

CONTACT: Bobbie Lautenschlager 314-503-4317, limm@limm.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Lutherans in Medical Missions to Partner with Restoration Education
(RE)institute for Disaster Preparedness Workshop
for Medical Professionals in Gulf Coast Districts of LCMS**

John Nunes to be Keynote Speaker for June 14, 2008 event in New Orleans

ST. LOUIS, February 22, 2008– The international mission group Lutherans in Medical Missions (LIMM) announced today a workshop for Lutheran medical professionals of the Florida-Georgia, Southern and Texas LCMS Districts to learn steps needed to be prepared to serve in future Gulf Coast disasters.

The one-day workshop will be held June 14, 2008 at Camp Restore in New Orleans and will be co-sponsored by Restoration Education (RE)institute. The event will begin with an opening worship service with Rev. John Nunes, President and CEO of Lutheran World Relief, sharing the message. He will also deliver the keynote address after the evening dinner. Author and trauma recovery counselor Rick Armstrong, PhD, associate director of Lutheran Counseling Services, Orlando, FL, will lead the Bible Study; DCO Kurtis Smith, director of REinstitute, will share practical aspects of becoming a response team; and Chaplain Ralph Buchhorn, executive director of Extra Mile Ministries, will provide principles of crisis response.

“We hope to stimulate medical professionals to be prepared to respond to Coastal Disasters with practical ideas like holding licensure in adjoining states, taking NIMS (National Incident Management System) courses on line, and maintaining an active database that can be used to mobilize responders—both in the Gulf States as well as in Caribbean and Latin American countries,” reports LIMM Executive Director, Bobbie Lautenschlager, RN.

“We believe in a holistic response to disasters”, said Smith. “REinstitute’s partnership with L IMM provides an excellent opportunity to equip Lutheran medical professionals with the skills and knowledge needed to provide both physical and spiritual healing when disaster strikes.”

Registration for the one-day event is \$50 and includes both lunch and dinner. For a complete schedule and to register, please go to www.limm.org or www.reinstitute.org or call Bobbie Lautenschlager at 314-503-4317 or Kurtis Smith at 985-774-1997.

Lutherans in Medical Missions (L IMM) was founded in the mid-1990s when a small group of people saw a need to emphasize medical care as part of Lutheran Mission Outreach. REinstitute is a Southern District Recovery Assistance Ministry that actively prepares and involves people for building faith, home and community after disasters.

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