



The Nebraska District *Ablaze!* Update

July 3, 2008

Freedom to be *Ablaze!*

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.

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light."
Ephesians 5:8

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During this week of Independence Day celebrations, we pause to remember and give thanks for those who gave their lives defending the personal freedoms we enjoy. It is also a good time to remember the freedoms we are given through Jesus Christ — freedom from eternal death, freedom to approach His throne with our prayers of thanksgiving and supplication, and freedom to share the hope we have in Jesus with our friends, families, and acquaintances who don't know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. That's what *Ablaze!* is all about — taking advantage of the freedom we have to share the Good News of Jesus with people in our communities and around the world. *Fan into Flame* is the opportunity to freely give special gifts in support of the mission work taking place in our communities, in the Nebraska District, nationally, and internationally.

Peace, Grand Island — *Ablaze!* in Four Mission Fields

The congregation of **Peace, Grand Island**, is finishing its *Fan into Flame* congregational appeal with prayers of thanksgiving for the ways the Lord touched the hearts of members there. The congregation chose to educate members on *Ablaze!* and *Fan into Flame* during four special Sundays which included mission-focused worship services and Bible study times.

Each week concentrated on one of the four mission fields of *Fan into Flame*: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. As the committee began putting plans together, they quickly realized their congregation was involved in each of these mission fields already, and *Fan into Flame* gave them the perfect opportunity to share information with the entire congregation on the work members were doing to share the saving message of salvation in Grand Island and around the world.

Jerusalem — The congregation offers an oil-change ministry in their parking lot to provide simple car care free-of-charge for the less fortunate in the community. They also host a VBS for children in a Grand Island trailer park.

Judea — Rev. Rich Boring, Mission Executive for the Nebraska District, made a presentation on the mission and ministry opportunities in the Nebraska District.

Samaria — The congregation heard a presentation from a group of members who traveled to the Katrina-affected areas of the United States and witnessed while assisting with the clean-up efforts.

Ends of the Earth — A member of the congregation returned from a mission trip to Kenya and made a presentation on her mission work there.

Following two commitment Sundays, the congregation exceeded their goal of \$70,000 in gifts to continue work in these and other mission fields. Thanks be to God!

Fan into Flame at Prairie Fire

Everyone is invited to **Prairie Fire**, an outreach equipping event sponsored by the Nebraska District, on August 2 at Concordia University, Seward.

Over 45 break-out sessions will offer resources for congregational and personal outreach, including sessions on *Fan into Flame*.

District Campaign Co-Chair Linda Reiser will lead a session on *Fan into Flame* basics. There will also be a session on community outreach ideas for congregations who are looking for new ideas.

Hurry! Registration deadline is Friday, July 11. Visit www.ndlcms.org for more information.

Campaign Update

Commitments to date from individuals and congregations in Nebraska for *Fan into Flame* are \$1,941,604 as a result of 327 gifts.

National gifts and commitments to date total \$31.4 million.