

# 2<sup>nd</sup> half MINISTRIES

## MINNESOTA SENIOR MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

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**A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR** – And here we are in August already! I hope you are enjoying the summer which is quickly slipping by. Did you get to Family Camp? We enjoyed good services, great weather, delicious food and special fellowship with friends. Our senior's luncheon was attended by about 150 seniors. Dr. Allan Tennison from North Central University was our speaker. Dan and Marlene Turner provided the music. After dinner a small group ventured out to the Anderson Museum to see vintage cars, tractors, antiques and doll collection. We also enjoyed a ride through the woods and fields on their property. Thank you Paul & Mary for a fun afternoon!

*Bruce Talso, Director*



A Great Meal and Some Warm Fellowship



Paul and Mary Anderson



Antique cars, tractors and more!

### **THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR OUR FALL RETREAT!**

Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> through Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> at Lake Geneva Christian Center – Alexandria, MN

Special Speaker: Alton Garrison – A/G Assistant Supt.

Friday evening concert: the Garms Family Singers

Retreat Worship leaders: Dan and Marlene Turner

Information, Registration & Housing Form enclosed

Send your registration directly to the campground



### **SOME IDEAS FOR SENIORS** by Pastor John Venzke, Family Worship Church, Moose Lake, MN

Like most small rural church pastors, I have often felt unable to host large events in our town. One solution we have found is to pair with Christians across our city who desires to be a positive Christian influence in our wider community. We wanted to host a "Single Mom's Retreat" in 2013, so we united with other community Christians to make it possible. Then we wanted to bring a Youth Alive speaker into our local schools. Again, we partnered with community Christians to get it done. Since then we have brought the Wahtoto Children's Choir to the Moose Lake HS Auditorium twice and the Kingery Family to the Barnum Fairgrounds. We also brought an international evangelist from Texas for three days at the Local Ice Arena along with the Garms Family from Braham and the Minkinen Family from Annandale. We host an annual Chili Competition that my wife has won twice and we also help sponsor the Neighborhood Night Out Event with the Police and Fire Departments each August. We have given filled backpacks to the Moose Lake Elementary and help put on the PTA Back to School Event each year, provided water and coffee for the Moose Lake Run, the Five Sisters Marathon and the Halloween Hustle. We also have a float in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. We formed our local organization that provides a Christian influence through special events; helping out with various community events. We also help individual churches with events they are putting on. Recently, we raised over \$7000 for a family with medical needs through a silent auction Spaghetti event. Soon after we started working together as a team we called Christian Youth Support Team. Almost immediately we renamed our organization S.O.C.C. "Strengthening Our Christian Community." This is just one way a small church can do more in their community by uniting with others!

**(Editor's note: Perhaps some of these ideas could be used by seniors in your church to reach out into your community – Remember; there are people out there we need to reach for the Lord!)**

## SHARING THE GOOD NEWS!



Here's a clever and unique way to share your faith. Miriam Geise of Rochester has decorated her Volkswagen with the 10 Commandments! They are placed on the sides, front and back of the car where they get immediate attention by other motorists. Notice too, the license plate reading "1 John19" referencing 1 John 1:9. When you stop to think about it, there are many ways to share the life-giving message found in Christ. We just need to do it! A supply of gospel tracts in your car can be used during various occasions when you are "out and about." How about leaving one at your table when eating out or, perhaps leaving one on the pillow

along with your tip for the housekeeper when checking out of your hotel when travelling? Include one when mailing in your bills. We certainly should not be ashamed to share Jesus with the hurting world around us. Let's share Jesus!

And then there is the opportunity to pray for others. Remembering our children and especially our grandchildren in prayer is not only our responsibility, but will be a blessing to us as well. Praying for our communities, our elected leaders, our country, missionaries in various fields of labor, our pastors are just a few that come to mind. We must also remember the importance of a **regular** time in God's Word. A couple of years ago George Barna, who reports on trends in the religious community, reported that only 3% of born again believers read their Bibles on a regular basis. This reminds me of a little story I heard recently about a family who invited their pastor over for dinner. When he left, the wife noticed that one of her spoons was missing. "Pastor must have taken one of my spoons!" she exclaimed. About 6 months later the family had the pastor over again for dinner. The wife asked the pastor; "Pastor, one of my spoons is missing; did you take it?" The pastor replied, "No, I put the spoon in your Bible!" Ouch! As Spirit-filled believers we ought to be reading, praying and..... 'displaying' our Christian faith. 1 Timothy says it well; "*Be an example of the believers in word, in conversation in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*" Amen!



We enjoyed a beautiful day, delicious food and wonderful fellowship for our Brainerd Luncheon cruise on August 5th. A great time was had by all! – Lowell Clarke



## A SENIOR WHO KEEPS 'CLICKING!'

By Jean Sirila

I started taking pictures for Western MN Steam Threshers Reunion (WMSTR) in 2000. They provided a computer and the software and some training so I could make their Showbook each year. God was preparing me even before His calling. We had an evangelist at our church in Wadena, and he had a "Word" from the Lord for three of us. I had never had this happen to me before and the evangelist didn't know any of us. He said that God had called me to take pictures for Him and that my pictures would be used by Him all around the world. Not long after, Dixie Hosmer recommended me to take pictures for Family Camp. The next year at Family Camp someone told me that she had forwarded some of my pictures and an article to someone in another country! After reading how to get saved in that article, they made that decision. I had never thought of my photography as a call from God. God doesn't quit using you when you are retired.....you may be just getting started!



**Editor's note: Jean takes pictures for various District events. Thank you, Jean. We appreciate your ministry!**

## Online Scammers Looking For You!

If you have a computer, tablet or cellphone, you need to arm yourself with information to be safe from scammers.

- Don't share personal information on line
- If you get a message saying your computer has a virus and that a remote tech person can fix it for you. Hang up. Do not give an unknown person access to your computer.
- Do not share information on your upcoming travels or dates you will be gone.

Go online to [www.connectsafely.org/seniors](http://www.connectsafely.org/seniors) and read about being safe with your computer.

**SENIOR RESOURCE**  
**A one stop for**  
**Minnesota seniors**  
**1-800-333-2433**  
**www.MinnesotaHelp.info**

