

Ablaze Florida-Georgia... It's a Movement!



**MISSION
IN
ACTION**

Doug Kallesen
Director of Outreach

unchurched and dechurched person. It is ideal for discipling as well as attracting new people into a relationship with another Christian and ultimately with Jesus Christ. The program boasts of "creating an environment in which the possibility of relationship occurs."

Groups *Ablaze* Training covers:

- Motivation for Mission
- Prayer Connecting with our Father
- Natural Evangelism
- *Ablaze* Living
- Seeker Group
- Coaching Toolkit

Rev. Scott Burmeister, Messiah-Tampa, facilitated the training event for two laypersons — Lynn Anderson and Rhonda Case — and for church workers and pastors Jim Webb, Mike Case, Jason Boetcher, Ron Pennekamp, George Earhart, Glen Fisher, Ben Haupt, Rob Maulella, Ellie Louissant and Doug Kallesen. For more information or training contact Scott Burmeister at 813.961.2182 or Doug Kallesen at 407-857-5556 ext. 2.

Ablaze Partnering In Christ - National Hispanic Conference was held in Irving, TX, July 19-23, highlighting the many accomplishments of Hispanic ministry in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, including the Hispanic Institute of Theology at Concordia Seminary-St. Louis. The Hispanic Institute currently holds seminary level classes for ten Florida-Georgia students at St. Paul-Miami. These students are prepared for service in our LCMS congregations through your tithes and offerings.

Rev. Angel Perez of Ascension-Cassleberry and Rev. Benito Perez of Hospital de

Alma-Leisure City were elected to serve as President and Secretary respectively of the National Hispanic Conference.

The Hispanic Conference pledged an *Ablaze* commitment to share the gospel with two million people.

Ablaze Partnering In Christ - A Mission Festival and Revival was held at Salem Haitian-Lake Worth, FL, July 9-16, with nightly revivals. Salem's sanctuary swelled nightly as visitors and members came to sing pray and praise Jesus. The former I-HOP restaurant truly was transformed from a house of pancakes to a house of prayer and praise as nearly 200 gathered nightly throughout the week.

I don't speak French or Creole, but I could tell God was present at the closing Sunday service. The congregation was challenged by Pastor Ellie Louissant to invite people from the community to the revival. A challenge between the men and women occurred over who could bring the most guest throughout the week.

Ablaze Endowment to initiate; professional church worker training, Open Arms Early Child Development Centers and New Missions. (This one is so new I can not yet tell you who.)

Ablaze Counting - "Count or don't count but be sure to share your faith in Jesus Christ!"

People are talking about sharing their faith more than at any other time I have seen and this is a good thing. If you do want to count you will need to register as a church or individual. Simply go to www.lcms.org.

Two *Ablaze* events are scheduled in the Suncoast Circuit in the coming months:

- Holy Trinity-Lutz is hosting "Sharing Your Faith," an EE Kennedy program on Saturday, September 23, starting at 9 a.m.
- Forest Oaks-Spring Hill, is hosting the LLL "Equipping to Share" workshop on Saturday, November 11, beginning at 9 a.m. □

Convention Goals:

- Sharing our faith in Jesus Christ with 2 million or more people by 2017
- Starting 200 or more new missions from 2000-2017.
- Strengthening 22 or more existing congregations to become revitalized.
- Sending Our Members into Mission

Ablaze Partnering in Christ is a sampling of some of the events that congregations, groups and individuals are doing to promote the name of Christ in the Florida-Georgia District. It is my intent to use this section of *Lutheran LIFE* to share with you some of the *Ablaze* Ideas that others have done. *Ablaze* is a movement!

Ablaze Partnering in Christ - August 16: A "Groups *Ablaze* Train the Trainer" event was held at the District Office. Groups *Ablaze* offers a small group approach that focuses on the

Partnering in Christ

Summer Bridge Program Reaches Out to Community Children

A special report from Rev. Dr. Wilton Heyliger, pastor of Incarnate Word Church-Tucker, GA

Incarnate Word Summer Bridge Program — June 4-30 — provided grade school students in the community with a program of academic enhancement, cultural enrichment, Christian education and character building. The program is designed to meet the participants' academic, cultural, social, nutritional and spiritual

needs through organized group activities.

Some 78 students signed up the 2006 program; 54 students were served, with a daily attendance averaging 40 children. In addition, there were nine youth volunteers, seven of whom come from Incarnate Word. The children, from Pre-K through seventh grade, normally attend public schools in the Clarkston/Tucker area. Some of the children came from the Caribbean and African immigrant populations

as well as the African American community.

The program was provided free of charge to the children with funding provided by grants from the Florida-Georgia District, the LCMS Board Of Black Ministries Services, Rivercliff Lutheran Church and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. The program was aided by generous donations from members of Incarnate Word, St. Mark and Timothy Lutheran congregations and friends of Pastor Heyliger. □

Preparing for Disaster

Six members of Shepherd's Creek Lutheran Church-Brandenton, FL, recently attended a Network of Hope sponsored Early Responder Training.

Shepherd's Creek is one of many Manatee County churches who banded together to form a "Network of Hope" after the devastation of the four Florida hurricanes of 2004.

Network of Hope Founder Nancy Kenney recognized the opportunity for "the Church to be a vital force in the immediate response to the individual and crucial needs of people." She saw that the county supplies ice and water, but people "need much more than that" and churches can help.

Network of Hope churches provide area residents with assistance such as meals, groceries, answers to questions about FEMA — or help with a downed tree, a prayer, assistance for their children's needs, an encouraging word and information about available resources.

Network of Hope churches educate members on their Christian responsibilities to prepare for disasters and ministry opportunities in the aftermath.

Shepherd's Creek Network of Hope Coordinator Nancy Castro maintains a database of members' disaster plans, has demonstrated how to assemble a disaster kit and has provided checklists and other disaster response information. Next year, she plans to expand into surrounding neighborhoods to reach more people.

The Shepherd's Creek Early Response Team has been trained in understanding FEMA paperwork, counseling individuals after a disaster, first aid, CPR, chain saw operations, tarping of roofs and other actions.

For more information about Network of Hope, contact Nancy Kenney at 941-727-3279 or NLKenney@aol.com. For more on Shepherd's Creek, contact Nancy Castro at 941-373-1455 or gncastro@tampabay.rr.com. □