



"The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; **He has risen**, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay." Matt. 28: 5&6

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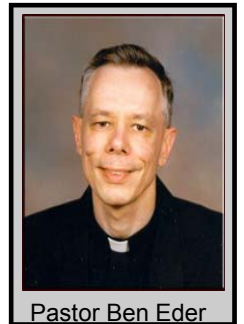
## "If We Can Do It, So Can You!"

Pilgrim Lutheran Church (Kenmore, NY) was one of the four pilot congregations of our English District's "Fan into Flame" Initiative. When we were approached about becoming one of the pilot congregations, our response was "Why not?" Like the bumblebee, we didn't know we weren't supposed to fly. In our case, we called a "cottage" meeting and held it at the church; about 20 members attended. The "Fan into Flame" video was shown, and questions were taken. That evening, most of those in attendance made their commitments (with others coming later).

Since our contributions for 2007 totaled \$108,000, our goal was to raise 10% of that amount. We asked each contributor to commit to at least \$1000, payable over a three-year period. Although that wasn't a requirement, it was a target, and most selected that amount. In all, we received \$13,500, with another \$1,000 pending in the near future. Since the received amount exceeded the 10% goal, we more than met our expectations.

Our message to all congregations (especially the smaller ones) is, "If we can do it, so can you!" Pilgrim is a small but active congregation consisting of about 100 members. In addition, we also have numerous friends and visitors who take part in the worship and life of our congregation. We are

not one of the "movers and shakers" of our District, but we do our part. Although we are the church of the widow's mite, that does not prevent us from giving joyfully.



Pastor Ben Eder

Our message to other congregations is, "You can do the same." Individually, our contributions may not seem like much. But, when added together, they constitute a tremendous blessing for the Church!

Sometimes congregations hesitate to participate in endeavors like "Fan into Flame" because they think that it will take away from their at-home contributions. As far as we are concerned, that has not been our experience. In fact, it is our conviction that giving to "Fan into Flame" encourages giving at the local level. Members discover (or re-discover) the joy of giving, and the Lord continues to supply the giver with more resources so that he or she may continue to give generously (2 Corinthians 9:6-15). All in all, our participation in "Fan into Flame" has been a blessing for our congregation. Our prayer is that our participation may be a blessing to others as they come to know of Jesus' love through "Fan into Flame."



Pilgrim Lutheran Church

## Reestablishing a Lutheran Presence in Wittenberg, Germany

LCMS World Mission, LCMS World Relief and Human Care, and Concordia Publishing House are collaborating to reestablish a Lutheran presence in Wittenberg, Germany. A Latin school for boys built in 1564 is being turned into a Lutheran ministry center. Located across the street from St. Mary's Church, the town church, where Luther once regularly preached, the vacant building was purchased this year partially with **Fan into Flame** funds.



Today, only 18 percent of the population of Wittenberg claims to be Christian, and only a handful of people claim association with our German partner church, the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK). The town church (Stadtkirche) is no longer Lutheran, but a union church of the Evangelical Church of the Province of Saxony. It serves largely as an attraction for many of the 600,000 visitors to Wittenberg annually.

The new Lutheran ministry center will include a chapel, a small office, bookstore, meeting rooms, and guest accommodations. Renovation is currently underway with a goal of dedicating the building November 2, 2008. Funds totaling \$500,000 from **Fan into Flame** contributions will be used in support of the project.

Rev. Wilhelm Torgerson, a Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, graduate, and former vice president with the SELK, serves as director of the project. "We want to get the Lutheran Church of Martin Luther back into public focus. We want the locals to know that the Lutheran Church—Martin Luther's church—is alive and well and spreading the Gospel."

Lutherstadt Wittenberg Market Square



# How to Start an Appeal

**Fan into Flame** appeals are manageable, flexible, and successful! Each appeal only lasts about eight weeks, and during that time you will have personal contact with a campaign advisor who will provide all materials and training for you to educate your congregation and offer them the opportunity to give.

- **Call Ashley Houghton** (1-800-248-1930, ext. 1686), our campaign advisor, and let her know you're considering an appeal. She will offer you materials and help you start your appeal quickly and easily.
- Consider your congregation's mission work — **what programs would you like to fund?** Congregations receive 15% of donations for their own outreach and mission programs; congregations have started their own satellite churches, sent local missionaries abroad, even created scholarships for their school's students who could otherwise not afford a Lutheran education.

erwise not afford a Lutheran education. Create a plan for the funds you get back from **Fan into Flame**.

- Choose a plan and a timetable for your appeal— English District appeals should begin by **Pentecost, May 11**. When it comes to your appeal, there's no time like the present! There are **five different plans** to consider based on your congregation's unique needs. Talk to Ashley and pick a plan to best fit you.



Bring **Fan into Flame** to your church council or elders to get official approval and start your appeal. Remember, all English District congregations are beginning their appeals by **Pentecost, May 11**. Contact Ashley today and express your dedication to mission work through **Fan into Flame**.

### Fan into Flame

**LCMS Fan into Flame Goal:**  
\$100,000,000

**English District Goal:**  
\$3,700,000

**Commitments Update:**  
from individuals and congregations

**LCMS Worldwide:**  
\$28,748,273

**English District:**  
\$751,876

### Pilot Congregations

Peace in the Desert--\$78,230  
(260% of goal)

Pilgrim Lutheran--\$14,500  
(145% of goal)

Risen Savior--\$160,090.55  
(400% of goal)

Shepherd of the Pines--\$54,380  
(271% of goal)

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# International Seminaries Receive *Fan into Flame* Funds

Eight Lutheran seminaries around the world will directly benefit from *Fan into Flame* gifts. Through the end of 2007, two specific “ends of the earth” distributions from *Fan into Flame* are showing results.

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## China Lutheran Seminary Taiwan

Pictured (top right) are Dr. Thomas Yu, President of China Lutheran Seminary (CLS) in HsinChu, Taiwan, and Rev. John Mehl, LCMS World Mission Regional Director for Asia, on a visit to Taiwan in mid-2007. Dr. Yu gave Mehl a personal update and close up view of the building of the new seminary facilities for CLS.

LCMS World Mission is providing \$200,000 of the total \$6 million project through *Fan into Flame*. More than \$100,000 of the LCMS World Mission pledge has already been distributed as a result of gifts and pledge payments to *Fan into Flame*.

LCMS missionary Dr. Steven Oliver continues to teach New Testament Studies full time at CLS while other LCMS theologians and seminary faculty have a chance to teach on an intensive basis. Dr. Henry Rowold and his wife Phyllis have been in Taiwan from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Dr. Rowold led a short term course on Wisdom Literature. Please keep Dr. Yu, Dr. Oliver, Dr. Rowold and all the faculty and students of CLS in your prayers.

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## Concordia Seminary Nagercoil, India

Concordia Seminary, Nagercoil, India, is into its 77<sup>th</sup> year of ser-

vice. It now has a well-qualified national faculty, and LCMS World Mission hopes to place a PhD theology professor to help with the implementation of an approved Bachelor of Divinity (BD) program beginning June 2008. Until now, the seminary has been recognized only in training high school graduates; however, the education system of India has moved far beyond that. Much younger ecumenical seminaries have gained recognition for BD and PhD programs, while Concordia Seminary has continued to offer a non-degree program. The accrediting agency, Serampore University, is very pleased that Concordia is finally moving toward strengthening its academic program to meet the needs and expectations of 21<sup>st</sup> century India.

More than \$60,000 has already been sent from *Fan into Flame* funds for upgrades to various programs. A goal of \$250,000 has been set from the campaign for the seminary. With these funds the seminary plans to reach new accrediting standards by

- adding five instructors to the faculty.
- adding 20,000 library books to its collection and computerize the collection.
- building additional library space as well as faculty office space.
- building additional housing for single and married students.
- building additional faculty housing.
- providing studies for six faculty members to take them to the Master of Sacred Theology level.
- providing studies for four faculty members to reach the Doctor of Theology level.
- building additional housing for staff members.



China Lutheran Seminary, Taiwan



An architectural model of the finished China Seminary building



Concordia Seminary Nagercoil students outside the classrooms

## Sharing the Faith in East Moline

**Mision Gracia** (Grace Mission), East Moline, Illinois, is a ministry of the Central Illinois District, partially funded by gifts to **Fan into Flame**. District Missionary-at-Large Pablo Dominguez directs the ministry. Currently serving the Quad Cities community from a 1,000-square-foot, three-room storefront, the mission is seeking a larger, permanent facility. About half the funding necessary has been raised.



Pastor Dominguez

The "Quad Cities" include Rock Island and Moline, Illinois, and Davenport and Bettendorf, Iowa.

A challenge to the mission's ministry is the mobility of Hispanics in the area. People served by Grace Lutheran Mission come and go frequently. However, in God's wider plan, this mobility can be a blessing, as many people reached for Christ take their faith with them.

Despite many challenges, the mission's ministry is having a positive effect. Recent activities include the following:

- A July 4 East Moline parade float - St. John Lutheran, East Moline, and Grace Mission members handed out pencils, magnets, and flyers with information about church activities. A subsequent July 8 picnic drew 14 Hispanic families.
- A school-supply fair in August - Fifty-two families came to the supply distribution. Before supplies were distributed, the recipients watched a video explaining what Lutherans believe. Rock Island Circuit churches donated the supplies.
- Broadcasts in Spanish every Sunday morning from 7:00-7:30 a.m. on KAL-FM - As Pastor Dominguez makes contacts, Hispanics often tell him they heard his program.
- A partnership with the



East Moline Correctional Center chaplain to provide Bible study to Hispanic inmates.

- Providing Computer and English-language classes.
- Cub Scout Pack 51 - This multi-ethnic group meets every Tuesday.
- A new Hispanic evangelism small group at Immanuel, Rock Island, has been formed.

Pastor Dominguez sees the Spirit's blessing on the ministry the congregation provides, and with the help of **Fan into Flame** gifts, he looks forward to sharing the Gospel with many more Hispanics.

## Ablaze! in God's Word

The successful distribution of 24,000 digital New Testaments at the 2007 National Youth Gathering was just the beginning of a partnership of LCMS World Mission with Hosanna Ministries of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and the American Bible Society (ABS) to be a conduit for bringing God's Word to the world. Soon the partnership will impact Lutheran schools. As a result of designated gifts to **Fan into Flame**, a pilot program is being conducted to test Bible-listening lessons for Lutheran schools.

Working through Schools Ministry of LCMS District and Congregational Services, **Ablaze!** in God's Word will provide each pilot school with:

- A playback unit similar to a portable radio which has 20 Bible selections digitally recorded in a dramatic fashion, with music and sound effects.
- A teacher guide, reproducible handouts, and 20 Bible story picture cards.
- A personal set, for each child, of the 20 Bible story picture cards.

- An MP3 CD for each child of selections from the Bible in English for listening at home.
- A home listening guide for parents.

In the classroom, children will listen to 20 Bible selections. They will then be able to take the CD home and share the 20 Bible selections with family members. It is planned that a second CD can be provided in an alternate language that may be spoken in the home.

As it rolls out, the program will increase exposure to God's Word in a format appropriate for young children. In addition, schools will be provided the opportunity to support Bible listening centers first in India and, later, around the world (at \$157.50 each) where the Bible will be shared in the local language.

Attendees at the April 2008 Lutheran Education Association conference dinner will each receive a sample of a personal Bible listening kit that includes a digital "Bible stick" as well as the MP3CD disk.

Check out the **Fan into Flame** website:  
[www.fanintoflamecms.org](http://www.fanintoflamecms.org)

For future publications, please send information regarding mission events, **Ablaze!** and **Fan into Flame** activities at your church to:

[bob.fischer@fairlawnlutheran.org](mailto:bob.fischer@fairlawnlutheran.org)

**Fan into Flame** is the fund raising campaign throughout our church body in support of the **Ablaze!** movement. The English District began its participation in **Fan into Flame** last fall and will continue into 2008. **Fan into Flame** will secure \$100 million in new money to support the **Ablaze!** movement and its bold and inspiring vision.