

United Methodist Men

Chairperson/Leader: Ken Hudgins
Information Only



We are celebrating 100 years of Men's Ministry this year in 2008!

In 2007/2008, God has been doing many special things with Men's Ministry. Last year I reported on the training we received for Men's Ministry Specialist or (MMS) with Man in the Mirror, a course that brought about the book "No Man Left Behind". "Spiritual Fathers" a book taught by the author, Dan Shaffer of Building Brothers was our next course. After that, Monte Strothers called me from "Letter's From Dad" and I had a wonderful family changing experience on our 38th wedding anniversary which was on Thanksgiving Day that year. A model has come out of all these experiences. God is in charge as we know and I'm sure he had a hand in a model that came out of these experiences. "Kingdom Building through Men's Ministry" is the model I'm sharing. Included in your Annual Conference packet will be a resource list that is everything a man would need to put this "Kingdom Building to the Glory of God" into action.

When I shared this to Rev. Michelle Cobb, the District Superintendent for the Calumet District, she said I must teach this in Lay School this year. This was an answer to a prayer five years ago to bring Certified Advanced Men's Ministry course into a Lay School setting. With God's help I crafted the lesson plan for the participants and a leader's lesson plan. We completed this on May 9th of this year and what a blessing it was for all involved. Our prayer is for much fruit.

At the NACP or National Association of Conference Presidents meeting for UMMen in Nashville, TN, God gave me two opportunities to share this model and what he is doing with it that could have national and international implications. It's in God's hands. It was also announced that I will be a Certified MMS this July 1st. What a God we serve. These lesson plans for Lay School were also shared and an effort is being made for "No Man Left Behind" to be a nationally certified advanced lay speaking course. Praise God!

We must remember all men, as well as the young men within the walls of our churches, are UMMen. All pastors are included, male and female. Also, UMMen is open to all men of any denomination who may not have a Men's Organization, as well as and especially for those men from outside the walls of our churches or the unchurched. This includes the husbands of those women who don't come with their wives when they attend church. A good book I'm currently reading is "Why Men Don't Come To Church". Pastor Terry Rhine, our Senior Pastor at the Chesterton 1st UMC, once said in a message that the church was a hospital for sinners. I'll never forget that comment which struck a cord with me. Anything we do, or don't do, for the men and young men in our churches is, or is not, Men's Ministry. And yes, men who join us from outside our church can serve in leadership roles. As such, anything our men and young men do through SOSA, Civic Youth Ministries (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire, 4H and Big Brothers, Big Sisters), Missions, Ushering, Sunday School Teachers, serving in Emmaus, etc. is Men's Ministry. Let's recognize that, and thank and appreciate our men and young men (youth) for all they do. I thank God right now for all He is doing and all He is going to do. We are so blessed.

Locally for the North Indiana Conference, the following has been happening: The **Society of Saint Andrew**, with Dave McCleary's leadership, has gleaned several fields, picked up several loads of food from grocers, Marsh Foods mainly, and unloaded several semi loads of potatoes. Meals for

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1 Millions donations for 2007 were \$13,306.34. For the fourth straight year we were in the top 10
2 Conferences for Meals for Millions donations. We were in 8th place in 2004, 6th place in 2005, and
3 5th place in 2006 and 2007. From our local fields here in North Indiana, 93,235 pounds of food
4 were gleaned. There were 23 gleaning events involving 23 farmers, 311 volunteers, and 238 food
5 agencies who benefited from these gleans. Here is a chart showing how it was distributed across
6 the state. This chart included the potato drops that took place (35,000 to 40,000 lbs. ea.).

Distribution of Pounds for North Indiana		
Agency Type	Pounds	Percentage
Pantries	138,085	45%
Food Banks	84,694	28%
Individuals and Families	57,435	19%
Soup Kitchens	10,695	4%
Churches	9,020	3%
Group Homes	4,500	1%
Jails	-0-	0%
TOTALS	304,429	100%

7 I also know personally that many agencies such as shelters for women and children, homeless
8 shelters, abuse shelters have benefited from these food distributions. It's not just potatoes either.
9 Potatoes, ice cream, turnips, tomatoes, green beans, pumpkins, strawberries, pickles, canned goods,
10 mustard and mixed foods were gleaned and distributed. There is so much more opportunity here if
11 can we just get involved with the opportunities around us. Know this, the numbers of hungry are not
12 shrinking, rather they are growing. There is no reason for anyone to go hungry in this country but
13 sadly it happens. Too often it is the children who suffer. We have much to do.
14

15 **Civic Youth Ministries:** So much wonderful work has been done here. The BSA or Boy Scouts of
16 America have been involved in gleans and potato drops as well as food drops. Also a scout troop
17 went to Jamaica on a mission trip. There are new Eagle Scouts, several God and Country awards, a
18 March food drive, campouts, Jamboree's were attended and some made the trip to Philmont Scout
19 Ranch near Cimarron, NM. I can't announce who it is yet, but we have a Torch Award to give out
20 again this year. It's a secret.....Can't tell! This will be presented at our UMMen's Celebration
21 Breakfast.
22

23 **Missions:** There were many men who were involved in mission trips, flood relief, repaired or built
24 homes; some even went to Alaska to help. We have men serving in various ways, in prayer
25 ministry, cooking food in our churches, feeding children, working with Emmaus, visiting our
26 prisons for ministry and even going overseas to serve in the mission fields around the world. This is
27 in our hearts and we will keep serving both abroad and locally where the needs exist.
28

29 **District News: Huntington** District had a mission trip to the McCurdy Mission in New Mexico.
30 In Andrews, IN, they built a new ball diamond working with the Lion's Club and the community to
31 raise the \$250,000 to make this happen. They are also starting up new Men's groups. In the
32 **Kokomo** District, McGrawsville UMC had a Man in the Mirror event open to the conference,
33 "Success that Matters". It was well attended and was an excellent event. They followed it up with
34 six weeks of small groups meeting on the same topic. They also raised \$1,700.00 for the Kokomo
35 Urban Outreach, had a big plane pull, a Boeing 727 fundraiser raising \$1,700.00 for the Special
36 Olympics. The District had a potato drop, gleans, and gave a \$2,500.00 contribution to SOSA. The
37 men of Kokomo Main Street UMC, McGrawsville and other surrounding churches partner with
38 Rev. Jeff Newton at the Kokomo Urban Outreach to feed the hungry and serve. The **Muncie**
39 District had six Lenten UMMen Breakfast and also had a successful Fall Meeting. **Michiana** had

1 the Scout Troop go to Jamaica. **Calumet** District had the first ever Men's Ministry Lay School
2 titled "No Man Left Behind".
3

4 **Tenth National Gathering:** Nearly 5,000 men are expected for the July 9-12, 2009, conference at
5 Belmont University's Curb Event Center, a 90,000-square-foot sports and entertainment complex.
6 Belmont University is "excited to welcome UM Men to the Belmont campus," said Bob Fisher,
7 university president. Quite possibly Coach Tony Dungy of the Indianapolis Colts and author of
8 Quiet Strength might be the Keynote Speaker for this event. They are trying to set this up now.
9 Nothing final yet, still in the communication process. You will need to SIGN UP EARLY as
10 limited housing is available at the University. This will be the least expensive way to go but only so
11 many air conditioned (they all are) rooms are available. After those rooms were taken, you will
12 have to get rooms at a hotel/motel and quite possibly commute to the event. There will be plenty of
13 parking.
14

15 **The Upper Room:** Their toll free line is (800) 251-2468. The line is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a
16 week. You can also send prayer request to their web site at www.upperroom.org. The NACP
17 UMMen's Foundation was able to pay the entire cost for The Upper Room's Prayer lines. We give
18 thanks to God for this gift. More than 30,000 prayer requests are received each month which are
19 sent to prayer groups across the country and lifted up over a six-week period. You may participate
20 in a covenant prayer group or you may operate a remote prayer line at an event or in your church.
21 Training is available which must happen first if you have never been trained. For information,
22 contact: Migdiel E. Perez, manager of The Upper Room Living Prayer Center, (877)899-2780 ext.
23 7215. To make a tax exempt donation, send a check to the United Methodist Men Foundation, P.O.
24 Box 340006, Nashville, TN 37203-0006.
25

26 **Needs:** Prayer, we covet your prayers for a fruitful, Spirit filled Harvest as we move out and begin
27 the training for "Kingdom Building Through Men's Ministry". Funds to operate: We are going to
28 need funds to grow this ministry. District Presidents: Lafayette District now has a UMMen
29 President - Jay Hornick. We need some help in the Michiana and Marion District. We also could
30 use representatives from the GSA, Campfire, 4H and Big Brothers/Big Sisters. We are also in need
31 of a Conference Prayer Advocate, a Missions Chairperson, Event Chairperson, Fundraising
32 Chairperson and a Communication Chairperson who would also work with the NIC to set up a web
33 site. Also, David McCleary would like to train someone to replace him as the NIC SOSA
34 Representative.
35

36 **Future:** We are currently training the District Presidents "No Man Left Behind". This is a great
37 book on how to create, capture and sustain a Men's Ministry. We are also looking forward to how
38 we will move into a state organization. With this "Kingdom Building Through Men's Ministry"
39 model, we feel we can begin to have a real impact in getting our uninvolved men back into the
40 church and getting involved. Also, I believe 40-50% of our efforts will be the unchurched outside
41 of our walls for some real growth. Get the man and we get the family 93% of the time. **Growing**
42 **the Kingdom of God is at the core of what we intend to do.** First, we with God's help and only
43 with his help, plan on engaging men, having heart transformation where needed (God does that),
44 and teach them to become the spiritual leaders within their families, their churches, and their
45 communities. We need men to join the Army of God and get genuinely involved as Christ's
46 Disciples and build his Kingdom. Matthew 28:18-20. Always remember, the only thing we can
47 take to Heaven with us is other people!