

Floor Committee 19: Christian Aid and Relief

Subject: Christian Aid and Relief

Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, pp. 90-92

Report No. 01

As we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation we stand in awe of how God used Dr. Martin Luther to once again shine a bright light onto the central truth of Scripture, *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast"* (Ephesians 2:8-9). This truth is more precious to us than all the gold and all the silver and all the gems in all the world! As recipients of God's amazing grace and as heirs of the Lutheran Reformation we now strive to faithfully and openly put into practice the words of Ephesians 2:10, *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* The God who sees all things and knows all things has already *"prepared"* opportunities for us to show our love and thankfulness to him by producing these *"good works"* in our lives. When we keep our eyes open for opportunities our God gives to us, we will see that there is no shortage of opportunities to do *"good works."*

Christian Aid and Relief, the synod's "ministry of compassion," places before our eyes numerous opportunities to bring physical relief to people suffering from natural disasters and severe medical and financial emergencies in the form of cash grants, food, clothing, and medical supplies. Christian Aid and Relief also partners with WELS missionaries to support humanitarian aid projects, providing opportunities to proclaim the gospel. Through Christian Aid and Relief each of us can personalize our efforts by distributing our funds through our churches and missionaries. Through Christian Aid and Relief each of us has the opportunity to partner with churches and missions to provide local relief efforts.

Dr. Michael Brooks, chairman

Pastor Steven Lockman, secretary