



# AFLC UPDATES

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*October - 2008*

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

- ◆ **Ambassador Institute** - Plans are being made to develop the policies of Ambassador Institute. Kevin Olson will be traveling to India and Uganda in January and February.
- ◆ **Reaching Unreached People Groups** - One of the goals adopted by the Annual Conference is to reach out to unreached people groups. The World Missions Committee has been studying nine groups and now are praying that the Lord would give direction as we attempt to fulfill this goal. Pray along with the Committee.
- ◆ **Seminarian Traveling to India** - Mr. Robert Lee, who is in his third year of seminary will be traveling to India with a group including, Del Palmer, Kevin Olson and Craig Wentzel.
- ◆ **New Short Term Missionaries** - Two new short term missionaries are going to the field this fall. They are Justo Pillman who is going to Ecuador and Kalika Peske. This brings the number of short term missionaries on the field to seven.

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

**FLY Boot Camp** – Ninety teenagers from across the country gathered under the theme “On Your Way” from the Great Commission in Matthew 28. This leadership training conference held at the ARC included sessions training participants in God’s heart and skills for personal evangelism and sharing one’s testimony. The week included AFLC Pastors, youth leaders, and national speaker Mark Cahill and culminated in an outreach to area towns with hundreds of witnessing opportunities.

**Student Missions** – A five member team traveled to Brazil from July 22 through August 14. Matthew Jordan (Valley City ND), Lydia Berger (Wadena MN), Evan Prachar (Wheatland IA) and Josiah Nelson (Humboldt TN) traveled with co-coordinator Sam Menge to visit the ministry of Pastor Paul and Becky Abel. Co-coordinator Rachel Menge has posted accounts from this life-transforming event on our website.

**FLY 2009** – Key preparations for the Free Lutheran Youth national gathering next July 6-11 have developed since the last update. A congregational packet with promotional materials was mailed to every AFLC congregation in September. Please pray for an effective week of evangelism and discipleship in God’s Word at the YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, CO.

**Youth Workers Retreat** – Because of a scheduling challenge, the Youth Workers Retreat has been moved to January 23-25, 2009 at the ARC. The new date places it immediately after the AFLC Pastors Conference. Dave and Rennie Garda from Cadre Ministries return for a second year with vital training for youth workers in evangelism. This annual event targets everyone in the AFLC that works with teenagers through Biblical instruction and personal renewal.

**AFLBS / MTI** – Pastor Jason Holt has been working this fall semester with 30 students in the Introduction to Youth Ministry class as well as three in the MTI track on youth ministry. Pray for the Lord to use this time examining the life and ministry of Jesus to ignite a passion for making disciples among these young leaders.

**Finances** – We have received a number of inquiries about our financial status, specifically with regards to the position of Director. We have exceeded 100% of our Budget Subsidy for 2008, and yet, we are informing concerned friends and congregations of our shortfall. Because our Budget Subsidy amount is only a portion of our budget, when we reach 100% Budget Subsidy received we are only half way to covering our expenses for the year. We praise the Lord for the response to The Gideon Plan for establishing regular financial supporters. Please pray for His wisdom in this process.

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

- Six new full-time students joined the seminary family for the fall semester. Another man will begin his studies in the spring semester. Applications are being received at this time for entrance in the fall of 2009. The seminary continues to invite prayer for God to call more men into the Christian ministry.
- Seven men are in the midst of their internship year presently. Good reports are being received of their progress. There will be need to place at least six men for internship in June, 2009. Requests for an intern should reach the seminary by February 1, 2009.
- The seminary curriculum cycle is in a year of transition. By the fall of 2009, all incoming students will have their required courses separately and middler and senior students will rotate their required courses together annually.
- A new course has been added to the curriculum for first-year students. During the third week in January, the seminary will offer a course entitled, "Protecting the Shepherd and His Flock." In conjunction with the course, Dr. Irv Woolf, instructor for the course as well as the founder and director of the National Coalition on Purity, will conduct an in-depth interview of each student.
- Three faculty members will attend 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society in Providence, Rhode Island, November 19-21. They are Pastor Bob Lee, Pastor Jerry Moan, and Dr. Fran Monseth. The theme for this year's meeting is "Text and Canon."
- The seminary Inter-Term in January will feature two courses which are open not only to on-campus students but also to other applicants. Pastor Gene Enderlein will teach the course, "Introduction to Missions," January 5-9 and Pastor Paul Nash will teach the course, "Church Planting and Development" January 12-16.
- The dates for the 2009 Summer Institute of Theology are set for August 3-7 on the campus. Registration is open to all interested friends. Almost seventy attended the institute in August of this year. A descriptive brochure will be available later with course descriptions and other necessary information.
- More than 200 people attended the dedicatory concert for the new chapel pipe organ on Sunday afternoon, September 14. Dr. Desiderius Klempay was the guest organist. The organ is a great blessing in the worship life of the campus of our Bible school and seminary.

## **AFLBS:** *(Dean—Rev. Joel Rolf)*

**Praise for another new year:** AFLBS began it's 2008-2009 fall semester with 64 Seniors, 67 Juniors and 4 MTI for a total of 135 students. This includes 69 men and 66 women. This is the first time in a number of years that we have more men than women students.

**Revival Conference:** September 29—October 2 the AFLC Schools revival conference included morning and evening sessions and classes, with special guest speakers Pastor Michael Brandt, Pastor Elden Nelson and Pastor James Rasmussen. The main theme was dying to self. Many hearts were challenged to give their all to Christ and live for him anew. Several student testimonies from the conference are below;

*".....God impressed on my heart the truth that no matter how inadequate I feel, no matter how much I mess up in my Christ-walk, and even when I think that God is working in everyone else and passing over me, God is faithful and powerful and fully adequate to use me and to perfect me."*

*".....when I call out to God in weakness and humility, asking for His strength, He enables me to die to myself so that He can bring about the greatest glory to His name."*

**Fall Campus Days:** Oct 17-19, 2008 AFLBS looks forward to hosting fall Campus Days. Special speaker will be Pastor Eric Westlake. See the AFLBS web site for a brochure or call AFLBS (763.544.9501) for more information. If you know of someone interested in AFLBS this is a wonderful opportunity to experience campus life and classes for a couple of days.

**Christmas Concert Weekend:** Dec. 12-14, 2008 will feature the annual Gospel Team Concert, Friday at 8 PM and the Christmas Concerts, Saturday at 7 PM and Sunday at 2 & 4:30 PM.

## **THE AMBASSADOR INSTITUTE (DISTANCE ED PROGRAM):** *(Director—Pastor Kevin Olson)*

### **Prayer Requests:**

- For wisdom to know how to best apply the information gained from the Orality Conference and training.
- For the World Missions Committee as they meet and decide direction for the future of this program.
- For the persecuted Christians from Orissa state in India. Wide spread attacks have left 134 people dead, 258 churches burned and over 5000 families are hiding in the forests.
- For the upcoming trip to India and the preparation for the time before we leave. The Orality Conference was already a gift from the Lord toward this preparation.
- For financial support and opportunities to share about the Ambassador Institute.

**HOME MISSIONS:** *(Director—Rev. Paul Nash)*

We are praising God for the open doors and opportunities within our country. In September, Pastor Nash and board member Loren Tungseth went to Alaska to access and work with our new mission work in Naknek. Pastor Brian Davidson has taken over the management of KAKN radio station and will serve as interim manager for one year. Pastor and Mrs. Jeff Swanson and family have seen open doors in several villages and are making use of the Cessna 175 aircraft to visit these remote areas.

- † Pastor Nash will be meeting with a new group in Reading, Pennsylvania the second weekend of October.
- † Our new church, Good Shepherd Free Lutheran of Brainerd, MN started Sunday morning worship services this fall.
- † Our fall schedules for many of these new congregations include new service times, additional services and ministries which need our prayers.
- † Calvary Free Lutheran of Mesa, AZ is seeing some amazing opportunities for ministry through their food pantry which distributes food each Saturday. They are requesting prayer for their Harvest Festival on October 31 as they plan for 300 to 500 people from their community.
- † Several of our congregation are struggling to sort out the Lord's will and direction for their ministries. Pray for Calvary Free at Bismark, ND, Living Word Lutheran of Menasha, WI and Hope Lutheran of Detroit Lakes, MN.
- † Inquiry groups include: Buckeye, AZ and Waconia, MN .

**FLAPS:** *(Director—Mr. Lavon Bohling)*

Early in 2008, the mission aviation ministry of the Lutheran Mission Society (LMS) was transferred to the Free Lutheran Association of Pilot Supporters (FLAPS). Included was a transfer of ownership of a 42' X 48' hangar in Naknek, AK and a four-seated Cessna 175 airplane that was delivered to Naknek this past July by Lavon Bohling and senior seminarian, Jeremy Crowell. As a tool for ministry, the airplane is essential for carrying the Gospel message to remote areas of Alaska since there are virtually no roads in the western half of the state. In addition, FLAPS airplanes based in Minneapolis continue to transport AFLC staff and personnel to congregations around the country. Please pray for the Alaska mission and for the FLAPS aviation ministry.

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

- **New push.** This past September, the Heritage 400 plan raised awareness again for the building debt with a new bulletin insert to encourage additional commitments. A few responses have already been received for that new appeal. As of October 8, 2008 past commitments have been made totaling \$90,149; of those commitments \$48,759 has been received. The balance of the debt owed on Heritage Hall is currently \$220,227.
- **What is Heritage 400?** Heritage 400 is a challenge to 400 individuals to commit a gift of \$250 per year for 4 years. With 400 individuals gifting \$1000 the debt could be easily written down. With monthly payments of \$9,449 on Heritage Hall additional funds are needed to continue to make such payments. If you haven't considered making a commitment toward Heritage 400 won't you do so?
- **Campus work.** The maintenance crew worked long days throughout the summer remodeling bathrooms, painting both dorms, tiling floors in the laundry rooms, installing new washers, dryers and drinking fountains. We are grateful for their hard work and dedication.
- **Future building plans?** Even though the city of Plymouth has granted the schools permission for new dormitories and a gym/auditorium, additional plans for growth or other campus buildings are not being considered until the current debt is paid.
- **Thanks to God for our facilities.** Heritage Hall is a wonderful addition to the facilities on campus. It definitely serves to enhance the function and vision of the schools in educating and challenging students to grow in the Truth. We praise God for the provisions He has so graciously supplied and ask that you pray with us in considering the current financial challenges ahead. "And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory of Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:19

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

- **Ambassador Sunday School Series - New Grade 5 Student Book - "Journey Through the Old Testament"** ; Will be arriving from the printer soon! Thanks be to God for the many workers who contributed their time and talents to this enormous project! The new full-color booklets are beautifully illustrated and include all 36 Old Testament lessons in one book. Pray for God's financial provision (about \$2,000 to \$3,000 more needed to cover printing costs).
- **"Roots of Freedom" booklet coming in November;** "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. Thanks to Thrivent for a grant that will fund much of this project.
- **Catechism CD nearing completion;** An electronic version (pdf) of the 2007 updated edition of "Luther's Small Catechism and Explanation" is being produced on CD along with an introductory study of the catechism called "Know Your Catechism," which will be available both in PowerPoint form and as reproducible study worksheets for a class setting. Thanks to Thrivent for a grant that will fund much of this project.

**WMF:** (Nat'l President—Mrs. Lorilee Mundfrom)

**The National WMF Board** met at the All Boards September 22 -23 together in the name of Jesus to set goals and objectives for the year 2009. Monday afternoon we met with AFLC President, Rev. Eldon Nelson, and other directors of the various ministries supported by the WMF. On Sunday evening, September 21, time was spent in prayer for the AFLC, the missionaries, Home Mission workers, our families, pastors and their families, and many other concerns. We know that before any work that we do as a board can move forward we must bathe our work in prayer and ask God what He would have us do. May we be faithful in the work that God has called us to do.

**Be watching** for the new Resource Packets that will be coming out before the Christmas mail rush. We will also be mailing the 2009 Bible Study, Living Water, by Bunny Meyer for those who ordered them. If you have not ordered them, please be sure to get your order in to Dawn Johnson, our Executive Secretary!

**EVANGELISM DEPT:** (Director—Rev. James Rasmussen)

AFLC Evangelism Director Rev. Rasmussen keeps a busy schedule sharing evangelism teaching and workshops with AFLC churches and ministries, and will have been in ten states before December. Through local churches and various ministries the tools for evangelism outreach are available for training.

One example of such a training was the Youth Ministry Boot Camp. Pastor Rasmussen shared that he had the awesome privilege of teaching "Share Jesus without Fear" to the students of the AFLC Boot Camp and it's group leaders. It was great to see more than 100 individuals hit the streets and tell others about Jesus.

If your church or ministry would like to learn more about the tools for evangelism contact the AFLC Evangelism Department at the AFLC headquarter office number 763.545.5631. Together we can win souls for Christ.

- END AFLC DEPARTMENT UPDATES -