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January 2016

Welcome 2016

A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps. Proverbs 16:9 (NKJV)

[JACKSONVILLE, FL] Len Ministries 2016 calendar of planned ministry events looks like this:

- Startup of regular 13-weeks continued evangelism classes in Jacksonville area churches. Current plans include training on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 to 9 starting at the end of January. Also, training will continue at Union Correctional Institution.
- 5-day intensive evangelism training school for local and international pastors, evangelists, and lay leaders will be held in Jacksonville, FL, February 22 to 26 at Adamec's Harley Davidson.
- LMI's annual golf outing is scheduled for Monday April 4, 2016. Tee time is 1:15 p.m. at Queen's Harbour Yacht & Country Club.
- Celebration of 25 years of international ministry and reunion for all prior LMI international American travelers will be held June 3 & 4, 2016, in Ivanovo, Russia. Russian pastors, churches, and interpreters will be invited. Come, remember, and reconnect. The celebration will be followed by a 5-day intensive evangelism school June 6 to 10 for those wanting to refresh their witnessing skills.

Interested? Want to help? Call Len at (904) 992-0545, email him at len@lenministries.org, or go to the ministry's web site lenministries.org/contact/ and let him know that you want to participate. Prayer partners, financial supporters, and trainers are needed for the above listed ministry efforts.

LMI



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Local Evangelism

[JACKSONVILLE, FL] Rev. Len Showalter completed the teaching and equipping of three sets of students from different churches in the Jacksonville area:

First Presbyterian Church, 118 E Monroe St, Jacksonville, FL 32202. The class was held Tuesday evenings at Dr. Robin Vail's office on Southside Blvd. from 6 to 9. The training was performed at the Avenues Mall and the shops at Southside and BayFirst Presbyterian Church evangelism class and trainers

meadows. The students and trainers (pictured l-r) are student Ginger Soud, trainer Robin Vail, graduate Marsha Kehrt, trainer Carla Bitancor, student Jennifer Palmer, and graduate Renee Skinner. During the field training they completed 125 contacts and shared the Gospel 73 times to 88 people. This resulted in 24 professions of faith and 13 assurances of salvation. Additionally, the team, with the assistance of trainer Don Maddox, witnessing at the Jacksonville ArtWalk on the first Wednesday of each month. Over the last 6 months of the year the team completed 91 contacts and shared the Gospel 59 times to 90 people with 43 professions of faith and 23 assurances of salvation.

Union Correctional Institution (UCI), 7819 N E 228th St, Raiford, FL 32026. The class was held on Thursday afternoons from 1:30 to 3 at Grace Chapel (pictured right) on campus. Those being trained witnessed as their tight work and receation schedules permitted. Usually, they met with an inmate trainer once a week during recreation time and shared the Gospel with another inmate. Rev. Len Showalter or other outside trainers were not allowed to participate in this witnessing activity. Adjusted totals for the semester were: 75 people were contacted and the Gospel was shared 60 times to 64 people. 31 people professed Christ and 15 received assurance of their salvation. At the end of the semester there were 2 that graduated and 8 that completed the Daily Witnessing class.

Lake Asbury Baptist Church, 2674 Henley Rd, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. The class was held on Thursday evenings at the church from 6 to 9. The training was performed with church visitors in their homes and at Walmart. The students and trainers (pictured l-r) are graduate Brenda Crotts, graduate Eugene Crotts, trainer Rick Wyman, graduate Janice Betts, graduate Joe Betts, and graduate Floyd Kirk. During the field training the teams were assisted by Helen Adamec, Richard Fouraker, and Marcia Showalter. They completed 128 contacts and shared the Gospel 54 times to 84 people. This resulted in 17 professions of faith and 13 assurances of faith.



Nancy Murray's Address at the 2015 Len Ministries Gala:

It was a warm night on a dusty road in Bolivia. South America. People sat on lawn chairs for some fresh air, even though the air was acrid from sugar cane harvesting and burning. They were outside their living guarters, some of which looked like metal storage units. I was there with Pastor Len and a team of trainers from Jacksonville. I had a team of 3 students with me that night – a diverse group including a Korean dentist and local pastors. My Spanish translator's English left a lot to be desired. It was our first evening out on the street and I was demonstrating the evangelism method of sharing the Gospel that I had learned and put into practice under Pastor Len's teaching. I was "prayed up" – my prayer partners and many who had sponsored me on this trip were, I knew, praying at that moment. But, my knees were still knocking. I saw a group of four men kind of aimlessly walking down the road. I felt the Holy Spirit say, "Go." I led my team over to them. I learned they were Muslims from Iraq. One of them, a young man in his 20's, could speak Spanish. And so I began speaking the Good News of the Gospel in English. My translator would translate into Spanish for the young man and he, in turn, would translate into their Iraqi native tongue to the others. The process would reverse as they had questions or responded. It was slow and awkward at times, but on that evening on that dusty road, these Muslim men (granted, they may not have been devout Muslims just as many Christians are Christian in name only), but they prayed aloud as they stood in a circle holding hands and accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. I knew this was a divine appointment and I remembered thinking how many years ago did God plan this moment, so these people could be accepted into His Kingdom of Heaven by accepting His Son.

You know, the Holy Spirit can do anything, but God's plan is to work through us and He needs us to be His voice to share His Word and the Good News of the Gospel. Romans 10:14 says, "How can they hear unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent." That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring the Good News!"

You know, a popular quote among some Christians is, "Preach the Gospel at all times – use words when necessary" - words attributed to St. Francis of Assisi. Well, you know what? He never said that. Google it. Many have said it when someone wants to suggest Christians talk about the Gospel too much and live it too little. I submit it's used more as an excuse to not open our mouths – often due to our fear of rejection, offense, lack of preparation and confidence in knowing how to share or just lack of motivation to get out of our comfort zone. One of my greatest fears is hearing a friend or loved one has died and I never told them about Jesus – the way to eternal life.

In Matthew 28, the Great Commission, our Lord Jesus' final words to His disciples was to instruct them to "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded." He was very specific – we are to go and make disciples – not converts, constituents, worshippers, members, viewers, audience members or "giving units." Nor did He commission believers to just make "followers" for we know that crowds of followers fell away from Christ even as He walked on earth. No, we have been commissioned to make disciples – believers who are learning to obey everything Christ has commanded, through the power of the Holy Spirit. And that brings me to why I support Len Ministries.

Len Ministries is not just about passing out tracts. Len works with local churches as part of the evangelism teams that go out in whatever country he is in. Follow-up is critical to getting people connected to a local church. Contact information is taken for all who profess Christ so that local teams can get them to their churches and begin this discipling process. For any of you who might have served as counselors for the Billy Graham Crusade in Jacksonville in 2000, the working with the local churches is similar. With Pastor Len, as students are trained and certified to be trainers, they, in turn, bring new students in, and thus it multiplies and multiplies. Matthew 24:14 says, "And this gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations and then the end will come." I know of no other ministry doing a better job at facilitating this taking of the Gospel to the whole world than Len Ministries.

(cont'd over)

Second, Len Ministries is not only saving souls and training soul winners and equipping churches worldwide, as well as here locally in the Jacksonville area and in prisons in the state, but he is also giving an opportunity to me, you, all of us to be equipped to share the Gospel in an understandable, concise, loving, proven way to our friends and family – giving us the God-confidence to overcome objections and overcome our own fears. Of course, the Holy Spirit can cast out all our fears, but being adequately trained and prepared goes a long way! And, best of all, if you continue to work it – it becomes a lifestyle and God will continually set up those "divine appointments" for you.

Thirdly, I stand here and tell you that I've done many things in my Christian journey – all "good" things for the Kingdom – served on my church's council and committees galore; trained as a Stephen's Minister; certified as a Peacemaker trained Christian mediator and began a 501C3 to do Christian conciliation; led more Bible study courses than I can remember; served as an Alpha facilitator and Billy Graham Crusade counselor and served as a prayer team minister for years, but I can tell you – the thing that provided the most immediate and greatest "jolt" of growth in faith and experiencing God in my spiritual life was when I studied and trained evangelism under Pastor Len and went out on the streets to share the Good News. Prior to that, I had never led a person to Christ in my life as I suspect most people in church pews have not also. Oh, I had fed the homeless and passed out back to school backpacks, etc., etc. – again, all "good" things, but like so many ministries today providing only physical food but without going on to give spiritual food.

Fourth, supporting Len Ministries is a great investment. I'm happy to have here tonight as my husband Steve's and my guests, Bill Hart and Bill Carr and their wives of Retirement Strategies, Inc., - one of our gracious event sponsors this evening that you see on your table cards. I'm happy they are my financial advisors since I'm an old retiree. They're the best in the business and best of all, they're good Christians and run their business accordingly. They get good R.O.I. – return on my investments. But... Len Ministries gets the greatest Return on Investment of all – eternal life for people here and around the globe. What could be better than knowing we'll see these people in Heaven one day?

And, lastly, we live in perilous times. Jesus told us in Matthew 24:9, "you will be hated by all nations because of me." We know the world is increasingly antagonistic to the ways of God. We see people of Jewish and Christian faith under attack more and more. Just a few years ago we would not have imagined the beheading of Christians in parts of the world or that the execution of Christian children would become almost matter of fact. But...we know the tribulation of this age will not prevent the advance of His Glorious Gospel.

So, how do we respond to these perilous times? Some would argue we are in the end times and books abound on that. Is this the "end times"? I don't know. All I know is – we're closer today than yesterday. Matthew 24:44 says, "The Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him. It will be good for that servant whose master finds him taking care of those whom He has given charge over." Vigilance. Vigilance in the Lord is more than just waiting or watching. Vigilance is active – doing the right thing. Our theme this evening is, "About the Father's Business." "Did you not know that I must be about my Father's Business?", Jesus said to His mother at age twelve when His family couldn't find Him at the Feast of the Passover. Nothing could stop Jesus from fulfilling His purpose to destroy the works of the devil, set the captives fee, heal the oppressed and bring the Good News to the people. We, too, must be about doing the Father's Business. I am privileged to be a supporter of this ministry that so embodies that as its mission. No, not all of us can physically travel to Russia, Siberia, Africa, Ecuador, or Bolivia, but we can all "go" with the ministry that does go, through our prayers and our

Thank you,

Nancy

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LMI Gala

[JACKSONVILLE, FL] Saturday night, November 7, 2015, Len Ministries held its annual fund raising Gala at the Salem Centre, 7235 Bonneval Rd, Jacksonville, FL. The evening's theme "Black Tie and Blue Jeans" made it very comfortable for all to have a wonderful evening.

Terry Casey, "Mr. Voice," was the Master of Ceremony. Billy Smart of Grill Billy's BBQ provided a wonderful buffet meal that was blessed by Pastor Gene Eberhardy. A PowerPoint presentation was shown that detailed the mission work accomplished in 2015. At the end of the meal Cathy Russi entertained all with a great song and then Beth Toenies and Scott Russi passed out the door prizes.

After necessary introductions, the guest speakers began. Rev. Don Nichols eloquently spoke and was followed by Board Member

Chuck Nichols, his son, and then by Board Member Nancy Murray. Her speech was very significant and detailed for the ministry's support. They were followed by Marcia Showalter and Rev. Len Showalter.

Len discussed the ministry results for 2015 and detailed the current ministry opportunities. As well as the opportunities for 2016 which include a 25-year international ministry celebration that will occur in Ivanovo, Russia, in June. He also told stories of six people from Siberia, Russia, Jacksonville malls, and the Jacksonville ArtWalk whose lives were changed by accepting Jesus Christ as their Savior.

The evening ended with an invitation by Kara Tucker to financially support Len Ministries. Bishop Michael Nelson closed the night with prayer.

LMI







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Just the Facts: 1 Evangelism

Completed Contacts

Times Gospel Shared

To # of People

Professions & Assurances

2015 Totals

2,066

1,030

1,477

714

48% of those that heard the Gospel professed Jesus Christ as their Lord!

100 lay leaders and pastors were equipped to share their faith and win their communities for Christ!

Above are the totals for 2015. To see details for each of the events and training efforts, please go to: http://lenministries.org/news/lmi-ministry-results/

Ministry Help



Hello, my name is Guy Landry. I am the senior pastor of Ivanovo Christian Center. Ivanovo is about 170 miles driving northwest from Moscow. I am married and have six children.

I got to know Len Showalter in Nizhny Novgorod at a 5-day evangelism class. The class was about the heart of God for those who are lost and without hope. I had been certain that people were denying my Gospel presentation because they were not ready or they were not selected to be with the Lord. I was grieved but I could not do anything about it. This occurred before I went on the street with my trainer for the first time. But then I met people that were ready for and worthy of the Kingdom. Oh, what a great joy to see new souls entering the Kingdom: families, the young generation, and children.

Len and Len Ministries changed my life and my ministry. Since then, my church has been involved in planting nine churches. Praise the Lord! I personally travel with Len teaching other churches personal evangelism. It is power unto salvation. His Grace is active in us. People are saved and restored to their Father. Thank you, Len.

Blessings to all who support the salvation of the multitude.





A Note From Marcia..

It is difficult to grasp the fact that we have just begun 2016. Christmas is now but a blur and we must now get back into our regular "working" routines.

We were blessed this Christmas to have Sara, Daryl, Beth, and Mike with us. Ruth and Ryan are busy preparing the way for the newest member of our family, a grand-daughter due this month. We're used to four legged grandchildren, so this will be a new adventure for us. Much preparation for this joyous event has been under way.

As you have read in this newsletter, things continue to be busy as Len Ministries continues to raise up soul-winners for Jesus Christ in the Jacksonville area. It doesn't matter if we are in a prison, at a church, in a store, with a neighbor or family member.... time is short and it is the commandment given to us by Jesus Christ to share his love with others.

Thank you for your continued prayers, love, and financial support. You are truly impacting this world globally with us for the Kingdom of God!

Your Missionaries,

Len and Marcia Showalter

