



*The Case
for Support*



California-Nevada-Hawaii District

Our Mission

To challenge and assist the
LCMS congregations in the
California-Nevada-Hawaii
District to proclaim the Gospel
and to minister to all people.

Ablaze[®]

An initiative to ignite
100 million hearts with the Gospel!

Our History

From its beginning, CNH has served on the “missionary frontier” of the LCMS. Seeds of hope for serving German Lutherans living in California were first planted in 1856 when the Western District of the Synod officially embraced Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and “everything west as far as the unknown Pacific.” (cf. *The Romance of Lutheranism in California*, 1959) Unfortunately, any thought of sending missionaries to the West Coast following the Gold Rush was met with skepticism and suspicion. The West Coast was thought to be filled with opportunists, materialists, and shiftless people. “Why waste precious resources on a place where Satan held such influence” was a very common reaction by delegates who attended mid 19th century Synod Conventions.

Finally in 1869, a St. Louis Seminary graduate with language abilities in German and English accepted the “Macedonian” call to the West Coast. The California-Oregon District was formed in 1887. Eventually, population increases and the need for greater efficiencies in mission administration made the division of this very long California-Oregon District into what it is today, the California, Nevada, and Hawaii District, the Northwest District, and the Pacific Southwest District. The California-Nevada-Hawaii District now includes nearly 200 congregations linked together by a common confession of faith and a common call to mission.

Our Challenge

The congregations of the CNH District still serve on the missionary frontier. Over the past decade the total baptized and confirmed membership of our CNH congregations has declined by nearly 10%. This trend does not reflect a lack of evangelical intention among our Lutheran congregations. It signals, however, that a challenge lies before our district to create ministries that intentionally reach out to serve our communities. The cultural bridges that once brought unchurched people to us have collapsed and we struggle to sustain connections between our churches and our communities.

As Christ’s missionary people, three significant challenges lay before us:

1. To be outreach churches in an unchurched society, that is, in a society where the Christian church no longer holds significant cultural meaning or value.

2. To confess our Cross centered faith not only in the arena of the Christian Church, but also in the arenas of other religions and religious pluralism.
3. To shift from ministry roles of clergy and laity commonly associated with a churched environment, to roles regularly employed in mission fields.

Our Needs

CNH is utilizing outreach strategies at work extensively in our world mission fields. These strategies focus on the mobilization of the faithful men and women of our congregations to be Christ’s missionary people in their everyday lives and locations. The key to its accomplishment lies in a missionary renaissance of the nearly 200 congregations in our district. We are wise to invest our energy and resources in revitalizing and equipping each of them to be a missionary launching pad to their communities. We are also wise to focus our attention on what needs to be accomplished in the short term—over the next five years. If 60-80 congregations are mobilized for mission in that time, a genuine missionary renaissance of the district will be realized. Mobilizing congregations divides into three areas of focus:

1. Revitalizing/Recalibrating our CNH congregations and church workers for mission
2. Developing new mission models that effectively utilize faithful lay people
3. Provide sound missional training for pastors and laity

In partnership with The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod *Ablaze!* goals for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, our district has initiated the *Fan into Flame* initiative with a goal of raising \$3.5 million to benefit missions internationally, nationally, and throughout our district and congregations. The following projects provide a pathway to achieve our CNH District Mission Plan goals.

Revitalization and Recalibration - \$160,000

Our congregations and leaders recognize that the CNH District represents a vast mission field. They also recognize that to meet that reality faithfully requires focusing our hearts and minds on those who do not yet know Christ. It also requires recalibrating a number of our present ministry patterns and habits to match our mission field reality. To this end, the CNH District has

deployed regional missionaries, known as Mission Counselors, to assist our congregations to stir up the missionary potential of their laity and direct it toward the unchurched in their communities.

Due to the geographical size of the CNH District, our Board of Directors agreed to call three Mission Counselors to this ministry. These men are committed both to revitalizing CNH churches toward mission and resourcing pastors and lay leaders to multiply missionary disciples and to plant new churches. They are assisted in this revitalization process through a network of regional Mission Action Councils.

The Board of Directors, in seeing the key role the Mission Counselors play in our overall mission strategy, agreed to support their funding, even though doing so exceeds the regular district budget by \$60,000 each year. A contribution from *Fan into Flame* dollars would be well placed to bridge this gap in funding and help to resource these men.

New Mission Models – up to \$500,000

Key to mobilizing our congregations is also the discovery of outreach models that reflect mission work in our post-church society. Following the outreach strategies utilized in our foreign mission fields, these models depend on the missionary raising up and equipping laity to plant a number of “faith communities,” like evangelistic small groups, or house churches. Thus the missionary does not focus so much on gathering a single community around the Word and Sacrament ministry that he conducts, but is focused on overseeing several communities developed and led by lay people.

Three such mission models are presently supported in the CNH: South Bay Mosaic, Mauka-Makai Ministries, and Hmong Outreach Ministries. District funds are already assisting these ministries with the hope that additional *Fan into Flame* funds will be available to resource several more new models. The three current models provide examples upon which to pattern new models through *Fan into Flame* funding.

South Bay Mosaic Ministries

The focus of the Mosaic Ministry is to build a multiethnic and multigenerational ministry in the South Bay (greater San Jose area) that will reach the diverse cosmopolitan population of Circuit 18 and beyond. The ministry is developing language specific fellowship materials for first generation immigrants and an English fellowship which will serve second

and third generation immigrants and all Americans. **Mauka-Makai Ministries, Honolulu, Hawaii** Mauka-Makai – “from the mountains to the oceans” – is the driving theme of all the ministries that God is blessing out of Good Shepherd, Honolulu. In addition to their current outreach efforts, the church would like to expand their outreach in the Chinese community in downtown Honolulu as well as a new cell plant in the Kapolei area (West) through the continued development and sending of leaders into the world for Christ’s mission.

Hmong Outreach Ministries

The mission development of Hmong Outreach Ministries consists of leadership training, planting new faith communities, and proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ via radio programming through the airwaves and other multimedia medium. Hmong Outreach Ministries engages in mission works in China as well reaching the millions of Hmong people living there.

These programs have done important work and have produced significant fruit. CNH District congregations have identified a growing number of potential mission models. Though our budget currently meets under half the funding presently needed, these programs underscore the importance of mission funding in the CNH district. Currently, a shortfall of \$500,000 annually is left to be absorbed each year by alternative funding sources. It is our hope that *Fan into Flame* funds, in partnership with congregations, will create several new mission models throughout the district, growing both new and mature models to become self-sustaining over the next five years. The CNH Regional Mission Action Councils will nominate new areas of ministry and new money will be used to provide pastors and laity with training and materials necessary for new mission models.

Missional Training for Pastors and Laity – up to \$225,000

As any missionary will tell you, the ability to serve effectively in ministry contexts outside and foreign to our churches requires specialized missionary training that builds upon and supplements the sound theological education we have received from our pastors, teachers, and professional training of our seminaries and universities. For CNH to effectively serve its mission field, training is needed for pastors, commissioned workers, and laity that is Biblical (Christ centered), missionally focused, and carried out “on the job.” Such education needs to take place in the ministry language of the workers.

Learning Communities

So what does it mean to be in the mission field? How does it differ from our church-oriented culture? What impact does a mission context make on the traditional ministry roles of our pastors and laity? How do we organize for faithful Word and Sacrament ministry to those who have little or no connection to the church? These are the kinds of questions that we need to address here in our district. To facilitate this process, pastors and laity are committing to meet regularly in "Learning Communities." The participants study Scripture, pray for the harvest, read and discuss missiological literature, hear presentations from missionary practitioners, and provide mutual support for each other as they attempt to direct their congregations toward the Harvest.

Hispanic Leadership Development

Leadership development is critical for the mission of Christ to move forward in the CNH District. Work is being done to identify, train, and supervise men for Word and Sacrament ministry in the Hispanic community. This development program has already placed men into ministry in Stockton, Tracy, Mt. View, and Hayward.

The total funding needed for this imperative training and development is \$150,000 each year. As the district moves forward in missional movement, a portion of new *Fan into Flame* money will be allocated to providing critical training to empower laity in ministry in addition to providing for future Hispanic pastors to the LCMS.

Lutheran Schools

Early in 2007, 26 pastors and their school administrators met at the CNH Ministry Center to begin exploring new and creative ways to "reach beyond the four walls" of their churches and schools to share more effectively the Good News of Jesus Christ to the communities they serve. While much excitement was generated and some initial planning begun, these leaders want to do more collaborative thinking and planning. A \$15,000 allocation through *Fan into Flame* will enable that to happen. This money will be used to:

- Enlist at least ten pastor-school administrator teams to work together with the aid of a professional facilitator to plan, develop, initiate, implement, and evaluate strategic plans to more effectively use Lutheran schools as outreach ministries to their communities;

- Meet at least twice during each school year to hold each other accountable and share resources and ideas; and
- Develop a "best practices" resource that can be shared across LCMS districts.



Fan into Flame

Working in partnership with LCMS World Mission, the *Fan into Flame* campaign is designed to help meet the mission objectives of the CNH District. Through *Fan into Flame*, we intend to secure resources to help fund our growing mission needs. Our district will receive 15% of net unrestricted pledges made throughout the district by our members to serve as seed money for this dynamic Mission Plan. Additionally, campaign leaders from the CNH District and LCMS World Mission will seek major gifts to enable us to further move *Ablaze!* forward locally and globally.

The CNH District joins with other Missouri Synod Lutherans throughout our Synod in support of the *Fan into Flame* campaign. Consider this appeal as your personal invitation to covenant with the CNH District in this historical endeavor. Join hands with brothers and sisters around the globe who seek empowerment in Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit.

For more information, call the
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