



THE IMOK ZEALOT



BECAUSE WE'RE CRAZY ABOUT THE WORD OF GOD

Issue 9

Autumn 2005

Secretary's Note

Many of you faithful Zealot readers have probably noticed the shortened length of this issue of the Zealot. This newsletter is only made possible if you awesome IMOKers continue to write articles and let us know what is going on with your campus ministry, your personal faith walk, or any other exciting life news that you want to share with everyone else! So please, on behalf of the incoming secretary, continue to write articles! This can be a great outreach tool if we let it, but it is only made possible by contributors like you.

Sarah Moyer
2004-2005 IMOK Secretary

Are you a Hot Lutheran?

Jenny Townshend, Capital University

Some already know and many will soon discover the hip website known as <http://www.hotlutherans.com>. Come on, admit it: you've at times forgotten the web address of <http://www.lsm-usa.org/imok>. But just remembering one little compound word—hotlutherans—makes it all easier...and much more fun.

When an LSMer is doing outreach—to high school students, for example—sometimes it is difficult to get them to write down our website AND think it is cool enough to actually visit. Thanks to the efforts of Ben Krey and company, there is a website dedicated to the coolness of Lutherans, with a link to the national LSM website and to each regional website as well.

HotLutherans.com is an effective form of outreach and ministry. The premise is this: ANY Lutheran can be a HOT Lutheran. In fact, you can send in your picture and it will be posted on the website! And don't worry about finding a glamorous photo—that's not the point. We want to see you at your most normal. This is what makes you who you are and wonderful! You don't have to get all dressed up for your fellow Lutherans to appreciate your hotness!

So go ahead! Skip the shower today! Send your picture in and then tell every high school student and college student you know about <http://www.hotlutherans.com>, where everybody knows your name. :-) If this is an experience you have not yet had, get yourself there today and see the familiar and unfamiliar faces, all joined together in (Hot) Lutheranism!

Let Love Build

Jenna Rump, Purdue University

Purdue has many new buildings that are constantly under construction, but this year we are letting love build instead. Purdue Lutheran Ministry is taking part in a campaign with seven Lutheran churches in our county called "Let Love Build". We are involved in the total process of completing a Habitat for Humanity house in our community, from the complete funding to the actual building.

Each congregation is in charge of raising 1/7 of the total amount. Our group has been paired with another Lutheran student group on campus. So far we have had many successful fundraisers including: selling elk burgers at a community 1700's time period festival (complete in historical dress), parking cars at a football game, and having a car wash at a local store.

God has given us many gift and we are thankful that we are able to use those in order to help others in need in our community.



Members of Purdue's LCM serve elk burgers as a fundraiser.



Spoke Folk Ohio

Kristen Satterlee, Ashland University

This past summer I had the opportunity to participate in one of the most amazing ministries I have ever experienced. It's called Spoke Folk and it was pretty much one of the best decisions I've made in a long time. Going into it, I was nervous beyond all belief, almost to the point of hyperventilating on the car ride to our small home church, Israel United Church of Christ in Paris, OH. Little did I know that first day how much I would bond with these people I had never met before; that they would become my family.

Spoke Folk is a "musical and biking ministry." What does that mean? Well, it means that a bunch of crazy 14+ year old kids & some 21+ year old counselors ride around a state (Ohio in my case) stopping at churches to put on a program spreading the love of Jesus Christ. Now, don't get too scared by the biking part – I'm not much of one either. That's how I met one of my closest friends on tour; Becky. On our very first training ride we both got "vanned" for being dehydrated, and instantly bonded. We stuck together in the butt pack (the tail end of the riders) for the rest of the tour.

One of the most important parts of Spoke Folk is the sense of family that you get on tour. For twelve straight days you do everything with the same people. You shower (in the parking lot under a hose) together, sleep together, eat together, pray together, perform together, and ride bikes together. It's just amazing to see how close you become to 47 strangers in just 12 days. The last day of tour was one of the hardest days of my life... And they warned us about it too—"It's like saying goodbye to your best friend 47 times." But even though I knew there would never be another tour like ours, with the same people, churches, and situation, I know I would stay close to many of the people on tour and that I would probably see most of them again.

After Spoke Folk, that was all I could talk about the rest of the summer. And now, even my new roommate says sometimes "It always comes back to Spoke Folk, doesn't it?" And it's true, because I relate everything back to that. It's just amazing how twelve days can touch your life so deeply.

Lastly, I just want to encourage all of you to take a look into this amazing ministry. It doesn't matter where you live, how much money you have, or if you can even ride a bike—they will let you tour. They have at least four tours in different states each summer and are very flexible with payments. Check it out!! <http://www.spokefolk.org>. God Bless!



Spoke Folkers gather together for a group hug and prayer.



Breaking Out! LSM's Servant Project

Sarah Moyer, Ashland University

For the past six months, I have been serving on the National LSM Spring Breaking Out! Planning committee. By this point in the Breaking Out! project planning, I hope you all have at least heard about what we're planning to do. But if you haven't, here is a short run-down. Breaking Out! is the product of the National LSM Exec board deciding there was need for a national service project for our organization. Thrivent then gave us a matching grant for up to \$125,000; this money will be enough to cover nearly all of the costs of the project for 180 people to participate in service in two cities in the United States for two years (30 people per week for three weeks for two years). The Breaking Out! location for 2006 is Atlanta, GA. Not only will Breaking Out! be a great opportunity to help a community in need, but it will also be a chance to learn about social ministry from Pastors and representatives from social ministry groups like Lutheran World Relief or Lutheran Social Services; Breaking Out! will also give the participants opportunities to meet other LSM members from across the country and participate in theological discussions and reflection. We wrestled with the idea of changing location to a Gulf coast area affected by hurricane Katrina, but we realized that even though there is a huge need in one area, it does not alleviate the need in another; thus, we are going to Atlanta in 2006 and the Gulf coast area in 2007.

Whether you have been interested in the project from the beginning or if you are just hearing about it for the first time, I would like to urge you all to prayerfully consider participating in the Breaking Out! project in some way, whether it be by helping with fundraising or actually going to Atlanta in March. More information is available online at <http://www.lsm-usa.org/breakingout.htm>.

Why am I urging you to do this? Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he told his disciples that they will be his "witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). From a missions and outreach standpoint, this means that we are called to serve God in four areas: our immediate location (city/town/college campus, etc), our state, our country, and the world. Breaking Out! will give 90 students the opportunity to serve God in our country; but for the remainder of the people who do not go on this trip, I encourage you to find a service opportunity somewhere. You could tutor an at-risk student at the local elementary school. You could serve food at a homeless shelter for Thanksgiving. You could help build a Habitat house for someone in Appalachia or Thailand. The possibilities are endless; and they are all fabulous ways to serve God, for he says, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. . . whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:35-36, 40).

May God be with you as you consider joining the Breaking Out! project and as you continue to serve in all areas of your life.