



The Nebraska District *Ablaze!* Update

August 21, 2008

"If We Can Do This, Anybody Can!"

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.

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Matthew 9:37-38

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This may be a cliché, but when it comes to *Fan into Flame*, it's exactly what congregations across Nebraska are saying. As pastors and lay leaders finish their congregational appeal, almost every one has made this or a similar remark.

Many are amazed to see the Holy Spirit work in the hearts and lives of their people when they sense the urgency of sharing the Good News of Jesus with those who are going to hell and are given the opportunity to support this mission work. With the materials provided through the *Fan into Flame* campaign and available from the circuit coordinators or Nebraska District Office, any congregation can participate in an educational and meaningful appeal.

As church calendars begin to fill with fall meetings, now is the time to consider when your congregation will hear about the opportunities *Fan into Flame* provides and decide how to respond. If you need a presentation or resource materials for a board or council meeting, or even a voters' meeting, feel free to contact your circuit coordinator. A complete list of coordinators and their contact information is available on the District website at www.ndlcms.org.

Each church office should have received a letter from President Sommerfeld last week outlining ways congregations can get involved, including signing a pledge agreement. By completing a pledge agreement before Advent, 2008, congregations agree to participate in the Nebraska District *Fan into Flame* campaign by promising gifts over the next 3 to 5 years. This option gives congregations the flexibility to determine what an appeal will look like in their church. A copy of this letter and pledge agreement was also emailed with this newsletter.

Campaign Update

Commitments to date from individuals and congregations in Nebraska for *Fan into Flame* are \$2,215,627 as a result of 416 gifts.

National gifts and commitments to date total \$33.5 million.

"Just Do It"

As one participating pastor said, "**You just have to do it.** Set a schedule for your appeal and stick to it. The need to share the Gospel message is great. Encourage members to pray about what they can personally do in support of telling people about Jesus. With an emphasis on the mission work that will be supported through *Fan into Flame*, the Holy Spirit used this experience in our congregation to touch hearts and open eyes for spreading the Gospel."

Lord of Life, Elkhorn, Provides Report

The following is an excerpt from the profile provided by Lord of Life, Elkhorn. To read profiles from congregations that have finished their appeals, visit the District website at <http://www.ndlcms.org/news/FIF>.

"As part of our appeal, the committee believed it was very important to inform the congregation about *Ablaze!* and *Fan into Flame*. Our April, May, and June newsletters included articles on *Ablaze!*, *Fan into Flame*, and our upcoming cottage meetings. We included *Ablaze!* inserts in the Sunday bulletins . . . *Fan into Flame* inserts were included in the Sunday bulletins beginning on our campaign Kick-Off Sunday, and continued until Commitment Sunday.

A letter was sent to all households inviting them to sign up to attend one of four cottage meetings held at church. On Commitment Sunday, pledges for \$49,750 were received! The next Sunday, additional pledges were received, bringing our final total to \$60,050, just over three times our goal of \$20,000!"