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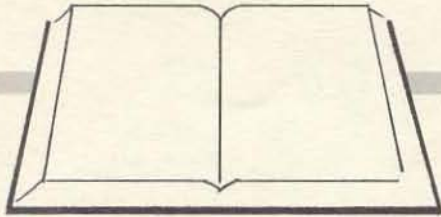
AM B A S S A D O R



FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

—R.N.S. Photo



According to the Word

THE BLESSED MAN

"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night" (Ps. 1:1, 2).

The Christian life may be defined as the life lived because one knows Jesus Christ as his Saviour. Another definition is that it is a way of life lived according to the principles of Jesus. Most of us would say that the two descriptions ought to be joined together and the result would be quite complete. But we are interested in characteristics of the Christian life. What may be looked for as the fruits of faith in Christ?

It seems to me that the first psalm gives us some help. Even though it was written long before Christ, we still read it today and see in it a picture of the Christian ideal. Blessed or "happy" is the man or woman who is on the Lord's side. The psalmist mentions four characteristics of the godly man. Are they found in our lives?

First, the Christian is reverent. He does not walk, stand, or sit in the places of the scoffers. A pastor once told me that 25 percent of all Americans are atheists. That sounds like too high a figure. But whatever it is, there are many scoffers and scornful. It is always

disturbing to meet those who make light of holy things. It is the more difficult when irreverence is found in people of the church.

Real grace and courage are required to be reverent in a world where there is little of it. Real conviction is needed to be unashamedly identified with Jesus Christ in work, business, at school, and in one's social life. Blessed, happy is the person who wants the truth known, "I follow Jesus."

In the next place, the Christian has a high regard for God's law. His delight is in the Law of the Lord. In Old Testament times the believer was marked by his desire to keep the ordinances of God. Surely, no less today will the followers of Christ esteem the statutes of the Lord as of utmost importance. We are not only to think of the commandments and regulations, but the whole Word of God.

The Christian meditates on the message from the Father. "Day and night" indicate that the Word is to become a real part of the person. I have seen farm publications in farm homes, sports magazines in the homes of sport fans, medical journals in doctors' offices, and comic books in the hands of children and youth. Do we not have the right to find in possession and, more importantly, see the use of the Bible, God's written Word, by Christian people? Do not look for much power in the church until

God's Word becomes important enough to many people to study.

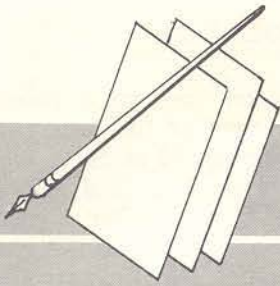
Thirdly, the Christian lives a rewarding life. He is like a tree bringing forth fruit in season. He bears fruit because he is by a good source of water. This refers again to abiding in the Word. Many of us have seen what drouth can do. Faith which does not continue to receive and which does not produce acts of good, dies.

The Christian whom the psalmist portrays rejoices in every advancement of God's kingdom on earth. He rejoices because he has had a part in making it so.

In the last place, the Christian receives abundantly. He prospers in all that he does. It doesn't mean outward prosperity, although this comes to God's people sometimes, too. Certainly, the Lord will look after His own. Their needs will be supplied (Phil. 4:19). The prospering means that God's blessings will be on the righteous and he will one day be ushered into the eternal blessedness of those who have put their trust in Him.

There is a second part to the psalm—the description of the wicked. Because they oppose God, judgment looms before them, a judgment in which they cannot stand. They will not be with Him forever. The song asks, "Who is on the Lord's side?" Can you answer, by His grace, "Saviour, I am Thine"? —Raynard Huglen

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EDITORIALS

LET FREEDOM RING!

We Americans will celebrate the 187th anniversary of independence on July 4th. Since most towns have given up their "celebrations" and with some states outlawing the sale of firecrackers to individuals (in other states towns may forbid their sale, so you have to go to the edge of town to buy them), it is difficult to tell the Fourth of July from Labor Day.

This year something new will be done, and we hope it will catch on, which may become a tradition. It is a simple plan whereby at a specified hour across our country every bell in every town and city is to be rung for a certain length of time. Watch for local announcements as to time. Some of the bells available will be those in churches, schools, and city halls. We are sure that country churches are to participate in this patriotic gesture, too.

When the bells ring on July 4th, it will be a sign that we believe in our country, that we are not ready to surrender any right guaranteed by the Constitution, and that we look toward the day when every citizen shall have equal opportunity.

We like the idea of the whole thing. It is high time that we stir up a greater feeling of pride for country. It is not enough to play the national anthem before athletic contests. Many people do not attend them. Few persons are around to hear the anthem played as radio stations begin and end their days.

A hopeful note is that more people seem to be displaying the flag on national holidays.

All our readers are, we hope, against Communism. There is the danger of being against something so much, however, that it becomes difficult to know what a person is *for*. Let us stand for our country, give her our support, obey her laws, fight injustice and prejudice, and pray for our leaders. Parents, teach your children patriotism. Just as religion must be taught at home, so must love for country.

We hope that every Association church will participate in the bell-ringing on July 4th. Let pastors and church councils make sure that our bells join the peals for freedom. May every clang of the bells be a declaration of our belief in government of the people and of our resolve to withstand tyranny and oppression whether from within or without.

We ask the indulgence of our Canadian readers in this matter. Although you do not celebrate the Fourth, you have your Dominion Day (July 1) and other national holidays. What we have said about patriotism goes for your great land also. Our destinies are closely bound together. God grant that we may always stand united for freedom.

THE DEATH OF POPE JOHN

The Lutheran Ambassador takes note of the death of Pope John XXIII. Never in history has the world followed so closely the steps leading toward a man's death. Modern communication and the Pope's personal popularity, gained in less than five years, made it so.

He must have had great personal charm. He was of the common people and they felt that he never forgot that or was ashamed of it. Pope John was an accessible pope. He had the heart of a pastor. He was a man of peace. His recent encyclical, "Peace on Earth," may be just another vision of a utopia that can never be in the present order of things. But we cannot fault him for trying to do something. Finally, he displayed great courage in the face of the death he knew was coming.

Having said all of this, we must also say that in spite of all his good qualities we cannot accept the office which he held and his successors will hold. Surely Roman Catholic people must know that we do not believe that Christ established Peter as the first pope nor that those who followed him were in a divinely ordered succession. Therefore, whoever holds this office assumes a role and accepts a title which we can never recognize.

We do not question the right of Roman Catholic adherents to have a leader and to call him a pope. We do reject the idea that he shall be called the vicar of Christ on earth, whether he speaks as "I" or "we." We elect presidents and bishops. We ordain pastors and choose deacons. But we do not thereby declare them more holy than others or more likely to reach God than an obscure Christian who never leaves his home community.

We can be glad that the Roman Catholic Church senses the need for reforms and renewal within herself. All church bodies can stand some of that. But certainly one barrier to fellowship between Roman Catholics and Protestants is the institution of the papacy which Pope John XXIII filled as well as anyone has for centuries. We would never accept the pope as our leader nor as the first among equals.

Again, we remind our Roman Catholic neighbors that we can sympathize with them in their loss, but our sympathy is tempered by the realization that

Pope John willingly held an office which we do not accept as founded upon Scripture.

A CLARIFICATION

In the March 12 issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador* we had an editorial called "Did We Read Correctly?" In that editorial we charged Dr. O. Frederick Nolde, from a news report, with expressing disappointment at the split in good relations between Russia and China. The remarks of Dr. Nolde were made in his report to the meeting of the National Lutheran Council in New York in January.

An official of the Council subsequently wrote us saying that he felt our editorial had not represented Dr. Nolde correctly. We were given this verbatim quote from his manuscript:

"In the Communist camp, conflict between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China represents a split which is welcomed by opponents of Communism, even though its real significance cannot yet be appraised."

Our correspondent proceeds: "He then went on to speak of the importance of preserving comity within the non-Communist world as a step in the direction of the ultimate goal which is unity on a world scale without compromise of fundamental principle."

So that's how things stand. Our impression from our news source had been a little different, but we take our share of the blame.

And there is the problem, which we cannot go into today, of the dream of the day when Communism and democracy can live side by side in unity and peace "without compromise of fundamental principle." This is an issue on which the Christian world, and the whole world, is badly divided. We don't happen to think this unity can come about. Something's got to give.

We regret to say that we have not read Pope John's encyclical "Pacem in Terris," just some reports about it. It bears on the subject of world peace. If we can give it some study we will comment on it later.

WHY GO TO BIBLE CAMP?

It is difficult to understand how some parents permit their children to grow out of the teen years without ever having the experience of going to Bible camp. There are cases where physical, and perhaps emotional, problems make it impossible for a young person to attend camp, and such are excused. A good many others let the opportunities pass by, year after year.

As pastors, we are aware that our young people could profit well from the Bible studies and discussions which make up part of camp life. We covet these times of spiritual retreat for them, realizing that they are not apt to take the time for it later.

Bible camps are often the scenes of commitments to Christ. Everyone with the faith of childhood has to decide if he will take this faith into the teen-age years. Teen-agers who have drifted from the moorings wrestle with the Lord's call to return. Bible camps give splendid opportunity for making the right decisions.

Bible camps usually provide a beautiful outdoor setting in which God seems near. The days are filled with work and play, fun and friendship. Pastors and counsellors are near at hand. Campers make new friends from far and near.

Naturally, we are most interested this year in promoting our Family Camp on Lake Geneva near Alexandria, Minnesota, July 8-14. As you notice, it is a *family* camp. Children and adults are invited too. This type of camp experience will be new to some of us, but we live in homes together, all ages, so this type of camp should seem a very natural setting. In the morning program of the camp, youth and children will meet separately. Other activities of the day will find the whole group worshipping and playing together.

Some of our congregations will be participating in other youth camps, usually where our congregations or individuals from the Association have ownership in a Bible camp property.

Make use of the camp opportunities which are yours this summer. In a time when many denominations are beginning to think more about the value of spiritual retreats, let us not fall behind or fail to see their importance—for youth and adults.

A New Hebrides chieftan sat peacefully reading the Bible when he was interrupted by a French trader.

"Bah," he said in French, "Why are you reading the Bible? I suppose the missionaries have got

hold of you, you poor fool. Throw it away! The Bible never did anyone any good!"

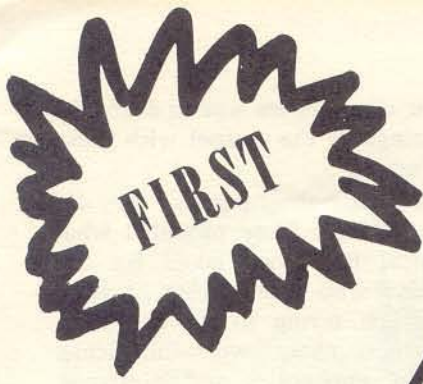
Replied the chieftan calmly, "If it weren't for this Bible, you'd be in my kettle there by now!"

—Selected

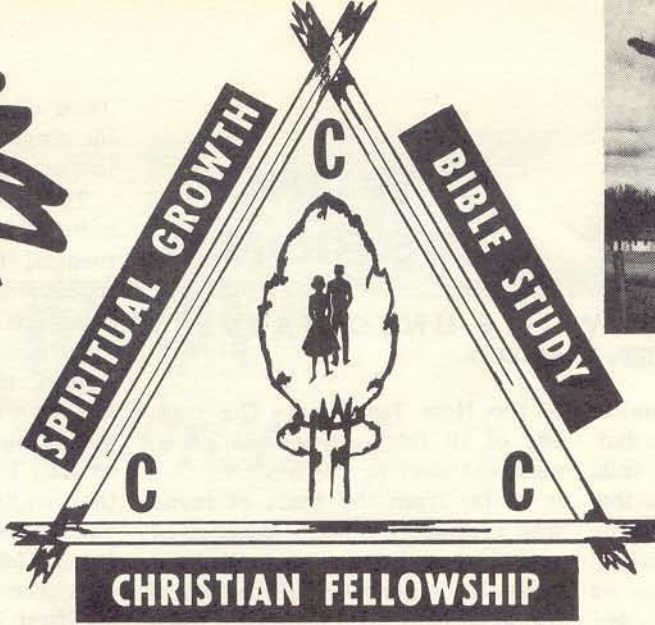
"Whom have I in heaven but thee?
And there is nothing upon earth
that I desire besides thee.

My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my
heart and my portion for ever."

—Psalm 73: 25, 26



**FREE
LUTHERAN
ASSOCIATION
CAMP**



**JULY 8 - 14, 1963
LAKE GENEVA
BIBLE CAMP
for
The Entire Family
- CHILDREN
- TEENAGERS
- ADULTS**

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... GAMES ... SINGING ... INSPIRATIONAL ... STUDY ... PRAYER ...

A GRAND VACATION

Youth Program!

Stimulating fellowship with other Christian youth.

Learning to think and live Christ.

Starting each day in quiet fellowship with God and ending the day in soul-searching prayer service.

CHILDREN'S CAMP

Special classes for children under capable supervision.

Nursery for small tots.

A week of rest for mothers.



ACCOMMODATIONS

COTTAGES . . . Cottages accommodating four persons. Rooms accommodating two persons in four-room cottages.

DORMITORY ROOMS . . . Dormitory rooms for teenagers and single persons.

DINNING HALL . . . Very spacious, serving delicious food for entire family.

Camp ground space with electricity for setting up Trailors, Tents, and Campers.

Needs For All Ages:

Bring your own bedding and blankets, towels, soap and other personal needs. Swimming suit, playclothes, etc.

Location:

Situated two miles from Alexandria, Minn., on beautiful Lake Geneva.

SPIRITUAL FEAST



—R.N.S. Photo



WELCOME TO LAKE GENEVA BIBLE CAMP



WORLD MISSIONS

THE FIELDS ARE WHITE UNTO HARVEST
VISION REALIZED

"When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall. . . Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he" (Prov. 29: 16, 18).

The above Scripture aptly describes our day. Days of the increase of evil, for sinners are ever increasing on the face of the earth, and so also is iniquity. Our Lord Jesus said concerning the last days: "Many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24:11-14).

What must we as an Association of Free Lutheran Congregations be doing in the face of these tremendous days? Our wonderful conference in Fargo, just concluded, points out the fact that we are on the right path. We are working out our vision. Yes, and it is a Christ-like vision, for it is a world vision that we have seen. Evil has multiplied in our day because of the shrinking of true Christian vision to evangelize the world. People are perishing today as never before, and the church at large today is colder than ever before. Missionary personnel, we are told, is shrinking at the rate of 25 percent every decade, due to insufficient volunteers, while the world's population explodes upward. One report states that out of every seven thousand church members in protestantism there is only one missionary. What a far cry from the victorious church

of the New Testament. The tragedy of all this is that what is so near and dear to the heart of God is so far from the heart of many who profess His name. What is of major importance to Christ—"preach the gospel in all the world for a witness to all nations [peoples]"—is usually of minor importance in the program of most churches.

We thank God that at this Annual Conference we voted a budget of faith of which over half is designated to missions. We had missionary volunteers stand before us and tell us of their vision and the burden God has laid upon their heart to go forth in obedience to His command with the saving Gospel. Will we send such volunteers? Yes, by God's grace and your praying faith, we will stand together as a sending fellowship, praying out laborers into His harvest. It shall not be long before we read of the deeds of love and mercy wrought by our own Free Lutheran missionaries on the foreign field.

Recently I read about such deeds and witnessing carried on in Ecuador, South America, among the savage Jivaro Indians. The missionary couple writing of their experiences described themselves as "just ordinary folk filled with joy, energy, and enthusiasm for carrying on the Lord's work." By this they meant that they felt they were not especially gifted. However, one sees that they really were gifted from God, with a real infilling of His Spirit there in the work, to love and carry on among an unlovely people. They endured loneliness, long treks over muddy jungle trails, hostility, lack of supplies and equipment, insects, struggle against witchcraft, ignorance, fear and evil.

Their one purpose was to share the blessings of the Gospel with these lost souls.

To realize their purpose they did many things. They provided what medical help they could for the Indians who spent most of their lives just trying to survive. They dispensed shots, worm medicine, aspirin, antiseptics and bandages, always with much love and a radiant witness. A school was needed, so they had to spend time to clear the jungle, plant, build, and harvest. School children had to be fed, so bigger gardens were planted. From the schools came the first believers, five teen-agers who were baptized and carried on a witness to their own people. Hymns had to be translated and the difficult tongue of the Jivaros mastered so that the many words it lacked for Biblical concepts and virtues could be created and brought into the language. Through Bible teaching, the use of hymn records, visitation, prayer, and teaching, coupled together with a friendly agricultural and medical ministry, the group of believers grew. Gradually the group of new believers began to do their own preaching and visiting. The powerful influence of a new life in Christ began to reach more Jivaros. Soon they built their own church and named it "God's House." Many came to marvel at this house where nobody ate or slept. Yearly Bible conferences brought hundreds of Indians together, many of whom had once been mortal enemies.

Yes, these missionaries say they are just ordinary folk, but one marvels at what our Lord can do through just one couple of ordinary folk fully committed to His will. Their lives have counted for eternity.

And how about you, dear reader, what are you doing for eternity? The Lord has given us a mission call and a mission vision as an Association. May He help us to send forth His light. Then we, like the missionary couple of whom we've spoken, may say some day: "Vision Realized." —J. H. Abel



WOMEN *for Christ*

ONE THING NEEDFUL

Luke 10:41, 42—"But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful.'"

What a great lesson we can all learn from the lives of the sisters, Martha and Mary! Oh, that we could all listen and obey the words of Jesus as He spoke to Martha that day! It was such a gentle rebuke, wasn't it?

We, sisters of Martha of 1963, still need much correction, for are we not still cumbered with much serving? I'm sure this would be hard for Martha to believe if she could see all the marvelous conveniences and appliances we have in our homes today; and yet we become all frustrated and annoyed if everything doesn't go just exactly the way we want it to. We can become lost so easily in our position of serving others that we can let the real meaning of hospitality and Christian fellowship slip by us.

I find in my own life when all the many pressures of being a mother and a homemaker seem to be pressing in on me at one time—I just don't seem to have enough hands to cope with the many things I want to do. It is then He seems to speak to me in the same manner that He did to Martha. Only one thing is needful—to come into His presence and receive the joy and

peace that only He can give us! You know, you don't really know a person until you spend time with him. It is no different with Jesus, for the more time you spend with Him, the more you know Him. The more you know Him, the more you love Him, and the more you love Him, the more you thankfully want to serve Him.

Jesus said, "Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." Oh, that we could be more like Mary! He has rich blessings in store for each one of us as we learn to kneel humbly at His feet. When we come into His presence, we receive the joy and peace that only He can give to us.

The love and devotion of Mary is also shown to us in Mark 14 when she anointed Jesus with the costly ointment. Some may call her peculiar or unusual. This she was. Are not all who have such love for Jesus thus labelled? Did they not try to find fault with her? But look at the lesson that has been taught through generations because of her love and devotion for Jesus.

May we diligently pray that God will open our eyes to our deep need of learning to be more and more like Mary. I believe God gave us these two women to teach us that He needs both devoted Marys and corrected Marthas in the work of

His kingdom.

—Mrs. Albert Moen

Grand Forks, North Dakota
(Mrs. Moen led the Bible study at WMF day at our Annual Conference.—Ed.)

FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS HELD IN GRAFTON AREA

In late November, 1962, Rev. Karl Stendal of Minneapolis, Minnesota, came into the area to work. He was present at one of our home prayer meetings. At that time he suggested we have an area fellowship meeting and invite the neighboring churches. The first service was at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Grafton, North Dakota. After the service, during fellowship over a cup of coffee, it was decided to have a meeting at Edmore, North Dakota. This was an evening meeting in a home. At that service it was decided to have such a time of fellowship the first Sunday afternoon of each month.

These are family fellowship meetings held in homes. We have a time of singing, special music, a Bible study, and prayer. When refreshments are served, groups are gathered here and there in conversation about spiritual things. We linger as long as possible, enjoying the fellowship of Christian friends.

Pastor Stendal has been at several of our meetings. At one of the services a missionary from South America was present. He came the following week to our Grafton home prayer meeting and showed slides of his work in South America.

Other larger area meetings have been held in Grand Forks and Hatton, North Dakota.

—Corr.

"But for me it is good to be near God;

I have made the Lord God my refuge,

that I may tell of all thy works."

—Psalm 73:28

I Go To Prepare A Place for You

OLE K. OSE, THIEF RIVER FALLS, MINNESOTA

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:2, 3).

This promise by the Lord Jesus Christ has given much comfort to God's children in their pilgrimage. It goes with us as we draw near to the valley of the shadow of death. It is good to know that our Lord Jesus Christ has prepared a way for us and is now preparing a place for His children where they can be with Him forever. Yes, Jesus, as a master workman, is preparing the heavenly place for the glorious day when He shall receive His bride, the elect of all ages, unto himself. But we must remember that the bride also needs to be made ready. The Church must be gathered, nurtured, and perfected in order to be made fit for the mansion of God. The people, as well as the place, must be prepared. Therefore, as Jesus makes ready the eternal home, He has sent the Holy Spirit to call, train, comfort, and lead God's people on the homeward way.

I'm reminded of a story that our father told us children while we were yet in our teens. It was about a God-fearing father and mother who lived during the early days of the settlers. They had a son who also loved the Lord. This boy became engaged to a good girl of that same community and they talked about establishing a future

Christian home. So they decided that he should go out where there was free land to be had. There he was to file on a quarter, build a home, and then come back for his bride-to-be. So the young bridegroom went and met all obstacles with courage. There were rivers to ford, nights to spend all alone, wild animals to fear, as danger threatened on all sides, and many hardships were encountered; but in spite of all he took courage, looking forward to the new home he was to prepare for his bride. At last the time came when his task was accomplished and he was on his way back to his home community. He was a little older now and had the marks of hardship which he had encountered on his journey. He entered the home of his father and mother again. Then came the heart-breaking news in a soft, mild tone from his parents, "Mary has married another." Yes, his bride-to-be had married an ungodly person, and she was living a miserable life in a home without God. It was news that was hard to bear for the young Christian man, but he took courage again. No doubt, the words of the hymn writer came to him, "What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear."

The young man soon met another young girl who was more faithful than the first, a Christian girl who was happy to go with him to the new home that he had prepared. And there they lived a happy life together. The place that was prepared for the first girl was given

to another more worthy than she.

Jesus says in our text today, "I go to prepare a place for you." You are His bride-to-be if you don't marry another. Jesus spoke these words to His disciples at the last supper, "I go to prepare a place for you." He knew that the end had at last come and He was ready for it. He dreaded the pain but kept His eye on the joy beyond the pain.

And so let us follow Him briefly as He leaves the supper table and steps over the rippling waters of the brook Kidron to prepare a place for us. And now we see Him in Gethsemane in anguish and suffering, sweating drops of blood while the disciples are sleeping. A voice echoes throughout the world, "I go to prepare a place for you." We see Him as He rises to His feet and meets a band of men with lanterns, torches, and weapons. His disciples scatter and Jesus is bound and led away, while Peter follows at a distance. Could he hear the words of Jesus "I go to prepare a place for you"?

We see Him before Caiaphas, questioned and struck in the face. We see Him being led from Caiaphas to the hall of judgment, casting a sympathetic eye on Peter who has just denied Him, as if to say, "Peter, it is painful but I go to prepare a place for you." We see Him standing before Pilate in Pilate's hall while His own kinsmen cry out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" And yet in His loving and sympathetic face can be seen the soft expression of these words, "I

go to prepare a place for you." But a harsh voice resounds in the crowd, "Away with him, away with him."

We see Him again being scourged and delivered to be crucified and led into the common hall—there to be delivered to a band of soldiers who will strip off His clothes and put a scarlet robe on His body, a crown of thorns on His head, and a reed in His right hand. They mock Him. They spit upon Him and take the reed and smite Him on the head. They mock Him and take off the robe and put on His own raiment and lead Him away to be crucified.

Friends, this He willingly endured in order to prepare a place for you and me. Yes, we see Him again with the cross on His back, weary and weak, moving step by step towards Calvary. And these words stand out with more determination than ever, "I go to prepare a place for you."

Can you see Him on the cross in anguish and pain while the passers-by revile Him and wag their heads at Him, and the scribes and priests mock Him? He hung there alone and forsaken. Yet Pilate's words were placed above His head, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." And His comforting words were to be echoed over the world throughout all generations, "I go to prepare a place for you."

And last of all we see Him on Mount Olivet with the disciples gathered around Him with open ears and eager eyes watching and listening as He turns to them and says, "Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judaea and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Then He is taken up and a cloud receives Him out of their sight.

Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." Friend, when Jesus comes again, where will He find you? Will He find you faithful or will another get the place He prepared for you?

GERMAN LUTHERANS RENAME BISHOP LILJE AS LEADER

Nuremberg (West), Germany (LWF) — Bishop Hanns Lilje, of Hannover, was unanimously elected to a second term as presiding bishop of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany (VELKD) at the body's General Synod meeting here.

He is the second churchman to hold office since VELKD was organized shortly after the war. The first was Bishop Hans Meiser, of Bavaria, whom Dr. Lilje succeeded in 1955, elected for an eight-year term. From 1952 to 1957 Bishop Lilje was also president of the Lutheran World Federation.

Earlier, in his chairman's address at the opening session of the synod, he deplored the fact that Soviet authorities had prevented German Democratic Republic (DDR) delegates from attending such a VELKD meeting for the first time.

The three East German constituent churches of VELKD—Saxony with 3,600,000 baptized members, Thuringia with 1,700,000, and Mecklenburg with 1,026,000—were to have sent 16 delegates.

Present were 26 delegates from the seven member churches in the German Federal Republic—representing about 11.5 million Lutherans—plus seven appointed by the VELKD authorities, thus constituting the two-thirds majority required for legally valid decisions.

Bishop Lilje said that erection of the Berlin Wall and sealing of East-West German borders by DDR authorities was "the gravest development for the Church during the past two years."

He told the synod that while the leaders and periodicals of VELKD stress the continuing unity of the Church across the border, "nothing can deceive us about the fact that the Church's all-German unity is seriously endangered."

Although declaring that "we must accuse before God those who are responsible for this unjust separation," Dr. Lilje nevertheless voiced reassurance that "no outward situation can tear the Church

apart internally" and that unity will continue to exist "as long as we do not forget our brothers."

He appealed to the synod's "Christian ingenuity and creative inventiveness" in fulfilling its task to make VELKD's unity "really practicable" from now on.

In a letter of greeting to the General Synod, the executive secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, Dr. Kurt Schmidt-Clausen, testified to the strong ties between the LWF and the German Lutheran Churches. He expressed the federation's gratitude for VELKD's "splendid response" to the needs of the LWF and invoked Christ's presence and blessing in the synod sessions.

Present to represent the federation in person was Dr. Frederick M. Otto, representative in Berlin for its Department of World Service.

THE PENITENT'S PRAYER

Father in heav'n, I come to Thee,
Out of my sin and misery,
Into the freedom of Thy love,
Purchased for me by Christ from
above.

Chorus:

I thank Thee, Lord, that Thou
didst give,
Eternal life that all might live
In Thy salvation full and free,
Here in this life and eternally.

Jesus, who gave Thy life for me,
I want to give my life to Thee,
All of myself to Thee I give,
Serving Thee all the days I live.

Thou, Holy Ghost, God's gift divine,
Enter into this heart of mine,
Cleanse me from all my sin I pray,
Fill me for service day by day.

—Trygve F. Dahle

(The above song, and music for it, was written by Pastor Dahle while en route to the conference in McVille last winter. He sang the song there as his testimony. He may have the song printed if financial arrangements can be made. Ed.)

VALUE OF COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA UNDERLINED BY BISHOP LILJE

Nairobi, Kenya—(LWF) — Delegates to the constituting assembly here of the World Association for Christian Broadcasting were told that modern means of communication must be systematically used by the Church if it "rightly understands the message which it must transmit all over the world in the name of the risen Lord."

Lutheran Bishop Hanns Lilje of Hannover, Germany, presented the keynote address to some sixty delegates meeting at the Limuru Conference Center near here.

The new broadcasting association is an outgrowth of the World Committee for Christian Broadcasting, an informal group with members from Europe and the United States. The new organization includes members also from Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

"The spiritual side of technical development in our society is usually regarded as conducive to superficiality," Bishop Lilje told the conference. "One has the impression that everything profound is being made shallow and externalized."

Still, he added, one element has "unexpectedly remained intact... the human voice and its counterpart, the spoken word, as a spiritual reality."

The speaker, presiding bishop of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany and a former Lutheran World Federation president, said that television, because of its visual possibilities, has "the best prospects for the future" but "all it does is to emphasize the spoken word."

Stressing radio's unique ability to "speak to millions of people as so many individuals," Bishop Lilje maintained that "nothing is more in need of being understood, from a spiritual point of view, than the microphone."

"Just as the radio programs of the Church reveal technical defects, carelessness in the words and ideas that are used, poor use

of language and inadequate liturgical practice," he said, "so the microphone reveals pitilessly whether it is transmitting hollow, conventional phrases or an address to the present day. This task is primarily a theological one and forces Christendom time and again to pause for reflection."

He called for careful formulation of "a strategy of Christian radio activity" and suggested the use of a wide variety of formats, "from news reports to symphony concerts."

Radio "will always remain an instrument," the bishop said, "but it can be an instrument for good."

On his way here for the WACB assembly, Bishop Lilje made a one-day stopover in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he visited the offices, studios, and transmitters of the LWF-operated Radio "Voice of the Gospel."

He was received there by the general director of the LWF Broadcasting Service, Dr. Sigurd Aske, who also served as executive officer of the WACB while it was in process of formation before the Limuru assembly.

OFFICERS OF THE LUTHERAN ASSOCIATION

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Vice-President: Rev. Fritjof
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Executive Director of Mis-
sions: Rev. John H. Abel,
Hitterdal, Minnesota

BISHOP BIRKELI NAMED HEAD OF ECUMENICAL RADIO BODY

Nairobi, Kenya (LWF) — Dr. Fridtjov Birkeli, bishop of Stavanger, Norway, and former director of the Lutheran World Federation Department of World Missions, was elected chairman of the World Association for Christian Broadcasting at its constituting assembly in nearby Limuru.

Bishop Birkeli, a staunch advocate of the use of radio for missionary outreach, is credited with having originated and promoted the idea that led to the establishment of the LWF Broadcasting Service, which now has a 100-kilowatt shortwave station located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

He is an executive committee member of the service's Board of Directors, besides being on the Executive Committee of the federation itself.

NOTICE

Our business office is located at:

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REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

To the Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

The Board Elected and Organized

By decision of the 1960 Annual Conference of The Lutheran Free Church, the membership of the Board of Administration shall include three pastors and two laymen for a term of five years. At the Special Conference held at Thief River Falls, Minnesota, October 25-28, 1962, the following were elected to the Board: Pastor Julius Hermunslie, Mr. Harvey Dyrud, Pastor Morris Eggen, Mr. Ole K. Ose and Pastor Hamar Benson, with Pastor John P. Strand as advisory member. The Board organized by electing Pastor Hermunslie, Chairman, and Pastor Benson, Secretary.

Board Meetings

Due to the many and varied matters requiring attention, it was considered advisable for the Board to meet together with the Executive Committee. Ten meetings have been held since the October conference. After seeking God's will and guidance in prayer we have endeavored to re-establish our church fellowship. Often we have faced difficult decisions involving a rather large sum of money. But God gave us faith to rest upon His promises, and we have experienced the Lord's blessings in a wonderful way as He has supplied our every need. To God be the honor and glory for His mercy and grace upon us and our church.

The Incorporation of Our Church Delayed

Since we are not free to use the name we have chosen for our church, we have found it necessary to delay the incorporation. As soon as the name has been determined the Board plans to incorporate in the State of North Dakota with headquarters at Fargo.

Colloquay and Ministerial Roster

The Board of Administration and our President, Rev. John Strand, have conducted colloquies with pastors who have made application to unite with our Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Rev. Harry C. Molstre and Rev. John H. Abel have resigned from the American Lutheran Church Clergy Roster and have been accepted and placed on our Clergy Roster. Pastor Molstre began serving our Winger, Minnesota, Parish on April 1, 1963, and Pastor Abel assumed the position of Missions Director of our church on April 1, 1963. Pastor Abel has set up his office in the Mission Center, Fargo, North Dakota, which now serves as the Headquarters of our church. We thank God for these two servants of the Lord, and we pray for God's rich blessings upon them and their families as they labor with us in the furtherance of the Gospel.

Congregation Roster

It has been very difficult during the past few months to obtain an accurate count of the congregations who have voted not to enter into merger with the American Lutheran Church. Some congregations have made their decision by a strong vote to remain out of the merger but their report to us has, in some cases, been delayed. Other congregations have swung back and forth on this merger issue until their official position has become uncertain. So often the local constitution of the congregation has been disregarded and the vote which should have been a clear decision to remain a Lutheran Free Church has been pronounced a vote for merger. Other congregations are divided on the issue and the outcome is still unsettled. These local

problems have resulted in a state of confusion and an accurate count of congregations is very difficult. At the present time we have approximately 65 to 70 congregations in our Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. We should encourage congregations to report their position officially to us when the merger issue is resolved. When we find ourselves more settled and re-established we expect to call for a statistical report, and will then be in position also to give a parochial report for our church.

Mission Center Purchased

The Messiah Lutheran Church, 1603 Fifth Street North, Fargo, North Dakota, was purchased in March, 1963, at a cost of \$30,000, to serve as our Mission Center. We have been encouraged by the fine response of our people sharing loans and contributions, making it possible to pay for the church in full within a short time following the purchase. It would be well if this annual conference would approve the purchase of this property.

Stewardship Report

Because of the divisions in many congregations and the uncertainties experienced by many of our people, the financial support of our church has been rather sporadic. However, as we have turned to God in prayer, trusting Him to provide, we have received the funds needed. As we have moved forward in faith the contributions have increased to meet the cost of our expanding program. We thank God for His rich blessing, spiritually and materially, upon our church. And we also express our gratitude to all our friends who have faithfully supported our God-given task. As we now move into an enlarged program we do so with confidence that

our congregations will provide the needed financial support for the calling of God to establish and strengthen the Christian Church and to win the unsaved for Christ and His Kingdom. A proposed budget for the coming year follows this report.

Conclusion

In conclusion the Board wishes to express our appreciation for the devoted service of our President, Rev. John P. Strand, and our Secretary, Rev. Richard Snipstead, and our Treasurer, Mr. William Svanoë, each of which has had to take on many additional responsibilities and assignments not ordinarily expected in his position. These and many others have served our church faithfully. Many other loyal servants may not have served as long, nor in as prominent a position of leadership, but they have served very well. We praise God for giving these servants the grace and strength needed to assume these added duties to serve God and His church.

Respectfully submitted,
Julius Hermunslie
Board Chairman

NOTICE

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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“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?’”—John 11: 25, 26

THE SHUT DOOR

I need not leave the jostling world,
Or wait till daily tasks are o'er,
To fold my palms in secret prayer
Within the close-shut closet door.

There is a viewless, cloistered room,
As high as heaven, as fair as day,
Where though my feet may join the throng,
My soul can enter in and pray.

And never through those crystal walls
The clash of life can pierce its way,
Nor ever can a human ear
Drink in the spirit-words I say.

One hearkening, even, cannot know
When I have crossed the threshold o'er;
For He alone, who hears my prayer,
Has heard the shutting of the door.

—Author Unknown
(from *Prayer Poems*)

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SEEK THE LORD IN PRAYER

Wouldst thou know the way to lighten
Every load of grief and care?
Seek the presence of the Saviour,
Carry all to Him in prayer.

Wouldst thou find the joy of being
Used of Jesus everywhere?
Closely walk beside the Master;
Often seek His face in prayer.

Wouldst thou have a power for service,
In life's conquest have a share?
Lean upon the Arm Almighty,
Spend much time with God in prayer.

Wouldst thou have divine enrichment—
Grace for all you have to bear?

God will bless with richest measure,
All who go to Him in prayer.

—Author Unknown
(from *Prayer Poems*)

The missionary can know that he has been sent, that he is safe, and that he is supplied by God.

—Alan Redpath

The missionary enterprise is not the church's afterthought; it is Christ's forethought.

—Henry Van Dyke

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