

Lutheran
 Building
Men in
 Men for
Mission
 Christ

foundations

Dateline: August 15, 1999

Wish You Were Here...

Dear Bob...

Wow, what an experience this has been! Men really did come to the Gathering from Alaska to the Caribbean. They came by plane, by train, by bus and car... and bicycle. Sons and fathers came with their friends.

Dakota Road got it started Friday evening. You haven't heard singing until you've heard 1,000 men singing *Lift High the Cross!* Walt Wangerin and his sons held us spellbound as their words touched the very core of our yearnings for strong relationships with God and our own sons and fathers. When they finished, a hush fell on the crowd. The hush was broken when the 100 voice men's choir sang *Rise Up Oh Men of God.*

Meanwhile, **Tony Melendez** was taking his place on the stage. What an amazing man. Born without arms, he plays the guitar with his feet! We were blown away by the joy of his music and the skill of his musicianship. He used popular and contemporary Christian music to share with us how God's story has intersected with his story.

After the concert, we headed down to the big tent for the ice cream social. We were tired from a day's traveling, but we were really excited about what we had experienced that evening.

The Moos Band performed (a super bluegrass gospel group!). When we weren't clapping to their music, we laughed so hard at their humor that we hurt.

Saturday morning we heard speakers that encouraged and challenged us. **Ken Canfield**, the guy who wrote *The 7 Secrets of Effective Fathers* gave me some great tips in how to deal with my kids. I got tears in my eyes when **Dick Hardel** spoke on *The Power of A Father's Blessing*. I thought of my own Dad and the impact I have on my own children. The morning ended with **Bart Campolo**. My son really enjoyed him. He is every bit as energetic, funny and committed to Christ as his father Tony!

Saturday afternoon began with **Albert Starr** leading us in a stirring Bible study on the relationship between Moses and Joshua. I can sure see why Pastor Starr is a recognized community leader in parenting and mentoring issues.

When it came to the workshops, the other guys from our church attended the one on *How to Get Your Men's Ministry Going and Growing*, and I went to the one on *Small Group Ministry*. **Lyman Coleman** was the leader. He not only talked, but he also put us into small groups. I know now why small groups are the way to go in men's ministry!

There was a second workshop offered, but I was "full" and needed time to think, pray and relax. The Jacuzzi (with a fantastic view of the mountains) was a good place to do that! Before the evening session, the other guys from our church and I found a neat little restaurant in the village.

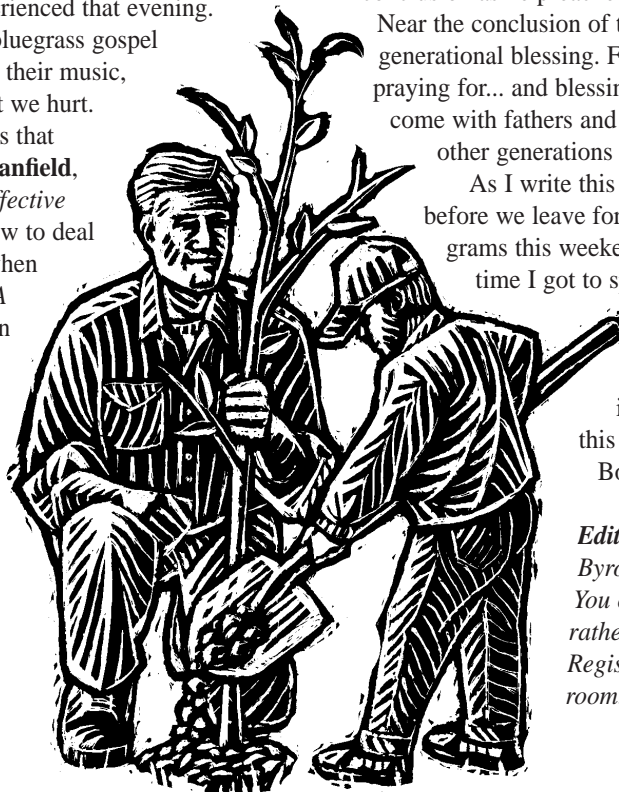
As good as Friday evening and Saturday had been, nothing could have prepared us for what was about to happen Saturday evening. **Richard Jensen**, who used to be the Lutheran Vespers speaker, and **Paul Todd** performed *Phantom of the Opera meets Jesus Christ*. Together, they lifted out the spiritual themes of the play. As the program ended, I think every man there sensed a renewed relationship with Christ. I know I did. Paul Todd continued with a special concert. Eight standing ovations!

We didn't know how we were going to make the transition to go home. But **Rollie Martinson's** session on Sunday morning was devoted to helping us share what we had received throughout the weekend. **Walt Wangerin** was as inspirational at the conclusion as he preached as he had been at the beginning. Near the conclusion of the service he led us in an inter-generational blessing. Fathers, sons and grandfathers praying for... and blessing each other. Those who didn't come with fathers and sons were blessed by the those of other generations sitting around them.

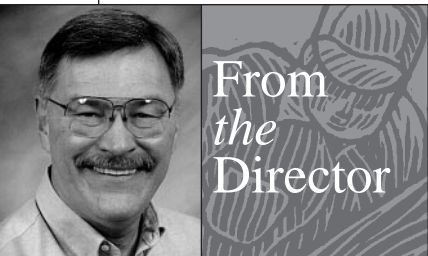
As I write this I am waiting for the other guys before we leave for home. With all of the great programs this weekend, the best part has been the time I got to spend with my dad, my son and the other guys from our church. We talked and prayed into the night. Tired as I am, it is quite possible the best part of this trip is still ahead of me...

Bob.... wish you were here!

Editor's note: Bob... and Larry, Gene, Byron and all "you guys" out there. You can be the one writing this letter rather than the one receiving it! Register today while there is still room!



More Questions Than Answers...



The seventh grade boy growled, "I am bringing a bunch of guns to school on Thursday, and I'm going to kill some people." He pointed at one of his female classmates and scowled, "And I am going to start with you."

My wife is a guidance counselor at a small rural school in northern Illinois. The seventh grader is one of her students. This was one of the thousands of incidents that was repeated after the tragedy in Littleton, Colorado. As I was driving home from the office that day, the news of the violence in Littleton sent a shot through

me. Once again the perpetrators were males. I immediately wondered what needs to happen with men so that this does not happen? What do we need to be doing so that seeds of love and grace and compassion instead of the destructive poison of anger and violence are sown in boy's hearts? This is not just in Littleton or Jonesboro, this is in your town/city and mine.

What happened in Littleton leaves far more questions than answers. But according to a growing number of specialists, one determining factor in whether a boy grows up to be violent or not is if he has had the opportunity to bond with his father from the very beginning of his life. Much has been said about outside cultural concerns in regard to the violence that has erupted in our society. Very little has been said about relationship concerns.

Last year we published *Building Bridges: Men Dealing Constructively with Anger*. It is the best biblically based material dealing with anger of which I am aware. I affirm the men in those congregations that are using this and other materials- and providing avenues for men of all ages to deal with this critical issue.

Ironically, this summer we will be meeting just a short distance from Littleton. Our three-fold focus is to build faith, relationships and ministry. Our emphasis will be on how we men

can build strong, healthy relationships especially with our sons, our fathers and others.

The response to the Lutheran Men's Gathering has been outstanding. If we closed registration today (I am writing this on May 12), we would have a record attendance of men from a broader age, cultural and geographical range that we have ever had. What will happen August 13-15 is this: the clear message of the love of Jesus Christ will be proclaimed. As a result, fathers, sons and grandfathers will discover a deeper relationship with God and each other. And our families, congregations, communities and schools will benefit.

Doug Haugen, Director, Lutheran Men in Mission

Let's Build it at Breckenridge!

A special **thank offering** to take the next bold steps to build Master Builders/Lutheran Men in Mission will be received August 14 at the Lutheran Men's Gathering. With this offering, we hope to take the next dramatic steps to **becoming a self-sustaining ministry** that will assist every congregation in the ELCA in Building Men for Christ.

If you are not able to join us, please mail this form to us and we will make sure that it becomes a part of the offering.

If you are able to join us, please bring this form and your gift/commitment with you.

Current contribution to Lutheran Men in Mission: \$ _____ .

By God's grace, I intend to contribute \$ _____ by Dec, 31, 1999.

Name _____

Address: _____

City/ State/ Zip: _____

Day Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____

E- Mail: _____

Method of Payment:

Check payable to Lutheran Men in Mission

MasterCard Visa Expiration Date: _____

Card No.: _____

Amount to be charged: \$ _____

Name (as it appears on card): _____

Billing Address: _____

City/ State/ Zip: _____

Signature: _____

Send to: Lutheran Men in Mission
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631

Lutheran Men in Mission

foundations

is published bi-monthly and sent to all who contribute to the ministry of Lutheran Men in Mission. Your contribution will ensure that *foundations* will continue to come to you every two months. It is our desire that *foundations* will be a source of personal spiritual growth, as well as a source of information for those involved in congregational men's ministries.

Please drop us a line and let us know stories of men's ministry we could use and/or issues you would like to see featured.

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1999 Lutheran Men's Gathering

August 13 (7 pm) through
August 15 (noon), 1999

Beaver Run Resort
Breckenridge, Colorado

Building Legacy

**The issue of positive
Christian role models is
one of the most critical
facing our society today.**

We are calling men from ages 12 to 92 to come from the plains, hills, and seashore to gather in a quiet place in the mountains. When Jesus sought inspiration and direction, he gathered with his friends to seek his Father in the mountains. We are calling grandfathers, fathers, and sons to discover a fresh relationship with God and with other men who are on the same journey.

**Together we will explore
what it means to build
a legacy of faith and
life that will make a
difference in our
families today, and for
generations to come.**

For this reason, we are encouraging men to register in groups of three. If you don't bring your own grandfather or son, bring someone from your church or community!

For more information:
Call Lutheran Men in
Mission at:
1-800-638-3522, ext 2566

Airfare Information
Check out these travel
specials to Colorado!
These are the regular,
published fares for Vanguard
Airlines (800) 826-4827.
Round trip fares to Denver
as low as:

Cincinnati	\$242
Dallas	\$158
Kansas City	\$158
Minneapolis	\$158
Myrtle Beach	\$242
Pittsburgh	\$239
Atlanta	\$215
Chicago (Midway)	\$158

Car Rental
We have negotiated a special
price with Avis. Weekend
rates at the Denver and
Colorado Springs airports as
low as \$19.99/day. Call Avis
at (800) 331-1600 and ask for
group number B456699.

Special Bus
Les Robbins is organizing a
bus trip from Omaha to
Breckenridge, picking up
Gathering attendees along
the way.
Call Les at (402) 333-7058
for information.

Registration Form

1999 Lutheran Men's Gathering in Breckenridge, Colorado
Make additional copies of this registration form for other men in your church!

Registration Fee:
1 Man \$150
2 Men \$125 each
3 or more Men \$100 each
(To qualify for these discounts, all men must register at the same time.)

First Man: _____
Preferred name on nametag: _____
Address: _____
City/ State/ Zip: _____
Day Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____
E- Mail: _____
T-shirt size: M L XL XXL Male Chorus: Yes No

Second Man: _____
Preferred name on nametag: _____
Address: _____
City/ State/ Zip: _____
Day Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____
E- Mail: _____
T-shirt size: M L XL XXL Male Chorus: Yes No

Third Man: _____
Preferred name on nametag: _____
Address: _____
City/ State/ Zip: _____
Day Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____
E- Mail: _____
T-shirt size: M L XL XXL Male Chorus: Yes No

Method of Payment:
 Check payable to Lutheran Men in Mission
 MasterCard Visa Expiration Date: _____
Card No.: _____
Amount to be charged: \$ _____
Name (as it appears on card): _____
Billing Address: _____
City/ State/ Zip: _____
Signature: _____

Mail Registration Form to:
Registrar, LMM Gathering
P.O. Box 4205
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

Hotel Accommodations:
For information about accommodations and reservations,
please contact Beaver Run Resort at 1-800-525-2253.

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Register for the Lutheran Men's Gathering!

What legacy will we leave?

"... By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a master builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds."

- 1 Corinthians 3:10

Tom Brokaw, in his best selling book, *The Greatest Generation*, states "we never stop being the children of our parents — and everything they taught us". Our extended family and the community we live in also have a profound effect on our lives.

When I was a boy, my father rented a small house on a 36 acre estate which was surrounded by the town. The big house was occupied

by two bachelor brothers and their single sister. I could rely on the eldest brother, Mr. Henry, being on the front porch of the big house when I walked by after school or church. I often stopped to visit with him. It did not occur to me until recently, when men began asking how I got interested in woodworking, that Mr. Henry left a legacy for me.

An accomplished woodworker, he would cut limbs from trees on the estate, cure the wood and make violins. As we sat on the porch, he would assign me the task of sanding parts of the violin currently being made. Subtly (I realize now) he would ask about school, football games,

and even about what I had learned in Sunday school. Advice would follow.

My mother died after a long illness when I was three years old. At that time, health insurance was non-existent and my Dad worked long hours in order to support the family and pay the medical bills. Mr. Henry was my counselor and problem solver, and he instilled a love of wood and what can be made from it when I was at an impressionable age.

In previous years, the program of Master Builders has emphasized building faith and relationships. This year, we have pointed toward the concept of building legacy.

Just as Mr. Henry left me with a love of woodworking, it is my hope that I, too, have left my son with that same love. More importantly, it is my prayer that through the sharing of crosses, made in my workshop, with men



across the church, I have instilled in him a desire to serve the Lord through his skills.

I hope you can join us in Breckenridge. Grandfathers, fathers, sons, uncles, friends — come and share your legacy with other men as you hear outstanding speakers, participate in thought-provoking workshops, and experience soul-enlivening music! If you can't join us in body, I would ask that you join us in prayer.

Mr. Henry left a legacy for me. What legacy will each of us leave?

Charles R. "Charlie" Schwartz, President, Lutheran Men in Mission

Public Notice: Lutheran Men in Mission will meet in Assembly from 7 PM Thursday, August 12 until 5 PM Friday, August 13, 1999, to pass budgets, elect officers and conduct the business of the organization.