

April 22, 1975

The Lutheran Ambassador

TOGETHER IN PRAYER

A mother and her son joined in prayer—a symbol of that day set aside each year to honor our mothers.

RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE PHOTO
by Lee Langum



MEDITATION MOMENTS

HANNAH, THE HOMEMAKER

Read I Samuel 1 & 2.

The rise and fall of any civilization can usually be traced to kings and leaders whose homes were good or evil, Christian or ungodly. Historian Will Durant has written: "The family is the nucleus of civilization." The Holy Scriptures reveal the strong influence of a mother upon her family and her nation. When a mother loved and served the Lord, her children were instructed in the ways of God and were prepared for His service. Once there lived a very wicked mother whose name was Jezebel. This mother used her strength and dignity to achieve her own selfish goals. From that ungodly home, came ungodly children who became ungodly adults. But the woman who personifies the ideal of motherhood in the Old Testament is Hannah, mother of Samuel. Hannah, known as the "praying mother," had much more than strength, dignity, wisdom, and ambition, she had a God whom she trusted, worshiped and adored.

HANNAH WAS A GOD-FEARING HOMEMAKER. Married to the priest Elkanah, she lived a life with God, going every year to the temple at Shiloh to pray and worship. Her most frequent prayer was for a child. In public and in private worship, Hannah gives us a warm and wonderful example of a mother who made God the center of her heart and home. Hannah had her private prayer closet where she could "pour out her soul to God," seeking guidance, forgiveness, strength and comfort. She prayed for her priest-husband and

the work of the church. She prayed for her friends and neighbors. She prayed for her family. In love, trust, patience, faith and expectation, Hannah cast her every burden and concern at the feet of her God.

I ask you, mothers, are you a "praying mother"? Do you know the privilege and power of prayer, the peace of prayer? Many a nation has had its "Jezebel sons" and they have destroyed the lives of millions of others, brought disgrace and shame upon their homeland, and brought the "curse of God" upon themselves.

In Hannah's arms would be a great spiritual leader for the nation of Israel. In your arms, you hold one who may be a great leader, a future homemaker, a good husband, a Christian worker, perhaps. Pray for that infant child you hold in your arms, that child who plays at your feet, that God might use that life to His honor and glory and for the good of all men.

Secondly, HANNAH WAS A HAPPY HOMEMAKER. The psalmist wrote: "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain."

Hannah was a home-builder, not a home-wrecker like Jezebel. Her home-building tools were not the checkbook and credit cards, but prayer, praise and trust in God. It isn't the new family car, the new appliances, the new wardrobe, that brings happiness, but the assurance that God is one's Lord. In faith, Hannah prayed for a son and in faith she dedicated Samuel to the Lord.

Are you a happy homemaker, trusting in Jesus Christ as your Savior, rejoicing in His wonderful promises, knowing the peace of God in your heart and soul? We read, too, that Elkanah loved his wife Hannah and listened patiently to her problems, comforting her and encouraging her.

Family life can be healthy and happy only when husband and wife love and honor each other, each accepting responsibility and working together as a team in rearing children. Like most mothers, Hannah had to be nurse, nutritionist, educator, counselor, seamstress, and a dozen other things, to her family. But she was a happy homemaker, doing her work to the glory of God and for the good of her family. When Samuel was ministering before the Lord in the temple at Shiloh with the priest, Eli, and his father-priest, Elkanah, Hannah was home busy making "little coats" which would be worn by Samuel. Mothers, yours is an honorable profession—homemaking. More than women in offices, factories, schools and in stores, we need dedicated Christian mothers in the home. Be proud of your work. Be proud of your holy calling. Be happy to serve the Lord in the home. Your kitchen sink is your altar. The living room your pulpit. Remember, "The family is the nucleus of civilization." Serve your Lord by faithfully and joyfully serving your family.

—Dale R. Battleson

The *Lutheran Ambassador* is published biweekly (except the second issue in August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Rev. Raynard Huglen is the editor. Subscription price is \$3.50 per year in advance. Subscriptions should be sent to *The Lutheran Ambassador*, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn. Volume 13, Number 8

What Does Love Have To Do With Employee Relations?

by Guy A. Young

It had never occurred to me that thinking well of oneself could be considered a flaw in one's character. If it ever had, I must have successfully silenced the thought by rationalizations. That is why the day when Bert, a fellow worker, fired such biting and humiliating accusations at me, I was stunned. T. S. Eliot said, "Nothing dies harder than the desire to think well of oneself."

As a leader in charge of a group of men in the template department of the Chevrolet Engineering Center, Warren, Mich., I had, as my duty, the day before informed the supervisor of some minor unruly conduct of the men. The following afternoon (I was working the second shift) as I entered the large workroom, I sensed an ominous chilling air. Except from one or two fellows, I did not receive the usual "Hi, Guy." No doubt an emotional time-bomb was ticking away, so I tried with all possible tactfulness to avoid triggering the fuse. It was no use.

At an opportune moment accusations were flung at me from all directions. The bomb had gone off, and Bert, the most outspoken and aggressive of them all, took over the arena. With scathing words, dotted here and there with obscene expletives, he lashed me to his heart's content. I was too stunned to utter a single word.

The whole unpleasant episode, in spite of its unprecedented severity, perhaps would not have pressed on me so heavily if it were not for the fact that Bert had flung a piercing question at me: "Who do you think you are, Jesus Christ?"

Had this question been put to me a few years earlier, I might have disposed of it with a shrug of the shoulder. Now it disturbed me deeply. Only about a year or so ago I had had a reawakening from an apathetic,

proud and self-righteous life. God had mercifully brought me in line and had shown me the odiousness of my self-exalted condition.

Although in the past I had had occasional spats with men, in general our relationship had been quite friendly. Even though I did not fraternize with them in their non-job activities, I had consciously tried not to give a holier-than-thou impression. I really liked them, and thought they liked me. Several of us even played golf together in the summer months. We all had a grand time.

Perhaps the following incident will illustrate the air of camaraderie that existed between us. After each game it was customary for them to go into the bar for a drink or two. I never accompanied them, and they didn't seem to mind.

One hot and humid day, when they insisted that I should go in with them to "have a coke or something," I consented. Having taken our places around a round table, they all gave their orders of beer or whatever. When my turn came, I didn't know what to order (I don't drink soft drinks either). I felt somewhat out of place. I had never been in a bar before as a customer.

Noticing my hesitation, the waitress turned around and walked away. But before she got too far, one of the fellows, who was fond of ribbing me, boomed after her: "Bring a glass of milk for grandpa!" There was a roar of laughter. For a moment I felt embarrassment but, noticing their happy faces, I was relaxed.

As I drove home that night after accusation and the numbness caused by the terrible verbal impact gradually abated, sharper and sharper I felt the piercing sting of Bert's tirade. Above all, my head rang painfully with the question "Who do you think you are...?"

Before going to bed, I read from the Bible. It was no use. I could not concentrate. Bert and his blistering verbal attack, like a long-playing record, played before my mind's eyes and soured my spirit. Hatred, like a relentless tide, rampaged through my heart until I began to dread the prospect of going back to work the following day. At the extremity of my thoughts, I almost decided to quit my job—never to see Bert's face again!

But while I wallowed in self-pity and tried to exonerate myself with counter-accusations, a still small voice whispered to me: "Have you tried loving him?"

"Love him? Bert? Surely, Lord, you can't mean that! Anybody, but not him!" Then, as if trying to correct myself, I countered, "The fact is I have these past several years tried to love him but each gesture of love..."

On that last phrase I stopped. So that's what it has been, just a gesture. In fact, while trying to love Bert and my other fellow workers, I had elevated myself on a little pedestal. My own assumed goodness had flashed so brightly they could not see my gestures of love. Yes, the desire to think well of myself had not wholly died. I had even, perhaps unconsciously, played Jesus Christ.

I asked God's forgiveness. Then I prayed as I never had prayed before: "Lord, teach me to love Bert. I really want to love him. Oh, teach me to love him as You have loved this miserable me!"

I opened the Bible and read the familiar words from I Corinthians 13, "Love suffers long and is kind... is not puffed up... seeks not his own... endures all things..." I saw how short I had come of the glory of true love.

When I woke up the next day, I felt

good and refreshed. But when time to leave home drew near and the events of the day before made their rerun in my mind, I began to feel ill at ease. A sickening thought went through my mind: That "love" episode of last night was really nothing more than nighttime sentimentality; nothing has changed, you are the same old you and Bert is the same Bert. So you're going to face him?

For a moment I felt like playing sick that day and staying home. But when I read my Bible and prayed, peace and confidence returned. I was on solid ground from then on.

At work everything seemed to be normal, except that Bert was unnaturally quiet. At the start of each day I made the routine rounds assigning each man his day's work. If I remember correctly, Bert had an unfinished job that day so he continued on it. As the templates were completed, they would call me to check and stamp my OK on them.

The time came that I knew Bert was ready for checking but he just sat by his work and said nothing. This was my opportunity, I thought, to break the ice. I ambled over to him. He stood up and pulled the stool back to let me nearer the work.

"I see you're finished with this," I said as I examined the template. Bert did not answer but came and stood by me, his eyes fixed on his work. Putting my hand on his shoulder, I said, "It's OK, Bert," and began to explain his next job. All this time Bert kept a baffling silence.

The next day began as usual. The atmosphere in the room was alive with all kinds of kidding, laughter and singing. Toward evening, as I was making my habitual visual rounds of the room, my eyes rested on Bert. My heart went to him. I was beginning to really love him.

Bert looked up from his work and his eyes met mine. With a prayer in my heart I wondered who should speak first. Suddenly, in the hearing of every one in the area, across the room Bert spoke. "Guy," he said, "you are a saint. The other day I belted you with all the dirty tongue-lashing and you didn't even open your mouth."

This was Bert's way of apologizing, I knew.

"Bert," I answered, "I deserved everything you said to me. You really opened my eyes to see myself as I should. For that I thank you." In my heart I thanked the Lord. Only He could teach me how to love.

—Permission Pending,
Christian Business Men's Committee
Contact, Jan.-Feb. 1975.

DORM LOAN PROGRAM BROUGHT TO A CLOSE

It is with thankfulness and gratitude that the Board of Trustees announces the end of the Loan Program for the Boys' Dorm as of March 1, 1975.

At the Annual Conference in Cloquet, Minnesota, the resolution was passed to build the present facility. The Annual Conference in Ferndale, Washington, in 1973, reaffirmed that decision even though the estimated cost had risen from \$275,000 to \$325,000.

The dorm provides rooms for 56 boys, a guest room, an apartment for the dean of men, a spacious music room, a recreation-fellowship room, offices for the music instructor and the dean of men, a faculty lounge, board meeting room, workout room for physical conditioning, two classrooms, and a student lounge. It also made possible the use of a former classroom in the girls' dorm for a library-study area.

Our Bible school capacity is thus raised from 100 students under very cramped conditions to 150 students on campus plus the number from the greater Minneapolis area who reside at home.

The total amount of money spent was \$505,000. The actual cost of the building (on which the conference voted) was \$375,000. The property development, roads, sidewalks, water, campus lighting, sewer, fire hydrants, parking lots (most of which Plymouth Village required), and landscaping came to a total of \$100,000. Expenditures for furnishings were \$35,000.

The income for the project includes cash gifts and pledges of \$196,707 toward the building; \$578,000 in loan certificates; plus cash and pledges of \$28,600 for the furnishings to date.

The present budget for 1975-76 was prepared before the building project was fully developed or completed, thus we are operating under an accepted budget which does not reflect the full operating costs at the present time. The present Praise Program budget is in the same condition. We are prayerfully and carefully doing all that we can as a Board to stay within the budget.

We are thankful for the opportunity of serving Christ through our schools. We appreciate your prayers and support. The Board presently encourages the people of the AFLC to prayerfully support the various areas of work in the AFLC. We ask your continued support in prayer.

If you presently desire to invest in a loan program, we encourage you to consider the Extension Fund for Home Missions through the Home Mission Board.

—Board of Trustees



A PSALM OF PRAYER

O God, we fear and tremble
Before Thine awful throne,
Our best resolves and efforts
Can not for sin atone!
But in Thy boundless mercy
Revealed on Calvary's Tree
Thou hast in love provided
Forgiveness full and free.

Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior,
Who came in lowly birth
For sinners' guilt to suffer
That peace might reign on earth,
Our hearts to Thee we open
And pray Thee enter in
To give us full salvation
And set us free from sin.

Come, sanctify us, Spirit,
Anoint us by Thy pow'r,
And make us fit and ready
For every crucial hour.
Like rays on snow-clad mountains,
So let us shine for Him
Whose brightness fills the Heavens,
Whose glories never dim.

T. O. Burntvedt

**NY STAVANGER WMF
HONORS MRS. HETTERVIG**



Mrs. Tille Hettervig was honored with an Honorary Membership in the Women's Missionary Federation in the NY Stavanger WMF, Buxton, N. Dak., last August. Shown making the award is Mrs. Karsten Grundyson, president of the local group. Rodney Stueland is the lay pastor of the congregation.

Women For Christ

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BEING A MOTHER

by Mrs. Alfred Sundhagen,
Tioga, N. Dak.

Read: Proverbs 31:10-31

This tells us of the virtues of a good wife and mother.

Do we as parents or mothers realize the responsibilities and privileges we assume when one of the little ones are given to us from God? We are to supply all their physical needs and nurture their spiritual needs as well. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God."

From the time we bring them into relationship with God, in baptism, we are to guide them in their spiritual life until they reach maturity.

In the first two or three years, we can teach them more than perhaps at any time of their lives. This is when they form their habits. We can't begin too early to teach them to pray. In Proverbs 22:6, we read: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Children have faith, let us not destroy it. Feed them spiritually and help them to strengthen their faith.

As they grow older they begin to

copy the things their parents do. We should be very careful of the example we set. I feel we teach 50% by our example. In Luke 17:2, we read: "It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones (KJV)."

I think it is wonderful to have a family altar in the home where the children can take part as well as the grown-ups. You'll be surprised how anxious they are to read the Bible and take part in prayer. This is something they will remember all their lives and perhaps it will bring them back to the narrow way if they have strayed later in life.

I think our responsibility and our privilege as mothers can't be taken too seriously. Let us pray for guidance as we nurture them in the chastening and admonition of the Lord. May they see Jesus in our lives.

(Prayer) Christ, Thou hast also kneeled by Thy mother's knee; teach me that nothing is as important to me as my child. Help me to be to our little ones all that a good mother ought to be. Give me grace to love them wisely and to walk before them carefully lest there be things that they must unlearn later on and point the finger of reproach at me, their mother. Amen.

MOTHER

Mother has abilities

That no one else can claim—
To gather wealth and fortune
Is surely not her aim.

She's there to find the mittens
Or the lost and straying caps;
She's referee for all the fights
And settles them for naps!

She keeps the home fires burning,
While Dad is off to work.
She's kept quite busy all day long,
There isn't time to shirk.

She makes herself available
When Son comes in at noon;
Or welcomes little Sister
When she calls out, "Where is Mom?"

She's reached the highest honors,
No need for further praise,
Just to hear "I love you,"
In their childish little ways.

She's wiped away a million tears
With an understanding kiss,
And guided faltering footsteps
So they'll not go amiss.

If you should be so fortunate:
To have your Mother here,
Remind her very often
She's the Dearest of the Dear!

Mrs. Milton Tollefson

Letters TO THE EDITOR

WHY CRITICIZE THE LIVING BIBLE?

RE: "A Superficial Analysis Of
The Living Bible," March 25, 1975.

I was very dismayed at your condemnatory attitude toward anybody that is not Lutheran. You said that this article has been in the thinking stage "for a long time," but how much praying did you do over it?

You attack men who are doing a work for Christ whom you don't agree with. Rev. Peterson is called "The man with the message," that is true, but what do you say about Paul when in II Timothy 2:8 he says that Jesus was raised from the dead according to My Gospel? Would you condemn him also? There are men that take claim of the promises of God that we, in the Lutheran Church, have a tendency to condemn.

The Living Bible, yes, is a paraphrase and it cannot be taken as the direct words of the Greek and Hebrew text, and Taylor never intended us to. The simple cases that you pointed out are not even good examples to pick on. Each time, you say that the words that were added were not incorrect. Then if they are not incorrect and they do not do despite to the meaning, I cannot see where you would call them wrong or even infer it. A paraphrase is a commentary and there is no way you can get around it. For some people (mostly laymen), a commentary is very helpful and sometimes necessary. As a commentary, I find The Living Bible to be very useful and sometimes very enlightening.

No, I cannot agree with every doctrine that Ken Taylor brings across, for example, his doctrine on Creation, but in the example you cited concerning Baptism, I find no difficulty. I have been a "Lutheran" all my life, but a Christian (born again, transformed, adopted, on his way to heaven) for only about seven years. As I studied this thought of Baptism, I realized by the Holy Spirit that I could

not depend on getting to heaven just because I was baptized. In an infant, yes, baptism saves (I Peter 3:21). You should also realize that when a child comes to the age of accountability that he must knowingly receive Jesus Christ as his Personal Savior, and if he does not, he departs from that saving grace that was given to him at the time of infant baptism. When I came to this point I did not knowingly accept Him and thus fell away and needed to be converted (Luke 15:11-24). Christ was trying to tell me that I needed to receive Him as my Personal Savior and experience His saving and renewing (Titus 3:5) grace that was needed in my life. (No, I am not depending on experience for my salvation, but I know by experience through the Word that I am saved and going to heaven.) I don't hold to the thought that "born of the water" means baptism and I find that my thinking on the matter does not destroy my "Lutheranism" but rather strengthens it.

Sir, I would like to have you really do some deep praying and soul-searching concerning your attitude toward others that are doing a work for God, even though they may not be doing it your way. They are out bringing people to Christ from which we all need to take example.

"... Reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (II Timothy 4:2).

Rev. Curtis Emerson
Zumbrota, Minn.

LIKED ARTICLE ON THE LIVING BIBLE

I couldn't help but see the article you wrote on The Living Bible. I want to thank and praise the Lord Jesus Christ for you that you could bring this out in the open in The Lutheran Ambassador. When I think of our Lutheran doctrine and Lutheran Catechism, how sound it is if you are a born-again Lutheran. There should not be any places for all these translations.

Arthur Joppru
Thief River Falls, Minn.

(Ed. Note: I do not personally reject new translations of the Scriptures, although I may disagree with certain renderings in them, but sought to

point out in the article referred to what a "paraphrase" is and some of the problems which can be found therein.)

WE NEED LIVING TRANSLATIONS

Thanks to a wonderful Savior for coming into my heart some years ago. But, praise His name, He wants us to keep growing. I saw in the Ambassador an article, "A Superficial Analysis of The Living Bible," by the editor. My husband found the Lord by reading the Revised Standard Version. In our "daily Bread" devotions for April 3 it said, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only. . . ."

The living translation that can be read in the lives of Christians and who love the Bible, and are obedient to its precepts, is the kind of translation God wants. God's Word has to be evident in the character and conduct of God's children.

Sometimes in our WMF studies the answer is easier to find and put down in your own words in different translations. As for myself, I memorized out of the King James and like it.

I just praise the Lord for what He is doing in our area. Several people committed their lives to the Lord at a special meeting in our parish a few weeks ago. And now a crusade where hundreds are coming. Our prayer is for the Holy Spirit to do His work, drawing and teaching people to come to Jesus Christ. So pray with us that the lives of these people will be shining because of what Jesus has done for them. Hallelujah, and thanks to a wonderful God.

Mrs. Palmer Gafkjen
Sunburg, Minn.

WE NEED LIVING TRANSLATIONS

(Ed. Note: In my article on The Living Bible, and to which all of the above letters refer, by oversight, I neglected to mention the passages in I Corinthians 10 in my discussion of the liquid element in the Lord's Supper. Therefore, I wish to mention now I Cor. 10:16 and 21. But the statistics I mentioned in regard to the other 13 passages remain the same. Please excuse the oversight.)



Introducing Our Seminarians

CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR US

Psalms 73:26 states that "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." This verse says better than any words of my own the fallibility of my reasoning and the infallible guidance which God is willing to provide. The Holy Spirit has increasingly revealed this to me, especially leading up to the decision to give up my determination to become a doctor and medical missionary and allow God to direct my choice of a vocation. After trying several doors, the one which He opened for me a year ago was the door to seminary training at Medicine Lake.

My background leading up to now includes growing up in a good farm home near Kenyon, Minnesota, and growing in things of God in that home and in Hauge Lutheran Church, along with the fellowship of Emmanuel Lutheran. I thank God for allowing me to grow up in the midst of many sincere, trusting Christians in these congregations, who were willing to share their faith, but, more important, were willing by God's grace to live their faith. Education following high school included one year at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, Minn., and three and one-half years at the University

of Minnesota, culminating in fulfillment of pre-medical studies and a degree in laboratory medicine. During my last year of study, God was very gracious in bringing Sandy and me together in marriage, sharing His love each day and growing together in it. Sandy graduated from Deaconess Hospital, Minneapolis, and is presently a registered nurse at the Ambassador Nursing Home.

My status here at the seminary is that of a special student. The reason for that designation is that we hope to go out as medical missionaries, pooling our training as pastor, nurse, and laboratory worker, rather than entering directly into the local parish ministry.

We want to thank each of you for your prayer support and ask that you continue to pray for us as we seek to follow the Lord's will, whether at home or on the foreign field. As a closing thought, Sandy and I would like to share with you the confidence expressed in Romans 8:37: "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

—Claire Stolee

STARTS AND A FINISH

"I'm sure that He who started a good work in you will go on to finish

it till the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 1:6, Beck).

This verse in Scripture has been with me for as long as I can remember, and even further. For it was the verse of assurance and comfort given to my parents at my birth. This was a verse that met a need at that time when death seemed so near to a new life. But as He had promised through His power and guidance to a missionary medical staff, my life was given a new start. For the next eight years I was privileged to continue living in Bolivia, S.A., where my parents served at various locations in missionary service.

Having permanently returned to the U.S., the second point in time when this verse became an important part of my life is when it was given to me at confirmation. It was such a fitting capstone to have the same verse return to me as I gave personal testimony to my relationship to Christ and the faith He had given to me in baptism. And comfort and reassurance were strong in this verse as I was seeking direction in many areas of my life. Plans had to be started and goals kept in mind to direct the days ahead, and that guidance He gave. After high school I attended a junior college, later transferring to Augsburg College, both in Minneapolis, Minn. After graduating in 1970, God prepared an opportunity for me to use the area of my training, music education, to my full extent. My field of specialization in college was string instruments and orchestral directing. In Blue Earth, Minn., I was given the opportunity to work with grades 4-12 in both private instrumental teaching and large group orchestral directing.

This was to be my work for two years, after which I was being asked by God to reconsider what I was going to do with my life for Him, and where I was going. In the events of that year I felt the strong sense of tension between the frustration and disappointment of not being able to find a full-time job, and the joy and a sense of worth and having the freedom of time to become involved in ministering to people's spiritual, physical and emotional needs.

It was during this time that God dealt with me concerning full-time

service for Him. He led me to experience His working through me to the glory of God and the helping of souls.

Besides being able to be under strong Bible-based teaching at our seminary, a strong confirmation of my call, and the promises of that verse, in serving the Thief River Falls, Minn., parish last summer have been the highlights of my school experiences. And through my internship experiences I have come to know the closeness that there is between you and us students.

Just before school began last fall, God showed me the truth of His promises again in answering an earnest, longtime prayer. On August 30, 1974, Suzanne Grovender and I were married. Now life seems so complete as together we can share in the plans He has for us. And since He has started this work we can only trust in Him more strongly to guide us as He wills until He finishes it. Because He has been faithful in the past, we can know the promise and truth of Phil. 1:6. To this our response can only be, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

—Roger Pauluk

BAD WEATHER, ROADS ABBREVIATE CHORAL CLUB TOUR

Early spring snowstorms and resulting bad roads caused cancellation of three of the eight scheduled concerts of the Choral Club in its recent annual tour, March 21-26.

On Sunday night, March 23, rain which was falling before the concert in Concord, Nebr., had turned to heavy, wet snow by the time the service was over. Because the town was "soaked in" by blizzard conditions all Monday, the group had to remain at the homes where they were staying until Tuesday morning. Ruth Mundfrom and Glenda Aasness, who had gone to stay with Ruth's uncle some distance away, were stranded at a farmer's home about 15 miles away when they tried to reach Concord on Monday. They rejoined the others on Tuesday.

Tuesday afternoon the 25 girls, Don Rodvold, the director, Rev. R. Huglen, faculty representative, and Harold Nelson, bus driver, stopped for an hour's visit with Rev. and Mrs. E. J. Raaum in Newman Grove, Nebr., where they were to have presented a concert the night before. Mrs. Raaum and Myrtle Thompson's mother served refreshments. All went to see Shell Creek Lutheran Church, next door, which Pastor Raaum serves.

The concert that night was at St. Peder's Lutheran Church, Dannebrog, Nebr. That congregation is one of the newer ones in the AFLC, but has a long history in the community. Many of the men of the church, as well as the women, joined the group at the supper table. A unique feature of St. Peder's Church is the ornate pulpit with carved figures of the four Evangelists on it.

The next morning word was received from Pukwana, S. Dak., that bad weather already experienced and more of the same predicted made it inadvisable for the Choral Club to come up there. The decision was made to drive back to the school ahead of the coming storm and, if possible, go out to Willmar, Minn., on Thursday from the Cities. The group arrived back at 1:30 a.m. on Thursday and by later morning the concert at Willmar had been called off.

This year's tour had a good beginning, with the first concert being at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, rural Kenyon, Minn., on Friday. The group experienced there the first of several audiences in the 130-150 range.

Some time was spent in Rochester, Minn., on Saturday en route to Chester, Ia. At the Lutheran Church in Chester the group was served a delicious meal, which was true at every stop, and made to feel much at home. The concert that night was at nearby Lime Springs, Ia., in the fine elementary school gym.

On Sunday morning the Choral Club motored to Salem Lutheran, rural Radcliffe, Ia., to take part in the morning worship service. They arrived late and the transformer serving the church blew out soon after, making for some problems for the

women in serving the noon meal, etc., but a pleasant two and one-half hours were spent there nevertheless. Then on to Concord and the weather problems.

Many thanks should be given to Pastors Ken Moland, Elwood Skarpness, Harold Rietz, Terry Olson, Clifford Lindgren, E. J. Raaum and Ken Gaureke and their wives and people for the hospitality shown to the group. And to Pastor and Mrs. Dale Battle-son and Pastor and Mrs. Leslie Galland and their people for the preparations they had made for receiving the Choral Club group, but were not able to extend because of the weather-caused cancellations.

God bless the Choral Club tour to eternal good in many lives.

Other AFLBS News

The AFLBS Choir tour had weather problems also. The first concert, at Webster, S. Dak., Easter night, was cancelled. Instead, a concert was presented at Medicine Lake Lutheran that evening. The Choir left at 8:30 the next morning for Faith, S. Dak., picking up several members at Ortle, S. Dak. While in Helena, Mont., the Choir had the honor of singing in the rotunda of the Montana State Capitol, April 12.

A two-day basketball tournament was held at AFLBS (in a school gym) on March 21 and 22 and it included teams of former students and of the present student body. It proved very successful and can become an annual thing. Some of those who came from a distance had trouble returning to their homes due to a storm which developed that weekend, the one which gave the Choral Club trouble.

Pastor Francis Monseth will speak at the Promotion Days youth rally on April 19. There will be activities on Friday night and all day Saturday, too, including a basketball game between present and prospective students of AFLBS. High school seniors are urged to attend Promotion Days.

Recent joint chapel speakers have been Wes Langaas, April 9, and Dale Mellgren, April 16, seminary seniors. Scheduled to also speak this school year are two other seniors, Tim Skramstad, April 23, and Norman Tenneboe, April 30.

editorials

GEN. CHIANG KAI-SHEK

The name of Chiang Kai-shek is one which some of us have known for most of life, others for all of life and others, for many, many years. So long has he been upon the world's political scene. Now that Christian gentleman has departed this life. (He was baptized a Methodist in 1931.)

We're all aware that he died without realizing his great dream, a return to mainland China with a democratic government. May his hope of a government of freedom for the millions of that great nation, please God, one day be accomplished either by exiled leaders from without or by the people within mainland China themselves.

Gen. Chiang was the last of the great Allied leaders of World War II. We remember him for his Christian statesmanship (in his last will and testament he described himself as a disciple of Jesus Christ), for his building of an enviable society on Taiwan when he was forced to flee his homeland.

His passing on April 5 at the age of 87 comes at a time when the darkness of Communism is settling down over the nations of South Vietnam and Cambodia. It is a sad and unhappy hour in the free world. But let us

not lose hope or our courage and resolve. Among the great lights for freedom and an open society the departed Chiang Kai-shek will always loom large in human history. May his example never be lost upon us.

THE APPROACHING ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The first information about our 1975 Annual Conference is carried in this *Ambassador*, a sure sign of the coming summer, and it is something concerning housing for the conference.

But this does indicate that the annual meeting of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will soon be here, with only enough time left to get ready for it. Future issues will carry more advance material about the annual conference, June 11-15, in Minneapolis.

Because the dormitory for boys has been completed, there will be a lot of room available for those attending conference right at the site of the gathering. Some people will plan to stay with relatives and other friends and some prefer the comforts of a motel, but many will choose to use the fine accommodations at our Bible School.

A highlight of the conference this year will be the dedication of the new dormitory on Sunday. Those who will be seeing it for the first time will also be pleased and happy with this fine structure which they have helped to put up. Then, too, there will be the usual business of a conference, including elections. And this year there is also the election of a president, something that happens every three years.

It is hoped that a large number of delegates will be present for this year's conference, too. Consider seriously whether you should come this year, to Minneapolis.

Also, let much prayer be made in the church for this annual session of the Association, that all be done there under the blessing of our Lord.

ON MOTHER'S DAY

Each year a day is set aside to honor mothers. That day is traditionally the second Sunday of May. Let us honor true motherhood in appropriate ways that day and show gratitude for blessings and guidance all through our lives.

Mother's Day is a day that could well be used to remember other women, too, with or without children of their own, who have had a godly influence upon our lives as Sunday or public school teachers, co-workers, neighbors or just as examples of right living. Our expression of thanks to them may be overdue and when it has been given in the past, only sparingly.

Otherwise, we urge that you read Pastor Battleson's devotional article on page 2. It says many things that we might have said but he has put it so well already.

May Mother's Day be a good and pleasant one in your home and family.

HOUSING INFORMATION

for the 1975 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Minneapolis, Minnesota

June 11-15

This year there will be approximately 155 beds available in the dormitories on campus of Association Free Lutheran Bible School. The cost will be \$3.50 for one person and \$5.00 for a couple per night. We request that the price of one night's lodging accompany your reservations. Make checks payable to the AFLC Schools. If you are handicapped or for other health reasons should not walk the stairs, please indicate that. There will be linen packs to rent at \$1.05 each. These packs contain two sheets, a pillow case, towels and a wash cloth. Bring your own blankets and pillows; however, we have a few blankets and pillows for those coming by air.

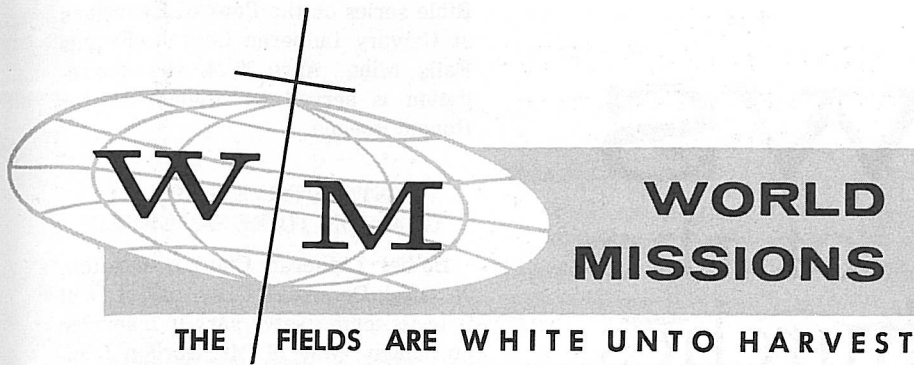
Make reservations with Raymond Jacobson, 8408 32nd Ave. No., Minneapolis 55427, or phone 612-544-8118.

There will be plenty of electrical hookups and camping spots at \$1 per night.

Make reservations directly to the motels.

MOTEL	TELEPHONE	NIGHTS: 1 2 3 4			
Ambassador Motel 3924 Excelsior Blvd.	927-7731	\$15	\$19		\$25
Bungalow Hwy. 62 & Bass Lake Rd. 6221 - 56 Ave. N.	533-5371	13	15	19	21
Carriage House 8625 Hwy. 12	544-3601	17	20		
Crystal Hwy. 52 & Co. Rd. 10 5650 N. Hwy. 52	537-3680	11	13	17	20
Holiday 812 N. Lilac Drive Hwy. 100 & Hwy. 55	588-4665	16.50	20.50	24.50	28.50
Minnetonka 15818 Hwy. 12 3/4 miles west of 494	473-4616	15	17	20	21
Hopkins House 4820 Hwy. 55	588-0511	18.72	21.84		29
Cosmopolitan Hwy. 100 & 36 Ave. N.	537-3696	12	14		18
Radisson Inn Hwy. 55 & 494 2705 Annapolis Land	544-1600	24.50	29		30
Royal Crown 6000 Lakeland Ave.	533-2900	12.50	14.50		18.70
Suburbia 5454 Lakeland Lane N.	537-9900	9	12		13
Voyageur Inn 2823 Wayzata Blvd.	377-7100	17.50 18.50	18.50 20.50		24.50 29.50

Rollaway beds are \$3-\$4 extra.



HUNGRY, SICK AND IN PRISON

by Mrs. John H. Abel

After several months of dry weather we have now had four months of rain. Rainy days can be cozy if you can stay inside a comfortable home and have enough to eat. But if you live in a house that leaks like a sieve, work during the day to bring home something to eat at night, or the few clothes that you have are dirty and wet, and there is no dry wood to be found for your cookstove, several days of rain can be a nightmare.

Yesterday two mothers came and asked for food as they had nothing in the house to cook for their children. Just a few minutes ago another girl came and asked for rice. I never feel I can turn them away without giving them something, for the Lord said, "Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away" (Matt. 5:42). This is not always easy to follow as the cost of living has risen greatly in the last few months and there are many things that we feel we can no longer eat. Statistics taken recently in a school revealed that 70% of the students were suffering from malnutrition. In comparison to what one reads about countries that are suffering from drought and starvation, Brazil would seem almost like a paradise, but even so there are many who are hungry.

Then there are the sick. Rarely a day goes by that I don't hear my name called: "Dona Ruby, do you have something for a headache?" or it might be a something to ease a toothache, or a baby brought with sores in his hair or with a bad case of dysentery. So we keep a big box of as-

pirin on hand, some recommended medicines for dysentery and give out the vitamins and salve that Dr. Lester Wold has gathered for us, and Arne Aanestad and others have helped get into barrels and on their way to Brazil. These have been a great blessing to the saved and the unsaved alike; whether we give out pills or food, we give them out with a prayer and a word about Jesus. Remember these words of Jesus recorded in Matt. 25:36: "Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

Then there are those who are in prison for any number of things: murder, theft, drunkenness, drugs, wife-beating, etc. One of the first Sundays we were in Camp Mourao, ten years ago now, the Presbyterians asked John to speak at the jail service. He spoke on the text: "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." Three men raised their hands for prayer. More than a year passed. Then John was in Maringa one afternoon and he heard a man call him, "Oh, Pastor, *bom dia*, do you remember me?" John couldn't recognize him, but he said: "I was one of those men who raised his hand for prayer at the jail services and I still remember the text you spoke on. I was in jail because I killed a man; later I was sent to the penitentiary. There I continued to meet with the Christians who held services there. I bought a Bible, began to study it and finally was let out on good conduct. Now I'm back on my farm. I've built a chapel and we have services regularly." Several more years passed. Recently, he met John again. Now he had become a lay preacher and he had recently returned from a trip to the peniten-

tiary where he had been and there he had preached to those still in prison. "Many," he said, "are the same ones that were there when I was" and he had given his testimony of how the Lord had saved and set him free from his sin and also given him physical freedom. Several hundred prisoners were at the service and many raised their hands for prayer. "I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

Every third Sunday our church has a service at the city jail. Senhor Raimundo, together with Bible School students or young people from the church, speak, sing and distribute tracts. Almost always some prisoner asks for prayer. Since three weeks go by between services and the prisoners don't usually stay very long at this jail, our Christian workers can't follow up on these men or see lasting results, but we can pray and trust that the living seed of God's Word planted in these hearts will bring forth fruit. Let us remember these words of Christ: "And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together" (John 4:36).

SOMEONE SHOULD

A stranger walked alone, the weary
road
No place to find to rest a little while.
So few could see his burden or his
load
Yet needed one to comfort, cheer or
smile
Or walk with him.
But who would care his load to share?
Someone should, but, Lord, is it I?
A dear one passed away to leave be-
hind
An empty spot or lonely, vacant chair.
Who would have time to share a word
of comfort kind,
To wipe a tear or lift to God a soul
in prayer?
So busy seemed the day;
The need was now, to move, or head
to bow.
Someone should, but, Lord, is it I?
In this great work of vineyard chore
and care,

(Continued on page 13)



NEWS

of the Churches

UNIQUE BAPTISMAL SERVICE

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matt. 28:19).

Four individuals, comprising three generations, were baptized by Rev. Lars Stalsbrotten, at the Easter service, March 30, 1975, at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Vancouver, Washington.

Mrs. Wilma Louise Johnson, the grandmother; Mrs. Kathryn Dale Berahmand, the daughter; and her two children, Reza Dale Berahmand and Maryam Bridget Berahmand, received baptism. The grandmother and mother had been members of the first adult instruction class in this newly organized congregation.

Mrs. Kathryn Berahmand is the Cradle Roll Chairman in the Ruth Circle of the local WMF.

May God richly bless them and may they remain true to their commitments.

Mrs. Ralph Thompson, Sec'y.

NUGGETS OF NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

New members were received into several congregations of the Roseau, Minn., parish during March, namely at Rose, Spruce and Roseau Lutheran. The churches are served by Rev. Jerome Nikunen.

The Norland Sunday School of the same parish resumed classes after the winter holiday on April 6. Larry Voll is superintendent of the school.

The Bagley, Minn., parish has been added to the list of those having their own parish papers now. Grace Lutheran, Bagley, and Rice Lutheran,

Bagley, are served by Rev. Bruce Dalager. The second issue of The Parish Newsletter reports that 110 children are enrolled in Grace Sunday School and attendance at Rice averages about 35. Both schools are active in mission projects.

BIBLE CONFERENCE SET FOR ST. PAUL CHURCH

A Bible conference is being held this weekend, April 24-27, at Victory in Christ Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minn., Francis Monseth, pastor. An evangelistic service will be held on Thursday and Friday nights at 7 p.m. and at 7 o'clock on Sunday evening. There will be no meetings on Saturday night. These will be followed by "Growth Hours" at 8:15 and 7:15, respectively. Rev. J. G. Erickson, Minneapolis, Minn., will be the evangelist and Mr. Neil Grindheim of The Navigators will lead the Growth Hours.

A nursery will be provided at the East Area Community Center, where the congregation presently worships, 1575 Ames Avenue, near Maryland and Hazelwood.

PASTOR DAHLE TO SPEAK AT YOUTH SPONSORED PROGRAM AT ABERCROMBIE

Rev. Trygve F. Dahle, Spicer, Minn., will be the speaker at a program for senior citizens sponsored by the youth of the church at Bethany Lutheran Church, rural Abercrombie, N. Dak., on Sunday, April 27, at 2 o'clock. He will also sing in both the English and Norwegian languages. Dale Mellgren is the student pastor of the church.

Pastor Dahle was the speaker at a

Bible series on the Book of Ephesians at Calvary Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, Minn., April 20-24. The congregation is served by Student Pastor Ronald Hoehne.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY AT GRAFTON TO BE OBSERVED

Bethel Lutheran Church, Grafton, N. Dak., Dennis D. Gray, pastor, will note its tenth anniversary in a service on Sunday, May 18. Mr. Gordon Johnson, Grand Forks, N. Dak., will speak at that service and a dinner will follow.

REV. TRYGVE F. DAHLE TO WED

Rev. Trygve F. Dahle, Spicer, Minn., and Anna Marie Oppen, Boscobel, Wis., are engaged to be married May 11, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Boscobel, at 12 noon, following the morning worship of the congregation. A reception will follow in the church parlors. The couple plans to leave for Norway on May 15 aboard the Scandinavian Historical Society's flight from Minneapolis to Oslo. They will have three weeks in Norway visiting relatives and return to Minneapolis on June 9 and will attend the Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, June 11-15.

DATES ANNOUNCED FOR GALILEE CAMPS

The young adult retreat at Galilee Lutheran Bible Camp, Lake Bronson, Minn., will be held June 20-22. High school juniors and seniors and young adults, including Bible School students, are invited to attend.

The first service will be a singspiration at 8:00 p.m. on the 20th. Rev. Philip Haugen, Fargo, N. Dak., will be the speaker for the retreat.

The youth camp at Galilee will be held June 23-30. Pastor Dennis Gray, Grafton, N. Dak., informs that more counsellors are needed for the camp week and anyone interested may write to him at Box 497, Grafton, 58237.

The Lutheran Ambassador hopes to carry information about all the AFLC camps planned for the summer of 1975 in a later issue.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Thirteenth Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will be held at the Association Schools at 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard, Minneapolis, Minnesota, with the Medicine Lake Lutheran Church as co-host, June 11-15, 1975. The theme of the conference will be "For the Life of the World." The conference text is John 6:41-51.

Pastor John P. Strand,
Pastor Dennis Gray,
Conference Committee

AFLBS ALUMNI RETREAT SCHEDULED

The annual alumni retreat of former AFLBS students will be held at Faithhaven Camp in Minnesota, May 9-11. Rev. Stephen E. Odegaard, Winger, Minn., will be the featured speaker. The cost will be the same as last year, \$12.50 per person or \$20.00 for couples. Please send your registration to Miss Shirley Solheim, 3010 Winnetka Ave. No., Crystal, Minn. 55427.

QUOTES ON MOTHER

It has been truly remarked: "A good mother is worth a hundred schoolmasters."

(Mother) Make your child feel that the approval of God is of greater consequence than the approval of man.

Fewer children would go astray if they were trained from infancy to make the mother a confidant at all times and in all matters.

—L. B. Buchheimer

FOUNDER OF LBI PASSED AWAY IN FEBRUARY

Dr. Samuel M. Miller, 82, founder and first dean of the Lutheran Bible Institute of Minneapolis and former pastor of two Minneapolis area churches, died Feb. 26 in Orange City, Fla.

Miller started the institute, known to thousands of Lutherans as "the LBI," in 1919 while pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church, 25th St. and Columbus Ave. S. The church was built while he was pastor.

He also was founding pastor of Re-

deemer Lutheran Church, 61 NE Mississippi Way, Fridley, where he spent several years.

The institute, under his direction, grew from a basement class in a St. Paul church to a large school with its own building erected in 1929 at 1619 Portland Av.

Miller conducted Bible classes in congregations throughout the country and was responsible for starting an LBI branch school in Seattle, Wash. Other branches were started later in Teaneck, N.J., and Los Angeles.

The LBI moved to a campus in Golden Valley in 1961 and started Golden Valley Lutheran College in 1967.

Miller left the LBI in 1932 to be pastor of First Lutheran Church, Jamestown, N.Y. He returned to the LBI in 1936 and left it again in 1944 to become executive director of the Immanuel Deaconess Institute, Omaha, Neb.

For a short time, he was evangelist for the former Augustana Lutheran Church.

He was pastor of churches in Pierston and Orange City, Fla., before retiring in December.

Miller is survived by his widow, Helene, three daughters, Mrs. Bernice Schultz, Mrs. Grace Sponberg and Mrs. Edith Leonardson, and a son, Samuel A.

from *The Minneapolis Star*

NEW CREDIT LINE

The credit line for material quoted in the article "The Tithes is God's Way" by Rev. Hubert F. DeBoer in *The Lutheran Ambassador*, April 8, 1975, should be: **From It Will Be Your Duty**, by Wilfred Bockelman. © 1966 by Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission.

PERSONALITIES

Rev. John Rieth, who has been serving Ortley Lutheran Church, Ortley, S. Dak., for soon four years, first as a student pastor, has accepted a call to serve Faith and Stillwater Congregations, Kalispell, Mont., and will take up the work there in mid-summer.

(Continued from page 11)

The workers are so often but a few,
And yet God asks of us to go and share.

The good He gives each day anew,
Too good to keep to self.

It needs be done, would there be one?
Someone should, but, Lord, is it I?

God calls for workers here to carry
on His line

Of work of love to others in some way.
A task to do, a sacrifice of time
Or talent loaned to use while it is day,
While homeward-bound.

He will provide the need, but who His
call will heed?

Someone should, but Lord, is it I?

Help us then, Lord, to see the very
need

For service here, and give what we
so lack—

The willingness of heart the call to
heed.

Surrendered for Your use, not looking
back,

But onward to the goal

Of heaven's treasure, beyond all mea-
sure.

If someone should, Lord, use me

Thank You, Lord, for all You do pro-
vide

Along the way, Your strength with us
to share.

Your grace and love, Your hand to
hold and guide

Our wayward feet beneath Your lov-
ing care

In service here,

Yet, but to go, my thanks to show:

If someone should, Lord, it is I.

George Johnson
Eben Jct., Mich.



PREACHING MISSIONS

Willmar, Minn.

Zion Lutheran Church

Rev. Leslie Galland, pastor

April 27-May 1

Rev. Eugene Enderlein, Minnewaukan, N. Dak., speaker

LUTHER LEAGUE ACTIVITIES



District Luther League officers are, bottom row, left to right, Vange Stenberg, secretary, and Heidi Gruber, treasurer; middle, Mike Crowell, devotional life secretary; and top, Tim White, vice-president, Tad Spading, president, and Rev. Michael Brandt, pastoral advisor.

LUTHER LEAGUE ACTIVITIES WEST COAST LUTHER LEAGUE CONVENTION HELD AT FERNDALE

The highlight of my spring for many years has been our district Luther League Convention. It is always a wonderful time of being with old friends, meeting new ones and being refreshed in the Spirit! This year it proved to be equally satisfying. Triumph Lutheran, Ferndale, Washington, Rev. Hans Tollefson, pastor, hosted the convention, Feb. 14-16, and picked the theme "My Heart—Christ's Home," taken from John 14:23: "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him" (NIV).

We were pleased to have representative groups from each of our district leagues. After registration and a singspiration led by Steve Nelson, we saw a film called "Eighteen," about a young girl's effective ministry to everyone around her. We then had refreshments and were assigned to our weekend hosts.

Saturday morning greeted us with snow on the ground, but many joined in the opening prayer meeting at 8:30 a.m. This was followed by a singspiration which served its purpose of waking everybody up and preparing us for Bible study. We were privileged to have Pastor Rogness from Marysville, Washington, lead this session. He used eight drawings portraying man's heart as thought of in medieval times. After an introductory talk, everyone was split into eight groups with a leader. Each group discussed one of the pictures and the Scripture associated with it. Then we gathered together again and shared our findings. It really was a novel and beneficial method of studying what a Christian's heart should be like.

The next session on the program was our annual business meeting. Naturally, the principal item of interest was the election of officers. Elected were: president—Tad Spading, Kirkland, Washington; vice-president—Tim White, Kirkland; secretary—Vange Stenberg, Lake Stevens, Washington; treasurer—Heidi Gruber, Everett, Washington; and devotional life secretary—Mike Crowell, Kalispell, Montana. Rev. Michael Brandt was re-elected as our pastoral advisor.

A delicious lunch was followed by a time of recreation at a local gym or leaguers had the option of resting while viewing the film "My Son, My Son." The banquet that evening was held at the church and special recognition was given to all the league advisors who were present. It was great to see all of these young couples and adults who are working with our Luther Leagues. The speaker for the evening was Paul Staswick, a graduate of the Lutheran Bible Institute in Seattle. He shared from Galatians 2:18, centering on what "Christ Lives in Me" really means. He emphasized the importance of preparing our hearts for Christ to live in us so that

they will truly be homes. Pastor Gray Skramstad, Kalispell, led the lively sharing time which followed, including special contributions from each church.

Sunday School included opening singing, a talk about the benefits of Bible School, a special number by the AFLBS alumni present (Long Hash Chorus) and Vange Stenberg shared briefly what Bible School had meant to her. The message during the service was brought by Pastor Brandt, Lake Stevens. He used I Corinthians 3:10, 11 to show us how Jesus is our foundation. Our house has a heavenly foundation, obedience are its walls and mercy its roof. The windows and doors are enlightenment. Jesus wants us to found our life on Him so that He can build on that foundation.

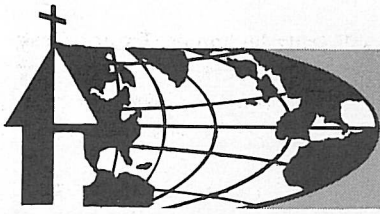
Following a dinner for the entire congregation (I never saw so much food before!), we all departed—full of food, love of friends and blessings from our time together. "The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease!" (Lam. 3:22a, NASB).

Vange Stenberg, Secretary

UNWORTHY AMBITIONS

The highest ambition, it seems, of some mothers with respect to their daughters is that they might grow up to be beautiful, and admired, and attractive, and popular in society. This tends to stimulate pride and vanity in their daughters, encourages jealousy and selfishness, and makes them pleasure-loving and frivolous. With respect to their sons their chief concern is that they may succeed in business, advance quickly, and become prosperous. Thus worldly ambition, selfishness, and greed are instilled into their hearts. Sober-minded Christian mothers would blush at the thought of revealing such unworthy ambitions to Jesus. To such mothers Jesus has this to say: "The world passeth away and the lust thereof."

—L. B. Buchheimer



CONVOCATION COMMUNION CREATES CONTROVERSY FOR MISSOURI SYNOD

St. Louis—(LC)—A controversy is brewing over the scheduling of a communion service during the theological convocation planned for April 14-18 by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to discuss the doctrinal controversy in the denomination.

At a meeting here March 10, the planning committee for the convocation issued a statement which said the service would be held in a "pastorally responsible way" and those desiring to commune would be asked to "announce individually" their intention, following a custom practiced in some Lutheran churches.

The issue is whether or not those participating in the convocation—all members of the LCMS—share enough doctrinal agreement to celebrate the sacrament together. Some have argued also that in the course of the theological controversy persons associated with Concordia Seminary in Exile (Seminex) have spoken "words of judgment" against the Synod.

The LCMS traditionally practices a "close" type of communion, limiting participation to LCMS members or those with whom the Synod has officially declared fellowship. While the theological debate between the conservatives and moderates in the LCMS has grown particularly sharp in recent years and while the faculty of Seminex was dismissed from their teaching positions at Concordia Seminary here, no one scheduled to take part in the convocation has been officially ousted from the Synod.

The Concordia Seminary Board of Control has adopted a resolution which supported an earlier faculty action objecting to the service of Holy Communion, "unless there is evidence of a spirit of repentance on the part of Seminex personnel for their past acts, their attitude of hostility toward the Synod and Concordia Sem-

inary and their pronouncements of judgment over the seminary."

The faculty resolution said that members of the Concordia faculty would "absent themselves" from the communion service unless there was a clear sign of repentance on the part of Seminex personnel.

Apparently attempting to deal with this objection, the planning committee said a "service of confession and repentance has been planned for the final day of the convocation, to be followed by a period of reflection and meditation, during which convocation participants will be asked to announce individually their intention to commune."

The communion service will then take place and the committee said it assumes that all those "who partake of the Lord's Supper will be repentant for their sins and will be at peace with their Lord, their brothers and their church."

"It goes without saying that no one will be forced to attend this communion service, but it is the hope and prayer of the planning committee that the concluding service will be one of joy and praise to God for the positive achievements of the convocation," the committee stated.

"Announcing" for communion prior to the service is practiced in some Lutheran churches, usually as a means whereby the pastor helps the prospective communicant "examine himself" as suggested in the New Testament.

It is rarely described as a means of excluding those with doctrinal differences.

The service will be under the sponsorship of a St. Louis congregation, according to President Lloyd Behnken of the Florida-Georgia District, a member of the planning committee. The congregation has not yet been determined and presumably it will be responsible for receiving the "communion announcements," said the

LCMS district president.

A spokesman for Evangelical Lutherans in Mission (ELIM), the moderate organization within the LCMS that supports Seminex, said that members of ELIM have no objection to a service of Holy Communion at the convocation. ELIM believes that there is a "much greater degree of doctrinal unity in the LCMS than do those at Concordia Seminary," said the ELIM representative. "We also believe that celebrating the sacrament together builds up our unity."

On the other hand, one published report quotes Dr. Ralph Bohlmann, acting president of Concordia Seminary, as stating that "a communion service planned especially for people with such serious differences may cause offense or create the false impression that our differences are either non-existent or insignificant."

Faculty members and students from Seminex have already been advised by Concordia Seminary officials not to commune at services held at Concordia Seminary.

President Behnken admitted that the communion service may present "problems" for some of those attending the convocation. "But we hope that by meditating on our life together, some may conclude that we are, after all, still in fellowship with one another," he said.

* * * * *

NOTE TO EDITORS: In release number 75-20, issued March 19, please correct third paragraph on page 4 by eliminating the name of the Rev. Wilson E. Touhsaent and substituting that of Dr. Howard J. McCarney of Harrisburg, president of the Central Pennsylvania Synod.

LWR WORKERS WITHDRAW TO SAIGON, HELP THERE

Saigon—(LC)—As North Vietnamese troops overran most of South

Vietnam, Lutheran World Relief workers affiliated with Vietnam Christian Service withdrew from the provinces and began helping with emergency relief programs near the country's beleaguered capital.

According to word received in New York in early April, the six LWR workers are safe and their families have been accounted for, it was reported here by the Rev. Ove R. Nielsen, assistant executive director of the overseas relief and development agency for three major Lutheran denominations in North America.

Five workers are in Saigon and one is on a refugee vessel in Cam Ranh bay, Mr. Nielsen said. Among the activities undertaken by LWR workers are efforts to reunite refugees with

their families.

Vietnam Christian Service people are encouraging those still in their homes near Saigon to open their homes to other refugees, the LWR executive stated.

An emergency food distribution program is also being operated in Vung Tau.

On April 3, Mr. Nielsen said there were no immediate plans to evacuate Vietnam Christian Service personnel. But contingency plans were being laid, he added, if evacuation became necessary.

Vietnam Christian Service, operated jointly by Lutheran World Relief and Church World Service, has been working in Vietnam since early in 1966.

Directory of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

OFFICERS

President

Rev. John P. Strand
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn.

Vice-President

Rev. R. Snipstead
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn.

Secretary

Rev. Dennis D. Gray
1586 Hill Avenue, Box 497
Grafton, N. Dak.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Chairman

Rev. Kenneth L. Anderson
McVille, N. Dak.

Secretary

Mr. Sheldon Mortrud
715 S. Tindolph Ave.
Thief River Falls, Minn.

ASSOCIATION SCHOOLS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President

Rev. E. J. Langness
858 N. Pine St.
Ishpeming, Mich.

Secretary

Rev. Leslie Galland
Spicer, Minn.

Dean of Free Lutheran Seminary

Rev. Amos O. Dyrud
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dean of the Bible School

Rev. R. Snipstead
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn.

WORLD MISSIONS

Chairman

Mr. Robert Knutson
McVille, N. Dak.

Secretary

Rev. Eugene W. Enderlein
Box 95
Minnewaukan, N. Dak.

HOME MISSIONS

Chairman

Rev. Herbert L. Franz
1301 Wilson Avenue
Cloquet, Minn.

Secretary

Rev. Larry V. Severson
Wallace, S. Dak.

PUBLICATIONS AND PARISH EDUCATION

Chairman

Rev. Raynard Huglen
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn.

Secretary

Mrs. Melvin Walla
Lot 78, Oak Ridge Estates
Fergus Falls, Minn.

Executive Secretary

Miss Judith Wold
324 N. Arnold
Thief River Falls, Minn.

YOUTH BOARD

Chairman

Rev. Forrest Swenson
518 North Main Street
Tioga, N. Dak.

STEWARDSHIP

Chairman

Rev. Wendell Johnson
Dalton, Minn.

Secretary

Mr. Robert L. Dietsche
Sand Creek, Wis.

BOARD OF PENSIONS

Chairman

Mr. Clifford Holm
3100 East Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn.

Secretary

Rev. Jerome Nikunen
805 2nd St. N. E.
Roseau, Minn.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY FEDERATION

President

Mrs. Robert Dietsche
Sand Creek, Wis.

Secretary

Mrs. Oscar Christopherson
8080 12th Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minn.

Treasurer

Mrs. Reuben Emberson
Esko, Minn.

Executive Secretary

Miss Judith Wold
324 N. Arnold
Thief River Falls, Minn.

LUTHER LEAGUE FEDERATION

President

Rev. Kenneth Moland
Kenyon, Minn.

Secretary

Miss Linda Moan
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis

Treasurer

Miss Kathi Jones
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn.