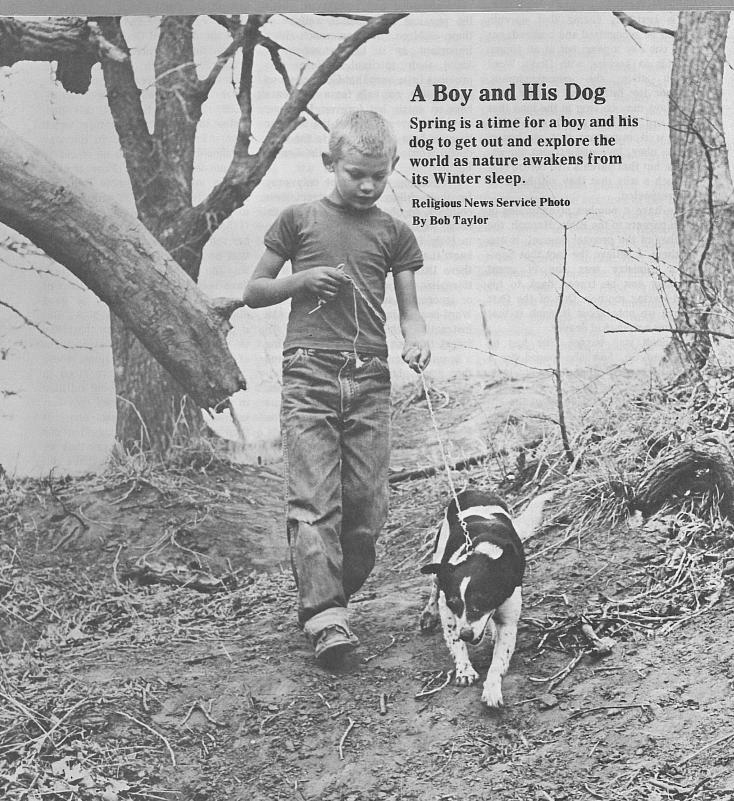
The Lutheran Ambassador



Meditation Moments

TRAIN UP A CHILD

Among all the activities and important days of spring and early summer come Mother's Day and Father's Day. It is certainly fitting that parents should be recognized and honored, not only one day a year, but at all times. This is in keeping with God's Word gives the commandment. "Honor thy father and mother, that thy days may be long in the land that the Lord thy God giveth thee." Not only is it important that we honor, serve, obey, love and esteem our parents, but that parents live before God in such a way that they will be loved and respected.

We have a number of examples of such parents in the Bible. Hannah, the mother of the prophet Samuel, is one of them. I believe the fact that Samuel's ministry was one of great blessing can be traced back to his God-fearing mother. One of the first things we note about Hannah is that she was a woman of prayer.

Hannah was barren. She had no children. Oh, how she longed for a child of her own that she could love, nourish and instruct. There wasn't much that she could do about the situation, but she had faith in a God who could do something. So she prayed to Him. She prayed for a son.

How blessed is that child whose life has been preceded and is accompanied by the prayers of believing parents. Pity the child who comes into a home where no one prays. Such a child already has two strikes against it. The sad fact that really dedicated, praying parents are not very plentiful explains why we have so much juvenile delinquency in our land.

Not only did Hannah pray that she might give birth to a son, but she prayed that he might belong to the Lord all the days of his life. Parents are concerned and rightly so, about the physical and mental welfare of their children. But how much more important is it to be concerned about their spiritual welfare. The precious little ones that God has given us will live, not only for a few years here on earth, but forever. Have we through prayer prepared the way for them to hear and respond to the wonderful Words of Life which the Gospel brings?

God-fearing parents not only pray for their children, they instruct their children. In obedience to God's command we bring our little ones to Him in Holy Baptism. How good it is to know that our Lord loves and receives. these little ones. But how sad it is to realize that so many parents forget or ignore the second part of Christ's Word concerning baptism, that is, the instruction which should follow. To forget this instruction is like starting a beautiful flower in a flower pot and then never giving it any water or letting the sun shine upon it. It will soon die. An Oriental king named Khama once said to an Englishman, "You English take great care of your goods, but you throw away your children." May this never be said of any of us. May we heed the admonition of the Apostle Paul to bring up our children "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). Very important in this instruction is a life of love that teaches what we preach.

The value of proper instruction can also be seen in the life of Moses. Moses didn't live very long with his parents. But what he received in those early, formative years set the stage for the rest of his life. Later in life, when he could perhaps have become the king of the great nation of Egypt, he chose "rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin; considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward" (Heb. 11:25, 26). How well this illustrates the word of Scripture which says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6).

It is interesting to note Hannah's promise to the Lord, "I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life" (I Sam. 1:11). Hannah had received her son from the Lord. She recognized that he belonged to God. That is the way she wanted it to be. Some parents have their own plans for the lives of their children. These may be good plans without being God's plans. But if they are not God's plans they may be very harmful to the development of our children. Many times these "good" plans of men have stood in the way of God's will being fulfilled in the lives of children and they lost interest in spiritual things and lost their souls. When we pray for our children and we should pray that we will not stand in the way of God's will being fulfilled in their lives. We should be willing, as Abraham was, to sacrifice our children to our Lord, knowing that He alone knows what is best for their lives. He has a plan for each one of our children. May we pray and instruct and guide so that the wonderful plan of God for each life may unfold in a fruitful way to His honor and

Edwin Kjos

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 12, Number 9

The Trip That Was

PART III by Gene B. Smith

As we come to consider our last day on the AFLC mission field centered at Campo Mourao, two thoughts come to mind. What we would be witnessing in the mission churches on this particular Sunday in February stood out as the primary thought as we set out our course into the new day; but, then, what many other worshippers in other parts of Brazil and in other parts of South America would be doing on the same day could easily have been the second consideration. Some would undoubtedly be attending churches that were seen by our tour members, and in these churches they would be experiencing all the fine work in precious metals that were open to our evesight as well. One could easily understand, from looking at all the beautiful workmanship within the churches and from gazing upon the huge statue of Cristo Redentor, that South Americans are zealous in their service to the King. The child of God would surely hope, then, that all this marvelous work is a demonstration of a people trying to work their way to heaven (as warned against in the writings of the apostle Paul).

While a previous issue of The Lutheran Ambassador did mention our visit to the Cristo Redentor statue on Corcovado, little or nothing in parti-



Some of the younger children in Central Parana Church in Campo Mourao Church, Campo Mourao, with two teachers.

cular was written to give the reader any indication of the statue's great size. Its 125-foot height gives very ample reason for its easy visibility from the city of Rio de Janeiro below, especially when one considers that Corcovado itself, on top of which the statue has been constructed, is already some 2330 feet high. The huge image contains 1145 tons of concrete, so we may readily conclude that its head or either arm may be considered as likewise having its weight measured in tons. In our own country we would rather quickly come to think of making some sort of comparison with the Statue of Liberty on the basis of size. Which one is the larger of the two is unknown to this writer. (The Statue of Liberty is 151 feet high from the base and up.—Ed.)

Morning and evening services were held at both of the AFLC mission churches in Campo Mourao, and the two parts of our tour group attended in such a manner that those who worshipped at Central Free Lutheran Church (Igreja) in the morning worshipped at Lar Parana (closer to the mission school) in the evening, and vice versa. Perhaps one might easily feel strange in the presence of a fellow Christian directing most of his remarks in another language; but the fellowship around the Word in any language, whether spoken or sung, did have a way of tying worshippers



together. Those who attended the evening service at Lar Parana witnessed Pastor Connely Dyrud leading the opening part of the meeting, Lay Pastor Timoteo reporting upon the distant mission church with which he is associated, and Pastor Yeddo Goettel both playing the pump organ for singing and then later preaching the message in flowing Portuguese. As a part of the opening section of the service Pastor Dyrud had a few of us visitors from the north give our testimonies in English for translation by Pastor Goettel. At the close of the meeting, even as church folks were leaving, an influential woman came into the building, with a sick son in arms, seeking help for the boy. After directing an on-the-spot laying-on-ofhands service for the boy. Pastor Dyrud took the mother and son to a local hospital for medical assistance.

Between the morning and evening services, however, we all had a chance to experience the Brazilian equivalent of a smorgasbord, called Churrascaria. The missionaries separated themselves in such a way among us as to guide us away from those foods which might most easily cause us illness. With plates already loaded, we sat to eat, only to discover that soon there would be visits by several waiters, each cutting off roasted meat of one sort or another (at our request) from a skewer or spit right onto our plates. If we had only known so much meat was to come along in this fashion, we would likely not have loaded our plates so full before sitting down at the elongated table.

Our last get-together on the institute compound was held after evening services at the home of the Dyruds-food, fellowship, and singing-before we would be catching our middle-of-thenight bus back to Foz do Iguacu. The fellowship continued, of course, in the bus terminal as we closed out a wonderful visit with the missionaries while waiting for the loaded bus that would bump us through the night on the very start of our return trip. This return, however, was not to lead us again through Rio on the Atlantic side of South America, but through Asuncion, La Paz, and Lima, the last-mentioned being on the Pacific side of that great land.

The bus from Campo Mourao to

Iguacu Falls had to serve us both as transportation and sleeping quarters that particular night of our tour, and most of us had our reserved seats in which to try to sleep—between bumps. In the deep dark of the hours before dawn, many miles from either end of the trip, the bus developed a flat tire. While a spare was available, the bus carried no jack (for some unknown reason), so we were all compelled to wait until the next bus would come along and let us use its jack. probably leaving it in our former jackless situation as it passed and preceded us along the route. Having already sustained a two-hour delay on account of that tire-and-jack difficulty, we were not overly enchanted to learn that the local bus that would take us to the Hotel Carima had to be people-pushed to get it started. This sort of man-powered start had yet to be carried out another time for that bus before we were finally clear of the Carima and on our way to the airport for a plane trip to Asuncion. Paraguay. What a day that had been for busses!

The lack of sufficient sleep on the night's bus trip squashed some of our alertness the following day as we esperienced another conducted tour, this time in a chartered bus driven around the city of Asuncion. Probably the sight-seeing tour of the city on the bus was not far different in time from the length of our previous plane ride to this new country on our list, but many interesting and beautiful sights were crowded into that short period of time. While the country itself is not large, it does have lovely vegetation.

Left to right, Judith Wold, Yeddo Goettel. his mother and sister, and Ray Jacobson.

We saw for ourselves the contrasting sights of the presidential palace and the riverboat area inhabited by the poor, tasted delicious ice cream, and witnessed policewomen directing traffic. Our registration at one of the hotels in the city was not for the usual reason but was intended only for the purposes of making possible an evening meal in relaxation and allowing us some further needed clean-up before our middle-of-the-night plane ride into Bolivia.

In a sense, there were rather two cool situations which greeted us at the airport of La Paz, Bolivia. The former of the two was the cool weather to be found at an altitude of over two miles, and the latter was the absence of passports which were still someplace back in Asuncion, Paraguay, It appeared that we could now be persons without a country, so a dozen more-or-less miserable people sat in the airport building amidst the armed guards patrolling the place. Most likely the most optimistic person there was our tour guide, and his attitude was to be twice rewarded, once in our being released to a hotel down in the city itself (La Paz is much lower than its airport) and the second time in a telegram (the following day) from Asuncion declaring the safety of the passports.

The city of La Paz is some 12,000 feet high, so the headaches (literally) that developed in some of us were not without cause: neither was the breathlessness which came from walking up a couple flights of stairs. Even hotel maids ran out of breath on stairways. Clouds were nearby



The John Abel family in front of their home.

neighbors to this city, as were the surrounding mountains. While the cooler weather was a relief from the heat we had experienced in Brazil, the middle-of-the-day closing of shops for about two hours nevertheless surprisingly continued here as well, possibly as a continental tradition. Many Indians in their warm clothing and rounded top-hats were to be seen, and there was a great deal of the peddling of wares on the city sidewalks by them. Three tour members took an opportunity to visit World Mission Prayer League headquarters in the city and some of its mission work in the surrounding hills, noting the open swers as well as the steep and bumpy grades travelled over. Plenty of Indian-made articles were available to those of us who wished to purchase them; and in a cool place such as this it wasn't at all strange that many of those articles were made out of llama fur. Many things could be purchased in the open markets, and among those things was unrefrigerated meat. From one hotel in which we stayed even a rooster could be heard crowing very clearly, right in the city's loop! An excursion to the highest lake in the world. Titicaca, did not materialize because of bad weather.

By the time we were ready to leave La Paz our passports were again with us. However, the plane that was supposed to take us on board somehow did not manage to land but went on to the next stop, leaving us for another experience in the high-altitude airport. Because of an important official who needed a ride to Lima that night the plane did return several hours later, so our long wait was at last rewarded. The cool weather of the few days that we had spent in La Paz became warmer, comfortable weather as we spent a somewhat shorter period of time in the sea-level city of Lima, Peru, and its surroundings. We were told that the city receives no rain but only mist. Obviously the mist and artificial watering are able to keep plant life flourishing, from what we observed. Our tours, while on the stay in Lima, included the markets (more furs), the torture chambers of the Inquisition. suburban swimming along the Pacific Ocean shoreline, and a visit to Inca ruins that had been [Continued on page 10]

A LITTLE PARABLE FOR MOTHERS

The young mother set her foot on the path of life.

"Is the way long?" she asked.

And her guide answered, "Yes. And the way is hard. And you will be old before you reach the end of it. But the end will be better than the beginning."

But the young mother was happy, and she would not believe that anything could be better than these years. So she played with her children, and gathered flowers for them along the way, and bathed them in the clear streams. And the sun shone on them, and life was good, and the young mother cried, "Nothing will ever be lovelier than this."

Then night came, and storm, and the path was dark and the children shook with fear and cold, and the mother drew them close and covered them with her mantle, and the children said, "Oh, Mother, we are not afraid, for you are near, and no harm can come." And the mother said, "This is better than the brightness of day, for I have taught my children courage."

And the morning came, and there was a hill ahead, and the children climbed and grew weary, and the mother was weary, but at all times she said to the children, "A little patience, and we are there." So the children climbed, and when they reached the top, they said, "We could not have done it without you, Mother." And the mother, when she lav down that night, looked up at the stars, and said: "This is a better day than the last, for my children have learned fortitude in the face of hardness. Yesterday I gave them courage. Today I have given them strength."

And the next day came strange clouds which darkened the earth—clouds of war and hate and evil, and the children groped and stumbled, and the mother said: "Look up. Lift your eyes to the Light." And the children looked and saw above the clouds an Everlasting Glory, and it guided them and brought them beyond the darkness. And that night the mother said: "This is the best day of all, for I have shown my children God."

And the days went on, and the weeks

and the months and the years, and the mother grew old, and she was little and bent. But her children were tall and strong, and walked with courage. And when the way was hard, they way was rough, they lifted her, for she was light as a feather; and at last they came to a hill, and beyond the hill they could see a shining road and golden gates flung wide.

And the mother said: "I have reached the end of my journey. And now I know that the end is better than the beginning, for my children can walk alone, and their children after them."

And the children said: "You will always walk with us, Mother, even when you have gone through the gates."

And they stood and watched her as she went on alone, and the gates closed after her. And they said: "We can not see her, but she is with us still. A mother like ours is more than a memory. She is a Living Presence."

Temple Bailey.
(from Spiritual Pioneers)

MOTHERHOOD

Motherhood is perhaps the hardest job in the world, but mothers do not seek easy lives. Things worth accomplishing are seldom easy. But just because it is the hardest job in the world, it can also be the most splendid, the most stimulating, and the most engrossing, if the mother makes it so, for such love makes drudgery divine.

God has given to mother this beautiful, though difficult and sometimes disheartening task of moulding character. To a great extent the child's success and happiness lie in her hands. By the high ideals that are kindled in the child, by the aspirations and inspirations aroused, by the habits of right living and the power of selfgovernment taught them, the child can be sent forth well-equipped to win the battle of life. Could parents but realize more keenly how soon their children will become mere walking bundles of habit, they would give more heed to their conduct in the plastic state. For surely what the boy soweth the man shall reap.

No one can live so closely to the child as the mother can; and no one,

if she will give her heart and soul to it, is so able to do this wonderful work or make it pay such rich dividends. To be the confidante and close adviser of her children from their earliest days should be the supreme ambition of every mother. Our children should not be thought of as heavy loads, but rather let us think of them as beautiful burdens. The cares of our family may be urgent, but they need not be ugly ones. Whatever love touches is always ennobled. If the artist is willing to starve some picture that burns in his soul: if the musician will emaciate his body to emancipate his harmonies, how much more should fathers and mothers be uncomplainingly glad to work with God for a few brief years in which they are permitted to help shape the destinies of their children.

What a blessing children are to the great, big world. "I love these little people," said Dickens, "and it is not a slight thing when they who are so fresh from God love us." The loveliest stories that have ever been written have been written about children. The sweetest songs that have ever been sung are the children's songs. The most beautiful things in art and literature have received their inspiration from the child.

All too often in the strenuous preoccupation of modern home life we lose sight of the fact that motherhood is a spiritual as well as a physical trust. We plan for the physical wellbeing of our children, but give the church and the school full control of the moral and mental training. Yet how very small a part of life is physical. There is a vast difference between a housekeeping mother and a mother keeping house. You remember that beautiful poem of Longfellow's, "The Children's Hour." It describes a much-needed practice in our homes today.

Parents should early teach the child to seek the approval of God. It is a dreadful thing that so many of our children grow up without any spiritual instruction in the home and without daily contact with the things of the spirit. From the laws of God up to the love of God is a happy pathway we can all best learn to take in our earliest childhood.

[Continued on page 10]



BLESSED MEETINGS AT BROCKTON

Grace and peace be unto all His people this wonderful Lord's day. "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

We are rejoicing in the special meetings we had with Pastor Kenneth Pentti held at Faith Lutheran Church, Brockton, Montana, March 24th through 28th.

Truly we had a heavenly visit from the Lord, because when you see fruit such as we saw here, we must believe that our wonderful Lord must have sent him into our area. The Holy Spirit worked in a mighty way. It was so good to see the altar being used to see real tears of sorrow for sins. And then after repentance, tears of great joy for what the Lord had done in their hearts. Washed clean in His precious blood and set free. This is what we saw at the altar in Faith and Bethel during those days.

Yes, souls saved and Christians gathering at the altar on their knees asking God to forgive them for sin. Sunday School teachers, deacons, the president of the church and the pastor praying that the Lord would create in us clean hearts and to use us as better servants for Him. This was a blessing, to take part in such in our day. Our little church was filled almost every night. People drove many miles night after night to hear the Gospel. Hearts were hungering and thirsting after righteousness.

But sorry to say that the last night Pastor Dean was unable to be at the meeting. The Lord spoke to him with a heart condition and he was sent to the hospital for a few days' rest. But even through this the Lord works (Praise His holy Name!). I feel that

we as pastor, congregation and friends have been drawn closer together. Also that we can say we have learned to love each other in the Lord just a little bit more.

Pastor Dean is now writing you this letter and thanking our wonderful God for His loving care for His own. Also taking it a little easier, but praying that we will continue on in what our dear Brother Pentti left here in the Lord. It was so good to have him here and we surely believe the Lord has great use for this young pastor in the future. And also pray that we may not lay a stumbling stone in his pathway. Because, I believe when there is fruit like we saw in young and old, saved and unsaved, we must know them by their fruit.

The world is crying for the kind of preaching we heard in our church, because we could sense the leading of the Lord. I believe that we need an evangelist now, one that is called by God and that we should be very sure that we do not hinder the Lord's work. I say this because we have seen the fruits and we have this right in our own beloved AFLC. May we not go to sleep or stand in the Lord's way. Because if He has called some in the evangelistic work, then let us let God have His way.

I believe that we are to go out like the Lord says and if we have seen souls snatched out of the hands of the devil, we should continue to use this until He closes the door. I believe that we ought to be where the Lord can use us and, brothers in Jesus, let us step out first and see if God really wants us to go and all these things shall be added unto us. I believe we are missing out on much of God's blessing because we wait for the time we think is right. This is what the devil really would like to see. Then he gains the victory. Oh, brothers, my heart has been in evangelism for many years and now I think it is high time for us to wake out of a sleep and do the work of an evangelist. Also, I believe the day is far spent and night cometh when no man shall be able to minister the Gospel. I really think you believe this also. So will you please pray that God will have His way in each of our hearts.

Well, I guess you can see that the Lord has spoken to my heart. And now that he has lifted me from a sick bed, I was almost sure that I was going home to be with Him. But, people, I believe He has more work for me to do for Him. And I ask you, isn't it time that we go a little more out for such a Savior as we have?

Thank you, and I think that the Lord has saved and put together a great group (AFLC). May we put our talent to work, and please do not bury it. So when our Savior comes back He will find us working in the vineyard.

We are looking forward to His return. Are you?

Lay Pastor Verle Dean Culbertson, Montana

CHRIST, MY COMPANION

The Lord has really made big changes in my life. As I look back I can say that the Lord put His seal on me since I was a little tot, remembering at home when Dad was gone working out so we were left with Ma and a lot to do. There was a big birch tree on the side of the house. We always had strong winds and hail and lightning. When I saw those ugly dark clouds start showing, I left my sisters and brothers and went alone to pray under that birch tree. Nobody could see me, alone with God.

Now, being 63 years old I can say that God has been with me all my life. I wasn't saved until after I left home because I was not conscious of my sins. Not until 1965. Then I cried to the Lord for help and He cleaned me out and all this while I never told the wife about my love affair with the Lord. But she got me one day reading her Bible with tears of joy and love of God so strong it changes a person. This same love Christ had for us as He paid for our sins on the cross.

And now to know this is the same love that lives in us, daily burning like a pilot light on a stove. And when we hear His name mentioned this same light flares up and we become just like little children, all full of joy and love. Now we can love our neighbor as ourselves. But not before we have found Christ and He lives in our heart. We can feel Him as He moves in our life.

The Lord took my wife a year ago [Continued on page 8]



PROMOTION DAYS HISTORY NOW

The 1974 Promotion Days at AFLBS are history now. About 50 young people, many of them high school seniors, attended the annual two-day event, April 5-6.

The first event was an informal service on Friday night. Two mission films were shown as a replacement for the announced "The Book That Would Not Burn." Rev. Amos Dyrud led that service.

On Saturday morning, Rev. Laurel Udden led a chapel service and spoke on the subject of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, showing how we must submit to God's will as Christ did. This was followed by two simultaneous Bible classes, one led by Rev.

Harold Hosch in the General Epistles and one by Rev. Francis Monseth in the Book of Acts. This gave the visitors an opportunity to see what a Bible School class is like. Mr. Don Rodvold conducted a choir rehearsal at 11 o'clock and this mass choir sang at the evening service.

That evening service, which was also the youth rally for the month, featured Rev. Herbert Franz, Cloquet, Minn., as the speaker and was led by Pastor Monseth. He talked about the "call of God" (Phil. 3:10-14). The Bible School Choir sang several songs in addition to those presented by the mass choir. After a fellowship lunch, an afterglow (singspiration and testimonies) was led by seminarian Rodger Olson.

Some of the weekend visitors stayed over to Sunday and attended services in Association churches in the Twin Cities. Pastor Udden spoke at the service at Medicine Lake Lutheran.

It is hoped that many of the young people who came for Promotion Days will return to AFLBS as students when they finish high school. Some former Bible School students were back to visit during Promotion Days and it was good to see them.

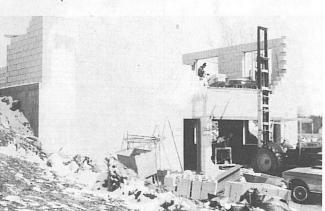
MR. KENNETH STENBERG TO SPEAK AT GRADUATION

Mr. Kenneth Stenberg, former missionary to Brazil, will be the speaker at the commencement exercises for Free Lutheran Seminary and Association Free Lutheran Bible School to be held on May 17, at 8 o'clock, in Minneapolis, Minn. Mr. Stenberg is from Lake Stevens, Wash., and has a daughter, Vange, in the Bible School graduating class.

Rev. Clifford Lindgren, Concord, Nebr., will offer the invocation at the service and Rev. Jay G. Erickson, Ferndale, Wash., will pronounce the benediction to close the ceremony.



A section of Spancrete being lowered into place.



The southwest end of the dorm during block laying.



Blocks being laid for the outer walls of first floor.



The completed first floor, awaiting Spancrete for the second floor.

Both have sons in the same class, James and Joel, respectively.

The Choir and Choral Club will provide appropriate music.

A reception will follow in the church parlors.

A prospective class of 33 will be graduated from the Bible School. Two men are finishing the seminary work.

DOLDRUMS HIT BUILDING PROJECT

A week of wet, cold weather stopped work on the boys' dorm project the week of April 1-5 and carrying on into the next week. Rain and snow made the ground conditions impossible for work. Everything came to a standstill.

The strike at the Spancrete manufacturing plant was a problem, too, but with road restrictions and mud at the building site it was impossible to haul anything in, even if it was available.

It is hoped that work can be resumed momentarily. The block work for the basement and first floor has been virtually completed. The exterior brick for first floor can be put in as soon as the ground dries up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 4—All-School Banquet at Swiss Chalet, 7:00 p.m.

May 5—Bible School Choir Home Concert, 7:00 p.m.

May 13-15—Final Examinations, 3rd Quarter

May 17—Commencement for Seminary and Bible School

SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR BIBLE SCHOOL SEEKING APPLICANTS

The Alumni Association of AFLBS is ready to award two \$300 scholar-ships for the 1974-75 school year (\$100 per quarter) to students who have the proper recommendation and have a financial need for assistance. The scholarships are open to AFLC and non-AFLC students.

Applications for the scholarships should be sent to either Jim Rasmussen, 124 North Terrace, Fargo, N. Dak. 58102, or Steve Lee, 2715 Hillsboro Court, Minneapolis, Minn. 55428. Preferably they should be sent in by one's pastor or by an alumnus of the Bible School.

The scholarships will be awarded next month so it is important that applications be sent in very soon.

Further contributions to the Fund are also welcome and should be sent to Steve Lee.

[Continued from page 6] and I'll say this that if I didn't have Christ as my companion, I don't know where I would be. Oh, how we can thank God for this life we have found in Him, comfort, love and joy every

To find Christ is to be born again. A new marriage, divorced from the old life. It's real, never alone. May the Lord be close to you, His love overflow.

Walt Niemi Cloquet, Minn. (Ed. Note: As you look back, Walt, I'm sure you realize it wasn't so wise to be under that birch tree in a wind and lightning storm.)

THE BIBLE AND I

I walked in the garden So lonely and sad;

Nothing seemed to make me glad.

Thinking and fretting from morning till night,

Watching the birds as they took their flight.

They would fly and fly and fly,

Till I'd lose sight of them and begin to cry.

Sadder and sadder life seemed each day.

No one would know what price I'd pay, If only my burdens would roll away. So in my position the Bible I had;

Just to pass time I read and read.

So plain as day is this Book, it said,

Dear child of God, you are still not dead;

Keep reading this Book and you shall see

How happy a child of God can be.

I was fourteen and loved to have fun.
This Book was so sweet I kept reading
on

One day as I read, I decided to pray; Somehow that just seemed to brighten my way.

My mind was made up to read every day.

So read this Book, dear friends, and see

How happy your life on earth can be.

Mrs. Ted Ovrid Hatton, N. Dak.



Karen Snipstead, left, Wayne Floan, a former student, and Joel Erickson, right, gave a humorous pantomime at the talent show, at AFLBS.



Harold Nelson, left, receives first prize at the talent show for his guitar solo from the MC, Mark Antal.

editorials

"WHATEVER BECAME OF SIN?"

A book by the renowned Dr. Karl Menninger of the Menninger Clinic at Topeka, Kansas, has gained a lot of attention since its recent publication. It is, interestingly, called **Whatever Became of Sin?** We learned of it through an article by Dr. James P. Shannon in the **Minneapolis Sunday Tribune.** We haven't seen the book yet, but have seen others refer to it.

Apparently, like many psychiatrists, Dr. Menninger had abandoned the religious concept of sin, feeling that it was illogical and unnecessary in explaining human behavior. Unlike many of his brother practictioners, he has now had a change in his thinking and he concedes the reality of "sin" and that some things can only be explained when this truth is accepted. Coming from a man with a name as prestigious as that of Menninger, more psychiatrists may part with their pre-conceived notions about sin.

Tragic as the conducting of much psychiatric medicine has been without the acceptance of the reality of sin, it has been even more tragic that some pastors in historical Protestant churches, yet, have conducted their ministries with a watered-down concept of sin. Where sin has still been used as a theological term, it has been spoken of as a psychological fault or failure rather than as a rebellion against God which incurs His judgment unless it is given up to Him.

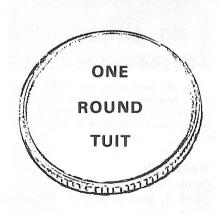
Congregations and parents do a great disservice to their young and to society at large when they do not plant the strong sense of right and wrong, according to God's holy Law. It is no wonder, then, that we are reaping a whirlwind today in violent acts and find offenders who seem not only unmoved by their crimes but question why they should be punished. It should be no surprise to anyone that society cannot exist on that kind of fuzzy thinking. Shame on so-called Christian churches where the commands of God have been taught in a way that leaves them unclear or suggests irrelevance.

Homes and congregations must teach the Commandments unequivocally. It is **wrong** to steal. It is **wrong** to cause bodily injury. It is **wrong** to take the Lord's name in vain. It is **wrong** to be disrespectful of parents and other authority. Disobedience deserves punishment.

Of course, the message of the churches and the Bible is that sin may be forgiven. This is the Gospel as over against the condemnation of the Law. But forgiveness comes, and we are sure that Dr. Menninger has not come to understand this yet, when there is genuine sorrow in the heart over having offended God. Where there is this, God will forgive the sin and remove it from the record, because Jesus has made expiation for it by His death and resurrection.

The fact of sin is not dependent on whether or not Dr. Karl Menninger acknowledges its existence. But it's good that he has publicly referred to it. He will cause others to think about this subject, too. He reinforces what some of us have been talking about all along, even though his concepts as yet may not fully square with the Scriptures.

NOW AVAILABLE



At long last we have them around in sufficient quantity so that everyone may have one of them as his or her very own. Please cut yours out and keep it. Guard it with your life. Never lose it. And don't let anyone take it from you. These tuits have been hard to get, especially the round ones. But now, by special arrangement, you can have yours. We rejoice, because the demand has been great; and now that they are available, most of our problems about attendance, and about really getting things accomplished at the church will be solved. I look for your attendance at every service and Bible study to double next week now that everyone has his round tuit.

For, you see, so many have said, "Pastor, I will get started in church just as soon as I can get a round

tuit." Others have said, "I know I should come to the Sunday morning Bible study. I just never seem to get a round tuit." Also, "I know that my children should come to Sunday School, but it seems I never get a round tuit." Also, "I should go and visit the sick, but I never get a round tuit." Or, "Pastor, I really should go and make it right with Mrs. So and So, but I never get a round tuit." Or, "I have been wanting to tithe, but I never get a round tuit." Or, "I've really meant to ask forgiveness, but I never get a round tuit."

But now that is all changed. Everyone has his or her round tuit, and I know great things are in store for our congregation. See you in church, Bible class and Sunday School next Sunday.

> —from the Sunday bulletin, Olivet Lutheran Church, Spokane, Wash.

[Continued from page 4]

excavated. Sights in and around the city were both delightful and interesting, and it did seem good to live at a lower altitude once again.

All good trips like this one do have an end, but the end of this particular trip did not come about quite the way it was planned. The airline flight from Lima to New York City was cancelled for some cause, almost at the last minute, but our resourceful tour guide secured us passage to Miami on a plane stopping once in Ecuador and once in Panama along the route. After a few hours of layover in Miami we were then able to catch a flight to Chicago, followed by another flight to Minneapolis.

Perhaps 13 people on such a trip as this learned 13 sets of whatever was to be learned and likewise came into 13 different sets of appreciations. There were sights to be seen, people to be observed and communicated with, and the culture differences to be dealt with. There were a couple of mission fields visited, and each had its needs. Our particular group became more aware of the needs on the Brazilian field, and one very specific need for that field, centered at Campo Mourao, is for more young persons as missionaries there. For both fields prayer support is needed, and communication with the missionaries on them is always desirable. This writer is grateful for the opportunity to have made the Brazilian tour and claims he has learned much, some of it unfortunately about his own shortcomings that each which need to be dealt with. Perhaps most of us on the tour may have discovered that each one needed to trust Jesus Christ to a greater extent than he had heretofore trusted Him. It may well be true that another such tour as this, with a probably different listing of intermediate cities, will be offered in a year or two. If such chould materialize, please consider carefully how you yourself, through involvement on such a future tour, might be used of the Lord in some possible way (known to Him) to be a spiritual profit, in His name, to the mission endeavor. Remember that each and every person is either a missionary or a mission field.

End of Series

[Continued from page 5]

God gives the whole workable psychology in this matter in His Word and as He alone can give it: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Let us earnestly follow His precept.

Mrs. David Stoeve courtesy of the New Bulletin. (from Spiritual Pioneers)

BOOK REVIEWS FROM THE DALTON, MINN., PARISH LIBRARY

HUDSON TAYLOR'S SPIRITUAL SECRET

by Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor

"I cannot read; I cannot pray, I can scarcely even think—but I can TRUST!" So spoke Hudson Taylor during the worst of the Boxer Rebellion in China, when riots and massacres killed so many of his beloved fellow workers in China's Inland Mission stations. This book tells of Hudson Taylor's work in China. He was a pioneer going where no one had thought or dared to go before—Inland China. He learned the language, dressed like the Chinese and spread the Gospel. Hudson Taylor stopped at no sacrifice in following Christ.

What was Taylor's spiritual secret? Here is a clue. He read the Bible through every year for forty years. Read it and lived it. He said "Fruitbearing involves cross-bearing. There are not two Christs—an easy going one for easy-going Christians and a suffering, toiling one for exceptional believers. There is only one Christ." Are YOU willing to abide in Him, and thus bear much fruit?

ANGEL AT HER SHOULDER by Kenneth L. Wilson

As you read this exciting account of Lil Dickson's (Typhoon Lil) work among the lepers, orphans, handicapped, and destitute mothers of Formosa, you recall these Bible verses—"My God shall supply all of your need according to His riches in glory

by Christ Jesus' (Phil. 4:17) and—"With God nothing is impossible." Should you think the age of miracles is past, read this book and have your faith restored anew. We do have a great, big, wonderful God and people like Lil Dickson can accomplish great things because they step out in faith, believing that with God all things are possible!

THEN THERE GREW UP A GENERATION By Thyra Ferri Bjorn

This book takes a minister and his wife, along with their teenage son and daughter, to a small New England town. Here they find man of the problems that beset clergymen and indeed all of us anywhere in modern America.

While Pastor Carthing sees his congregation's growing dissension because of his work among the tenement dwellers that are living in these Church-owned slums, he agonizes over the spiritual life or lack of it in his own children. Will he lose his church, his children and his own faith? How these conflicts are resolved make interesting reading.

Key: The name of the town is the address of the deceased. Following that is listed the name of the deceased, age, date of death and the church in which he or she held membership.

WISCONSIN

Cumberland

Lloyd A. Brown, 70, Feb. 8, Section Ten

NORTH DAKOTA Wahpeton Marvin Oscarson, 58, Mar. 27,

Bethany, Abercrombie



CHURCH CONVERSATION

by Marilyn J. Clem Our Saviour's Lutheran

"My one purpose for coming to Vancouver is to win souls for the Lord "Jesus Christ," firmly remarked Pastor Lars Stalsbroten.

Pastor Lars, as he prefers to be called, and his charming wife left the comforts of their retirement "crows nest" in Eugene this January to once again "go serve where the Lord called."

On January 13, 1974, several families gathered to worship in the Hazel Dell Grange Hall (located behind Keil's Market), under the guidance of Pastors Lars. This was the beginning of Our Saviour's Lutheran. The Sunday School hour is 9:45 with family worship following at 11 a.m. On Thursday evenings from 7-8 the congregations' families meet in a home for Bible Study. "Everyone contributes in prayer and discussion," stated Mrs. Stalsbroten.

Doing the unpredictable has led the Stalsbrotens on many fascinating adventures for the Lord. For Pastor Lars, his service in the ministry began in New York in 1915. Since then, he has made 12 across Atlantic trips to Norway, his homeland, as an evangelist and pastor.

Remarkably energetic, healthy, alert and dedicated, Pastor Lars has a special rapport with young and old alike. Since arriving in the Hazel Dell area, he has been walking the area knocking on doors sharing his beautiful and enthusiastic love for

Christ and extending invitations to come to church. "I have found people in the area to be very friendly," claimed Pastor Lars with a warm grin.

This church is affiliated with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Pastor Lars may be reached at 694-9567 (Vancouver, Wash.).

-Hazel Dell Gazette

NEWS FROM THE DALTON, MINN. PARISH

"Hallelujah, What a Savior!", an Easter cantata by John W. Peterson, was presented on Good Friday evening at Sarpsborg Lutheran Church near Dalton. The offering was given to the Bible School Scholarship Fund of the parish.

An Easter pageant, "Love's Story," was presented, weather permitting, on the Zion Church lawn in Dalton on Saturday evening, April 13, from 8-10 p.m.

Parish youth were in charge of the worship services at Kvam and Sarpsborg on April 21 and will conduct the services at Zion and Tordenskjold on April 28.

NEW DISTRICT FORMED IN AFLC LAST NOVEMBER

As a result of action taken during the Annual Conference at Ferndale last summer regarding realignment of districts, a meeting was held at Scandia Lutheran Church of Terrace, Minnesota. The meeting took place on November 8th with representatives from 17 congregations filling the

sanctuary of the church and into the overflow room. Encouraged by such a good response, the new district quickly settled down to business following a good time of singing and receiving Scriptural promises shared by Pastor Les Galland. The first order of business was a clear and concise review of the Fundamental Principles and Practices of the AFLC by Pastor Julius Hermunslie. Officers were elected to give direction to the new district and they are: Rev. Wendell Johnson, president: John Arlen Johnson, vice president; and Rev. Marvin Haara, secretary-treasurer. Following the election of officers and much discussion, the new district was given the name of the Southwest Central Minnesota District. Prior to breaking into small groups for the purpose of discussing such matters as WMF, Luther League, Christian Education and church council problems, it was decided by the district to meet annually and receive an offering for the establishment of a district fund.

The Southwest Central Minnesota District now includes those congregations north of the Minnesota-Iowa border, south of the Wadena area, west of the Willmar area and, with the exception of the Abercrombie-Doran parish, east of the Dakotas-Minnesota border.

An added blessing was the joy for many to come to know many new friends in Christ and broaden our experience of fellowship. That has been true in an even deeper sense among the pastors of the district who meet monthly for breakfast and fellowship, together with their wives. We at Scandia counted it a privilege to host such an occasion and praise God for a new understanding of our sister congregations. We look forward to the first annual meeting of the district.

-Rev. R. Gunderson

REV. ARNOLD STONE SPOKE ON REVELATION IN NORTH DAKOTA MEETINGS

Pastor Arnold Stone, part-time instructor at Association Free Lutheran Bible School, taught the Book of Revelation at special Bible services at Bethel Lutheran Church, Grafton, N. Dak., March 10-15.

The pastor spoke on the following topics: starting on Sunday morning: Is the Rapture Near?, The Four Great Wars of Revelation, Who Will Be the Anti-Christ?, Every Eye Will See Him, Is There a New World Coming? and How Will Everything End Up?

WALLACE CONGREGATION TO NOTE ANNIVERSARY

A one-day 60th anniversary celebration will be observed at Calvary Lutheran Church, Wallace, S. Dak., on Sunday, June 9. Guest speaker will be former pastor Rev. Jasper Swenson, Madison, S. Dak. Afternoon activities will be in the form of an "old-time" picnic. Rev. Larry V. Severson is the pastor at Calvary.

EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS CONCLUDED AT RUNNING VALLEY CHURCH

Rev. Philip Featherstone reports that a series of meetings with Ev. Clifford Anderson as speaker has recently been concluded. "They were real feast days," he said. Particularly interesting was the service on the Sunday night when Mr. Anderson showed pictures of mission work in South America. He has travelled in 50 countries of the world and been on six continents.

Pastor Featherstone also reports that Running Valley has undertaken a mission program with a special program each month on missions. The proceeds are to go to the support of the Connely Dyruds (former student pastor at Running Valley). Offerings so far have been encouraging and the congregation suggests this type of support program to other congregations.

TONGUE POINT JOB CORPS SITE OF EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Bethany Lutheran Church in Astoria, Ore., R. S. Persson, pastor, sponsored an Easter sunrise service at the Tongue Point Job Corps at 6:30 a.m. on Easter morning. This was followed by a breakfast at Pig'n Pancake. Sunday School and the Easter festival worship followed at the church at the usual times.

WEDDINGS-JOYOUS EVENTS

Weddings aren't everyday affairs in any congregation. They don't happen very often in our "congregation" either, but when they do they are really special events. Two men who have been residents of the Center this past year have been married. One took place in northern Iowa and the other in Minneapolis.

Dennis from Iowa remarried the woman who divorced him a year or so before. He came to know Christ at the Center and returned to his home town. Unknown to him his exwife, too, had become a Christian while he was here. He called her one day to see about their three-year-old son who was to have a birthday. During their conversation they found out about each other's new life. Dennis was invited over to her trailer house and a second courtship started, ending in marriage on October 27, 1973. I visited them a few weeks before the wedding at her house. They called their boy in from play and his mother said. "This is the man that has the place in Minneapolis where Daddy got help." He looked at me and emphatically said, "Praise the Lord!" I was privileged to see these three become one family again and I, too, say, "Praise the Lord!"

The second wedding was at Our Savior's Lutheran Church here in the Cities. George, in announcing his coming wedding at one of our breakfasts, stated that he had come to the Center in a back-slidden condition. He had had his faith restored and found a job in a rest home. There he met Barbara and as he put it, "The Lord just seemed to cause all things to fall in place." They were happily married January 12, 1974.

We know that both these couples want Christ as the unseen guest in their home. Pray for them that our Lord may be glorified. I started this story by saying our "congregation," but it is actually your congregation too, and we are telling you this so you may rejoice, too.

—Thor Haugen
—New Hope Center Beacon

THE ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard Minneapolis, Minnesota Budget Receipts

February 1-March 31, 1974

	Proposed Total Budget	Current Budget	Total Received to Date
General Fund	\$ 56,000.00	\$ 9,333.34	\$ 5,572.64
Schools	82,830.00	13,805.00	4,505.10
Home Missions	50,000.00	8,333.34	2,990.92
Foreign Missions	57,370.00	9,651.66	4,242.12
Praise Program	18,000.00	3,000.00	1,069.00
TOTAL	\$264,200.00	\$ 44,123.34	\$ 18,379.78

Received last year same date Legacies—\$44.39

Dorm Fund:

\$ 22,024.25—Unpaid Pledges

144,139.77—Cash received to February 28

2,876.25—Cash received during March

\$169,040.27

\$ 19,052.34



WHEN GOD CALLS by Dr. Roger Ose

Shortly before we accepted the call to serve as missionaries to Madagascar, I attended the funeral of a friend. I had known him for years. He had done well financially. He took an active interest in church work and was particularly concerned about overseas mission work.

At one time he felt called to serve overseas as a missionary and was even invited to continue his education toward that goal. But he chose the world of business and made that his primary concern.

I attended his funeral with a deep sense of sorrow. He had sensed the call of the Lord to serve overseas but thought the cost was too great. As a result he brought on himself a good measure of the frustration that he felt as he tried to find his place in serving the Lord.

Some of you are wrestling with a similar call. You can immediately find a dozen valid objections why not to go. But a prime consideration is this: Am I being obedient to the Lord's call?

Being away from the States for several years is an objection which some have to working overseas. In many mission fields right now there is work for people on a short-term or long-term basis. You can commit yourself to a definite number of months or years. For example at our Lutheran Hospital near Fort Dauphin we have a young medical student who is working with us for three months. Two other medical students just completed their three month "rural medicine" experience with us. Over Christmas an eye specialist, also from the States, spent a month working at our hospital. Several nurses come for one, two, or three years, and then return home.

As valuable as the experience is for those short-term medical volunteers, it often taxes the permanent staff. For example, a short-term person has probably not had an opportunity to study the language before arriving here. Another missionary or national who knows both the Malagasy and English languages must help him to understand the local diseases, to communicate with those who come to the clinic, and to shop at the local market.

Our doctors are willing to spend considerable time with the threemonth medical students who come to us because some of them have in the past returned here to work after their first experience. Dr. Paul Buhr at our Ejeda Lutheran Hospital is one who spent three months here some years back and is now permanent staff. A few short-term nurses have staved on for five years or more. But for most of these people I think their work could be much more effective if they would first learn the language and then stay long enough to make a greater contribution to the Malagasy Church and to the local life.

Our American School is another institution where people come for two years or less and serve as teachers or staff personnel. Last year there were three teachers and one staff person who spent a year with us and then returned to America. None of these people had intensive language study prior to assuming full responsibilities in the school. In some cases they were quite frustrated because the language, customs, and people here were so different from what they anticipated.

Being away from home a long time is one objection of some. Another for some is the cut in salary. True, the salary is much less each month than that paid for comparable work in the States, but the economy in a place like Madagascar, for instance, is very much lower than in America. Money goes farther here for many things. And one discovers that he can live happily without many of the things which were before considered necessities. We have learned to substitute or do without things which are unavailable here. And believe me, we are not suffering!

You may be away from America for five years or more. Your salary will be smaller. But you will be rewarded in ways that don't show on paper. As is true anywhere, you will have peace of mind in your decision to go if the Lord has called you. You will have the opportunity to share your time and talents with people whose style of living is well below the American poverty level. The Malagasy welcome us because we bring them the Gospel, plus hospitals to cure their TB or malaria or toothache, schools to educate their children, and one of the best printing houses in this part of the world to provide books in their own language.

Right now the churches of Africa and Madagascar are some of the fastest growing churches in the world. We have found an openness to the Gospel that makes work here very rewarding for us.

Some object to not being sent to the specific place they want. We wanted to work among the Chinese people and thought in terms of Taiwan for many years. Then the year we were ready to go a call came for workers in Madagascar. We accepted and took it as the Lord's leading. We have peace in our decision. I don't mean to imply that we have few frutrations. We have tried to master the Malagasy passive and relative verb forms and have felt ready to give up at times. Also, we have found some of the Malagasy just about as stubborn as some folks back home. But God gives grace to keep going.

Finally, if you have peace in accepting an assignment, then go. How much better to make the effort and go, rather than look at the obstacles and stay home. Some of the most discouraged people I've met are those who said "NO" to the Lord's call.

[Continued on page 14]



GRAFTON WOMAN HONORED



The Mission Circle of Bethel Lutheran Church, Grafton, North Dakota presented Mrs. Andrew Bjornson with an Honorary Membership pin. Presenting the WMF pin is Mrs. Roy Mohagen, president of the circle. Rev. Dennis Gray is pastor of the congregation.

TOUCHING JESUS OR JUST "THRONGING" HIM?

by Miss Ruth Gunderson, Strandquist, Minn.

In the crowd that followed Jesus that day there was a woman who had suffered much for 12 long years. To-day she sought release from her affliction. She did not call out to Jesus and ask Him to heal her. No, she believed that if she but touched His clothes she would be made whole. So, in faith, believing she would be healed, she reached out to Jesus and touched Him. Mark 5:29 tells us she was healed immediately. Such is the power of our Lord!

But how about you today? Are you touching Jesus as this woman or are you like the crowd spoken of in v. 31 who where just thronging Jesus? This woman reached out in faith and touched Jesus and her life was mi-

raculously changed. Those who just thronged Jesus, however, experienced no change, no new life. Perhaps this is why we are experiencing no real spiritual life in our churches today. We cannot have the abundant life Jesus spoke about in John 10:10 unless we are in touch with Him. Coming close is not enough. You may go to church every Sunday and even to midweek Bible study every week, but how often do you get into your prayer closet and commune with the Lord? How often do you sit down and drink in the wonderful truths in His Word? Are you a person who only prays and hears the Word twice a week? What would happen if you only ate two meals a week? You would become very anemic. This is why there are so many anemic Christians in our churches today, too. We can't expect to live spiritually on two meals a week any more than we can physically. We must be in constant touch with Jesus-not just thronging Him-not just following but never touching Him. You know, we can have an exhaustless supply of power and grace at our disposal if we are in touch with our Lord. He promises us grace sufficient for all our needs and power to do whatever He asks of us.

Take a look at your life. Are you really in touch with Jesus or are you just "thronging" Him?

[Continued from page 13]
Some of the most richly blessed people are those who have said "YES," and have gone where the Lord opened doors

(Ed. Note: Dr. Ose writes out of his experience in going to Madagascar, but the principles he enunciates apply to mission work in general.)

MISSIONARIES GUNDERSON AND KNAPP TO HEAD WMF PROGRAM

The Southwest Central District of the Women's Missionary Federation will hold a spring rally on Tuesday, May 7, at Tordenskjold Lutheran Church, Dalton, Minn., Rev. Wendell Johnson, pastor. Registration begins at 10:00 a.m. Rev. Richard Gunderson (Bolivia), Sedan, Minn., will lead the morning Bible study. Missionary George Knapp (Brazil), will bring the afternoon mission message. The theme for the rally is "Go Ye, Therefore." The noon meal will be pot-luck.

Mrs. Harold Erickson Secretary



Minneapolis, Minn.
Faith Lutheran Church
Albert Hautamaki, senior pastor
April 28-May 2
Rev. Robert Lloyd Lee,
Valley City, N. Dak., speaker

Dalton, Minn.
Sarpsborg Lutheran Church
Wendell Johnson, pastor
April 30-May 5
Rev. R. Norheim, Luther

Clayton, Wis.

Rev. R. Norheim, Lutheran Gospel Hour, speaker

Roseau, Minn.
Rose Lutheran Church
Jerome Nikunen, pastor
April 28-May 1
Ev. Clarence Haaland, Gonvick,
Minn., speaker

Bethany Lutheran Church Tim Skramstad, student pastor May 2-5 Rev. Bruce Dalager, Bagley, Minn., speaker

Fargo, N. Dak. St. Paul's Lutheran Church Philip Haugen, pastor May 5-9 Rev. Kenneth Moland, Kenyon, Minn., speaker



CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

TEACHERS MUST HONOR SYNODICAL STATEMENTS, SAYS LCMS BOARD

St. Louis—(LC)—The Board for Higher Education of the Lutheran Church-Missiouri Synod has adopted a "statement on the limitations of academic freedom" which says that faculty members at synod institutions must "honor, uphold, and teach in accordance with synodically-adopted statements" including the controversial "Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles" adopted at the synod's 1973 convention in New Orleans.

The synod board, which supervises the denomination's large system of colleges, also said that faculty members are to refrain from dissenting with synodically-approved statements, except through the channels provided by the synod.

New contracts for faculty members, renewal contracts, reappointments to faculty positions, promotions in rank and advancements in tenure will include the statement of limitations.

The synod handbook has always made it clear that teachers must teach in accord with the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, a statement reaffirmed in the present document when it was adopted March 8-9. But according to Dr. Arthur Alschwede, executive secretary of the Board for Higher Education, the "limitations" have not been so specific in the past.

Furthermore, part of the doctrinal controversy currently raging in the 2.8-million member denomination concerns the status of the "Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles." Conservatives claim that the statement, prepared by synod President J. A. O. Preus as "guidelines" before it was adopted by the convention, merely expresses what the synod has always taught. Others feel that it contradicts the teaching of the synod by limiting the methods of biblical interpretation and adding a "new con-

fessional document" to the synod's doctrinal position.

In taking the action, the Board for Higher Education said its written statement was consistent with the synodical handbook. The statement is somewhat "open-ended" in that it specifies a number of synodically-adopted resolutions as "examples of pertinent statements" which must be honored and upheld by synod teachers. But it does not say that these are all the statements to which synod teachers must subscribe.

In addition to the "Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles," the BHE action mentions a number of synod resolutions dating back to 1962 and referring back even further. Most of those named deal with the right of the synod to adopt statements of doctrine that will be binding upon all members of the synod.

"Faculty members are encouraged to study the synodically-adopted doctrinal statements as well as the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions," the Board for Higher Education stated. If they judge the statement to be erroneous, it added, they should state their dissent among their "peer group," with the faculty and board of control of their institution, and then to the synod's Commission on Theology and Church Relations before bringing their disagreements to the synod itself.

"Meanwhile, they are to refrain in brotherly love from disseminating such dissident findings as doctrinal opinions in the classroom and/or among the students as well as in other situations and places as will cause confusion or offense to the church," the board said.

The board resolution concluded by asserting that the statement on the limitations of academic freedom "is to be regarded as compliance with the long-standing requirement of previous handbook regulations on academic freedom and all faculty members shall be so advised."

SPOKANE LUTHERANS OFFER HOUSING, YOUTH HOSTEL FOR EXPO '74 VISITORS

Spokane—(LC)—A Lutheran Housing Bureau and Youth Hostel have been organized here to assist Lutheran families and young people planning to visit Expo '74.

The officially recognized World's Fair opens here Saturday, May 4, and continues through Sunday, Nov. 3. An estimated 4.8 million persons will visit the international exposition which features the theme "Celebrating Tomorrow's Fresh, New Environment."

A pan-Lutheran planning group, working under the auspices of the Lutheran Council of the Greater Spokane Area, is overseeing Lutheran involvement in Expo '74. In addition to the housing bureau and hostel, Lutherans will operate a child care center, relate to the Expo '74 forum series, and provide Expo information services through Spokane area congregations.

St. John Lutheran Church, a congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, is directing the Housing Bureau. The bureau offers visiting Lutherans overnight accommodations in homes of Lutheran families in the immediate area.

A \$5 donation per adult (18 and older) for each night's lodging is being requested. Children will be housed free of charge. Reservations for housing should be made 30 days in advance of the anticipated arrival date. When visitors receive confirmation of accommodations, they are asked to send their housing donation to secure the reservation.

The Youth Hostel will be located at Spokane Lutheran School, adjacent to Fort Wright College. The hostel will offer dormitory-type accommodations for individuals and youth groups from Saturday, June 8, through Sunday, Aug. 18. A nominal fee for use of facilities will be established.

Young people planning to use the

hostel should bring sleeping bags. Further information on the hostel is available from Mrs. Carol Scribner. 422 N. Willow Rd., Spokane, Wash. 99206. Mrs. Scribner is director of the Lutheran Expo '74 planning group.

She said the hostel will have a director with living quarters on the site who will be available for individual and group rap sessions, Bible studies, and "spontaneous" fellowship events.

Spokane, a city of 250,000, renovated a blighted downtown area and cleared 50 acres in the heart of the city for a riverfront park in which Expo '74 will be located.

Eleven nations, a half-dozen western states and Canadian provinces, and dozens of industrial, commercial, and cultural exhibitors will occupy the World's Fair pavilions. Among the nations participating are Canada, the Soviet Union, Japan, West Germany, Australia, and the Republic of China.

(Ed. Note: It is possible that our congregation in Spokane (Olivet) is not participating in the above-mentioned lodging program. For assistance congregational members may be able to give, contact the church through the pastor, Rev. A. L Hokonson, 1604 N. Magnolia St., Spokane, Wash. 99207).

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. Robert L. Lee 1033 S.W. Fifth St. Valley City, 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

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

Secretary

Rev. Leslie Galland Spicer, Minn.

Minneapolis, Minn.

Minneapolis, Minn.

Dean of Free Lutheran Seminary Rev. Amos. O. Dyrud 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.

Dean of the Bible School Rev. R. Sninstead 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.

WORLD MISSIONS

Chairman

Mr Robert Knutson McVille, N. Dak.

Secretary

Mr. Roy Mohagen Grafton, 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 **FDUCATION**

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

Secretary

Miss Eula Mae Swenson 1643 Elm St. Fargo, N. Dak.

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

President

Mr. Eldor Sorkness Sand Creek, Wis. Secretary Rev. Jerome Nikunen 805 2nd St. N. E. Roseau, Minn.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY **FEDERATION**

President

Mrs. Robert Dietsche Sand Creek, Wis.

Secretary

Mrs. Amos Dyrud 4509 Jersey Avenue North Minneapolis, Minn.

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.