



CNH District Ablaze! Update

A Bi-Weekly Ablaze! publication from the CNH District January 11, 2008

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:
\$892,910.
LCMS Worldwide:
\$27,600,000.

On Fire for God

By: Rev. Jonathan Lange, St. Paul, Merced, CA

When you think about fire, what comes to your mind? This time of the year, you might think about the cozy warmth a fire brings on a cold, chilly day. Or, how the atmosphere changes when a candle is lit at home or even in church, bringing a warm, soft glow. For firefighters who know first hand the destructive forces of fire, a completely different image may come to mind.

The Bible has a lot to say about fire. After Adam and Eve sinned and were cast out of Eden, an angel with fiery sword guarded the garden's entrance. God sent down fire and brimstone to consume the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. **Fire was used in the Old Testament as sacrifices were offered up and incense was burned to worship God at the temple.**

At the coming of Jesus, John the Baptist warned that the Christ would gather His wheat into His barn and burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. He said the **Messiah would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire.** Jesus warned that it is better to enter life maimed or crippled than to be thrown into hell, where "the fire is not quenched." Jesus cooked fish for his disciples over a fire after the resurrection. The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples with "tongues of flame" on the day of Pentecost.

The Bible in essence warns us against the fires of hell and instead inspires



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 congregations](#)

us to be on fire for God-to be "living sacrifices" holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1). This is possible because **Jesus offered Himself up first to God, the "just for the unjust", as He Himself faced the "fiery furnace" in our place on the crossbeam of Calvary,** and rose again triumphant from the death which you and I deserved, that first Easter morning. The mission arm of our national church body, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, has initiated a movement called **ABLAZE!** It is designed to inspire all people within our Synod to be "On Fire For God!" **The goal is to reach 100,000,000 with the Gospel of Christ by the year 2017, the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.**

Just as the disciples were on fire to share the good news of Jesus with anyone and everyone who would listen after the day of Pentecost, **we are being encouraged and challenged to similarly "be on fire" so others might know Christ and be saved from the unquenchable fires of hell.**

As we move forward in ministry together, we need to keep the main thing the main thing. **And the main thing is Mission.**

Circuit Convocations - Mark Your Calendars!

DATE	CIRCUIT
Feb. 9	1
Jan. 26	2
Mar. 1	3
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

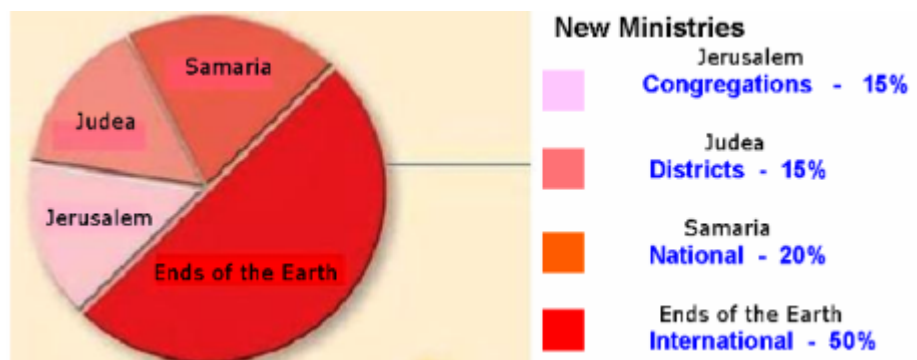
In I Thessalonians 5:19, the Apostle Paul wrote, **"Do not put out the Spirit's fire."** As we enter into a new year, the year of our Lord 2008, let us be "on fire for God," willing and ready to share the good news of Jesus with our friends, family, coworkers and neighbors.

Let's keep the main thing the main thing in the new year: God first in our hearts and His mission first in our lives-together ABLAZE! as we join Him in seeking and saving the lost from the fires of hell.

It's a new year. Let's get fired up!

[Click here for more details](#)

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Flame On in 2008!

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. 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
Circuit 19	Bill Swift	530-647-1880

Update-Chinese Ministry, Prince of Peace, Fremont, CA
by: Rev. David Wilson



In 2007 we set our goal for 30 baptisms within our Chinese ministry. The goal kept everyone in the group focused on reaching out to those who had never been part of a church before, especially those with a background in Buddhism. On the Sunday before Christmas, six more individuals were made part of God's family through baptism. We ended the year three short of our goal, but rejoicing in the 27 souls who are now growing as disciples of Jesus Christ!

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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