



From the Executive Director

Actually the title should read "from Doug's heart"

As I've been reflecting on our ministry this year and preparing to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus, I have been thinking about the folks that will have a better Christmas because of Lutheran Men in Mission- some more dramatic than others, like:

- The guy who, after struggling for years, has accepted God's grace in his life as he has used the Master Builders Bible for Men with a small group other men on their spiritual journey.
- The young man who has been encouraged by the older man who has followed LMM's "I-Go" teaching in building relationships, especially with young men.
- The family of the man who has been a more focused father and husband since attending LMM's One Year to Live retreat.
- The guy who was drawn into great friendships- and the church because he had fun using the LMM ManTalk playing cards with other guys.
- The leader that is beginning to see new life in a congregation as the he and others have worked with LMM resources in building ministry with men.
- The guy who has been encouraged and guided by his brothers in Christ as he supports his wife through breast cancer treatment.

These six guys represent hundreds, if not thousands, of men who God is reaching through the ministry of Lutheran Men in Mission. These are just some of the stories we hear and, well, that sixth one is me. As I have sought to be a supportive, care-giving spouse as my wife and I have dealt with breast cancer this year I have been blessed by support from many people all over the country and world. But Ron, Mark and John are the guys that have dug into the Master Builder Bible for Men with me. We are four guys who have a bond of friendship cemented through our LMM One Year to Live retreat experience. These are the three guys who have been my cheerleaders, comforters and coaches this year- the guys I could call at any time. My Christmas, and my life, are better because of the ministry of Lutheran Men in Mission through these three guys.

The vision of Lutheran Men in Mission is for every man to become a bold, daring follower of Jesus Christ.

To meet that vision, and reach even more men, three men have boldly stepped forward with a great challenge. They have committed \$100,000 to be matched by new and increased gifts. We need nearly \$50,000 by the end of the year to meet their challenge. If you recently received our mailing, you may use the envelope that was sent to you. You may also give on-line by going to lutheranmeninmission.org and clicking the "support" tab. My wife and I have committed 12% of my salary, and I am asking you to stand with us in this ministry that God uses to impact men and, as a result, families, churches and communities. Thanks to you, Christmases- and lives- will be impacted.

Have a most blessed celebration of our Savior's birth!

Doug Haugen
Executive Director