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Dear Partners in the Mission Field,

"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

Greetings to you in the name of our one true Savior, Jesus Christ! There are so many people in Nebraska, across the United States, and around the world who don't know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Once again, in my travels this past week I was given the privilege by the Holy Spirit to share the truth and love of Jesus with unreached and uncommitted people. Jesus tells Christians that we are the witnesses of His love, and we have the privilege of speaking with those around us of the Good News of free salvation He has earned with His sacrificial suffering and death.

During 2008, congregations of the Nebraska District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have become actively engaged in Synod's *Ab blaze!* mission movement to focus on sharing Christ. They have also begun to implement ***Fan into Flame*** appeals to undergird this outreach movement locally, regionally, and internationally. Through these efforts I have witnessed many hearts kindled by the Spirit working through the Word to ignite passion for reaching the lost with the saving message of Jesus. Congregations that have participated thus far tell of exploring new mission opportunities or seeing local mission opportunities with new eyes from God's Word.

Every congregation that participates in ***Fan into Flame*** receives 15% net of its gifts back to do local mission work. A brochure outlining some basic community outreach projects proposed or undertaken by congregations in Nebraska was mailed to every congregation in July and is available on the District ***Fan into Flame*** webpage, <http://www.ndlcms.org/news/FIF/index.html>. I pray you find this brochure useful as you think about the opportunities God is placing in the mission fields around your congregation.

Many congregations in Nebraska are making plans to begin or have just begun their ***Fan into Flame*** congregational appeals. I would ask you to join with me in praying for these congregations, that they will be led to work together in a spirit of mission as they explore the outreach opportunities that exist. If your congregation is in the midst of its appeal, or

preparing to start, may the Lord bless your efforts. Feel free to contact the District Office or visit the District website, www.ndlcms.org, any time for valuable resources and helpful advice.

Many other congregations have not yet made a decision about their plan to participate. If your congregation is undecided, I encourage you to lift this opportunity up in prayer and work together to decide how and when you will become involved in this historic mission outreach effort. Once the decision has been made, please contact the District Office to notify campaign leadership of your congregation's plan of involvement.

Resources are available for congregations that would like more information as they explore ***Fan into Flame***, personal assistance is available from the District Office or from a local Circuit Coordinator, and all of the materials necessary to run an appeal can be provided once a congregation sets a timetable for participation.

Congregations that wish to partner in ***Fan into Flame*** are encouraged to complete a "Congregational Pledge Agreement" and return it to the District Office. This agreement allows you to participate in the District campaign through a pledge of up to five years, giving you time for the planning and implementation of an appeal or other means of reaching your pledge. Agreement forms may be downloaded or printed from the ***Fan into Flame*** page on the District website at www.ndlcms.org.

Undecided congregations are strongly encouraged to put this matter on their fall meeting agendas. I am hoping that all our congregations have made a decision on their plan to participate by November 1. Leaders wanting resources can contact Andrea or Nichole at the District Office at 888-643-2961.

May the Lord bless you as you move out into His mission fields, sharing the Good News of Jesus with those who do not know Him.

Partnering with you in the Lord's mission field,

Rev. Russ Sommerfeld
Nebraska District President