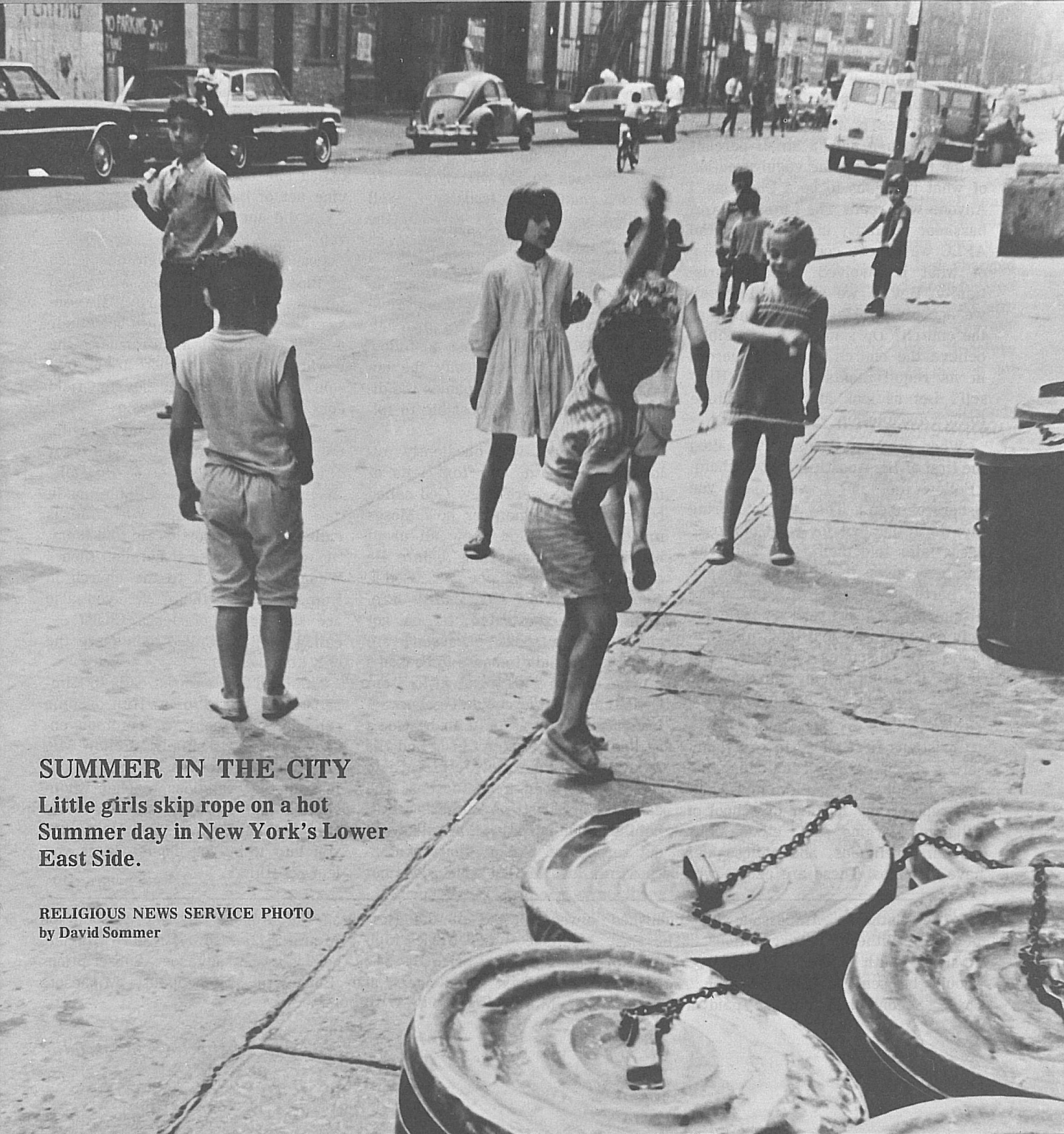


August 15, 1972

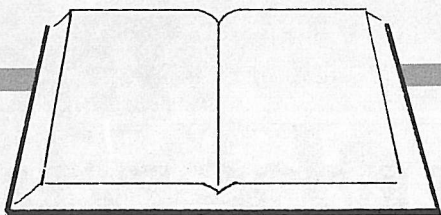
# The Lutheran Ambassador



## SUMMER IN THE CITY

Little girls skip rope on a hot  
Summer day in New York's Lower  
East Side.

RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE PHOTO  
by David Sommer



# According to the Word

## WHEN JESUS CALLS

Matt. 4:18-22

Martin Franzmann, a Lutheran theologian, has said, "The term 'Followers of Jesus,' like the term 'Christian,' has been so broadened and liberalized in our day that it means almost anything and sometimes almost nothing. For example, the United States is called "a Christian nation" though only a small percent of the people have the vaguest notion of what it means to be a Christian." Anyone who reads *The Lutheran Ambassador* regularly knows that in the AFLC we have a good understanding of what is involved in real Christianity. But do we really believe all we accept as being the teachings of the church? Do some of us, possibly, believe the church is more rigorous in its requirements than God Himself? Let us look at Jesus' attitude toward discipleship.

When the Lord Jesus Christ called the first of His Apostles, He told them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." They were to bring men to Jesus; but for what purpose? Jesus later told them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples..." Jesus seeks people for only one purpose—that they might become His disciples. That is what Jesus is after when, through the Gospel, He calls you and me, saying, "Follow Me!"

Christians first chose to call themselves disciples. My dictionary defines disciple, "a pupil, follower, or adherent of any teacher or school of religion, learning, art, etc." Many teachers, religions, and philosophies have disciples. These are people who

have decided they wanted to follow what the teacher of their choice stood for, then joined themselves to the person or movement as a disciple.

But Christian discipleship is different. Christian disciples follow their Master only because He has, in an act of His sovereign grace, chosen to call them, saying, "Follow Me." When the Christ calls a person everything else must be left behind. To one who decided on his own initiative to follow Him, He said, "The Son of Man has no place to lay His head." To the rich young ruler Jesus said, "Sell all that you have and give to the poor." To Nicodemus He said, "You must be born again."

The decision to follow Jesus is never a decision made by the disciple by his own will and at his own initiative. No one can choose to follow Jesus in this manner. Only the enabling grace that accompanies the divine call can make it possible to follow Him.

Look at some who obediently followed their Lord. Our text tells of four, but there were many God called before them. Remember how Moses made excuses? God knew all about his speech problems long before He called him. The choice was God's, not Moses'. When God called Jeremiah, he remonstrated, "I do not know how to speak because I am a youth." He didn't choose to be God's prophet. Jonah tried to run away from God's call, but he couldn't get away. Isaiah said he was unfit to be God's spokesman. Paul hated Christ and His followers until he met Jesus face to face on the road to Damascus. The call of the Christ, as Luther puts it, is "the divine initiative that calls without respect of person, that spontaneous free love of God which does not

find but creates its loveable object." These are the little ones who believe in Him.

The Lord does not use human devices such as psychological or emotional pressures to bring about a decision. He simply calls, and gives the grace to respond. He calls while we have full conscious understanding of what we are doing. Not all are willing to follow Him: "Many are called, but few are chosen." But everyone who does follow Him knows he has been called and chosen by a sovereign divine act of his Lord, for Jesus says, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you."

Jesus demands complete obedience of those He calls. To one who asked to turn aside temporarily, He answered, "Leave the dead to bury their dead." The disciple is to renounce the world, like the man who "in his joy" sold all that he had to buy the field containing the coveted treasure.

When Jesus calls, He does so without respect for either the quality or qualifications of the person He calls. After all, no one is a suitable candidate for discipleship. When Jesus called the first apostles He told them, "I will make you fishers of men." When Paul writes to the church in Rome, he tells them, "...you also are the called of Jesus Christ, ... called saints." Called saints are the only kind there is.

The Lord Jesus Christ calls to **Himself alone**—not to follow Him in some religion, philosophy, or common endeavor. He says simply "Follow Me, and I will make you..." He is not just another religious teacher whom you can join if you choose. You follow Him only at His call, and He makes you into what you should be as you learn of Him.

—Howard Kjos

---

*The Lutheran Ambassador* is published biweekly (except the first issue of August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Mpls., Minn. 55427. Rev. Raynard Huglen, Roslyn, South Dakota 57261, is the editor. Subscription price is \$3.50 per year in advance. Subscriptions should be sent to *The Lutheran Ambassador*, 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55427. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn. Volume 10, Number 16

# Family Bible Camp, 1972

FAMILY BIBLE CAMP, 1972  
by Rev. Howard Kjos

The report on the 1971 Family Bible Camp expressed the author's opinion that the AFLC would experience a revival if the message of that camp week was taken to heart. As I observed the daily activities of many of the campers at Lake Geneva at the 1972 Family Bible Camp, and listened to their conversations—both serious discussion and small talk—I realized that many of the Christians there had experienced a deepening of their commitment to the Lord. Revival in their spiritual life had come! I believe the Association is experiencing a revival; not a flash revival that flares up for a short time, then dies out, but the kind of revival that is not easily extinguished. It will continue as long as each Christian, in his personal ministry, continues faithful to the Lord and honors His inspired Word.

To this writer it seemed that a greater spirit of confidence was evidenced in the Tenth Annual Family Bible Camp of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations than at any previous camp. (This confidence was also in evidence at our Tenth Annual Conference and was reflected in the actions of the Conference.) We have seen how abundantly God has blessed us in the past ten years, so it is proper that there should be greater confidence in the great hope we have in our almighty, victorious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This great confidence and hope seemed to be the dominant spirit in the camp program.

A few years ago I read a statement by a theologian that, as I remember it, said something to this effect: "The Church has failed to develop a theology of hope. We need to develop a theology of hope for the people of

the Church." This theology of hope is supposed to replace the pessimism that is so wide-spread in the world today. I have read a part of some of these "theologies," and have found in them some very good thoughts. Christians **should** face the world with optimism and confidence rather than pessimism and despair. But I find in most of these "theologies" too much confidence in man and his philosophies and accomplishments; too little simple reliance on the Word and Spirit of God. If man is our only hope, we certainly are justified if we despair of any remedy for the world's dilemma.

But the church has always had a theology of hope. The church's hope is in the triumph of Jesus Christ over Satan, death, sin and the flesh. The world's dilemma is the direct and inevitable result of man's failure to appropriate Christ's victory. As a result of this failure, man is defeated rather than victorious, as he could and should be.

Confidence in the power of a risen, victorious Christ is the "theology of hope" that I found dominant in the spirit of our 1972 AFLC Family Bible Camp. As I write about it now these expressions of Christian triumph from familiar Gospel songs come to mind: "The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin, the light of the world is Jesus;" "Faith is the victory that overcomes the world;" "Victory in Jesus, my Savior forever;" "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness." In Him our hope is unshakable; with God all things are possible.

This report will reveal to you the on-going work of the Holy Spirit in our midst, awakening the unconverted and reviving the Christians through faithful Bible-centered preaching, teaching, counselling, and witnessing. Christians with this kind

of ministry are the only hope for this world.

Parts of this report are taken or adapted from the Bible Camp newspaper, *The Camp Ambassador*.

The Bible Book-Nook, 809 McHugh Avenue South, Grafton, N. Dak., again was in charge of book sales. Pastor Gerald Mundfrom, executive director and manager, displayed a large array of books, pamphlets, sheet music, and Christian novelties. The bookstore was the favorite place in camp for many, young and old, and sales were very good.

Pastor Alvin Grothe held the new position of head counselor. He coordinated the counselling work and did a very fine job of it. We believe this new position is a valuable addition to our camp staff. This year again many troubled souls were counselled with. Testimonies of some of these will be found later in this report.

As always, there were classes for all ages. The pre-kindergarten through first grade had a study on "The Life of Christ." "Praying God's Way" was the theme in the classes for grades two through six. They had an excellent study on prayer.

The confirmation class (grades 7-9) studied the book of Jonah. The teachers reported 80 students in this class. The students were reminded that there is no joy in disobedience and unconfessed sin and we cannot run away from God. But the class also learned that when Jonah was in the belly of the whale and all hope seemed gone, there was still hope for Jonah when he cried out to God.

God loves us and knows everything about us. He will truly be with us at all times if we seek Him and live for Him because He loves us even as He loved Jonah and cared for him. As Ann Drechsel reported for the *Camp Ambassador*, "Satan wants us to believe that there is no hope, but what a wonderful God we

have!!! Remember this and you'll be happy."

The Youth Bible Study was led by Wayne Pederson, Youth Director of the AFLC. He based each lesson on a verse of the hymn "I Look Not Back." This hymn shows so well the true human situation—the futility of trusting human resources; the complete salvation and eternal hope in the Lord Jesus Christ. The message of hope from the Bible lessons, as interpreted by this writer, is summarized briefly:

In Jesus there is hope for salvation despite our past—because God has blotted out our past sin record (I John 1:9).

In Jesus there is hope for the future—because we know He bears every burden and sustains us through every time of trial, until the day He leads us home.

In Jesus there is hope in this evil world—for when He is in us He overcomes fear, anxiety and temptations, and gives us confidence, protection, comfort, help and a song of victory.

In Jesus there is hope as we look into His face. As we surrender to Christ and let Him control our lives, our inner weaknesses and futile self-empowered good works give way to victory through His power—the Holy Spirit. If we do this our lives will be Spirit-filled and Spirit-controlled.

The Adult Bible Hour, led by Pastor Richard Gunderson, concentrated on studying the founding and growth of the Jerusalem Church from the book of Acts. Pastor Gunderson explained the historic situation and the characteristics of the church during a joint session. Then we broke up into groups to discuss questions assigned by Pastor Gunderson, relating the experiences of the early church to our congregational life and ministry today. It was truly a challenging experience. I am sure many congregations will benefit from this new insight into the ministry of the church that was led by those who had been with Jesus.

Pastor David Molstre was the speaker for the evening evangelistic services. The primary challenge was to the unconverted, but there was a convicting challenge to the converted as well. A strong warning was given to all, from the tragic lament in the

words of Jeremiah 8:20, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved," to the warning words of Jesus recorded in Luke 17:32, "Remember Lot's wife." To come to the end of life without being saved is tragic, whether we never come to Christ, or turn back because we love the things of this present world.

Christians were challenged by the dedicated lives of three young men who made God's honor roll. Today we honor them as heroes of the faith. These three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, literally presented their bodies to God as a living sacrifice. They followed through in obedience to their God with confidence that He would take care of them—in life or death. They did not hesitate or make excuses. The challenge comes to us to look to Jesus in each situation and ask, "Lord, what would you have me to do?"—regardless of any cost obedience may bring.

Because it was a new experience for the majority of the campers, the talks on the occult by Pastor Victor Ernest were a highlight of the week. He told of his experiences during the many years he was actively involved in the occult as a medium, how the Lord delivered him from Satan's bondage, and also some of his experiences since. He told how demon spirits work through the many demon-controlled occult practices. Everyone sat spell-bound through the morning lecture sessions and came back in the afternoon to sit until about 3:30 p.m. in a question-and-answer period. Everything else stood still and waited as the campers inquired concerning the supernatural realm called Satan's kingdom.

(To be continued)

If you have been a gloomy, sighing, and complaining Christian, pray God to make you a happy, grateful, and rejoicing Christian. Otherwise people will think that gloom and discontent are characteristics of Christian life, and they will shun it like the plague.

F. Hammarsten

I had rather have no church in a place, than attempt to promote a revival in a place where is a church which will not work.

Charles G. Finney

## MORTGAGE BURNED AT VALLEY CITY

Grace Lutheran Church of Valley City, N. Dak., observed an epic service July 2, 1972, as the mortgage papers of the church and parsonage properties were burned. The twin achievements of Grace Church have been accomplished within the past seven years, the life of the church.

It was formed here in 1965, purchasing at that time the property of the Epworth Methodist Church which had moved out to construct a new building in the southwest part of Valley City.

Guest speaker at the service was Rev. Francis Monseth, son of the late Rev. Fritjof Monseth, who served until 1968. The Senior Choir presented a number entitled "Nothing Is Impossible."

The congregations of Grace and Zion Lutheran Churches both served by Rev. Harry C. Molstre, joined in a picnic at the Oscar Olson Farm at noon following the services.

The mortgage-burning service was a time for much rejoicing and praise to God in word and song for His abundant blessings.



Mortgage-burning ceremony at Grace Lutheran

## In Memoriam

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.

NORTH DAKOTA  
Wahpeton

Oliver J. Arneson, 60, May 1, Aadalen, Fairdale

Portland

Mrs. Martin (Marie) Amb, 86, May 30, Valley

# honor father and mother

by Rev. Dennis Gray, Grafton, N. Dak.

"Honor thy father and mother, that the days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." What does this mean? "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise our parents and superiors, nor provoke them to anger, but honor, serve, obey, love and esteem them."

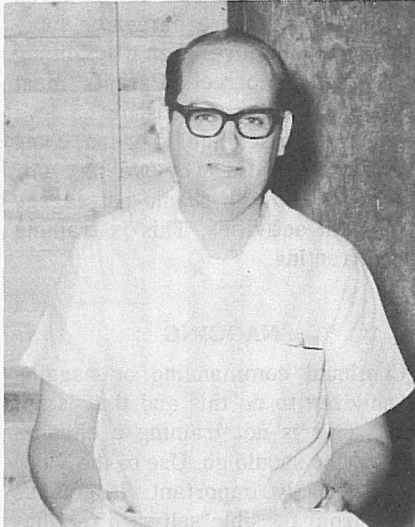
We now turn in our discussion of the Ten Commandments to the second table of the Law. The first table has to do with our relationship to God and the second table has to do with our relationship to our parents and other superiors.

These superiors are from both family and state. They are called, by Luther, superiors by blood or by office. Then, too, there are superiors Scripture would call our spiritual fathers. So, we must conclude, we are responsible to honor our own parents—superiors by blood; civil authorities—superiors by office and our spiritual parents who led us to Jesus Christ, the tragedy being that many people do not have spiritual parents.

## DOUBLE HONOR

The large Catechism states that we are to give **double honor** to those who are willing to take on responsibility for our souls. God's Word especially states that we are to give special honor to those messengers, pastors or laymen, who are interested in our spiritual welfare.

Those of you who credit your beginning steps in the Christ-centered walk to some certain individual who took the time to lead you to the Lord know what kind of a relationship you have with that person. Oftentimes, it is a deep personal relationship and you praise God for it. It is based on the love the Master places in our lives when we know Him. We give this person double honor when we continue to listen to him and use him as a



Rev. Dennis Gray

source of guidance. How wonderful it is to pray with those who have led us into a vital experience with Jesus Christ. If you are outside of God's Kingdom, you do not know the depth of these relationships.

## PARENTS WHO RECEIVE DOUBLE HONOR

There is no reason why our children need to go outside of our homes to find Jesus. Unless, of course, parents do not know Him and have never experienced His saving grace.

It should be the desire of every parent to see their children saved and nourished in the things of God. Our Heavenly Father wants us to be interested and concerned about our children's salvation.

Parents who lead their children to Christ will truly find they are doubly honored by them. Honor comes when children and parents pray together, study the Word of God together and participate in worship together both at home and in God's House. The spiritual dimension always adds honor. It includes love that comes from Jesus, the true source of love.

## HONOR MORE THAN LOVE

The large Catechism states that honor includes not only love but also obedience, humility and reverence. So, when we speak of honoring parents and superiors, we are using a word that encompasses all these areas. Each could involve a long article in order to cover it. We cannot do so in this article.

If individuals do not have Christ, they can do none of the things listed above to the fullest. Christ is the person Who changes our hearts and gives us the desire to honor our parents and superiors. When parents and children walk with Christ, they have a solid foundation to build family life upon. Without Christ, the family is on sinking sand and no one can build a solid foundation on sinking sand!

## HONOR FOR PARENTS

"A son honoreth his father," are the words of Malachi 1:6. Parents are given us by God and they represent Him. They are a special gift from God and are given to us for our spiritual and temporal benefit. While some fail to provide these things because of sin in their hearts, nevertheless the commandment stands, "Honor Thy Father and Mother."

Honor is a matter of the heart. "My Son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments" (Proverbs 3:1). After Jesus had spoken to the Jews, in Mark 7:10-13, He began to talk about the heart. From out of the heart of a man, Jesus said, proceed evil thoughts... "these things come from within and defile a man." When we listen to our old natures and the desires of our natural man and not to the new nature, and feed it wrongly, we are in grave danger. We must listen to our new natures and allow Christ to purge us daily and give us a new heart daily. With this new heart, we shall see more clearly how to honor parents.

## HONOR EVEN TO OLD AGE

To honor parents means to be responsible to the commandment even to their old age. Mark 7:10-13 makes some very interesting comments on an excuse offered by some individuals during Jesus' walk on earth. If they

gave their money to God they thought they would be free from responsibility. Jesus told them that such thinking makes the Word of God "of none effect." God's law stands and it shall always stand. Therefore, we are responsible to this commandment, and all others, even to our old age or our parents'. There are no excuses for disobeying God's Holy Word. Honor includes not only love, but obedience.

### OBEDIENCE

"My son, attend to my words; Incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thy heart" (Proverbs 4:20). **God gives a prescription for happiness in His eternal Word.** When we adhere to it and allow Christ to lead us through His Spirit, we shall be happy in our home life.

God knows best and the sooner we realize this fact, we shall be more happy and have more healthy families. Note Proverbs 7:1, 2: "My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee, keep my commandments and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye." God gives many blessings to the obedient Christian. "Now, therefore, my sons, hearken unto me; for **ble**sse

d are they that keep my ways. **Hear instruction, and be wise and refuse it not**" (Proverbs 8:32).

### A WORD TO OUR YOUNG

You can make your parents very happy when you obey God's Word and listen first to the instructions of your Heavenly Father and then to the instructions of your earthly parents. You can make them glad you were born into their midst. The Word backs this up. "A wise son maketh a glad father; but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother" (Proverbs 10:1).

Disobedient children do not hear God's instructions nor their parent's. These are the foolish ones. Remember also that your parents are human, too, and prone to sin. Yet, please remember, they were given you by God and must be honored despite their many weakness. We all have sin. When we know Christ we must walk in forgiveness. This is love. This is

honoring our parents. This is to obey them as representatives of God.

### CORRECTION

"A fool despiseth his father's correction..." Correction or discipline as given by Christian parents should be to show love and concern for the young. It may be hard for children to understand that a parent or superior is showing love when disciplining or trying to correct. Parents must make certain they are showing love when they discipline. Let us show from God's Word why we feel our children and youth should not engage in certain activities. This is training and correcting.

### NAGGING

Continual commanding or nagging at children to do this and that is not good. This is not training a child in the way he should go. Use of the Word is so terribly important. It gets us away from possible selfish directions and centers our family life around Jesus Christ. See II Timothy 3:16.

Then it is that parents are acting in God's stead and will be understood as parents who truly want the best for their children. They will deserve and receive double honor. There will be less possibility of their children being foolish.

### INSTRUCTION NOT FEAR

Fear of youth is seen in our colleges and universities today. It is also seen in our homes. Fear of youth causes us to give in to immature demands and thus frustrate ourselves and the youth we are commanded to instruct in God's Way.

As an example, we have seen the creeping influence of the dance come into our college life because of a fear of youth! What else? Certainly not a concern for temporal and spiritual well being! Anyone with a little creativity could offer our youth other alternatives. Students are not being trained in the way of the Lord and many superiors in colleges and universities and even in our homes are allowing youth to command them! No wonder we are having troubles!

The method of permissiveness has

gone too far. It may be an old saw horse, but it is only too true. Instead of frustration and fear, we need to gear in on what God says and we need to stand on His unchanging Word.

### PROMISES GIVEN

When children and youth obey and when adults instruct them in the path of obedience, there are many blessings in store. The commandment gives us the promise of long life. This, of course, is not the major objective of the commandment. We receive long life when we obey. While the promise is given, it is honor that God wishes for our parents and superiors, whether by blood or by office.

### WHAT IT BOILS DOWN TO

The responsibility rests on the shoulders of parents to instruct their families in the Word of God. When children are not instructed properly and disciplined in love, disunity and discord comes into the situation. The instruction is not to command or nag; but to urge with the Word of God and with the rod when necessary.

Parents who sit down with their children and share the Word, together with their reasons for discipline, will be showing love and concern, they will be instructing.

There is one thing very evident in the commandment. If any child has a disagreement with parents, remember—the commandment is an absolute demanding absolute obedience on your part. This commandment says to honor father and mother and all superiors. One does this by showing his love, his reverence, his honor in obedience. Christ will help us and guide us.

Robert Louis Stevenson, writing about somebody to one of his friends, has this word: "I will think more of his prayers when I see more of his praise."

J. H. Jowett

# I took his hand

Sketches from the hospital ministry of the late Rev. Wm. Hagen.

## ON VISITING THE SICK

(Selected comments by the author, drawn from various lectures, articles, and letters.)

"Respect each personality you meet—it is a creation of God. It may take years really to **know** a personality. Personality is a circle of which God is the center. The various radii are ways of leading souls to God. They may be opposite in different cases. Even from God's angle, the approach may be opposite in different cases. Some personalities, too, may be open on various radii, while others, as Ibsen says, are 'buttoned-up' souls." (1933)

"One's physical personality, face and general appearance may either attract or repel the patient." (1933)

"Before trying to visit sick people to help them one must be living in a constant prayer-relation to God. It is well to pray for the individual patient before visiting him. Thus made conscious of Christ's presence, you realize that you are in His element when you visit. If you lose this you lose all. The Word of God is also to be an ever-present power in visiting the sick." (1933)

"Think of the background of the

patient as you approach him. Perhaps he is an immigrant pioneer. Perhaps he has lived a life of hardship and adversity. One should know the patient's milieu, the atmosphere in which he has lived, recognizing that God has had His hand in that, too." (1933)

"In dealing with sick people we must always remember that our main purpose is to help them rejoice and grow in the faith; but we also need to explore those by-paths of a patient's personality which arise out of his individual background, for they often uncover new and unexpected problems to be solved." (1928)

"A spiritual diagnosis is necessary if you are to know the sickness of the soul before you. This may take a long time and always requires great care." (1933)

"Let the patient begin to talk. In visiting the sick you have to take time. Never hurry. Even if you feel that you should spend only a few moments at the bedside, act as though you have the whole day for the work. The patient may thus get to confess his troubles without knowing it himself." (1933)

"Since the Lord will never break the bruised reed, we should never be

guilty of breaking it either. Perhaps this soul is already thinking of death and judgment. We need to be patient and loving at the bedside. We need to remember also that all men are within the reach of God's saving grace, whether they know it or not. God may have been drawing a man for a long time. Let us, then, be sparing with judgments in our own minds." (1933)

"How often at a sick-bed, the devil is on the other side wrestling for the control of a soul!" (1933)

"At the bedside one must know definitely the difference between **faith** and **assurance**. A clear understanding of such things is necessary if we are to exercise a keen discernment of the soul and really help the person before us." (1933)

"Above all other strong feelings, loneliness is the one which affects patients most. I am just beginning to see that it is one of the hardest phases of hospital visitation to help lonely people. It is important to know all the various causes for loneliness. There are, of course, the external causes: sickness, age, loss of dear ones, absence from home and from friends, and so on. But there are also inner, deeper, causes like self-love, or a chronic self-concern." (1934)

"In visiting the sick we should also train ourselves in looking. We should be keen observers. The pastor needs to know how to look! Think of the awful pull of the pit and of the terrible havoc wrought by sin! Think of how Jesus sits and watches a soul—full of compassion." (1933)

"There are people whose lives are like quiet, rippling rivers flowing in an unbroken stream until at last they are lost in the great ocean. Life from childhood through old age is like a harmonious whole. A beautiful life.

"Then again there are people whose lives seem to fall to pieces, which scatter here and there—lives with no apparent unity; yet the pieces can be gathered up and assembled into a pattern. Isn't that the way they manage to get angels into church windows? The Lord mends broken lives." (1930)

—Wm. Hagen



# Luther League Activities

Edited By Wayne Pederson

## THE HISTORICAL GATHERING OF EXPLO '72

by Debby Johnson, Astoria, Oregon

How difficult it is to include all one would want to in one article to describe a large and special, blessing-filled event that you attended. Explo '72 was a very unique experience used by God in many ways.

The burden for Explo '72 was born in the heart and mind of Bill Bright, founder and president of Campus Crusade for Christ International, back in September of 1969. While participating in the U.S. Congress on Evangelism in Minneapolis, Dr. Bright noticed the incredible lack of delegates under 30 years of age and God impressed upon him the need and urgency for an International Student Congress on Evangelism, gathering an impressive number of youthful Christians—as many as 100,000—in one place, at one time.

The official count for those present at Explo '72 was still unknown exactly because of the number of unexpected last minute registrants; but basically involved were over 30,000 college students, 35,000 high school students, and 30,000 laymen, adults, and internationals.

In the first edition of the daily Explo '72 News, the special newspaper for the delegates of Explo, Bill Bright went on to say in his welcome, "Explo '72 is a call to commitment and action, a call to prayer, a call to a holy life, a call to be about our Father's busi-

ness. . . . Let us not be satisfied with the religious mediocrity of our age. . . . Join us in expecting God to perform a miracle in our hearts as we make ourselves available to Him and all that He has to teach us during this coming week."

I shall never forget the moments together in the Cotton Bowl praising God and uplifting Jesus with thousands of other Christians. The evening sessions were held in the Cotton Bowl with Bill Bright and Billy Graham the main speakers. Along with singing, conferees shared witnessing experiences, internationals gave reports on the spiritual climate in their lands, and athletes and those in the military shared their personal testimonies. Thursday evening it rained and poured—but it only gave us more reason in "Always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God even the Father" (Ephesians 5:20). So the rain increased our witness because it didn't dampen the spirit of the conferees in the least:

Some outsiders, or those not having the opportunity or desire to attend Explo '72, have said it was a gathering of "rah-rah Christians," exemplifying shallowness or superficiality and emotionalism. Here it is interesting to note that Bill Bright's message the opening night was about the Great Commission and how to be sure you're a Christian. I'm sure many critics would have been pleasantly surprised

and thankful for the emphasis that he and the Campus Crusade staff put on not basing your experience and commitment to Christ on emotions. They emphasized the possible danger of relying on them. It is, rather, the trustworthiness of God Himself and His Word, and our faith and belief in it that gets us straight. It comes right down to the matter of our will. One cannot help but get pepped up when seated with thousands of other Christians in one place, and many students and laymen there needed to get excited about Jesus Christ in their lives. The sessions at the Cotton Bowl were only a part of Explo. May I say, just the frosting on the cake.

The intense training was done in the mornings and afternoons at the individual conference sites. The number of conferees were divided into conferences of about 2000 throughout the city, receiving two messages and one seminar every morning and early afternoon from well-known Christian speakers and Bible scholars, and different staff members. In turn, this number was then organized into groups of ten for separate discussion and Bible Study groups which met for an hour each day.

Some of our morning messages included topics such as: The Call to Spiritual Awakening; How to Build a New Believer; the Cleansed Life; The Filling of the Holy Spirit; Our Identification with Christ; and Sanctification. The rest of the afternoons were then open for witnessing and optional seminars covering subjects as Love, Sex, and Marriage; How to Work with High School Students; and Dealing with the Occult. Christian exhibits were also on display in two major buildings at the fair grounds where the Cotton Bowl is located. Here many Christian schools, seminaries, and organizations throughout the nation and world had opportunity to interact with conferees giving information of their purpose and existence.

Billy Graham announced one evening he was grateful for Explo '72 as he shared with us how that very afternoon while driving through downtown Dallas he saw a policeman on his knees praying to receive Christ as three Explo delegates had just

*(Continued on page 15)*





### THEY DO ALL RIGHT

The AFLC benevolence budget has to compete with several score of appeals for support from Christian work outside the Association. These pleas are made personally, by mail, by radio and television.

How much dollar support is given to these extra causes by Association people (individually or as congregations) in a year? An amount equivalent to one-fourth the AFLC budget? one-half? an equal amount? We have no way of knowing but our guess is that it comes closer to the latter than the former.

We would be the last to say that individuals and even congregations should not support Christian work outside the church body. We give this support ourselves and will continue to do so. But it is timely to remind one another that the first and greatest obligation ought to be to one's own church. And perhaps, in cases, there should be a reordering of priorities.

Consider this. Any cause whose mailing list covers the nation, by the law of percentages, is going to do very well in gathering in funds. It can count on annual income in the hundreds of thousands of dollars and even the millions. Sometimes appeals are made in excess of the need that exists, as in the case of Boys' Town in Nebraska. Money taken in is not always used judiciously and wisely. A larger portion of the income may go into promotion and salaries than is necessary.

How many causes, regional or nation-wide, toward which we contribute ever give the donor an accounting of the budget under which they operate?

In reality, whenever we support Christian causes or

programs beyond our own fellowship, we do so with a great deal of faith.

Whatever work the Association carries on must be done by the several thousand families that make up the church fellowship and perhaps several hundred interested persons who do not belong to AFLC congregations. Whatever is to be accomplished must be done by these people together for there is no one else to count on. Furthermore, the AFLC makes an annual report of how its income has been used and projects the needs for the coming year. This report is made to the annual conference of the church fellowship.

The point we are really trying to make is that our first responsibility as members of a church fellowship is toward the joint work the fellowship sets up. It may be in order for individuals and congregations to examine the ratio of their gifts to outside causes to those of the Association to see if an adjustment should be made.

While Association people and other friends continue to underwrite the present program in the church in a strong manner, there is no question but that a large amount is given each year to other Christian programs. This is good, but let us be sure that we do justice to our own work first, including the proposed building effort at our Bible School in Minneapolis.

### MUSIC AT EXPLO '72

There have certainly been some glowing reports from Explo '72, the large gathering of youth in Dallas, Texas, in June to promote evangelism. Today we are carrying one such report, written by our own Debby Johnson of Astoria, Oregon. From most indications, the assembly made a real impact on nearly all who attended.

Translating the spirit of Dallas to the various regions of the country and into local communities won't be easy. It never is. But may the Lord bless these efforts.

There is an aspect of Explo '72 which discourages many Christians, however, and that is the use of certain music in the program of the assembly. This was evidenced in at least one of the television spectaculars after Explo. Some of the music used there could well lead to the "dancing in the aisles at breaks in the program as delegates improvised their own celebrations while waiting for the accurately timed resumption of the television taping" (J. Claude Evans in *The Christian Century*, July 19, 1972, writing of one session of Explo).

We think it is dangerous when the idea prevails that young people must be attracted to Jesus Christ, or kept, by music not a hair's breadth different from that of the world. It is tragic, too, when the feeling persists that anything goes musically in a service just so long as Jesus Christ is preached. Holy things are never enhanced when they are made companions of what is unholy.

We pray for much good for America through Explo '72. But we're unhappy about this aspect of the program and this type of music wherever it is used in the name of our Lord.

**NORTH DAKOTA  
CONGREGATION NOTES 75TH  
ANNIVERSARY**

Lebanon Lutheran Church of Brinsmade, North Dakota, celebrated its 75th anniversary on Sunday, June 25, 1972. Many special guests attended the anniversary services from far and near, and it was also a reunion Sunday for former confirmands.

Rev. John P. Strand, AFLC president, spoke at the morning worship service. He praised God for the privilege He has given Lebanon congregation of holding forth the Gospel message for 75 years and challenged its members to continue in faithfulness to the Lord Jesus Christ. Speaker at the afternoon anniversary service was Mr. John Rieth, who had been student pastor for Lebanon for three years prior to his entrance into the Association Free Lutheran Seminary. He challenged everyone present to be sure that they personally trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior and to be sure that they have a fresh and vital testimony of what Jesus means to them. The Rev. John Dahlen, a former pastor, also attended.

Special greetings were brought by Mr. Oscar Mehus of Missouri, Lebanon confirmand from the year 1908. Special guests of honor were four present members who are children of the founders of Lebanon congregation. The ladies of the church served a fellowship dinner to almost 200 guests. Rev. Eugene W. Enderlein is the present pastor of the Minnewaukan Free Lutheran parish, which includes Antiochia Lutheran of Church's Ferry, Trinity Lutheran of Minnewaukan, and the aforementioned Lebanon Lutheran Church.



Lebanon Lutheran Church



Left to right, Rev. John Dahlen, former pastor at Lebanon; Rev. John Strand, president of the AFLC; Rev. Eugene Enderlein, present pastor of the church; and Mr. John Rieth, former student pastor at Lebanon.

**THE ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS  
3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441**

**BUDGET RECEIPTS  
February 1 to June 30, 1972**

	<b>Proposed Yearly Budget</b>	<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>Total Received</b>
General Fund	\$ 41,590.00	\$17,329.16	\$10,414.10
Schools	72,073.00	30,030.41	12,744.81
Foreign Missions	38,000.00	15,833.33	11,902.25
Home Missions	42,000.00	17,500.00	10,236.32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$193,663.00</b>	<b>\$80,692.90</b>	<b>\$45,297.48</b>
Received last year, same time			\$53,169.98
Anniversary Offering (Praise Program) (Debt Retirement)		\$57,900.00	\$48,847.24
Legacies — \$216.26			
Library — \$307.00			

17. That night the King made a significant decision. Describe the events of the next day in 6:4-12.

18. Finally, at the second banquet Esther made her request. Tell what was said. 7:2-5

19. Who was the real enemy? 7:6

It is a shocking discovery when the human soul (King) realizes what a vicious enemy his sinful nature (Haman) is.

20. What was the King's decision? 7:9, 10

What will YOUR decision be about the Haman (the flesh) in you? Discuss together Romans 13:14 and Galatians 5: 1, 17 and 24.

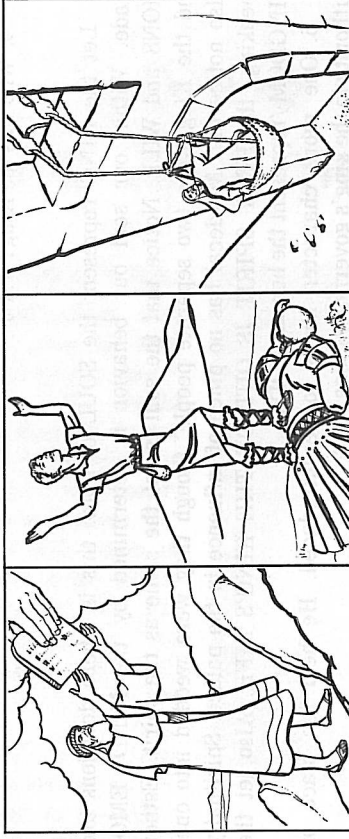
21. Not only were the Jews saved but who was given authority in the kingdom? 8:2

How is it in your life? Does the Lord Jesus Christ (by His Holy Spirit) live within your human spirit? Have you invited Him in? Also, does He control your mind, emotions and will (your soul)? This is known as being FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. God wants to do this for you, but you must choose Him and yield yourself fully to Him. Remember, Haman hated Mordecai and would not share authority with him. Also, Mordecai would not bow to Haman. The only solution is to hang Haman! Day by day your sinful nature must be put to death or it will keep resisting the Holy Spirit. Someone has said, "You must crucify self, or it will destroy you!"

22. Read 9:4 and explain how it applies spiritually to your life.

# WMMF

## BIBLE STUDY



### GOD SPEAKS TO ME THROUGH BIBLE PERSONALITIES

#### ESTHER: GIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE

##### Lesson 9

September, 1972

Bible basis: Read the entire book of Esther at home

Come along with me on an exciting adventure: the story of Esther. Though Esther is a historically accurate book in our Bible, we are instead going to look at the spiritual symbolism in it. Many events in the Bible are rich in a symbolism from which we can draw spiritual truths, and Esther is such a book. Try to look at the story of Esther as a picture of every human life . . . two foes are contending for control in your life. Who will be the winner? Your selfish nature . . . or God's Holy Spirit?

1. Who was Esther? 2:15-17

2. Who was Mordecai? 2:5, 7 and 11

As we study this book, we are going to let ESTHER represent the HUMAN SPIRIT, your inner spiritual person. MORDECAI represents GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT. Esther has been adopted by Mordecai and is now his child. How can you be adopted by God's Spirit and be God's child? Read John 1:12 and Galatians 4:4-7

3. When the Holy Spirit comes into our human spirit, we have the spiritual new birth. What did Jesus say about this? John 3:3 and 7b

Have you put your faith in the death of Christ on your behalf? Do you know FOR SURE that the Holy Spirit dwells in your life?

4. Who was the King? 1:1-3

Let the KING represent the SOUL of man: this is where decisions are made. Within our soul our behavior is determined by the MIND, EMOTIONS and WILL. Notice that the soul is not the same as the spirit. Esther and the King were two separate people, though they were wedded into one. Also notice that Mordecai has no place of influence in the palace. Spiritually speaking, the HOLY SPIRIT IS OUT OF THE KING'S LIFE. Also let the KINGDOM/represent the human BODY.

5. One more character needs to be introduced. He held the place of authority in the king's government. See 3:1, 2

HAMAN represents our sinful, selfish nature, called "THE FLESH" in the Bible. Every human soul born into this world is controlled by the sinful nature. This remains the condition of every person without the Holy Spirit.

The problem in this story is how to get rid of Haman (rulership by the sinful nature) and how to get Mordecai (God's Holy Spirit) into the place of authority. It will take a radical change in the palace. In the human life it takes a real conversion.

6. a How did Haman feel about Mordecai? 3:3-5

b. His hatred led him to do what? 3:6, and 8, 9

Compare this to the battle in the human soul. The sinful nature resists God and opposes the Holy Spirit.

7. It is sad that the King was so easily persuaded by wicked Haman. II Corinthians 4:4 tells why he was and also why people today are deceived. Explain.

a. What did the King do to Haman? 3:10

b. What does this mean?

WHO wears the "ring of authority" in your life?

8. What decree was sent forth? 3:12, 13

9. Esther had never told the King that she was a Jewess. Can you imagine her shock when she learned that all Jews must be destroyed? What great responsibility did Mordecai give her? 4:8

10. Why was she afraid to go to the King? 4:10, 11

Every believer faces this challenge. Every one must ultimately make this choice: will I obey the Holy Spirit and do what God wants me to do... or will I "save my own skin"? Are YOU willing to risk your reputation, your life, and live totally for Jesus Christ?

11 a. Mordecai reminded Esther of something very important. What? 4:13-14

b. What did Jesus say about this same principle? Matthew 16:24-27

12. What was Esther's decision? 4:15, 16

She said, "If I perish, I perish." She died to self. She forsook all to do God's will!

13. What did God do for her when she went to the King? 5:1, 2

Trust God for courage when you decide to do His will!

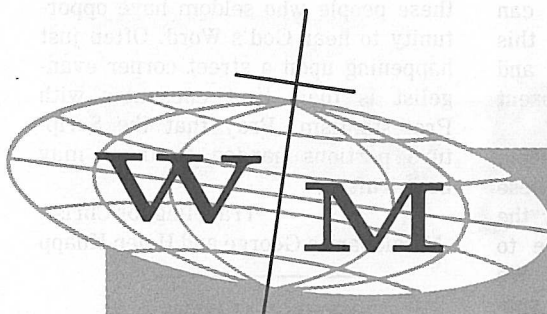
14. What strange requests did Esther make? 5:3-8

15. Haman boasted that he was the Queen's favorite! Yet all this did not satisfy him because of what? 5:9 and 13

What did he decide to do about Mordecai? 5:14

16. God's timing is always perfect. On the night before the second banquet the King could not sleep. Read 6:1-3. Suddenly, he recalled someone who had saved him from assassination, whom he had never honored. Who was it?

This is how it may be with you. Perhaps you have been preoccupied with the busyness of living, and suddenly it dawns upon your soul that you have neglected your Saviour.



# WORLD MISSIONS

THE FIELDS ARE WHITE UNTO HARVEST

## A WEEKEND TRIP

1 Samuel 15:20a: "I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, I have gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me." Come with the Knapps and let's make a trip with them on a typical weekend. Missionary George Knapp leaves home with the car shortly after breakfast and stops at the Livraria Luterana Livre. Here he picks up a varied supply of Bibles, song books, records and religious wall hangings. He has designed and constructed a special box for everything. Now a trip up to Instituto Biblico Mouraoense, because usually two students make the trip with us. Home again and now George swings into real action as he packs our Volkswagon minibus. His wife has never seen anyone who can pack so much into so small a space. This being an over night trip, each one brings out his sleeping bag (or home-made sleeping sack) and small overnight case and places it where Daddy can easily reach it as he progresses with the packing, filling every nook and cranny. Mother brings out the food box: one pan, cover, pot, spoon, packaged soup, powdered milk, oatmeal, sugar, Tupperware water pail, and utensils for those traveling. A small gas bottle is packed

and the burner that screws in at the top. Now we are ready. The pets are put out of the house with their pan of food, the doors locked, the gate closed, prayer made for a successful and safe trip and we are off.

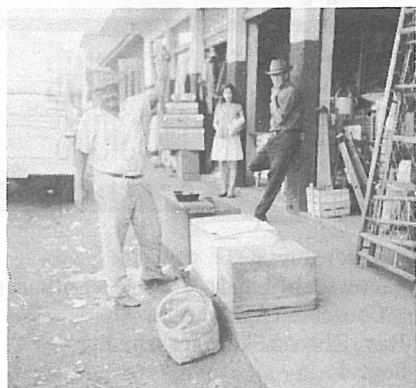
We head off in a southerly direction. The road is full of holes and we are heavily loaded. We had put 32 pounds of air in the tires at the last gas station as we left Campo Mourao. Charles is driving. He is on July winter school vacation. He goes to college in Curitiba, the capital of Parana state. We drive through the town of Mambore where we stopped and displayed things last weekend. We stop in Herveira and leave a Bible School student at his home. The next town is Campina da Lagoa. We stop in the shade and pull out the Bible Book Store displays. The loud-speaker is set on top of the car and Alcides, a senior Bible School student, calls people's attention and reads God's Word. The accordion is played. Soon a crowd has gathered and everyone receives a tract, provided through a gift from a reader. Many stop to talk, ask prices, a few to buy an item. An hour and a half later we pack up again and leave another student at his home, eat our buttered bread from

home and leave on the next lap of our trip, traveling east.

We now travel through a part of the country more recently opened up. We go over hills, into valleys, climb again over rills and down again to cross streams on wooden bridges and once to ford a stream. Now the brakes are wet and we must drive more carefully. The scenery is breath-taking and we feel God's greatness in His creation. Psalm 8:1, 3, 4: "Lord, our God, how majestic is thy name in all the earth! Thou whose glory above the heavens is chanted. When I look at thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou hast established; what is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou dost care for him?"

Nova Cantu is on a hill and we park at a convenient place to set up our display. When a crowd gathers and many children are present, Oliria, a student, tells an illustrated story. She hands out a used greeting card which now has a Portuguese Bible verse on it, to each person. These are prized greatly by those receiving them. (And a "thank you" to everyone who is helping with this. We need to receive many packages to prepare for DVBS at the end of the year. Our supply is very, very low. And our need is always increasing as the area we are all working in is getting bigger.) Aristides reads from the Bible and again people come to talk and a few items are sold.

This town is newer than the last one we stopped in. Here and on all our travels we see many, many people going places walking. Some of them wear boots, some slippers, but most of them are barefoot and maybe are



A street market scene.



Two men in Campina da Lagoa examine framed artists' interpretations of the "Two Ways" and "The Crossing at the Red Sea."



In Nova Cantu, a student tells an illustrated story to a group of children.

carrying their shoes. Why wear them out walking? Many people are on bicycles. This is Saturday and the usual day to go to town and shop. We see farm wagons with four wheels, no springs. They bounce and jerk over the ruts. We see pack horses with a basket of corn on each side. People are riding horses, mules and burros. Some plod along, others are spirited and hard to handle. But everyone knows how to handle them, even the smaller children. Women ride horseback, wearing long full skirts. We see trucks, jeeps and even a Galaxy out here in this frontier town!

The time passes too quickly and we must be on our way. Now the road is much better and the dirt is packed so smoothly that it is almost like asphalt!

We arrive in Santo Rei at dusk, stop for the key to the church and park the car at the back. We unload, wash up in a plastic pail we have along, make supper, select our sets of benches to push together on which to make our beds, (it reminds me of the Chinese kang) and after an hour of music practice and prayer we crawl into our sacks.

We enjoy a restful night of sleep. The only disturbance being the screech of bats during the night. A flashlight beam discovered what the noise was and we turned over and slept again.

Sunday morning, Psalm 98:4: "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!" The cocks are crowing before we crawl out, rested and eager for a hot breakfast, after which the men go off in the car with a man from the church to make farm visits. We women stay at the church to wash dishes, do some cleaning and sweeping and roll up the bedding. The men return in time for a dinner at a home near by of rice, beans, tomatoes and chicken. After only lunching on Saturday this hot meal really is satisfying.

At two o'clock people have gathered and the Sunday School begins. Roll call count shows 62 people are present. We sing with gusto, being led by Halvor and Charles playing accordions, and Calvin his violin. George teaches the adult class and Helen and Carol teach the children.

This way the regular teachers can "receive" instead of "give out" this Sunday. We all enjoy our work and give our best. As a family we present some musical numbers.

We rest a bit in the late afternoon. The weather has been lovely these two days and we're thankful for the privilege we have of being able to teach of Christ here in Brazil. We thank you for your prayers and support. Psalm 100:5: "For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures for ever, and his faithfulness to all generations."

A walk over to the only street in town reveals a count of 16 horses in town, one two-wheeled cart and a truck. This town is at the end of the road. There is a lot of virgin forest in these parts.

We lunch again in the Sunday School rooms at the back of the church and load up the car. The church is full again for the seven o'clock service. A bottle gas lamp gives us a good light. After the service one man is counselled and a family stays to visit for awhile.

By nine o'clock we have finished loading, said our good-byes with a hand shake all around and we are on the road, going north-northwest, over a rocky road again. At eleven we come to town and disperse our load. We were 12 people coming back. Usually someone wants a ride into the big city. We take warm showers and drop thankfully into our beds. Another busy weekend is over. Many more people have heard a portion and taken a portion of God's Word with them. Mark 4:20, 26, 27, 29: "The sower sows the Word. Those that were sown upon the good soil are the ones who hear the Word and accept it and bear fruit. Jesus said, The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed upon the ground, and should sleep and rise night and day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he knows not how. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

Yes, another weekend of sowing the Word of God. We know not whether it fell on fallow ground or among thorns. We will travel this circuit another time in a few weeks to see if the harvest is ready. Pray for us as we travel these back roads. Pray for

these people who seldom have opportunity to hear God's Word. Often just happening upon a street corner evangelist is their first encounter with Protestantism. Pray that the Scripture portions handed to them may bear fruit.

Traveling for Christ,  
Missionaries George and Helen Knapp

#### PERSONALITIES

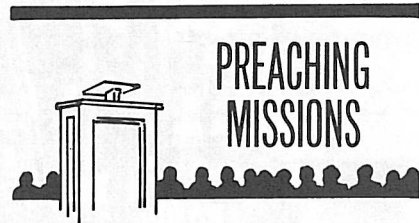
**Rev. Harry C. Molstre** will terminate his services to Grace and Zion Lutheran Churches, Valley City, N. Dak., as of Sept. 1. His new address in retirement will be 604 West Bancroft Avenue, Fergus Falls, Minn. 56537.

**Rev. Robert L. Lee**, who has served the Tioga, N. Dak., parish (Zion, Beaver Creek, Norman, Lindhal, St. Olaf and Scandia), has resigned and accepted a call to Grace and Zion congregations of Valley City. The Lees and their two children will be moving to Valley City in early November.

**Rev. Howard Kjos** has resigned as pastor of the Hampden, N. Dak., parish (Zoar, Zion and Bethany). Future plans are indefinite.

**Lay Pastor Gene Sundby** will take up work as pastor at Greenbush, Minn., this fall. He has served at Culbertson and Brockton, Mont., for the past three years. A reorganization of the congregations in the Greenbush-Badger area is currently taking place and a new parsonage is being built in Greenbush.

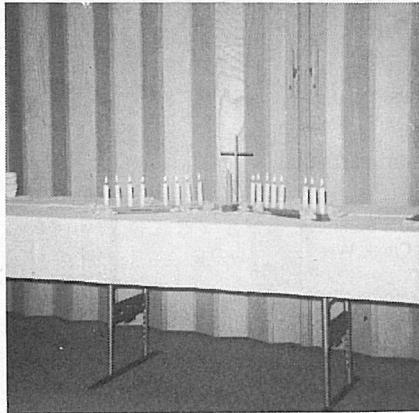
**Rev. Stephen Odegaard** has resigned as pastor of the Hatton, N. Dak., parish (Valley, Zoar and Ny Stavanger) where he has served for the past two years. Present plans are to stay out of the ministry for a year and engage in secular work.



**Chester, Iowa**  
Saetersdahl and Chester Lutheran Churches (ALC)  
Rev. Elwood Skarpness, pastor  
Sept. 10-15  
Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom, speaker



In response to the request for coupons to go towards the purchase of a bus in Nogales, Arizona, this little orange bus was used as a collection box at St. Paul's Lutheran in Cloquet. The coupons were collected by the Martha Guild members, who will in turn send them on to Nogales.



The Martha Guild at St. Paul's Lutheran in Cloquet recently held their annual Cradle Roll Mothers' Tea. The mothers of the children enrolled this past year in the WMF Cradle Roll program participated in the candle-lighting ceremony and along with the mothers of children enrolled prior to this year took part in the rest of the program. A fellowship hour was enjoyed by the mothers and the guild members following the program.

What it first loathed it now tolerates, and it is almost inevitable that when we tolerate a wrong we begin to fraternise with it.

J. H. Jowett

## NEW PARSONAGE SECURED AT HATTON

On Sunday, May 28, the Hatton Free Lutheran Parish dedicated their recently purchased parsonage to the use and glory of God. Mr. Palmer Haugen, president of the parish, led in the dedication service.

The new parsonage, located at 303-7th street in Hatton, has two full stories, a full basement and a walk-in attic. There are four bedrooms, a large kitchen, a living room, dining room and an office. There is a large enclosed porch in the back of the house. The house sits on four lots, has a garage and a large garden space. There are evergreen trees and some other large trees on the property.



Picture of House

*(Continued from page 8)*

shared with him the Good News of God's love and forgiveness.

I personally rejoiced in the way the church was emphasized. Bill Bright exclaimed, "We're all for the church!" He told us to pray for our pastors, and challenged us to call up our pastors when we got home, to go to them and ask, "What can I do to help?"

The final service at the Cotton Bowl Friday evening stressed commitment. Billy Graham preached on counting the cost of following Christ. The week of Explo '72 had ended, but our responsibility only begun. Closing the service all took part in the special candlelight ceremony symbolizing the sharing of the Light of the World. As each arena light was shut off and darkness blanketed the Cotton Bowl, the individual candles which we had been given began to glow as we got

ours aflame from the one next to us and passed it on. We sang "It only takes a spark..." very slowly, as pretty soon the whole stadium was aflicker with candelights and the love and concern which it represents.

The Apostle Paul once wrote, "You are an open letter about Christ." Considering what the residents of Dallas would read in our lives that week, we were admonished and exhorted to be gracious guests and live Christ-like lives. As I and some other Association youth left the Royal Coach Inn, our conference center in Dallas, one of the women registrars of the Inn told me we had been the best group of kids they had ever catered to, they had enjoyed having us so much and were sorry to see us leave. Boy, that lifted my heart even more! Praise the Lord for our witness!

On my flight from Dallas I heard a Lutheran woman in the seat in back of me share with a man who also attended Explo how it had changed her life. She expressed how blessed she was from the training and emphasis on sharing her faith for she had never been told about it before though she had gone to church all her life.

I know many of our dear friends and parents in the Association were disappointed for those of us who could not attend the Annual Conference because of Explo. But as Paul says, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice" (Phil. 4:4). Visions are often caught and not taught. Should we not rejoice in that some of our youth had the privilege to partake of such a vision and to come back and share it with the rest of us? This is my prayer, that those who attended Explo will make its vision real in their own lives—which in turn will be a real service to our church.

Debby attended our Bible School in 1970, and presently will be a junior at Oregon State University majoring in Secondary Education. She is a member of Bethany Lutheran in Astoria.

You had better send your Bibles to the heathen, where they will do some good, if you are not going to believe and use them.

—Charles G. Finney

## A TRIBUTE TO FATHER

(A tribute in honor of my father, David W. Nordeen, who passed away on Nov. 20, 1971, at age 71, as a member of Grace Lutheran Church, Bagley, Minn.)

A dearer and more considerate dad could not be found. He was so unselfish and helpful, not only to his family, but to anyone in need, regardless of who he might be. Often he used his last few cents during the Depression to give to someone worse off and somehow God provided for us.

He suffered so much physical pain the last few years, but never complained or gave up, always smiled.

The most important is that he was the best Christian father a daughter could have. Often he encouraged me to keep looking up, for "God is always with you."

An hour before he died he said, "God will either fix me up or lift or take me up." God did both.

So it is through tears we think of Dad on Father's Day, but it is with an assurance that he is home with God and that one day we will be united with him again in heaven.

Sadly missed by his wife, children and grandchildren, but God knows best.

Mrs. Severin Anderson  
Bagley, Minn.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR  
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minn. 55427

Second-class postage  
paid at Minneapolis, Minn.

## Directory of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

### OFFICERS

#### President

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

#### Vice-President

Rev. Kenneth L. Anderson  
Radcliffe, Ia.

#### Secretary

Rev. Robert Rieth  
11611 N.E. 140th St.  
Kirkland, Wash.

#### Business Administrator

Rev. Albert Hautamaki  
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minn.

### CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

#### Chairman

Rev. Julius Hermunsie  
832 W. Stanton Ave.  
Fergus Falls, Minn.

#### Secretary

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

### ASSOCIATION SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

#### President

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

#### Secretary

Rev. Leslie Galland  
Spicer, Minn.

#### Dean of Free Lutheran Seminary

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

#### Dean of the Bible School

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

### WORLD MISSIONS

#### Chairman

Mr. Robert Knutson  
McVille, N. Dak.

#### Secretary

Mr. Roy Mohagen  
Grafton, N. Dak.

### HOME MISSIONS

#### Chairman

Rev. Herbert L. Franz  
106 10th St.  
Cloquet, Minn.

#### Secretary

Mr. Eldor Sorkness  
Sand Creek, Wis.

### PUBLICATIONS AND PARISH EDUCATION

#### Chairman

Rev. Raynard Huglen  
Roslyn, S. Dak.

#### 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

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

### 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. Melvin Walla  
Box 6, May Lane  
Edgewood Court  
Fargo, N. Dak.

#### Secretary

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

#### Treasurer

Mrs. J. C. Eletson  
2130 East Superior St.  
Duluth, Minn.

#### Executive Secretary

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

### LUTHER LEAGUE FEDERATION

#### President

Mr. Kenneth Moland  
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minn.

#### Secretary

Miss Linda Moan  
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis.

#### Treasurer

Mr. Ralph Peterson  
St. Michael, Minn.