



## The Arizona-California District Commission on Special Ministries

The Special Ministries Commission continues to work to meet the ministry needs of our congregations in the following eight areas: 1) Deaf and Hard of Hearing; 2) Prison/Institutional Ministries; 3) Mental Health Needs; 4) Blind and Visually Impaired; 5) Ministry to Military members and their families; 6) Special education; 7) Ministry to the Aging; 8) Care Committee for Called Workers

### **New Coordinator**

In the fall of 2009, Pastor Jonathan Kehren has taken over the role of District Coordinator for Special Ministries. Please feel free to contact him if you have any questions or special ministry needs in your congregation. He will do his best to answer or direct you to someone who can help. He can be reached at [pastorkehren@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pastorkehren@sbcglobal.net) or (916)-652-4273.

### **District Survey**

This spring we conducted a district survey to assess our special ministry needs in our district. Please e-mail Pastor Kehren at [pastorkehren@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pastorkehren@sbcglobal.net) if you haven't yet taken this survey.

### **Military Services**

There is a concern that many WELS military members are not being served with Word and Sacrament ministry. Resources for military members can be found at the web site [www.military.wels.net](http://www.military.wels.net). Please refer any names of members you know are in the military to the military services committee. You can do this on the website: [www.military.wels.net](http://www.military.wels.net). Pastor Mark Jeske's "Time of Grace" program is now being broadcast on the Armed Forces Network.

### **Prison Ministries**

About 50,000 prisoners are receiving our materials. There is a continuing need for pen pals and Bible study test correctors. If any of your members are interested contact our Prison Ministry Administrator Dave Nack (507-354-3130) or email him at: [welspm@newulmtel.net](mailto:welspm@newulmtel.net).

### **Mental Health Needs**

- There is a growing need for information which will help pastors counsel and then refer people to outside counselors. Brochures that are available are: 1) Ask a Therapist - an interview tool for lay members; 2) Christian or Non-Christian Counselors - a tract to help members decide about counseling; 3) A Brief Review of Counseling Models/Glossary - to help pastors and members understand psychological methods and vocabulary; 4) When to Refer - a tool to help pastors and teachers decide to refer counselees to other professionals.
- The WELS Mental Health Committee is also preparing materials to help congregations, teachers, and parents with the growing problem of internet abuse and addiction.

It is a joy and privilege to serve our district in the area of Special Ministries. Please contact me if you have any needs. May God bless our efforts in serving God's precious souls.

Serving Him with you,  
Pastor Jonathan Kehren  
District Special Ministries Coordinator