



Arizona-California District
Commission on
Special Ministries Report

October 2014

WELS Looping Map If your church already has a hearing loop, make sure you are listed on our WELS Hearing Loop map (at tinyurl.com/WELS-Hearing-Loops). Another tip: If your church has a hearing loop, have someone contact the audiologists in your area to inform them. Audiologists recommend including t-coil technology on hearing aids. Your members need that technology.

New books on homosexuality NPH has published Scott Barefoot and Pastor Richard Starr's book, *Forgive Us Our Sins: Homosexuality in the Light of God's Truth*. A second excellent WELS book on the same subject is William Monday's book (available on Amazon) *Rainbow Savior*, which was written for someone who struggles with the issue. A group of WELS members has formed "People of Grace: Christians Overcoming Same Sex Attraction" (poglutheran.org) as a tool for ministry. The website www.conquerersthroughchrist.com is also available to help people address the sins of internet pornography temptation and addiction.

Who visits women and youth behind bars? WLIM Institutional Ministries, a partner with our Prison Ministry, has received a grant to involve more women in jail and prison ministry. As a percentage of the correctional population, women behind bars continues to increase. We need more women to receive training to bring the Word to other women and at risk youth. We also can help your church reach out at the local county jail. Contact Pastor Robert Pasbrig at WLIM (414-259-4372) or Pastor Rick Tuttle of Jail Ministry Team Training (jmtt@wels.net)

Looking for meaningful youth ministry? Get your young people involved in special ministries projects. 1. With training, your teen group can be a blessing by doing nursing home visits. 2. Form a New Friends group (google "TLHA" and "New Friends" to find out more about this friendship ministry with special needs teens). 3. Get your teens to put some thought into a "Witness Night" for prisoners – write encouraging notes to prisoners (follow card and note guidelines at tinyurl.com/WELS-PMC-Pen-Pal) and forward the notes of encouragement to WELS Prison Ministry.

Insurance Companies are concerned about background checks. If you obtain Special Ministries' *Congregational Guidelines for Dealing with Sexual Offenders* and follow the guidelines, they will help you minister to your families and any offenders in your church. Your insurance company will be glad to receive the publication from you, knowing you are implementing its policies. You can download a copy (use Internet Explorer) at tinyurl.com/CSM-Resources

Communicating Forgiveness is the next Chaplain Certification course, taught online this winter by Pastor Curt Lyon. You don't have to be in the program to take this MLC course. Chaplaincy training, though, has opened opportunities for called workers and lay members to serve in the community with the gospel. Institutional ministry has rules to follow, but WELS chaplains are finding many places where the life-giving gospel is needed and welcomed. For more information, check out "Chaplain Certification Program" on the MLC Web site.

Are you planning a Veteran's Day event? Resources are available on the Military Services Connect pages. Go to tinyurl.com/WELS-Veterans-Day-Resources (Use Internet Explorer if you download.)

Just a couple of clicks to give help Special Ministries has powerful spiritual resources to help our members in the military, as well as those who are incarcerated. Sometimes we don't get contact information until it's too late. If you know someone is enlisting or is being transferred or deployed, or has been incarcerated, please take a few moments to fill out the online referral form <http://www.wels.net/special-ministries/online-referrals>

Committee on Mental Health Needs provides materials to help WELS members understand mental health therapy. There is also a **Network of WELS / ELS Therapists**. A new resource www.conquerersthroughchrist.com is designed to help people address the sins of internet pornography temptation and addiction.

Consider a **special needs ministry to reach unchurched people in your community**. By offering resources to the blind and visually impaired, deaf and hard of hearing, those with intellectual or developmental disability, to people in nursing homes, to prisoners, or others who struggle, you can serve people who may be ripe for the gospel, but simply need a church that can provide a ministry that is accessible to them.

In Christ's service,

Jonathan Kehren, Coordinator
6473 Pinebrook Way
Rocklin, CA 95677
916-652-4273 (office)
916-749-9503 (mobile)
jonkehren@gmail.com