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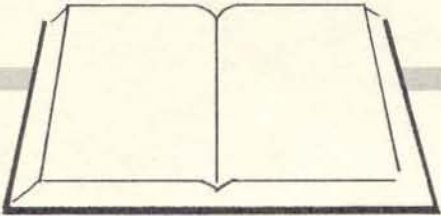
No. 8

LUTHERAN

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The Missions Center
Fargo, North Dakota
Scene of our Annual Conference, 1963
June 12-16



According to the Word

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you for ever” (John 14:16).

An expedition to the Arctic ended in disaster. Nearly a year later the bodies of the three explorers were found in the frigid wastes. Clutched in the hands of the leader was a note on which were scrawled the words, “All the time it seemed that there were four of us.”

Christian history has been marked by that same feeling on the part of every group of believers. Peter and John were sure of another's presence at the temple shortly after Pentecost. Paul and his various companions knew it as they criss-crossed Asia Minor for Christ. Luther and his followers did not accomplish their work without an unseen helper. Movements for God in our time have not succeeded in human strength alone.

Each individual Christian has felt someone with him, particularly in moments of stress, comforting, counseling, giving appropriate words to speak. This someone, this presence, is the Holy Spirit whose advent at Pentecost we shall soon commemorate.

Jesus had promised the Holy Spirit, as our text attests. In John 14:26 Jesus said that the Spirit would be sent in His name and would be a teacher. On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came in a greater way to work among

men. Even as Jesus was Immanuel (God with us), so the Holy Spirit is Immanuel, God working among men.

What are the major works of the Holy Spirit? First of all, He *calls* men. As Martin Luther said in his explanation of the First Article, “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him.” The Holy Spirit calls us through the Law and the Gospel. Through the Law He would make us see our need of help. In the Gospel we are graciously invited to receive the Saviour.

Secondly, the Holy Spirit *enlightens*. He makes God's truth plain. Do you remember how you did not understand an arithmetic problem in school? But then the teacher explained it and the way to the solution became clear. Thus, the Holy Spirit throws light on what is at first difficult and unclear. Clarity and understanding may come through pastors, teachers, in private study or group situations. History had an Age of Enlightenment. We need such an age spiritually today. Are we willing to have it?

In the third place, the Holy Spirit *sanctifies*. If a man died immediately after an experience of salvation, he would go to be with God. On the other hand, if he lives, he enters the struggle of faith. New spiritual life is not full-grown at once. The growth which

takes place is called “sanctification.” This life-long process smooths the rough edges. If the fruits of the Spirit are becoming more and more evident in a Christian life, sanctification is taking place. It is not optional, but required.

Fourth and lastly, the Holy Spirit *preserves* the believer. “Preservation is the gracious work of the Holy Spirit whereby He keeps us, through all temptations, in the true and living faith in Jesus, until the end” (Catechism). We are saved by the grace of God, and any of us will safely reach life's end also only by His grace.

This is a sinful world. We find that out early in life. The Christian walks in danger all the way. He may avoid quite easily the sins of drunkenness and open adultery. Not as easily avoided are dishonesty, covetousness, false witness, and secret lusts. Only through the Holy Spirit can there be a safe passage. And even as He calls through the Word, He preserves Christian life through the Bible.

The goal of preservation is that the believer may enjoy God for ever. This is also the purpose of man's creation.

Thank God for the Holy Spirit. Do not despise or reject His work. Let Him bring salvation and sanctification. These will lead to the eternal blessedness we all truly desire.

—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.

Annual Conference — 1963

June 12-16

Fargo, North Dakota
Missions Center
(former Messiah Lutheran Church building)
1603 - 5th Street North

THEME: An Open Door
TEXT: Revelation 3:8

PROGRAM

Wednesday, June 12

- 9:00 a.m. All Conference Committees will report for devotions, instructions, and assignment of rooms.
The Women's Missionary Federation organizational conference will begin with a prayer hour. (Their entire program is to be found elsewhere in this paper.)
- 8:00 p.m. Opening service of the conference; Pastor Richard Snipstead, Greenbush, Minnesota, in charge. Sermon on the conference text by Pastor Raynard Huglen, Hatton, North Dakota. Convening of the conference by Pastor John Strand, President, and appointment of committees.

Thursday, June 13

- 9:00 a.m. 1. Devotions by Pastor Carl Ostby, Spicer, Minnesota
2. Reports:
a. Committee on Credentials
b. Committee on Nominations
3. Election of Nominating Committee for 1964
4. The President's Message
5. Report of Committee on Administration
- 11:30 a.m. The Prayer Hour, led by Pastor H. C. Molstre, Winger, Minnesota
- 2:00 p.m. 1. Devotions by Pastor Earl Duame, Minneapolis, Minnesota
2. Continuation of Report of Committee on Administration
- 8:00 p.m. Mission Festival Service, conducted by the Women's Missionary Federation, the newly

elected president presiding, and Pastor John Abel, Hitterdal, Minnesota, Executive Director of Missions, speaking.

Friday, June 14

- 9:00 a.m. 1. Devotions by Mr. Reuben Ivesdal, Edmore, North Dakota
2. Elections
3. Presentation of Mission work
4. Nomination of at least 100 for Missions Corporation
Election of 50 for the Corporation
- 11:30 a.m. The Prayer Hour, led by Pastor E. P. Dreyer, Ferndale, Washington
- 2:00 p.m. 1. Devotions by Mr. Donald Jacobson, Binford, North Dakota
2. Presentation of the Seminary Committee
3. Presentation of the Parish Education Committee
- 5:30 p.m. Pastors' and Pastors' Wives' Fellowship Dinner at a place to be announced
- 8:00 p.m. Laymen's meeting, led by Mr. Forrest Swenson, Roseau, Minnesota
Messages by Mr. Robert Rieth, Valley City, North Dakota, and Mr. William Svano, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Saturday, June 15

- 9:00 a.m. 1. Devotions by Pastor Trygve Dahle, Pukwana, South Dakota
2. Presentation of the Committee on "The Lutheran Ambassador"
3. Presentation of the Committee on Stewardship
- 11:30 a.m. The Prayer Hour, led by Pastor Hans Tollefson, Astoria, Oregon

- 2:00 p.m. 1. Devotions by Mr. Herman Berg, Grand Forks, North Dakota
 2. Report of the Committee on Youth Work
 3. Report of the Committee on General Resolutions

8:00 p.m. Evangelistic Service, led by Pastor Jay Erickson, Faith, South Dakota, with Pastor G. A. Almquist, Hampden, North Dakota, speaking.

Sunday, June 16

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service, led by Pastor Fritjof Monseth, Valley City, North Dakota, with Pastor Morris Eggen, Spicer, Minnesota, bringing the meditation

10:30 a.m. Worship Service, conducted by Pastor Arvid Hokonson, Everett, Washington, with sermon by Pastor Julius Hermunslie, Spicer, Minnesota

2:30 p.m. Closing Service of the Conference
 Sermon by Pastor John Strand, Tioga, North Dakota

Special music will be provided at each service of the conference.

Kindly direct all requests for housing during the conference to the Missions Committee, Box 905, Fargo, North Dakota. Indicate whether you prefer to stay in a private home, motel, or hotel. Also indicate whether you will have your own transportation within the city.

A nominal registration fee will be charged of all those registering for the conference. Offerings will be received at each service of the conference, with the exception of the Holy Communion Service.

Conference Committee,
 John Strand
 Richard Snipstead

TO BUILD

The Grace Lutheran Church, DeKalb, Illinois, is presently an independent Lutheran congregation which was organized on January 2, 1963. The charter closed on February 1 with 184 charter members, predominantly individuals who had left another Lutheran body. The constitution and by-laws have been approved. The congregation has voted to build a new church at the location of 1st Street and Milner Avenue South, in DeKalb. Plans will soon be drawn up to be presented to the congregation for approval. Evangelist Clifford Anderson of Stacy, Minnesota, will be coming for a series of evangelistic meetings beginning May 19 and continuing nightly through the 23rd. Sunday services are held in the Glidden School at 1st and Garden, and the evangelistic meetings and midweek services will be held at a rented church at 7th and Prospect. Except for Sunday evening, which is 7:30 p.m., all other evangelistic meetings will be at 8:00 p.m.

Pastor Harold Schafer, formerly of Hendricks, Minnesota, is the pastor, having begun his work on January 4. The Schafers are much

encouraged with the progress of the work. Pastor Schafer is the chairman of the Missions Committee of the Free Association of Lutheran Congregations.

—Corr.

WMF RALLY HELD AT WINGER

A Women's Missionary Federation rally was held at the Dovre Lutheran Church in Winger, Minnesota, on April 21. Devotions were given by Mrs. Alvida Salte of Winger. Inspirational messages from the Word of God were given by Mrs. O. K. Ose of Thief River Falls, Minnesota, and Mrs. Herbert Presteng of Grafton, North Dakota.

Special musical numbers were sung by Lois and Jean Presteng of Grafton, Mrs. Kenneth Johnson and Mrs. Hilmer Moland of the Maple Bay Church, and a group of ladies from the Landstad Church in Shevlin. Miss Ona Broden led the meeting.

Pastor John Strand was also present and answered questions that were asked. A social hour was held following the program. There were people in attendance from a wide area. There was a wonderful spirit and the ladies were very

grateful for the rally. We encourage such rallies throughout our churches wherever possible.

Mrs. Robert Bursheim
 Winger, Minnesota

"And the scribes and the Pharisees, when they saw that He was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to His disciples, 'Why does He eat with tax collectors and sinners?' And when Jesus heard it, He said to them, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.'"—Mark 2:16, 17

NOTICE

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

Treasurer
 Lutheran Association
 7013 Lee Valley Circle
 Minneapolis 24, Minnesota
 Please send all subscriptions to
 The Lutheran Ambassador
 Box 652, Grafton, N. Dak.



THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

Pastor Julius Hermunslie, Spicer, Minnesota

The first of two articles

A Spirit-filled life should be of vital concern to every true Christian. We long for, and pray for, the presence and power of the Holy Spirit upon us in daily life. But Christians do not agree as to the meaning and manifestations of the Spirit-filled life. A study of this vital, spiritual experience has proven very rewarding as I have sought God's answer in the Bible concerning the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the believers. Personal experience and observations have also resulted in definite convictions concerning the Holy Spirit's work in the Christian. Among the many books and articles I have read on this subject, the following have proven very helpful: *Filled With the Spirit* by Rev. H. G. Randolph; *Spirit and Power* by Ludvig Hope; *I Believe in the Holy Spirit* by Fredrik Wisloff; *The Threefold Secret of the Holy Spirit* by James H. McConkey; and *God's Word for Today* by O. Hallesby.

There is apparently much confusion among Christians concerning the Spirit-filled life. We often hear remarks these days about certain Christians who have experienced "the baptism of the Holy Spirit." The speaker may have in mind a very specific manifestation of the work of the Holy Spirit, which may be perfectly correct, but the implication may be very mis-

leading, in that only certain Christians have received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

All True Believers Have the Holy Spirit

In the Explanation of the Third Article in Luther's Catechism we read: "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith...." This clear confession of faith states plainly that every repentant and believing sinner has received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

God's Word says: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). God sent forth His Spirit to "reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" (John 16:8). The Spirit of God has come to work a deep sense of guilt in our heart and bring us to experience genuine repentance and a sincere longing for forgiveness for sin. When the sinner is thus broken in a contrite spirit, the Holy Spirit leads the repentant sinner to Jesus and gives faith to accept Christ as Saviour. This miracle of salvation is wrought by

grace alone by God's Spirit and therefore every believer has received the Holy Spirit.

"God sent forth his Son...to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba Father" (Gal. 4:4-6). "Notice the order: First, sonship by adoption; then, in the same instant, the incoming of the Holy Spirit into the heart" (Randolph, p. 8).

The Indwelling and Baptism of the Holy Spirit

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God" (I Cor. 2:12). "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (I Cor. 3:16). Thus God spoke to the carnal Christians in Corinth reminding them they have received the Spirit of God. Every believer receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit when he is born again into God's kingdom.

Pastor Randolph states this so clearly: "All believers have the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The baptism in the Holy Spirit has been differently understood and interpreted by Christians. Some hold it to be identical with the filling of the Holy Spirit. To them the

baptism and the filling of the Holy Spirit are interchangeable and synonymous terms. Others limit the baptism to the initial filling, distinguishing between the first and subsequent fillings. Then there are certain groups who teach that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is the outpouring of special gifts and blessings upon those who perseveringly struggle, labor and 'pray through' until they receive the baptism. They insist upon the gift of tongues as the unconditional evidence of having received the Spirit Baptism. . . . The baptism refers to the gift of the Spirit—the Holy Spirit Himself—and is not repeated. The filling has reference to the gifts, blessings, powers, and endowments which the Holy Spirit ministers, and may occur repeatedly. 'One baptism but many fillings' (Randolph, pp. 16, 17.)

A Life Lacking the Filling of the Spirit

God has planned and provided for every believer to live a Spirit-filled life. Jesus said: "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). The "abundant" life is the Spirit-filled life. "Be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18).

Unfortunately many Christians are pitifully lacking the infilling of God. Though God's Spirit dwells in them, He has not filled them. The Holy Spirit is not given free access to pour in His fullness. The stubborn and rebellious spirit of the old nature prevents the free inflowing of God's grace. The hard, unyielding self-will resists the pouring in of the fullness of God. They remain carnal Christians unwilling to break completely with the world. What a shameful, emaciated Christian life!

Lacking the fullness of the Holy Spirit, the Christian is weak and ineffective. He may be busy in church work but accomplishes so little really worthwhile for the Lord. His testimony is silenced by the fear of man. Multiply this spiritual poverty of many mem-

bers of our congregations and it adds up to nothing more than a powerless church.

The Christian Church is called and commissioned by the Lord to "Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind" (Luke 14:21). And, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). The Christian Church does endeavor to carry on this God-given mission, but few are really saved. Many may be added to the church membership but few added to the Lamb's Book of Life. The gospel message sounds forth, but with a hollow ring to many of the unconverted because often the life of the pastor and congregation members causes offence to the unsaved and unchurched. The unsaved see so little in the Christian life to be desired. The church seems powerless to minister to the unsaved to win them for Christ. "The salt has lost its savour" (Luke 14:34).

Does this characterize the Christian Church today? Surely there are warm, pietistic and evangelistic pastors and congregations also in our day, who are reaching out in the power of the Spirit of God to win the lost for Christ and His Church. For this we thank God. But facing this humiliating question honestly, we will agree we must confess our impotence and lack of spiritual power in the church today. We are painfully lacking in the spiritual power to move into the world of the unsaved, and by God's grace and power, win them for Christ and His Church.

Every Christian May Experience the Spirit-Filled Life

"That he [Christ] would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man" (Eph. 3:16). God has made provision for every believer "to be strengthened with might by his Spirit." Powerless Christians grieve God. God's plan for every believer

is: "That ye might be filled with all the fulness of God" (Eph. 3:19). The Lord has not reserved this outpouring of blessing for a select few. "The fulness of God" is for all who love the Lord.

God actually admonishes the Christians to be Spirit-filled. "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18). Christians must forsake sin and receive God's grace and power. The Lord exhorts and admonishes: "Be filled with the Spirit." This is a necessity if we are to experience the full blessings of the Christian life and be effective witnesses in the service of the Lord.

The filling of the Spirit is not limited to one experience. "God's Word shows us that those who once were filled with the Spirit are filled again" (Hope, p. 23). "Being filled with the Spirit is not a finished act: it is a continual becoming. To be filled with the Spirit means ever anew to be become filled; and continually in greater and richer measure. To be filled with the Spirit is not to be in a settled condition from which I can make no further progress. He who is filled with the Spirit always longs for more" (Wisloff, pp. 233-234).

OFFICERS OF THE LUTHERAN ASSOCIATION

President: Rev. John Strand,
Tioga, N. Dak.

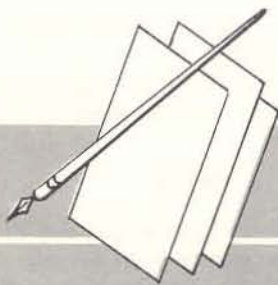
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sota

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sions: Rev. John H. Abel,
Hitterdal, Minnesota



EDITORIALS

ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

The past few years have produced several interesting developments in the church world. One of these phenomena has been an increased attention to the Holy Spirit and His work and speaking in tongues (glossalalia). This interest and this experience have not been peculiar to any one denomination, but have been found in many.

At our conference in McVille last winter, one of our pastors, Julius Hermunslie, Spicer, Minnesota, presented two lectures on the Spirit-filled life. They were so well received and seemed to represent our attitude and position so fairly that people have asked that they be printed in *The Lutheran Ambassador*. We present the first of two articles by Pastor Hermunslie today, reminding our readers that the presentations at McVille have had to be shortened for our publication needs. This the author has done.

As readers, you will note that the articles cover a large general topic. They do not say everything there is to be said. After all, books have been written on the subject. But the articles do lay down the broad general guidelines on which, we think, we can nearly all agree.

We are near Pentecost, the festival of the Holy Spirit. There can be no question but that there is a great need for Spirit-filled lives. May these two articles prove of real value toward that goal.

WE'LL SEE YOU AT FARGO

One of the most difficult things to give up in merger was the Annual Conference of the Lutheran Free Church. We feel this was so for those who entered the American Lutheran Church, too. Our Church was small enough so that it was possible to have a wide acquaintanceship. When conference-time came one could be sure to see certain lay people there unless death had intervened since the last time.

Often we gathered in historic Trinity Church in Minneapolis. Who will ever forget the assembling of the people for the evening services? Down Twentieth Avenue they came, north and south, and Ninth Street, east and west. Usually the evening air was warm and humid. And the spirit was good and the fellowship sweet.

Ah, but this is a new day for us all. We of the Association, shall gather at the traditional time, beginning on the second Wednesday in June. We shall meet in Fargo, North Dakota, another city replete with Annual Conference memories. This time our headquarters will be the old (but not that old) Messiah Lutheran Church in north Fargo.

We feel that it would be a big boost for us psychologically if every one of our sixty-plus congregations would be represented by at least one lay delegate, two or more, if possible. This would be a great encouragement to our Association as an organization and to each other as individuals. Some congregations will have many more than two present.

In addition we want our many like-minded friends from even hundreds of other Lutheran congregations to join us in conference. You will have voice and vote if only you state that you are in agreement with the principles for which we are working. We expect to see many familiar faces those days in Fargo.

There may be others, in addition, who would like to be with us, but who are not free to register as members of the conference. You are welcome too.

We are looking forward to good and blessed days of fellowship in Fargo, June 12-16. Let us prepare the way with much prayer. We believe that prayer changes things. And again, numbers aren't everything. We ought to know that. But a large turnout at Fargo would mean so very much to us. Won't you plan to come?

OUR FIRST CONFERENCE SINCE MERGER

It is with considerable anticipation that we await the first annual conference since merger. Actually it will be the sixty-seventh since the beginning of the Lutheran Free Church, but life has changed so much for us that we're thinking of it as the first since merger.

None of us were in on the planning of the conferences of the old Lutheran Free Church. We did plan the special conference at Thief River Falls last October, but sometimes as we look back we feel that it was just by the grace of God that we got through as well as we did. Perhaps, though, that's not a bad feeling to have.

Our conference is to be held at Fargo in the old Messiah Lutheran Church, now our Missions Center, and in rented facilities at a nearby public school. Incidentally, there has been a real sense of pride in the hearts of our people as they have seen our first piece of property. We trust it is a good kind of pride.

We'd like to editorialize just a little about our future as an association in preparation for our conference. First of all, the conference will hear that we will have no seminary of our own this fall. Frankly, this is no cause for alarm. However, if the fall of 1964 should come and we have not both classrooms

and faculty to teach the men who will want training then, it will be a different story. But we believe this challenge will be met. Nevertheless, this conference must authorize, and request, a complete study of this area and ask for definite proposals for the 1964 conference to act upon.

In the area of missions, the sky is the limit. By that we mean that we should have all kinds of opportunities for establishing home mission work and in entering into mission outreach beyond our country and Canada. Our problem, as for every church group, is to find manpower and money to meet the opportunities. Missions is another facet of the work where we will need the faith and realism of which we spoke last time. We hope the conference will give some thought to a policy on home mission work as well as the world outreach.

The Nominating Committee will have an important task at the conference. There is an urgent need to have the best possible people serving on every committee and board. At present, also, one hundred nominees are needed for the Missions Corporation. Any suggestions for this latter need should be sent to Rev. R. Snipstead at Greenbush, Minnesota. Every single officer and board member will be up for election this year. Pray for the selection of all these key people.

A budget will be adopted for the Association. We are not sure just how this will be done. At any rate, some goals for the year will be recommended to the congregations. As we know from the old Lutheran Free Church, approving goals in conference is one thing and raising them in the congregations is another. We really do hope, though, that we will have enough sense of mission and call so that performance will meet the needs. We will be able to tell much

about our chances of future success by how we respond to the financial needs.

Conference days will be busy days. Let us gather with the will to work, to pray, to go forward.

AND WE OWE NO MAN?

Each of us, if we could visit Europe (or the Far East), has a number of places which must be seen—Buckingham Palace, the Louvre, the Coliseum, the Land of the Midnight Sun, Holland's dikes, Berlin's Wall, Thorwaldsen's "Christus."

Worthy sights all! But do you know one place that would be on our "must" list of places to see? Flanders Field or one of the many American or Allied cemeteries of war dead. Even as, spiritually, every person needs to stand at Calvary and experience the truth of having been "died for," so it would be good for us to stand before the endless rows of white crosses and know that many have given their lives for our enjoyment of human freedoms.

When we feel smug, self-satisfied and content, when we "speak our piece," cast our vote or fail to do so, worship with the group of our own choosing, let us remember that these "rights" were bought at great cost by those who died and by those of whom the last full measure of devotion was not required.

On Memorial Day or Remembrance Day, let us remember those who served in our wars. They understood the sense of war no better than we do, yet they answered their country's call. At Chateau-Thierry, Bellew Woods, Vimy Ridge, Normandy, "Pork Chop" Hill, Suribachi, Tarawa, Anzio, Bastogne, they took *our place*. It's a sobering thought. It ought to make a difference in our lives.

And we owe no man?

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Women attending the W.M.F. Convention and Annual Conference are asked to bring cookies or bars for the forenoon and afternoon coffee breaks. These may be left in the kitchen of the church.

The treasurer of the Association requests that special donations be made to aid in paying for the legal services which are required at the present time. Send such contributions to 7013 Lee Valley Circle, Minneapolis 24, Minnesota.

The young men from Augsburg who will be travelling in our churches this summer will be five in number, not four, and ask not to be considered as having a male

quartet in the group. As time goes on that may develop, but to begin with they will present vocal and instrumental selections in various groupings and singly. They will bring messages in word at each service too. They will begin their tour on June 5 and will have the weeks of the Annual Conference and Family Bible Camp open so that they may attend these Association functions.

It was reported recently that three young men from Augsburg are available for full-time church work in our congregations this summer. One girl from Augsburg and two from the Lutheran Bible Institute, Minneapolis, have volunteered to teach Vacation Bible School in our churches. Anyone de-

siring the services of these young people and others who may be at our disposal should contact the Missions Committee, Box 905 Fargo, N. Dak.

Contributions to the Association's general fund will be especially welcome at this time as the conference draws near. There are many additional expenses in connection with the annual meeting. Please direct such gifts to the Association treasurer.

"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith."—I John 5:4



Letters

TO THE EDITOR

I had as my teachers at least three of the men who translated the RSV. The only one of them living now is Dr. Kyle M. Yates, Prof. at Baylor U. I studied both New and Old Testament under these scholars. Again I feel that you went too far (April 9) in praise of the RSV, when you say that "all of this assures a greater accuracy." That simply is not true. To have added Greek manuscripts does not assure "greater accuracy" in translation.

I trust that you will accept these comments in the spirit in which they are given.

Rev. G. L. Halmrast
Mentor, Minnesota

It is plain from your defense of the Revised Standard Version (April 9) that you have not investigated it, and therefore misstatements have been made. We have been in contact with the progress of this version, its translation, advertising, methods of propagation, and so forth, ever since the first New Testament was put out—before the complete Bible was foisted onto unsuspecting Christian churches.

Recently I was talking with a good LFC member, strongly anti-merger. I asked how they liked Vol. 1, No. 1 of the *Ambassador*. The reply: "Heartbreaking! After all our work and prayers, our efforts and prayers, our hopes and study—we get RSV."

Name withheld by request
Minnesota

(Normally, when we are charged as strongly as this whole letter charges us, we cannot guarantee the quotation of any part of a let-

ter where names are asked to be withheld. But in this case we shall waive the rule.

Feelings run high in regard to the use of the Revised Standard Version. We doubt we will settle any arguments regarding the RSV or convince those who are determined against it. Therefore, we believe no good purpose will be served in continuing a discussion of this subject in this paper.

Perhaps you will permit one attempt at self-justification. We do not know when or by whom the Bible was translated into Norwegian, but we found it interesting to discover that out of eight disputed passages given to us by the second writer, five of them in the Norse Bible agreed with the RSV rather than the KJV. Yet we have never heard the Norwegian Bible charged with trying to do away with blood redemption or reducing references to Christ.

In a comparison with our Greek New Testament, in seven out of eight cases the Greek agrees with the RSV rather than the KJV. We only point these things out to show that there are some problems in determining original readings. But, praise God, the central message of salvation through Christ is clear. —Editor)

We at the Bible House are all deeply grateful for the excellent material concerning our Society in the April 9, 1963, issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador*. Each day brings mounting evidence of the opportunity and urgency for providing more Scriptures to more people in more lands.

Our 1963 distribution was

31,509,821 as compared to 24,082,433 in 1962. We are hoping and praying that we can reach 60,000,000 by our 150th anniversary in 1966. Such splendid help as yours encourages us to believe that this is indeed probable.

Robert T. Taylor, Secretary
New York, N.Y.

As Paul's opening salutation in some of his letters, "I thank God in remembrance of you." And I do pray that you will prosper in your soul-saving mission and increase in membership.

Mrs. A. P. Norby

Excelsior, Minnesota

(Thank-you to everyone who is praying for us. —Editor)

HAVE FAITH IN GOD!

Mark 11:22

Have faith in God!
So speaks our Blessed Saviour
To all who gather in His holy Name.
His benediction rests on each endeavor
Designed His great salvation to proclaim.

Have faith in God!
For naught He spared to save us;
He gave His Son to pay sin's penalty.
Now life abundant is His gift in Jesus
To own in time and all eternity.

Have faith in God!
His eyes are ever watchful;
He knows our needs and richly does supply.
It pleases Him to see His children trustful
That what is good He never will deny.

Have faith in God!
To Him belongs all power
In earth and heaven, now, and evermore.
Though flesh and world and Satan band together,
We conquer shall through Christ who goes before!

—Pastor Fritjof B. Monseth

SYNODICAL CONFERENCE ENDS NEGRO WORK IN AMERICA

St. Louis, Mo. (NLC)—The Lutheran Synodical Conference has ended its work among Negroes in North America.

Marking the close of operations were the sale of the Immanuel Lutheran College property in Greensboro, N.C., to the State of North Carolina for \$239,000, and the purchase of Alabama Lutheran Academy and College in Selma, Ala., by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for \$229,000 from the Synodical Conference.

About two years ago the Missouri Synod's Southern District also assumed responsibility for operation of Negro missions.

The Synodical Conference through its Missionary Board continued administration of mission facilities in Nigeria, West Africa.

The Greensboro campus has trained Negro pastors and teachers for Synodical Conference operations since 1903. Now Negro pastors are trained in integrated schools of the Missouri Synod. The 41-year-old Selma campus will continue to educate teachers and provide pre-ministerial training for the Missouri Synod.

Receipts from the sale of the Greensboro property were divided among the four constituent synods of the Lutheran Synodical Conference according to the ratio of financial support assumed by each synod. The Missouri Synod has provided more than 85 percent of the funds for the joint effort. Other participating synods are the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

It also was announced that Dr. Herman A. Mayer, executive secretary of the Missouri Synod's Board for European Affairs, has been named associate executive secretary of the Synodical Conference Missionary Board. Dr. Karl Kurth, executive secretary, gradually will turn over the duties of his office to Dr. Mayer, it was explained.

—News Bureau, NLC

Women's Missionary Federation

CONVENTION PROGRAM

at our Missions Center (the former Messiah Lutheran Church)
1603 Fifth Street North, Fargo, North Dakota
June 12 and 13, 1963

THEME: "Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

Wednesday, June 12

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer Session, led by Mrs. Herbert Presteng, Grafton, North Dakota
- 9:00 a.m. Registration
- 10:00 a.m. Opening Session, with Mrs. Ole K. Ose, Thief River Falls, Minnesota, presiding
Bible Study—Mrs. Albert Moen, Grand Forks, North Dakota
Vocal Trio—Portland, North Dakota
Business Session
Convention Offering to Church Extension
- 12:00 a.m. A box lunch will be served
- 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Session
Devotions—Mrs. Morris Borstad, Tioga, North Dakota
Music—Winger, Minnesota
Unfinished Business
Music—Tabor Lutheran Church, Webster, South Dakota
Topics on Convention Theme:
Mrs. Clarence Johnson, Willmar, Minnesota
Mrs. Clarence Hermunslie, Abercrombie, North Dakota
Mrs. Chester Halvorson, Tioga, North Dakota
Music—Greenbush, Minnesota

Thursday, June 13

- 8:00 p.m. Mission Festival Service
Leader—Newly elected president of the W.M.F.
Devotions—Miss Ona Broden, Fertile, Minnesota
Music—Valley City, North Dakota
Message—"By Faith to the Regions Beyond," by Pastor John Abel, Hitterdal, Minnesota, Executive Director of Missions
Music—Mrs. John Abel
Offering for Missions
Closing Hymn
Benediction

Convention organist will be Mrs. Robert Bursheim, Winger, Minnesota.
Convention song leader will be Mrs. Henry Hanson, Portland, North Dakota.

Convention Committee



WOMEN *for Christ*

WOMEN WON WILL WORK

Part II

Jesus said, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." As women won for the Lord we must be meek, and this does not mean to be weak. Jesus was meek and lowly but as we look at Him in the Bible, He was not weak and did not give in to lies or conniving trickery.

As Jesus spoke to the woman at the well, He did not try to cover sin but reminded her of it. He knew when He asked her to get her husband that she had had many. You can't hide sin from God. Jesus wanted her to know that she was a sinner and needed to be saved.

In John 18:19-23, look again at Jesus before the high priest. When He was asked of His doctrine, Jesus answered very plainly and truthfully. They struck Him in the face because He dared to answer so; Jesus then asked them to prove that He had spoken evil. Also before Pilate, when He was asked, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered by asking Pilate if he had thought of this by himself or if someone else had told him that. Jesus said that His kingdom was not of this world, for if it were, He would have had servants to fight for Him. He came into the world to bear witness of the truth, and this He did. They

did not take His life. Jesus gave it up willingly. On the cross Jesus gave up His spirit.

Neither does God take us by force to be His child. We must will to be saved. Even after salvation we can choose to be carnal and thereby take a chance on losing out on eternal life or surrender all and be a happy Christian, sanctified and holy even as He is holy. This is God's will for our lives.

Let us be women who are strong in the grace of our Lord and praise God for the opportunities we have to teach and witness of the hope that is within us. Let us be meek and not weak to proclaim the inspired Word of God and not compromise with the voices we hear today which would try to teach us otherwise.

We also need to learn daily to humble ourselves before God and sing with the song writer, "Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling." I have hanging in my kitchen the following poem which I would like to share with you.

THE GREATEST TEST

Barbara C. Kyberg

Help me to walk so close to Thee
That those who know me best can
see

I live as godly as I pray
And Christ is real from day to day.

I see some once a day, or year,
To them I blameless might appear;
'Tis easy to be kind and sweet
To people whom we seldom meet;

But in my home are those who see
Too many times the worst of me.
My hymns of praise are best un-
sung

If He does not control my tongue

When I am vexed and sorely tried
And my impatience cannot hide.
May no one stumble over me
Because Thy love they failed to
see;

But give me, Lord, a life that sings
And victory over little things.
Give me Thy calm for every fear,
Thy peace for every falling tear;

Make mine, O Lord, through calm
and strife

A gracious and unselfish life:
Help me with those who know me
best,

For Jesus' sake, to stand the test.

Mrs. Herbert W. Presteng
Grafton, N. Dak.

"How beautiful upon the moun-
tains are the feet of him who brings
good tidings, who publishes peace,
who brings good tidings of good,
who publishes salvation, who says
to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'"
—Isaiah 52:7

FINLAND PLANS SPECIAL LWF ASSEMBLY STAMPS

Geneva (LWF)—On one of its two stamps to mark the coming Helsinki Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation, Finland will use a head of Christ for the first time in its postal history, according to word received at LWF headquarters here.

The adhesive, a 30-cent value, will bear the assembly motto "Christ Today," as will also a companion 10-cent stamp. The pictorial motif of the latter is to be a crown of thorns with a medieval consecration cross in the center. Both

were designed by a Finnish artist, Olavi Vepsalainen.

They are scheduled for issue on July 30, the opening day of the 13-day assembly. Printing plans call for five million of the 10-cent value and two million of the 30-cent one.

Information about the new issues was brought here by the assembly director, Dr. Mikko Juva, who returned to Helsinki on March 30

after three days of planning talks with Executive Secretary Kurt Schmidt-Clausen and other LWF staff members.

He said orders and inquiries respecting the stamps should be addressed to the philatelic section of the Finnish General Direction of Posts and Telegraphs at Mannerheimintie 11, Helsinki.

—News Bureau, NLC

OVER THE TOP

Praises be to our God!

On April 14, a short time after the Association officer's meeting in Fargo had decided to go ahead in faith and purchase a mission headquarters building costing thirty thousand dollars, Mr. O. K. Ose and Pastor John Abel began to travel to set up area representatives for our Lutheran Association mission extension fund effort. Later Rev. Karl Stendal also contacted many of these area men.

We are happy to announce that you friends, area representatives, and co-operating pastors have indeed responded and co-operated in a marvelous way. We made our full purchase of the old Messiah Lutheran Church building in Fargo ahead of schedule. The deed was signed on May 14. We have gone several thousand dollars over our goal. Let us all humbly and gratefully raise our voices in praise to God.

—Mission Committee

FOR MEMORIAL DAY

Gold and green are the fields in peace;
Red are the fields in war.
Black are the fields when the cannons cease,
And white forever more.

—RNS Photo

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