

April 10, 1973

# The Lutheran Ambassador



## EASTER LILY

The lily, symbolizing purity, has long been used as the flower of the Resurrection.

Religious News Service Photo  
by Knolan Bentfield





# MEDITATION MOMENTS

## EASTER REALITIES

April 14, 1968, was possibly the most impressive Easter Sunday of my life. We as a family attended a sunrise service on a small hill right in the city of Cochabamba, Bolivia. The contrasts were so striking that it was too much to grasp. Yet I understood more than I had at any time in my life about the truth of Easter.

Just a month earlier I had stood in the rain on this same hill, looking out over the flooded scene of the city, wondering how to solve a serious problem. Where could I go for help? That morning, over a short-wave radio, I'd strained to hear the message from our folks in La Paz: "Dick and Clara, please get tickets for Al and Dan Olsen because they have to return to the States immediately." (Dan was in boarding school in Cochabamba.) I had gone to the train station only to find utter confusion. I was able only to understand simple words in Spanish and I struggled to communicate my need only to be embarrassed by the realization that the train depot had been moved to a new location. And there I was, standing in a makeshift kitchen-bedroom home as the main lobby of the old depot was being used by the victims of the flood. With patience they explained to me that no matter what, **no one** was traveling **anywhere!** No trains, no trucks, no buses, no airplanes. Thus I went up on the hill to see for myself and discovered... **no one** was going **anywhere!** But God worked out the problem marvellously and within three days Dan was able to fly out and the family was on their way to the States.

Then, a month later, things were

drying out. On Friday evening the traditional procession with its funeral-dirge beat of the drums and the military marching in slow, deliberate manner moved throughout the city, with the casket containing the statue of Jesus Christ—dead. What a contrast that was to the picture I viewed on Easter Sunday, of over a thousand evangelicals marching down Avenida Aroma and up this same hill, singing hymns of praise! I did not understand much of the spoken word that morning, but God blessed my heart in a special way as I was able to stand together with people who truly knew what Easter meant.

Climbing up the hill that particular morning something came back to me from my seminary days as I looked out over the wide valley and saw the mountains. We'd wrestled in class with the problem of understanding the Gospels' interpretation of the resurrection scene, as Matthew implies that it was dark and John says it was yet dark at the tomb. In seeming conflict, Mark says that the sun had risen. How easy it is to understand this when, in the early morning, you stand in the darkness of the valley and observe the rising of the sun on the upper levels of the mountain top. Yes, I was again back in class rediscovering the truth... God's Word.

For this Easter, 1973, I would like to briefly share with you another discovery from God's Word. Appreciating now how each of the Gospels helps us to see the scene the way it was, let us observe what the first recorded words of Jesus were following the resurrection.

Matthew records the first words to be "All hail." These words were spoken to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary as they ran back to tell about the empty tomb. Matthew says that they had mixed feelings of joy and fear. Jesus greeted them with the usual salute, nothing dramatic in the words. They are very "everdayish!" No doubt the equivalent of our saying "hello." But, oh, what meaning when it was the Savior Himself! Apparently it was just what they needed as they fell down to worship him, the Living Savior.

John records that Mary, after the others had fled to tell of the empty tomb, came and stood at the door, weeping. The first resurrection words of Jesus were, "Woman, why weepest thou?" How consoling! How understanding! Yet we must hear Jesus again as He responded to the anguished heart of the woman as He said, "Mary!" With that name and with that voice resurrection surety came into the life of Mary.

Lastly, and again beautifully communicated, is Luke's account of the Emmaus road experience. Two men, deep in discussion are interrupted by Jesus, who asks, "What are you talking about, back and forth as you walk along?" (TEV). What a change took place—from their sad-faced, miserable account of Calvary to the resurrection truth that stormed their lives as they came to realize that it was their Living Lord who accompanied them!

This Easter, I would wish for you this life-changing truth! See him as He is!

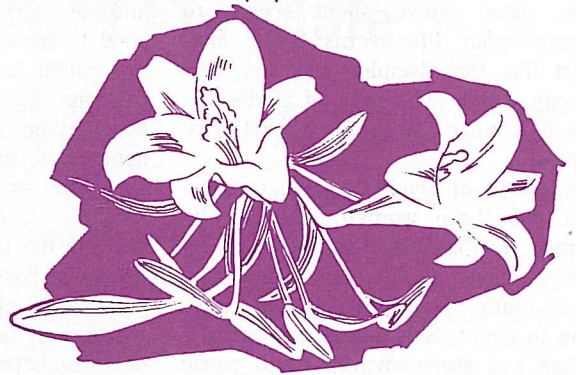
Richard W. Gunderson

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# YESTERDAY'S SHADOW OR TODAY'S LIGHT?



## OUR EASTER SERMON

Mark 16:1-8

by Rev. Michael Brandt  
Lake Stevens, Wash.

In a room sit eleven men. Not much is being said. In fact, only occasional sighs and the lonely sound of weeping voices in prayer break the solemn silence. As one looks at these men, their faces and expressions declare their down-heartedness, their discouragement, their despair, even their loneliness. For a period of approximately three years these eleven men had followed one man in whom they had placed all of their hopes and expectations. The totality of their lives had been involved in Him: three years of concentrated study; three years of witnessing miraculous power over the elements, disease, demons, and the cunning of human plots; three years of suffering the rebuke of men; three years of self-denial; three years of anticipated reward—and now the sudden awareness that all of their dedication seemed to be for nothing. The person they had followed was dead and buried, and along with Him went their hopes, their dreams. "Dearest God, what do we do now? Have you forsaken us?"

Three women were also present. One of them was Mary Magdalene, who had followed Joseph of Arimathea and saw where Jesus had been buried. When she returned home that Friday afternoon she hurriedly began to prepare spices to anoint the body of Jesus, since the next day was the Sabbath, a day of complete rest. Early on the first day of the week she joined Mary, the mother of James, and Salome to go to the tomb just

as soon as the sun had risen. Mary had seen the large stone rolled in front of the tomb and thus their conversation centered around the means they would use to roll it away.

Coming near the tomb they looked up: lo and behold, the stone had been rolled away! Their walking pace turned into a scrambling run and entering the tomb they saw a man clothed in white seated on the right, and they were amazed! He said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He has RISEN He is not here; see the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him, as He told you."

The three women went out from the tomb and fled, for astonishment had come upon them. The breath of God's truth blew upon the fainting coals of faith within their hearts and flames of joy burst forth—Jesus their Lord and Master was alive! And the joy broke forth into a footrace when Peter and one other disciple heard the news of Christ's resurrection and ran to witness the empty tomb. The shadow of a bleak cross and stone-covered tomb was dispelled by the light of an empty tomb and fulfillment of a promise by a victorious Savior, Jesus Christ.

This glorious account of the first Easter morning, the resurrection of Jesus, is still, and always will be, the breath of God's truth that declares victory over sin, death and the grave; the fulfillment of the promise that after three days He would be raised from the grave; the promise that de-

clared the true kingdom He came to establish; the promise that reveals the power that is able to drive away every form of sin's darkness. During this Easter season it is a fact that either you are living in the shadow of yesterday's seeming hopelessness or you are living in the light of today's victory.

## YESTERDAY'S SHADOW

**Shadows of Lost Condition:** Yesterday's shadow is dark indeed if you are still living in the guilt of your sin, being separated from fellowship with God because you are enslaved to your sinful desires. Maybe you see your ugly self and still are unable to free yourself because your old nature rules supreme and blinds you from the light of Christ by saying, "You are too great a sinner." Worse yet, could it be that the darkness has you so fooled that you think you are in the light, while living in sin? Satan himself would have the blackness of sin seem gray to the person who is fooling himself and thinking his own sin to not be so serious. How necessary it is to proclaim, "...God is light and in Him is no darkness at all." I John 1:5b. The light of the empty tomb can deliver from both of these darknesses.

**Shadows of False Hope:** Possibly you are a Christian in despair. Does the picture of the eleven disciples in a gloomy atmosphere reflect your present condition? Coming to Christ you expected greater things in this life. You were hoping for freedom from financial problems. You dreamed that now you and your spouse would be



able to overcome all of your problems in the snap of a prayer. Yesterday's shadow shouts at you and says, "It's no use, nothing can help me." The time you've spent trying to change your life seems to be lost. Just like the disciples you, too, feel empty inside. The light of God's fulfilled promise can set your heart afire again.

**Shadows of Doubt:** Maybe you are like the three women going to the tomb. You're not exactly in deep despair, but at the same time you have many "large stones" that cause you to doubt. Shadows of yesterday's cross and stone-covered tomb cause you to lack assurance that God is able to deliver you from your cares. As you walk the Christian walk you take many unnecessary detours because shadows of doubt hide the clear path of God's victory. Many times we turn to one another considering how to overcome an obstacle when if we would only look up we would see that it has been rolled away, I Peter 5:6, 7. God's mighty hand is clearly revealed in the light of an empty tomb.

#### TODAY'S LIGHT

**Light of Salvation:** The resurrection light of an empty tomb declares that God has accepted the atoning work of Christ. The bleak cross on a lonely hill becomes a lighthouse of love where every sinner can receive deliverance from his lost condition. The light of an empty tomb reminds us of God's faithfulness to His promise to provide a way of escape, an acceptable sacrifice, for He sent His Son not to condemn but to save the world, John 3:17. Dear friend, if you are living in the shadow of sin's darkness, come to the light of a resurrected Savior who was raised for your justification (making you "just-as-if-you'd-never-sinned"), Romans 4:25.

**Light of True Motivation:** The empty tomb set straight the disciples reasons for living. All of the hopes of an earthly kingdom and personal glory were cast away. The disciples now understood the meaning of God's kingdom on earth. Their first love for the Savior was restored and their faith burned within them. No longer did the shadow of false hopes discourage them. No longer did they seek after

personal gain and glory, rather they saw the true meaning of leaving all and following Christ. They realized that God works in mysterious ways and yet everything works together for good to those who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose, Romans 8:28. Christian, have you been living in the shadow of false hopes and misdirected motivations? Has your first love for Christ grown cold? If so, come to an empty tomb and see the light on which God would have you base your motives. Live for a heavenly kingdom, not making this world your home. Chase the shadows of false hopes away by saying with Paul, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). God will and does meet our needs, but do you live for Him just to have your earthly needs met or because He died for you and His love constrains you to give Him your all?

**Light of Assurance:** Easter's light also abolishes the shadows of doubt. How easy it is to walk from day to day never overcoming one's doubt of God's all-powerfulness. Never before in the history of man had anyone been raised from the dead the way Christ was raised. The women lived in doubt on the way to the tomb because they looked to their own strength. What has been your shadow of doubt? Where have you been turning for your counseling? To others? Come to an empty tomb. Come and witness the fulfilled promise, "After three days I will rise again" (Matthew 27:63). James tells us in the first chapter of his epistle that he who is filled with doubt cannot expect anything from the Lord. The light of an empty tomb announces the fact that we need not doubt—the stone is already rolled away! Won't you look up today and see the way of escape from all of your fears, for nothing has overtaken you that He has not already overcome, I Corinthians 10:13.

Whoever or wherever you are as you read these words of truth, allow the power of Christ's resurrection to claim victory in your life. Give Him your life today. Let His light burn and shine in you. Permit the breath of His Spirit to set your fainting faith aflame so that yesterday's shadows might become today's light, for Christ's sake. Amen.

# Letters TO THE EDITOR

## DEVOTIONAL BOOK MEMORIAL TO HER HUSBAND

I appreciated very much your editorial reference (Feb. 27) to **Waters in the Wilderness** as a memorial to those contributors who have departed this life. My husband wrote one of the meditations and since his death on February 1, 1972, this little book, and especially his contribution, have become very precious to me.

I am finding that the book is well accepted by friends and relatives to whom I have given copies in his memory. As they read, may the memory of his living testimony make the printed words a source of blessing and encouragement to them, and give glory to God.

Thank you for all the good reading in **The Ambassador** and for this editorial in particular.

Mrs. Rudolph S. Hegge  
Cloquet, Minn.





## IMPOSSIBLE—BUT TRUE!

by Rev. Edward A. Johnson, LCA  
Ohio, Nebr.

How many of these impossible things were you and I saying a decade ago?

"Walk on the moon? Ridiculous! Jules Verne stuff!"

"A trip into outer space? They'll never make it back alive."

"Only the Mad Scientist would try to transplant human organs."

"Americans will never elect a Roman Catholic for President—or a Southerner either."

"Beaten in 1960, defeated for governor of California in 1962, Richard Nixon is through in politics. We'll never hear from him again."

You and I have lived to see yesterday's impossibles become today's commonplaces without becoming much older as we waited.

The inventors of nearly all of our modern conveniences—Edison, Marconi, Bell, Morse, Fulton, and others—were laughed at as candidates for the madhouse. The very idea of traveling faster than carriage speed or sending messages through space to people thousands of miles away!

Nature, too, has her collection of impossible realities. The bumblebee, theoretically, cannot fly; its wing spread is too short and its body too stubby. Tell that to the next bumblebee that stings you.

Easter reminds us that we live in an age when the impossible is realized repeatedly.

Our hard-headed, matter-of-fact generation won't accept anything that hasn't been tested in experience or been scientifically verified. If it isn't logically possible it can't possibly be true, they say. But right now our old logical certainties, one by one, are being blasted into oblivion.

Once you were chided if you believed in miracles. Now you're chided if you don't believe in them. Once we were governed by Newtonian principles of science under which events had a predictable, plotted regularity.

Our orderly universe was controlled by mechanistic laws that could never be transcended or contradicted. Then Einstein's theory of relativity turned all of that upside down. Now scientists don't ask if something contrary to the established order of nature "can" happen; such things happen all the time. Modern atomic physics owes its existence to this new insight.

In the days of linear thinking we viewed everything as happening in cause-and-effect fashion, with every event connected with all that preceded and followed it. Now, process thinking views everything as happening all at once, not always logically or consistently. Our electronic age reflects this new way of thinking in its music, its art, its literature, even its very life styles. Life is no rigid, mathematical abstraction but a growing, pulsating, unpredictable force not bound by given rules.

And why not? Have we enough faith to see that some of these new ways of viewing God's world have made it more credible than ever to believe in the miraculous? Why be frustrated with the "incredible" or the "impossible" when we already live in a world that takes many realized impossibles for granted?

Perhaps it boils down to how big one's God is, and how capable one thinks Him to be. Surely God the Creator has the power to transcend His own patterns of operation or He is not an all-powerful, sovereign God. He sometimes limits Himself to certain patterns, as He did in the incarnation of Jesus Christ. But men may not limit God by saying that He "can't possibly" work this way or do that. Yet mortals arrogantly assert: "The dead don't rise. Once dead, they stay dead. None of this nonsense about the resurrection."

Yet the Scriptures ask us: "Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?" (Acts 26:8).

As a small boy, I liked to visit

my grandparents' farm in central Illinois. I came to know many of the local people who called on my grandparents for business or other reasons. Sometimes I would wonder why someone I'd met on previous visits hadn't been around lately. When I asked Grandmother, she would often reply: "Oh, she's dead now." It always amused Grandmother that my next question invariably would be: "Well, will she stay dead?" To my childish mind it seemed perfectly ridiculous for someone to be laid away in the grave when he or she had seemed full of life and vigor the last time I'd seen him. But Grandmother would always reply: "Yes, Junior, she's dead and she'll stay dead."

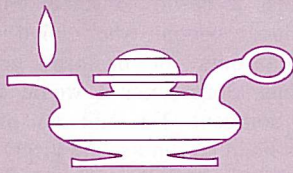
Today I believe I understand why something inside of me resisted the idea of death. For the message of Easter with its Gospel of resurrection is that the dead will not "stay dead." Not if they die believing in Christ as their Savior. For that incredible assertion we have Christ's own promise: "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" (John 11:25-26) He also told us: "If it were not so, I would have told you. . . . Because I live, ye shall live also" (John 14:2, 19). He proved this for us by coming back from the other side.

The Bible is full of realized impossibles. Sarah wouldn't believe that she would bear a son in her old age, but the next spring Isaac was born. "Is any thing too hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14). Joseph's rise from penal servitude to second in command over Egypt, the exodus of the Israelites under Moses toward the Promised Land, the conquest of Canaan, and the still later restoration of the remnant from exile in Babylon all bear out the eternal validity of Jeremiah's question: "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?" (Jeremiah 32:27). Gabriel, announcing to Mary the forthcoming birth of the Messiah, declared: "God's promises can never fail" (Luke 1:37, **New English Bible**).

When our age constantly sees incredible things being changed into the

*(Continued on page 14)*





# SCHOOL NEWS

## STATUS OF THE DORMITORY PROJECT

Many readers are wondering about the status of the proposed boys' dormitory at AFLBS. The situation could change momentarily, but as this is written no decision on building has been made yet by the Board of Trustees. Their next meeting is in April.

The final architect's plans have now been received, but bids are only now coming in. A further complication is that pledges and cash contributions haven't reached the \$125,000 mark yet, the goal pretty well agreed upon as the minimum in hand before construction starts. A new building will likely cost at least twice that amount. The current total of cash and pledges (as of March 31) is \$106,725.87 (cash—\$76,485.56; pledges—\$30,240.31). Not much activity has been reported lately in income received.

While some time has been lost already this spring, construction could still get underway soon if everything falls in place these next days. We

will let our readers know just as soon as the decision to build has been made or been decided against.

A good number of AFLC congregations have not reported on their ingatherings for the dormitory fund. Their participation now could make the difference.

## COMING EVENTS AT AFLBS

April 13-14—Promotion Days

April 23—Classes resume after Easter vacation

May 5—All-School Spring Banquet aboard a riverboat

May 18—Graduation Exercises for the Bible School and Seminary

## FASHION SHOW HELD

A fashion show was held in the Medicine Lake Lutheran Church parlors on Thursday, March 15. Those attending were seated at tables and were served Russian tea and cookies. Jeff Kamphaugh of Hatton, N. Dak., was master of ceremonies and commentator on the various "styles" shown.

## BLEST EASTER DAY, WHAT JOY IS THINE!

Blest Easter day, what joy is thine!  
We praise, dear Lord, Thy Name  
divine,  
For Thou hast triumphed o'er the  
tomb;  
No more we need to dread its gloom.

The tree where Thou wast offered up  
Now bears the fruit of life and hope:  
Thy precious life for us is shed,  
Now we may feed on heavenly bread.

We thank Thee, Jesus, that Thy hand  
Has freed us from sin's galling band;  
No more its thralldom we need fear;  
The year of liberty is here.

O Jesus Christ, God's Son elect,  
Our Paschal Lamb without defect,  
To us Thou givest strength indeed,  
In all our conflicts, all our need.

O grant, that as Thou didst arise,  
We, too, with joy may heavenward  
rise.

First from our sin, to love Thy way,  
Then from the grave on that great  
Day.

All praise to Thee who from death's  
might,

From carnal lust and sin's dark plight  
Redeemest me, that even I  
May reach eternal life on high.

Olavus Petri  
(from **The Hymnal**)

## AFLBS ALUMNI RETREAT

May 4-6, 1973

Faith Haven Youth Lodge—8 miles south of Battle Lake, Minn., on Highway 75. Look for the sign!

Speaker—Dave Glesne. His talks will be based on the ideas of Dr. Francis Schaeffer, founder of L'Abri Retreat and world-famous Christian philosopher. Dave has done a lot of youth work and has traveled as an evangelist for Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., and its outreach teams.

Rap sessions, singing, praying—lots of time to relax and enjoy good solid fellowship around the Word of God.

Cost—\$10 a person

\$15 a couple—Children are free!

If you cannot come for the whole weekend, you are welcome to attend as much as you can! Don't stay away!



The Home of AFLBS



# Women For Christ

## MAY 5 SET FOR EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA WMF GATHERING

The Women's Missionary Federation of the Eastern North Dakota District will hold their spring rally at Trinity Lutheran Church, Minnewaukan, Eugene Enderlein, pastor, on Saturday, May 5. Registration will begin at 9:30 with the morning session commencing at 10 o'clock. There will be a Bible study in the forenoon and a mission message in the afternoon, as well as musical numbers at both sessions. We invite you to a day of spiritual fellowship.

Mrs. Donald Jacobson,  
Secretary

### FOR "THE DAY"

by Mrs. Roy Bredholt,  
Grand Forks, N. Dak.

Little sister Sue stood in front of the long mirror in the hall and checked once again to make sure that the color of her new pink shoes exactly matched the pink in her new dress. Brother Robert stood in front of the mirror in the room he shared with big brother Tom admiring his new blazer and new shoes. He felt pretty sharp although ordinarily he didn't like to dress up, but **today** was special. Fifteen-year-old Tom began getting annoyed with Robert and, finally, yelled at him to get out of the way so he could fix the knot on his new tie which matched the new double-knit suit he had gotten just for **the day**.

Father was outside checking over the car as that, too, should look as polished as possible for **the day**. Then he rushed inside to get dressed himself. As he, too, looked at his appearance, he was rather pleased with the new shirt Mother had gotten him two weeks ago for wearing on **this special day**. And then Mother, she hadn't bought anything new for herself, at least not really . . . she had found this perfect material and had sewed herself the most beautiful coat and matching dress. She thought that they had turned out so well that she had to get shoes and a matching purse. She, too, would be really dressed for **the day**.

Then Father happened to look at the clock and shouted that they all should hurry or they would be late. The three children and Father rushed out to the car, but Mother had to take a last look around the kitchen and especially at the ham roasting in the oven. In the car, Father became impatient and told the children that he wished mother would hurry or they would have to park so far away from the door. Getting a little more impatient by the second, he began honking the horn. Finally Mother came, but, oh, she was angry because Father had honked and honked. They began arguing and argued all the way to their destination.

When they got there, they did have to park far away from the door. Father urged his family to hurry and get in and get good seats. He worried about having to sit up near the front.

Then when the family got to the door, Tom wanted to sit upstairs with his friends and became furious because Father said that **today** "you sit with us." Tom deliberately "accidentally" stepped on Susan's new pink shoes and shoved Robert as they went through the door. So as the family proceeded to their seats, which indeed were way up front, they were all angry and upset.

They didn't have to wait too long before it all began. The music was lovely. But where was Susan? She wasn't there at all, not really. First, she worried about her smudged shoe and then she began thinking of what awaited her at home . . . the chocolate in the shape of a certain animal and a stuffed toy of that same animal, too. Where was Robert? He really wasn't there either. He was thinking of when he could get out of there and get out of these new clothes and into comfortable jeans and sneakers and play some ball.

Tom sat there furious with his family. It was really quite embarrassing to have to sit with them. So he sat dreaming up things he could say to the fellows that would explain why he sat with his family. Perhaps he could say something about **the day**. Father sat there stewing for the first fifteen minutes about how close to the front they were; he always liked to sit in the next to the last row. That way, you can slip out easily. From this place, it would take all day, he thought, and figured he probably wouldn't get a chance to practice putting before dinner or before all the relatives descended on them. Mother sat there looking around; she, too, would have liked to sit further back so you can see everyone better. She wondered what Mrs. Johnson was wearing. She really hadn't had a good chance to look on the way in. And she had wanted to see the new dress Ella had described to her. And then suddenly something struck her, had she turned the temperature down in the oven? Would the ham be burned? What would she do if that happened with all the company coming. Then she began saying to herself that she wished he would hurry up and get done so she could get home and check.

Things did end soon enough and

*(Continued on page 14)*





### A CLAP AT THE GATE

by Mrs. John H. Abel  
Campo Mourao, Brazil

Whenever there is a clap at the gate, I wonder who it is. What is their need today?

It is a custom in Brazil to clap at the gate instead of going directly to the door to knock.

One day in response to a clap at our gate I found a young mother, Naomi, very much concerned about her sick daughter, three months old. She carried her baby in her arms. Looking at her, one could see something must be done quickly or it would be too late. The baby was too weak to cry and even when she slept her eyes were open. Naomi's husband was working away from home and she had no money. Could I take her to the doctor? John was traveling and my financial situation was not any better than Naomi's. I left with a prayer that we would find a doctor who would give her free treatment. Dr. Garcia has always been quite willing to help, so I decided to go to him first. When he looked at the baby he recommended us to the Japanese child specialist, saying he wouldn't charge either. After a careful examination, the doctor said, "I would like to have you stay with your baby at the hospital. She is very weak and if she returns home without intravenous feeding it is doubtful that she will live."

How would we be able to get the medication she needed, for though Dr. Garcia would not charge for the stay in the hospital, we had to buy the medicine. One of the drug stores in town belongs to Yeddo's (Gottel) brother-in-law and he was willing to charge the medicine. The happy re-

sult was the restoration of the health of Jacqueline. Naomi, the mother, brought the payment for the medicine each Saturday until it was all paid. We have been able to witness to her and read the Word with her. She has begun to attend church and our neighborhood Bible Club. We trust her young husband will soon join her. The baby is gaining weight and her mother is thankful for the blessing of her recovery.

#### Another Clap at the Gate

"Bon dia, Terezinha. What can I do for you today?"

"My sister Nena is sick," she says very softly. "Mother wants you to come and pray for her."

This family called me to their home a few months ago when the mother, Dona (Mrs.) Casturina, and Senhor Ermilindo wanted to accept the Lord as their Savior. In their one-room shack, on a dirt floor, we prayed and asked the Lord to come into their hearts. A few weeks ago they made profession of their faith in our Lar Parana church. Though life is still quite a struggle for them, they are slowly progressing. A couple of worm treatments for Senhor Ermilindo have helped him recover from what seemed to be laziness but in reality was parasites draining away his energy.

Dona Casturina said her baby is feeling better now that the medicine caused the worms to come out. One evidence of worms is that they get a craving for certain foods. If the food is not gotten in time the person gets terribly sick. This is not only true of children but adults as well. So from

time to time people come to ask for certain foods: meat, fruit, candy, etc. We had prayer for Nena, but it took a trip to the doctor and some further treatment before she regained her appetite and strength.

It's midnight and there's a clap at the gate. Who can it be at this hour? Snoopy is barking. It's two teen-age boys. One says, "My mother has just died and my father is drunk. Can you take me to my uncle's house as I don't know what to do?" John checks their story a little, remembering a number of robberies being reported every day and then agrees to take only one of the boys across town to find his uncle.

It took a while to find the right house, but in no time the uncle, aunt and seven children had piled into our pick-up.

At the little one-room shack quite a struggle was going on to prepare the body. She was a Catholic and a rather large woman and it took four neighbors to bathe her. Another problem was light. There was no kerosene for the little lantern and no candles. A search was made in the neighborhood and candles were found. The next problem was a dress. Most of the neighbors were small, thin women, but finally one heavier lady offered to give her only dress-up dress. Another problem—no table to put the woman on for the twenty-four hour watch. Finally one was found. The body was placed on it and candles were put on the corners of the table as Catholics do here. Benches and chairs were placed around for the people to come and sit quietly or pray the Ave Maria over and over. Her husband was still in a drunken stupor. The money he had taken to buy medicine for his wife had been spent at the bar for drink. Five children were left without a mother. Once again one feels the tragedy of life without the Savior. Here was an example of a Christless home.

A clap at the gate. Oh, it's Dona Alzira and her five little children. Nilton is the oldest; he's eight years old but very small for his age. Then there is Anna, Dulce, Baal, Cornelio and the baby. They're all washed up in clean clothes. She wanted to leave

*(Continued on page 10)*



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# editorials

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## EASTER MORNING'S QUESTIONS

Praise the Savior, now and ever,  
Praise Him, all beneath the skies;  
Come before Him, and adore Him,  
God's own perfect sacrifice;  
Victory gaining, life obtaining,  
Now in glory He doth rise.

Day of gladness, gone is sadness;  
Christ hath bruised the serpent's head;  
Death no longer is the stronger,  
Hell itself is captive led.  
Christ our Saviour lives forever,  
O'er the tomb His light is shed.

—Swedish hymn

Sometimes an event's importance is overplayed at the time it happens. Later on this is realized by historians as they fit the pieces together and are able to place an event in proper perspective. But this is not so with the resurrection of Jesus. The disciples early recognized its significance and the passing of time has only magnified the importance. The resurrection is an event which makes all the difference in the Christian faith and is therefore a keystone of the Christian faith.

The Gospel records enumerate several questions which were asked before the empty tomb was reached by Christ's followers. The women asked, "Who will roll away the stone?" The angel chided, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" And when Jesus approached Mary, He gently inquired, "Woman, why are you weeping?" All three questions show us that the followers of Jesus were not looking for resurrection that morning, they only came at all to the garden tomb because their loyalty was strong.

The resurrection of Jesus gradually became a definite conviction of the disciples and they were willing to risk their lives on it. They found, as we also find, that the resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our faith. This, together with the incarnation and the crucifixion and the Second Coming. Jesus was declared to be the Son of God by the resurrection (Romans 1:4). It was in His resurrection that redemption was completed, for He "was raised for our justification" (Romans 4:25).

The Apostles, empowered by the Holy Spirit, went out to tell the world that Christ had risen from the dead. It was an historical fact, one of the foundation stones upon which our faith is based.

The resurrection is also the source of our love. Paul called love the greatest of the Christian virtues (I Corinthians 13:13). It is through being in Christ that one can so love and being in Him means being united with Him in His death and resurrection (Romans 6:4; Colossians 3:1). If one is in Christ, he is a new creation and he is able to love with the love of Jesus. Such a love is patient, kind and lasting. It "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

Lastly, in the resurrection of Jesus we find the substance of our hope. Life really has no meaning apart from an after-life. Man has an inborn conviction that the spirit lives on. Jesus preached that He was continuing life (John 11:25, 26), that He had victory over death. But it was only after His own resurrection that these words took substance. Then His disciples could look back on the words spoken to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life," and say, "Of course, He is!"

Long ago Job asked the question, "If a man dies will he live again?" The triumphant affirmation of Jesus is "Yes, Yes!" All souls live beyond death. All bodies are raised at the resurrection, but it is those who are in Christ Jesus who will know joy, peace and blessedness forever in the everlasting presence of God.

Our participation in the blessings of Easter depends on our being in Christ now. We must come to Jesus in our need. We must let God love us. We must let Christ be all in all to us. It is the wish and prayer of **The Lutheran Ambassador** that all of you, that all men share in the reality of Christ's resurrection and that the questions of the first Easter morning be replaced by the heart-strengthening conviction: "The Lord is risen indeed!"

## "DRIKKER BROR DIN?"

Sigurd Schelderup was for some years janitor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, then at Ninth Street South and Twentieth Avenue. He also did the same work at the Lutheran Free Church headquarters—Messenger Press building at 2122 Riverside Avenue. He was a very congenial man and will be remembered by his friends for the warm smile that literally engulfed his face as he greeted them. Truly, meeting friends was a delight to him and he was in his glory whenever Trinity hosted the Annual Conference for that brought a host of old acquaintances with whom he could visit.

Sigurd Schelderup passed away in January. He had been a resident of Ebenezer Home for a number of years and his sister Hildur is living there yet.

His departure leaves one less person among us who was personally acquainted with Georg Sverdrup, who passed away in 1907. Mr. Schelderup once told us of an incident in connection with that long-time president of Augsburg Seminary which we'd like to relate at this time.

It seems that when Sigurd Schelderup came to Minneapolis from Norway as a young man he desired to stay for a while in one of the Augsburg dormitories.



His sister, who was known to Dr. Sverdrup, made the inquiry. Concerned that all who lived at Augsburg be men of good character, Dr. Sverdrup asked, among other things, "Drikker bror din?" (Does your brother drink?) "Yes, that he does," responded the sister. "But what does he drink?" pressed Dr. Sverdrup. "Oh, he drinks

milk and coffee and water." Whereupon a smile came upon the face of that great and good president and the young immigrant was given permission to take a room at Augsburg.

The passing of Sigurd Schelderup prompted the repeating of this story which he found such joy in telling.



#### A LEGEND OF THE CROSS

When our dear Lord at Calvary  
Was crucified for you and me,  
Around the cross the women crept,  
With weeping hearts a vigil kept,  
Until our Lord be free of pain  
And dying. Mary Magdalene,  
Her face uplifted, tense and pale,  
In sorrow cried unto the nails.  
"O nails of iron, come, answer me!  
How can you so unfeeling be  
To pierce His blessed hands and feet  
That gave to life a healing sweet?"

"We were but iron He formed from  
dust,  
Asleep within the earth's hard crust.  
For your sins, Mary, we impale  
Him, your sins made us into nails  
That hold Him here. We did not choose  
To be put to this awful use."

Again did Mary raise her eyes.  
Unto the mocking crown she cried,  
"O vicious thorns stained with His  
blood,  
O evil branch that knows not love,  
He who ne'er had a thought impure  
Must now your agony endure.  
In this, His final earthly hour,  
How can you wound His holy brow?"

"I was a bush that chanced to grow  
Upon the road to Jericho.  
My thorny spines gave safety there  
To hunted mouse and timid hare.  
Fine roses bore I red as blood;  
I gave not mockery but love.  
'Twas your sins, Mary, cut me down  
And plaited me into this crown;  
Love's sign now turned to hate  
instead.  
Your sins placed me upon His head."

Once more did Mary raise her head  
In anguish. To the cross she said,  
"O cruel work, how can you bear  
My Lord to hang rejected there?  
Fit but for thieves and murd'ring  
men,  
Why hold you One who has no sin?"

"Once life I held within my breast;  
Birds came to me to build their nests.  
My branches then a shelter gave  
To beasts, and to men cooling shade.  
It never was my wish to be  
An instrument of cruelty."

Then Mary contrite bowed her head  
And pondered all that had been said.  
She knew the person she had been;  
She felt afresh her guilt and sin.  
Hers was the nail, hers was the sword,  
That had transfixed her dying Lord.  
Unto her Master, Mary cried,  
"It was for me You chose to die  
Upon the cross. Lord, I confess  
My sins are great and numberless.  
O Lord, 'tis more than I can bear  
To know 'twas my sins placed You  
there."

"Weep not, dear Mary," He replied.  
"My blood will your transgressions  
hide.  
I truly am God's only Son;  
The way to Heaven has been won  
Upon the cross. I chose to die  
That sinners through Me may draw  
nigh  
To God. Through my death I erase  
The hopelessness of Adam's race,  
Through my suff'ring you are made  
whole."

And His blest peace filled Mary's soul.

Our souls can know that same peace,  
too,  
Because He died for me and you.

—Marlene Moline  
Lansing, Iowa

(Ed. Note: The above poem is based upon a legend mentioned in an article by Mrs. Reuben Gunderson, Strandquist, Minn., in the Feb. 29, 1972, **Ambassador**.)

(Continued from page 8)

them home but they all wanted to come. They're all as cute as can be. Dona Alzira has accepted the Lord, but her husband many times won't let her go to church. He travels much of the time now so she is left alone to care for the children and at times the days get lonely. We visit and after bread and coffee are served to all (here the children are allowed to drink coffee) we have Scripture reading and prayer. This is what she seems to appreciate most.

One older lady who used to clap regularly at our gate was usually on her way to the store to buy this or that. She was very poor, so from time to time I would put into her sack rice, beans or sometimes a bar of soap. Brought up in a Christian home years ago she had memories of daily devotions around the table with her family. She married a non-Christian who until the day before her death would beat and mistreat her. She always wanted me to read the Bible to her and one favorite portion was the Twenty-seventh Psalm, which her mother had recited to the family just before she died. Dona Maria was waiting for the Lord to come and take her home, and not long ago He came.

Tomorrow, perhaps even today, there will be another clap at the gate. Pray that we might have the love, patience and wisdom to be a witness for our Savior, Acts 1:8.



20. On what basis did Peter make his statement, in verse 43?

Bear in mind Matt. 28: 18-20 and the Key Verse in our study.

21. Pick out the Gospel in verse 43.

22. What remarkable thing occurred, as revealed in v. 45?

23. Why were Peter's companions amazed? v. 45

24. What was the result of this outpouring of the Holy Spirit?

Peter's sermon is the first trumpet sound of the Gospel in the heathen world, and its great notes were: the personal Redeemer, the witnessing Church, and universal invitation. Jesus was more than a philanthropist. He was a propitiator; He was more than a reformer, being a redeemer. Never let that fact go by, for if you do, everything else goes with it that matters. There is no use in anyone preaching to anybody, who cannot preach the Christ who lived, the Christ who died, the Christ who lives again, and the Christ who can save anyone and everyone from sin now and forever.—Scroggie.

Peter was urged to remain for a while in Caesarea. News of the conversion of the Gentiles soon reached Jerusalem and the disciple there called Peter to account for the part that he had played in this. No one disapproved of his preaching to the Gentiles, but they took offense at his eating and being entertained by the Gentiles. Peter defended his actions as he rehearsed the whole story, recorded in Chapter 11. They needed to learn the lesson that Peter had learned from his recent vision, the great truth as found in 10:34. What is it?

Here again we have seen the marvelous work of the Holy Spirit. Is He being permitted to work in our lives, too?

Revive Thy work, O Lord!

And make Thy servants bold;

Convict of sin and work once more.

As in the days of old.

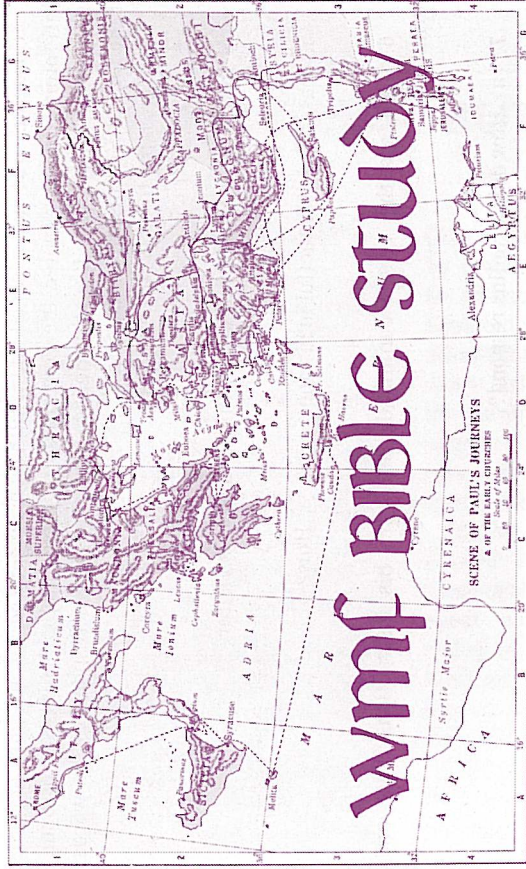
Revive Thy work, O Lord.

Come now and answer prayer;

O come in Holy Spirit power.

And save men everywhere.

—O. J. Smith



## STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

### Lesson 5 THE CHURCH CONTINUES TO MOVE FORWARD May, 1973

Read Chapter 10

In this chapter the scene shifts to Caesarea, the seat of the Roman governors in Palestine. The majority of its inhabitants were Greek, but Jews were allowed equal rights. Cornelius lived in this city and was in command of a century, that is 100 men in the Roman army, hence his official title of Centurion. These men had risen from lower ranks and were men of ability and good character. Read what is said about other centurions as found in Matt. 8:5-10 and Luke 7:2-9.

1. What commendable characteristics did Cornelius possess?

- (a)
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)

2. The experiences of Peter as recorded in this chapter are told by him in the following chapter (11). What is said about Cornelius in verse 11 of that chapter?



Cornelius was not a saved man, although sincere in his worship of God. Heretofore, we have noted the conversion of the Ethiopian minister, of Saul, and now of Cornelius, all godly men, but who needed to respond to the words of the Lord, "Ye must be born again."

3. Who came to visit Cornelius?

4. In what way was Cornelius commended by this visitor?

5. Was the visitor tactful in his approach? How?

6. What did the visitor command, and were his instructions clear and definite?

7. (a) How did Cornelius respond?

New light was to be revealed to Cornelius, and in his expectancy he sent to summon the messenger who would bring the Gospel message of salvation. Herein is disclosed the truth that this wonderful message is to be proclaimed by men to their fellowmen, and not by angel messengers. God, in His providential plan had brought Peter within reaching distance. Peter was not ready yet, but by the time the messengers were to arrive, he was prepared and willing.

(b) Whom may God have used to speak to Cornelius before this time? (8:40)

The messengers sent by Cornelius may have wondered how to approach Peter, but God had prepared a way for them, and God was also preparing Peter.

8. (a) Where was Peter and what was he doing?

(b) What might Peter have been praying about?

### GREAT MEN OF GOD ARE MEN OF PRAYER.

9. What happened to Peter?

To understand this vision, you might be interested in reading Leviticus

11:1-23.

10. (a) What was he commanded to do?

(b) Why wasn't he willing to obey?

11. (a) What did the voice say the second time?

(b) Did Peter recognize the voice? v. 14

12. (a) Who arrived on the scene at this time?

In God's economy there are no late time schedules, all is timed well. Before the vision, Peter would have been unwilling to accept the invitation from the Centurion; but by now, by the command of God, he had learned to accept all men as brothers, who have a desire to be transformed by the power of the Gospel. A Christian witness must be willing to testify before all men of every nation.

(b) While Peter was puzzling over the meaning of this vision, who spoke to him, giving him assurance?

13. What preparations had Cornelius made before the return of the messengers?

14. What was Peter's reaction when he was worshipped? v. 26

15. What is Peter's question, in verse 29?

16. Cornelius answers his question by relating his vision. Then he makes a request, what is it?

Verse 33 is one of the gems in the Word of God. Wouldn't it be wonderful, and a fine practice for us to come to our place of worship to hear "all the things that have been commanded thee of the Lord."

Only ten verses are recorded of Peter's sermon, a mere outline.

18. What great truth do you find in verse 34?

19. Whom does God accept? v. 35



# Here Are Some Ways to Go to the Annual Conference in Ferndale

## WAGONS HO!

### LET'S GO WEST TO FERNDALE

In '48 there was "gold in them thar hills." But, in '73 at the annual conference in Ferndale, June 13-17, there are jewels rich and rare from God's Word—the Mine. There will be some spiritual nuggets along the way, too, as some go by camper caravan.

The Lord willing we will meet at Fargo and leave there Saturday morning, June 9th. We plan to take the Highway 10 route (94 to Miles City and 90 the rest of the way). We will camp our first night in Miles City, Missoula the second, Vantage, Wash., the third, and arrive at Ferndale Tuesday afternoon.

If you are interested in this caravan, please contact Sheldon Mortrud or Bob Dietsche. We will then send you information on camping areas, where to make reservations, etc.

Sheldon Mortrud  
715 Tindolph Avenue S.  
Thief River Falls, Minn.  
Tel. (218) 681-3383

Bob Dietsche  
Sand Creek, Wis.  
Tel. (715) 658-1240

### PLANE TRIP TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE BEING STUDIED

The Co-ordinating Committee has asked Mrs. James C. Eletson of Duluth to check into the possibility of arranging a charter plane flight to the Annual Conference in Ferndale, Washington, June 13-17.

We can arrange for a 100-passenger DC-9, leaving Minneapolis on Monday, June 11, and returning to Minneapolis on Monday, June 18. There would be a stop in Fargo for passengers to board and embark, and the destination of the flight will be Bellingham, Wash., about ten miles from Ferndale. All of these plans are tentative and the quotation for round-trip per person is \$135.00. The regular plane rates for this trip would be between \$216 and \$260 per person.

Bus rates for the round trip from Minneapolis to Vancouver are \$92.15, requiring three days, at least, of travel, plus all the expense of meals and lodging, if you stop over along the way.

Of course, arrangements will have to be made for the possible parking of cars at headquarters and transportation to the airport in Minneapolis, as well as travel plans from Bellingham to Ferndale. These are all being checked out, but we did want to publicize the fact that a charter flight is being worked on, and to request all those who may be even slightly interested in this method of transportation to the Annual Conference to get in touch with Mrs. Eletson at 2130 East Superior Street, Duluth, Minnesota, 55812, immediately.

### GO BY BUS TO FERNDALE

An air-conditioned bus with restroom is available for a chartered round trip from Fargo, N. Dak., to Ferndale, Wash., for the Annual Conference, June 13-17. The minimum number of persons needed for such a trip is 33, costing approximately \$63.00 per person round trip, slightly less if a maximum of 39 passengers sign up.

In order to arrive at Ferndale at 8:00 a.m. Wednesday (in time for the WMF convention and committee meetings), two departure times are available:

1) Leave Fargo at 2:00 p.m. Monday, the 11th, and overnighting at Billings, Mont., before continuing on to Ferndale, or

2) Leave Fargo at 2:00 a.m. Tuesday, the 12th, and driving straight through with three one-half hour rest stops.

The bus would begin the return trip shortly after the conference ends on Sunday.

Since the charter must be placed one month in advance and payment must be made one week in advance, the following is suggested:

A) Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Robert Knutson, McVille, N. Dak. 58254, before May 10, with a \$10.00 deposit for each seat you wish to reserve.

B) State your preferred time of departure. 1) Leave Fargo at 2:00 p.m. Monday and overnighting in Billings before continuing on to Ferndale; or 2) Leave Fargo at 2:00 a.m. Tuesday and driving straight through with three one-half hour rest stops. It is understood that the time preferred by most people will be the one taken, so if you find the alternate time of departure unacceptable, please state it so in your letter.

Shortly after May 10, you will be notified by mail of any remaining details and a request for the remainder of the trip cost; or the ten dollar deposit you have made will be refunded if interest is not great enough or the departure time is not acceptable to you. This will allow sufficient time for you to make other travel arrangements.



### A GREETING FROM JESUS

Jesus has an Easter greeting for you to-day. The same greeting is brought you every Easter, though the wording of it may vary. This greeting is Christ's triumphant: "I live," It is meant for you. How shall you be able to derive any joy and blessing from the same? By pausing before the words which Jesus adds to this greeting: "Ye shall live also." I live, ye shall live also." Take this as a personal greeting to yourself from Jesus. Accept it in the same spirit as Mary accepted her greeting from the risen Lord. She hastened away to bring the Easter message to others. Do you follow her example, and bear the greeting that has come to you out into your daily life.

—F. Hammarsten



(Continued from page 5)

possible and the commonplace, why do we think it incredible that God can raise the dead to life? Why not rather accept the most glorious reality of all the ages: "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore" (Revelation 1:18).

(Continued from page 7)

after greeting many friends, admiring new clothes and commenting on the perfect weather for the day, they soon were on their way home. Home again to the chocolate candy, the stuffed animal, the friends, the comfortable clothes, the golf putter and the ham in the oven.

Oh yes, I almost forgot to mention it. What was the day this family was celebrating? It was Easter—RESURRECTION DAY. The day Jesus came forth from the grave after He had won the victory over sin, death and the power of the devil.

What will your Easter be like?

"Through Him you have confidence in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God." I Peter 1:21

"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep." I Corinthians 15:20

## GARDENS

God's gift of garden bright unfolds  
In zinnias and marigolds,  
In roses slow uncircling bloom,  
And mignonettes sweet wrought  
perfume.

The morning glory's tendrils creep  
Along the fence; four o'clocks sleep.  
Moss roses spill across the rock  
Beneath sunflower and hollyhock.  
sun smiles on the busy bee.

The wren scolds from the walnut tree.

There was a garden east of mine,  
Across the endless space of time,  
A garden sown by God's own hand,  
A garden for the joy of man.  
Far sweeter than mine was that one  
Beneath the new formed glowing sun.  
But man was not content to be;  
He wished himself a deity  
And went his wandering, sinful way  
As yet he does in our own day.

There was need of a garden then  
On a hill by Jerusalem.  
A garden where gnarled olive trees  
Unfurled their gray-green new spring  
leaves  
Above the wildflowers star bright  
bloom,  
A garden with a rock-cut tomb.  
A tomb says that man must die.  
An empty cross against the sky  
Proclaims the victory of Christ,  
The Lord of everlasting life.

—Marlene Moline  
Lansing, Iowa

## MANUDY THURSDAY

An echo of a Supper long ago  
Is heard in our small church again  
tonight.  
The moon that watched the Savior in  
His woe  
Looks down on fresh Gethsemanes  
today.

We, too, must walk our roads to  
Calvary,  
But, as with Christ, all we must face  
today  
Shall disappear when brighter Glory  
comes,  
Outshining travail in the plan of God.

—Rev. Edward A. Johnson, LCA  
Ohio, Nebr.

All preaching should be doctrinal,  
and all preaching should be practical.  
Charles G. Finney

It is evident that the standard of  
Christian living must be raised, or  
the world will never be converted.  
If we had as many church members  
now as there are families, and scat-  
tered all over the world, and a minis-  
ter to every five hundred souls, and  
every child in a Sabbath-school, and  
every young person in a Bible-class,  
you would have all the machinery you  
want, but if the church contradict the  
truth by their lives, it never would  
produce a revival.

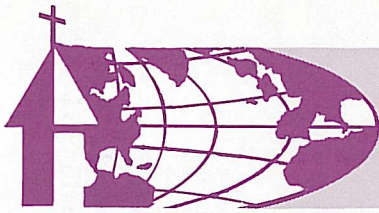
Charles G. Finney

# SEVENTH LUTHER LEAGUE FEDERATION CONVENTION

AT ASSOCIATION FREE  
LUTHERAN BIBLE SCHOOL

July 24-29





# CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

## THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

( ) In Sri Lanka (Ceylon), newspaper evangelism is currently an effective avenue of Christian outreach. Gospel advertisements pull in an average of 250 responses, mostly from youth who are dissatisfied with traditional religions. One evangelistic newspaper there has a circulation of nearly 400,000, the highest of its kind in all Southeast Asia.

( ) More students are taking religion courses than ever before at Temple, Penn State, Bryn Mawr, and other schools in and near Philadelphia. About 130 at Bryn Mawr are now studying religion, as compared with only 17 five years ago.

( ) Pray for missionaries in Zaire (Congo) and Chile. In Zaire a new rate of exchange has reduced missionaries' incomes as much as 40%, and in Chile prices have increased as much as 300%.

( ) The Protestant Church in South Viet Nam now numbers 100,000 and is preparing 20,000 more for baptism. Among the tribes, over 10,000 turned to Christ during the first half of 1972.

### TRIBUTE PAID TO FORMER CHURCH OF NORWAY PRIMATE

Oslo..(LC)—Large crowds processed quietly and gathered for funeral services on March 13 for the former Bishop of Oslo and primate of the Church of Norway, Johannes Smemo.

The prominent churchman, known for his pastoral quality, theological insight and administrative abilities, died on March 7. He was 74.

The late bishop headed the national Lutheran church from 1951-68. He was the successor to the late Bishop Eivind Berggrav, another renowned Norwegian church leader. The names Berggrav and Smemo stand among those of the most prominent members of the Norwegian church resistance movement against national

socialism during World War II.

Bishop Smemo was born in 1898 and ordained in 1925. After 10 years as a rural pastor he became rector of the Free Theological Faculty in Oslo—service interrupted during the war by his internment in a prison camp for a considerable period.

In 1947 he was appointed Bishop of Agder, with headquarters in Kristiansand, a post he held until he moved to the Oslo bishopric.

Bishop Smemo was a member of the Lutheran World Federation Executive Committee from the organization's founding in 1947 until 1957. From 1952-57 he was LWF Second Vice President. Also active in ecumenical affairs, he served from 1954-61 on the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches.

Dr. Sigurd Aske, Norwegian director of the LWF Broadcasting Service, represented the federation at the service.

### MISSOURI "PRO-LIFE" GROUP APPOINTS LCMS PRESIDENT TO BOARD

St. Louis, Missouri — Dr. J. A. O. Preus, President of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of Missouri Citizens for Life. The group is a statewide non-sectarian coordinating agency to promote the dignity of human life in Missouri, particularly concerning the abortion issue.

In announcing his appointment, MCL's Eastern Regional Chapter President Mrs. Frank C. (Mary Ann) Johaneck said, "We are most fortunate to have a man of Dr. Preus' knowledge and concern for human life on our board. His positive approach to the sacredness of man's existence will be a tremendous asset to our work."

The Missouri Citizens for Life aims to work closely with state and local government agencies, the General Assembly and members of the United

States Congress, to represent its interests.

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod stated its position on abortion in a resolution passed at its last biennial convention. In essence, it took a stand that abortion is contrary to the will of God, even in a world that from time to time finds it necessary to choose between one life and another.

Dr. Preus stated following his acceptance, "In view of the recent Supreme Court decisions which declare state anti-abortion laws unconstitutional, groups such as the MCL can do much in restoring the decisions of life and death to God." He also praised the efforts of Roman Catholic organizations dedicated to that purpose. The Archdiocese of St. Louis recently announced a major program to defend the Catholic point of view.

The complete text of the resolution passed by The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in 1971 reads:

WHEREAS, Life comes into being by an act that shares in the creation power of God Himself; and

WHEREAS, Human life is designed to inherit eternal life; and

WHEREAS, Life and death belong to the providence of God, and no person has the right to extinguish human life by a decision of his own, made apart from general precepts that express God's will; and

WHEREAS, The children of God are living in a fallen world; therefore be it RESOLVED, That the Synod regard willful abortion as contrary to the will of God; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Synod recognize that in a fallen world it becomes necessary at times to choose between one life and another; and be it further

RESOLVED, That if such a choice must be made by the children of God, they do so recognizing that it is neither our motives nor the necessity that justifies them before God, but only the grace and forgiveness



of God in Christ Jesus; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the members of the Synod remember to deal lovingly also with the offense of sinful abortion, "for where sin abounded, grace did much more abound."

### MICKELSON NAMED HEAD OF LUTHERAN COUNCIL

New York—(LC)—Arnold R. Mickelson of Minneapolis has been elected

president of the Lutheran Council in the USA.

Mr. Mickelson, 50, is the first layman to head the cooperative agency of the American Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Church in America and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Their combined membership represents more than 95 per cent of the nine million Lutherans in North America.

He is secretary of the ALC.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR  
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Minneapolis, Minn. 55427

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