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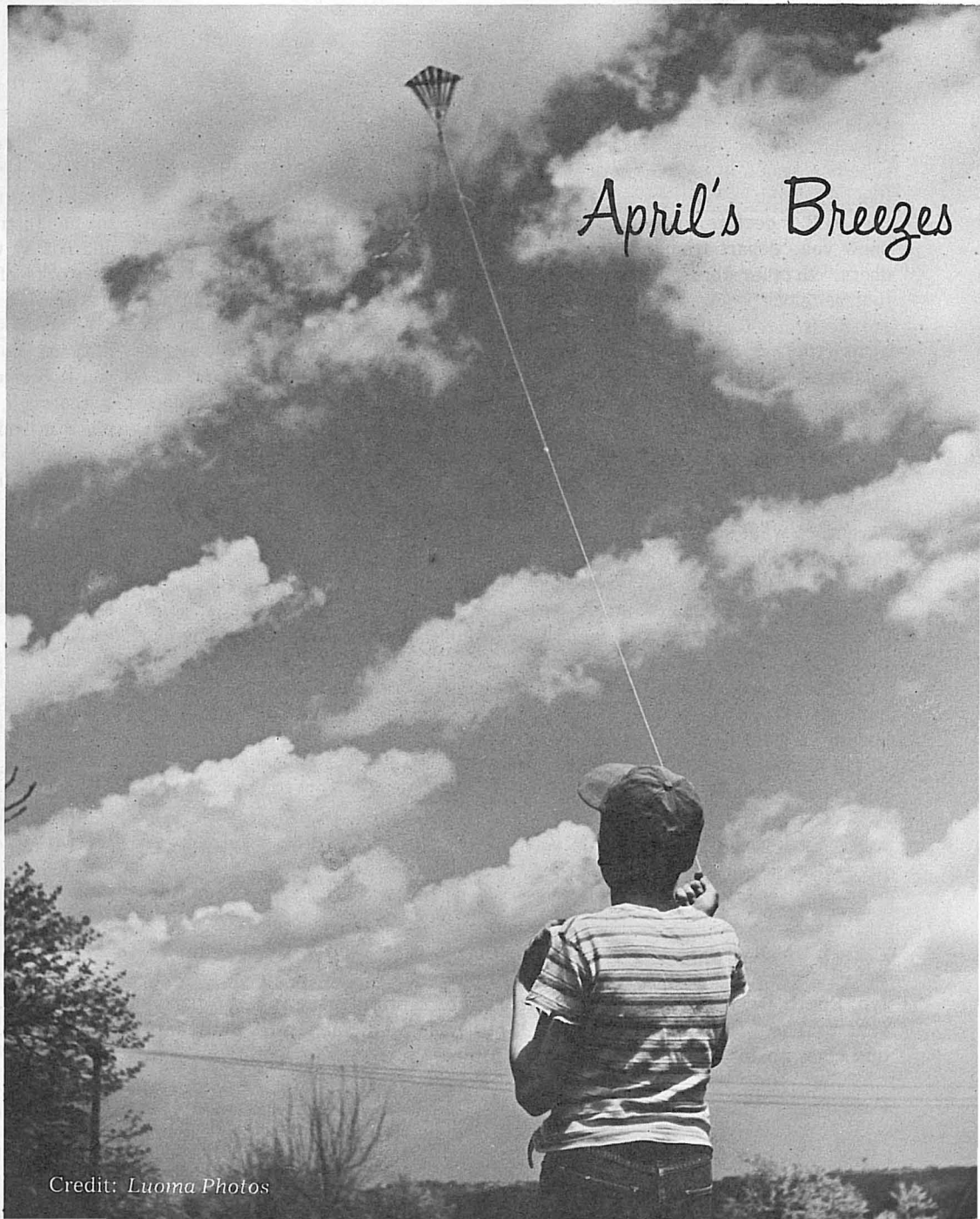
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April 1, 1969

No. 7

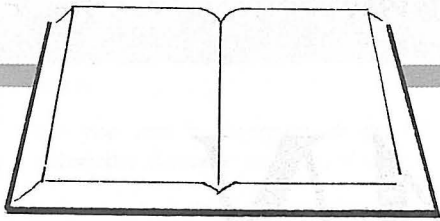
# *LUTHERAN*

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*April's Breezes*

Credit: Luoma Photos



## *According to the Word*

### ARE YOU SELF-DECEIVED?

Matthew 7:23

During the Lenten Season is a good time for us to take an individual spiritual inventory. In our text, Jesus makes a very startling statement, and when you consider that He is talking about religious people, it is even more startling. We read in Matthew 7:23, "And then will I declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you evil doers." In other words, Jesus is saying that religious work, which is done in the flesh and for the flesh, does not avail with God. Robert G. LeTourneau relates in his autobiography *Mover of Men and Mountains* how he learned this lesson.

He says he was walking around the house, "preoccupied with my problems when Sara, my sister, let me have it." "What's the matter with you, Bob? Don't you love our Savior?" "Of course I do, why?" "Well you don't act like it." LeTourneau looked at her in astonishment. "How can you say that, Sara? I teach the Young Men's Bible Class while Evelyn teaches Sunday school. We go to church every Sunday. I give a tenth of my income to the mission fund." "Yes, I know," responded Sara, "you have a list of good deeds, and as fast as you do them every week you check them off and say, now that that's over I can get back to work. Bob, that's not loving

Jesus. When you love Him, you'll want to serve Him, and you'll hunt for ways to do it."

The above related incident of Robert G. LeTourneau brought about a complete change in his life. His eyes had been opened. He was no longer self-deceived. Ignorance of the law is never an excuse whether this be in the temporal world or the spiritual world. The preacher Hosea declares, "Because thou has rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee" (Hosea 4:6). You cannot hide behind the excuse "I did not know." You had the opportunity to know. It is like refusing to have a medical examination. The fact that you thought you were all right does not eliminate the disease.

The Pharisees are the classic example of religious people who were completely deceived, thinking they were serving God, when in reality they were serving the devil. They prayed, they tithed, they evangelized, they fasted, and they engaged in social reforms. Inside they were corrupt. Nothing had changed. Greed, hatred, lust, deception, etc., reigned supreme. Their religion hardened them. It made Jesus Christ unwelcome. They were actors only. Nothing had transpired to give them a new birth.

How is it with you? Are you your own savior, or are you absolutely depending upon Jesus Christ as your only Savior? Are you pleading your own

goodness or His Sacrifice? When you plead your own righteousness you put Christ out of office. You deny His priesthood. You refuse His offering. You repudiate His place at the Father's right hand. And you refuse to accept the teaching of Scripture. In Galatians 2:16, we read: "A man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified."

Where do you find yourself as you measure yourself by the Word? Are you a new man or are you not? Has a thorough, complete change taken place in your life or has it not? Have you been deceived and fooled like the Pharisees in Jesus' day? Have you, or are you, depending upon your own righteousness, or Christ's righteousness? Have you committed your heart and life to Christ? Are you depending upon Him alone for your salvation?

One day, Thomas asked the most important question any one can ask, when he asked Jesus to show him the way to heaven. Jesus' answer was "I am the Way." He said, not "a" way, but "the" way, the "only" way. How about it, are you travelling on this straight and narrow road? If not, we trust you will, and that you will do it now.

—Marvin S. Undseth

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# The Holy Land Today

## Part I

Albin Hilding Fogelquist, Jr.

### The Beginnings

To a person reading a catalogue printed by Whitworth College, Spokane, Washington, Religion 300 (Study Tour: The Holy Land Today) was the title of just one of many courses. To those of us who had enrolled in Religion 300, it was more than a course—it became an experience.

Last autumn Whitworth's academic year was restructured from the traditional semester system to the new 4-1-4 plan. Two regular fourteen-week terms are held from September 15 to December 20 and from February 10 to May 25. During these terms a student takes a normal load of four full courses. During the "interim term," the month of January, the student takes a normal load of one full course. These interim term courses are so structured at the discretion of the instructor as to permit a wide range of independent study, experimental research, and imaginative learning conditions. Religion 300 was one of fifty-three such courses offered during the January term.

Preparation for Religion 300 began early in the regular autumn term. On October 15, 1968, thirty students met with Dr. and Mrs. David E. Dilworth, tour leaders. Dr. Dilworth, chairman of Whitworth's Department of Religion and former moderator of the Synod of Washington and Alaska (United Presbyterian Church in the USA), was eager to get the required studying and planning underway. Prior to departure the group met every two weeks until January and met daily during the first week of the January term. Studies consisted of lectures, discussions, assigned readings, individual oral presentations and a summary paper. The readings were from such varied books as *The Arabs*, *Treasures of Qumran*, *The Source*, *Politics in Israel*, *Biblical Archaeology* and *In the Holy Land*. All of these academic emphases were designed to prepare us for what we would see and experience on our trip.

For those of us who were taking the course for graduate credit, extra in-depth readings and a formal research paper were required. My research paper dealt with a comparison of the eschatological concepts of traditional Islam to those of the various Islamic sects.

All of our studies, however, were but a prelude to our living of the trip. January 14, 1969, the day of departure, had arrived. Spokane was blanketed in thirty-six inches of snow and gripped by -30 degree temperatures. Thirty students and six adults braved the snow and cold in order to meet at the Spokane International Airport. Somehow we could not believe that we were really ready to leave our homeland for lands, peoples, and cultures which defied even our wildest imaginations.

Northwest Orient Airlines Flight 71 left Spokane at 6:30 p.m. PST for Seattle, Washington. Waiting for the snow to be cleared from the landing field, our plane circled Seattle for an hour. As we spent several hours in a private lounge at the airport, little did we realize what our native country would mean to us. Suddenly it seemed as if we were caught up in a vast whirling cultural maze which defied any explanation save that of transition. From the time we left Seattle transitions and contrasts of every sort were thrust upon us. Somehow we never completely took these changes in a trite manner.

The most basic of these changes was the time change. We boarded Scandinavian Airlines System Flight 934 which departed January 14 for Copenhagen, Denmark, at 11:30 p.m. PST. Flying just south of the North Pole, we saw the sun rise and set within the time span of the nine-hour flight. We arrived in Copenhagen at 17:40 (5:40 p.m.) or 8:40 a.m. PST.

### Denmark

Copenhagen is an enchanting city—charming, old, modern, clean, and Lutheran. The city is steeped in the heritage of bygone days. We visited

the Helligaandskirke (The Church of the Holy Ghost), a stately cathedral built in 1538 and still manifesting the grandeur of the Danish phase of the Lutheran Reformation. Nearby in the heart of the city modern pre-fabricated apartment buildings were being completed. Quaint old shops dated from the seventeenth century. Modern department stores boasted of an *udsalg* (sale) on twentieth-century Danish-modern furniture.

Linking the monuments of past and present was the lifeblood of the Danish people—a courageous happy people whose welcoming smile made the traveler feel instantly "at home." The Danish people can well take pride in the compelling fact that Denmark had preserved past and present under a mantle of absolute cleanliness. Copenhagen, clean and polished, reflects the vitality of the Danes. Neatly ribboned with farms, houses and roads, the landscape of the countryside appeared as a panoramic patchwork quilt of intricate design. Although it was winter, no snow was visible.

By virtue of its heritage Copenhagen is a Lutheran city. The chimes in the townhall played hourly such familiar Lutheran hymns as "Kirken den er et gammelt hus," "Vor Gud han er saa fast en borg," "Behold os, Herre! ved dit ord." How thrilled I was when I heard those hymns: they were linking me with past, present, and future; with home and Copenhagen; with the Church Triumphant and the Church Militant.

"Behold os, Herre! ved dit ord, trods dine fjenders logn og mord, som styrte vil fra tronen ned din Son, vor drot i evighed."

Although many Danes are merely nominal Lutherans, much active Lutheran work is being carried on in Denmark. The Gospel is being brought to the sick, to the disturbed, to the lonely and to the outcast. The *evangelisklutherske Folkekirke* seems to be experiencing an awakening consciousness in the lives of some of its members. The Danes speak of the "folk church" and not of the "state church."

The American Lutheran Church carries on a ministry to English-speaking Lutherans in Copenhagen. "The American Lutheran Congregation of Copenhagen" is pastored by the Rev. Adolph Kloth, an American Lutheran Church pastor who had been ordained in the former United Evangelical Lutheran Church. Having written ahead to Pastor Kloth, I was fortunate in being able to meet and to talk with him. In his kindly and compassionate manner he related to me the story of his witnessing for Jesus to English-speaking Lutherans in Copenhagen. He told of how Danish Lutherans were once again discovering the truth that a primary element of living Christianity is the dynamic life of the congregation. The evangelical spirit of this dynamic congregational life is realized, in part at least, when the concern of the congregation is manifested to those whose lives need to be touched by the Gospel message of the Risen Christ. In order to be alive the Christian Church must minister to the needs of the people in each specific era in which the Church finds herself.

Pastor Kloth procured for me a copy of the Danish Lutheran hymnal, **Den Danske Salmebog**, and the music edition of the hymnal, **Den Danske Korallbog**. That night as I began to read these books after his departure, I became aware of the rich fabric of Christian devotion and concern which had so eloquently pervaded Danish hymnody.

## Rome

Compelled by time to leave the Copenhagen which we had instantly grown to love, we prepared to fly to Rome. As we contemplated our trip to Rome, we thought of Paul's preface statements in his epistle to the Christians at Rome. "Let me begin by thanking my God, through Jesus Christ, for you all, because all over the world they are telling the story of your faith... For I long to see you; I want to bring you some spiritual gift to make you strong; or rather, I want to be among you to receive encouragement myself through the influence of your faith on me as of mine on you" (Romans 1:8, 11, 12 NEB). Paul spoke about the simple child-like

faith of the Roman Christians. He longed to fellowship with them because of their common bond of faith. This strong saving faith was a characteristic of the early Christian congregation at Rome.

But the Church of Rome which we saw was a church burdened by the traditions of and shrines to past centuries. Four hundred eighty-nine Roman Catholic churches dotted every corner of Rome's landscape; "other churches" numbered only eighty-eight. Our guide, a man seasoned with a pleasant humor, proudly extolled the virtues and the glories of the Roman Catholic Church which he stressed as being "the Mother Church of all Christians." While showing us the cathedrals of the past, he quietly assured us that the day ultimately would come when Christians would acknowledge the pope as "Christ's regent" on earth, for the pope, he said, was "the successor to St. Peter, the first pope."

We toured Capitol Hill, the Roman Forum, Palatine Hill, the Imperial Fora, the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, the Colosseum, the Church of St. Peter in Chains, the Borghese Gallery and Museum, the Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon, Janiculum Hill, St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City, the Basilica of St. Mary Major, the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the Appian Way, the Domine Quo Vadis, and the catacombs.

Amidst the past glory and material wealth of Rome stands the ironic poverty of many of Rome's people. In many instances these people have remained devoted to Roman Catholicism.

The religious system of Roman Catholicism several centuries ago became a target of "the Great Reformer," Dr. Martin Luther. While in Rome we saw the chapel housing the "original" steps which Pontius Pilate is alleged to have walked with Jesus before Pilate's acclamation "Ecce homo!" These steps, found in the middle of the fourth century A.D. by the Empress Helena, are claimed by the Roman Catholic Church to be authentic, despite the fact that all of Jerusalem, whence these steps of Pilate came, had been destroyed by Emperor Titus in A.D. 70. And yet these steps have by papal decree been able to

grant indulgences to those who have climbed these steps on their knees and who have repeated "Hail Marys" and "Our Fathers" while on each step.

Luther climbed these same steps and rebelled against the superstitious traditions of papal Rome. Ironically, nearly four hundred fifty-two years after the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation, we could still see devout Catholics clinging to their traditions and still climbing these steps.

In the midst of Rome a small Lutheran congregation, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, ministers to a group of German Lutheran diplomatic personnel living in Rome. The pastor flies down on weekends to Rome from Germany where he is studying. The outreach by and the opportunities for this small congregation are limited. Protestantism is for the minority of the Italian people.

Amidst the often decaying external grandeur and apparent internal poverty of Rome we kept thinking upon the words which Paul had written to the early Roman Christians. "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel. It is the saving power of God for everyone who has faith—the Jew first, but the Greek also—because there is revealed God's way of righting wrong, a way that starts from faith and ends in faith; as Scripture says, 'he shall gain life who is justified through faith'" (Romans 1:16, 17 NEB). Paul's thought later was destined by God's grace to become the foundation upon which the doctrines of Lutheranism were to be built.

## Beirut

As we left Rome on Saturday evening, our feelings were mixed. Four hours after our departure, we were glad to be in Beirut, Lebanon. In Beirut we were to find that both a dynamic Prebyterianism and a growing Lutheranism are witnessing to those who adhere to Islam.

On the Lord's Day we worshipped as a group in the National Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Beirut. Dr. Dilworth preached on Ephesians 3:1-12. I suddenly became aware of the stark simplicity of the church building in which we found ourselves. A

[Continued on page 10]



## HOME MISSIONS

### OUR VISIT TO THE MISSION AT NOGALES

by Pastor and Mrs. Melvin Walla

Psalm 2:8 says, "Ask of me and I will give thee the nations for thine inheritance."

Souls are very precious in God's sight and He has told us they can be our inheritance in eternity. A heathen is a soul without Christ and that can be the man next door or the one across the border in another country. When this becomes a reality to us through the indwelling Holy Spirit in our lives we, too, will seek them for our inheritance.

For a number of years we have been interested in and had a part among the work among Mexican people.

At one time we were privileged to have native Mexican pastors in our home for a number of days. Though we could not communicate except through an interpreter we enjoyed rich fellowship together. From that time on it has been our desire to visit the missions on the border and the work carried on in Mexico. This was realized when we spent most of the month of January, 1969, doing just that. Taking our little trailer house and leaving Thief River Falls, Minn., on Jan. 7 and heading south on No. 81 seemed almost ironical as the further south we went the more snow we encountered. After driving for two blustery days through South Dakota and Nebraska we drove out of "winter" and into milder temperatures. The day before we arrived in Laredo, Texas, it had been 90 degrees. The "cold wave" reached the southland and the temperatures were in the 70's during the day and 40's at night. It was "cold" to them but felt good to us.

After spending a wonderful week at

a mission at Laredo, Texas, we drove to Nogales where our mission of the AFLC is located. Here we spent another wonderful week.

At the time we came, Harold Peterson from Valley City, N. Dak. was visiting there. Before we left the Engbretson brothers from Webster, S. Dak., came to visit. Mr. and Mrs. Lee Haag and their two boys are again spending the winter at the mission helping with the work in many ways.

We wish that each of our Association members could visit this mission. Not only to get warmed up physically, which was a real treat in the month of January but also to be warmed spiritually by the brethren in Triumph Lutheran Church, those across the border in Mexico, and by the missionaries and their helpers.

The mission grounds not only provide a home for the Dynnesons and the Swansons who live there but also for the many other missionaries of the World Mission Prayer League and denominations who must come and go out of Mexico to renew visas and rest. This makes for a good bond of Christian fellowship.

It was a joy to attend Sunday School, morning worship, annual meeting of the congregation, Sunday evening service, mid-week Bible Study, the Sunday afternoon class conducted by the Swansons in Mexico, Ladies Aid, fellowship meeting in the home of a Christian man and his family in Mexico where a large number were gathered each Thursday eve asking for someone to come and bring them the Gospel—all hungry for the Word. What a privilege to share with them this wonderful gift in Christ that is ours. I also visited, together with Pastor Dynneson, a young man in the jail whom he had led to Christ and

who sought baptism. This was done and witnessed by Mr. Peterson and Mr. Haag. All of these things cause us to ask ourselves if in many of our congregations where there is such indifference among many members to hear the Gospel, if we haven't heard so much we don't care to hear any more—there is no hunger. Here we have wonderful opportunities, nice churches and abundance of everything while others beg for the Living Word and there is no one to give it to them.

Let us uphold our missionaries on the border and in Mexico, where there is so much spiritual darkness, and spiritual as well as physical poverty that they may have strength to carry on, and renewed vision day by day. We want to give God thanks first of all for providing our every need, watching over us through storms and ice and traffic, then to the congregations for letting us go at this time, and not least to the missionaries and the brethren in Christ for the fine fellowship we enjoyed at Nogales. Let us not fail God nor the Mission.

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### TRIP TO MAZATLAN, MEXICO

We would like to share with you our experiences on a trip to Mazatlan, Mexico. Some weeks ago we had the privilege of going with Marjorie Stromberg to her mission field, nearly eight hundred miles into Old Mexico.

We left from Nogales, Arizona. The first day of travel we found the country much like southern Arizona, but the second day the desert changed to agricultural farm land. Irrigation systems had been put into use extending fifty or sixty miles. It was wonderful to see. Such rich looking soil and such straight, exact rows of vegetables.

We traveled through many big cities and saw beautiful buildings and parks. There were foodstands on the street corners where you could buy fresh oysters, corn-on-the-cob, and oranges flavored with red pepper. We found the Mexicans to be friendly people, polite and helpful, and strikingly good-looking.

We had the privilege to see and hear first hand the joys, sorrows and problems of our missionaries in dark Mexico. There are no Lutheran churches

*[Continued on page 14]*

## HOW FAR IS SPACE?

by Rev. R. S. Persson  
Bethany Lutheran Church

The Psalmist David wrote, "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him?" (Ps. 8:3-4).

It was a most pleasant surprise to Christians and Bible lovers to learn that our astronauts had remembered to pack their Bibles on their trip to the moon. Actually, it was through a Gideon who prayed that they would take a Bible along into space. The Gideons are those wonderful businessmen who endeavor to have the Bible cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

Surely such was the most lengthy reading of Scripture in terms of space. It can be said that as far as man has ventured, the Word of God has travelled also. Though, of course, in the vastness of space such a distance is indeed infinitesimal in view of the fact that the earth and moon are scarcely a speck in the ocean of space. Assuming that man could travel at the speed of light, his life span would not be long enough to traverse a fragment of the endless and infinite expanse of space which is billions of light years away.

Possibly David never envisioned someone going to the moon, but he had awareness of something greater — that there was God and that God was mindful of man. Further that man was crowned with glory and honor. Now where did David get such an idea? Not from watching the stars but from the infallible Word of God. The Bible, which is our guide book, is, "a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path."

We need our horizons enlarged — we need the Word of God. Actually our Bibles are further in space than the moon if they lie unused on the end table or only as a display on a frontroom table. That Bible is meant to give us light and life.

"But what saith it, the Word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth and in thy heart, that is the Word of faith, which we preach" (Rom. 10:8). And through that word we are aware of God's

mindfulness of our greatest need in the "so great a salvation" that is offered unto us.

—The Daily Astorian

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## THE AMBASSADOR GOES MODERN, EMPLOYS COMPUTERIZATION

This is the third issue of **The Lutheran Ambassador** to be printed by means of a new Photon Textmaster Phototypesetting machine and tape perforating machine. This revolutionary method combines the latest in electronic, photographic and computer technology.

Bethany Fellowship, Inc., our printers, list these new advantages in this new equipment: increase typesetting speed, help hold rising costs in line by increasing efficiency, improve quality of typesetting, greater versatility in sizes and styles of type, and some new types are made available.

Basically, instead of type being set by a lineotype using lead, the copy for the **Ambassador** is perforated on a tape. The phototypesetting machine then translates the tape perforations into alphabet letters again and they are exposed on a negative, which in turn will eventually be reproduced through offset printing.

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## PREACHING MISSIONS

GRAFTON, N. DAK.

April 6-13 (no service on the 9th)

Bethel Lutheran Church

Gerald F. Mundfrom, pastor

Speaker: Rev. Edwin Kjos, Roseau, Minn.

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## GEORGE SOBERG MEMORIAL

Members of Medicine Lake Lutheran Church at a recent meeting approved a resolution establishing an organ fund in memory of Pastor George Soberg. It is believed that because of Pastor Soberg's wide circle of friends, and because of his great contribution to the work of the Association, there will be many outside the membership of the congregation who will desire to have a share in this

memorial tribute. Gifts may be sent to Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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## ORDINATION SERVICE HELD IN MCINTOSH

Mr. Orville T. Olson, pastor of Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, McIntosh, Minn., Calvary Lutheran Church, Fosston, Minn., and Trinity Lutheran Church, McIntosh, was ordained into the ministry of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations in a service at Mt. Carmel on Sunday, March 2.

Rev. John Strand, Minneapolis, Minn., president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, was the ordainer and preached the sermon. Pastors who assisted were Julius Hermunslie, Fergus Falls, Minn., Dale Battleson, Bagley, Minn., Marvin Undseth, Shevlin, Minn., and David Molstre, Grand Forks, N. Dak.

Rev. Olson was then installed as pastor of the McIntosh parish. He had previously served the Greenbush, Minn., parish in the Association.

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## UNTO THE LEAST OF THESE

Christ Jesus, bless and break this bread,

As you have done before;

Then let me gather up the crumbs

To feed those crushed by war.

Please bless my small potato patch

With just a few more sacks;

For those whose fields are strewn with graves,

Whose homes are blackened shacks.

Please help my cow give richer milk

For the orphans by the score:

More food for those who cannot fight—

Yet share the toils of war.

Dear God, please help each grain I sow

To be a fertile seed;

With victory comes a starving world—

People you'd have us feed.

Mrs. Tilda Landsverk

Fosston, Minnesota

# MEET

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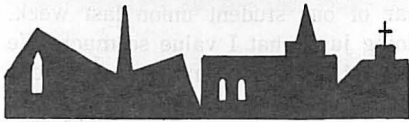
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# Churches

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# OF OUR

# FELLOWSHIP



## TODAY: ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Cloquet, Minnesota

The beautiful new church of St. Paul's Lutheran congregation in Cloquet, Minn., was the site of the 1968 AFLC Annual Conference. It was completed in 1967, the first service being held on Thanksgiving Day. The church is located at Wilson Avenue and 18th St. The new high school in Cloquet has been built near St. Paul's.

The first church building of the congregation, which was begun in 1889 and incorporated in July, 1898, was at Avenue F and 10th St., and was built in 1903. In 1911 this church was remodelled, electric lights installed and new altar built. The famous Cloquet fire of Oct. 12, 1918, destroyed

this structure. Following that misfortune services were conducted in the YMCA until 1925 when a basement church was built. A superstructure was added later and dedicated on July 18, 1925. That building, on 10th St., served St. Paul's until the new church was erected in 1967.

St. Paul's was organized as a Sumoi Synod congregation. With the other churches of her synod, St. Paul's became a member of the Lutheran Church in America, June, 1962. That merger had also involved the Augustana Synod, the United Lutheran Church of America and the American Evangelical Lutheran Church. On March 3, 1965, the congregation voted to disassociate from the LCA and to join the AFLC. Release from the LCA came in June of that year and affiliation with the Association was formalized thereupon.

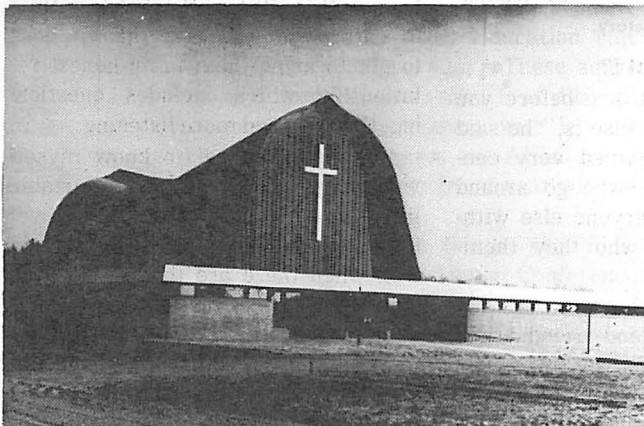
Pastors who have served St. Paul's over the years are: John Nissinen, 1889; William Williamson, 1890; Henry Tanner, 1891; Henry Sarvela, 1892-1909; Kalle Kusisto, 1909-11; Solomon Illmonen, 1910; Kalle Klokarla, 1910-12; Adolph Riipa, 1913; Matt Pesonen, 1913; Matt Kortesmaki, 1914; Jacob Mantta, 1915; Antti Immonen, 1915-19; Antti Lepisto, 1923-24; Evert Torkke, 1925-26; M. E. Merijarvi, 1926; F. W. Kaskinen, 1927-31; Douglas Ollila, Sr., 1931-38; Eino Tuori, 1938; Matt Rouhoniemi, 1941-43; Onni Kononen, 1944-46; W. I. Ylonen, 1946-51; Oliver Hallbery, 1951-56; Carl J. Tamminen, 1956-58; and the present pastor, Herbert L. Franz, 1960—.

St. Paul's conducts a radio ministry each Sunday morning. The broadcast

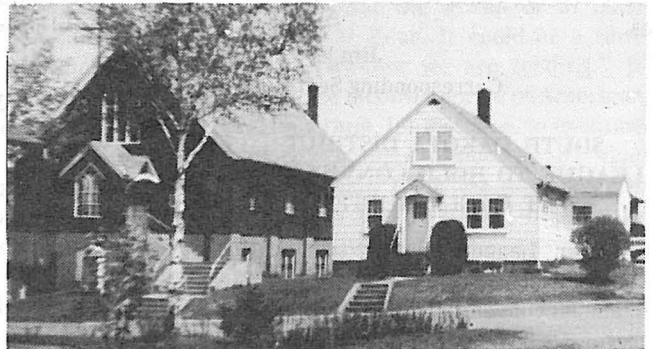


Herbert L. Franz, the pastor of St. Paul's Church, served congregations at Eben Junction, Skandia, Trenary and Munsing, Mich., before coming to Cloquet. A native of Dollar Bay, Mich., he was in the service during World War II, spending some time in Germany. His higher education was received at Biarritz American University in France, Northern Michigan University and Suomi College, from which he was graduated. He was graduated from the Suomi Seminary and ordained in 1955. Mr. Franz' wife is the former Sylvia Lahikainen, who grew up across the street from him in Dollar Bay. The couple has three sons, Dean, 20, a college student, Richard, 16, and Peter, 11. Pastor Franz had conducted many evangelistic missions since his ordination.

is not only carried locally but also by tape stations in Kalispell, Mont., Fargo, N. Dak., Sioux City, Ia., and Aitkin and Roseau, Minn.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church



The parsonage, right, for St. Paul's congregation will soon be replaced by a new one. This one was built in 1934. It stands next to the old church building which was vacated in favor of the new one. The parsonage is on 10th St.



# Luther League Activities

Edited by Jane Thompson

## YOUTH SUNDAY OBSERVED AT FERNDALE

The Triumph Luther League, Ferndale, Washington, sponsored a youth Sunday on January 26th, featuring a morning worship service conducted by the youth. Members of the Luther League shared in various parts of the service. There were several vocal numbers, including a teenage chorus, an appropriate reading, and a message on the subject "The Years That Count."

Youth Sunday activities continued with a rally at 7:30 p.m., featuring the film, "I Hear a New Song." The rally opened with a singspiration led by Pastor Erickson. Special guests were the MUNETTES THREE, a girls trio from the Ferndale area, who presented several vocal numbers. Refreshments were enjoyed following the rally. Despite a blustery January Sunday, there was a good attendance. In addition to the youth of Triumph, there were visiting youth from other churches.

Jim Erickson  
Corresponding Secretary

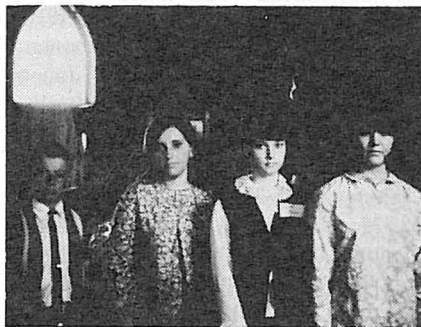
## SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT LEAGUE TO HOLD CONVENTION AT EAGLE BUTTE

Luther Leaguers from the South Dakota District of the AFLC will meet in annual convention at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Eagle Butte, S. Dak., on April 18-20. Rev. A. L. Hokonson is the pastor and also pastoral advisor of the district league.

A social hour and devotional period

will open the convention on Friday evening. The final session will come on early Sunday afternoon.

At the business meeting on Saturday afternoon the leaguers will discuss and vote upon a constitution for their organization. A proposed one has been drawn up by a committee from the Lake Region Parish of the district.



Pictured left to right are four of the officers of the South Dakota District Luther League: Earl Maier, Eagle Butte, treasurer; Ann Wall, Eagle Butte, secretary; Joan Olson, Faith, vice-president; Debbie Griffith, Faith, president. Not pictured: Debbie Iverson, Faith, devotional life secretary.

## WHO AM I?

"Find out who you are before you decide who everyone else is," he said emphatically. He seemed very concerned about people who go around trying to analyze everyone else without really knowing who they themselves are.

He started me thinking.

And then a very good friend asked me this week, "Jane, do you really know me?"

Again the thought processes began.

The idea of knowing others as well

as I think I know myself thrills me. Knowing just what makes another person want to live is exciting, super-personal and yet so difficult. Sitting down with another human being and sharing little by little what makes me want to live gives me the goose-bumps, literally. I'm so anxious that this person, who seems really interested in me, be rewarded for this interest with an intangible piece of me.

I sound egotistical, don't I? Well, I am.

My roommate and I sat in the snack-bar of our student union last week, doing just what I value so much. We were sharing what makes us tick: love of life, of persons, of emotions and of God. We finally hit on this idea of person-to-person relationships, categorizing people, honesty, and true interest in other people.

On each count we found that we were guilty of trying to fit people in slots, and of being so interested in what we ourselves had to say that we missed half of the conversation. Our thought processes often included that fatal thought, "What can I say now that will be interesting to this person?" rather than, "What is this person trying to tell me about himself?"

Now that I've had a chance to think over the idea that perhaps I am much more anxious that others know why I am happy on a particular day than I am curious about their feelings, I can see why the comments of the previous week came home to me so clearly.

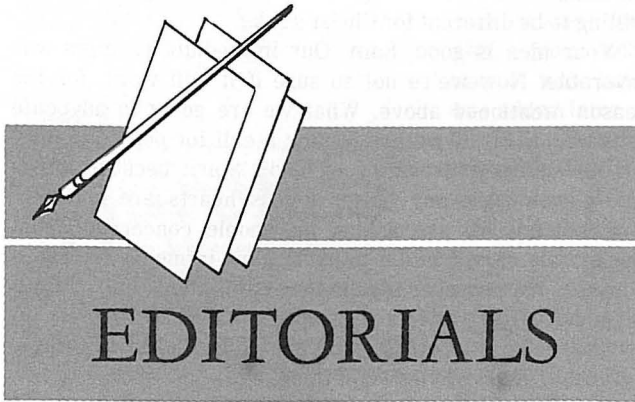
Time plays a factor in getting to know a person, I admit, but still that can be a false excuse if I do not use that time to the best advantage when I am with a person. It takes less time to categorize a person than it does to get to know them in an honest relationship which includes questioning, listening and more listening.

And how do I get to know myself well enough so I will feel comfortable in getting to know others? Do I yet have the equipment to know others well when there are things that I do which puzzle me, frustrate and anger me? Should I spend more time getting to know myself before I venture out in other-person relationships?

I think there is a two-part answer

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### TIME FOR DECISION

Now after six years of existence the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations must take the most sober look that it has concerning the finances of the church fellowship.

This becomes most obvious in looking at the final report for the last fiscal year, 1968-69 (*Ambassador*, March 4). That report indicates a substantial disparity between the proposed budget and contributions from the congregations and interested individuals.

Fortunately, these missing receipts did not leave the Association agencies in too bad shape. That may signify that budget figures have been shaded a little higher than necessary. Another explanation is that the church has been operating without all of the personnel which had been envisioned when the budget was adopted. Be that as it may, the AFLC ended the fiscal year with little funds to go on and extra expenses in the first month of the new fiscal year (February) drained those monies and has made it necessary to borrow from other funds. Anyone should be able to discern that this situation cannot continue.

The facts of life, furthermore, are that before this present year is out we expect to have this added personnel in the Association: three couples on the World Mission payroll instead of one; perhaps two more persons employed in secretarial and business office work in Minneapolis; one or two more full-time faculty members serving the Seminary and Bible School; and a part-time executive secretary in the Department of Parish Education (the position has been vacant for almost a year). These added workers meet only minimum requirements. It is difficult to see how the Association can get along with less. It all means that with these new workers the AFLC could not afford to come to the end of another fiscal year without meeting the budget in full.

For the present we mention three things, yea, four, to keep in mind. The first, this year's Annual Conference must be as realistic as possible. Members of the conference should come prepared to take a careful look at the finances of the church and budget requests. Members must resist the temptation to let emotion sway them to propose goals that may frankly be out of reach (witness last year's conference).

Two, some way must be found to interest all the congregations in the need to support the General Fund of the church. It is good and well to have other special interests but if the administration of the whole fellowship is neglected the other agencies cannot long stand either. If anyone has doubts about the needs existing in the area of secretarial and business office help let him investigate the situation.

Three, a meeting has been held involving a number of the Boards of the church to discuss finances. Out of that meeting has come a plan to prepare some new visual aids which will help to explain the needs to the people of the Association. This is being done in the belief that if the church members are aware of the program of the Association, they will provide the means necessary to carry it out. This is not to say that the needs haven't been presented before. They have, but this will be another effort in that regard, hopefully something which congregations can take home and use in the local churches.

And fourth, there must be a greater prayer base in the Association. If we believe our program is given us by the Lord, then let us pray that He will enable us to support it adequately. If we have run ahead of God, may we come to know that. But certain it is that this is a time for both prayer and giving.

### GEO-MORAL YEAR

Humorist-philosopher Sam Levinson, author of the best-seller *Everything But Money*, has proposed that every tenth year a "Geo-Moral Year" for the discussion of the subject of morality be declared. He makes the suggestion in a new book about to be published.

Mr. Levinson takes the idea from the scientific world which uses "Geo-Physical" years to promote extensive research in scientific matters. "Geo" is a reference to earth, meaning perhaps "of the earth."

While not out of the Christian tradition, Sam Levinson has said and written some things which have struck hard at today's permissive society. Reared in a strongly moral Jewish family, he has been left bewildered at the equally bewildered devotees of the "new morality." Why, asks Mr. Levinson, when so much has been invented and developed to make life better, is it worse? He himself was raised in a New York ghetto!

We kind of like the idea that the world, or at least our country, have a Geo-Moral Year. It could be a time in which to take stock of "whither we are tending." It could be a time to ferret out the inconsistencies of American culture and life. It could be a time, for instance, to examine the relationship between censorship and morality. At what point does society have the right to police itself against the rotten filth which pollutes the mind, or, to put it in another way, what responsibilities does free speech have toward the morals of society?

It has been good to see that some concern is being expressed over the pollution of minds and morals as well as over the pollution of air and water. Some attention is being given to TV programming, particularly in the area of violence, but this may overflow to other areas as well.

But come to think of it, this Geo-Moral Year thing may suffer a fate worse than death if some of the present day theologians get into the act. They can take something obscure and make it obvious or vice versa. They can make something round look square. Sometimes a person wonders if he's reading the same Bible as they are. Yes, it's hard to say what they'll do in the free-for-all discussions of a Geo-Moral Year.

The need for today is for revival among Christians and awakening among the spiritually dead. This is what we must pray and work toward. Only a turning unto God through Christ will stem the drift toward moral chaos. Perhaps the U.S. Congress on Evangelism in Minneapolis next September will be a significant step in rebirth and renewal. Let us pray that it will be. Let us pray that

Christians will be willing to stand their ground and be willing to be different for Christ's sake.

Your idea is good, Sam. Our immediate reaction was favorable. Now we're not so sure if it will work, for the reason mentioned above. What we are going to advocate is two-fold. First, we are issuing a call for people to pray for the divine intervention of God's Spirit because things really won't get any better unless hearts are changed. And second, we are asking all people concerned about the morals of our nation to exert their influence for righteousness by whatever means they can, letters to congressmen, boycotts, protests to people engaged in business affecting morality, setting good examples, supporting those who are trying to do the right thing, etc.

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to this question. From my own experience, I've found out much about myself just by watching myself in action with other people. But the biggest factor in my knowing other humans has been my long, close look at my relationship to Christ, whose friendship gives me limitless examples of the supreme in understanding and loyalty.

Without that look at myself in comparison to Christ, I would think that those petty, cutting comments I make are clever, that my selfishness is independence and that my pride is self-respect. If I did nothing about myself in the light of Christ's goodness, I would have a pretty helpless feeling. But, now that I have taken for myself what He has offered to me in His death and resurrection, the comparison is no longer so frustrating. The unity I've acquired with God through Christ's work has formed the basis upon which to build human relationships.

Categorizing no longer seems satisfying. There has to be more probing, caring, and listening when people no longer have their slots. I myself do not fit into the slot I once chose for myself. That scares me at first until I realize that I am fortunate to be more complex than I once thought myself to be.

No, I can't thoroughly know myself before I attempt to find out who others are, but finding myself as a whole

#### LUTHER LEAGUE CONVENTION HELD AT FERTILE

The North Central District Luther

League held their fall conference on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 16 and 17, 1968. Host leaguers were from the Maple Bay Lutheran Church of rural Fertile. Forrest Swenson, AFLC Seminary, was host pastor.

On Saturday the opening morning session began with a singspiration led by district Vice President Bruce Klepp of Bagley. A meditation was brought by Seminarian Gary Skramstad. He shared Isaiah 50:7-10 with us. If God is for us who can be against us! If it is God who has given us salvation what have we to fear? Are we defeated Christians or are we conquerors?

Following the noon meal, the business meeting was held with President Dean Franz of Cloquet presiding. Main business consisted of election of three officers for two-year terms. Bruce Klepp was re-elected vice president. Elaine Peterson was elected secretary and Linda Moan was elected devotional life secretary.

The rest of the afternoon was spent in recreation at the Fertile High School gymnasium. Following recreation we all gathered at the church for singspiration led by Linda Moan and a lovely banquet which was served by the ladies of Maple Bay Lutheran Church.

Prior to the evening service an informal time of sharing was led by Gary Skramstad.

The evening youth rally began with singing led by Association Bible School students. They furnished us with special musical numbers by an octet and a quartet. "Face The Music," a Youth Films Production, was the main feature of the evening. After the

film the Bible School students closed the program with an appropriate song, "Are You Saved?"

On Sunday morning Lyle Twite from Cloquet led an interesting Bible study discussion group. The morning message, which was also the closing one of the conference, was brought by Gary Skramstad. His theme was "We Are More Than Conquerors." This song was then sung by the Bible School octet.

We trust that each one who attended received a blessing from some part of the weekend and that each one left with the realization that we can be more than conquerors through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**LEAGUERS NOTE: Decision magazine is sponsoring a contest, "Why I Believe In God." The deadline is Sept. 1 and the limit is 800 words. Start putting some thought into this and then put it down on paper. The first prize is a trip to Israel!**

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[Continued from page 4]

bouquet of chrysanthemums stood at the foot of a large, barren wooden cross.

The simplicity of this Presbyterian Church attested to the Gospel's centrality of the completed work of Christ on Calvary's cross. Jesus Christ had died to save sinners such as I. Jesus Christ had risen from the dead. By grace through faith I am an heir of heaven.

(To be continued)

# What Are You Reading?

## WHAT ARE YOU READING?

by T. L. Sand, Spicer, Minnesota

Today on the newsstands and in other public places we find racks filled with reading material for our youth and older folk which has an appeal to the human mind. Some of it is good, but too much of it is Satan-inspired and we, as members of our beloved Association, need to fill our minds with the blessed Word of God of which the Psalmist says: "Wherewith shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to Thy Word." "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." "Forever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in heaven" (Psalm 119:9, 105, 89). Surely the Psalmist had, by experience, found that God's blessed Word stood the test, for it has the answer to the need of the human heart and gives guidance to every seeking soul who is willing to plead bankruptcy as far as good works are concerned, and come as a lost sinner to the foot of the cross. We, who, by His grace, have begun to walk the "narrow way" must fill our hearts and minds every day with the antidote to the many evils about us, yes, even in our homes via television these days. May you, dear Christian parents, be firm in your demands as to what your children hear and see! We shall have to answer to God about who is the custodian of our television sets. Is it Mom and Dad or the children?

Lead your family into the adventuresome Scriptures. There we find clean, exciting, heroic stories written several thousand years ago but which are just as relevant to the twentieth century and will thrill and challenge your heart and soul as well as that of your family.

Point the young people to the most beautiful love story ever recorded if their problem is that of choosing a life-mate. I refer to the story of how the choice of a wife for Isaac was prayerfully and completely committed to the guidance of the Lord (Gen. 24). Oh, that young people would always consider the will of God in this tremendously important step in life! II Cor. 6:14-18 should help every Christian young person to decide what is God's will and would mean the difference, in many cases, between a "heaven on earth" which is God's plan for every Christian's home, or unhappiness and a lifetime of discord. Yes, God's Word has the answer if we seek it there.

If your children want stories of great men who surmounted tremendous obstacles, lived in close fellowship with the Lord, demanded loyalty and obedience to God of their subjects, and in answer to believing prayer seas and rivers were divided and their armies and people crossed over on dry land, they can find them in the Bible. General Joshua even had faith to ask God to make the sun to stand still so the day would be prolonged in order that he could win the victory over the enemy, for it was God's enemy he was to conquer. Read about these experiences of Moses and Joshua in Gen. 13 and 14 and Josh. 10:8-15. It will thrill your heart.


Every Christian is interested in what the future has in store for us. Perhaps here on earth, no matter how hard we tried to become successful, we did not quite make it in business, farming or any honest way of making a living. Most of us have to live in ordinary homes, but the Lord Jesus promises we who have received Him and trusted His cleansing blood alone to bring us to heaven, a **mansion**. We read about that glorious prospect, unworthy though it makes us feel, in John 14. A wonderful chapter to memorize, especially verses 1-6.

Christians are soldiers under the command of the greatest General in heaven and on earth to go forth with the greatest weapon of all time, the Gospel, "which is the power of God unto salvation to all that believe" (Rom. 1:16). Yes, this Commander of His witnesses gave His life and shed His blood to buy back His redeemed army to God from the power of sin, death and the devil. What a privilege is ours to be under His command! Can He count on each one of us who are saved by His marvelous grace to obey His command in being His witnesses? He has no other way to reach the lost. May He forgive us for our lukewarmness and may we make a new start in 1969.

Read the life story of a missionary whom God took out of the service of Satan and converted to become the greatest missionary, next to Jesus Himself, the Apostle Paul. In preparing him for this great task the Lord permitted him to study under the greatest theologian of his day for the great task God had planned for him. Read about this in Gal. 1:12 and Acts 9:14-15. Read about his adventures in witnessing in the last half of Acts, chapters 13-28.

We are all interested in the Space program these days, but I am most interested in God's plan for the Christian's travel through space when Jesus comes for His own. When the "lift off" comes we will not need a "count down", intricate engines and fuel to blast us into space "for the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout — then we shall be caught up together — to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." Read about this great coming event in I Thess. 4:13-18.

"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the Word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified" (Acts 20:32).



# WOMEN for Christ

## HE IS RISEN, AS HE SAID Mrs. Kenneth Rolf, McIntosh, Minn.

As we read the account of Christ's resurrection in the Gospels, it is interesting to notice that there were women who came to see the sepulchre and to anoint the body of Jesus:

Matthew 28:1 — Mary Magdalene and the other Mary are mentioned;

Mark 16:1 — Mary Magdalene, Mary the Mother of James and Salome;

Luke 24:10 — Mary Magdalene and Joanna, and Mary the Mother of James and other women that were with them;

John 20:1 — Mary Magdalene, who came early while it was yet dark unto the sepulchre and saw that the stone had been taken away from the sepulchre.

As WMF women and mothers, are we gripped by this glorious Easter message: "He is not here; for He is risen AS HE SAID"? (Matthew 28:6).

Truly our hearts should be encouraged and blest as we read these words. God has fulfilled His promises and continues to do so. "There hath not failed one word of all His good promise" (I Kings 8:56b).

We know that Jesus also will come again in power and great glory as He said He would do.

These women went EARLY in the morning to anoint the body of Jesus. Let us ask ourselves: What kind of LOVE do I have for Jesus? Do I meet Him in His Word and talk with Him in prayer EARLY in the morning? Does He have first place in my heart and life? In this busy world in which we live, we must take time to be alone with the Lord EARLY in the morning and give Him first place in our day.

After we have accepted Christ as our personal Savior, our desire should be to "Serve Him with gladness."

These women came to the sepulchre planning to anoint the body of Jesus. Do I offer willing service to Jesus? Let us ask ourselves this question. He will remove obstacles in our lives, just as the stone was rolled away from the sepulchre.

Jesus' death and resurrection give LIFE and purpose for living. In John 10:10b, we read: "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil" (I John 3:8b).

Jesus has won the victory over sin, death and the power of the devil. This victory can become ours by faith in Him, "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 15:57).

These women became WITNESSES to others of Christ's resurrection. Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things unto her" (John 20:18). Her testimony was used for the glory of God.

Let us ask ourselves, what kind of a witness am I for Jesus in my home, my work and community?

Christ has given a living HOPE to all who are His children. Let us share it with others. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (I Peter 1:3).

May God help us to surrender our lives completely to Him and to have our daily quiet time with the Lord that we may truly offer willing service witnessing for Him out of a heart of love and thankfulness.

## WMF WORKSHOP REPORT

The annual workshop of the WMF of our AFLC was held in the Student Center of the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks on Friday evening, February 14, where we enjoyed a banquet, program and fellowship. It was a stormy day, but the attendance was some over 80. We thanked the Lord for all who came.

Mrs. Hans Tollefson of Hatton, N. Dak., opened the program with devotions, reading from I Cor. 2:6-7 and also 3:9.

Mrs. Henry Hanson of Portland, N. Dak., favored us with a solo, "Oh, How Sweet to Trust in Jesus." She also led in a hymn sing. Pianist was Miss Annette Haugen.

A short business meeting followed, led by Mrs. Herbert Presteng of Grafton, N. Dak., WMF President. Mrs. R. M. Konsterlie of Willmar, Minn., WMF Treasurer, gave a brief report.

Literature packets were handed out for every church and we were urged to make use of all materials enclosed.

We were also urged to use the tracts enclosed. Let us not be afraid to share the Word of God; many have been saved by reading a tract.

Mrs. Harry Molstre of Valley City, N. Dak., gave a report on the project

# THE NEW NATURE

calendar which she had designed, and Mrs. Roy Syverson of Tioga, N. Dak., gave a report on some of the literature found in the packets.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried that name plates be placed on the three office doors at the Bible School, for the money sent in for the furnishing fund from our WMF.

Mrs. Presteng informed each district about making project posters for our annual convention to be held in Minneapolis in June. Each district was assigned a topic.

Mrs. Melvin Walla of Thief River Falls, Minn., gave a Bible Study in the absence of Miss Eula Mae Swenson, who was absent because of weather conditions. Mrs. Walla gave a very interesting study on the book of Philemon. Paul wrote this book while he was in prison.

A few comments as follows: Verse 3 says "Grace and peace"—we cannot have grace without peace. These Christians prayed for one another. Can this be said of we who call ourselves Christians? Do I share as I should? Are the hearts of saints refreshed by my life? Do we pray and fellowship one with another as we should? Will others be benefited by my life? Onesimus found Christ by Paul being in prison.

We prayed the Lord's Prayer in closing. All left the banquet hall refreshed and praising God for a wonderful fellowship.

Mrs. Birdeen Holt  
Fosston, Minn.

## MINNEAPOLIS DISTRICT WMF TO MEET

The Minneapolis District WMF Spring Rally will be held at the Green Lake Lutheran Church, Spicer, Minn., on April 16, beginning at 10:15 a.m. The theme is "Soldiers of the Cross" (II Timothy 2:1-6), with the theme song "Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus." Mrs. Thomas Sand of Spicer, will lead the morning Bible Study. Mr. Connely Dyrud, missionary-elect, will be the afternoon speaker. Mr. Yeddo Gottel of Brazil, a student in the Association Seminary, will give his testimony and also sing. There will be other musical numbers also.

Mrs. Robert Bursheim, Secretary

## Pastor Knut Gjesfjeld Thief River Falls, Minnesota

Some time ago I wrote an article on the "old nature" and I promised to write something on the "new nature" later. So today I will try to say a few words about a Scripture passage, I Jn. 3:4-9. It is a peculiar word. It has been discussed among Christians. Some draw the conclusion that a born-again person does not sin.

You should read the whole passage, I Jn. 3:4-9, but for the sake of space, I am quoting only verse 9: "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."

When you have read the whole passage, don't you see the reason that quite a few draw the conclusion that John has pointed out to us that saved people do not sin anymore?

I have been inclined to think so myself. But the many clear passages speaking against this thought force me to leave the thought of sinlessness. All of us should be careful not to hold thoughts or opinions from Scripture passages that seem to contradict the many clear passages. The misunderstanding of Scripture has been the cause of splitting up and division among us. Let the many and clear passages explain the hazy ones.

When you find a Scripture passage that seems to contradict the rest of Scripture, you can be certain that it is your fault, not the fault of Scripture.

In I Jn. 1:10, John says, "If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." In I Jn. 3:9, he says, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin." Seemingly it looks and sounds like contradiction. Rightly understood, it is not contradiction.

When it speaks of sinlessness, it refers to the new nature in us or in a born-of-God person. What is born of God does not sin. A born-anew person knows by the Word and also by experience that he still has the old

nature or the old man. Look at Gal. 5:17: "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."

In Norway there has been a long and even bitter discussion about sinlessness or about the new nature. Ludvig Hope, a layman, gave this explanation: "The new nature can weaken, it can even die, but it can not sin."

The work of the Holy Spirit is to convict of sin. There is the cause of it, why a person who is seeking the Lord feels more sin when he is converted than before. Again I feel like quoting Hope: "The person who sees most of his own sin has most of the Holy Spirit."

Does a converted sinner always know that he is in possession of the new nature? Like Peter, let me call it the "divine nature". I will say no. Let me ask you a question. To turn from swearing, is not that a work of the new nature or the new man? To turn from ungodly company, is it not a work of the new nature or the new man? To quit spending money at the tavern and give to church and missions, that is the work of the new nature. To love and seek the company of the brethren is by the new nature. These things we will do because we are in the possession of the new nature.

Now let me give you a warning. If you try to do these things to reform the old man or your old sinful nature, then you are a slave and you will some day be thrown out of the house.

The divine or sinless nature is given to them that believe the promises. In II Pet. 1:4, we read, "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

One more question. The old nature of ours cannot be improved. The new nature cannot sin. Where does the cleansing come in? In Rom. 12:2 is the answer: "Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the

renewing of your mind." The mind is a peculiar instrument. It can work both for the new nature and the old nature. "Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." Here is the responsibility of the saved person. The growing in strength spiritually depends on what you store up in your mind.

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### HOW IS YOUR FAITH TODAY?

Have faith in God, because without it who could last  
To look upon the storms that are all past;  
Have faith in God, because without it who could smile  
At long and lost efforts that didn't prove worth while?  
Have faith because when those near you have lost their own,  
You can gain courage looking back at battles won  
When you were all alone.

Altho it's darkest just before the dawn;  
Because of faith we know we'll still move on  
To find the courage when the dawn appears,  
To find the answers to the fleeting years.

Because of faith no precious energy was lost  
In foolish worry and anxiety o'er bridges never crossed.  
Have faith in God, and wear a happy smile today;  
Perhaps your lighthouse helped one lost ship find its way.  
And so through lonely long dark night and high wave's roar,  
By faith and prayer, you've helped that ship  
To safely reach the shore.

Ellen Nielsen  
Sisseton, South Dakota

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### PREACHING MISSION STACY-WYOMING, MINNESOTA

April 20-24  
Stacy-Wyoming Parish  
Leslie Galland, pastor  
Speaker: Rev. John P. Strand,  
Minneapolis, Minn.

# EXCUSES

We hear all kinds of excuses each day of our lives. A Christian who works at soul-winning hears many of this nature: "I would become a Christian but I just don't understand!" 1 Cor. 2:14—"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God." Believing comes before understanding.

"Fear I can't hold out." I Peter 1:5—"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

We could go on and on with excuses people give for not receiving Christ as their Savior, but what about the excuses Christians give for not being faithful to the church. (The local church where they belong.) "I couldn't make it Sunday. Just as I went to bed Saturday night company came in. I hadn't seen those folks for six months. We talked until early Sunday morning and I couldn't ask them to go to church with us."

"I work hard all week and Sunday is the only day I can rest."

"My husband works so hard all week long and he has to get away from it all on Sunday."

"Sunday was homecoming at my old home church where I was raised and I haven't missed that for years. I just couldn't come Sunday."

"I used to attend church every Sunday, taught Sunday School and sang in the choir, but I just never find time any more. I just don't have time to do those things. My children and husband require all my time."

"I was reared to go to church, but my husband won't go with me (or my wife won't go)."

So many times we hear such excuses. WELL! The pastor, teacher, or Christian worker may not mind too much, and let you keep on giving these excuses. But, beloved friend, God is keeping the BOOKS. ONE day you will face Him, the One who loved you and gave His life for you. He won't accept those poor sickening excuses. God said the Gates of Hell shall not prevail against the Church. Yes, you need the church. So stop making excuses and be faithful to your church.

Mrs. F. G. Drown  
Roseau, Minn.

### DON'T JUDGE OTHERS TOO HARSHLY

Pray do not find fault with the man who limps, or stumbles along the road,

Unless you have worn the shoes he wears, or struggled beneath his load.

There may be tacks in his shoes that hurt though hidden away from view, Or the burden he bears, placed on your back, might cause you to stumble, too.

Don't sneer at the man who's down today, unless you have felt the blow That caused his fall, or felt the shame that only the fallen know.

You may be strong, but still the blows that were his, if dealt to you, In the self-same way at the self-same time, might cause you to stagger, too.

Don't be harsh with the man who sins, or pelt him with words and stone, Unless you are sure, yea, doubly sure that you have no sins of your own.

For, you know, perhaps, if the tempter's voice should whisper as soft to you, As it did to him when he went astray, 'twould cause you to falter, too!

—Author Unknown

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[Continued from page 5]

in any of the big cities we passed through. So few have heard God's call, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel" (Mark 16:15).

The tree pastors in the Mazatlan area have no transportation to help them spread the Word. There is no way for them to buy a car, no money available. So they walk. But time is short and fields are white unto harvest!

It's true that most of us are doing what we can in our own mission program of our church, but to you who would like to do more this may be a challenge. These three men should have what they need to get the Word out to their own people. Just think what a couple dollars per family could do to help them reach the untouched villages with the Gospel.

Lee and Norma Haag  
c/o Pastor L. Dynneson  
Box 1211  
Nogales, Arizona 85621



**Association Free Lutheran Bible School 1968-1969**



**The student lounge in the new Dormitory-Classroom Building which will be dedicated at the 1969 Annual Conference.**

*April 1, 1969*

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