



AFLC UPDATES

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February 2009

WORLD MISSIONS: *(Director—Rev. Del Palmer)*

Missions Vision and Goals

At the 2008 Annual Conference AFLC World Missions presented their vision and goals for the future. Prior to presenting these goals the World Missions Committee and Director traveled to each field and explained the vision to our missionaries. This year they are traveling to the field to share these goals to the leaders and pastors on the field. It is our prayer that the Lord would use these goals to mature each of the mission works. The goals are as follows:

- 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

Ambassador Institute (distance education)

Pastor Kevin Olson traveled to Uganda and India in January and February to develop and encourage distant theological education. President Elden Nelson and Director Del Palmer traveled to the same countries observing distance education and promoting the vision of World Missions.

Short Term Assistants

The following are serving as short term assistants on our fields:

- Ben Jore - Tanzania
- Danny Giles - Mexico
- Ingrid Giles - Mexico
- Jesse Long - Tanzania
- Kalika Peske - Uganda
- Justo Pillman - Equador

Ruth Lee

Ruth Lee has been accepted by the World Missions Committee to be a missionary on loan to Lutheran Bible Translators. Ruth's first assignment will be to Nigeria beginning in early 2009. The World Missions Department is working out the details of this partnership at this time.

SEMINARY—AFLTS: *(Dean—Dr. Francis Monseth)*

Three courses were offered during the January inter-term: Introduction to Missions, Pastor Eugene Enderlein, instructor; Church Planting and Development, Pastor Paul Nash, instructor; and Protecting the Shepherd and His Flock, Dr. Irv Woolf, instructor. The latter course was new to the curriculum this year and is a required course for each of the junior students. It dealt with moral and sexual purity in the light of Scripture and included two hours of individual assessment and counsel for each student. It will be offered for each new class entering the seminary.

Seminarians took part in the annual Campus Missions Conference during the first week of the new semester (January 25-29). The main speaker was Pastor Dan Giles.

The Georg Sverdrup Society held a forum at the seminary on January 30 under the theme, "Our Mission Heritage." Papers were presented by recent AFLTS graduate, Pastor Andrew Coyle ("Luther: the Father of Modern Missions"), AFLC World Missions Director Emeritus, Pastor Eugene Enderlein ("Pietism: the Mother of Modern Missions"), and Sverdrup Society Board Member, Pastor Martin Horn, "Sverdrup and Mission Unity among Norwegian Lutherans in America." The seminarians and faculty members were joined by campus personnel as well as several guests for this special event.

Requests are being received from congregations desiring to host a seminarian during the coming internship year (June 1, 2009 – May 31, 2010). The seminary is seeking to place six men in parishes under the supervision of the host pastor. Pray for the internship assignment committee in their concern to place these men in congregations where each of them can best continue their training as they learn by observation and instruction as well as having opportunity to take part in the various aspects of pastoral ministry. The goal is complete the internship assignments by March 1.

Eight men are slated for graduation May 16 upon successful completion of their final academic and internship assignments this spring. They are Joel Baker, Joe Faldet, Seth Forness, Stephen Larson, Patrick Lohse, Darwin Paccha, Eric Swenson, and Sam Wellumson. Darwin and his wife, Kirsten, will be returning to Ecuador where he will be serving as a pastor and teacher in the Lutheran Church. Contact the seminary for a list of those who will be open for Call as AFLC pastors as of March 1.

Four courses will be offered during the annual Summer Institute of Theology to be held August 3-7. The courses and their instructors are as follows: The Ten Commandments for Today (Dr. John Eidsmoe); Studies in Hebrews (Pastor Jerry Moan); Doctrine of the Church (Dr. Fran Monseth); History and Aims of the AFLC (Pastor Robert Lee); and Church Leadership and Administration (Pastor Lee). The institute's curriculum is designed to provide "refresher courses" for pastors as well as courses that encourage and equip lay-people for ministry in and through the congregation, all at nominal cost. A descriptive brochure is available through the seminary website.

Applications are being received for men seeking to begin seminary studies in the fall of 2009. Those who are planning to apply are urged to contact the seminary soon to ensure that the application process can be completed in time for the September entrance date. The seminary solicits prayer from the congregations that the Lord may lead those to apply whom He would have study at AFLTS during the next academic year (Matthew 9:37-38).

WMF: (Nat'l President—Mrs. Lorilee Mundfrom) - **"WMF – USING OUR GIFTS"**

Romans 12:6a says "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them."

The women of the AFLC will meet for the convention of the Women's Missionary Federation in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, on Tuesday, June 16, 2009. The host congregation, Calvary Free Lutheran Church of Fergus Falls, is excited to welcome us to their community. We will hold our WMF Day events at Life Church just west of Fergus Falls. The registration for the WMF Day can be found with the conference registration that is found at www.aflc.org/conference. We hope you will come and be blessed as we explore various ways the women of the AFLC use their gifts and perhaps new ideas that you can use as individuals or groups to minister to others.

On Wednesday morning, June 17, a Leadership/Advisory Board breakfast will be held. This is open to all women who are women's leaders or interested in being women's leaders in their congregation. We will have a special program related to using our gifts in leadership. Please register for this breakfast when you register for all the meals connected with the WMF Day.

On Wednesday evening, June 17, we will have our Mission Festival Service sponsored by the WMF. We hope you will be planning to attend this service as well.

While all speakers and workshop leaders are still being confirmed, we do know that our Bible Study leader on Tuesday morning will be Faylin Myhre, Women's Outreach Coordinator of the WMF. Please plan to attend the Bible study based on the theme verse. We will be holding our business meeting immediately following the Bible Study time. Please be in prayer as we bring several items of business before you including the election of officers. Pray that those who are elected will be God's choice for the leadership of our Women's Missionary Federation.

See you at the 2009 WMF Day in Fergus Falls!

ALSO ANNOUNCING

Soon to be launched: a new WMF website will be available for your use. Keep checking the www.aflc.org/women website to see when it is available! We are expecting it to be launched the weekend of February 8th.

Check it out! Share your comments with us.

AMBASSADOR PUBLICATIONS/PARISH ED: (Director—Mrs. Marian Christopherson)

Projects completed:

- Journey Through the Old Testament – new Grade 5 student book in the Ambassador Sunday School Series with 36 lessons all in one book. \$16.00 each
- Roots of Freedom – a full-color booklet summarizing the history, principles, and ministries of the AFLC. Appropriate for youth and adults. Includes discussion questions for classroom use. \$4.00 each

Projects nearing completion with hopes of publishing in 2009:

- Catechism CD with an introductory study called "Know Your Catechism" and a pdf of the 2007 edition of *Luther's Small Catechism and Explanation* (funded in part by Thrivent grant)
- Ambassador Bible study on "Confession of Sin" – the first in a two-part series called *Worship: The Secret of the Lord* (funded in part by Thrivent grant)
- *Journey Through the Old Testament* – teacher manual correlating with the new Grade 5 student books (Thanks to the national WMF for helping to fund this project in 2009!) Ambassador Publications catalog – no funding currently available (last catalog printed was in 2005)

Prayer needs:

- Staff needs – Parish Ed Office Assistant Brett Boe will be going on seminary internship this summer, so we will need to fill his position (20 hours a week)

- Financial needs – The end-of-year financial summary from the AFLC bookkeeping office revealed that our total gifts received in 2008 fell short of the goal by \$12,355. That means we received only 89 percent of the budgeted subsidy goal. Please pray for us as we seek God’s wisdom in how to deal with this financial shortfall and as we desire to be good stewards of the gifts that the Lord has graciously provided.

AFLBS: (Dean—Rev. Joel Rolf)

“The harvest truly is plentiful but the workers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth workers into His harvest.” Matthew 9:38

Matthew 9:38 was the theme for the Mission Conference held on the AFLC Schools campus January 25-29. AFLC campus students along with other guests were challenged by Christ’s Great Commission. One student wrote, “I was personally challenged by the need to seek only God’s will and follow what He wants me to do with the life He has given me. One thing we know about His will is that we are to make disciples wherever we are. We should be actively involved in praying for and reaching the lost in whatever vocation God calls us.” The Mission Conference messages may be heard on the AFLBS website, www.aflbs.org.

With spring semester well under-way, the AFLBS choirs are making preparations for their tours. The first Proclaim choir tour over President’s weekend, (February 13-16) will include the Men’s Quartet and will cover central and northern Minnesota and Eastern North Dakota. The second Proclaim Choir tour will cover South Dakota and southern Minnesota, April 24-26. The Concert Choir tour will be April 3-19 covering Eastern Pennsylvania and Maryland. Schedules for these tours are also posted off the AFLBS website. We’d love to see you at one of these concerts.

March 20-22, AFLBS will host “Spring Campus Days”. It’s a great opportunity to experience first-hand what life is like at AFLBS, with sample classes, fellowship and more! Our special evening speaker will be Pastor Bob Halvorson.

Please be in prayer with us also for the following:

- For the Lord’s guidance and provision for a new women’s resident head. Applications are being received for this position.
- For wisdom and strength for the dorm staff as they mentor and disciple students.
- Summer teams. With increased requests from congregations for summer teams, a new team has been called to respond to this need.
- Healing for our business manager, Lyle Guhl, who had back surgery recently.
- The students to make the most of the opportunities to grow in the Lord and His Word this spring semester.
- For faculty as they teach and for the staff as they serve the Lord and others.
- For safety for the schools choirs and many teams as they travel and witness for His glory.
- For the MTI students as they begin cross-cultural ministry in Brazil and youth ministry in the U.S.
- For the Lord to lead many students to come for Spring Campus Days, March 20-22.
- For the Lord to lead many students to attend AFLBS and MTI next fall.
- For financial provisions for students to pay their accounts.
- For funds to cover the loan payments on Heritage Hall and to eliminate the debt of \$187,287.
- For senior students to know God’s will as they make plans after graduation.

Thank you so much for all your prayers and support for the ministry here! God bless you!

EVANGELISM DEPT: (Director—Rev. James Rasmussen)

- January, Evangelism Director Pastor Jim Rasmussen, spent over 29 hours teaching more than 60 students at the Bible School. Pastor Rasmussen reports, “it is exciting to see the hunger in the AFLBS students for the Word of God”.
- February and March will be traveling months for the evangelism department as Evangelism Director Rasmussen heads north to Greenbush, MN for the Midwinter Bible conference and then south to Florida. Much of the month of March will be spent with various churches in the US from, Beltrami, MN to other churches located in the states of Illinois, Missouri, and Wisconsin. Pray for open hearts for the gospel and for congregations to get the vision of reaching the lost in their communities.

HOME MISSIONS: (Director—Rev. Paul Nash)

- Alaska Mission: Pastor Brian Davidson is working hard as interim radio station manager of KAKN in Naknek and God has provided the funds to repair the last of the transmitters. It is now online and for the first time at full power. God is using the radio station in amazing ways and more and more people are tuning in.

- Pastor Swanson is seeing new faces at the churches and doors opening in remote Alaskan villages.
- We are working to schedule an informational meeting in Hastings, MN in February and granted Home Mission status to Disciple Lutheran Fellowship in Reading, PA.
- God is providing specialized people to send out and help work on projects in our HM churches. One man just returned from Mesa, AZ where he contributed his carpentry expertise and another couple just returned from work at the radio station in Alaska.
- Seminary students participated in a week long Home Missions training course in January.
- Lutheran Church of Hope in Loveland, CO, requested, with praise for answered prayer, to be removed from the Home Mission status. They feel they are now an established congregation and want to now pass this privilege on to other new churches. Pastor Larry Haagenson writes, *"We deeply appreciate all of your support and prayer during the past years."*

YOUTH MINISTRIES: *(Director—Rev. Jason Holt)*

AFLC Youth Ministries exists to win/build/equip/multiply. This happens **in and through the local congregation**. If your congregation needs help in either of these areas, please contact us.

This January at the ARC the **AFLC Youth Workers' Retreat** saw 60 youth workers gathered for encouragement and training lead by Dave and Rennie Garda from Cadre Ministries. One team from an AFLC congregation came back with a "can do" attitude, beginning with nurturing relationships by calling youth and parents on the way home from retreat!

AFLC Youth Ministries impacts students on the district level with Sno-Daze and Side by Side at the ARC in early February. This annual event gathers Senior High and Middle School students from across the upper Midwest. AFLC Youth Ministries provides programming direction for this event.

On the **national level**, youth from all over the AFLC to come together on a regular basis. Ironically, the most visible youth ministry work in the AFLC isn't directly the work of AFLC Youth Ministries, but of a committed group of leaders serving on the FLY—Free Lutheran Youth Committee. Registration continues strongly for FLY 2009 to be held this July in Estes Park, Colorado. Please pray for students attending, and consider attending as an adult mentor with your youth group.

AFLC Director of Youth Ministries Jason Holt continues in his role at headquarters, guiding AFLC Youth Ministries. Currently there is a **financial need** with the director position for Youth Ministries cut to ¾ time. Frequently people have expressed surprise at this due to extremely strong giving in 2008. Unfortunately, current reporting methods accurately demonstrate strong and growing giving, but do not reflect how this giving meets current ministry needs. With continued strong giving in 2009 the director position will return to full time at the beginning of next year. To accomplish this goal giving from individuals and congregations must exceed \$103,000 for 2009. For more information how you can help strengthen AFLC Youth Ministries for as little as \$10 per month, please visit our web site at youth.aflc.org.

VISION: *(The Development office for the AFLC Schools—Mrs. Sherry Mork)*

HERITAGE 400: Total commitments of \$111,684 for this plan have been made as of February 1, 2009 with \$ 77,535 having been received to date. The goal is to retire the debt of \$400,000 debt on Heritage Hall. Additional Vision payments, not received through these commitments have allowed the debt balance payable to \$187,000. Funds are still needed each month to make the mortgage payments of \$9,449.56. Thank you for your support and your prayers.

AFLC DEANS' LUNCHEONS: The Deans' Luncheons are opportunities for visitors to come to campus for tours, attend classes and chapel services and enjoy lunch and fellowship with staff and students. The next luncheons are February 26, March 26, and April 30. Please call 763-544-9501 for reservations.

GOSPEL/SUMMER TEAMS AT AFLBS: The nine Gospel teams serving in ministry during the school year are actively sharing in our communities and churches on weekends through song, worship, puppetry, and service. Nine summer teams have been selected and schedules are being finalized. The summer teams travel for 11 weeks throughout the summer serving in camps, VBS, and concerts. Your prayers for the scheduling, financial support, team training, and student preparations are greatly appreciated.

END AFLC DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Updated—February 23, 2009