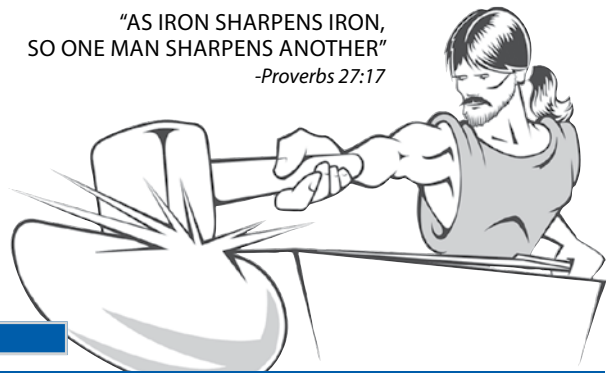


"AS IRON SHARPENS IRON,
SO ONE MAN SHARPENS ANOTHER"
-Proverbs 27:17



THE ANNUAL

MEN'S MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER OF THE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF HERSHEY

WINTER 2012

Join Us in 'Taking the Hill!'



Men's Quest March 16 - 18, 2012 Kenbrook Camp Lebanon

register in the lobby on Sunday or call
Craig Koskela, 533-2092, ext. 2028



with **Dr. Crawford Loritts**
well-known author, pastor and speaker

The biennial Hershey Free men's retreat...better known as "Men's Quest" will be held Fri-Sun March 16-18 at the Kenbrook Bible Camp north of Lebanon, Pa.

We are excited to have Dr. Crawford Loritts as our featured speaker. Dr. Loritts spoke at Hershey Free Church men's conference nine years ago and was very well received.

The weekend retreat starts on Friday evening at 9pm and concludes after lunch on Sunday (about 1pm). All Hershey Free men are encouraged to attend, and dads are encouraged to bring their teenage sons and/or friends.

Dr Loritts serves as the senior pastor of Fellowship Bible Church in Roswell, Georgia, and is affiliate professor of pastoral theology and urban leadership at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Illinois. Several types of accommodations will be available: single, double and multi-person rooms including rustic cabins for 11, with an individual price break for multiple occupancy.

A free-will offering will be taken for Dr. Loritts to cover his travel costs and honorarium. Besides teaching from Dr. Loritts, men will enjoy small group discussions, band-led worship and recreational activities.

Location: Kenbrook Bible Camp and Conference Center
- 190 Pine Meadow Road Lebanon, PA 17046 (www.kenbrook.org)

Dates: Friday 7pm through Sunday 1pm, March 16-18.

For: Hershey Free men, friends and teenaged boys

To register: Sign up in lobby on the next Sundays or by mailing in your registration form.

Registration fee: includes 2 nights lodging, 5 meals and use of facilities and is variable dependant on accommodations and timing of registration (early-bird

discount until February 18.

Topic: "Taking the Hill" - Dr Loritts will challenge us Friday evening, twice on Saturday with a 4th session on Sunday morning.

Activities: small group, gym and free time, midnight dodgeball, basketball, ping pong competitions, movie night (featuring "Courageous"), Saturday afternoon clay pigeon shoot (\$5 additional fee), cycling adventure, nature hike, paintballing (\$10 additional fee), ropes course, electronic options.

Jeff Schlader Joins the Men's Council

By Bruce Clutcher

Jeff Schlader is the latest addition to the Hershey Free Church Men's Council. He was recruited by Gary Lathrop and the council to fill the large "shoes" left by Trig Rohrbach, who moved on to serve on the church's Elder Board. Jeff is married to Linda, his wife of 31 years. Together they are blessed with two adult children: Josh and Jeriah Schlader. Linda says that she is convinced of God's providence in bringing her and Jeff together more than three decades ago, seeing in him the strength and balance she needs to guide their family through life's challenges.

A native of Shamokin, Pa., Jeff grew up there and attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania, majoring in computer science. He is employed in the Information Technology department at Hershey Medical Center as assistant director of clinical systems. He is responsible for implementation and adaptation of the processes and software that enable the various clinician services to automate their workflow.



Jeff Schlader

Jeff accepted Christ in Muncy, Pa., at a Child Evangelism Fellowship summer camp as a young 8-year old. But it wasn't until 1982 that he was baptized at Hershey Free by Pastor Dave Martin. Jeff would like to use his time on the council to grow closer to the Lord and develop deeper relationships with the guys in men's ministry. He is currently one of three coach/leaders for the three Men's Fraternity groups. In this leadership role, he mentors and oversees the Tuesday morning table leaders to ensure that they are equipped to handle their immediate leadership responsibilities.

Jeff is involved in other church activities. For those of you attending the 8 a.m. Heritage service and wonder who arrives at the church faithfully before 7 a.m. every Sunday ... that would be non other than "Mr. Coffee," Jeff Schlader. He also ushers at the 9:15 a.m. Encounter services. Previously, he organized 20 of the 30 Hurricane Katrina relief trips to the Gulf Coast over a two-year period ... taking five of those trips himself or with Linda.

We are excited to have Jeff on the council and are looking forward to his contribution to seeing the Lord work in the lives of Hershey Free men.

Bruce Clutcher is on the Men's Council and serves in the communications area.

Dads & Daughters Day 2011





*Dads & Daughters Day
November 2011*



Men's Ministries Calendar

January

- 17 Morning Men's Frat
- 17 LVBH Men's Frat
- 18 Evening Men's Frat
- 21 Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- 24 Morning Men's Frat
- 24 LVBH Men's Frat
- 24 Rangers
- 25 Evening Men's Frat
- 31 Morning Men's Frat
- 31 LVBH Men's Frat

February

- 1 Evening Men's Frat
- 7 Morning Men's Frat
- 7 LVBH Men's Frat
- 8 Evening Men's Frat
- 11 Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- 11 Men's Council
- 14 Morning Men's Frat
- 14 LVBH Men's Frat
- 14 Rangers
- 15 Evening Men's Frat
- 21 Morning Men's Frat
- 21 LVBH Men's Frat
- 22 Evening Men's Frat
- 28 Morning Men's Frat
- 28 LVBH Men's Frat
- 28 Rangers
- 29 Evening Men's Frat

March

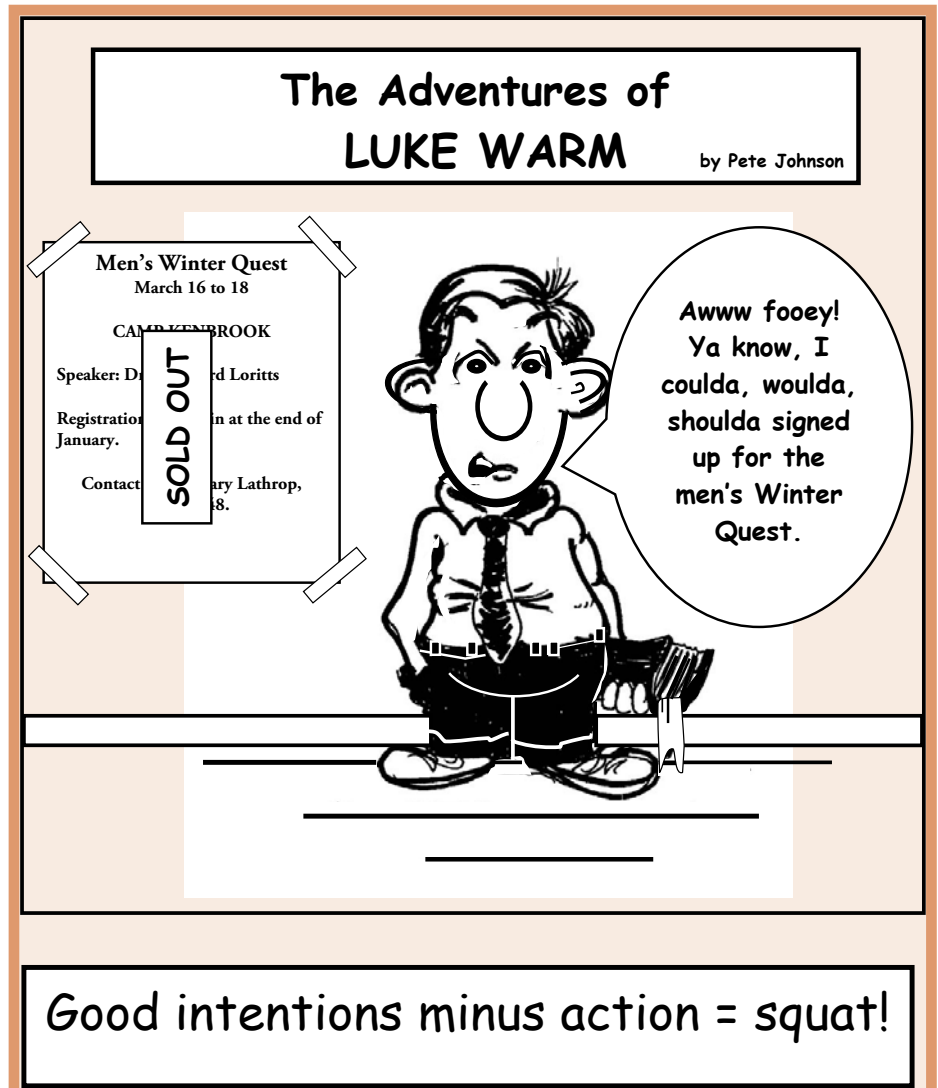
- 3 Men's Council
- 6 Morning Men's Frat
- 6 LVBH Men's Frat
- 7 Evening Men's Frat
- 10 Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- 13 Morning Men's Frat
- 13 LVBH Men's Frat
- 13 Rangers
- 14 Evening Men's Frat
- 16-18 Men's Quest at Kenbrook

- 20 Morning Men's Frat
- 20 LVBH Men's Frat
- 21 Evening Men's Frat
- 27 Morning Men's Frat
- 27 LVBH Men's Frat
- 27 Rangers
- 28 Evening Men's Frat

April

- 3 Morning Men's Frat
- 3 LVBH Men's Frat
- 4 Evening Men's Frat
- 7 Men's Council

- 10 Morning Men's Frat
- 10 LVBH Men's Frat
- 10 Rangers
- 11 Evening Men's Frat
- 17 Morning Men's Frat
- 17 LVBH Men's Frat
- 18 Evening Men's Frat
- 21 Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- 24 Morning Men's Frat
- 24 LVBH Men's Frat
- 24 Rangers
- 25 Evening Men's Frat



When Your Calling is Tough

By Pastor Gary Lathrop
Pastor for Community Life

Last summer the Men's Council participated in the Global Leadership Summit at Willow Creek Community Church, near Chicago. Thanks to men who gave generously of their time, resources, and



vehicles to drive many miles over a few days, we were able to experience this challenging annual conference live, in the same building as 8,000 of our new best friends from around the world. The conference was amazing in that, in my opinion, there were no poor or even average talks – each one was excellent and brought

an essential piece that contributed to the two-day experience.

While most speakers are typically at the top of their fields and are CEOs, presidents, chancellors, pastors of churches that have grown from zero to 8,000 in five years, and the like, this year's Summit included a segment on tough callings. Those who spoke during this portion of the program served in difficult places such as the garbage slums of Cairo, or places where they had been beaten for their faith.

During the conference, the prophet Jeremiah was referenced as one who God called to a life of challenge and difficulty. The life of the “weeping prophet,” as he is often called, was marked by constant sadness and persecution. Jeremiah was born into a priestly family and was called to prophetic office at around the age of 20 and served as a prophet for more than 40 years. The Lord did not permit him to marry, and there is no indication in Scripture that he ever had any disciples. It seems unlikely that he had a big following. His only real friend seemed to be his faithful scribe, Baruch, the son of Neriah. Jeremiah's message through the years was consistent – God's people needed to fully repent or Jerusalem and Judah would be destroyed by a nation from the north and the people would be carried into captivity. He aroused bitter opposition to himself and his message from all portions of the nation, including his own family. These prophecies

were fulfilled during Jeremiah's lifetime and he was compelled to flee to Egypt with the remnant of Judah at the time of Nebuchadnezzar's conquest. He continued to prophesy “bad news” in Egypt and denounced the idolatry of the Jews there until his death.

It is a relief to most of us that we are not called to a ministry like that of Jeremiah. Most of us would much rather be the success story and with little effort, see great results. Jeremiah loved, prayed for, and agonized over his people with little outward result. How many of us would persevere, even if we knew for sure that God called us, to a losing proposition for more than 40 years? This is not to suggest there is no place for evaluation and examination of the things upon which we spend our energy and time. For many of us, if our area of ministry is difficult and yields no result for years and all we get is negative feedback, we need to at least take a step back and consider if this is how God is calling us to minister or if we are gifted to do whatever it is, or even if so, whether this is God's timing. However, there are times such as those with Jeremiah, where God calls us to minister, even when outward success is not obvious.

And what is Jeremiah's response to the “thankless” job that God had for him all of his adult life? Yes, he struggled and hurt and asked God questions. But, the consistent response of Jeremiah to God's difficult calling was submission and a trust of the One who knows all and who is working a plan, the details of which we may never fully comprehend. As Willow Creek Senior Pastor Bill Hybels stated at the Summit: “According to human scorecards, Jeremiah's ministry never went well during his entire lifetime. But he stayed faithful to his calling....He never lost confidence in the faithfulness of God.” The book of Lamentations is attributed to Jeremiah by many scholars, and in it we read in chapter 3, verses 22 and 23, these well-known words: “Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” As we face seasons of challenge and difficulties in ministry, let us remember that God is still faithful and that his compassions are new every morning.

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