

FAMILY SHIELD

Express



Fall 2014

"Trust in the Lord with all your beart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

THE MISSION

Family Shield Ministries educates and equips people, through the power of the Gospel, to know Christ, to grow in His Word, and to strengthen individuals and their families.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kay L. Meyer Rev. Roger Sonnenberg Dan Leeman Rev. Kevin Bueltmann Rev. Dr. David Vaughn Coreen Jander Jane Haas

ADVISORS

Dr. Mark Cares John DeGuire Terry Gerdts Dr. Dick Hardel Dr. Otto Hintze Rev. Dr. Ron Jones Rev. Vern Koehlinger Rev. Dr. John Oberdeck Rev. David V. Schultz Dr. Jeff Schwehm Jens Sorenson Curt Wittbracht P.O. Box 230015, St. Louis, MO 63123 • fsmkmeyer@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

You are special. Because of your partnership in the Gospel, we are proclaiming God's love, and reaching and equipping individuals and their families for Christ. Thank you!

Family Shield Ministries is celebrating its 20th anniversary as a non-profit organization this year. Join us in praising the Lord for His grace, mercy and forgiveness, and for the many opportunities He has given us to minister to individuals and their families. Also join us in praying for God's wisdom and guidance as we move forward with the 2014-2018 strategic balanced focus plan that includes expanding the important Christ-centered work in the ripe and plentiful harvest and hiring our first national director.

At the 20th anniversary celebration a beautifully framed proclamation was presented to Kay Meyer. It was signed by Jay Nixon, the Governor of Missouri. Meyer shared an update about the newly approved strategic balanced focus plan and encouraged everyone to consider how they can become involved.

We encourage individuals, families, congregations, and Christian business owners to prayerfully consider a pledge or donation of \$1,000 or more for two years to support the new national director and the expansion plan. Gifts can be made monthly, quarterly or annually. So, a gift of \$1,000 would be \$83.33 a month or \$250 a quarter. A member of the leadership team would be happy to share more details about the expansion plan with you. We invite each of you to join hands with us by praying, volunteering, and supporting us with a gift.

Why is reaching people for Christ and making them His disciples so critical in today's world?

Here are some statistics that help answer this question:

- The United States is now the third largest mission field in the world. The only other countries with more unbelievers are India and China.
- The United States is going through an unprecedented change in religious practices. Large numbers of American adults are disaffiliating themselves from Christianity and organized religions. 76.5% (159 million) of Americans identify themselves as Christian. This is a major shift from 86.2% in 1990. Identification with Christianity has suffered a loss of 9.7% in 11 years, about 0.9% per year.
- Nearly one in five Americans says they are atheist,

agnostic or "nothing in particular." Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life

- Five years ago adults who claimed "no religion" made up about 15% of the population. That is a seismic shift from 40 years ago when about 7 percent of American adults said they had no religious affiliation. *Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life*
- One-third of those ages 18-22 are religiously unaffiliated today.
- The most recent George Barna research said that the leading influences in American society are movies, television, the Internet, books, music, public policy and law, and the family. The Christian Church, his research shows, is no longer among the top influences these days...a far cry from the way things used to be.

The good news in all the bad news is that the family is still a leading influencer. Working together, we can reach and equip individuals and their families for Christ.

It's a fact our culture has changed; but as people learn we care about them, the Lord will open doors for us to share the law and Gospel. Although the culture continues to change, the Gospel of Christ never changes. It is the power of the Gospel that transforms lives in time for eternity!

"Therefore 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 you" (Matt. 28:19). Witnessing begins as we go into our homes and share God's love with our children and grandchildren. And as we go, we trust that the Lord will open doors for us to share God's love not only with our own family members but also with those in our communities. So, what are we waiting for? Let's go!

May the Lord continue to grant you His strength and wisdom as you serve and witness for Christ!

In His Service and yours,

Kay L Meyer

Kay L. Meyer President and Host of *Family Shield*

Rev. Roger Sonnenberg Chairman, Board of Directors

Family Shield Ministries History

Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Learn more about the history at http://www.familyshieldministries. com/history.html.

Family Shield Volunteers Serve Parents

Ramily Shield Ministries prepared a home cooked meal for 50 parents who have children in St. Louis hospitals at the Ronald McDonald House in St. Louis on Thursday, September 11. Many of these parents have children who are seriously ill. Besides serving the meal, volunteers shared words of encouragement and hope. Thrivent Financial supported the activity.



A Family Prayer Cube

uring Family Shield's "Fun Family Devotions" workshop suggestions are shared to encourage prayer. One suggestion is to make a family prayer cube to use before meals. Ask your child to toss the prayer cube before each meal. The prayer on the cube that faces up is the one you use as your table prayer.

Prayer Cube Directions: Use a square 2-1/2" x 2-1/2" puzzle piece to draw a square at the top center of an 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 11 piece of colored construction paper. Then draw a square underneath it, then one next to each of the sides of the 2nd square, and two more down the page. The six squares will look like a cross. Include small tabs on every side. Cut the pattern out, fold it, then glue or tape it together. Write a different prayer on each side.

Prayer samples:

- 1) Come Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blessed. Amen.
- 2) A. B. C.. One, Two, Three. Thank you, God, for feeding me.
- 3) Tick, Tock, goes the clock. Now it's time to pray. God our Father, God our Father, once again, once again, we will ask your blessings, we will ask your blessings. Amen. Amen.
- 4) Make up your own prayer.
- 5) Thank you, God, for daily bread; For oranges and for apples red; For milk and cookies and special treats, For all good things you give to eat; For meat and eggs to make us strong; Thank you, God, the whole day long.
- 6) "Thank you God! For giving us food! Thank you God! For giving us food! For the food that we eat and the friends that we meet, thank you God...for giving us food. Amen." (Superman tune)
- 7) "God is great, God is good, let us thank Him for our food. Amen."
- 8) "Oh, the Lord is good to me, and so I thank the Lord, for giving me the things I need, the sun, and the rain, and the apple seed. The Lord is good to me. Amen." (Johnny Appleseed tune)

Family Shield *Programs Address Relevant Issues*

Topics discussed during the *Family Shield* radio programs cover a wide range of issues that are relevant in today's society. Recent programs included "One More Try" featuring Dr. Gary Chapman. His new book addresses marriages on the brink of divorce. Several books were given away to listeners. Other programs included: "Witnessing to those Engaged in Sinful Lifestyles," with Rev. Dr. Mark Larson; "Dealing with Anger in the Home," with Kay Meyer; "Prison Ministry," featuring Rev. David Schultz; "Lutheran Indian Ministry" featuring Dr. Don Johnson; "Growing Up Social—Raising

Relationship Kids in a Screen-driven World" featuring Arlene Pellicane; and "Why I Left the Mormon Church" featuring Sandra Tanner, a greatgreat granddaughter of Brigham Young.

Sign up to receive the Family Shield email newsletter to learn about upcoming radio guests, topics and events; or visit the homepage at www. familyshieldministries. com. If you miss a



and events; or visit Kay Meyer (left) and Jane Haas in the the homepage at www. studio. Our topic was "Building Blocks familyshieldministries. for Grandparents."

radio program you can listen on the FSM archive page at www.kngn.org. Also 'like us' on Facebook.

Stories of Those We Reach and Equip

The *Family Shield* radio program, website, social media, seminars and other outreach and educational efforts are truly impacting lives and we are grateful for the volunteers and financial support that make our work possible. Here are just a few of the comments and requests we recently received from people who have been touched through FSM.

- "Would you mail the two part radio series on "Go First Into Your Home" to my granddaughter and her husband? Some of the ideas you shared about devotions in the home will encourage her as she raises her three young children to know and love Jesus." Eleanor
- "I recently came across your website and listened to several radio programs on the archive page. My daughter is a Mormon. Your programs helped me understand their beliefs and why Christians do not consider them part of the Body of Christ. Can you send me the complimentary tracts you offer to family members so I can learn more? Thank you." William.
- "Thank you for praying for my daughter who became a Jehovah's Witness a few years ago. It is heartbreaking for me that I cannot celebrate Christmas, Easter, and birthdays with her or my three grandchildren. Thank you for your help and support." Joyce
- "I had a fight with my best friend. For months we haven't spoken to each other. Your program on "Dealing with Reconciliation from a Biblical Perspective" helped me a lot. Yesterday I called her and apologized. Thank you for your program." Sarah

Celebrate Family Shield Ministries' 20th Anniversary by Serving Individuals and Families in Your Community

oin us in praising and thanking the Lord as we celebrate Family Shield Ministries' 20th anniversary. The following are suggestions that your family, extended family, family life ministry, congregation or group of friends could do to serve and strengthen individuals and their families in your community.

1. Family Shield Ministries leaders and volunteers recently served

its 20th anniversary cake to 130 special school s t u d e n t s who help assemble our bulkmailings. Why not consider ways you might



serve individuals and families with disabilities? Contact the special school district in your community or Bethesda Lutheran Services (www.

bethsedalutheranservices.org) for additional suggestions.

2. Family Shield's Board of Directors and volunteers prepared and served a meal at a Ronald McDonald House in St. Louis for parents who have children in long-term critical care at local hospitals. How could you serve families with children in a hospital in your community? Call your local children's hospital and ask them for suggestions.

3. Involve Sunday school and day school students in making and mailing greeting cards to military service people and chaplains on active duty.

4. Participate in a prayer event with your family and friends, or organize a day of prayer with your congregation to gather and pray together in your community.

5. Ask your pastor to promote families in your congregation by "adopting" a family in need. Consider an unemployed or financially stressed family from your congregation or the community. Invite them to attend worship, Bible class, Sunday school, have them over for lunch, share your faith, and/or play games together. You might also prepare a basket with food supplies and drop it off at their home. Don't forget a special gift certificate for a movie.

6. Host an "Ice cream, ice cream, we all scream for ice cream" social! Offer 20 flavors or 20 items to put on the ice cream! Have your congregation sponsor an ice-cream social and feature Family Shield Ministries.

7. Take a hike. Gather families from your area (by way of church bulletins, personal invites, e-mails, FaceBook messages) to hike and picnic together at a state park. Include a family-Christ-centered devotion before the hike and a prayer at the end of the hike. Family Shield has children's devotions that we would be happy to send you.

8. Go Fly a Kite. Take kites to Art Hill or another park; wear Family Shield tee shirts for awareness. Shirts for men, women, and children are available with the logo at: www.carouselofstitches.org.

9. Organize a volunteer day for individuals and families from your congregation. Serve an unemployed single mom or a neighbor who is on a low income. Rake leaves, cut grass, shovel snow, clean the house/garage, or paint/decorate a room for them.

10. Organize a Family Shield Ministries Sunday and offer activities for children and families. Raise awareness. Call Family Shield to receive

a bulletin insert that shares the mission statement and ministries. Also include the call letters and times of the radio station in your area where they can hear Family Shield. Ask for the Family Shield video, too. To learn more go to: http://www.familyshieldministries.com/radio.html.

11. Play Bible Charades, Bible Tick-Tack-Toe, or Bible Memory Fun with your extended family or group of friends. These devotional activities are available through Family Shield Ministries, and are also included in Kay Meyer's book, Witnessing–A Lifestyle. *(See Note below.)*

12. Call a local nursing home and ask if they have residents that have no one who visits them. Ask permission to visit with one of them and then do so. Or, ask your congregation for the name of one of your members in a local nursing home and visit them. After you get acquainted, read a short portion of the Bible, a Portals of Prayer devotional, and/or sing a well-known Christian song. Close with a prayer. Don't forget to tell them God loves them and that you do too.

13. Do something special with your children, grandchildren, or spouse. Go to the zoo together, the Magic House, feed the ducks at the local park, go fishing, or roast hot dogs on your BBQ pit in your backyard. Share stories or play games that you played as a child with your children.

Note: Every family or church group that sends a letter or e-mail telling us what they did will receive a complimentary copy of Witnessing— A Lifestyle, written by Kay Meyer.

Upcoming Events

- **Prayer Seminar:** Pray—God Listens, a Family Shield prayer seminar, will be held at Concordia Seminary (Loeber Hall, Room II) 801 Seminary Place, Clayton, MO 63105 on **Saturday, November 8**. The seminar begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 11:45 a.m. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Learn what God's word says about prayer, discuss strategies for improving your prayer life, pray together, and share stories about how God answers prayer. The cost is \$15 per person. Seminary students and their wives can attend at no charge. Space is limited so register in advance. To register or learn more, e-mail fsmkmeyer@gmail.com.
- Women's Bible Study: The Heart to Heart LWML Women's Bible study on "Mary and Martha," sponsored by Christian Friends of New Americans (CFNA), will be Saturday, November 15 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Kay Meyer is the Bible study leader. Learn more by e-mailing Carol Buckman at buckmancal@aol.com.
- **Trivia Night:** The Annual Family Shield Trivia Night in partnership with Our Lady's Inn will be **Saturday, January 17, 2015** at St. Elizabeth Parish Hall in Sappington, MO. Doors open at 6 p.m. Trivia begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person. The evening includes the auction, drinks, snacks, trivia, and Christian fellowship. You can register on the Our Lady's Inn website at www.OurLadysInn.org.
- ALMA National Conference: The Association of Lutheran Mission Agencies (ALMA) national conference is January 28 and 29, 2015 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in St. Louis. Kay Meyer will be one of the sectional speakers on "Witnessing—A Lifestyle". Plan now to attend. Learn more at www.almanetwork.org.

Passing from Death to Life

By Kay L. Meyer

How do we live our life and always remember that although our bodies will die, our souls will live eternally? What did the author of Philippians mean when he wrote: "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). How can dying be gain?

You and I know about dying. People we love die. People we hear about in the newspaper and on the news die. Almost all of us have someone we cared about who has died. Dying surrounds us. Sometimes it's sudden and unexpected and other times it is after a long illness. But what about death? Death is still the greatest mystery. God gives us a glimpse of what happens after death, but doesn't tell us everything. But what He does share indicates that those who have faith in Christ go to heaven after they die. The Bible says we will die, yet we will live. And that we pass from death to life. Those who die in the Lord will be blessed (John 11:25; John 5:24).

Because I had two sons pass away, I frequently have people ask me questions about death and dying and how our family is dealing with the deaths of our beloved sons. The grieving process is a difficult and ongoing one.

A friend called me recently and said, "I just don't understand, Kay. Will I see my loved ones in heaven? I know the Bible says we will be with God in heaven after we die, but what about the people I love that already died? I really want to see my mom and dad again. Will I see them? And will I know them?" I told her that God's Word does indicate we will see and know our loved ones in heaven.

Another question that I have been asked and is worth sharing, "How can I prepare my children for the death of a loved one?" Years ago children and youth were exposed to death much more than they are today. Today many parents try to hide death from children and youth.

I encourage parents to take their children to a funeral parlor when someone dies that the children don't know well. Don't allow the first time they see someone dead to be a loved one they care about. You must decide when they are old enough to go with you to a funeral parlor. Probably not when they are very young, but by the time they are 7-9 years old, they can begin to understand that death is a part of life. Sometimes they are curious and will ask questions after seeing someone in the casket. Explain again the message of the Gospel of Christ that although our bodies die, our souls continue to live on eternally. Allow them to ask questions.

In my book Witnessing—A Lifestyle (Family Shield Ministries, 2008) I share a story about a conversation I had with my youngest son, Jeff, after my husband's 103-year-old grandmother passed away after a long illness. Our three children knew Nana (their great-grandmother) very well. Until



she was 98 years old she lived in her own home near us. She loved to cook for us and always invited the entire Meyer family to her home for dinner. We have great memories of my husband saying to the children as we traveled to her home, "I smell roast beef...do you think that is what Nana will have for us tonight?"

When my 18-year old son got home from school on the afternoon she died I said, "Jeff, Nana died today. Yes, we'll miss her. But just think of the happy reunion that's going on in heaven today! She's seeing her Savior for the first time. And she has joined her mother and father, all eight of her brothers and sisters, her two daughters, and one of her grandsons."

So, may I encourage you to talk to your children, grandchildren, and others you know about the topic of dying and eternal life? It's important that we do this. It gives us an opportunity to tell the next generation about the wonderful works of the Lord.

"We will not hide them from their children, we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done" (Psalms 78:4).

FAMILY SHIELD MINISTRIES 20TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER SPONSORS

Platinum Sponsors Mr. & Mrs. William Brauer Mr. & Mrs. Tjaden Meyer **Rev. Roger Sonnenberg** Our Savior Lutheran Church, Arcadia, CA Kansas LWML District Utah-Idaho LWML District **Gold Sponsors** Dr. Roger Meyer LCMS Office of National Mission Dr. and Mrs. David Vaughn **Silver Sponsors** Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Missouri Concordia Lutheran Church, Kirkwood, Missouri Concordia University—Wisconsin, St. Louis Campus The Culinary Institute of St. Louis at Hickey College Lutheran Hour Ministries Lutheran Indian Ministries Lutheran Senior Services Lutheran Church Extension Fund Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Neeman K. D. Popp Family Shield Ministries Board of Directors **Bronze Sponsors** Ted Drewes Frozen Custard Mr. & Mrs. William Kuntz THRIVENT FINANCIAL MATCHING FUNDS Central St. Charles County Thrivent Chapter Jefferson County Thrivent Chapter Mid South Thrivent Chapter North St. Charles County Thrivent Chapter South Madison County IL Chapter South St. Louis City Thrivent Chapter South St. Louis County Thrivent Chapter West St. Louis County Trivent Chapter West St. Charles-Warren County Thrivent Chapter

Support Family Shield Ministries

s we consider how we live and how we die, one thing we like to encourage our supporters to think about is to remember Family Shield Ministries in their will or estate. If you have done this, please let us know.

Besides your annual gift, another way you can support FSM is through a recurring gift. Those that give on a monthly or quarterly basis help us have the funds year round that we need to continue the outreach services. You can donate through PayPal and designate a monthly gift. Or you can just send your check each month.

All of us want to hear these words from the Lord when we die, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master (Matt. 25:31).

Thrivent Members Support Family Shield Through Choice Dollars

o learn how you can support Family Shield Ministries through Choice Dollars go to the Thrivent website at www.thrivent.com/



Connecting faith & finances for good."

thriventchoice or call 1-800-847-4836. Remember you must re-register with Thrivent annually.

Family Shield Approved as a Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Agency

Ramily Shield Ministries has been approved as a Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) agency. Our number is 85780. Civilian, military, and postal employees can support the ministry through this federal campaign.



LWML Districts Support Family Shield

amily Shield Ministries has received approval of grants from the Kansas LWML District for the radio distribution and follow up services and from the Utah-Idaho LWML District for the Family Shield Counter-Cult Ministry. We are thankful to the women of the LWML. You are a blessing to us!

Family Shield Ministries Video

new 3 ¹/₂ minute Family Shield Ministries video is available at no charge to congregations and church groups that want to learn more about the ministry. It shares the history, the mission, the KSIV studio where the radio program is produced; and features Kay Meyer, Rev. James Liken, David Powell, and a radio listener. To order the DVD or learn how to download it from the Internet, e-mail fsmkmeyer@gmail. com or call 314.772.6070.

YES! I want to support Family Shield Ministries!

Name/Org.
Address:
City/State/Zip:
Phone:
E-mail:
Enclosed is my monthly quarterly annual gift or pledge of:\$50\$83.33 \$250\$500\$1000 or \$
Use my gift wherever it is needed most. Designate my gift for the National Director and 2014-2018 expansion plan. We have included Family Shield Ministries in our will/estate. We would like more information about wills or estate gifts.
If Giving By Credit Card: Visa Master Card
Credit Card #
Amount \$ Exp. Date/ Code* * Security Code from back of card Required for Authorization.
Signature
You may also donate via PayPal at www.familyshieldministries.com. (You do not need to have a PayPal account.) Click the Donate button on the home page. Family Shield Ministries is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Contributions are deductible as allowed by law.

Memorial Gifts

esus said, "Truly, truly I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life" (John 5:24).

Robert Cox Roland Eggerding Jeffrey L. Meyer Kevin T. Meyer David Mychael Stasia Petill Tjaden and Kay Meyer Clarence Voight Donald and Sharon Voight

Mr. & Mrs. William Brauer, Mr. & Mrs. Tjaden Meyer and Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Neeman underwrote a portion of the cost of this newsletter.



Family Shield Ministries, Inc. P.O. Box 230015 St. Louis, MO 63123 www.familyshieldministries.com

Return Service Requested Non Profit Org. U.S. Postage **PAID** St. Louis, MO Permit No. 927

Trivia Night January 17, 2015



FAMILY SHIELD MINISTRIES

Offers thanksgiving and praise to the Lord as we commemorate our

20th Anniversary

Proclaiming the Gospel and Transforming Lives Eternally!



Radio • Seminars • Resources Family Life • Evangelism • Follow Up Counter-Cult Ministry www.familyshieldministries.com

Thank you for your prayers and support.



Concordia Seminary is a Proud Sponsor of Family Shield Ministries' 20th Anniversary "Families Trust Him" Benefit Dinner

