

Servant Leadership — Using Skills for Others



Dr. James Payne is a quiet low-key dentist (yes, even with the name Payne), who has a passion for Lutheran elementary and secondary schools. He is using his technology qualifications to enable his "servant leadership," via an avocation to take donated higher end computers and rebuild them for schools and other charitable causes.

Sky Tech Computers has been the source of most donated computers to date, including all those in the newly refurbished computer lab at Lutheran South.

Dr. Payne is in need of a continued source of higher-end computer donations, to rebuild and retrofit for Lutheran schools. E-mail him at Jimpayne35@hotmail.com.

Almost without publicity, he has rebuilt more than 300 computers and outfitted several Lutheran elementary school labs. His current project is to upgrade many of the auxiliary computers in the LHSA, after finishing at Lutheran South.

We thank the Lord for all that has been and will be accomplished via Dr. Payne, Sky Tech Computers, and others who will donate higher-end computers for use in Lutheran schools. Principal Steve Garrabrant writes:

"There has been much excitement at Lutheran South, with the improvement and upgrading of its computer lab. To date, South has received 11 rebuilt computers, which range from a minimum of 330 MHz to 500+ MHz per computer.

"Improvements and upgrades are consistent with one of the missions of Lutheran South, and that is to utilize technology within its curriculum. This technological mission is exhibited through a functioning computer lab for word processing and internet capabilities, computers with presentation medians in each classroom, and a distance learning lab via compressed video, to help meet the educational needs of its students.

"The gracious donation of these computers comes from the dedicated work of special individuals. The process for South



Dr. James Payne, dentist with an avocation to repair computers.



Mitchel Liczko, production manager at Sky Tech in Lathrup Village

to receive these donated computer gifts started with the passionate, servitude work of a dentist, a pastor, and a faithful member of a supporting congregation. The networking of these individuals' efforts is another example of God's guiding providence — just follow the connections.

"The story begins with a dedicated pastor, Rev. Ron Schultz, at Grace, Monroe. Among the members of his congregation is the Fairbairn family. Chris Fairbairn grew up in this community, attended seminary, and became an ordained pastor, serving at St. Paul, Northville.

"Pastor Schultz, with several other Monroe and Downriver area pastors, had the dream to see the development of a Lutheran high school in this strong Lutheran heritage area ... and to see a strong academic school for his two daughters, Sara and Bethany.

"The next step occurred with the start-up of a small, yet faithful Lutheran high school, where his two daughters attend, and where Pastor Schultz teaches history to the juniors.

"The story continued when Joyce Fairbairn, Pastor Fairbairn's mother, wanted to assist in Pastor Schultz' efforts to grow Lutheran South. She notified her son that this tiny school needed a strong technology department, to help pull in students and supply needs of current students.

"The puzzle was nearly completed with the entrance of Dr. James Payne to our story.

"Dr. Payne, a dentist by trade, is also a computer guru by passion. He and Pastor Fairbairn work together, rebuilding and distributing these precious technological tools to schools and organizations, such as Lutheran South.

"South has been blessed by the drive of these committed individuals ... but the story does not end here.

"South is just one of the five Lutheran high schools within the Lutheran High School Association (LHSA) of Greater Detroit. The drive and goal of Dr. Payne is to help establish rebuilt computer labs for each of the high schools of the LHSA.

"Now, the story involves you. To make the dream and goal a reality for the schools of the LHSA, Dr. Payne needs upper-end hardware to rebuild. A huge source of donated hardware has come from Sky Tech Corporation. Now your efforts are needed, especially in identifying and donating the appropriate hardware to be rebuilt."

For more information on donating computer parts and accessories, contact the LHSA at 313-372-1600.