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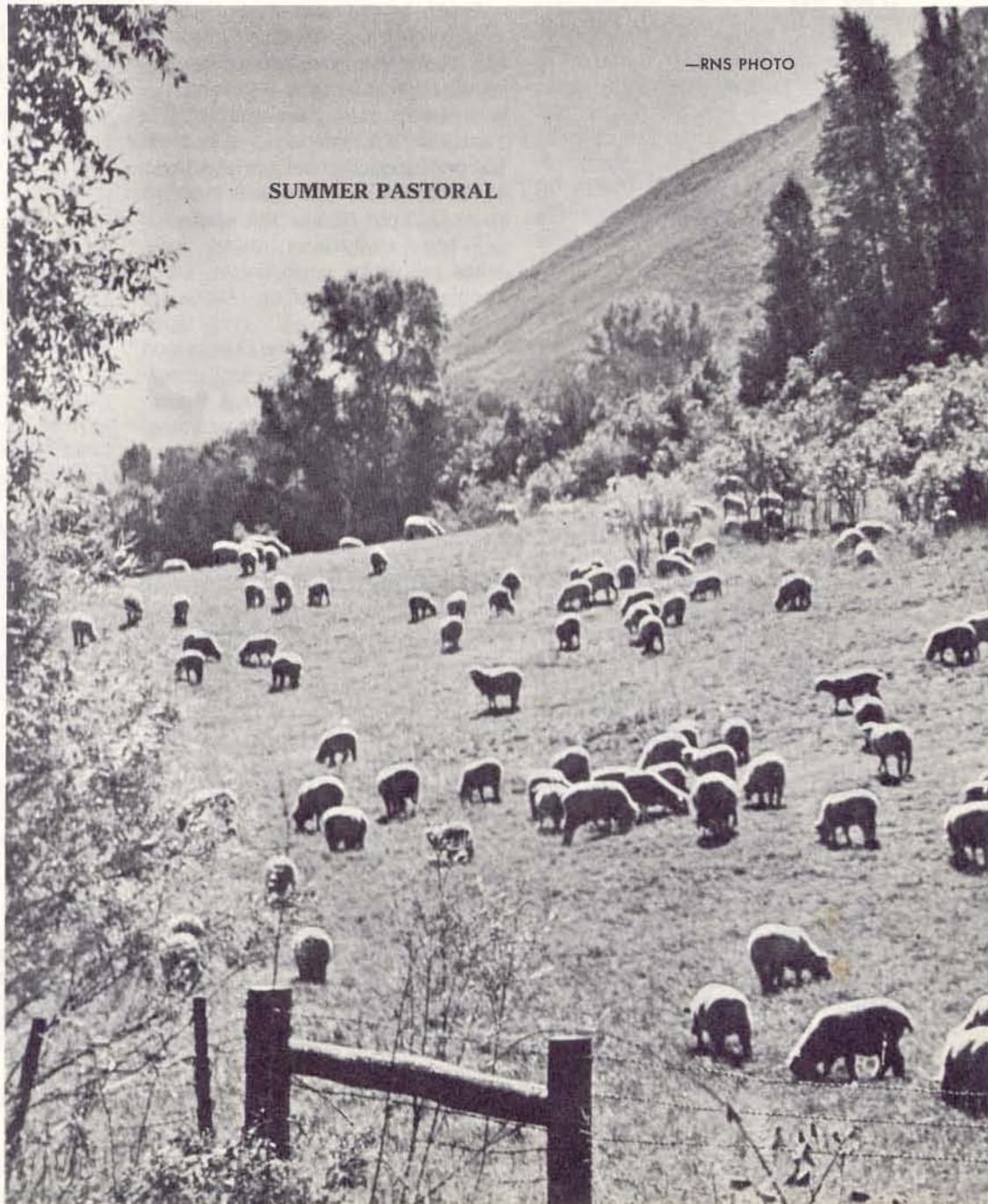
Vol. 1

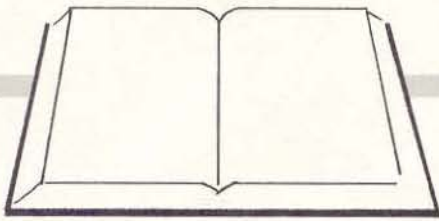
July 30, 1963

No. 13

LUTHERAN

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According to the Word

PRIDE GOES BEFORE A FALL

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time" (I Pet. 5:6).

Every Christian has figuratively thrown an inkwell at Satan even as Martin Luther did literally when he was sorely pressed by the ancient foe. A pastor in Minneapolis had a wall of his new church office decorated with a blotch of dark color as a reminder of the daily conflict.

"I walk in danger all the way;
The thought shall never leave me,
That Satan who has marked his prey

Is plotting to deceive me.

This foe with hidden snares

May seize me unawares

If e'er I fail to watch and pray:

I walk in danger all the way."

H. A. Bronson

We shall talk today about the besetting sin of pride, a sin with which we all have more than passing acquaintance. Pride, in the first place, keeps many a soul out of the kingdom of God entirely. I forget who said it, but here is a quotation: "No matter how hard and difficult the requirements may be, it does not matter if only we can come to God with 'full' hands and not with those that are quite empty, if only 'we may give some-

thing ourselves' out of the abundance of our own willing and knowing and being." And yet, the way of life is to be found only in supplying the emptiness which the Lord can fill.

Pride, in the next place, is ever present for the Christian, too. It can never be relegated to the lamented or unlamented past. Satan will see to that. The trouble with vanity is that it causes one to trust his own strength and not the Lord. If the condition persists, it is death to the Christ-life in the soul.

When everything goes well, when we make no mistakes, when people speak well of us—these are the times of danger. This is in keeping with something that is said in *The Imitation of Christ*, generally attributed to Thomas A Kempis: "It is good that we have sometimes some troubles and crosses; for they often make a man enter into himself, and consider that he is here in banishment, and ought not to place his trust in any worldly thing. It is good that we be sometimes contradicted, and that men think ill or inadequately; and this, although we do and intend well. These things help often to the attaining of humility, and defend us from vainglory: for then we are more inclined to seek God for our inward witness, when outwardly we be contemned by men, and when there is no credit given unto us. And therefore a man

should settle himself so fully in God, that he need not seek many comforts of men."

Therefore, thank God for life's experiences which deflate the ego. Perhaps you struck a wrong note in your piano solo, or bobbled a sure double-play ball, or took the chicken out before it was "done," or "forgot" the Lord's Prayer as you led the congregation. Perhaps you couldn't answer all the questions you were asked or there was criticism of your work. These are not really tragedies, but rather blessings in disguise if they lead to a humble spirit. Of course, if we're always fumbling and bumbling, there may really be something wrong.

The humbling situations of life should remind us that we aren't perfect and that we need the Lord. When we have trouble we are more apt to look beyond ourselves. As we see our failures we look to One who can help us. It ought to be that way.

How better can we conclude than by noting the example of Jesus himself? He came to minister, not to be served. The man who gives himself to serving others and who glories in the cross of Jesus will not be as easily wounded in his pride; yea, he will even thank God for the incidents of life which keep his feet on the ground and his gaze directed upward.

—Raynard Huglen

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR is published bi-weekly (except the first issue of August) by an association of Lutheran congregations and interested friends. Rev. Raynard Huglen, Hatton, North Dakota, is the editor. Subscription price is \$2.50 per year in advance. Subscriptions should be sent to **THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR**, Box 652, Grafton, North Dakota. Third-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minnesota. Publication office: 6820 Auto Club Road, Minneapolis 31, Minn.

FIRST FAMILY BIBLE CAMP CONCLUDED

The first annual family Bible Camp of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations was held at Lake Geneva Bible Camp near Alexandria, Minnesota, July 8-14.

By mid-week 365 persons had registered, of whom approximately 150 were teen-agers. Additional campers arrived for the week-end bringing the total to 455. Still other persons attended the services on Sunday. Those at the summer retreat came from mid-western states and Washington. Association officials were very pleased at the response to the first camp, which was planned and operated by the Youth Committee of which Pastor Jay Erickson, Faith, South Dakota, is the chairman.

The two main speakers at the camp were the Rev. Chester Heikenen, pastor of the Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, who gave lectures on the Apostles' Creed, and Mr. David Nelson, senior instructor at the Honeywell Institute in Minneapolis, who presented the case against the theory of evolution, theistic or otherwise.

Mr. Nelson stated that the price which must be paid in accepting the evolution theory and following it to its logical conclusions is to ultimately lose the Scriptures and the Christ of the Scriptures.

Other morning lectures and fellowship hours, in addition to the evening services, were conducted by pastors and lay people. Speakers for the mission and evangelism hour were Pastors John Abel and R. P. Haakonson. Pastors Fritjof Monseth, Harold Schafer, Morris Eggen, Trygve Dahle, and Karl Stendal led the morning fellowship hours. The following pastors brought the message at the evening and Sunday services: John Strand, Arvid Hokonson, Richard Snipstead, Jay Erickson, Raynard Huglen, Joel Pederson, Harry Molstre, and John Abel.

Pastor Harold Schafer led the morning Bible study for the teen-agers, and Pastor John Abel spoke on missions. Miss Judith Wold,

Thief River Falls, Minnesota, was the children's dean.

Recreation consisted of volleyball, softball, and swimming.

The Ambassadors Gospel Caravan took part in the life of the camp, serving as counsellors and assisting in music and recreation.

Pastor Jay Erickson served as dean of the adult group, and Pastor Abel of the teen-agers. Mr. Sheldon Mortrud, Thief River Falls, Minnesota, was camp manager and his wife, registrar.

OUR IMPRESSIONS OF FAMILY CAMP

"Lord, that we might ever be faithful." One day in camp I was walking between the cabins when I saw something on the ground. I bent down, picked it up and read, "The Lord is my strength and my shield: my heart trusted in him and I was helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth: and with my song will I praise him" (Ps. 28:7).

Bible Camp is a wonderful place to find yourself and find your relationship with our Lord and Savior. We as Christians can receive real victory in our lives. Precious souls can be won for the Lord. Let's help populate heaven. Let's tell others about the Savior we love.

Ona Aasness, 17
Doran, Minn.

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20).

We could truly sense the presence of God at Bible Camp this past week. His Holy Spirit has been working in the hearts of many individuals. It has been a real joy and an inspiration for our whole family to have been a part of this glorious fellowship.

It was especially thrilling to see the spiritual interest and participation on the part of the teen-agers. There were so many young people present who have given their hearts

to Jesus, and we wish everyone could have heard their inspiring testimonies. What a blessing it can be to know that we belong wholly to Him. We can truly say that our faith has been greatly strengthened as a result of these Bible studies, fellowship meetings, and evening services.

We sincerely deem it an honor and a privilege to be able to be a part of this association and we should thank God for providing us with such able pastors and leaders. May God continue to strengthen and guide them as they carry on their work.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Holm
Greenbush, Minn.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!" Yes, we can truly say that the Lord has blessed our souls here at the Lake Geneva Bible Camp this week and are thankful to Jesus that He made it possible for our family to be here.

It has made our hearts glad to hear all the testimonies of young and old people to saving faith in Jesus, and we pray that those who were saved this week may be kept in Jesus' love. Thanks to all the leaders of the camp who made it a wonderful stay for us.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilman Johnson
Edinburg, N. Dak.

The camp started on Monday afternoon and ended Sunday. Our classes started on Tuesday morning at 8:30. Pastor Schafer led the class. At 9:30 Pastor Abel led the mission and evangelism hour. At 10:30 we had some very good films shown by Pastor Erickson. At 11:25 Mr. Nelson gave lessons on evolution.

On Thursday the camp had a campfire. Nine young people gave their lives to the Lord. I had a good time praising the Lord Jesus and witnessing for Him. Every night we had a time of praying and reading from God's Word.

On Friday night we had a meet-

[Continued on page 6]

WOMEN for Christ

"TRUST HIM FOR ALL THINGS"

Psalm 34:3, "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together."

When asked to give this meditation it was with a humble spirit I decided to write, knowing that only as the Lord laid something on my heart would I have anything to share with you.

Oh, how I feel for God's children these days, in trials, temptations, sufferings, and persecution. It seems to be a time of much heartache, but, thanks be to God, we are able to rise above the streams of difficulties, "knowing that all who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (II Tim. 3:12).

And the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be ours in that great and notable day of our Lord's appearing for His own children. "They looked unto him, and were lightened, and their faces were not ashamed" (Ps. 34:5).

What a tremendous heritage is ours to share with each of our own households, through the different church organizations, and with the whole world. How we need to guide and direct the lives of our young people the Lord has entrusted to our care, teaching them the Scriptures that they may rest on the truth of God's Word in these days of much error. For we know that it is the power of the Gospel that brings salvation, not the wis-

dom of men through eloquent words. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord" (Zech. 4:6).

"An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength" (Ps. 33:17). In these days of science, so-called, let us remember to teach the children that "God said and it was so." How complicated are man's theories and how low. When our heavenly Father has accomplished everything to bring men up to His own level, why should we settle for anything less and go lost besides? May we be in much prayer these days and take time in secret with our Lord and Savior. I am reminded of a verse from the hymn "Take time to be holy, the world rushes on." And how much business and hurrying there is in this present world. We need to be careful that we are not caught up with the cares of the day. It is not easy, for it requires discipline.

May the Lord grant each one of us grace to be obedient and to trust Him for all things. "The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth and delivereth them out of all their troubles" (Ps. 34:17).

"O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens" (Ps. 8:1).

—Mrs. Reuben Ivesdal
Edmore, N. Dak.

On Sunday, July 7, there was an area rally for members of Free Lutheran congregations and friends held at the high school auditorium in Newfolden, Minn. Guests came from Roseau, Wannaska, Greenbush, Karlstad, Strandquist, Argyle, Viking, Middle River, Thief River Falls, Long Prairie, Clearbrook, Gatzke, Stephen, Holt, Warren, Fosston and Minneapolis, all in Minnesota, and Grafton and Grand Forks, North Dakota. There were services at 11:00 and 2:30, and many of the 165 guests who registered attended both services. A picnic was held between services at the community park. Pastor Hubert F. DeBoer, Clearbrook, Minnesota, was the speaker for the afternoon service, and the Ambassadors Gospel Caravan was present for both services. The total offering was close to \$150, most of which went to the young men so that they might continue their ministry among us. As we read in the third issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador*, "One of the benefits of our Association will be the opportunities for this type of small-group fellowship. May we cherish them."

—Robert Lee, Student Pastor

PERSONALITIES

Rev. and Mrs. Amos Dyrud and family, missionaries to Madagascar, are in the United States on furlough. Their address is Colfax, Wisconsin.

Rev. and Mrs. Jerome Elness and family, missionaries to Hong Kong, arrived recently in the United States for their furlough. Their address is 20 W. Broadway, Williston, North Dakota.

Rev. Malcolm Unseth, formerly of Portland, Oregon, is now living in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

**LUTHERAN LEADERS
COMMENT ON
SUPREME COURT RULING**

New York (NLC)—The presidents of the three major branches of American Lutheranism issued statements on the U. S. Supreme Court's ruling that Bible reading and recitation of the Lord's Prayer in public schools are unconstitutional.

Expressing their views of the high tribunal's 8-1 decision on the issue were Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, New York, of the 3,200,000-member Lutheran Church in America; Dr. Fredrik A. Schiotez, Minneapolis, of the 2,500,000-member American Lutheran Church, and Dr. Oliver R. Harms, St. Louis, of the 2,600,000-member Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Dr. Fry said that he does not believe "much has been lost in terms of the specific points covered by this decision," but added that it "intensifies the task of the church."

He said that "if the court had permitted the Lord's Prayer to be recited in school rooms only for the sake of the moral and ethical atmosphere it creates, it would have been worth nothing to me as a Christian."

"The Lord's Prayer is the supreme act of adoration and petition or it is debased," Dr. Fry said. "Reading the Bible without comment, too, has been of dubious value as either an educational or religious experience."

The LCA leader observed that "the more we attempt as Christians or Americans to insist on common denominator religious exercises or instruction in the public schools, the greater risk we run of diluting our faith and contributing to a vague religiosity which identifies religion with patriotism and becomes a national folk religion."

"At the same time, in candor, this decision must be seen as a watershed," he said. "It opens an era in which Christianity is kept separate from the state in a way that was foreign and would have been repugnant to the minds of our ancestors at the time when the

Constitution was written and ever since. It signalizes the fact that the United States of America, like many other nations, is past the place where underlying Christian culture and beliefs are assumed in its life.

Adding that "this event intensifies the task of the church," he said it "heightens the need of the church for strength to stand alone, lofty and unshaken, in American society" and "calls for greater depth of conviction in all Christian men and women."

Dr. Schiotez declared that the Supreme Court's decision "points up a situation that has long existed through tolerance rather than constitutional right" and that the decision "may actually be a plus for the Christian Church."

"It will alert its people to the certainty that community agencies carry no responsibility for Christian nurture," he said. "This privilege belongs to the family and the church. Clear recognition of this fact may provide a new sense of 'oughtness' in the Church's assumption of this privilege and obligation."

The Court's decision, in the opinion of the ALC official, may become the occasion for new questions, such as "If schools are not to be allowed religious use of the Bible and prayer in instructing the children, is it permissible for a government body to practice the same religion?"

"Congressional opening prayers and the invocation of the grace of God in the opening of the Supreme Court will no doubt receive new scrutiny," he noted, adding that the support of chaplains in the armed forces "would come in a different category."

Dr. Schiotez said also that the average Christian "may misunderstand the ruling of the Supreme Court and interpret it as antipathy toward religion," a possibility he said is "enhanced by the fact that the Court's opinion was occasioned by a case brought by Mrs. Madalyn Murray of Baltimore, Md., an acknowledged atheist."

"It is therefore increasingly im-

portant that Christians use every legitimate opportunity to make it evident that 'we are a religious people,' as was stated by the Supreme Court in a decision handed down in 1952," he concluded. "What an opportunity for Christians elected to office or in the service of the government to underscore this statement by their speech, action and participation in worship services!"

Dr. Harms pointed out that the Missouri Synod "has always supported the Constitution of the United States, and especially favors the First Amendment which prohibits the establishment of any religion, but encourages the free exercise of all."

The Supreme Court's decision, he stressed, "makes it all the more incumbent on all Christians to utilize the channels which the home, the church and its educational agencies offer for the study of God's Word.

"We would especially encourage Christian parents to be diligent and faithful in conducting family devotions," Dr. Harms said.

"We encourage all Christian congregations to reach out into the community and down into their own congregations with the Gospel of Jesus Christ so that the moral and spiritual fiber of our nation can be strengthened. Such a return to the Bible will provide the only true basis for Christian faith and life."

The LCA, ALC and Missouri Synod represent more than 95 percent of the nearly eight and a half million Lutherans in the United States.

**DISTRICT COURT CONSIDERS
USE OF "LFC (NOT MERGED)"**

International Falls, Minn. (NLC)—A three-day hearing in District Court here on the use of a disputed Lutheran Church name ended with both sides having 30 days to present more information.

At issue is use of "Lutheran Free Church (Not Merged)" as the name of an anti-merger group of former Lutheran Free Church con-

gregations. The LFC officially merged with the American Lutheran Church February 1.

The LFC and the ALC are seeking a permanent injunction to bar use of the name chosen by congregations opposing the merger. Last November a temporary injunction was issued against the anti-merger group which since then has been temporarily calling itself "The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations." The association now claims some 60 congregations in its membership.

It was asserted by defense attorneys that under the government of the LFC neither the annual conference nor a majority of the congregations had the right to declare a majority of the congregations to be the "Lutheran Free Church" to the exclusion of the minority where there has been no deviation from Lutheran doctrines.

Attorneys for the LFC and ALC said that the LFC name now belongs to the ALC since a majority of LFC congregations had approved the merger under the terms adopted by the LFC. They argued that it would cause confusion if the anti-merger group used the original name it adopted.

District Judge Gordon McRae conducted the trial here June 18-20 without a jury. After the 30-day limit expires for receipt of briefs from both sides, Judge McRae is expected to take several weeks before he rules on whether the anti-merger group may use the name "Lutheran Free Church (Not Merged)" or anything similar.

"There are six things which the Lord hates, seven which are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and a man who sows discord among brothers" (Prov. 6:16-19).

First Family Bible Camp

[Continued from page 3]

ing at the lake. They had a cross that they burned out on the lake.

Tom Johnson, 13
Cloquet, Minn.

To me camp meant meeting others and having fellowship with them and praying. It is good to know that they love the Lord, too. One thing that has been very near to my heart is to see others accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

Paul Jerde, 13
DeKalb, Ill.

I liked the Bible Camp very much. We not only had fun in recreation, but also in Christian fellowship and meeting new kids.

Next year I hope we will have just as many or more people than this year. It has been a nice time with many coming to know Christ as their Savior.

Louie Falk, 15
Buxton, N. Dak.

In Malachi 3 God says, "Put me to the test and see if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour out more blessing than you can contain." Surely this past week we've experienced this overflowing blessing. We've received so much that it's been difficult to take it all in. Certainly we're going to take home lots of food for thought and some memories we'll never forget. What a wonderful fellowship we've had with other Christians of all ages and stations in life. Truly this oneness in Christ will make our Association a witness for God. The crisis within the church has become a blessing beyond anything we could ask.

We are thankful to have had the privilege of giving our four children this week of camping as a family. There's nothing that can quite compare with it. We only wish more of our congregation could have shared it with us. The classes, the fellowship, the food and the recreation, too, have all been terrific.

Mr. and Mrs. LeVern Jorgenson
Tioga, N. Dak.

This week of Bible Camp has been a great blessing to me. While here the Lord has found me and I have experienced what it means to be saved.

I have never experienced such close fellowship of Christians witnessing together. My prayer is that this camp may continue in future years and that it can be as much of a blessing to others as it has been to me.

Janice Dalager, 17
Webster, S. Dak.

—Out of fifty who offer their lives for missionary service, only twelve do anything, four go to the field, and only one returns a second time.

FOR SALE

One Cross, nearly new. I cannot carry it and keep up with the world and its crowd.

One five-piece set of armor. All pieces in good shape, but do need polishing.

One bundle of Christian opportunities. Contained in this bundle is one of the greatest opportunities in the world, that of going to church every Sunday. Another is the opportunity of being a soul winner. I seldom use these opportunities, so I have decided to let them go.

One badly used Christian influence. Buyer may be able to repair it if carefully handled.

The above-mentioned items are stored in the basement of my home, right behind my fishing tackle, golf clubs, lawn mower, picnic basket, beach equipment and other things I use more frequently.

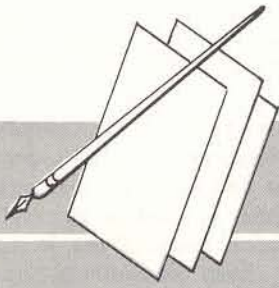
I live at the corner of Neglect Street and Worldly Avenue.

For Further Information

Call LEisure 8-2-5

A. LOTTA CHRISTIANS

—Selected



EDITORIALS

DEMONSTRATION OF THE LORD'S GIFTS

In Romans 12, I Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4, various gifts are mentioned as having been given unto Christians. It occurs to us that we saw many of these gifts or talents demonstrated at our first annual Family Camp conducted at Lake Geneva Bible Camp near Alexandria, Minnesota, July 8-14.

The possession and use of these gifts under the Lord combined to make the camp a success in every way. Because there were those who served, taught, exhorted, gave aid, contributed, helped, exerted leadership and worked as evangelists, Family Camp was a heart-warming experience for 450 persons. Add to the list those who prayed, used their musical talents and counseled. We have the sneaking suspicion, too, that everyone who performed some task for the common good, such as sweeping the tabernacle floor, punching meal tickets, setting up a volleyball net or cutting a stencil, gained a good measure of satisfaction through his service.

If we are to be at all candid, we must say that the Family Camp proved a real blessing to the Association. We think evidence of that statement will be found in the brief testimonies recorded elsewhere in this paper. We did not learn of a single person attending who was displeased with the camp in general. We do not mean that no one had a single gripe about *anything*, but that the overall impact was good. Many times people expressed their happiness at being able to be present.

A good number of families had every member present. These family groups perhaps enjoyed camp life more than anyone else. It will be interesting to learn how many family groups attended. They came from many places, and not a few were members of non-Association congregations but who are vitally interested in our work. All in all, when we consider that Lutheran Free Church people have had little experience with family camps in the past and have never given more than token support to the Deeper Life Conferences of the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement, this beginning for us was beyond expectations.

There was good spiritual food for everyone from the morning hours (we began at 8:30) through the evangelistic services in the evenings. The use of our

own pastors in many capacities worked out well. Much good music at the evening meetings added a great deal to the services. There were fellowship hours for testimonies. It is a long time since we have heard so many testimonies for the Lord. We are glad the custom has not died out completely. Now if all these spoken words for Christ are accompanied by a life lived out for Him in Sebeka and Eagle Butte and Hampden and other places, it will be a mighty thing.

One more thing about music. Through an oversight, no songbooks had been secured for the camp. Providentially, someone had brought along some chorus sheets from which we could sing. And they were few among so many. Nevertheless, we managed through the week. We find great enjoyment in the choruses, but we realize now what a treasure there is in the hymns of the church, too.

Of greatest importance, although we mention it last, was the spiritual impact of the camp program upon many lives. Souls turned again unto the Lord and found Him gracious and merciful. In other cases Christian life was strengthened and deepened. And, after all, these results are what count. Pastor John Strand reminded the assembly at the Sunday afternoon service that we are not to rejoice most in the impression we make through outward success but in what happened to us spiritually as individuals.

Special words of thanks are due to certain persons who served in positions of leadership at our camp. Lest we unintentionally omit someone who ought to be included, we shall not mention any names. But we hope that you who gave yourselves to the work so unselfishly may also have your reward in the knowledge that through your efforts blessing came unto many. We are sure that next summer many others will want to attend Family Camp, perhaps at Lake Geneva again.

THE MINISTRIES OF TWO MEN

We have purposely not included our two guest teachers in our first editorial because we want to say something more about them. We refer to Pastor Chester Heikkenen of Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church (an independent congregation) in Minneapolis and Mr. David Nelson, Minneapolis, senior instructor at the Honeywell Institute of that city.

Pastor Heikkenen gave five lectures on the Apostles' Creed. His presentation revealed a deep insight into Scripture. Many of the phrases of this ancient statement of belief came alive through his vivid descriptions. In speaking of the burial and resurrection of Jesus, he told us of himself having wrapped a kewpie doll in linen soaked in a mixture of myrrh and aloes (see John 19:39, 40) only to find that the linen cloth was no longer white, but dark brown, and the next day was stiff as cardboard. We found this an interesting bit of information.

Pastor Heikkenen has the gift of saying things in a way that makes one sit up and take notice. In fact, we are going to describe him as "neo-orthodox" in his manner of lecturing. No one else may appreciate that term, but we think the good pastor will.

Mr. David Nelson presented five discourses on the theory of evolution and engaged in numerous discussions of this fascinating subject. We found him an earnest and intense young man who believes that the scientific facts just do not support the theory of evolution, theistic or otherwise, and that the Biblical record of creation can be accepted as factual. He said that a belief in evolution and a neo-orthodox approach to the Scriptures go hand in hand.

You will meet Mr. Nelson in the pages of *The Lutheran Ambassador* this fall when he will write a series of articles on evolution and neo-orthodoxy. We appreciate his approach to this very serious subject. He does not try to be "cute" or to wisecrack away the arguments of the scientists. Watch for these timely articles to appear.

Our thanks to both of these men for enriching our Family Camp.

LUTHERANS IN HELSINKI

On the date on which this paper is published, July 30, representatives of the majority of Lutherans in the world will open the Fourth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation in Helsinki, Finland. This is a notable occasion, and as members of the Lutheran family we shall follow with deep interest and concern what transpires in that land steeped in Lutheran history.

We regret that we do not have unmixed confidence in the theologians who gather in Helsinki. Great changes have taken place in the six years since the Federation last convened in Minneapolis. Many of the changes have not been for the better.

There is, for instance, a great uncertainty about the Bible. We understand that when the united Lutheran Church in Japan was being formed, some of those engaged in the theological discussions refused to admit the validity of the statement, "God's Word is the divine absolute." So the church had to be built on a concept somewhat less strong than that. On the other hand, the supremacy and authority of the Bible will have some strong advocates at Helsinki. We pray that they may prevail.

We shall watch with keen attentiveness what is said about the Roman Catholic Church. This much we know now. In the July 7 issue of *Operation Understanding*, an edition of *Our Sunday Visitor* (Roman Catholic), a news release declares, "Part of a proposal submitted to the meeting by the Lutheran federation's theological committee states: 'We can no longer consider it obvious that the (Lutheran) Reformers were right and their opponents entirely in the wrong, and we may no longer haphazardly

dismiss the theological teachings of the Roman Catholic Church as clearly wrong, unbiblical and unevangelical.'"

These statements are from the Fourth Assembly Study Document, "On Justification." Yet, this document has some very moving and beautiful passages, the ones on "The righteousness of God or the righteousness of man?" for instance. Now, if the Roman Catholic Church accepted these statements completely, we would be close together. But to do so, she would need to forsake the whole structure upon which she is built.

Martin Luther never condemned the teachings of Rome as wholly wrong, nor have we. We share some very definite common beliefs. But the doctrines which do divide us are so important that there can be no compromise. The Reformation may be called a "tragic necessity," but let us never call it a "tragic mistake." We call upon our Lutheran brethren at Helsinki to reaffirm the truths which we believe are distinctively Lutheran, and, we understand, Biblical.

The theme of the Fourth Assembly is "Christ Today." We pray that the message from Helsinki will be a ringing witness to the world of the Christ who is the same today as He was yesterday and will be tomorrow and that the historic faith will not be bartered or sold for the sake of either church union or false unity.

IT'S VACATION TIME

When this issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador* reaches your home, we shall, hopefully, be on a vacation trip to the State of Washington. If that hasn't materialized, there will be other ways to relax from the pressures of day-to-day work. We hope such times come for you also.

There won't be any *Ambassador* published on August 13, so that your next copy should arrive one of the very last days of that month. Frankly, we hope that you'll miss not getting our church paper at the regular time. That would be an indication that you're getting something out of our efforts.

In coming months we want to get a bit more variety into our paper. For one thing, we trust that our congregations will implement the conference resolution asking for correspondents to send news from the churches. We have room for appropriate pictures and can use any photograph. A "cut" is not necessary.

As they have news to report, we want to hear from the various committees of the Association. One of our purposes is to promote and publicize projects of our Fellowship. As editor, we do not make the news (usually) but will gladly give publicity to worthy efforts.

We hope to give sane and intelligent attention to current theological issues of the day in language the average person can understand. We should do this

not to inflame old antagonisms but to help one another take satisfying and Biblical positions in this day of turmoil.

We are currently writing the devotional articles, "According to the Word." Beginning in January they will be written by someone else.

There is no doubt some literary talent among our people and friends. We invite you to send original religious prose and poetry to us for possible use.

We would like writings on the Reformation, Thanksgiving, and Christmas themes as soon as possible. If the Lord has given you this talent, let it be shared with others.

And now, till we meet again in these pages, may this last full summer month be a pleasant one for us all and the summer not end without the blessings of the Lord's salvation real to everyone of us.

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As the Lord lays it upon your heart to share in our work, we invite you to send your contributions to

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W M WORLD MISSIONS

THE FIELDS ARE WHITE UNTO HARVEST

WHAT IS OUR AIM?

Pastor John H. Abel



"The evangelization of the world in our generation" is no wild-eyed fanatic's slogan. It simply sums up God's aim. A prominent theologian said, "The church exists by missions as fire exists by burning." You know what happens to a fire when it stops burning? It smokes and sputters and smolders and finally dies out. So it is with a church that does not put missions first. The New Testament Church was a missionary church. God had to send them persecution to make them into such a church, but the price was worth it. The Gospel spread as a fire around the Mediterranean World. Acts 8:1, 4, "And on that day a great persecution arose against the church in Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the region of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.... Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word."

The tragic error of the church, and by this I mean many believers, is that they are turned in upon themselves. One man writes: "A conception of pastoral care has been developed which seems to assume that the believer is primarily a passive recipient of the means of grace, which it is the business of the church to administer." We must understand that to truly follow Christ is to get into His program for the church, which is missions. True pastoral care, true training for the Christian life, and a true use of the means of grace will be an effort that is directed toward the discharge of our missionary task.

One of the greatest mistakes we have made in missions is to foster our idea of the church upon new congregations and churches that have been born on the foreign fields. If we have been liturgical, we have tried to force them to be so, though it may run contrary to their natural inclination and freedom of expression. If our church has believed that the pastor should be responsible for running the church and carrying on all the ministerial acts, we have required or trained national churches so. When our home churches have had little spontaneous expression of spiritual life and little mission interest, we have created such an attitude in our overseas work.

One of our greatest jobs is to make our goal not the indigenous foreign congregation but an indigenous, outgoing, world-evangelizing, national church. We know that God's Word decrees that those who are saved are to teach others. We have heard of the amazing "each one teach one" literacy program. We must cry out to God, not only for more native churches, but for more missionary churches. Someone has said that it is not more mission churches we need but more missionary churches. So we see that if we found a church in a foreign country that does not have a vision for the whole world, we are only transferring our spiritual myopia to others. Should we not from the beginning arouse our native churches to Christ's great commission? We see hopeful signs in this direction.

Some mission societies have been formed in Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. These are national churches, sending out their own people with money coming from their own people. So the Japanese are reaching out to Okinawa, the Chinese to the 25 million Chinese scattered around free Asia, and the Koreans to neighboring countries. Recently Rev. G. Weiss told of having had a part in the formation of an indigenous interdenominational mission society in Jamaica. This all-Jamaican mission society is for the purpose of sending out Jamaican missionaries under the auspices of Jamaican churches and supported by Jamaican Christians. Here, then, is an indigenous church that has a New Testament vision, for its goal has been not just to be indigenous but also world-mission minded.

There are, we are told, at least 101 open mission doors in the world today; also over 1,000 languages into which the Bible has yet to be translated. How can Christ come, with such a tremendous job yet undone? The answer is mission-minded native churches. For when the Christians from every tongue and tribe and people begin to witness to other tongues and tribes and peoples, then very quickly the witness may spread throughout the whole world and Jesus may quickly come. Jesus said: "Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20).

"HAPPY IN JESUS"

An Experience With a Soul

White he lay. White was the linen about him. Suffering whitened the pallor of a lined countenance. Suffering that seered at last fled. A soul waited as silence waited for utterance.

The sick man stirred. Slowly he tuned his sightless eyes as the Word of Christ softly pictured the blessedness of the saved, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you, for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

Slowly the words from the kneeling figure stole forth into the growing consciousness of the sick man. He had heard them before, but now spiritual sight flickered. Weakly, pitifully, the thin, gaunt, specter-like hands sought clasping. Tender assistance entwined them. A heart was enthroned in silent prayer. The pastor paused. He looked up from his kneeling posture and leaned close to the man's moving but soundless lips. Stillness—and then seemingly as from out of the distances over the thin lips and illuminating the face came the words from the depths of a soul. They were faint yet audible.

"Our Father, who—" "Our Father, who—" The spirit was willing, but the flesh was weak. Over and over came the now audible prayer. Pitiful strength lent depth. The sick man had broken his silence. Weak consciousness had returned. Suddenly the eyes opened and the flicker of a smile flashed. Heaven seemed to have opened its portals. Light radiated from a soul.

Leaning over the still, prone figure, the pastor spoke softly, "Are you happy?" A wonderful peace illuminated the countenance. Only one Physician could bring that glow, that gaze of heavenly surrender. A falling hush enveloped the room. Tears quietly streamed. A

Presence divine awed and stilled. Hearts were gripped. Then from the depths of the pillow, softly, yet clearly, thrilled the answer of a departing soul, "I am happy in Jesus."

—A. L. Hokonson

DR. IVER OLSON AMONG TRANSLATORS SERVING AT LWF ASSEMBLY

New York (NLC)—A three-language interpretation-translation team of forty-one people, including nine from the United States, will serve the Fourth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation at Helsinki, Finland, July 30 to August 11.

As in past years, but with several refinements, simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, German, and Swedish at both the plenary sessions and section meetings of the Assembly.

The 13-day gathering will be attended by some 700 delegates and official visitors from the LWF's 63-member Churches in 36 countries; and many thousands, including a large number from America, are expected at the various public events.

The Rev. Carl H. Mau of Madison, Wis., executive director of the Wisconsin Lutheran Student Foundation, and a former staff member of the LWF in Hannover, Germany, heads up the translation department for the Assembly.

Mr. Mau has been at work since last fall in recruiting and testing translators and interpreters from the U.S., Germany, England, and the Scandinavian countries. He left for Helsinki on June 4 to begin preparations for the Assembly and to arrange a training session for the interpreters that will be held just prior to the opening of the meeting.

Americans who will serve on the English team of translators will be Dr. Theodore Bachmann of New York; executive secretary of the Board of College Education and Church Vocations of the Lutheran Church in America; Dr. Roy Har-

risville, professor of New Testament at Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.; Dr. Iver Olson, professor at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, Minn.; and Dr. Walter Tillmanns, chairman of the Modern Language Department of Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa.

Also, Mr. Gerhard Elston of Levittown, Pa., formerly assistant editor of the *Lutheran World*, official quarterly of the LWF, now a staff member of the World University Service at Philadelphia, and Mrs. Elston; the Rev. Walter Michel, campus pastor at the University of Wisconsin at Madison; the Rev. Kjell Jordheim, pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church at Bloomer, Wis.; and the Rev. Viggo Aronsen, pastor of Central Lutheran Church at Edgerton, Wis.

Another member of the English team will be the Rev. David Holme, a pastor of the Church of Sweden who was formerly of the old Augustana Lutheran Church, now a part of the Lutheran Church in America.

NOTICE

Our business office is located at:

The Lutheran Ambassador
Box 652
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Please send all subscriptions and inquiries concerning mailing lists to that office.

All comments and questions concerning material published in the paper should be addressed to:

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All subscriptions will be handled as promptly as possible. Please allow 2-3 weeks for the filling of your subscription. The price is \$2.50 per year (25 issues).

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

At this writing we wait with interest the outcome of the law proceedings which have taken place at International Falls. Both sides have presented arguments and briefs with the objective of convincing the judge as to which is true to the constitution.

While the writer is of strong conviction that the name really belongs to the minority because the others have plainly deviated from the constitution, it is quite evident that both sides have deviated from the injunctions and demands of the Word of God. This indeed is a case of brother going to law against brother. It almost seems to represent a deliberate rejection of the admonition of the Word, "Why do ye not rather take wrong? Why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?"

What is in a name? It was the objective of those at Shinar at the dawn of history to make a name for themselves. Is it money that is involved? It is a shame indeed for Christian brethren to seek such and present such a spectacle before the world. How much more sweeter, blessed and Christ-like to have rather resigned the rights to the name and all benefits connected therewith. I do not feel that this is an example of walking in love and cannot see how the favor of the Lord can be upon the remnant when God's own Word is not adhered to as in this case. Jesus said, "Why do ye call me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Brethren, desist from your rights. Let them have the name.

Let them take thy cloak also. This is your responsibility before God.

Rev. Ray S. Pearson
Salem, Oregon

We are very much interested in what you are doing and we admire and love your stand.

We would love to have a Free Church here in our city.

O. Myrland
Seattle, Wash.

According to pre-determined policy, there will be no issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador* on our next publication date of August 13. We will not print again until August 27, when we resume our regular schedule.

The copy for the last issue of August has now been made up. Copy for September 10 should reach editor by August 24.

The Editor

OUR COUNTRY

Dear God, our country needs Thee
To help and heal and bless,
To give the rulers wisdom,
To grant to right success,

To feed her many millions,
To keep her always free,
To lead them in the ways of Christ,
Where they may walk with Thee.

—Author unknown
(from *Prayer Poems*)

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