



The Nebraska District *Ablaze!* Update

June 19, 2008

The Opportunities are Endless

The Nebraska District, in response to the opportunities for new mission work God is placing before us, joyfully supports *Fan into Flame* to help provide resources for witnessing opportunities in the communities of Nebraska and throughout the world.

"God our Savior, (who) wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."

1 Tim. 2:3-4

Nebraska District
LCMS
PO Box 407
Seward NE 68434

888-643-2961
www.ndlcms.org

Every minute, 83 people in the world die without knowing Jesus Christ as their Savior, while 148 children are born who need the Good News of Jesus*. That means during the average lunch hour, 4,980 people around the world die without hear about the free gift of salvation that is theirs through Jesus.

Now, all of these people don't live in your community, your town or city, or even in Nebraska. This statistic is world-wide and includes people you and I could never meet. However, the Lord has given us ways to be involved in sharing the Good News of Jesus with those who don't know Him, both in our backyards and around the world.

The goal of the *Ablaze!* movement in the LCMS is to "share the Good News of Jesus with 100 million unreached or committed people worldwide by the year 2017." The Lord has blessed the LCMS with mission partners and sister churches worldwide to work with us to share the saving message of salvation.

To help support the *Ablaze!* goal around the world and in our own communities, congregations are given the opportunity to participate in *Fan into Flame*. Gifts given by congregations or individuals to *Fan into Flame* will provide resources for partner and sister churches to continue to preach and reach out to those who don't know the Good News of Jesus around the world. Money will also be made available to increase the number of LCMS World Missionaries on the field around the world.

Congregations that participate in *Fan into Flame* will also receive *Ablaze!* education to help their members share the saving message of Jesus Christ with the unchurched and disconnected in their neighborhoods. Participating congregations will also receive back 15% net of the gifts given to equip their own members to embrace evangelism as a lifestyle, while also supporting congregational outreach projects into the community – projects designed to build relationships and open doors for the witnessing of the Gospel.

The Bible tells us, "God our Savior, (who) wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." (1 Tim. 2:3-4) He gives us opportunities to share this message of truth in our daily lives, and also to support those who are taking this message to people we will never meet.

* Taken from the *Fan into Flame* case brochure—page 5

Action Item – Congregations are encouraged to present this invitation to be involved at their summer voters' meetings and to prayerfully consider how God can use them to build His kingdom.

Frequently Asked Question

Is *Fan into Flame* just another fund-raising program of Synod?

Fan into Flame is not a program – it's an invitation for individuals to learn about and support the *Ablaze!* movement, an outreach vision of LCMS World Mission.

There is no end date to *Ablaze!*, just the goal of igniting believers' hearts to openly confess the hope they have in Jesus so that others may encounter Christ. *Fan into Flame* is the effort to provide gifts to fund new and exciting mission projects.

It doesn't take money to personally witness, but it does take funds to place a missionary or start a mission effort.

Fan into Flame provides funds for *Ablaze!*-inspired projects in your community, in the Nebraska District, nationally, and internationally.

Campaign Update

Commitments to date from individuals and congregations in Nebraska for *Fan into Flame* are \$1,743,800 as a result of 79 gifts.

National gifts and commitments to date total \$30.8 million.