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Dear Mission Partners,

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

After Jesus had completed His redemptive work and as He was preparing to return to His seat of glory at the right hand of the Father, He told His disciples that they would have the opportunity to tell the world of the gift of salvation through His life, suffering, death, and resurrection. As children of God, we are also given the opportunity to share the Good News of our Savior as a loving response to being made His children through His blood.

Ablaze! is the mission initiative to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with 100 million people worldwide by the year 2017 in response to the great love God shows to us. **Fan into Flame** is the invitation for congregations and individuals to help fund *Ablaze!* projects that spread the Gospel message of Jesus Christ in their communities, in Nebraska, in North America, and around the world.

Through **Fan into Flame**, the Nebraska District seeks to secure \$3 million from congregations over and above other mission and ministry commitments to provide resources for *Ablaze!* projects that will help spread the Gospel message. Projects in the Nebraska District to be supported in this way include planting new churches and schools, the revitalization of 80 District congregations, providing Lutheran education scholarships, and planting at least one new ethnic ministry each year. We invite you and your congregation to make *Ablaze!* and **Fan into Flame** one of your mission priorities this year in partnership with other congregations of the District.

In order to decide when and how your congregation may choose to participate in **Fan into Flame**, we would like to give you additional information about this appeal, as well as the options for conducting it in your congregation. The Nebraska District **Fan into Flame** Steering Committee has scheduled **FANTastic Festivals** that you and leadership from your congregation are encouraged to attend. The purpose of these festivals is to celebrate and discuss our mission outreach, provide an overview of *Ablaze!* and **Fan into Flame**, give options for how your congregation can participate, and answer your questions. A list of the **FANTastic Festivals** scheduled around the District is enclosed. Congregational representatives may attend whichever festival fits best in their schedules. Feel free to make copies of this brochure as needed to share with your leadership.

It is very important that lay leaders be present at one of these festivals along with the pastor. Specifically invited are your congregation's president, head elder, evangelism chair, stewardship chair, and any other leader who has a heart for missions. It would be great to have representation from your congregation at one of these **FANTastic Festivals**.

The ***Fan into Flame*** Circuit Coordinators are also listed on the enclosed brochure. They will be helping to collect responses from congregations in their circuit. Please call your Circuit Coordinator to RSVP by the date listed on the brochure. If you don't respond by that date, Circuit Coordinators are asked to follow up and to encourage your attendance. If your circuit does not have a Circuit Coordinator listed, please contact the District Office to RSVP. More information on ***Fan into Flame***, Nebraska District goals, Circuit Coordinators, and the **FANTastic Festivals** is available on the District website, www.ndlcms.org.

There are so many lost souls who pass on each day not knowing Jesus Christ. It's why we believe we cannot delay or postpone the marvelous opportunity *Ablaze!* gives to everyone in our Nebraska District to make an impact upon mission work at all levels in the church's life.

Your Partners in the Mission Field,

Rev. Russ Sommerfeld
Nebraska District President

Mrs. Linda Reiser
Campaign Co-chair

Rev. Chip Winter
Campaign Co-chair