



# **FAMILY SHIELD**

## *Express*



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Fall 2016

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20).*

### 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

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## *Dear Family Shield Friend,*



Kay L. Meyer

**I**t's true! Jesus' name is the hope of the world! Thank you for your partnership with us as we proclaim the Gospel to the world.

I founded Family Shield Ministries, a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, after being involved in education and evangelism for many years.

Little did I know when we became a non-profit ministry in 1994 that the Lord would open the door for us to proclaim the weekly *Family Shield* radio program throughout the United States and the world. Today the program is broadcast on 53 stations.

But our radio outreach is just one of the ways we reach and equip individuals and their families for Christ. We also mentor and equip people through other educational and evangelism services. Obviously there is a great need to reach and equip all individuals and their families for Christ. And, as you will see from the Pew Report that is shared below, today the need is greater than ever before.

### **Why does Family Shield Ministries (FSM) exist and what are the goals? FSM strives to:**

- Clearly articulate the Gospel that those who do not know Christ might come to faith;
- Equip Christians to apply faith to life situations, grow in the knowledge of God's Word, and use their gifts to serve and witness in the home, church, and community;
- Connect people to resources;
- Develop partnerships and collaborations; and
- Help individuals and their families implement the six traits of healthy families.

### **What does the Pew Research say about the Church and today's families?**

The Christian share of the United States population is declining and the number of U.S. adults who do not identify with any organized religion is growing, according to an extensive new survey by the Pew Research Center. While

*"His name will be the hope of the world"*

Matthew 12:21

the drop in Christian affiliation is particularly pronounced among young adults, it is occurring among Americans of all ages. The same trends are seen among whites, blacks, and Latinos; among both college graduates and adults with only a high school education; and among women as well as men.

The United States remains home to more Christians than any other country in the world, and a large majority of Americans – roughly seven in ten – continue to identify with some branch of the Christian faith. But the major new survey of more than 35,000 Americans by the Pew Research Center finds that the percentage of adults (ages 18 and older) who describe themselves as Christians has dropped by nearly eight percentage points in just seven years, from 78.4% in an equally massive Pew Research survey in 2007 to 70.6% in 2014. Over the same period, the percentage of Americans who are religiously unaffiliated – describing themselves as atheist, agnostic or 'nothing in particular' – has jumped more than six points, from 16.1% to 22.8%. And the share of American's who identify with non-Christian faiths also has inched up, rising 1.2 percentage points, from 4.7% in 2007 to 5.9% in 2014. Growth has been especially great among Muslims and Hindus, albeit from a very low base.

### **Family Shield Ministries Proclaims the Gospel and God's Word Beyond the Walls of the Church**

Our name is based on Eph. 6:16 that says, "Take up the shield of faith." The mission is to educate and equip people, through the power of the Gospel, to know Christ, grow in His Word, and strengthen individuals and their families.

We accomplish the mission through outreach and educational ministries and services that include the weekly half-hour *Family Shield* radio program; the educational

*Continued on page 2*

## Dear Friends....Cont'd from page 1

programs on family life, spiritual growth, and learning to witness; the counter-cult ministry that helps family members and friends of Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons cope with and witness to loved ones involved in these organizations; and connecting people to important resources.

**Radio Program:** The *Family Shield* radio program is a weekly half-hour program that has been broadcast for 22 years and is currently heard on 53 radio stations throughout the United States. Our media consultant documented that 800,000 people listen to our program each week. And according to the George Barna Resource Group 10 to 15 percent of radio listeners are unchurched. Topics include: family life, spiritual growth, missions, and learning to witness. We feature LCMS and Christian experts on a wide range of topics that are relevant to issues today's families and the Church face.

One way we connect people to resources through the radio program is by featuring like-minded ministries. Over the years we have partnered with and featured many LCMS organizations and their leaders. Sample organizations include: Concordia Seminary—St. Louis; Lutheran Indian Ministries, Concordia University—WI, Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ, Transforming Churches Network, Lutheran Hour Ministries, and Lutheran Federal Credit Union.

**Counter-Cult Ministry:** The FSM Counter-Cult Ministry shares the Christ of the Bible with Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, and assists family members and friends as they learn to cope and witness to loved ones. The ministry:

- Offers prayer, training seminars and workshops to congregations, circuits, districts, and conventions on "Witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses" and "Witnessing to Mormons."
- Produces radio programs on cults, the occult (New Age, Wicca) and false religions (Muslims) and promotes them through the archive page.
- Refers and connects individuals to appropriate resources and products.
- Networks with other apologetic organizations and experts knowledgeable in the area of cults, the occult and false religions.

**Follow Up:** The Family Shield Follow-Up Service answers telephone calls, emails, and responds to social media contacts from over 6,000 people each year. Last year 325 people contacted us that were unchurched or did not know Christ as their Savior. Many people contact us asking for prayer for a family member or friend or resources. The follow up services offers a weekly

issue-oriented booklet to listeners who request them, and also refers people to local congregations.

**Educational Programs:** Family Shield Ministries designs and presents educational programs on topics such as family life, parenting, spiritual growth, apologetics, and learning to witness. Three popular six hour seminars are "Families—Go First into the Home," "Responding and Witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses," and "Witnessing—A Lifestyle."

**Connecting Individuals to Resources:** Family Shield recognizes that one of the challenges individuals, families and church leaders face is finding resources that meet their needs. We strive through all ministries and services to share resources (people, products, and organizations) with those who contact us. Besides featuring many authors and others that produce resources, Family Shield Ministries has also produced articles, devotions, booklets, Bible studies and books.

Another way we promote and connect people to resources is through the "Recommended Links" on our website. Eleven categories include: Children, Youth, and Family; Christian Resources; Christian Counselors; Apologetic Christian Organizations; Creation Science; Health and Healing; Substance Abuse; Development/Funding; Unemployment; Lutheran Organizations and Congregations; and Foundations.

**Sharing the Law and Gospel:** Family Shield Ministries shares the law and Gospel and strives to help those who do not yet know Christ, or who are confused about spiritual issues, to learn about their Savior, Jesus Christ, as well as God's Word. We also equip Christians to serve and witness in their home, church, and community. Those we reach and equip are serving in many and varied ways throughout the United States in their congregations and communities.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, interest in our work and for your financial support. You are a blessing to us!

In His Service and yours,

*Kay L Meyer*

Kay L. Meyer — Founder, President and Host of Family Shield

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## Focus on a Family Shield Board Member—Harold Melser

**H**arold Melser retired after five years as Director of Ministry Support for Lutheran Hour Ministries and President, Lutheran Hour Ministries Foundation in October 2014.

Harold served in numerous other leadership positions that included being the Executive Director of The Deaconess Foundation and the Executive Director of Development and Planned Gifts for the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Foundation.

Harold received his BS in Education Degree from Ball State University and has a Master's Degree in Speech Communication from the University of Nebraska. He is recognized as a Master Teacher by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) and was President of the St. Louis AFP Chapter (1988-1990). In 1989, Harold was recognized as the St. Louis AFP Outstanding Fundraising Executive and received the Founders Award by the St. Louis Planned Giving Council. He has also served on the national boards of the AFP and the Partnership for Philanthropic Planning (PPP).

Currently, Harold provides fundraising assistance to Christian Friends of New Americans, serves on the Lutherans in Medical Missions Board of Directors and Family Shield Ministries Board of Directors. Harold also volunteers as the Destination Specialist for the Convention and Visitor Commission. He and his wife, Amy, are members of Faith Lutheran Church in Columbia, IL.

## Proclaiming the Gospel to the World

**F**amily Shield's radio program, broadcast on 53 stations, is heard by 800,000 people each week. We take the Great Commission, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:18-19) seriously. Your prayers and support are needed to help us continue and expand our work.

### A 53rd radio station recently began airing Family Shield in Lincoln, NE

**W**e are pleased to announce that we now have 53 radio stations that air *Family Shield* each week. KNNa 95.7 FM in Lincoln, Nebraska is a 501-c-3 non-profit Lutheran Community Radio station with the potential to reach over 235,000 people in and around Lincoln, NE. Learn where the radio program airs, in state order, as well as the day and time here: <http://familyshieldministries.com/radio-ministry/>.



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*We thank the following sponsors of the  
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We sincerely appreciate your  
generosity and support!*

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KSIV AM and FM/Bott Radio Network  
Lutheran Bible Translators  
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Mr. & Mrs. Harold Melser  
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Rev. Wayne Hamit  
Rev. Dr. and Mrs. David Vaughn

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Lutheran Hour Ministries  
Lutheran Church Extension  
Fund

### AMETHYST

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## Join Us In Prayer

**F**amily Shield Ministries receives hundreds of requests from those we serve asking for prayer, such as: a wife whose husband was having an affair; a young man seeking to learn more about Christianity; a woman needing a job; a recovering compulsive gambler; a disfellowshipped Jehovah's Witness; a mother with two unsaved children; an aunt seeking help for her pregnant, unwed niece; prisoners seeking more understanding of God; families whose loved ones have become involved with Mormons, and more. Please join us in praying for these needs. Submit your own prayer requests at [witnesstofamily@gmail.com](mailto:witnesstofamily@gmail.com) or 314.772.6070.



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## People We Reach, Equip, Mentor and Save

**B**elow are some of the comments and feedback from people who we have reached through the ministry:

- “I spoke with Kevin last week. Before he placed his faith in Christ he was an Atheist. He heard the Gospel for the first time on Christian radio. *Family Shield* was one of the programs. What a blessing to learn how the Lord touched him and used our ministry.” Kay Meyer

- “My family was in a desperate situation with my sister who had a bipolar disorder. She had been hospitalized then evicted from her home, so she was now homeless and no one in the family was able to take her in due to her mental illness and the fact that



all her kids were raising small children. I live in Houston and wasn't familiar with resources available in St. Louis. I knew about Kay Meyer from Family Shield Ministries and that she always makes a ton of resources available on her website and knows many organizations and leaders through her ministry. I contacted her for help and she responded quickly with valuable contacts that were able to make recommendations for assisted living facilities. One of them turned out to be just what we needed—a facility that provides a stable, safe home for low income mentally ill women. I can't thank Kay Meyer and Family Shield Ministries enough! Without their assistance, I may not have found

the help my sister needed. I also especially want to thank the individuals, churches, and other organizations that support Family Shield.” Michele Caldwell

- “Can you pray for my son and his family? He stopped attending church when he went away to college. Today he has two young sons, but they never attend church.” Martha

- “Kay, I'm ready to give up on the church. Can you tell me why I shouldn't stop attending church?” I responded, “Don't look for the church or church leaders to be perfect. We can't be perfect. We are all sinners and because of this we will do things that are wrong. Look to Jesus. He is the perfect one. He is the one that paid the price for our sins and offers forgiveness and hope. Another reason to not give up on the church is because the Lord created not only the family, but the Church. Also remember that God's Word says in Hebrews that we should not forsake assembling together. So, don't give up...instead look to Jesus!”



- Christine, a single mom, emailed us last month and told us her 16 year old son has a Mormon girlfriend. He has told his mother he rejects his Christian faith and that he wants to become a Mormon. We shared important Christian resources with her and have encouraged her to stand firm and be in prayer for her son. We also connected her with other

family members in similar situations. Please keep Christine and her son in your prayers.

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## Memorial & Special Event Gifts

**G**ifts can be given to Family Shield Ministries in loving memory of a family member or friend; in honor of a special person or couple; or in recognition of an event or occasion like baptisms, a wedding anniversary, and confirmations.

Dr. Otto Hintze  
*Tjaden and Kay Meyer*  
*Gertrude Vablkamp*  
Rev. Vernon Gundermann  
*Tjaden and Kay Meyer*  
Clarence Voight  
*Don and Sharon Voight*  
Jeffrey Meyer  
Kevin Meyer  
*Paul and Joanne Petrikovitsch*

## *The Family Shield Ministries Succession and Expansion Plan*

**F**amily Shield Ministries continues to move forward with its five-year succession and expansion plan. Our next step includes hiring our first executive director. This leader will work with Kay Meyer for the first year in an interim executive director's position. The next year he/she will become the executive director of Family Shield Ministries. Several grants have been submitted that will cover 60% of the plan for two years. The remainder of the funds will come from individuals, families, and congregational leaders like you. If you would like to set up a meeting to learn more, email [witnesstofamily@gmail.com](mailto:witnesstofamily@gmail.com) or call 314.772.6070.

## *Ways to Support Family Shield Ministries*

### **Spiritual Warrior's Monthly Giving Club**

In 2016 Family Shield began the Spiritual Warrior's Monthly Giving Club. All donors who give \$5 or more per month are part of this group and will be recognized annually. You can give on a monthly basis by sending a check each month, by signing up to give a specific amount at your bank, or by signing up through our PayPal account on our website at [www.familyshieldministries.com](http://www.familyshieldministries.com) for a monthly gift. We have set a goal to expand the number of donors that give on a monthly basis by 50% during 2016-2017. If you are interested and have questions about how to do this, email us at [witnesstofamily@gmail.com](mailto:witnesstofamily@gmail.com).

### **Thrivent Members Choice Dollars Can Support Family Shield**

Family Shield Ministries is an approved Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars organization. You can donate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Family Shield Ministries by calling 1-800-847-4836 or at [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com). Don't forget you must sign up twice a year with Thrivent. Thank you for supporting Family Shield Ministries.

### **Leave a Gift through Your Will or Trust**

More than half of all Americans will die intestate. Do you know that word? It means that they have no written Last Will and Testament. If you die intestate, the state will make all decisions regarding the disposition of your property, and then charge your estate for its services.

Why on earth would people not make a will? Well, people procrastinate, assuming that someday they will get around to it and never do. Or they reason that when they're dead, they won't care how their estate is carved up. Or they think they're immortal.

God loves when people plan ahead with management of His gifts, and He loves it when people plan to take care of the next generation. "A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children" (Proverbs 13:22). A will or bequest can help your grandchild go to college. It can relieve a crippling debt. And it can help proclaim the Gospel and transform lives in time for eternity through a Christian ministry.

So, why not consider leaving a percentage of your assets to Family Shield Ministries or another non-profit organization that you care about and support? You can contact your lawyer or the LCMS Foundation to learn more.

***"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).***

### **YES! I want to support Family Shield Ministries!**

Your prayers, volunteer support and financial gifts allow us to share the Gospel with those who do not yet know Christ, and equip Christians to serve and witness in their daily life. Why not consider a gift or pledge?

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(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.**

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