



The Nebraska District *Ablaze!* Update

October 16, 2008

Begin *Ablaze!* Education Now!

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.

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. . ."
Matthew 28:19

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Are you looking for a quick and easy way to begin *Ablaze!* education in your congregation? LCMS World Mission has produced a number of great, ready-to-use resources for congregations who are starting the *Ablaze!* education process in preparation for a late winter *Fan into Flame* appeal, as well as congregations that have started or are moving into *Fan into Flame* yet this fall.

An ongoing series of **bulletin inserts** featuring real faith-sharing stories from LCMS members around the globe who have shared their faith with family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers, as well as other people God brought into their paths, are available now as free downloadable files at <http://www.lcms.org/pages/internal.asp?NavID=9018>. Also available on this webpage are six bulletin inserts focusing on involvement in God's mission through *Ablaze!* and the seven mission responses. These print-ready inserts make it quick and easy to teach your members about the *Ablaze!* movement and how they can be a part of it.

Also available at no cost is the *Sharing the Faith DVD*, which includes over 20 personal faith-sharing stories told by LCMS members. These vignettes feature LCMS members describing how they shared their faith and made a difference in the lives of others. Congregations have used these video segments to introduce the *Ablaze!* movement, as part of their "*Fan into Flame* minute" on Sundays throughout their appeal, and in Bible study or small groups. Visit <http://www.lcms.org/pages/internal.asp?NavID=12326> to view the vignettes or to order your own copy of the DVD.

Grace, Norfolk, shares the power of using these video segments as part of *Fan into Flame* in their congregation:

The "Sharing the Faith" videos focus on personal evangelism--not fundraising. We believe the majority of our people enjoyed the videos and found them thought-provoking. If we were to do this all over, I'm sure we would again use the "Sharing the Faith" DVD. The stories provide great models of what personal evangelism is and what it means for those who hear the Gospel presentations. The video stories remind us that this is the work of the Holy Spirit in hearers' hearts. We are only Christ's ambassadors to those who don't yet know Him. The resulting joy for both those who witness and those who hear is very evident in these stories.

Fan into Flame Factoids

Looking for a way to share *Fan into Flame* with your congregation? Share a few of these facts in your next bulletin.

1. *Fan into Flame* gifts will support mission outreach activities locally, district-wide, nationally, and internationally, so every gift shares the love of Christ in many mission fields.
2. Congregations that participate in *Fan into Flame* receive back 15% net of gifts given to be used for local outreach projects.
3. Let's be creative in our use of the local mission funds, using them to share the Good News of Jesus Christ outside of our church.
4. Gifts to *Fan into Flame* are to be over and above gifts to District, Synod, and other mission commitments.

Campaign Update

Commitments to date from individuals and congregations in Nebraska for *Fan into Flame* are \$2,554,449 as a result of 474 gifts.

National gifts and commitments to date total \$36.2 million.