



AFLC UPDATES

June - 2008

HOME MISSIONS:

We are so excited to finally share with you some incredible events that have happening in Home Missions! We have stood and watched in amazement as God has moved and worked. It has been hard to stay silent!!!

We now find ourselves with a new mission field in Alaska:

In August 2007, the Home Missions Committee was invited to meet with the Lutheran Mission Society, LMS, at their annual conference in Mineral Point, Wisconsin. After prayer and discussion, we were offered a gift of their property in Alaska. This gift includes two churches, two parsonages, an airplane, a hangar and the radio station KAKN with the FCC license. It was unanimously decided by the directors of the Missions Corporation to receive this gift. Many of this LMS board members are also a part of our AFLC. As they have graciously transferred this property to us, they feel that this is a return to their original charter of establishing mission works and turning them over to established churches to continue the work. What continues to amaze us is that they will continue to help support this work in Alaska!

We also see God at work as we have a seminarian and his wife who believe that God is calling them to serve as a pastor-pilot in Alaska and there also is a couple that is interested in helping us with the radio station. We have watched God go before us through all the events connected with this gift these last months. Let me give you one brief example: the only thing that LMS asked of us was to finish off the engine conversion of the 175 aircraft. As we said yes, within the next few days we received a phone call asking us "what was new in Home Missions and if there were any new needs?" We shared with this individual what God was doing and a check came in the mail to help pay part of this conversion.

Willis Kettelhut, vice-chairman of our Home Missions board, and Paul Nash went to Alaska on a fact-finding mission to look at this work May 9-16, and were able to assess some of the budget needs. Please pray for wisdom in our decisions regarding the kingdom's work in Alaska.

Home Missions held a training event, "Sharing the Shepherd's Heart" on May 2-7, at Good Shepherd in Madison, South Dakota. More than 75% of the congregation were involved in a night out on the streets of Madison through prayer or canvassing & survey teams. The dedication of their new building was also held on Sunday afternoon May 4. Pray for Pastor Bill and Linda Buck and the congregation as they continue to build relationships with these new contacts.

God continues to bless the ministry and work of our Parish Builders. He has provided two more Parish Builders for our Home Mission congregations. Ryan Tonneson of Sioux Falls, South Dakota will serve our congregation at Cornerstone Christian Church, Brandon, Florida with Pastor Brian & Margaret Pearson and Naomi Tuura of St. James, Minnesota will go to Good Shepherd of Camarillo, California with Pastor Jim and Linda Johnson. Pray that God will bless their ministry and provide for their financial needs.

The Barnabas Summer Teams completed their week of training May 27 and left for ten weeks of ministry May 31. We need your prayer cover for these young people as they travel and serve on our behalf in our Home Mission congregations.

Worship Services started in Brainerd Lakes on April 13. They are currently meeting at 7:00 pm each Sunday at the Northland Arboretum in the Brainerd- Baxter area. For more information, go to the AFLC home page, *Links Info*, Home Missions - [2008 Brainerd Project](#).

New inquiry groups include, Pastor David Johnson and the Zion Lutheran church of Silverhill, Alabama who are seeking God's direction regarding planting a church in their county. A group in Waconia, Minnesota started meeting to plan and pray about a church start in this area south of Minneapolis.

FLAPS:

Developments are taking place rapidly with the transition of the Lutheran Mission Society aviation mission ministry to FLAPS. Transfer of ownership of the hangar at Naknek, Alaska and the four seated Cessna 175 airplane has been completed. The Cessna 175 is now in Minneapolis and is being prepared for its return to mission service in southwest Alaska. An engine conversion has been completed, some miscellaneous maintenance items are being taken care of, FLAPS and AFLC logos installed, etc. .

A dedication of the airplane to the Lord's service was held at the Annual Conference in Oklahoma City in June. The plane will be flown to Naknek in early July.

A work/mission team of ten volunteers from Emmaus Lutheran in Bloomington, MN are scheduled to go to Naknek in late July. One of their projects will be to install new lighting in the hangar.

Please pray for this ministry as we set out to accomplish the tasks that our Lord has set before us.
Lavon O. Bohling, Executive Director, Free Lutheran Association of Pilot Supporters, Inc.

WORLD MISSIONS:

Dan and Debbie Giles

The Giles were given an extended leave of absence to take care of Dan aging father. His father has been experiencing health problems this last year and needed constant care. Dan and Debbie sensed that God would have them resign from World Missions to care for Dan's parents long term.

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 traveled to Uganda early this year. At that time he was able to organize a group of pastors to write curriculum under the leadership of Nate Jore. This curriculum will be used to train pastors who can train other pastors.

Missions Vision and Goals

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

- 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

World Missions Director

Del Palmer had back surgery in April. Extended recuperation is required for this type of surgery.

Nate Jores

Nate and Rhoda Jore rejoice in the birth of their daughter Hannah, April 24th.

YOUTH MINISTRIES:

AFLC Youth Ministries ministered at the North Central Minnesota District Youth Retreat (Bemidji, Minnesota) in February, at Hillcrest Lutheran Academy's Mission Conference (Fergus Falls, Minnesota) in March, at AFLBS Spring Campus Days (Minneapolis, Minnesota) in March, and at the Pacific Northwest District Youth Rally (Astoria, Oregon) in April. The Lord used these opportunities to build students in their faith in Christ and to provide connections with local congregations and youth workers. Each youth rally had a dedicated time for Director of Youth Ministries, Pastor Jason Holt, to offer *Lessons I'm Learning* – a networking session with youth workers, which offers ideas and resources on impacting students to be lifelong followers of Jesus.

Preparations continue for FLY Boot Camp this upcoming July 14-19 at the ARC. Boot Camp will feature AFLC pastors and national speaker Mark Cahill. This practical week of leadership training will be significant for personal witnessing and deepening discipleship.

The Gideon Plan is a new program for Youth Ministries which seeks to establish 300 givers or supporters with giving of \$10/month or \$120 per year. This will help meet the financial budget shortfall needs for the Youth Ministry office. If you would like to be a "Gideon Supporter" for Youth Ministries, call the AFLC youth office at 763-545-5631.

AFLBS:

- ◆ We praise the Lord for opportunities to share the Gospel in word and song . April 4th-20th, Spring Break, the Concert Choir shared concerts in Fargo, Minot, Stanley, and Williston, ND; Kalispell, MT; Lake Stevens, Arlington, and Kirkland, WA; Astoria and Eugene, OR; Loveland, CO; Laurel, NE and Sioux Falls, SD. The last weekend of April, the Women's Chorale and Men's Quartet shared concerts in Cloquet and Duluth, MN and Ontonagon and Ishpeming, MI. Many students shared what a blessing they received by sharing the gospel with others.
- ◆ A new Mission Field Study Class taught by Pastor Richard Gunderson and assisted by Pastor Connelly Dyrud spent two weeks working with the Home Mission congregation in Mesa, AZ over Spring Break. The teams did outreach while another group went to Nogales, AZ and Mexico for more ministry opportunities sharing the gospel. Thank you for your faithful prayer support. It is humbling and encouraging to see and hear how God used these means to draw people to Himself!
- ◆ Final exams were held May 13th-15th with the Spring Concert of the Concert Choir, Women's Chorale and Instrumental Wind on Friday, May 16th at 8PM. Graduation 2008 exercises were held Saturday, May 17th at 1PM.
- ◆ Continue to pray for: all the graduates as they seek God's direction for their future. Pray that God will guide and provide for students to come to AFLBS; pray for each of the students as they seek to know and do God's will; pray for students serving on summer team ministries— eight teams are traveling over the summer sharing the gospel.
- ◆ Thank you for your continued prayer for the entire faculty, staff and students here, for all of the ministry of God's Word here on campus, and for the various outreach ministries associated with the Bible School.

To request a prayer guide including the names of AFLBS and seminary students, staff, faculty, and AFLC missionaries, contact our Bible School office at afibs@afic.org.

SEMINARY—AFLTS:

May 19, 2008 AFLTS held its forty-third graduation exercises. Six men completed study programs in AFLTS with five men having been assigned to internships. The SIT (Summer Institute of Theology) will be held again on campus August 6-10 with the theme, "The Sure Prophetic Word". AFLTS will host a dedicatory concert with a guest organist, September 14 at 4 p.m. to give thanks and praise for the completed installation of the magnificent Wicks 4500 pipe organ, with more than 2,000 pipes.

VISION:

Commitments are still being received for the Heritage 400 drive to help with the outstanding debt for the schools, of approximately \$263,000. Heritage 400 is a program which encourages 400 individuals to commit \$1000 (\$250) per year for four years, to help eliminate the debt. If you would like more information, contact the schools office at 763-544-9501.

PARISH ED PUBLICATIONS:

- ◆ *Missionary Chronicles* book now available! Follow the lives of Christian missionaries around the world through forty-three short stories. *Missionary Chronicles* is intended to be a helpful resource for family devotions, opening chapel time, and Sunday school classrooms. Includes discussion questions, maps, mission hymns, and creative ideas for teaching missions to children. The story illustrators range in age from four to seventeen. The stories reflect God's work through mission endeavors on five continents. \$10.00
- ◆ New Grade 5 Curriculum coming soon; Pray for AFLC Parish Education as we prepare new Grade 5 materials for publication and plan to print new student books in the fall of 2008. There will be 36 lessons with all three quarters of lessons included in one book. There is still much work to be done! Please pray for our staff and volunteers.
- ◆ "Roots of Freedom" booklet coming soon; "*Roots of Freedom*" is a full-color, 20-page booklet summarizing the history, principles, and ministries of the AFLC. Includes discussion questions and is appropriate for youth and adults as an introduction to the AFLC. To be available fall 2008.

THE AMBASSADOR DISTANCE ED PROGRAM:

Pastor Kevin Olson assists this new AFLC ministry which is designed to bring God's Word to people through a new distance education program. The program will work along side the World Missions and AFLTS offices to help train and equip pastors internationally. There are a variety of needs in developing countries, but the biggest request has been for training. Pray for this new ministry, as it seeks to distribute solid biblical training around the world.

WMF:

Please pray for the WMF as it continues to support missions and the different areas of Christian Education, World Missions, Home Missions and the AFLC General fund. The monthly Bible studies being used for 2008 have been written by Nancy Holcomb with the theme "Gift of Grace". The 2009 Bible Studies have been written by Bunny Meyer of Indiana with the theme "Living Water". Writers are in the process for Bible studies for 2010, 2011, and 2012. National WMF treasurer Lynn Wellumson has completed her term, and a special thanks goes to her for all her work for the WMF over the past several years.

EVANGELISM DEPT:

The AFLC Commission on Evangelism (COE) held a "Rekindling the Fire 2008", June 8th at the AFLC Annual Conference. The afternoon and evening were set aside to encourage and bless AFLC Pastors and their wives. The meetings addressed 'Small groups as Evangelism' with (COE) sponsoring a great evening meal of ribs and smoked turkey in the Oklahoma State Capital Rotunda. The gathering also featured special music, testimonies and a challenging message. Director of Evangelism, Rev. Jim Rasmussen, conveys that the COE loves doing this for AFLC Pastors and their wives as a time of fun & relaxation.

THE ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

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