisa gave me a copy. His words were especially meaningful in light of his condition. He elaborated on the Scripture I Peter 4:10 ... *faithfully administer God’s grace in its various forms.* And he shared some thoughts about the manifold grace of God. Let me share what he wrote:

God gives all kinds of grace. There is:

- Saving Grace      To become a Christian
- Hardship Grace    To make it through tough times
- Sickness Grace    To keep going even when you feel bad
- Ministry Grace    To help others even if unsure of yourself
- Witnessing Grace    To speak for Him even though you are nervous
- Dying Grace        To go from this life into heaven

Remember, God often gives His grace only at the very time we need it. (He doesn’t give dying grace on a non-dying day). He waits for us to be in a position where we must trust him and when he sees our faithfulness he abundantly gives the kind of grace needed at that hour.

I am extremely grateful for the grace God has given to me and my family in recent months. Yes, these continue to be difficult times in our lives and we do have our moments of discouragement, depression, impatience and frustration. I can no longer say there is no weakness in my hands and arms. The amazing thing is that every time moments of discouragement come, God is faithful to walk with us through it and then pick us up and place us back in a position where we can function and enjoy life. That is his grace.

And why does His Grace come at just the right time? I believe it is **because someone is praying**. I truly believe that if our congregation stopped praying for us we would fall flat on our faces in defeat and misery.

**So, I am grateful for His grace that comes because you pray.**

All Because of His Amazing Grace,  
Bro. Bill

\*\*\*\*\*

On the last day of the year 2000, Brother Bill received God’s dying grace and left this life to go to heaven. The Lord continues to bestow on his life the witnessing grace that he wrote about.

My granddaughter was five years old when Brother Bill died. He had been her pastor for all of her young life. During the time he was sick, she prayed for him every night before going to bed. At times during the day, she would go to my daughter and say, “We need to pray for Brother Bill.” They would stop whatever they were doing and would pray for Brother Bill to **Receive the grace he needed that day**.

That’s a wonderful way to pray for people. It goes beyond our understanding ... it is offering that person to God for Him to give His grace for whatever the need is that day or that hour. And, as Brother Bill said, “Grace doesn’t come early or late ... it is always on time.” So ... pray for the people in your life and ask for His grace for their needs.



# As For Me....



*My dear brothers and sisters,*

We live in a country where freedom to choose what we will be and do is a right. Of course, responsibility and consequence come with freedom. Near the end of his life, Joshua assembled the tribes of Israel to tell them they were free to make one of two choices:

Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshipped beyond the River in Egypt. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods of your forefathers ... or the gods of the Amorites. **But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.**<sup>1</sup>

David was also free to choose—*For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked....But as for me, it is good to be near God.*<sup>2</sup>

Paul chose to serve God, suffer for Christ, and fight for the Gospel—**As for me**<sup>3</sup> *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.* The consequence is awesome—*Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.*<sup>4</sup>

The drama of the Caesarea-Philippi experience goes like this:

Jesus to the Twelve: *Who do people say I am?*  
The Twelve: *Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, others Jeremiah....*  
Jesus: *What about you? Who do you say I am?*  
Peter: ***[As for me] you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.***<sup>5</sup>

The following drama about Peter's boast may tell something about ourselves.

Peter: ***[As for me], even if I have to die with you I will never disown you.***  
(Later) A servant girl in the courtyard: Looking closely at Peter warming himself at the fire, said, *You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus.*  
Peter: *I don't know or understand what you're talking about.*  
The servant girl seeing him again: *This fellow is one of them.*  
Peter: Again he denied it.  
(Later) One standing near Peter: Surely you are one of them, you're Galilean.  
Peter: Calling curses on himself: *I don't know this man you're talking about.* The cock crowed; Peter broke down and wept. **6**



Peter recovered from his devastating implosion and is reinstated by Jesus.

Jesus: *Simon, son of John, do you truly love me more than these?*

Peter: *Yes, Lord, you know that [as for me] I love you.*

Jesus: *Take care of my sheep....Come and follow me.*

Peter: *Lord,[as for John], what about him.*

Jesus: *What is that to you? You must follow me."*

Peter followed.<sup>7</sup>

On the Day of Pentecost, the words of Jesus still ringing in his ears, having been forever pardoned and now filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice to the crowd, *[As for me], fellow Jews, you, with the help of wicked men, put Jesus to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him!*<sup>8</sup> Because only a few days earlier the crowd demanded that Pilot crucify Jesus, Peter, by choice! put himself at great risk for the same kind of death.

Most of this letter is biblical record of the power humans have to make choices. And each choice is a life-defining "tipping point." This right of choice started with Adam and Eve when God gave them the freedom to "Choose whom you will serve." It's easy for most, if not all, of us to identify with Peter's three-stages of vacillation regarding Jesus: (1) denied he was Jesus' disciple, (2) suffered remorse for his denial, (3) received forgiveness, reinstatement and the filling of the Holy Spirit. Regarding our call to care for Jesus sheep, we make most, if not all our choices in stage 3—(a) choosing how long to be a lay pastor and how closely we will follow Jesus in our ministry; (b) choosing to love Jesus all the way and serve him whole heartedly, rather than love him halfway and serve him halfheartedly.

The same Holy Spirit who orchestrated Peter's life after Pentecost will empower us to "live Jesus' story." **As for me** (Mel) I believe I've reached the stage in my Christian life where I'm motivated a good share of the time by Jesus' challenging principle—*Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.*<sup>9</sup> I'm finding more and more that the height of my personal satisfaction, the level of my fullness of joy, and the measure of success in ministry is determined by the ratio of *save to lose*. **As for you**...how are you finding it?

**As for me**, I'm with Joshua,

Mel Steinbron,  
Founder, LPMI

- |                                    |                      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Joshua 24: 14-15                | 6. Mark 14:31, 66-72 |
| 2. Psalm 73:3,28                   | 7. John 21:15-19     |
| 3. Brackets indicate implied words | 8. Act 2:14-24       |
| 4. II Timothy 4:7-8                | 9. Matthew 16:25     |
| 5. Matthew 16:13-16                |                      |



## 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. Our purpose is to come along side of local church congregations and offer tools and resources for equipping laity in pastoral care 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**

Send to LPMI, P O 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.**

God has raised up Lay Pastors Ministry, Inc. to carry on the following mission:

**Lay Pastors Ministry, Inc. (LPMI) serves churches by partnering with them in mobilizing and equipping laypeople to provide competent, consistent and loving care for their members.**

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!

Event: **International Conference 2012**

Where: **King Street Church  
Chambersburg, PA**

When: **April 20, 21, 2012**

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

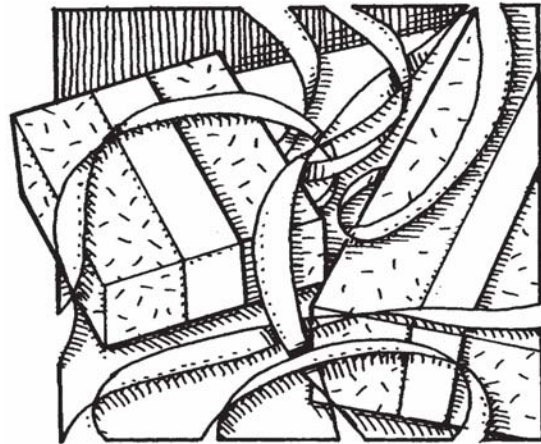
The theme of the Conference is:

#### *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 meet 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."



### Little Gifts that Pack a Punch

All of us experience highs and lows in our lives. We often have long stretches when we are not faced with any challenges. So, not every contact with your Flock Families will be times of deeper caring. Even in the good times, it is important to keep in touch and during those times little gifts can pack a punch. A small gift that shows you are thinking of them and you remember their likes is more than just a gift. It carries a message that says 'I care and you are important to me'.

With school starting and the holidays just around the corner, fill a brightly colored gift bag with your Flock Family's favorite thing, i.e. cookies, craft, book, snack. For fall a dark green or orange bag is great. Tie 9-12 strips of curing ribbon in fall colors—green, red, orange and yellow, to the handle. Attach a small card with scripture or the following prayer.

Thank you for the blessings  
That you give to us each day:  
For friends and family we hold dear,  
For all you send our way.  
We ask that you would guide us well,  
In everything we do.  
And pray we never will forget  
These blessings come from you.  
Amen.

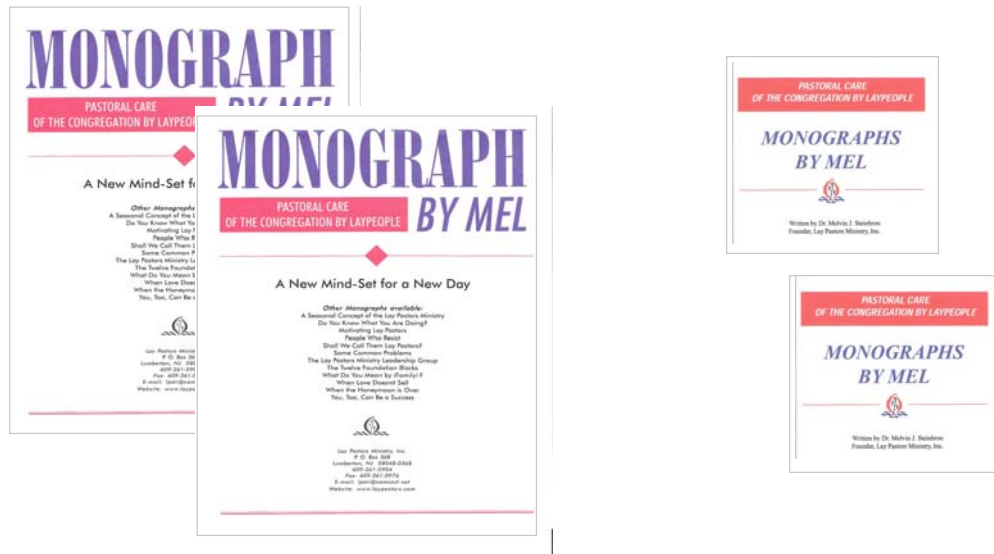
Have fun making 'little gifts that pack a punch', and remember every touch from you is a touch from Jesus!

Note: September 25<sup>th</sup> is Good Neighbor Day – find some way to be a good neighbor to your Flock Families.

Kathy Stine  
Shepherd Ministry Coordinator  
King Street Church, Chambersburg, PA



# RESOURCES



**MM-CD All 13 Monographs on one CD ..... \$30.00**

**MM-01 Individual Hard Copies - each .....\$3.00**

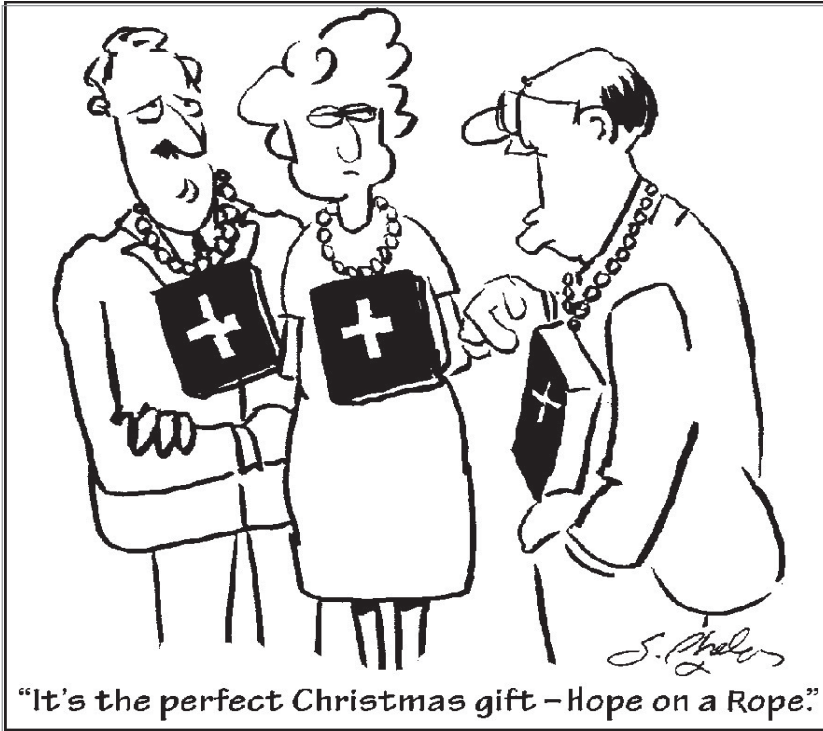
A New Mind-Set for a New Day  
A Seasonal Concept of the Lay Pastors Ministry  
Do You Know What You're Doing?  
Motivating Lay Pastors  
People Who Resist  
Shall We Call Them Lay Pastors?  
Some Common Problems  
The Lay Pastors Ministry Leadership Group  
The Twelve Foundation Blocks  
What Do You Mean by "Family"?  
When Love Doesn't Sell  
When the Honeymoon is Over  
You, Too, Can Be a Success



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**NOTE**

**Our Fax number, 609-261-0976, is no longer available.**



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