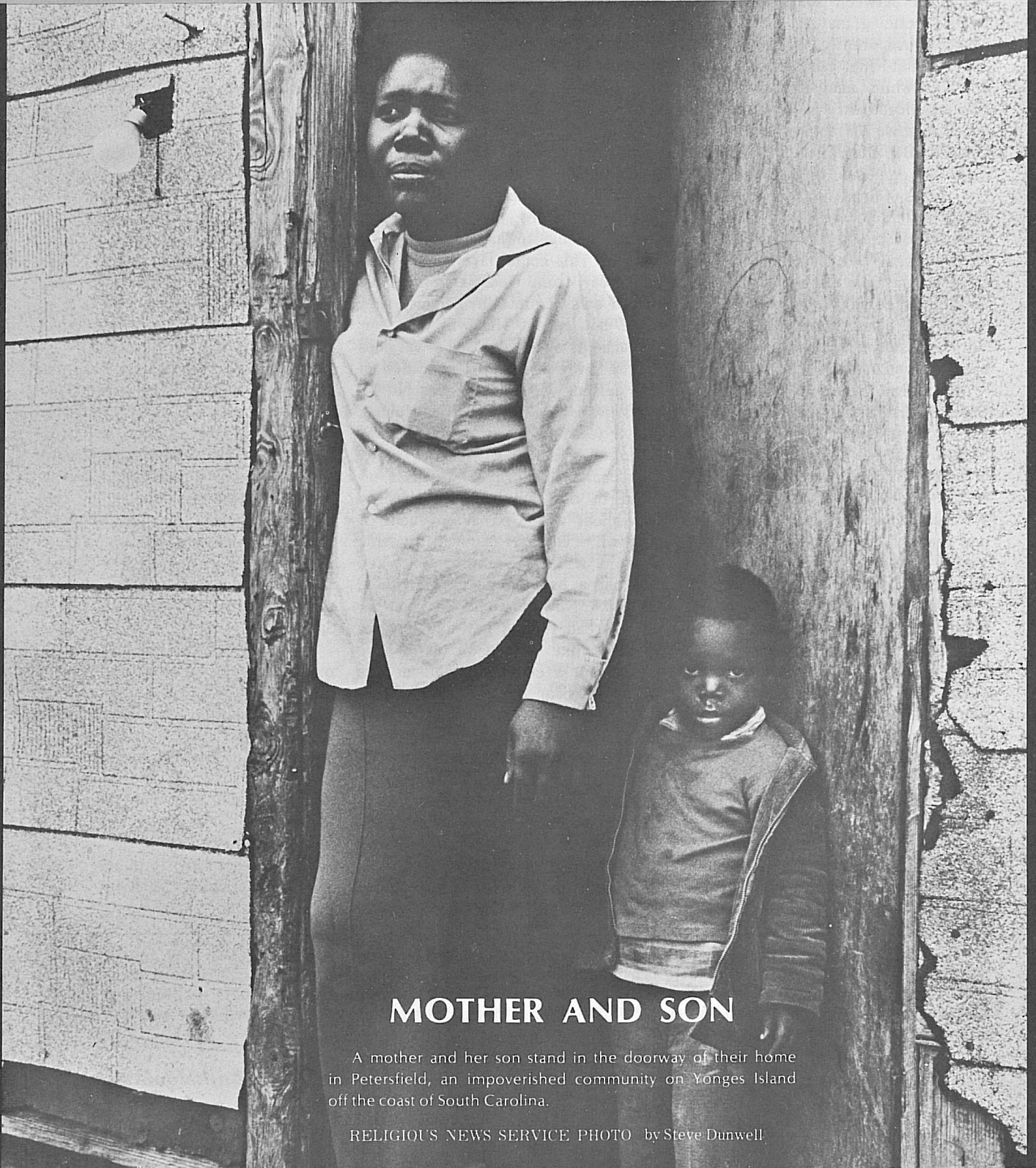


April 24, 1973

The Lutheran Ambassador



MOTHER AND SON

A mother and her son stand in the doorway of their home in Petersfield, an impoverished community on Yonges Island off the coast of South Carolina.

RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE PHOTO by Steve Dunwell

MEDITATION MOMENTS

HE LIVES - - - - NEXT DOOR

The other night someone at our choir practice spoke up over the other voices in between songs which we were practicing, saying loudly, "He Lives!" Apparently someone had asked what the next song would be. Meanwhile, another conversation was introduced with the words, "next door", and we all laughed at the coincidence. But that incident communicates the confusion of Lent and Easter. Jesus Christ is recognized as being a Person, yes, even God. We attend church and sing hymns such as "He Lives!" We place much importance on the fact that our names are on the membership roles, we are confirmed and perhaps are officeholders. Yet, confusion reigns because **He lives next door and not in us!**

At a time when Easter and its truth is fresh in our minds and mothers' Day is soon upon us, I think of that dear soul, Hannah, the mother of Samuel. Hannah is a living reality of the living Lord in a person's life. We read about it in I Samuel, chapters one and two. It would be good if you would sit down right now and read I Samuel 1:1-2:11.

It is obvious from reading these verses that Hannah's God **did not live next door**. She in her troubles poured out her heart to a God who was very personal to her. What troubled Hannah? She had no son. She was not a mother. And after reading these verses we know that her trouble was solved, for Hannah today is one of the most-well known mothers of the Bible.

The great change in Hannah's life was premised upon that temple experience where she poured out her heart to the Lord. I find it hard to

believe that Hannah did not pray continually. Yet it was in the temple when she was praying that God answered her prayer. Therefore the question must be asked, why didn't God answer Hannah before or at that time? Let us again turn back to the account as it is found in I Samuel 1:1-2:11.

The first reason that is given is found in 1:6: "...because the Lord had left her childless." It was the will of the Lord. God desired that she be unable to have children for a while. This could have turned Hannah away from God as many have turned away from Him because they could not accept His will. Whether one accepts or rejects God's will does not do away with it. Recognition of this perfect will of God does not always give to us our will. But Hannah had a freedom to pray for this son and pray she did.

Secondly, this prayer which is offered in the temple establishes an agreement with God. A covenant, if you will. "God, if You will give me a son I will give him back to You and not a hair on his head will be clipped." Now it would be good for you to read 1:11. A petition like this is more like a pact or as I have mentioned, a covenant. Hannah was willing to bear a son who would be God's servant and she would not have the privilege to mother him. Webster's New World Dictionary says that a mother is: "an origin or source; a femal parent." Hannah bore Samuel but she did not have the privilege of raising him, of being a parent of him. Feeding him. Clothing him. Hugging him. Playing with him. Teaching him. Observing the developments of

his personality. That is, after he was two or three years old. Hannah was, in other words, a foster mother of sorts. Like those special people today who are willing to expose themselves to the hurt of love attachment and separation for the sake of helping a little one, giving to him the security of a mother's love. At the right time, Hannah then returned to the Temple to leave Samuel there to begin his training in the service of the Lord. She in faith returned Samuel to God.

Later, Hannah had other children, three sons and two daughters. Interestingly enough, it appears that Hannah had these children after she returned to the Temple with Samuel. This leads us to the third reason.

Thirdly, Hannah prayed according to the will of God. The petition was exactly what God was waiting for. What was necessary was the change in Hannah. She received no answer until she was willing to turn her son back to God for His service. The temple was a place of commitment, of sacrifice, of instruction. Hannah lived in constant communion. Yes, God lived with Hannah. He knew her for she by faith had taken Him as her Savior.

At a time when so much of our way of life is being not simply questioned, but attacked, there is a need to know what God desires. Woman's liberation certainly has been bringing about some radical changes, some good and some not so good and some bad ones. We could see this coming back to the States after being away. I find it so easy to criticize on the one hand and at another time to blindly accept such revolutionary thinking because

(Continued on page 6)

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West Coast Diary

by Rev. John P. Strand
President, AFLC

The Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will be held in Ferndale, Washington, June 13-17. This will be the first conference the Association has had on the West Coast. This is a unique opportunity for many of our people to not only see and experience the beauties and developments on the West Coast, but with it to have a part in the strengthening of our fellowship as an Association and the planning of our work together.

I have been asked to write about a recent trip I made to the West Coast. I like to visit the West Coast at least once each year to strengthen the ties we have with these congregations as well as to receive the encouragement and benefits from such a visit. I suppose I see the West Coast congregations more than most of the other people of our congregations of the Association. I have come to appreciate these congregations and workers very much, and I know that great benefits will come to all of our people who will come to our annual conference this summer.

I began the trip to the Coast this time by taking the train from Minneapolis to Williston, North Dakota. As I had a seriously-ill sister in Williston, I wanted to spend at least a day with her before going west. While I knew her illness was very serious, I still did not realize that this was to be the last time I was to see her in this life.

Much has been written concerning Amtrak. While I have had some unhappy experiences with Amtrak, it is apparent that many of the earlier difficulties have been overcome and that it now is a very enjoyable experience to travel by train, at least as far as going to the West Coast is concerned. I arrived in Williston

rested and thoroughly appreciative of the railroad.

As I look back to the last hours spent with my sister Esther, how grateful I am for the opportunities to share with her again and again the Word of God. There are times when we do not know what to say, but how good that it is always appropriate to read together the Word of God with its wonderful Gospel message and message of Christian hope. The Word judges and the Word saves. The Word does a complete work much better than anything else.

My other sister, Della Strand, took me from Williston to Bismarck to board a plane for Portland, Oregon. I have always been partial to the prairie scenery as well as the light traffic one encounters in North Dakota. It was sheer enjoyment to travel on the freeway in North Dakota. It was so relaxing because of the quality of the road as well as the lightness of the traffic. Of course, it is always good to drive through the Theodore Roosevelt parks with their unique scenery and formations. The Killdeer Mountains, hardly worthy of the name mountains, have a scenery that for me is truly beautiful.

Before boarding the plane in Bismarck, I had my first experience with the new efforts to thwart hijackers. While there is some inconvenience at being searched and going through a detector to electronically detect metals, there is comfort in this, knowing you do not have to fear ending up in Cuba. I also could not help but think of the final judgment at the bar of God. Not all will pass. Sin must be dealt with through grace before there can be entrance to our eternal home. How tragic that there are those who think they can pass this exam without Christ.

While I do not particularly crave travel by air, yet such travel has

some very wonderful advantages. Certainly every personal comfort is looked after, and one arrives at his destination very swiftly. There are also opportunities for visiting with those who may share the seat with you. On this flight I had the opportunity to visit with a very fine Mormon who was a representative of a company that provides textbooks for schools. We had a fine conversation on some of the struggles concerning the teaching of evolution. While he was a little more liberal than I appreciate, he himself being a biology major had had the unique experience of never having been taught evolution as anything but a theory. I am afraid that this cannot be said by many today. We agreed that the needs today are basically spiritual, but I do not know if he really knew Christ as Lord and Savior.

I was met at the airport in Portland by Pastor and Mrs. Elden Nelson. Pastor Nelson graduated from our Seminary last spring and was ordained at our last annual conference. They had recently moved to Eugene, Oregon, to take up the work at the Spencer Creek congregation, which is one of our home mission projects. It was good to meet them and to see the enthusiasm and hope with which they were approaching their ministry there.

The Spencer Creek church has a very beautiful rural setting, yet in a community where the population is increasing very rapidly. People are moving from the cities out into the country. I am confident this development will happen in many of our rural areas. The homes being built are beautiful, and the couples moving out into the country are young, intelligent and aggressive. There is a real field at Spencer Creek.

Our Home Missions will be subsidizing the pastor's salary in Spencer

Creek for a time, although there is little doubt that this parish will be self-sustaining very shortly. The congregation purchased a trailer house and also some acreage near the church, where the trailer house was set. This will be a very fine home for the pastor. The scenery in the community is tremendous, and the faith and cooperation of the congregation is commendable. How thankful I am that the Association has this opportunity to expand the work in this another fine home mission area.

It is always a pleasure and a great responsibility to preach the Word. It was good to share the Word with the congregation at Spencer Creek. It was also a fine experience to install Pastor Nelson as the pastor of the congregation at the afternoon service. The church was filled with members of the congregation and many friends and visitors. Home Mission money invested in Spencer Creek will bear good spiritual dividends.

Pastor Lars Stalsbrotten has worked for several years building up the congregation at Spencer Creek. How wonderful to have fellowship with this old saint of God who has labored so faithfully so many years and to have fellowship with a young brother now starting out in the ministry. Both have so much to look forward to.

My next stop was Astoria, Oregon. Different from Spencer Creek, the congregation in Astoria is old and well established. It is being served by Pastor Ray Persson. Astoria is a very unique city with wonderful opportunities for sightseeing. A harbor city located on the Columbia River as well as on the shore of the Pacific, it has a rich and most interesting history. How good that we have a congregation there.

There are many encouraging signs in the congregation in Astoria. They recently completed a beautiful new parsonage, and there is some talk of building a new church. They are very concerned about the Association, and are faithful in their support.

The next stop was Everett, Washington. Here again is an older congregation in an old city that has seen rapid growth and much change these last twenty years. The Calvary congregation worships in a historic and beautiful old church building. It is

an inner-city church, and thus with some handicap as far as growth is concerned. Their building has seen some real improvements and some ground has been purchased to make it possible to expand. The congregation was very active in the support of the Association during the early days of the Association, and continues that way today. It was good to visit with these friends and to give and receive encouragement in the work that we have together. Calvary is now being served by Pastor Marvin Undseth.

The following Sunday morning it was our privilege to worship with and to share the Word with our home mission congregation in Kirkland, Washington. The Association has through its home mission program, assisted in the establishing of this congregation. A parsonage and grounds were purchased, and a new church built. Pastor Robert Rieth has been the pastor since the congregation was organized. The work has had good growth. There is a real need now for larger facilities, particularly for the Sunday School. Unfortunately the church extension funds are already loaned out so the Home Mission department cannot supply more funds at this time for its needed facilities. Here, too, the monthly subsidy from the Home Mission Fund is being systematically reduced. The congregation is really struggling as to what they are to do in the face of their needs, and yet recognizing their limitations. We must pray that God will continue to bless this home mission work. There is much that could be done if they had the means. I hope that our people who go to the annual conference will visit this home mission project.

On Sunday evening we fellowshipped at another home mission congregation, Elim Lutheran Church at Lake Stevens, Washington. Pastor Michael Brandt, a last year's graduate of our Seminary, is pastoring the work there. This is another fine home mission field. Many folks are moving into that area and building homes. The congregation is optimistic and happy. The work is subsidized from our Home Mission fund. The congregation has also borrowed money from the Church Extension Fund so that the building

and the grounds could be purchased. Here was another case where a church was purchased instead of built. Not only does this church have a fine worship center, but it also has several Sunday School rooms. It would be well if our folks coming to the conference would visit this congregation, too. I am sure they will rejoice that they have a part in this work.

Pastors need fellowship with other pastors. On Monday there was an opportunity to fellowship with our pastors serving on the West Coast. It was good to talk about the things of the Kingdom. Our visiting and fellowship at this occasion seemed to center about some of the isms and movements so prominent in our day. Many of them are a threat to evangelical Christianity and to the truth of Scripture. How we must try the spirits! This fellowship was in the home of Pastor and Mrs. Undseth in Everett. It was good to be there.

Following the pastoral fellowship, Pastor Stephen Odegaard and I went to Olympia, Washington, to meet with the membership of an independent Lutheran congregation seeking information concerning the Association. This is an older congregation with a fine church building. Most of the people are of German background and have been served by a fine German Lutheran pastor by the name of Pastor H. J. Wuerth. I enjoyed such fine fellowship with Pastor and Mrs. Wuerth two years ago, when I had the opportunity to preach to the congregation and to visit in the parsonage. Pastor Wuerth needs help, and Pastor Odegaard was invited to do some preaching on Sunday mornings and serve part-time. Pastor Wuerth still conducts some German services. It was thought that Pastor Odegaard could serve them on a part-time basis, but as things developed, it seemed wiser to the Home Mission Board that Pastor Odegaard be put on a full-time salary for some months so that he could concentrate in this area. There seems to be a good field here, and with Pastor Odegaard giving full-time work to this ministry, at least until the first of September, the Home Mission Board will have opportunity to make a more careful assessment of the situation. Pastor Odegaard be-

gan the full-time ministry there the first of April.

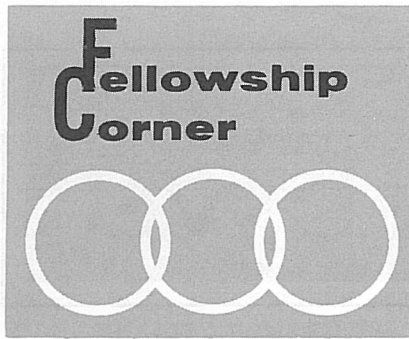
Olympia is a beautiful city, and the congregation is strategically located. There is ample opportunity for growth, and we expect that a growing work will emerge.

On Tuesday evening I attended a meeting of the committees of the Triumph Lutheran Church in Ferndale relative to local preparations for the conference. The meeting was scheduled for Thursday evening, but they generously consented to move the meeting up two days as I was anxious to get back to the Midwest. The committees of the congregation are well organized, and I know the congregation will do a tremendous job hosting the Annual Conference. How wonderful to realize that God gives gifts to the congregations, gifts of talented people with faith and concern to do the necessary work.

On Wednesday evening the congregation in Ferndale gathered for a worship service, at which time it was my opportunity to present the claims of the Kingdom. It was good to be there and to fellowship with those friends. Triumph Lutheran has a beautiful church building and is a strong congregation formed by the merger of two other congregations. During the commercial growth in the Ferndale area, the church in the country was more or less forced to liquidate, and they merged with First Lutheran Church in Ferndale to form a new congregation. I believe the decision was good and a wise one, and the work is definitely progressing. It is always a joy to come to Ferndale. Pastor J. G. Erickson has pastored this congregation about five years.

That evening, shortly after retiring, I received news that my sister Esther, who a week earlier had been taken to the University of Minnesota Hospital by ambulance plane, had passed away. We had hoped to get back in time to see her, but it was to be otherwise.

The flight back to Minneapolis was very fine and enjoyable. Looking back we thank God for the opportunities to serve in an Association such as we have. Our lines have fallen in pleasant places!



"A THOUSAND THANKS FOR A WONDERFUL SAVIOR"

Those were the last words of my husband John before leaving this life for his beautiful, prepared Home. Before being willing to repent he had experienced the awfulness of hell and it was only by the great mercy of God that he could be transformed, but such he was.

This is how it was. My husband had suffered from cancer for almost three years. Knowing that he had not made his peace with God and received the forgiveness of sins through the blood of Christ, I prayed much for him and pleaded with him, but to no avail. My only hope for him was that the Lord would have mercy on him and that his soul might not be lost.

In the closing days of his life, he was filling up with fluid which couldn't be relieved by taking pills. Then he was given a shot on Monday afternoon at the clinic in Warren, Minn. Early Tuesday morning I was awakened by him saying that he was very ill and sinking fast, with such a drained and strange feeling.

But he wanted me to go downstairs and bring him something to eat and drink. I hadn't more than gotten downstairs when he called me to come up again quickly and he realized that he was fast dying and was already getting stiff. And this was so and there was a yellow film over his eyes. Three times he cried out with a loud voice filled with fear, "I am lost!"

He wanted me to call our neighbor so that he could call the doctor to come. When I returned upstairs I found him sitting on the side of the bed laughing with the greatest joy and I couldn't help but join in with him. He told me that he had gotten another chance. Then he told me, crying, how he had seen hell and sep-

aration from his sons and me and he was touched by the look of awful disappointment on my face. "Oh," he said, "I wouldn't ever want to see that again, and to see my sins!" In the vision he had tried to reach out for something but the devil wouldn't let him and he only seemed to be going deeper into that horrible place.

My husband had tried to get out of this terrible situation, accompanied with much pain. He said, "The devil almost had me. Then I reached out and something from around me flew open."

He told me that he had received another chance. With a cry he told me of the awfulness of hell and pleaded with me not to let anyone go lost. He now longed to get up and to get out to preach the Gospel. And he longed for nothing but to have the Word read to him and to have prayer.

Then a week later at the hospital early on a Wednesday morning, when he heard me coming he reached out his hand to me and had a smile on his face I had never seen before. He told me or said to me that he had met his Lord last night. "You did?" I answered. He said, "Yes, He came to my door and said to me, 'You knocked and I came in.'" And my husband said to me as with great surprise, "He's not harsh. He's so meek and so mild. And I saw heaven and it's so beautiful! I wish you could have seen it." And he would witness to whoever would enter his room. Also, he would sing the chorus over and over day or night, "Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul; Thank you, Lord, for making me whole; Thank you, Lord, for giving to me, Thy great salvation so full and free."

He sang it for the last time at three o'clock in the morning without any effort and in full strength. Just before leaving this world at seven o'clock, he said these words, "A thousand thanks for a wonderful Savior!"

May God richly bless his memory and reach souls through the reading of this testimony, that they go not lost.

Mrs. Mildred Qualley
Minneapolis, Minn.

(Ed. Note: Mrs. Qualley is one of the cooks at our Bible School.)

**PORTIONS OF BIBLE
NOW IN 1500 TONGUES**

NEW YORK — The number of languages and dialects in which the Scriptures have been published reached a record 1,500 in 1972.

Statistics compiled by the United Bible Societies show that since the invention of printing in the middle of the 15th century to Dec. 31, 1972, at least one complete book of the Bible has been printed, by various organizations, in 1,500 languages or dialects. The total reflects an increase of 43 in the language count over the previous year.

Complete books of the Bible were published in 42 of the new languages in 1972. They ranged from Apalai, which is spoken in Brazil, to Zongkhar, spoken in Bhutan. Publishers included Bible Societies and eight other organizations.

Ekajuk, the 43rd new language, is spoken in Nigeria, and made its debut in the language count as a complete New Testament.

Complete Bibles were published last year for the first time in two languages which appeared in previous language counts. They were Paite and Thado (Kuki), both spoken in India, and published by the Bible Society of India.

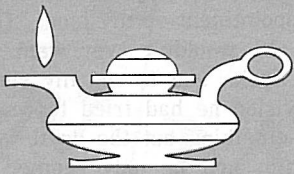
The United Bible Societies is a worldwide fellowship of 55 national Bible Societies, one of which is the American Bible Society. The work of the United Bible Societies is carried on in more than 150 countries and territories.

(Continued from page 2)

it is the popular thing. There is enough said in Scripture to give us good guidance in these matters. In these verses we see that it was very revolutionary for Hannah to return to the Temple and leave her only son. God's will was supreme to Hannah. Motherhood for Hannah was not simply child-bearing but also doing God's will. Her God was not next door, He was her very existence.

Richard W. Gunderson

(Ed. Note: Congratulations to Dick and Clara Gunderson on the birth of twins on April 9. Their names, Andrew Martin and Ruth Nina.)



SCHOOL NEWS

I FOUND NEW DIRECTION

"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).

When I first came to Bible School I was seeking for God's will in my life. As I started getting into the Word I found that God has a reason for each of our lives and that He has special jobs for each of us to do. This prompted me to look to each day as a new challenge and to ask Jesus what He has in store for me for the day. My life now has new direction because I don't have to worry about the future, but instead I'm learning to trust the Lord for each day's problems.

I will never regret spending two years at Bible School. I can think of no better place to find real purpose in life and to grow in all aspects of life.

Anita Waddle '73

HOME CHOIR CONCERT

The Choir of Association Free Lutheran Bible School, under the direction of Donald Rodvold, will present

its home concert, its final (twenty-third) concert for this year, on Mother's Day, May 13 at 4:00 p.m., in the chapel on the campus of AFLBS.

The Choral Club presented its home concert during Promotion Days in April. Its tour included Brooten, Fertile, Newfolden, Greenbush, Roseau, Thief River Falls, Bagley and Hitterdal, Minn.

The Choir visited or is visiting congregations in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wisconsin and Michigan, in addition to Minnesota, during its seventh annual tour.

Both groups sang enthusiastic concerts, presented winsome personal testimonies and left a profound impact on the audiences and hosts of the various parishes.

The enrichment was not one-sided, however, benefitting only the hearer. The singers were equally blessed by the graciousness of each host and home, the wonderful meals and the fellowship of Christians sharing their faith, hope and love.

Reverend Richard Snipstead, Dean, addressed each audience with information regarding the school and a vitalized sermon on God's Word.

AFLBS ALUMNI RETREAT May 4-6, 1973

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

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

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

Cost—\$10 a person

\$15 a couple—Children are free!

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

MEET

the

Churches

OF OUR

FELLOWSHIP



Today: The Kenyon (Minn.) Parish

HAUGE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations looks to the Norwegian lay preacher Hans Nielsen Hauge as one of her spiritual forbears, but it wasn't until Hauge Lutheran Church joined the AFLC in 1971 that she had a congregation named after him.

Hauge Lutheran congregation was organized in the Eielsen Synod in 1859 and is therefore perhaps the oldest congregation in the Association. Subsequent memberships have been in the Hauge Synod, 1875; Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1917; American Lutheran Church, 1960; and the AFLC.

The present church building is located in the town of Kenyon, Goodhue County, at 321 3rd Street South, and was erected in 1902. But it has been added onto since then and remodeled several times. A re-decorating project has just been completed in the sanctuary. The original church for the congregation was a stone building (see picture). It has been preserved as an item of historical interest in the community by the members and a service is held in it yearly. The building is 102 years old.

Hauge Lutheran Church has taken a strong interest in innermission work through the years. One of the most memorable times of visitation from God in the congregation took place in 1922 during a series of special meetings.

Several men have gone out from Hauge Church into Christian service.

Ted Berkas is a missionary teacher in Madagascar under the ALC. Curtis Stolee was for a time a missionary doctor in Madagascar under the same church. Jerry Olson is a lay missionary with Operation Mobilization.

Pastors who have served Hauge Lutheran are Osten Hanson, 1859-98; C. C. Holter, 1898-1909; M. G. Hanson (son of the first pastor), 1910-15; Nicholas Okerland, 1916-24; M. A. Hall, 1924-47; A. E. Windahl, 1948-52; Everett N. Nelson, 1952-56; O. K. Stenberg, 1957-58; K. A. Knutson, 1958-65; R. L. Larson, 1966-70; and K. D. Moland, 1970-.

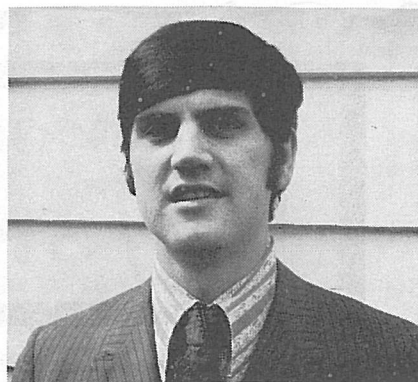
EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Emmanuel Lutheran Church is situated six miles east and three miles north of Kenyon. From it, too, several young people have gone forth into God's work. Abner S. Haugen is in the parish ministry of the ALC; Wallace Jackson is serving in the Church of the Lutheran Brethren; and Evelyn Stensland is on the Bolivian mission field of the World Mission Prayer League. Donald Bakken, another son of the congregation, is presently preparing for full-time service.

Emmanuel was organized on July 9, 1862, in the Hauge Synod. At one time the church was known as Emmanuel Free Congregation (frimenighet).

It has been served by the same pastors as Hauge Lutheran, having shared a parish arrangement with it since the beginning. For many years the parish also included Stordahl Lutheran Church of Roscoe Center. In 1952 the parish was re-aligned to include only Hauge and Emmanuel and a new parsonage was built at that time. Both Hauge and Emmanuel were founded by Pastor Osten Hanson.

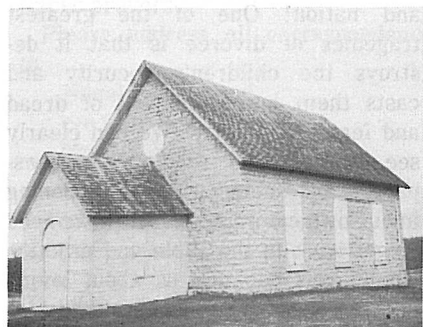
Emmanuel's close relationship with the Hauge Synod is an interesting one. Rev. Osten Hanson, who for many years was president of the Synod, was at the same time pastor of the congregation(s). In fact, it is said that the Hauge Synod was organized in his home near Emmanuel. When the Red Wing (Minn.) Seminary (school of the Synod) was started, it was with strong support from members of Emmanuel. One farmer mortgaged his farm so that the seminary



Rev. Kenneth D. Moland, pastor of the churches at Kenyon, is in his first parish after graduating from Free Lutheran Theological Seminary in 1972. He served there while a student, too, and has also served at St. Paul's Lutheran in Fargo, N. Dak. Mr. Moland is a graduate of Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., and is a native of Fertile, Minn. He is married to the former Barbara Tarvestad of Ada, Minn., and the couple has one daughter, Lydia, about seven months old.



Hauge Lutheran Church



Hauge Old Stone Church

could begin. The Haugean emphasis still leaves its impression on the congregation. The order of service is simple and the desire remains for evangelical preaching unto repentance and faith in Christ, the Head of the Church.

Emmanuel's first church was erected in 1863. In 1973 a large addi-

(Continued on page 13)

Women For Christ

FEATHERING THE NEST

by Mrs. R. P. Haakonson
Moorhead, Minnesota

Mother's Day will soon be here so I would like to share a few thoughts with you on the great task of a mother. God's most loving gift to mankind, outside of Christ, is mother. Her love and sacrifice **should be** unequalled here on earth. Deut. 32:11-12 says, "As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: so the Lord alone did lead him."

First, let us consider the mother's part in "stirring the nest." In making a study of the eagle, I discovered many interesting facts about this bird. Eagles are mated for life. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could say this was true of fathers and mothers today? How different would be our homes, schools, communities and nation! One of the greatest tragedies of divorce is that it destroys the children's security and casts them into a turmoil of dread and fear. Then what? We can clearly see the result by reading our newspapers and seeing what is happening in our own communities. How we need to get back to the Bible and practice what Jesus has told us about loving one another and being mated for life. God instituted marriage for life, that is, as long as both persons are living. Read Matt. 19:4-6. The father and mother eagles sit on the eggs until they are hatched, guard their young and feed them. May I ask this question? Do we fathers and mothers pray for our children even before they are born? Do we share in the responsibility of raising our children in the fear and nourishment of the Lord? How often don't we find that the

mother is expected to instruct and guide the children, even in Christian homes! According to God's word, the father is also responsible, Eph. 6:4.

Secondly, "the eagle fluttereth over her young," and yet we are told that birds have no maternal love, **but** by instinct care for their young until they are able to leave the nest. How do we mothers compare with the eagle? Are we willing to love, labor, pray and sacrifice that our child's needs may be met both physically and spiritually? Do we take time to read and pray **with** our children? Not long ago I heard a young boy testify of his new-found joy in Jesus Christ. But something puzzled him. When he told his mother of his experience she said she was so happy and had been praying for him, and yet, he had never seen his mother read the Bible or pray. "How can this be?" the boy asked us. I'm afraid we'll have to admit that the homes which are Christian only in name are legion. The Word of God tells us, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). Note that this verse does not say a child should be brought up the way **he thinks** he should go, nor the way the government or **school** dictates, but the way prescribed **by God**. Of course, we as parents cannot fulfil this command unless we ourselves know Jesus Christ as our Savior. Mother, are you faithful to the highest calling God has given you? Read Prov. 31:10-31.

Thirdly, the eagle "spreadeth abroad her wings." Doesn't this give you a picture of constant care and protection? Do you and I possess the love that is needed to assure our children of our interest in them? Someone

has said: "One of the highest, noblest, and purest emotions of the human heart is that of love, and this we find most adequately expressed in a mother's devotion to her children." This love is found all over the world, regardless of race or color. This kind of mother will spread her wings, so to speak, much farther than any eagle in order to protect her child. God desires a mother with real affection all through life. Abraham Lincoln once said: "All that I am, and all that I hope to be, I owe to my angel mother."

Thousands of children in our land are emotionally upset and unstable because they have received little or no love and attention in their homes. Isn't the modern trend away from affection and on to efficiency? Let us remember, mothers, that the gleaming walls of a modern kitchen, modern conveniences of all kinds, money to buy extravagant furniture and gifts can never take the place of a loving word, a tender caress, or time spent in the Word of God and in prayer. Isn't it a fact that many mothers today take a job outside the home because they've lost interest in caring for and training the children? When I was teaching school a few years ago my heart ached many a morning when I arrived at the schoolhouse to find several children standing outside freezing. Their mothers had dropped them off at school on their way to work, and these children could not enter the schoolroom without a teacher present. It has been said that in America today we have three shifts: mother works the day shift, father the night shift, and the children shift for themselves. Is it any wonder that we have so much juvenile delinquency and rebellion towards parents? A visiting theologian from Norway was asked what most impressed him about his visit to America. His answer was: "The way in which the children bring up their parents." Shame on us!

Fourthly, "the eagle taketh them and beareth them on her wings." Much could be said about carrying our children on the wings of prayer, but again, let us study the eagle. When the young begin to stir in the nest they become more and more anxious to fly, but often are afraid to make

(Continued on page 11)

editorials

WE CAN ONLY SAY "AMEN"

To the fine article about mother and home on the Women for Christ page of this issue we can only say "Amen!" The writer has brought out so many good and challenging thoughts about the responsibility of Christian motherhood. We trust that every reader will take the time to read it.

This is the time of year when we think of honoring our mothers in a special way. Let us do that in whatever ways we can. We owe so much to them.

The lot of mothers isn't an easy one. Some are able to carry out their tasks in much more pleasant and hopeful surroundings than others. Many of us live in moderately comfortable circumstances. What does the world look like to the mother shown on the cover of this *Ambassador*? What attitude toward life will she be able to convey to the little son at her side?

Or a mother may stand looking out the door of her \$50,000 home, out upon a beautifully groomed yard and neighborhood. Yet her face may mirror just as much heartache and loneliness.

How good it is if mothers can go to their tasks in

the confidence the Master supplies. How good if they can always be assured that the Lord gives strength and wisdom for every situation. Some mothers have this invisible, yet real, support. Others could have it also.

God's rich blessings upon all Christian mothers. May those who haven't sought His grace and strength do so now.

TRAVEL TO FERNDALE

No annual conference in the history of the Association, since the first one, has provoked quite as much excitement as the forthcoming one, the one to be held in Ferndale, Wash., June 13-17.

And much of the interest concerns the ways to get there. Perhaps the most "fun" way will be for those who go by camper caravan. They'll take the longest, but will have had a wealth of experiences before they arrive. It seems like the way to go to Ferndale, if one is taking the family along. Other families will also drive out by auto, but will go at their own pace.

Some convention-goers will travel by charter bus or plane if enough interest is shown in these modes of transportation. At any rate, some will go by bus, plane and others by train. We don't know of anyone planning to reach Ferndale by boat but it is possible to get quite close by that means for some of our West Coast people.

Indications point to a good turnout of Midwest America folks for the conference. As Pastor Strand points out in his article, this can be the means of strengthening our fellowship as an Association. We are sure that it will be.

May the Lord continue to open doors for a large attendance at this first West Coast annual conference as an AFLC.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE CHARTER PLANE FLIGHT FROM MINNEAPOLIS OUT

We are sorry to report to all of you that there has not been sufficient response to either a charter flight or a "25-passenger package" to warrant proceeding further with air transportation plans for Ferndale.

Therefore, it appears that those who want to fly to Seattle and then Bellingham will be "on their own." However, we can tell you that if you explain to your ticket agent that you want to travel tourist class on an excursion rate you will be entitled to a lesser rate than the regular established fare. **For example**, the round trip from Minneapolis to Seattle is \$194 for one person, and should a spouse or child go along, then their fare will only be 75% of \$194 or \$145.50. With the excursion rate you are limited from traveling Saturday, Sunday and up until 2:00 p.m. Monday, which probably

will not inconvenience anybody too much in order to pay the lesser rate.

We regret that we cannot proceed with these flight plans, but we would encourage those of you who plan to fly to get your reservations in as soon as possible so that you can travel at the time convenient to you.

Mrs. James C. Eletson

CONCERNING THE BUS FOR NOGALES

The purchasing committee for the bus at Nogales, Arizona, is now negotiating for a 12-passenger bus. They are hoping to have it by Annual Conference time (June 13-17). They are experiencing some difficulty in getting what they want at the right price.

The committee has on hand \$2400 in cash and coupons and request that any coupons outstanding be sent in as soon as you have them. Donations of money are also appreciated.

The committee wishes to express

their thanks to all who have had a share in the project and asks for continued prayers.

Please address all correspondence to

Nogales Bus Fund
c/o Clarence Norgaard
2554 Mt. View Road
Ferndale, Wash. 98248

Note: The only coupons accepted for this project are Betty Crocker coupons.

The mother's heart is the child's school room.

—Henry Ward Beecher

A mother's hand is comforting. A father's hand is strengthening. A mother reached a war hospital when her son was very sick and asleep. She very lightly laid her hand on the forehead of her sleeping son, and he smiled in his sleep and said, "Mother."

—Selected

An Encounter with The Spirit of the Evil One

By Pastor Ray S. Persson
Astoria, Oregon

"If you don't believe in the spirits, you don't believe in anything!" Such was the anguished, defiant attitude and response as Auntie spoke in defense of her spiritualism, her face, sweetly reminiscent of my mother's face, who had recently passed away. But looking into Auntie's eyes, they were different. They were the eyes of a real spiritualist medium. It seems that Auntie had embraced spiritism in her later youth. She had been close to a situation where a demon-possessed child had been driven out of a Baptist Church in her community and apparently by demonic forces had been motivated to drowning in the river. Such had a lasting effect upon Auntie who reasoned that the true religion must have been in the lovely child who was thus rejected by the Church and subsequently destroyed. Auntie became a spiritualist.

A New Acquaintanceship

It was the first time I had met my Aunt Agnes. It was one of the blessings of my service time. My ship was stationed at Bremerton and it provided the long desired opportunity to visit my aunt and uncle. It was my understanding that there was something wrong with their religion but I little realized that in them I would be meeting up with true spiritualists. The Lord was good to me in that much time aboard the battleship Iowa was spent in memorizing Scripture. The Word memorized was indeed the Sword of the Spirit which enabled me to overcome in the fierce battle that raged with loved ones over the issue of spiritism versus the Spirit of Christ.

Satan Comes

My dear Auntie related how one day she was ironing when she heard the knocking. Three distinct knocks. She thought but little of the matter, being very much engrossed in her work when the knockings came again. Three distinct rappings. She con-

tinued in her ironing, reflecting on what was meant by such intrusion into her thoughts as she toiled over her hot iron. Then the knocking came the third time. In her own words she responded by saying, "Oh goodness, the third time! The spirit is trying to give me a message! I must listen." The spirit did indeed give her a message. It was that her sister Hilma (my other aunt in Zumwalt, Ore.) had been ripped wide open in her back by a steer and was in a hospital under medical care. The import of the message was that she was not receiving the proper medical attention and if she were not removed from that hospital, she would die in twenty-four hours. Leaving her ironing, my aunt made her way quickly to a phone at a neighboring farmhouse. Hilma had indeed been gored by a steer and was in a hospital receiving medical attention. They got the message and through the night an ambulance raced her to a better hospital in Seattle. The surgeon upon completion of the required surgery stated, "It is fortunate that you got her here when you did because in a matter of a few hours it would have been too late." Actually, through the intervention of the spirit the life of the injured one was spared.

"It Is Written"

In the face of such persuasive argumentation, the Lord was good to provide the Scripture, the Sword of the Spirit to overcome the evil one seeking to lure into his diabolical ways. Verses were quoted from the Scripture, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, their part shall be in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone" (Rev. 21:8). "Thou shalt not suffer a sorceress to live" (Ex. 22:18). Before such verses there was evidence of an agitated spirit and response, "If you don't have the spirit, you don't have anything." In response I reminded that we indeed have the spirit of Christ and not the spirit of the evil one.

A Softer Approach

Then Auntie became more tender as she asked if I had ever spoken to my beloved deceased mother. In response to my negative answer, she persisted, "Wouldn't you want to speak with her?" I yet answered negatively, stating that such was wrong and that such was of the evil one. "Well," she said, "I have spoken with her and I asked her, 'How is it over there, Esther?' and to which my mother responded, 'Oh, Agnes, it is so beautiful over here—you have no idea of how wonderful it is.'" I insisted that I was not impressed and would not enter in upon any discourse with my lovely and precious mother.

Resting In The Lord

All day long the battle raged in that little farmhouse. God gave the victory and the Sword of the Spirit to parry every suggestion of the evil one. Finally bedtime. Uncle and Auntie said good night as they went upstairs to bed. I was to sleep on the studio couch in the dining room. I was so wearied from the long battle. In addition, I had stood the midnight watch on the ship and had very little sleep. The devil surely knows when to attack in our weakest moments. As I approached the couch I reasoned that I was too weary to say my prayers. But the Holy Spirit prevailed and almost reluctantly I knelt at the couch for a quickie prayer. "Thank you, Father, for the victory. Forgive my sins. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take." Amen. With such I rolled into bed. Rest at last.

Hair Raising Experiences

Just as my thoughts became befuddled, just at the precise moment of dropping off, I was rocked to my senses as I heard three distinct knocks. I heard it. My heart beat violently. My hair must have stood as straight as any Fuller's brush could have made it. I pondered, WHAT WAS THAT! I listened intently, scarcely

breathing. Then I reasoned within myself, take it easy, buddie, you're letting this thing go to your head. Relax, man, relax. So again I relaxed and again at the very precise moment of confused thoughts, the three knocks. I had been in many dangers at sea, close to death many times, but never a fear, a spirit of fear such as this. Heart pounding, hair on end, breathlessly wondering. Was it the wind; was it the door? There was no wind, only stillness, and as I pondered, again, there it was, three short knocks. "Oh goodness, I must listen, the spirit has a message for me." I recalled those words of my aunt and I recognized that I was dealing with nothing less than the spirit of Satan himself and I began to pray the Scripture, Psalm 91 in its entirety: "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of Jehovah, He is my refuge and my fortress; My God in whom I trust." But particularly I John 4:4b: "Because greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world." I claimed that promise and the devil left me.

The following morning my aunt was unusually cheerful. "Well, how did you sleep last night?" "Oh, I slept just fine, thank you," I responded. She said, "Well, you don't look like you slept very well."

It was not until several years later that I revealed to her that which had taken place as I slept in her home that night. She became very excited upon learning of it and exclaimed, "Oh, that was the spirit that was calling you!" To which I responded, "Yes, it was, definitely, but not the spirit of Christ."

In the Last Times

Beloved in the Lord. The resurgence of spiritism, witchcraft, necromancy and Satan worship are but a reminder that we are in the last times. Demon oppressions and possessions will become much more increased. We do well to lay up God's Word in our hearts to deal with such problems and to study how to overcome the evil one in his blatant attacks upon the souls of men. We will answer with the Word of the Lord. How wonderful to know that although the whole world lieth in the hands of the evil

one, that we in Jesus have His enabling power to overcome.

(Scripture quotations are from the American Standard Version.)

(Continued from page 8)

that first flight. Hence, the father or mother eagle will search for some choice food and tempt the young to come to the edge of nest until it will take off. The parent watches very carefully lest the eagle is too weak to fly. If so, the mother will quickly swoop down under her young one and let it rest on her body and carry it back to the nest.

Some of us, whose children are grown, can well remember how anxious our little ones were to begin school, college, get a job, etc. I'm certain we can also remember that often there were tears of anguish and discouragement, and divers problems. How did we help our children meet these difficulties, and how do we help them today? I remember hearing Mrs. Reuben Youngdahl speak on Christian nurture and she said something to this effect: "If your child comes home crying from school because he is worried or fearful of something, do you brush him aside as if it is a small problem? Remember, mothers, his problem is just as big to him as your most difficult problem is to you. Take your child aside, listen to his story, talk to and pray with him until he can rest assured that God is near and will help him." This left an indelible impression upon me as I was convicted of numerous times I had overlooked the seriousness of our children's "small" problems.

Mothers, take time to prepare your child for the future. You may give your child all that is necessary for his physical being, but, oh how important it is to give him the Bread of Life. I shall never cease to thank God for my wonderful Christian mother who showed me by her daily walk that God was real and in Him we could put our trust. I could write a book on the numberless times she pointed me to Jesus in times of trial, sorrow, and trouble, as well as in joy and gladness. Mother was never too tried to listen to our woes, nor to pray with us, even though she had ten chil-

dren. God bless her memory! Oh, that we as a nation could begin to realize how essential Christian homes are. Melvin A. Jones stated in a radio address: "The great need of today in America is not more peace conferences, nor greater armies or navies, nor greater statesmen, but the great need is **genuine Christian homes**, godly homes."

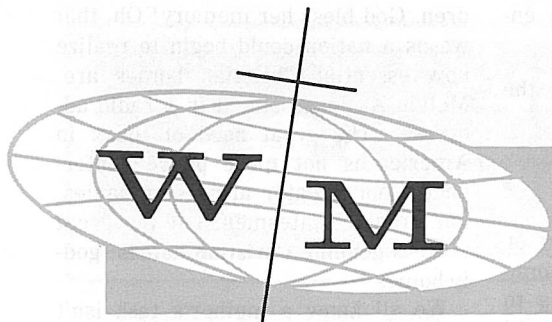
We all know a mother's task isn't easy, but in performing it, and when it is completed, there shall come to her the highest and holiest joy known to mankind, and she shall have the reward prophesied in Scripture: "Her children rise up and call her blessed, her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously but thou excellest them all."

MOTHER GUIDANCE

A lad from a modest little cottage in Scotland became the first labor premier in Great Britain. This boy used to sit in the one-room school and puzzle his delighted teacher with his questions. He coveted knowledge. "This dark-haired youth, with the wide-set eyes and the sensitive, melancholy face, it seemed, could never be appeased, but must keep on digging and digging to fathom the great mystery of human life. To his mother he would go when the little two-room home was still, to the chief custodian of his thoughts; and she, as best she could, would smooth the furrows of perplexity, and send him, light of mind, to bed.

"Then, when Ramsey MacDonald became able, he built a home for his mother, up in Lossiemouth, where the sea moans and strange birds go screeching over the moors." Thus came the time when the boy who had taken his baffling problems of childhood to his mother, and who had later built for her a comfortable home, was summoned into the presence of King George and asked to take the premiership of the nation. Yet much of the early responsibility of preparing the lad for his high office rested on his mother.

W. J. Hart
(from **More Illustrations and Quotable Poems**)



WORLD MISSIONS

THE FIELDS ARE WHITE UNTO HARVEST

BIBLE CAMP—BRAZILIAN STYLE By Priscilla Wold Umuarama, Brazil

And what a Bible Camp that was! Many campers, lots of fun, challenging Bible messages, and best of all, the presence of the Lord! With a setting like this we had our Free Lutheran Bible Camp for the young people from the evening of March 2 to the morning of the 7th. This is the time for Carnival Vacation in Brazil. However, the Carnival celebrations in most places are very immoral, so many churches plan other activities for their young people on these days. Therefore, we took this opportunity to have Bible Camp for the young people of our churches and their friends.

And do the Brazil Free Lutheran Churches ever have the beginnings of a beautiful Bible Camp! It's located on a very pretty piece of rolling land about seven miles from Campo Mourao. There's a lovely little lake in the middle of it with a small island in the middle of that again. The Brazilians and the missionaries have been working hard building a kitchen and dining hall, a girls' dorm and a boys' dorm, and diving boards.

However, they still believe in giving us the ol' camping spirit, too, for not only were our services held in a tent but also both the dorms had thatch-roofs of straw! But that's not all; we don't have mattresses for the bunkbeds yet, so we slept right on straw, too. Really roughing it! The thatch-roofs served quite well though, just when it rained! Was I ever glad I had a bottom bunk! Therefore, we hope to have real roofs and mattresses for next year's camp.

There were about 44 campers who attended, plus the staff. Pastor John Abel was the camp director and Pastor Alcides (a Bible Institute graduate) was dean of boys. I was dean of girls with Debby Abel and Laurita (also an Institute graduate) as my assistants. Debby was also my interpreter.

We started the days with our own personal devotions. Later in the mornings we had inspiring Bible studies on the book of St. John led by Pastor George Knapp and interesting handcraft sessions conducted by Mrs. Knapp. Also, a Baptist missionary from Wales, now in Campo, gave us challenging messages on the life of Elijah.

In the afternoons we had our quiet times and then sports. The sports included ping pong, volleyball, soccer, basketball, horseback riding and swimming.

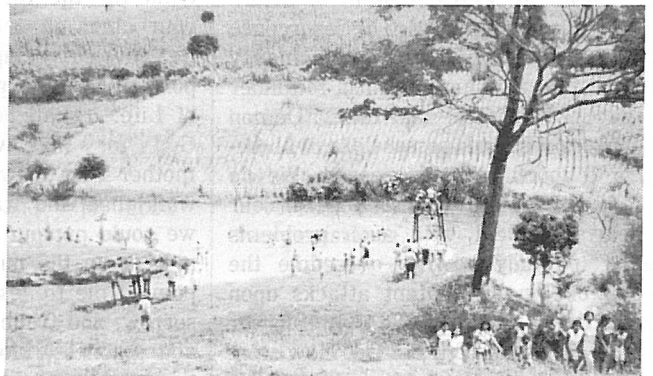
In the evenings there were question-and-answer periods with Pastor Yeddo Gottel and Pastor Carlos (another Institute graduate) answering the questions. Singspirations were also held followed by stirring evangelistic messages given by Pastor Abel. On two nights we had campfires and another night we had a Galilean service by the lake. The days ended with dorm devotions. Two nights in the girls' dorm we discussed spiritual things until about 2:00 a.m., which was really wonderful.

There was much competition at camp as all the campers were divided into two teams. These teams competed in everything: sports, talent, skits, one Bible quiz, getting to meetings on time, and camp and dorm clean-up. (Pastor Alcides and I inspected the dorms every morning and they were usually very clean.) Points were given for all of these and the team which got the most points by the end of camp won. Therefore, we had a talent program one night when the teams presented musical numbers and another night when they presented humorous skits.

Then, too, there are the things I'll never forget—like the time when I found my suitcase full of straw! We also had an enjoyable banquet; the dining hall was decorated beautifully and the meal was delicious (we have especially Ruby (Mrs. John) Abel to thank for this, as head cook). And also the night when the boys came to the girls' dorm to serenade us.



The campers in front of the dining hall and canteen.



Campers swimming in the lake. The island is shown at the left.

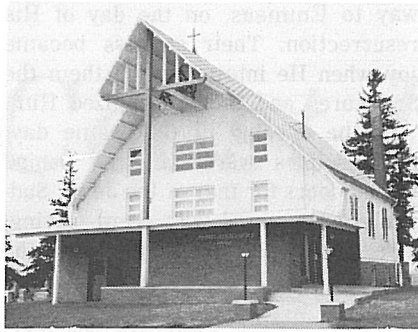
However, best and most important of all was the spiritual part. All of the Biblical messages and discussions were meaningful and blessings. We certainly felt the presence of the Holy Spirit and His working. One of my girls and two boys were saved. Please pray that they'll grow stronger in the Lord each day. A demon-possessed lady came to one of the services; she was prayed for that the demons would be cast out. Later she herself prayed to accept Jesus as her personal Savior, and after a while her husband was also saved, too. Praise the Lord! She still wasn't quite right by the end of camp so pray that Christ will meet her needs and give her strength to live for Him. Pray for her husband that the Holy Spirit will guide him, and for their children that Jesus will take care of them and that they'll be born again, too. Remember all the campers in prayer that they will remember and apply what they learned at camp, that the Lord will give them strength to live victorious Christian lives, and that they'll be open to the Holy Spirit's leading.

Postscript: I plan on coming home in June or July and attending our Bible School in Minneapolis this coming school year. After about two years I'd like to come back to Brazil under our AFLC mission if it's the Lord's will, and teach in our Bible Institute in Campo Mourao. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and direct in this.

(Continued from page 7)



The present parsonage was built in 1952, following the change in parish structure. There was no parsonage for the parish during the first 40 years as Pastor Hanson lived in his own home. In 1902 a parsonage was bought in Kenyon.



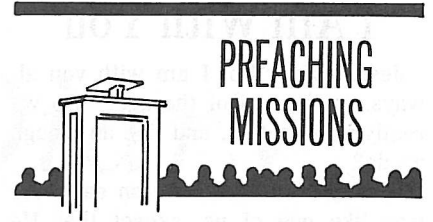
Emmanuel Lutheran Church

tion was put on and this building served the congregation until 1912 when the present structure was built. This was extensively remodeled in 1961.

The fruit of the spiritual awakening which took place around 1950 is still present in the congregation. Emmanuel has experienced that God's blessing is indeed unto the third and fourth generation of those who love Him and keep His commandments.

PERSONALITIES

Since the beginning of the month, the address of **Rev. Stephen E. Odegaard** has been 1319 Violet Street Southeast, Lacey, Wash. 98501. Pastor Odegaard is currently serving as pastor of Gull Harbor Lutheran Church of Olympia.



Roseau, Minnesota

Roseau Lutheran Church

Jerome Nikunen, Pastor

April 29-May 2

Lay Pastor Rodney Stueland, Newfolden, Minn., speaker

PLEASE NOTE

The following credit line should be used for an article which was reprinted in the **Ambassador** recently (February 27); "The 'Pentecostal' Movement and the Jesus Revolution." The credit: "Reprinted from **Present Truth**, P. O. Box 1311, Fallbrook, California 92028. Subscriptions to **Present Truth** are free upon personal request."

The only vital fellowship is that which waits on God "all the day."

J. H. Jowett (on Psalm 25:5)

"ALL MY LIFE"

Seventh Association Luther League Federation Convention
At

Association Headquarters
Minneapolis, Minnesota

July 24-29, 1973

DAILY TOPICS:

Dating, Sex, & Marriage
Vocations & God's Will
Satan & His Tools
Personal Evangelism

COST:

Registration, Food, Lodging—
\$18.00 prior to June 30
\$19.00 thereafter

WRITE:

Luther League Convention
3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

I Am With You

Jesus said, "Lo, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Do we really believe this, and live as though we do?

When Jesus lived here on earth He was like one of us, except that He was the sinless Son of God. He was with the people, and they followed Him, heard His teachings, saw His miracles. He sympathized with them in their sorrows, felt with them in their weaknesses, and helped them in their needs.

Jesus came to be with Martha and Mary after their brother Lazarus had died. He understood their sorrow. He said to Martha, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" Their sorrow was turned to joy when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.

Jesus was with the disciples in the boat on the Sea of Galilee when a great storm arose. They feared for their lives, but a word from Jesus stilled the storm, and there was a great calm.

The Lord Jesus came and walked with the two sad disciples on their

way to Emmaus, on the day of His resurrection. Their sadness became joy when He interpreted to them the Scriptures and they recognized Him.

In the evening of that same day, the disciples were gathered behind closed doors for fear of the Jews. Suddenly Jesus stood with them, saying, "Peace be with you." Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord.

Sometimes we fail to recognize Jesus when He comes to us in times of trouble, sadness or sorrow. Then we need to remember His promise, "Lo, I am with you always, to the end of the age." With you **always!**

Jesus also knew what it was to be alone. He was often alone in the wilderness, in prayer to the Father, in the night hours. He was alone in His burden for the people. He was alone in the garden of Gethsemane in His agony over the sins of all the world. He was alone on the cross, when He atoned for the sins of all. "Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows."

The robber on the cross pleaded, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingly power." And Jesus said,

"Truly, I say to you, Today you shall be with me in Paradise." What wonderful words for a sinner to hear.

Jesus told His disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them in the Father's House and would come again to take them to be with Him forever. In all our experiences in life, Jesus is with us, if we are His, and we can look forward to being with Him through all eternity.

Jesus is the only way to the Father's House. No one comes to the Father but by Him. Our own efforts are of no avail. Let us make sure that we are on the right way now, before it is too late.

"Fear not, for I am with you" (Is. 41:10).

"Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me" (Ps. 23).

—Mrs. Laura Norum
Amery, Wis.

PANSIES

Pansies are for thoughts.

They have such kind faces.

I would my thoughts be like that:

Not ugly, glowering things

With mouths turned down

At the corners,

But kind and cheerful,

Smiling on others

Like the pansies in my garden.

Marlene Moline

THE "I WILL'S" OF CHRIST:

1. I will Give My Flesh—John 6:51
 2. I will Give You Rest—Matt. 11:28
 3. I will Give You Wisdom—Luke 21:15
 4. I will Never Leave Thee—Heb. 13:5
 5. I will In No Wise Cast Out—John 6:37
 6. I will Raise Up—John 6:54
 7. I will Come Again—John 14:3
- News Letter, Dalton, Minn., Parish

Truth can be exhibited in such a way as to do the work of untruth. That is to say, true matter can be nullified by an untrue manner. Even the truth of the Gospel can be made unattractive by the spirit in which it is proclaimed. Said a friend to me after a certain service, "Did you ever hear the love of Christ preached so bitterly?" The truth was maimed by its witness.

J. H. Jowett (on Psalm 96:9)

ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

BUDGET RECEIPTS

February 1, 1973-March 31, 1973

	Proposed Yearly Budget	Current Budget	Total Received
General Fund	\$48,316.00	\$ 8,052.66	\$ 4,030.80
Schools	81,886.00	13,647.66	6,208.90
Home Missions	44,000.00	7,333.34	4,631.35
Foreign Missions	44,000.00	7,333.34	3,161.23
Praise Program	18,000.00	3,000.00	1,020.06
	\$236,202.00	\$ 39,367.00	\$ 19,052.34

Budget last year 1972-1973 \$251,563.00 \$ 17,987.47*

*Includes Special Debt Retirement Offering
Legacies—\$68.71

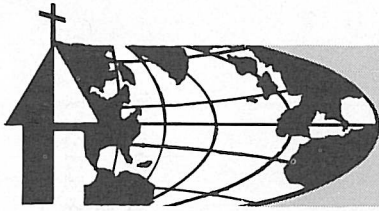
Dorm Fund

Total Accumulation to date:

Cash Receipts \$ 76,485.56

Upaid Pledges 30,240.31

\$106,725.87



CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

North Viet Nam has revealed that Henry Blood, well-known Wycliffe Bible translator who was captured by the Viet Cong in 1968, died in prison last October. The death in prison of Betty Olsen, a missionary nurse, had been announced in mid-1971. Fourteen missionaries are known to have died in the Indochina war.

Nine resolutions are now before Congress to allow voluntary, non-denominational prayer in public schools and in other public buildings. Public support for prayer in the schools seems to be at an all-time high.

Evangelist David Wilderson reports that the Jesus Revolution is sweeping through the high school and college campuses of Brazil. Recently 250,000 young people attended Wilkerson services there, and large numbers found Christ.

California's State Board of Education still refuses to present creationism in science texts as an alternative to evolution. But it has asked several Board members (including some evangelicals) to edit out all dogmatism from evolutionary teaching in the textbooks.

DR. OSWALD HOFFMANN REMOVES NAME FROM LIST OF CANDIDATES

ST. LOUIS, MO. — Dr. Oswald Hoffmann, speaker on The Lutheran Hour and recently mentioned widely as a possible nominee for the presidency of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, has requested that his name not be included on the list of candidates.

Dr. Hoffmann, who now is in his 18th year as speaker on the worldwide radio ministry sponsored by the International Lutheran Laymen's League, issues the following statement in explanation of his decision.

Dr. Hoffmann's statement:

It is an honor to be included in the list of five nominees for the presidency of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. I thank the congregations which showed such confidence in me as to place my name in nomination for what must be regarded as an important office in the church.

I have not sought nomination and I do not seek election. I am a servant of the church, with a call from the Lord in my post as Lutheran Hour Speaker. I could not decline the nomination even before it was offered, since Synod has the right to nominate anyone it wishes. If it considers election to an office as a call from God, no synod has the right, the by-laws notwithstanding, to require anyone to accept election before it has taken place when such election requires a man to leave a post to which he feels he has been called by God Himself.

It is appropriate, in my opinion, for synod to ask nominees for posts on boards and commissions, which do not require leaving their present positions, to sign a statement that they will serve if elected.

Nominees for posts that do require a decision to leave a position to which they have been called have not been asked by Synod, as far as I can recall, to commit themselves before election has taken place. Indeed, that kind of procedure has always been explicitly discouraged as a violation of our synod's conception of a divine call, whether to the pastorate of a congregation or to a synodical office.

Since the statement to be signed at this time requires me to act in a manner contrary to synod's long-standing position on the call of a pastor to any post, I cannot in good conscience comply.

As a servant of the church, I should be willing to have my name placed on the ballot, if that is the wish of Synod. But I cannot express at this time a

willingness to serve if elected, since I believe that does violence to the call I now have as speaker on The Lutheran Hour.

Therefore, because of what may appear to be a procedural question but is to me a matter of conscience in regard to a divine call, I have respectfully requested the secretary of our church body to remove my name from the list of nominees for the presidency of the Synod.

Many of our people are appalled and sickened by the politically and theologically divisive atmosphere which has come to dominate a good deal of the thinking of our church. I, for one, refuse to be a party to this process.

There is a famine abroad in the world, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the word of the Lord. Especially the young are thirsting for the word of God. To satisfy that thirst, the Gospel of Jesus Christ must be proclaimed by the church with all the winsomeness of faith and with the warmth of love.

As the Spirit of God gives me strength, I shall endeavor to do that. I encourage the whole church to throw itself with holy passion into the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ and into every mission of love to which that Gospel leads us.

I suggest to the members of our church that we repent of our high-mindedness, our self-righteousness, our suspicions of brethren in the faith, and our failures to represent faithfully the Most High God. What I say to one I say to all, not least to myself: Let each repent in the spirit of contrition, with genuine sorrow over his own contributions to the wounds of the church.

I earnestly request of the members of our church that instead of arguing with each other in bitterness and fear, we open our hearts to the Word of God and to one another, praying with confidence toward God for the well-

being of Christ's Church throughout the world, working with one another as servants of the Lord Christ rather than as masters of worldly power, and witnessing with lips and life to the saving power of Christ's Gospel.

LCMS MODERATES STILL HOPE DR. HOFFMANN WILL RUN

Amherst, Mass. (LC) — Moderates within the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod still believe that Dr. Oswald C. J. Hoffmann may eventually be a candidate for the presidency of the denomination.

According to the Rev. Richard Koenig, editor of Lutheran Forum, it is still unclear whether Dr. Hoffmann's refusal to accept nomination by the congregations "is equivalent to a refusal to run."

In Chicago, leaders of LCMS moderate forces said that the absence of Dr. Hoffmann's name from the ballot "will not materially affect the plans of moderates who want to keep our Synod together."

"We are committed," said the Rev. Dean Lueking, "not to a man, but to the cause of maintaining the unity the Holy Spirit has given us in our church."

Mr. Koenig added that those who oppose the re-election of Dr. J. A. O. Preus feel Dr. Hoffmann might "yet be nominated from the floor of the convention." If that proves impossible, Mr. Koenig agreed that "moderates will certainly unite behind one of the three other candidates in the slate who stand for their views."

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