



## *Minnesota District Commission on Evangelism 2012 Minnesota District Convention*

### ***District Commission Members***

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Crow River Conference Red Wing Conference

Pastor Keith Bilitz (14) Pastor Roger Neumann (12)  
Mankato Conference Southern Conference

Pastor Ben Blumer (14) Pastor Mike Otterstatter (12)  
St. Croix Conference Redwood Falls Conference

Pastor Matt Hennig (14) Pastor Tim Smith (14)  
St. Croix Conference New Ulm Conference

*“Enlarge the place of your tent,  
stretch your tent curtains wide,  
do not hold back; lengthen your cords,  
strengthen your stakes” (Isaiah 54:2)*

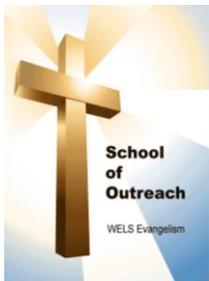
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### ***Purpose***

The WELS Commission on Evangelism exists to assist congregations to seize every opportunity the Lord provides to evangelize lost souls. Its service to WELS is:

- to develop and promote evangelism resources for use by congregations and individuals.
- to promote evangelism attitudes, structures and programs consistent with WELS doctrine and the situation into which God has called a church, its pastors, and its people.
- to promote the “equipping of the saints” for organized congregational evangelism and individual Christian witness.

### ***New School of Outreach***



The first round of the new School of Outreach was conducted in 3 districts (MI, SA, PNW). A total of 27 congregations participated in the program. We have just finished a second round. This time the program was conducted in 9 districts. The first one-day session was held in the fall of 2011; the second one-day session was completed during the first three months of this year. Follow-up contacts by School of Outreach advisors are ongoing in order to help participating congregations with guidance and resources. A total of 68 congregations participated in the second round of the new School of Outreach. In our district Good Shepherd in Burnsville hosted the first session last fall and the second session was on February 25 of this year. Eleven congregations (mostly

from the St. Croix Conference) were represented. The first session of the next School of Outreach in our district will be for the pastors and congregations of the Crow River Conference on October 13, hosted by Petra, Sauk Rapids. More information about this important event will be sent out as the date draws closer.

### ***Outreach Movies***

The Road to Emmaus movie is being used to reach thousands of people with the message of Jesus’ death and resurrection. WELS congregations distributed over 120,000 of the DVDs at Easter Outreach events in 2010 and 2011, and continue to use the movie in connection with their evangelism programs. Versions are available in Spanish, Urdu, Nepali, Chinese, French, and others are being developed for use in our world mission stations around the world. Also, we developed Bible study materials on the basis of the movie. We are planning the development of a series of movies for outreach. We had planned to work on just one

movie at a time, but the producers advised us that it would be less expensive (especially filming) to do two movies at one time. Therefore, encouraged by the use of the Road to Emmaus movie for outreach, we are now planning two movies that will be sequels to the Road to Emmaus. The first sequel will focus on Jesus' teaching about the Kingdom of God/heaven as he talks with key individuals, particularly Peter during the 40 days Jesus lived on earth after his resurrection. The second sequel will present the truth that the gospel is for everyone by centering on Paul and particularly his mission experience in Philippi. The scripts are being developed by a committee made up of John Braun, Paul Hartman, Dave Kehl and Mike Hintz. The committee has met numerous times to study the Bible accounts, discuss the focus of the movies and develop the movie dialogues. Scripts for both movies have been drafted and revised several times. It is our goal to complete our work on the scripts this spring. Then we will turn them over to producers Steve Boettcher and Mike Trinklein for finalization. At this point, we don't have a definite date for filming. That will depend on the time it takes to finish the scripts to the high quality we want so that the movies will serve as excellent outreach tools for many years to come. Funding for the movies is coming from a combination of grants, special funds, and gifts from individuals and congregations.

### ***Evangelism Day at Martin Luther College***

The Commission on Evangelism partners with the faculty of Martin Luther College to enhance the evangelism training of students at the college. Annual evangelism days have been conducted on the MLC campus since 2005. The latest was held in January, 2012. The day for focusing on personal and congregational evangelism starts with a worship service, includes two workshops for each class, and offers various "elective" presentations. More than 40 individuals - including pastors, teachers, staff ministers and lay members - make presentations.

### ***Devotions***

Distribution of Daily Devotions, which are offered through WhatAboutJesus.com, continues to grow. There are nearly 7,500 email subscribers, and many more readers who access the devotions on the *WhatAboutJesus* website, the Wels.net, and the *What About Jesus & WELS* Facebook pages. Devotion booklets were developed by the WELS Commission on Evangelism for congregations to use for outreach and distribute to members:

- Jesus' Death and Resurrection - 34 devotions based on the Gospel of Matthew, Chapters 26-28. (NPH product # 388018)
- Philippians - 35 devotions (NPH product # 388019)

The devotions are available only in packs of 10 booklets. The price for each pack is \$15.00 (plus shipping). For more information, go to [connect.wels.net/evangelism](http://connect.wels.net/evangelism). Under *New Resources*, go to *Devotions on God's Word*. There are plans to produce more devotion booklets for outreach.

### ***Confidently Sharing Jesus with Friends***

The Commission on Evangelism has prepared a DVD to help Christians talk about Jesus—especially with people they know. They can watch and learn from a group of Christians discussing the opportunities, challenges, and aspects of reaching out to their friends with God's Word. To view a trailer, or download a poster and study resources, go to [www.wels.net/evangelism](http://www.wels.net/evangelism) and click on *Confidently Sharing Jesus with Friends*. The DVD is available at NPH for \$3.95 (product # 388016).

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Michael W. Dietz  
MN District Evangelism Coordinator