

LIMM LINK

Linking Health Professionals with Mission Needs



LIMM Assists Rev. Ralph Buchhorn in Hurricane Disaster Relief

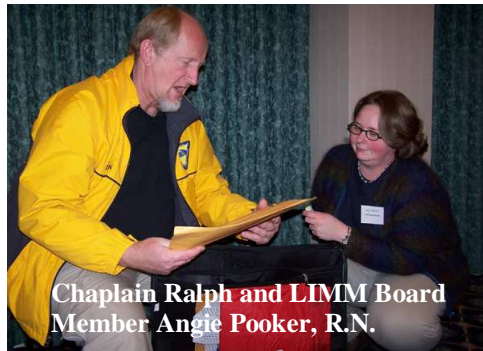
Five years ago Chaplain Ralph Buchhorn resigned as a congregational pastor and initiated "Extra Mile Ministries" for law enforcement personnel. One of his first assignments was to minister at the Pentagon following 9/11. While offering comfort to the military and families there, he witnessed the remarkable compassion and unassuming love that companion dogs provide in crisis situations.

Buchhorn was convinced – he had to have a dog as his partner in his crisis relief efforts. Since then Chaplain Ralph has had two Golden Retrievers as his "mission assistants," the latest is "K-9 Chaplain Georgie." "What a wonderful boost to our ministry," said Buchhorn. "Because of a dog's powerful ability to open hearts in the worst situations, a pat on Georgie's head begins the rebuilding cycle faster than the words of another human. Thanks to Georgie, I get to share the consolation of God's love."

LIMM's recent donation of \$5000 to Extra Mile Ministries allowed Chap-

lain Ralph to return to the Gulf Coast with Georgie, staff and supplies including 1,000 copies of When Your Whole World Changes - a Christian booklet given to victims of tragedies. It produced such good results that Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Biloxi, MS is acquiring 5,000 more copies.

Chaplain Ralph also serves disaster responders who face "compassion fatigue." Go to www.faceofcrisis.org for more information on Buchhorn's and Georgie's ministry. *EDITOR'S NOTE: Katrina victims still need doctors, nurses, counselors and psychiatrists. Dr. Carli Zygowicz, LIMM Board Member, served as a volunteer at Good Shepherd Church for a week this March.*



Chaplain Ralph and LIMM Board Member Angie Pooker, R.N.



Georgie taking a rest at the LIMM Needs & Resources Forum.

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COMING EVENTS

- Needs and Resources Forum in St. Louis— March 30 & 31, 2007 (mark your calendars)
- Global Missions Conference in Louisville, KY—Nov. 9—11, 2006

- Please consider LIMM in your estate planning.
- Donations can now be made online at: www.limm.org
- For Mission Opportunities visit: www.limm.org

LCMS Leadership Encourages a “Passion for Mission”

Key leaders from The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod offered their perspective on world mission opportunities at the 2006 Limm Needs and Resources Forum. Addressing the participants were, **Rev. Robert Roegner**, Executive Director, LCMS World Mission, **Rev. Matthew Harrison**, Executive Director World Relief and Human Care, and **Kurt Buchholz**, Director of Mission Personnel, World Mission. **Rev. Dave Birner**, Associate Executive Director of International Ministries LCMS World Mission, also spoke at the Forum.

Roegner reported on the *Ablaze!* movement, and challenged Limm to use the healing power of God’s grace to share the Gospel to the unchurched and uncommitted during short-term medical mission trips.

At the 2005 Forum, Buchholz referred to *Ablaze!* as a

“Coalition of the Willing.” He amended that statement proclaiming, “Today, we need a ‘Coalition of the Passionate,’ people who are driven by passion to meet needs and not stop after a two week stint. We want to partner with Limm in this coalition.”

Birner elaborated, “Can Limm partner with us to identify highly-competent professionals who also have high compassion levels and are willing to address needs together? If so, we will be expanding the ability of the Church to be a witness wherever we are.”

Buchholz noted that World Mission has services to help individual volunteers or congregational teams on short-term assignments. These include medical evacuation insurance plans at cost, and assistance with obtaining appro-

priate visas.

Harrison told the Forum attendees that World Relief and Human Care has been, “smothered by blessings... new opportunities, new partnerships; new volunteers and their many capabilities.” Harrison spoke of Christ’s compassion—the compassion that touches people where they are and doesn’t take into account how they became needy and ill.

Harrison reported that World Relief in cooperation with LCMS World Mission plans to launch short-term medical teams for service opportunities overseas. “We need better contact with the medical community,” Harrison said, “and want to partner with organizations like Limm to meet our goals.”

Limm Presents LCMS World Mission With a Gift of \$2500

LCMS World Mission will use Limm’s gift of \$2500 to send one of its missionaries, Rita Nickel, currently serving in Bishkek, Krygyzstan, to the West African country of Guinea. While there for the month of March, Nickel will develop a Health Educator Network in Lutheran congregations.

“The women will use the knowledge they have acquired to change their lives and the lives of their families. They will share with others in their neighborhoods, churches, and communities and build relationships which lead to sharing the Gospel.

These women become Community Health Evangelists,” states Nickel.



Rita Nickel in Bishkek, Krygyzstan with a sick child

A Congregational Model for Medical Missions

Kathy Foster, R.N. and Tom Reinsel, M.D. of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Des Peres, MO described the bi-annual mission trips to Mexico in partnership with the Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso



Texas. Foster's goal is to have a health group go to Mexico every month instead of just twice a year. Reinsel spoke of his ability to reach out spiritually to patients he saw in Mexico. Team members Carole Baker, R.N., Vicki Ernst, R.N., Debbie Esker, R. N., and Gary and Barb

Girshner also attended the Forum. Gary Girshner, a non-medical person, is credited with the vision for the Ysleta mission team.



A Congregational and Mission Society Model

Carla Hagan, R.N. a parish nurse serving at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO met Rev. Chuck Webb, M.D. of Traverse, MI when they both served on a 24-person short-term medical mission team from Trinity Lutheran-Richmond, VA . The Trinity

Richmond team has a long record of serving at various sites in Guatemala at the request of the Lutheran Church of Guatemala and in association with CALMS— CENTRAL AMERICA LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY. Hagan expressed a desire to return to Guatemala

and become more involved in learning the culture of the people in the village. Webb, who acted as Chaplain of the 2006 LIMM Forum, will return to Guatemala with his wife Pat in August, 2006 with a Servant's Heart team.

Anita Scribner M.D. Describes Medical Mission Work

Refuge International, a non-profit organization in East Texas, was formed by entrepreneurial faith-based health care professionals, including Dr. Anita (as she is fondly called) a member of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Longview, TX. Health teams travel to Guatemala every 2-3 months to do frontier mission work . After 7 years, the hospital served in San Ramundo is self-sufficient.

A new hospital is now being built in Sarstun on the Belize/Guatemala border. The community has donated the land for the hospital that will serve 15,000 people and will provide medical services that are currently only available 2 ½ hours away by boat. RI also owns two sets of well-digging equipment, and volunteers dig wells in the communities served.

Dr. Anita, an AIDS Specialist, will go to Kenya in

July to assess the possibilities of duplicating the Guatemala experience there. See [www. Refugeinternational.com](http://www.Refugeinternational.com) for more information.





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Note from Bobbie

This year's Forum brought medical professionals together to discuss, dialog, and share their passion for medical missions. It uplifted, encouraged and spurred us on to dream of serving more effectively, strategically, and intentionally as we become *Ablaze!* with the Good News of Jesus Christ. We are pleased to announce that the Needs and Resources Forum will be held again in St. Louis at the Crowne Plaza Hotel March 30 & 31, 2007. This event will be held annually the weekend before Palm Sunday each year. I hope

that many more of you will attend and share your experiences as medical volunteers and congregational teams. It is my dream that the Forum will be the avenue, the place and the time for us to grow together in service in partnership with LCMS *Ablaze!*

*Bobbie
Latenschlager*



**There will be a meeting
of the members, and of
the Board of Directors,
of LIMM**

April 22, 2006
12 noon to 3:00 p.m.
Timothy Lutheran Church
6704 Fyler Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63139
314-781-8673

For more details, check
out our website:
limm.org