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IGNITE is the official publication of LCMS Campus Ministry, a Recognized Service Organization serving The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and dedicated to the campus mission field.

LCMS Campus Ministry equips leaders to make disciples who make disciples on campus.

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Washington Group Shares, Works and Learns in Guatemala

by Ann Summerson

On Friday, March 12, 2010, a team of 24 mission trippers left Pullman, Washington, en route to Puerto Barrios, Guatemala. Our group was comprised of a combination of 19 students from Washington State University and the University of Idaho, and five congregation members.

On our first walking tour of our surroundings, we met Carmen (shown, with group) by the wharf. She had spent 27 years cleaning the same public restroom for \$50 a month in wages. She had cataracts, teeth missing, and no one to care for her. It was our privilege to share God's love with her by giving her enough cash for one month's expenses, a witness bracelet and the Gospel story. We prayed over her and hugged her. It was an extraordinary encounter and opened the eyes of our students to the reality of hardship and deprivation.



The Concordia group poses with Carmen (lower right, in gray dress).

Our team spent the next three and a half days in two places—the Lutheran School and the Lutheran Community Center. By morning, a portion of our team provided VBS for around 350 children, kindergarten through grade 6. We shared songs, Bible stories in

skit form, crafts, snacks, games, hugs, hugs, and more hugs. Guatemalan children love to hug. We learned very quickly to love hugging just as much.

In the afternoons, the VBS team moved to the Lutheran Community Center for round two. This gave us the opportunity to share Jesus with another 100 children who might not have the chance to attend any school or church. It was a raucous, enthusiastic, meaningful endeavor.

Our construction team worked nonstop every day, digging two huge ditches on either side of the sidewalk leading up to the community center, and then adding forms, concrete, boulders, more concrete, blocks and mortar to build a front wall. No easy task at sea level. It was grueling labor, but hugely rewarding.



The construction team works to build a front wall for the Lutheran Community Center.

Each evening after dinner, we pulled our chairs into a circle to share our impressions from the day, sing and pray. An overriding theme of each session was an incredulity at the uncomplicated, open affection that engulfed us each time we encountered Guatemalan people, especially children. No pretense, no judgment, no expectations—just immediate unconditional love and warmth, emphasized by

"Washington group shares..." story continued on page 4.

Comments from the Executive Director

by Jon Jensen

It's an exciting time at LCMS Campus Ministry! In April we received word that the organization had been accorded Recognized Service Organization (RSO) status under The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod's Board for Mission Services (LCMS World Mission). The benefits of RSO status include eligibility to participate in a number of LCMS-affiliated programs and services not available to mission societies.



Executive Director
Jon Jensen

We are continuing to do the work of helping to start and revitalize ministry on campus. To support these efforts, we have also engaged experienced campus leaders to mentor each new start or revitalization.

We have also given a great deal of attention to ways we can add value to the efforts of local campus ministries. Specifically, LCMS Campus Ministry is addressing three key concerns of local campus ministries: (A) participation of greater numbers of students from the LCMS; (B) growth of outreach and participation of non-Lutheran and non-Christian youth; and (C) current and future funding issues.

We are also addressing the following related concerns: training and engagement of student peer ministers, involvement of volunteers with ministry on campus, service opportunities for students/leadership, community building, supporting networks for campus leadership, and enhancements in public relations and communications.

There's been a fantastic response from the campus ministry community, congregations and ministry partners to new and planned initiatives. This past month alone, we have connected over 90 new students to campus ministries across the country. Currently, ten new or existing ministries are receiving coaching or advisory support.

LCMS Campus Ministry offers its services to the church at no cost in nearly all cases (although financial gifts and support to cover expenses are always welcome!). The mission of "making disciples who make disciples on campus" is vital to our church and a significant undertaking as we work together with strategic partners in a demographic of nearly 18 million people.

Blessings to you and your outreach,

Jon

Ministry leaders: help build community on our Leader Forum!



A new feature of LCMS Campus Ministry's website is the **Leader Forum**, lcmscampusministry.net/community. Just complete the online registration (it's free!) and read what others are saying or join a discussion. Or ask a question or open a new topic!

Leader Forum is a new thing, so we're looking especially for participants with an interest in offering creative ideas or insights from experience—who will serve and bless their colleagues through a collegial spirit and constructive interaction. Sometimes it takes only a handful of this kind of folks to ignite a spirit of honest sharing and fuel the growth of community. We're praying for you even now (just check our prayer blog!).

Just plain good news

Doctor in the house

On Wednesday, May 5, the English District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod conferred an honorary doctor of divinity degree on **Rev. Dave Dressel**, pastor of Martin Luther Chapel at Michigan State University and chairman of the LCMS Campus Ministry Board! In addition to serving campus ministry both at the local and national levels, Dave has served the English District in the roles of circuit counselor, vice president, chairman of the district's Board of Directors, and others. Praise God!

New Board members

The LCMS Campus Ministry Board is proud to welcome three new members: Rev. Walt Winters of St. Louis, Rev. Greg Witto of Charleston, Illinois, and DCE Stacey Swan of Omaha. Walt, Greg, and Stacey, we look forward to your leadership and fellowship!

Help get the word out!

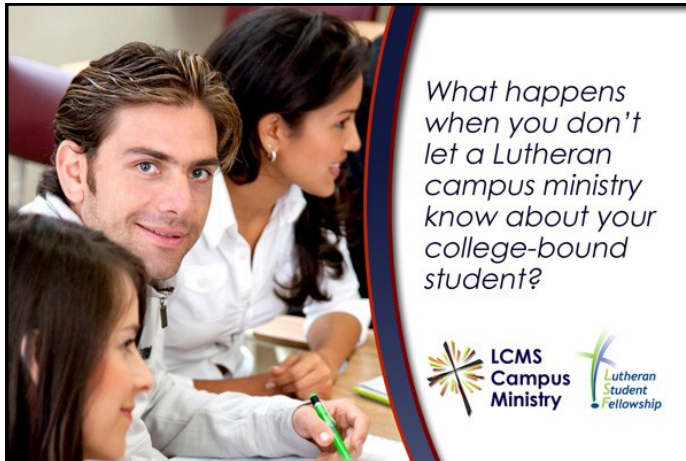
If you got a postcard, be sure to share!

“What happens when you don’t let a Lutheran campus ministry know about your college-bound student?” If you received a postcard with that question on the front recently, you know the most likely answer: “the student will risk disconnection with the church and with Jesus—and assume the church doesn’t care.”

Part of our mission is to change the answer by changing the question: “What happens when you help connect a college-bound student with a Lutheran campus ministry?” Answer: his faith grows; she engages in building up the body of Christ; they reach out to their campus community with the love and power of God.

First we’d like to thank Rev. Jay Winters, Lutheran Student Fellowship’s national pastoral advisor, for the concept behind this postcard.

Second, we want to encourage YOU to do as we have done: print these postcards and send them. Specifically, send them to the home congregation of each of your students—as well as to the congregations in your area (we recommend addressing them to the congregation’s director of youth ministry). Doing this is neither difficult nor costly. You can download a print-quality PDF of the card from our [“Resources for Connecting”](#) page and then have it printed by a great online printing service like [Gotprint.com](#) (that’s what we did). And by the way, Jay Winters’ original concept card is there too, if you prefer his design.

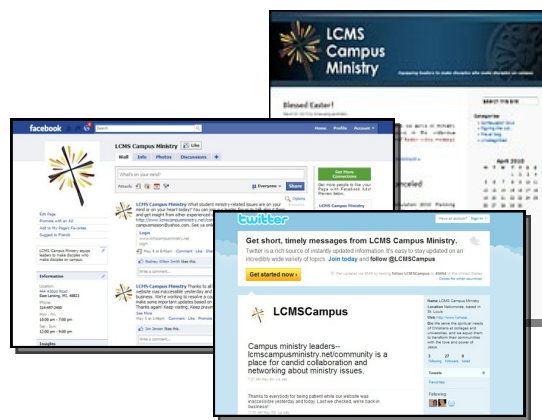


The important thing is to do everything we can together to help connect students with faith communities and campus ministry workers in their college towns! We have heard from a number of pastors, parents, and youth ministry workers already this spring—through our online **StudentConnect** service and through mail, e-mail, and phone contacts. But our estimates are that there are about 25,000 LCMS-member high school seniors preparing for college in the fall—which means there are still more who need to learn about the ministries available to them.

Visit lcmscampusministry.org today and find out more about (1) how to use this postcard to help get students connected with campus ministries and (2) **StudentConnect** and all the other resources available from LCMS Campus Ministry.

Join the buzz

If you’re in the blogosphere, checking your Facebook feeds, or tweeting on Twitter, well, LCMS Campus Ministry is here to make sure you have at least three more places to plug in. Visit lcmscampusministry.wordpress.com to jump into discussions on a variety of topics related to faith and campus life. Or the next time you logon to Facebook, search “LCMS Campus Ministry” and, if you haven’t already, sign up to “like” us. Or the next time you check what the people you’re following on Twitter are saying in 140 characters or less, take a minute to follow “LCMSCampus.” We’ll be glad you did.



LCMS Campus Ministry's

StudentConnect

helps students connect with LCMS campus ministries and student groups. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Want to learn how **StudentConnect** can help you or your student get connected with an LCMS campus ministry? If you’re reading this on a computer, click the **StudentConnect** box above. If you’re reading this in print, visit <http://www.lcmscampusministry.org/StudentConnect.php>

Coming soon; stay tuned!

It may get progressively quieter around Lutheran student centers and campus churches over the next weeks, but we know that in a lot of cases, that just means that campus workers are already busy planning and preparing for another great year of ministry!

At LCMS Campus Ministry, we want you to know that we are also planning and preparing for some interesting and exciting events for the 2010-2011 academic year. Here are some hints to pique your curiosity:

Video Contest

Who doesn't love a fun and creative amateur video touting your favorite campus ministry? *NOBODY!* We want yours. There will be prizes. More details in the summer issue of *Ignite*; full contest info will show up at the beginning of the fall semester.

Peer Ministry Gathering

Look in the summer issue of *Ignite* for coming information about the **Peer Ministry Gathering** in St. Louis the weekend of September 25!

Great support opportunity—and exercise, too!

Run, walk, or bike this fall to support both your local campus ministry and your national LCMS Campus Ministry...and more! Keep an eye out for details in the summer issue of *Ignite* and other communications!

ProjectX

This is not a real name, but it is a real event we are praying hard about. Here's what we're pretty sure of: it will involve putting students' living faith into real action over several days' time during the first week of January 2011; it will take place in Texas; it will help others in Jesus' name; it will build up the body of Christ. Want to know more? (Yes, you do.) Don't miss the summer issue of *Ignite*.

For those of you who will be away from your college town when the summer *Ignite* comes out, check out the LCMS Campus Ministry Facebook Page (by the way, sign up to show you "like" our page—i.e., become a fan—while you're there!) or follow LCMSCampus on Twitter; when the summer *Ignite* is out, we'll post a link in each place.

Washington group shares... *(Cont. from page 1)*

demonstrated affection. It was a stark contrast to the American way of remaining guarded and wary and aloof. We found the Guatemalan approach an undeniably better way to live.

The traveling and the work tasks were huge ventures but paled in comparison to the internal transformations that God wrought in the hearts and minds of everyone who participated. He taught us that words are not necessary to communicate, that poverty does not thwart joy, that belongings and personal comfort are inconsequential, that the honor of knowing another human being deeply is to be sought and embraced, and that the

incredible grace that accompanies faith in Him is the source of all peace and contentment. We have done our utmost to bring newfound affection, openness and empathy home with us. Our campus mission fields are in dire need of a Guatemalan dose of God's love in action.

Ann Summerson is director of the campus ministry serving Washington State University and the University of Idaho. She adds, "If a mission trip is in your future, we recommend Lutheran Hour Ministries' International Ministry Partnership Volunteer program. You will never be the same." Thanks to Ann for a great article.

"Raucous"? Students lead a song for kids at a VBS session.





Lutheran Student Fellowship

A student-led fellowship of Christian college students and a ministry partner of LCMS Campus Ministry

Mission: Panama City

*Built a room, taught a language, saw God at work—
what more could you want out of spring break?*

By Emily Goff

In mid-March twelve students from Christus Victor Lutheran Church and Student Center at the University of Georgia (UGA) in Athens participated in a week-long spring break mission trip to Panama City, Panama. They worked in conjunction with an organization called CALMS, which coordinates group trips and projects in the Panama City area. The students from UGA were able to raise support to cover the trip expenses, thereby involving more people in the work of the mission trip.

In Panama, the group worked with a Lutheran church called Gloria Dei—specifically with the pastor and his family. The pastor's wife had begun a preschool for children in the community and was in need of a new room in which to house the school. The UGA students had an opportunity to complete the new school room, by pouring a cement floor, finishing off stucco on the walls, and constructing the roof. They worked alongside the Pastor's family and under the guidance of a skilled construction worker named Jorge, whose leadership and help were greatly appreciated! The students put on the finishing touch—painting the school's logo on the front wall—just in time for the preschoolers to come and visit their new room.

In the evenings the students participated in English classes as conversation partners at Gloria Dei. Members of the church and community attend these classes, and the program is a wonderful outreach and service opportunity for the community. These classes were especially impacting, as the group saw God at work in the lives of the people attending. While the language barrier was frustrating at times, God certainly demonstrated his ability to overcome what the group saw as difficult. Through a little translation and plenty of hand gestures and broken speech, communication was possible. It was wonderful to use God's Word and praise music as teaching tools, because God's love was shared through the Gospel each lesson.

The trip was a challenge; early mornings and hard work all day can be taxing on the spirit and the body. But the group was able to rely continuously on God for daily strength and patience, and this helped make the experience rewarding and wonderful. Community is a present reality in Panama; it informs every aspect of daily life. It was something our student group sensed, and it brought us great joy, even though we were there for only a week—and it served as a model of how we could bring that sense of community back to campus in Athens.

Emily Goff is majoring in Spanish and Political Science at the University of Georgia, Athens, and serves as an officer on the Lutheran Student Fellowship National Council.

LSF National Co-facilitator named

Greg Koenig of O'Fallon, Missouri has accepted the invitation to become one of LSF's two co-facilitators. Greg is a 1980 alum of The University of Texas, Austin, and holds an M.A. from the University of North Texas, Denton. He has taught middle school, high school and college English and has served as a communications leader for both commercial and faith-based organizations. Greg currently works full time at Lutheran Hour Ministries in St. Louis, Mo. and is a member of Messiah Lutheran Church in Weldon Spring, Mo., where he is active in the congregation's high school youth, music, and men's ministries. For the past three years he has also served as a consultant for LCMS Campus Ministry.

"There's no better time than now to help people across the church understand how important student ministry is," Greg says. "What a blessing to be able to be a part of an organization of Lutheran students committed to building up the body of Christ and spreading the Good News of Jesus' love in campus communities!"

Lutheran Student Fellowship is continuing in its search for its second national co-facilitator. Do you have the name of a potential national co-facilitator to recommend? Call or e-mail LSF national pastoral advisor Rev. Jay Winters, 850-224-6059, pastor@universitylutheranchurch.org.



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To support LCMS Campus Ministry with a tax-deductible financial gift, send a check, payable to Lutheran Campus Mission Association, to:

Lutheran Campus Mission Association

Rev. Richard Boring, Treasurer
152 South Columbia Ave.
P.O. Box 407
Seward, NE 68434-0407

Please include your name, mailing address, e-mail address, and phone number. You may also contribute via a secure online connection at www.lcmscampusministry.org.



You can also support us by visiting www.goodsearch.com and selecting Lutheran Campus Mission Association as the charity of your choice!

Prayers and Praises

- Give God thanks for the servant hearts of **Rev. Greg Witto**, **Rev. Walt Winters**, and **DCE Stacey Swan**, who have accepted the invitation to serve on LCMS Campus Ministry's Board.
- Thank God for the service and safe return of the student volunteer groups from **Washington State University**, the **University of Idaho**, and the **University of Georgia**.
- Pray for God's blessing upon all participants at **International Student Ministry, Inc. In-Depth Bible Seminar**, May 12-19.
- Give thanks to God for the service of **Rev. Dave Dressel** to the church—particularly to the LCMS English District and local and national campus ministry.
- Give God praise for calling **Greg Koenig** to serve as national co-facilitator for Lutheran Student Fellowship. Ask God to bless Greg's service to LSF and the church.
- Ask God's blessing upon students from across the country who will be serving at the **National LCMS Youth Gathering**, July 17-21 in New Orleans, La. as Young Adult Volunteers.