

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2008

**Builders For Christ**  
**Christian Volunteer Corps**  
**Faith In Action**  
Youth In Service  
Travel Canvass Witness  
Member Ministry Assistance  
Senior Burst Evangelism  
**Chapters**

# WELS Kingdom Workers

1988 -  
2007

## Financial

Board for World Missions (BWM)	\$6,530,000
Board for Home Missions (BHM)	\$7,495,000
Chapters (1993-2007)	<u>\$10,660,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$24,685,000</b>

*"For God did not give us  
a spirit of timidity, but a spirit  
of power, of love,  
and of self discipline."*

2 Timothy 1:7

Matching funds program provides \$1 matching for every \$1 gift to national projects. This provides \$2 to missions for every \$1 given.

## People

### **Builders For Christ**

- came to WKW from Board for Home Missions in 1994

Projects completed include: 72 congregations, four world missions, and other educational institutions and service organizations. Savings to congregations exceeds \$3,000,000

### **Christian Volunteer Corps**

- began in 1993

Over 240 lay workers have served in 22 countries, with an additional 50 in Apache missions.

### **Faith In Action**

- began in 1996

Over 3,700 lay workers have served 400 exploratory, mission, and established congregations. Over 1,250 workers have assisted with disaster relief

## Chapters

There are 17 WKW chapters involving 2,000 volunteers in nine WELS districts:

- South Central	1
- Michigan	2
- Arizona/California	2
- Minnesota	2
- Northern Wisconsin	1
- South Atlantic	1
- Nebraska	2
- Southeastern Wisconsin	2
- Western Wisconsin	4

*Over 3,000 people serving annually,  
Over 20,000 individual  
opportunities completed  
since 1988!*

## PURPOSE

WELS Kingdom Workers exists for the purpose of assisting the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod mission divisions. To accomplish this purpose WELS Kingdom Workers will endeavor, under God:

- to inform WELS members of the needs and opportunities that exist in home and world mission fields;
- to encourage WELS members to become personally involved in mission work;
- to facilitate and coordinate volunteer efforts in mission fields;
- to provide financial support for authorized, but yet unfunded, mission programs.

# WKW In Depth

## Financial (1988-2007)

WKW has never failed to meet a financial commitment to home and world missions projects. A total over \$14,025,000 was distributed for hands-on gospel outreach involving lay people. Chapters raised an additional \$10,660,000. The commitment for national projects in 2008 is \$1,920,990.

The Schwan Foundation provides for 100% of our operating support which enables us to maintain our pledge: *every gift matched, every gift 100% for missions*. While our rate of growth is challenging for the Schwan Foundation, its generous support and encouragement is a blessing from God.

## Divisions

### **Builders For Christ**

The Lord has blessed Builders For Christ (BFC) with many willing workers and projects. At this time, we have over 350 men and women from 17 states on the roster. About 250 builders work on a project each year.

Projects planned for 2008 include, Good Shepherd, Plymouth, Wis.; Camp Phillip, Wautoma, Wis.; Risen Savior, Bradenton, Fla.; Gethsemane, Raleigh, N.C.; and Messiah, Omro, Wis.

### **Christian Volunteer Corps**

The Lord continues to bless the work of our world missionaries and lay workers. These lay workers assist with teaching English as a second language, accounting, evangelism, working with youth, music, maintenance, carpentry, construction, and teaching basic Christian information classes.

Over the past two years, 119 people served full time in 13 countries around the world. In the past year, we experienced an increase of 12 workers, the majority worked full time. Many of these lay workers return to be active members in their congregations and WKW chapters.

In Southeast Asia, we provide English teachers in three public school systems. We look forward to placing 16 teachers this year. Each of our teachers is also involved in spreading the gospel. WELS now has two teaching sites that have active Bible classes. At one site, the mission team discovered a number of people studying the Bible on their own. The mission team now meets regularly with them. One student expressed hope of becoming a pastor someday and attending our Asian seminary.

The Latin American mission field also reports blessings through the work of our English teachers. Over the years, WKW has supported outreach efforts in cities such as Pachuca, Puebla, Torreon, and Monterrey. EFL classes were set up to run for three years in each city. Each site was blessed beyond expectations. Prospects showed interest in studying the Bible. Many became Christian. The EFL program has now moved

back to Torreon. The teachers are helping with outreach in two new mission programs.

Lay workers are at work in WELS world missions. Perhaps you could help sometime. If not, encourage someone else to help.

### **Faith In Action**

The most significant change is the administration of Faith In Action (FIA). In May, 2008, Rev. Richard Warnecke accepted a call to serve as outreach pastor at Christ, Pewaukee, Wis. Judy Eisenmann now serves as interim administrator for FIA. FIA consists of three subdivisions assisting home mission congregations - TCW, YIS, and MMA.

Travel Canvass Witness (TCW) involved about 300 college students in 70 congregations. The number includes: 130 students from Martin Luther College, 30 students from Wisconsin Lutheran College, 29 students from UW-Madison, 13 students from Bethany Lutheran College, and over a 100 more students from other campus ministries - UW-Eau Claire, UW-Oshkosh, UW-LaCrosse, UW-Milwaukee, Milwaukee Area Technical College, UM-Mankato, UM-Morrison, Winona State, Concordia College-Minn., Central Michigan University, Michigan State, Saginaw Valley State, South Dakota State, Montana State, Purdue University, N. Arizona University, and UN-Lincoln. *M. Rieke, a student at Martin Luther College, said, "I am now able to fearlessly and courageously express my faith to a perfect stranger—bold evangelism. A TCW trip provides a 21<sup>st</sup> century believer with the ideal opportunity to get out in the real world and live your faith."*

Youth In Service (YIS) utilized more than 150 high school students on outreach projects—canvassing, distributing brochures, teaching VBS, and overseeing music and sports camps. YIS teams always include adult counselors. Many of these students came from area Lutheran high schools: Minnesota Valley, Lakeside, Fox Valley, Arizona Lutheran Academy; as well as some public high schools. *H. Wilz, from Fox Valley Lutheran High School, said, "This experience gets you out of your comfort zone, and the feeling you get from sharing your faith is incredible."* *K. Maxwell said, "I was given the opportunity to witness two adult confirmations and a baptism for a six-year-old girl. I had so much fun spreading the good news of Christ's resurrection. I learned to become comfortable doing canvass work and meeting new people."*

Member Ministry Assistance (MMA) recruited over 85 adults to serve from one week to over one year. A number of Senior Burst couples served from two to four weeks in Arlington, Texas; Holiday, Fla.; McDonough, Ga.; Myrtle Beach, S.C.; Palm Coast, Fla.; Smyrna, Tenn.; and Terre Haute, Ind. Individual families served in missions at Yucaipa, Calif.; Springfield, Mo; and Sterling, Va. Over 30 served as counselors/chaperones for Youth In Service (YIS) teams. They

were involved in ESL teaching, follow up, and music and sport camp outreach. *C. Koenig from Martin Luther College stated, "I can't be afraid to approach people with the Word even if they are of another faith. When someone asks a question and you're not sure of the answer, God will give you one. Just being able to serve another congregation was great."*

Over 450 people volunteered their services to assist in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana in 2007. They were people of all ages, from across the United States. Duties included tree removal, home repair, humanitarian aid distribution, counseling, gutting homes, cooking, and debris clean-up.

## Chapters

WKW continues to be blessed with chapter growth, development, and impact. There are currently 17 active WKW chapters:

- AZ: Valley of the Sun - Phoenix
- CA: Northern California - Citrus Heights
- CO: Rocky Mountain - Denver
- FL: Son Shine - Tampa
- MI: Central Michigan - Bay City/Saginaw/Midland
- MI: Motor City - Detroit
- MN: Twin Cities - Minneapolis
- MN: Minnesota Valley - New Ulm
- MO: Mid-America - Kansas City
- TX: Lone Star - Austin
- WI: ROCK - Fort Atkinson
- WI: La Crosse Coulee Region - La Crosse
- WI: Southern Lakes - Lake Geneva
- WI: Capital Area - Madison
- WI: NEW Ministries - Manitowoc
- WI: Greater Milwaukee Area - Milwaukee
- WI: Living Water - Watertown

Plans for 2008 include aggressive chapter development, including these areas:

- San Diego, Calif.
- Appleton, Wis.
- Green Bay, Wis.
- Wausau, Wis.
- North Central, Texas
- Southeast. Texas

The requirements to start a chapter are a passion for mission projects and committed local lay leadership. These are groups of men and women involved in hands-on gospel outreach. They are located in many parts of the country. Chapter leadership determines what type of outreach work would be effective in their area. Local projects include: campus ministry, prison ministry, nursing home outreach, ethnic outreach, youth ministry, English as a Second Language programs, central city ministry, and international campus ministry.

WKW national provides organization and structure in chapter development, as well as funding its operating costs. Funds raised for local projects are matched and used for the chapter to continue outreach. Contact the national office for information on developing a chapter

Chapter work currently includes 69 local projects and over 20 national projects. The 2008 chapter fund raising budgets for projects exceeds \$2 million and accounts for matching funds requests of over \$500,000. In 2007, chapter contributions to WKW accounted for 67% of total contributions.

## Programs

### **Mission Information Center**

WKW, in partnership with the WELS Boards for Home and World Missions, offers the services of the Mission Information Center (MIC) to the WELS. The MIC provides kits and information about our WELS mission fields from a centralized location (WKW national office) to congregations, schools, related groups, and individuals.

To see what mission kits are available and to reserve your kit now, visit our Web site at <[www.welskingdomworkers.org](http://www.welskingdomworkers.org)> and click on "Mission Information Center."

### **Mission Connection**

WKW is privileged to partner in funding the publication of the *Mission Connection* as well as its distribution (free of charge) to all WELS congregations. *Mission Connection* is the official quarterly periodical of home and world missions. LWMS and WKW human interest articles are also featured.

All WELS members are encouraged to read this periodical and become better informed about how our synod mission offerings are being used.

### **Communicating Christ Today**

Basic truths of law and gospel are covered in *Communicating Christ - A Video Bible Information Course*. The 32-lesson series also reviews timely topics such as marriage and divorce, roles of men and women in the church, the doctrine of fellowship, and the differences among Lutheran church bodies. *Communicating Christ* can be taught by pastor or layperson.

The English translation is revised - the lessons have not changed, only the presentation. *Communicating Christ Today* is now available in VHS and DVD.

To order English or Spanish complete sets, additional tapes, and workbooks, contact Northwestern Publishing House. To order other foreign translations including American sign-language, Portuguese, Russian, Russian sign-language, Bulgarian, Albanian, Ukrainian, Thai, Japanese, and Finnish, contact the WKW national office.



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*"Whatever you do, work at it  
with all your heart as working for  
the Lord, not for men."*

Colossians 3:23

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**Lay people doing hands-on gospel outreach!**