



A Bi-Weekly Ablaze! publication from the CNH District  
December 28, 2007

**Ablaze! for God's Mission**, in partnership with **Fan Into Flame** is a movement to inspire individuals and congregations in the CNH District to respond as recipients of God's abundant grace through the sharing of resources in the work of mission.

**Fan Into Flame**

LCMS Fan Into Flame Goal:  
\$100,000,000.  
CNH District  
Goal: \$3,500,000.

**Campaign Update**  
Commitments from  
individuals  
& congregations to date:

**CNH District:**  
\$875,010.  
**LCMS Worldwide:**  
\$27,180,822.



**Ablaze! and Fan Into Flame Resources:**

- [Ablaze! Start Up Kit](#)
- [Fan Into Flame Campaign Manuals](#)
- [Videos, Graphics, Photos](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Profiles from successful campaigns in other LCMS](#)

**"Dude, Why Did You Wait So Long?"**

by Anne Francisco, FIF Communications Officer

My nephew, Dan Weber -- a Specialist with the 1st Cavalry Division of the U.S. Army -- returned home earlier this month after a 15-month tour of duty in Iraq. Home to El Paso, where he is stationed, to resume the newly married life he and his wife Anne had begun not long before his deployment. He served his country bravely and faithfully, even reenlisting one day last summer--the day after the vehicle in which he was riding was hit by an IED.

Dan's roommate during those long, arduous months was a fellow named Curlee. They often sat around the fire in the evening with their commanding officer, an avid atheist, listening respectfully to his opinions. One evening, Dan could take it no longer. He said, "Sir, you say you hate religious people and the way they wave their religion in your face. Yet, you are the most religious person I know. Atheism is your religion and night after night we have to sit here and listen to you shove it down our throats. I mean no disrespect, but I'm tired of it." The officer was quiet the rest of the evening. Curlee, also an atheist, was surprised by Dan's courage.

Back home in Michigan, a friend of Dan's family sent him a copy of Lee Strobel's book, *The Case for Faith*, to help Dan understand how the officer thinks and to help him defend his faith when attacked. Dan read the book and when he was finished, gave it to Curlee, telling him, "Read it, and if you have any questions, ask me."

Two days later Curlee came back and told Dan he'd read the book. They talked about who Jesus is. Curlee said, "So all I have to do is believe?"

"That's right," Dan replied.

**Circuit Convocations -  
Mark Your Calendars!**

DATE      CIRCUIT #

Feb. 9	1
Jan. 26	2
Mar. 1	3
Jan. 5	4 & 19
Mar. 9	6
Jan. 20	7
Feb.10	8 & 18
Jan. 19	9
Feb. 23	13
Feb. 24	14
Jan. 13	15
Dec. 1	16
Feb. 2	17
Feb.10	18 & 8
Jan. 5	19 & 4

[Click here for more details](#)

CNH District LCMS

2772 Constitution Dr.  
Suite A  
Livermore, CA 94551  
925-245-4000  
or  
866-264-6079  
[www.cnh-lcms.org](http://www.cnh-lcms.org)

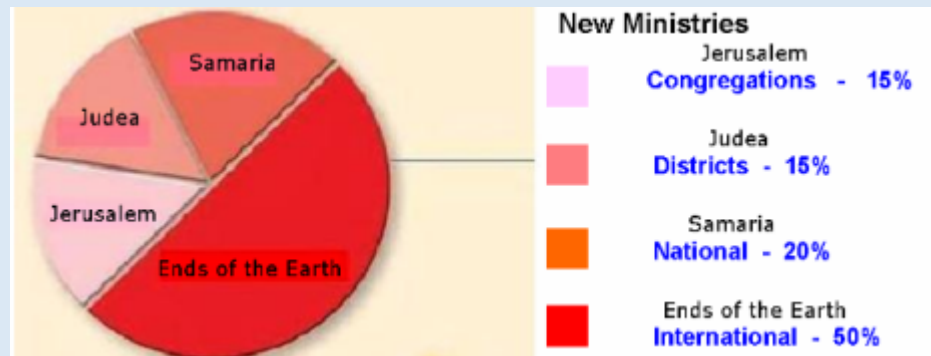
Curlee replied, "I have only one question: *"Dude, why did you wait so long to tell me all this?"*

Messy. Un-programmed. Spirit-driven. Those were words used by LCMS First Vice President Rev. Dr. William Diekelman to describe the witnessing part of the Ablaze! movement. No doubt those are words Dan may have used to describe his witnessing moments in Iraq. But Curlee's one question has convinced Dan that people are just waiting for us to tell them the Good News of Jesus.

Join me in praying that the Holy Spirit will work mightily among pastors and people in the CNH District - - and throughout our LCMS - - during the coming year. That He will embolden each and every one of us to intentionally look for the Curlees in our lives who are waiting to hear the news that God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son to die for them, too - - not just us. That He would prepare hearts to receive the Good News of Jesus' love and salvation, and remove our fears and inhibitions about not knowing the right words to use, or the right way to witness.

At Holy Cross Lutheran in Atwater on Christmas Eve our choir shared a beautiful musical cantata. How fitting to the mission of our district are the words to the last song we sang:

"Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills, and everywhere, Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born. **Go tell it!**"



**Flame On in 2008!**

by: J.P Slonkosky- FIF Campaign Director

2008 is almost here! Ablaze! continues to spread across the synod, and we all look forward to the fruits in the new year while giving thanks for those of 2007.

Fan into Flame continues to activate congregations and invite their participation in supporting Ablaze! The secrets to a successful appeal are as simple as running an appeal itself. My tip for this newsletter comes from the numerous successful appeals already completed. Congregations which combine the time, talents, and treasures of their pastor and mission minded lay leaders have achieved results beyond their initial goal. The enthusiasm of this group flames out to the whole congregation and gathers support for Ablaze!

For help in conducting an appeal in your congregation, please call upon the following *Fan Into Flame* Circuit Coordinators, who have been trained to help you launch a successful campaign!

Circuit 1	Rev. Terry Chan	640-438-7370
Circuit 2	Rev. James Bothwell	510-278-2556
Circuit 3	Rod Thompson	209-835-7438
Circuit 4	Rev. Bill Plath	916-393-0833
Circuit 5	Rev. Karl Bliese (Bob Lentine)	661-725-2225
Circuit 6	Tim Kramer	707-738-5881
Circuit 7	Rev. David Moore	925-935-3360
Circuit 8	Rev. Aaron Smith	650-967-0666
Circuit 9	Rev. Herb Burch, Jr.	805-260-3286
Circuit 10	Rev. Norman Milz	775-267-3680
Circuit 11	Rev. Mitch Gowen	808-488-3654
Circuit 12	Rev. Stace Rollefson	530-221-6686
Circuit 13	Pending	
Circuit 14	Rev. Jim Beyer	707-545-1230
Circuit 15	Chuck Huggins	559-642-4117
Circuit 16	Ken Goebel	831-633-5141
Circuit 17	Pending	
Circuit 18	Jim Hillmann	408-929-4000

## HMONG OUTREACH MINISTRIES NEWS

(January 2008)

by Rev. Sou Keying

As we reflect upon this past year's (2007) ministries, God certainly had blessed us in so many ways. Our first administrative assistant was hired in the spring. May Lo has been a blessing to us as our various ministries continue to expand. A successful fundraising event in Sacramento helped us completed our China school project. We launched another Word and Sacraments ministry in Fresno. The first cycle of our two-year leadership training program completed on a high note. God called five men that had been participating in the leadership program to enter the pastoral studies. We were able to secure another radio station to broadcast our Light of Life program starting in January 2008 for the Sacramento areas.

One of the joys of our ministries is seeing new mission starts by the grace of God through the power of the Holy Spirit. Often this kind of a statement is viewed as a cliché in the church. However when we pause a moment and take a closer look at what God is doing in His mission, it is quite amazing and it is truly by His grace. In His time and in His way, the mission takes root. (For more information about this ministry, email [Rev. Kou Seying](mailto:Rev.Kou.Seying))

A blessed New Year to all from HMong Outreach Ministries!

### Quick Links

[Ablaze! Resources](#)

[Fan Into Flames Resources](#)

[Triads](#)

[Learning Communities](#)

[Fan Into Flame Newsletter Archive](#)

### BLOGS now available on the CNH Website

1. [Faith Communities](#)
- 2) [Triads](#)
- 3) [CLA Blog](#)

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CNH District LCMS | 2772 Constitution Drive | Suite A | Livermore | CA | 94551