



# AFLC UPDATES

## JANUARY - 2008

### HOME MISSIONS:

- Rich & Brenda Carr recently accepted the call to serve at Christ Community Church in Hagerstown, MD. They are moving into their new home this week.
- Calvary Free Lutheran in Mesa, AZ has had many new ministry opportunities through the Spanish language classes they're offering. They recently completed the youth building.
- Good Shepherd in Camarillo, CA had over 350 turn up for their Christmas Eve services at the barn – PTL! They started a new radio ministry on Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> called "Soul Break" on KDAR, 98.3 FM which airs Monday-Friday at 12:30 pm & 10:30 pm.
- There is a new Parish Builder serving at Good Shepherd in Camarillo, CA – Liz Lackey will be there till April or May. Jared Langness & Chad Friestad are also in Camarillo through this summer. Brent Raan & Linda Buck are serving as PB's in Madison, SD. We are praying for more Parish Builders to help in our other HM churches – if you are interested, please contact the Home Missions office.
- Living Word in Sioux Falls, SD has broken ground and is beginning work on their building project.
- Good Shepherd in Madison, SD is in the process of purchasing a building in the downtown area.
- Pastor Tom Olson from Mineral Point, WI has completed his cancer treatments at this time – pray for him and his family.
- Jeff & Jane Swanson continue to make inroads in the Naknek area.
- Inquiry groups: Brainerd, MN; Felch, MI; and Western South Dakota. We have had contact with several other groups interested in the AFLC.
- Upcoming Home Missions Retreat on January 21-22 at the ARC.
- There are many different Builders Fellowship work projects coming up – please contact the HM office if you are interested in volunteering for any of them.

### FLAPS:

Annual inspections either have been or are being completed on the SX-300, Cherokee Six, and the Cessna 182. We are thankful for an increase in gifts last month which helps defray these maintenance costs.

Good progress is being made toward completion of the engine conversion for the Cessna 175 that was given to FLAPS by the Lutheran Mission Society. All of the paperwork is in place, the remaining parts that are needed have been received and current plans are for the work to be completed sometime in February of 2008. The airplane has been out of service for several years so it will be good to get it completed. Our plans are to put some time on it locally this spring and return it to service in Alaska sometime this summer.

We're continuing to pray that the Lord's will be made clear to us regarding the use of the airplanes. The FLAPS ministry has been so richly blessed and we want to be good stewards in the use of the airplanes. Thank you to all the faithful supporters of this unique ministry.

### WORLD MISSIONS:

#### India

January 7-18 there will be a Pastoral Training Session in India. This will finish the first session of classes and will conclude with a graduation service of those who have passed all the classes.

#### Ambassador Institute (distance education)

Ambassador Institute is becoming more defined as we go through the development stage. The plan is to assist national churches to establish a training program for church workers providing biblical, theological and practical instruction. The goal at this time is to focus on one country. That country will be Uganda. Rev. Kevin Olson will travel to Uganda, January 19<sup>th</sup> and will be there for three weeks.

#### Missions Vision and Goals

The World Missions Committee was asked to present a vision and goals to the 2008 Annual Conference. They have been in prayer planning this vision and will be presenting it to the Conference. In brief they will include the following:

### **WORLD MISSIONS: - Missions Vision and Goals Continued**

- The need of prayer
- Preparing missionaries from childhood
- Reaching an unreached people group
- Training of national pastors and leaders
- Development of self (God) reliant missions works
- Compassion to the poor

### **YOUTH MINISTRIES:**

AFLC Youth Ministries enjoyed serving 64 youth workers from across the country that assembled for the Youth Workers Retreat at the ARC on January 11-13. International trainers Dave & Rennie Garda with Cadre Ministries presented sessions on *“Ministry is Relationships”*. The FLY Federation Council met with 10 AFLC districts represented for suggestions on the 2009 Convention. Each Youth Workers Retreat attendee received a number of free resources including a DVD by admired Christian presenters The Skit Guys.

AFLC Youth Ministries is partnering with the ARC as they host SIDEbySIDE the first weekend in February. Hundreds of students from the upper Midwest are expected for *“GPS & My Journey: God’s Plan of Salvation”* from Ephesians 2:4-5. The guest speaker is Pastor Todd Erickson from Roseau, Minnesota. Breakout sessions will be led by Ryan Patenaude (2009 FLY Committee), Eric Christenson (AFLC Youth Board), and Pastor Joel Rolf (AFLBS Dean) as students are built up and equipped in living by faith in Jesus.

### **AFLBS:**

- Praise God for answered prayer during the Missions Conference on Campus January 6-10. Many students gained a clearer understanding of God’s call in their life and involvement in the great commission.
- January term classes include: Introduction to Missions, Biblical Worldview, Worship and Hymns, and Evangelism and Discipleship. On Saturday, January 12, students did door to door evangelism ministry with AFLC Congregations in the area. At least one person came to saving faith in Christ!
- Spring Semester classes begin January 28. Junior classes include: Historical Books, Romans/Galatians, Act and Prison Letters, Bible Doctrine and General Epistles. Senior Classes include: Minor Prophets, Reformation Church History, Christian Education, Romans/Galatians, and Revelation. Elective for both classes include: Mission Field Study, Christian Classics, Concert Choir, Women’s Chorale, Video Ministry, Children’s Ministry, Gospel Teams, Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Yearbook.
- The Women’s Chorale and Men’s Quartet, Presidents Weekend Tour, February 15-18 will include concerts in Garden City, Iowa, Illinois and Janesville, Wisconsin.
- The Concert Choir will be sharing in congregations to the north and west traveling as far as Washington and Oregon April 4-20. The itinerary will be posted on the website as it becomes available at [www.aflbs.org](http://www.aflbs.org).
- The AFLBS website is new and improved thanks to the work of Ben Olson. Updates are made daily and weekly as several of our staff have access to update various parts.
- An All School Alumni Reunion is planned for the weekend of March 14-16 to recognize the 40 years of graduating classes since 1968. We hope that all of our classes since then will want to reunite at this special occasion. The weekend will begin with the traditional alumni basketball tournament Friday evening and Saturday. Festivities begin after the basketball tournament with punch and fellowship at 5:00 pm. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm in our “new” (to most of us) Heritage Hall cafeteria. Special entertainment will be provided at the dinner by some talented alumni and faculty. Our evening service will begin at 6:30 and will feature members from our first class as well as two former Ambassador Teams, the current AFLBS choir and instrumental ensemble, testimonies and warm fellowship. Our plan is to conclude the program early enough so that individual classes will have time to gather. Mark your calendar, contact your classmates and plan to be back at Medicine Lake in March. We look forward to seeing you there!
- On Sunday, March 16, the Concert Choir will be sharing a concert at Emmaus Lutheran Church in Bloomington at the 11 am Service.
- Spring Campus Days will be held March 28-30 for students in grades 9-12 and adults interested in attending AFLBS.
- More information on all these events as well as basketball and soccer updates can be found at [www.aflbs.org](http://www.aflbs.org).

## SEMINARY—AFLTS:

- ◇ Our five interns meet in separate interviews this month with the Board of Trustees, the Coordinating Committee, and the Colloquy Committee as they seek recommendation for Call as pastors in the AFLC. If approved, these men will be available for Call on March 1 of this year.
- ◇ Seven men will be available for internship assignments during the coming year (June 1, 2008 – May 31, 2009). Congregations should send their requests for an intern by February 1 if possible. The seminary office is happy to provide more information about the internship program upon request.
- ◇ Work is underway on the seminary publication, *The Servant Pastor*, and should be ready for distribution in late spring. A new seminary catalog is also being prepared for the next three-year cycle of the seminary program. Beginning in the fall of 2008, junior students will take their required introductory courses separately. Middler and senior students will take their required courses together on a rotation basis.
- ◇ Prayer is requested for Pastor Haugen as he continues his studies through Concordia Seminary in St. Louis for the Doctor of Ministry degree. Prayer is also requested for Pastor Moan as he begins a five-month sabbatical to complete his work through Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne for the Master of Sacred Theology degree. He will resume his teaching load at the seminary and Bible school in the fall semester of this year. Prayer is also asked for Pastor Lee as he begins fulltime teaching at the seminary and Bible school as of January 1 of this year. Prayer is requested too for Dr. Monseth as he travels to India in January to take part in a teaching seminar and to participate in the first graduation of pastors in the AFLC-I training program.

## VISION:

*“Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it.” Psalm 127:1.*

•**Heritage 400:** “Heritage 400” is a simple plan to remove the debt on Heritage Hall within four years.

The goal is for 400 individuals to contribute \$1000, - \$250 per year, for the next four years to retire this debt. When the H400 Plan began in June 2007, we owed \$400,413 on the building’s mortgage. As of January 15, 2008 we have received commitments for a total of \$70,000 to pay off the debt; (\$26,666 of that total has been received). We have made additional Vision monthly payments, over and above the funds received through commitments, allowing us to reduce the mortgage debt on Heritage Hall to \$310,783.

•**Chapel Renovation and Organ Project:** The recently remodeled chapel was beautifully decorated for the School’s Christmas concerts. The process of fine tuning the pipe organ progresses as it is used. Funds are still needed to cover the cost of the Chapel Renovation and Organ project. The balance remaining to be funded is currently \$165,108. You may send gifts to AFLTS, marked, “Chapel Project” at 3120 East Medicine Lake Blvd. Plymouth, MN 55441.

•**AFLC Deans’ Luncheons:** The Deans’ Luncheons are opportunities for visitors to come to campus for tours, sit in on classes and chapel services, and enjoy lunch & fellowship. The next luncheons are scheduled for February 21, April 3, and May 1. You can make reservations by calling 763-544-9501.

## PARISH ED PUBLICATIONS:

### ◆ NEW PUBLICATIONS:

*Baptism and Spiritual Life* by Dr. Iver Olson was recently reprinted through a gift from the Olson family. The book is available for \$7.50 from Ambassador Publications

### ◆ CURRENT PROJECTS NEARING COMPLETION:

*Missionary story book* – plan to publish spring 2008. Stories are being edited. Several children are creating pencil drawings to illustrate the stories.

*New Grade 5 Sunday school curriculum* – plan to print summer of 2008

### ◆ PRAYER:

Praise to the Lord for providing for our financial need! Because of an outpouring of gifts at the end of 2007, the Board of Publications was able to increase the secretary’s hours to 30 again instead of 20. This will be a great help for our department.

Pray for volunteers working on Grade 5 curriculum (illustrating, writing, and editing), that their work can be completed in a timely manner so that it can be printed by summer 2008.

Pray for office staff, board members, and many volunteers working on various projects.

## **THE AMBASSADOR DISTANCE ED PROGRAM:**

The Ambassador Institute has gone through a good time of defining what this ministry is going to be about and we are describing it like this. "We are assisting national churches in establishing training programs for church workers that will include: Biblical, practical and theological instruction." This means that we will not be focusing on a school based out of the United States, but rather individual training centers within the countries that we are working. It means that we will come along side of them to develop the training and it will be their school from the very beginning. We have come across a wealth of resources to bring to Uganda including a hard drive with 2000 directories of course and resource information. Along with that, we are connecting with training curriculum in Kenya, Uganda and South Africa. Pray for Pastor Kevin's trip, January 19th – February 11th, to Uganda and Burundi.

## **WMF:**

The National WMF Day at the AFLC 2008 Annual conference in Oklahoma will be the theme "My Times are in Your Hands" taken from Psalm 31: 14 and 15a. The WMF is excited to have Nancy Holcomb, share as the Bible Study leader at the conference. Nancy is the new Bible Study writer for the 2008 WMF monthly studies. If you would like a copy of the new WMF 2008 study contact WMF district Secretary Dawn Johnson. See more information about the WMF off the WMF web site.

## **EVANGELISM DEPT:**

- The Evangelism department for the AFLC just finished a class for the J-Term with the AFLC Schools. Pastor Jim Rasmussen taught over 70 students in the Evangelism Discipleship class.
  - The Commission on Evangelism (COE) is planning for a rekindling the fire seminar in 2008 for Pastors and their wives June 9.
  - The COE is receiving applications for Thrivent Evangelism grants this year until Feb 28.
  - The Director of Evangelism will be traveling to WI, IA, NE, SD, KS, OK, and TX in the next 6 weeks.
- Please pray for lasting fruit from the AFLBS Classes taught. Pray for upcoming meetings & teaching in many congregations.

## **THE ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS**

3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd  
Plymouth, MN 55441  
763-545-5631