

# wels kingdom workers

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2009

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

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

### 1988-2008 Recap

Board for World Missions (BWM) \$7,287,000  
Board for Home Missions (BHM) \$8,659,000  
Chapters (1993-2008)  
\$12,550,000  
TOTAL  
\$28,496,000

WKW has never failed to meet a financial commitment to home and world missions projects. A total of about \$15,946,000 was distributed for hands-on gospel outreach involving lay people. Chapters raised an additional \$12,550,000. The commitment for national projects in 2009 is \$1,927,800.

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. Reduced support from the foundation presents challenges for 2010 and beyond. Reserve funds used in 2009 will mean less money available for administration and projects in 2010.



### Contributions

Offerings for the first quarter of 2009 total about 82% of the 5-year average for this period. Our commitment to our synod's mission projects is virtually the same as it was in 2008.

In this difficult economic time, we ask for your prayers directed to the throne of the one who gives all blessings. The opportunities are great.

The Lord has moved WKW supporters to offer nearly \$27,000,000 to the home and world mission boards of WELS over the years. We will continue to forward all that we receive, together with matching funds, to the work we've been asked to support.

*Lay people doing hands-on  
gospel outreach!*

### 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.

2323 N. Mayfair Road, Suite 400  
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53226  
414.771.6848  
1.800.466.9357  
FAX 414.771.6130  
kingwork@wkw.wels.net  
www.welskingdomworkers.org  
BLOG wpmu.wkw.wels.net

## WKW Divisions

### **Builders For Christ**

During the winter of 2009, BFC worked on three projects:

**Risen Savior – Bradenton, Fla.**

First-time worship facility for mission congregation

**Mighty Fortress – Dallas, Ga.**

First-time worship facility for mission congregation

**Calvary Academy – Mulberry, Fla.**

Repair work, new construction, maintenance

The total amount of time provided by BFC and congregation members to these projects amounted to 21,076 hours.

The economy has taken a toll on BFC also. We had a potential of three projects lined up for the summer. All the projects have backed off with concerns about funding. We wait to hear about the possibility of two small projects for this summer. There is a potential of at least three projects for next winter, but, once again, they have concerns over funding also. This is the first time in the history of BFC that we could not have projects for the summer.

As reported in October 2008, Ray Zastrow has been working with us in getting projects started. This has worked well with our two projects this year. We hope to continue using Ray in this volunteer position.

Please pray for the BFC and all the congregations that are looking to build, so we can continue to build to his glory.

### **Christian Volunteer Corps**

An increased number of new people have been placed in foreign mission fields. So far in 2009, 67 WELS/ELS lay workers have served in a world mission setting, an increase of eight new positions in WELS missions. We thank our God for their willingness to step forward and ask how they can be of service.

**Thailand** – The work in Chiang Mai continues to expand with the help of our two EFL workers as they reach out to Hmong and Thai. A number of their students have entered the pre-seminary training program, with six of them graduating as evangelists and two graduating as ordained ministers. In addition, the mission team has requested someone

to teach computer skills to the men studying for ministry. In the future, the men will need to support themselves as they carry out their tent ministries. Computer skills will enable them to find good jobs in their home areas.

**Southeast Asia** – In one of the communist nations, the mission team has joined forces with a volunteer group in the north to grow the ministry to a new level. Over 55 workers are teaching English. Each share Bible stories during evening and weekend hours. Over 35 men from these classes are willing to be church leaders in a new underground Lutheran church. Two pastors are leading these outreach efforts and the Asian Lutheran Seminary is training the future pastors.

**Native America** – The leaders of the Apache Indian mission are looking for people to repair churches and schools. Many couples have already assisted with repairs and modernization. One couple even stayed for an additional six months to train Apaches in accounting principles to better manage their own church finances.

**Albania and Dominican Republic** – Due to synod budget cuts, four workers will unfortunately be returning to the United States. We are confident the Lord will continue to strengthen the mission congregations and their leaders.

### **Faith In Action**

WELS and ELS Christians of all ages assist with outreach programs for mission and established congregations throughout the United States and Canada. This assistance can be offered individually or as a group of two or more people.

- **Travel Canvass Witness – TCW**
  - College students from campus ministry programs and synodical schools. ACTIVE during school breaks and vacations (1-2 weeks)
  - 53 teams were ACTIVE during spring break 2009
  - 33 more teams to be ACTIVE this summer
- **Youth In Service – YIS**
  - Teens assisting in outreach within a

- supervised environment. ACTIVE during school breaks and vacations (1-2 weeks)
- 19 teams scheduled to be ACTIVE during 2009
  - **Member Ministry Assistance – MMA**
  - Lay men and women assisting congregations with outreach. ACTIVE at any time of the year (1 week-6 months)
  - 23 teams will be ACTIVE across the country during summer of 2009
  - **Senior Burst Evangelism – SBE**
  - Retired lay men and women using their experiences assisting congregations with outreach. ACTIVE at any time of the year (2 weeks-3 months)
  - 16 teams trained and scheduled to be ACTIVE during 2009

A record number of FIA team requests were received from district mission boards this year—178 compared to 143 last year. WKW is blessed to be able to fund 144 teams utilizing nearly 600 lay workers to actively spread God's message of salvation.

E-mail and online technology (over snail mail) is now being used to communicate with congregation representatives and lay workers. We actively request prayers and support from the home congregations of our lay workers. This presents an opportunity for the entire congregation to be active in mission work.

Why put your Faith In Action? A Wisconsin Lutheran College student returning from a spring break TCW experience in Tennessee states, "Personally I believe that spiritual apathy is one of the most detrimental factors for one's faith. FIA/TCW trips allow Christians who have been raised and infused (and perhaps a bit bored) with WELS background to realize that our faith is active and sorely needed in many places. Growing up in a WELS surrounding may not allow the chance for younger Christians to see the urgency of spreading the gospel. A trip to places with growing WELS churches vividly presents the need for God's workers in His field of ministry."

## Chapters

WKW continues to be blessed with chapter growth, development, and impact. There are currently 16 active WKW chapters:

- AZ: Valley of the Sun – Phoenix
- CA: Northern California – Citrus Heights
- CO: Rocky Mountain – Denver
- 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

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 61 local projects and 14 national projects. The 2009 chapter fund raising budgets for projects is \$2.9 million and accounts for matching funds requests of over \$620,000. In 2008, chapter contributions to WKW totaled more than 82% of total contributions.

*Supporting WELS home and world missions*



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Ron Meier

**2323 N. Mayfair Road, Suite 400  
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53226**

**414.771.6848 ♦ 1.800.466.9357 ♦ FAX 414.771.6130**

**kingwork@wkw.wels.net**

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**BLOG wpmu.wkw.wels.net**

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