

Counselor's Corner

"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" (1 Tim. 2:1-2 NIV).

Last year, the Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, president of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, helped produce a Bible study titled "We the People: Citizens of Two Kingdoms." Although I have not yet used it, I did purchase a copy (available at www.lhmmen.com) and have reviewed it.

In his introduction, Meyer makes this rather challenging statement: "You, as a steward of this nation, are called upon to preserve our nation for those who're yet to be born."

Here is an interesting thought: Have you ever thought of yourself as such before? There is a tendency of many Christians in America to buy into the false notion that, because of the "separation of Church and State" clause in our nation's constitution, Christians aren't supposed to get involved in "politics." It's almost a dirty word for some.

But in this Bible study, there's another challenging comment I would suggest we all think about: "If good people don't run for elected office, who is left?"

Because of sin in the world, there will always be some who seek elected office in order to acquire wealth, irrespective of the welfare of the people they represent. If there are no good candidates to run against them, who's going to get elected?

No, we Christians need to do what we can to help keep our country from God's wrath.

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Witness, Mercy, Life Together

In February, the presidents of the Minnesota North and the North Dakota Districts traveled to Africa with Pastor Bernhard Seter, chairman of the LCMS Office of International Mission. They saw firsthand the work done with Project 24 rescue centers since five laymen from North Dakota and Minnesota North began Project 24 in 2007. They were extremely impressed and learned that this has been an unofficial project of these two districts for nearly five years.



Both congregations and individuals of the Minnesota North District have contributed in many ways, and the Minnesota North LWML has been generous as well. While there are great things that congregations and individuals can do, the presidents want to continue that partnership to help folks focus on one or two projects that can be done together.

A program is in the planning stages to build a center for Minnesota North: Witness. Another for North Dakota: Mercy. And one more: Life Together.

Each year, students from these districts will go to a center and work with the orphans and deaconesses to learn from them what mission and mercy work are really about. To help with this, a blog has been set up to help district members see the way we connect in these partnerships. Visit www.northerncrossingsmercy.org.

What follows is the first blog written by Pastor Seter:

"It has been eight years since I first went to Africa and visited with our Lutheran partners there. Since then I have been back many times. I have been to visit India and have seen our churches mercy work there in partnership with others. I have been to flood sites and tornado-damaged towns to see how the compassion of God's people is poured out.

"I have also stood alone with folks in crisis when it seemed there was nowhere to turn and I can tell you that partnerships and a presence—even if there is nothing that can be physically done—is infinitely preferable to being alone.

"God made us that way. Ever since He saw that 'it was not good for the man to be alone,' human beings have been 'in community.' Christians call it the 'body of Christ' and it is not a metaphor. It is an organic reality created by God's mercy and connected with the suffering, death and resurrection of His Son.

"This little site is designed to help us to see how the body of Christ functions, communicates, works, struggles and cares up here, in this part of God's creation. Up North, where you might see the Northern Lights, we are hoping to give glimpses of God's light shining in our hearts as we 'live together as Christ's people.'

"We hope to hear from those people in the months and years ahead as paths 'cross' and partnerships are formed and we witness, show mercy and share our 'life together' in Christ."

The work of the LWML is all over this blog, so check it out at www.northerncrossingsmercy.org.