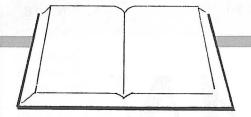
LUTHERAN

1 NI B A S S 4





According to the Word

THE GREATEST...IS LOVE

In our July 22 issue of the Ambassador we noted that the Church in Ephesus had some sterling qualities. They had, among others, remained conservative in theology. But they had left their first love—that warm, childlike love that a Christian has for the Savior.

How we ought to love Jesus!

Keeping this love has been the most difficult thing for God's people ever since the first century, when Jesus asked Peter, "Lovest thou Me more than these?" (John 21:15).

How can God's redeemed keep their love of Jesus fervent and vibrant over the years, among all the enemies of the soul? Let me answer by telling you a story which I read just thirty years ago this month.

"A western-bound train stood waiting at the depot in New York, with the engine puffing for the start, when a simply clad Swedish girl hurried into the car with a bundle in her arms containing all her earthly possessions. She placed herself on the edge of the seat, as if aware that she had reached the last stage of her journey. holding her ticket conspicuously in one hand, and a letter in the other hand. She could neither speak nor understand English, but when the conductor came along, she handed him her ticket, and showed him the word 'Altoona' at the head of her letter, written in very large and distinct characters.

"At frequent intervals, when the conductor entered the car to collect the tickets, she invariably grasped her bundle, and arose to greet him, saying the only word in her English vocabulary, 'Altoona,' with a strong foreign accent. The conductor shook his head good naturedly, and shouted 'far off,' in his endeavor to make her understand the situation; but with a puzzled, anxious look, she would resume her seat, only to spring up again, at his reappearance, with the same eager query, 'Altoona?'

"After each disappointment she would seat herself again sadly, open her letter and read it with the deepest interest, the tears often falling slowly down her cheeks. Her anxiety and desire to reach her destination were so genuine that her fellow-travelers began to watch her with sympathy, and speculate as to the reason for her impatience.

"With mute lips and pale, tense face, she constantly referred to her letter, as if to gather courage and patience for her long waiting.

"The sympathy of the passengers waxed greater, as her diappointment deepened with each delay, until, at last, when the conductor beckoned to her, with a smiling countenance, as the train slackened its speed, there was an almost audible sigh of relief throughout the car, when she caught

up her bundle and hastened, with beaming looks, to the door, to be folded in a pair of strong young arms, as a tall, stalwart man entered the car, before the train had fairly stopped.

"Everybody was interested and questioned the conductor about her. He inquired of the people at the depot, who told him that this poor young stranger had crossed the ocean, braving all its perils alone, to meet the man whom she loved, and had promised to marry in the old country.

"The passengers crowded to the windows to watch the happy pair going away."

We who are the bride of Christ are "immigrants" traveling on a one way journey. Therefore we are "strangers" and "foreigners." We have a letter from the Bridegroom—our Lord Jesus. In His Word He tells of the wonderful mansions He has prepared for His bride.

Are you busy in your church? Fine! But have you left your first love? Or are you daily holding His Letter in your hand as you journey toward meeting Him?

If you daily live in anticipation of seeing Jesus, and look for Him to rapture His bride you will not be waiting sleepily but watchfully.

And you will keep your first love.

-Karl Stendal

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Testimonies From Family Bible Camp

THE JOY OF RENEWAL

The joy of renewing our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of Christian friends. To see those rejoicing in their testimonies and meeting an eternal Friend—that is so dear to me also.

In the devotions we shared our faith, singing His praises and wept together for those who are lost, who don't give themselves to the One Who gave Himself for them.

May we continue to witness and press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:13).

Kathy Benson Sand Creek, Wis.

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR

We attended Family Bible Camp at Lake Geneva for the first time last year. We were so impressed by everything that we knew we wanted to be back the next year if at all possible. We watched each Ambassador for Bible Camp dates. We told many of our friends and relatives about the Christian fellowship, witness and testimonies at camp. How wonderful!

This year we are back and brought three Iowa friends with us. We have found the same Christian spirit present. We thank God for making it possible for us to attend. We thank Him for giving us the Association with Christian leaders for all ages, willing to be led by the Spirit. God bless them.

We are looking forward to next year's camp and pray that many other families will have the opportunity to attend. We can't put into words the peace and joy that we have found here. Since we do not have an Association church that we can attend, we feel so good that we can come to your camp.

The Ben Stave Family Modale, Ia.

DECISIONS AT CAMPFIRES

II Cor. 5:17: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

At camp this year there were many new creatures born. It's just wonderful how Jesus works at camp. The Holy Spirit really worked on many boys and girls. It's at the campfires where a lot of boys and girls come to Christ. Not only at the campfires, but also the services at night.

It's a wonderful blessing to hear the young taking part in giving their testimonies, as well as the old.

For the ones saved I pray that as they go home from camp that they will keep on living for Christ. For the ones who don't know Christ, that as they go home they will sleep so unrestfully at night that they just commit themselves to Him. Then the Lord will lead their lives, not they themselves.

I'm happy to say that I have accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and am a new creature today. Also, I'm not my own, but God's.

Isaiah 43:1: "But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine."

> Don Balmer Thief River Falls, Minn.

STRENGTHENED AS A CHRISTIAN

Bible Camp was a very rich time for me. Camp again strengthened me as a Christian. From the messages of the speakers I have realized how much we as Christians are needed out in the world to teach God's promises.

Truly the Spirit was moving during the week as I sensed the great power of prayer and the winning of souls.

I am rejoicing that I had the privilege to attend camp so that I could gain a greater closeness to Christ. I realized how much I'm needed in full-time service for my Lord, to win the unsaved souls who feel as though everything is forsaken. By receiving the true salvation of Christ, we at camp, and those at home, can know of Christ's great love for all.

Mary Nelson Grand Forks, N. Dak.

A PULPIT POSTER

One of our first impressions came from a poster on the pulpit giving the words of Jesus, "What will you have me do?" (Matt. 20:32), a definite invitation to bring Him our needs.

The week was full of these positive impressions: definite need, definite remedy, definite requests, definite results.

The evening evangelistic message revealed our first need, in the question "Is there sin in the camp?" Throughout the week the remedy for sin was applied to needy souls by spiritual counselors.

The Bible hour in Galatians was rich in teaching of law that kills and grace that restores with the balm of the Gospel.

In Bible doctrines we realized the sinfulness of sin and the fullness of the Savior's redemptive work.

Mission class called us to serve in the harvest field and witnessing provided us with tools for the work.

Again, evening prayer and messages pleaded for repentance and commitment. Many accepted Christ, many sought grace for victory, for boldness in witnessing and faith to walk, relying on His promises.

We had a feast in God's great outof-doors.

(**Ed. Note:** We regret that we are uncertain who wrote this fine report.)

THE LORD BLESSED US

It was a blessing to be at the Association Bible Camp. The Lord has made provisions every way so we should all be very thankful to the Lord. The Gospel has blessed us all in its glorious way as the Holy Spirit reveals it. The Lord blessed us with such beautiful weather and such wonderful Christian fellowship. May the Lord bless the Association abundantly and may it grow and God's blessing be with every one in charge.

This is my first time here and I can't find words to express the blessings I have received while I've been here. The love and kindness that the Lord can give I find in everyone.

I have been blessed and I want to close with this message: we are helpless without the Lord and how true are the words of John 15:5: "For without me ye can do nothing." I have no life without Christ.

Walter Niemi Cloquet, Minn.

WANTS CAMP CONTINUED

This was my third year at camp and it was the most bountiful week of the three. My faith in Jesus Christ became much stronger and I pray that I may become a witness for my Lord at home and in school.

All of the teenagers in the camp enjoyed the classes, including myself, and we hope that classes like the one we had with (Student) Pastor Gray will be continued, along with the other classes. I certainly became stronger as we searched the Scriptures for answers to everyday problems.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made this inspirational camp possible. I hope, and I am sure that everyone else does, that this camp can be continued in the future, for the teenagers of today need Christ, and they need a camp like this to become solidly anchored in their faith.

Richard Lofthus McVille, N. Dak.

THE WORD RIGHTLY TAUGHT

We want to say how much we appreciated the Bible Camp at Lake Geneva. We feel that the Spirit was very present. And all the speakers are concerned about the personal salvation of souls and are not trying to bypass the Word of God and they do not excuse sin but use the Word of God that will convict of sin. This Word will cause people to repent and look to the cross of Christ where the Savior died in our stead. If we believe that He died and rose again for our sins we also may rise again and have everlasting life with Christ.

We who witnessed the young people on Friday evening and heard their testimonies must praise and thank God for it all.

> Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Nelson Phoenix, Ariz.

APPRECIATED THE COUNSELORS

I John 1:9. I am happy to say that I have confessed my sins and God has forgiven all my sin. The week at camp has really been a great blessing to me and to many others, I am sure. In the past week I could really sense the work of the Holy Spirit at Bible Camp, through the great speakers and especially during the testimony time after the evening service, and at campfire. The counselors were also just great. They were so easy to talk to and understanding.

Even during the recreation time I could sense the work of the Holy Spirit through the joy and happiness in everyone.

I had been looking forward to Bible Camp all year and now it is already over, but it has strengthened me so much I don't think I can ever put it into words. Now that camp is over it is my own prayer that each Christian will do as it says in Eph. 6:11: "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Bob Wold Thief River Falls, Minn.

A FAITH STRENGTHENING EXPERIENCE

This was our first year at the Bible Camp. It was a wonderful and faith-strengthening experience for us as parents and also for our children. We were spiritually blessed by attending the meetings and also enjoyed the fellowship with other Christians.

We would like to encourage many others to come to camp as a family. We are sure they would be inspired as we were.

> Mr. and Mrs. Ted Schields and family Eagle Butte, S. Dak.

ENJOYED CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

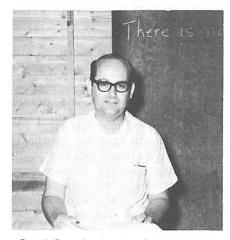
This week at Bible Camp has been a real blessing to me because it is so wonderful to see those who are unsaved know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

Every evening following the service Christian friends shared their testimonies by word and song. It is such a rich blessing to know that even though we are sinful, we can be abundantly forgiven.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unright-eousness" (I Jn. 1:9).

I most enjoyed the fellowship with those who do know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

> Kathy Jones Wyndmere, N. Dak.

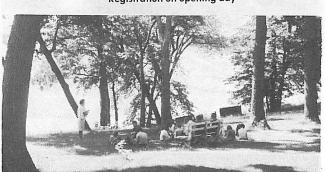


Dennis Gray, Seminary student, who taught the Youth Bible studies

A Candid Camera At The Family Bible Camp



Registration on opening day



The confirmation age classes held some of their sessions out-of-doors



Volleyball was one of the games played at the camp



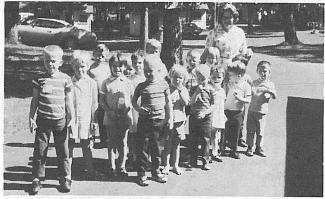
A campfire singspiration, led by Steven Strand, center



Pastor Edwin Kjos, adult Bible study leader, who taught the book of Galatians



The children's section



The kindergarten class during a morning snack, with their teacher, Mrs. Herbert Presteng



Dishwashing was a daily task for willing volunteers(?)



Mrs. G. L. Halmrast directed the camp choir



The canteen was a popular place when it was open



Dr. Iver Olson conducted a doctrinal hour each day with the help of a panel. Pictured here are Pastors Howard Kjos and Larry Severson, left to right



Stanley Block, Spicer, Minn., treated the camp family to a turkey barbecue on Friday



The barbecue meal was eaten outside on a beautiful day



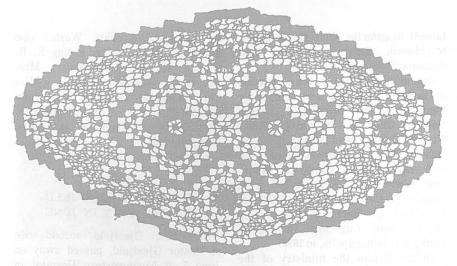
Children at play at Family Camp



A scene at the swimming beach. David Abel was the lifeguard, assisted by Gwen James



Canoeing was available this year and here are two girls who made use of the opportunity



CENTRAL MINNESOTA WMF MET IN DALTON

"Manifest God's Glory" was the theme of the Spring Rally of the Women's Missionary Federation of the Central Minnesota District when they met May 13th in Zion Lutheran Church in Dalton, Minnesota.

Mrs. Harry Rorvig, president, presided over the meeting. Everyone quoted the theme verse from Psalm 96:3. Then the theme song, "To Glorify Thee," was sung. Mrs. Julius Hermunslie of Fergus Falls gave devotions. She read from John 10:7-16.

The welcome was given by Mrs. Ralph Melby of Dalton. A ladies' sextet sang "Lord, Lay Some Soul Upon My Heart." Mission News was read by Gertrude Lee of Ashby.

Student Pastor Larry Severson of the Abercrombie and Doran churches gave the Bible Study from Psalm 96 and I Chron. 16:23-33. He said these words are a missionary challenge to witness, to sing praises unto God, also to give. Because of what He has done for us, Christians are to give "new song" to places where others have not heard.

Today we read in newspapers of the greatness of man instead of the greatness of God. We must reveal God's Word to others and desire to share it.

Prayer fellowship was led by Pastor J. Hermunslie of Fergus Falls. He said we are thankful for Bible School students and we must pray that they will feel the call to go out. Several took part in prayer.

Mrs. Merrell Moore read from Psalm 96:3 for devotions. Mrs. Erickson and Mrs. Land of Deer Creek sang "Under His Wings."

Potluck dinner was served by the ladies of the church.

Verle Dean, missionary from Redby Mission of Redby, Minn., gave the message, reading from II Cor. 5: 14-21. He said Christians often fall short as ambassadors for Christ.

The biggest mission field neglected today is teenagers. We pick up newspapers and see teens on the march. The women of this organization must go out today and offer to be Sunday School teachers. The teens are looking to us for help. When we come before the Judgement, how will we stand?

Mr. Dean concluded with, "Friends, we have a job to do and it is getting harder and harder to do." He said, "We are starving our lambs."

Mrs. S. Swenson of Fergus Falls sang "In Shady Green Pastures." The morning offering was for My Missionary for a Day and the afternoon offering was for Junior Missions.

Pastor S. Swenson gave the benediction.

Our hearts were touched by the messages. We must pray for a closer walk with Him, for Bible School students, seminarians, our missionaries and our teenagers.

Mrs. Lawrence Dahlgren, secretary Lake Park, Minnesota

SELL LAKE SITE OF WMF RALLY

The Spring Rally of the WMF of the North Central District was held

at Sell Lake Church at Shevlin on May 2, 1969. The host pastor was Marvin Undseth. The theme for the day was "Am I a Soldier of the Cross?" (II Tim. 2:2, 3).

"Prayer Warriors" was the theme for the morning Bible study. Mrs. Roy Quam of McIntosh spoke on "Pray with Thanksgiving" and Mrs. H. Hanson of Winger spoke on "Pray for Laborers."

Mrs. Birdeen Holt of Fosston and Mrs. Tonder of Shevlin led in devotions for the day. Special music was furnished by the Winger, Shevlin and Bagley parishes.

Missionary Connelly Dyrud was the afternoon speaker. His message was based on II Tim. 2:1-4 and Eph. 6:11-17. He brought out that we must "be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." We need to study the Word, work diligently, endure hardness and go forward in faith. If we suffer, we shall reign with Him. We should not get entangled with the things of this world and lose sight of the Cross. We must be obedient soldiers to God; Christ calls and we should be willing to go.

Mr. Yeddo Gottel, a seminary student, gave his testimony and sang two solos.

Mrs. Holt gave us a report on the national WMF and Mrs. Ken Johnson discussed Cradle Roll with us.

An offering was taken which was to be sent to the General Fund and Junior Missions.

The Dovre Lutheran Church of Winger extended an invitation for the fall rally.

Pastor Undseth closed the meeting.

We thank the Sell Lake Ladies Aid for the friendly hospitality and the delicious dinner they served us at noon. It was good for us to be there and enjoy the fellowship of other Christians and study the precious Word of God together as a WMF.

Mrs. Andrew Salvhus, secretary McIntosh, Minnesota

[Continued on page 16]

Rev. Fritjof B. Monseth 1904-1969



Rev. Fritjof B. Monseth, 64, a teacher at the Association's Seminary and Bible School, passed away at the Lutheran Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis, Minn., on July 15. He had undergone surgery in March for removal of a tumor which proved malignant.

Rev. John P. Strand, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, officiated at the funeral service which was held in Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Minneapolis. Messages were brought by Pastor Julius Hermunslie, Fergus Falls, Minn., and Dr. Iver Olson, Minneapolis, long-time friends and colleagues of the deceased. Rev. R. Snipstead, Minneapolis, dean of Association Free Lutheran School, sang two solos, "I'd Rather Have Jesus" and "My Heart Is Longing to Praise My Savior," accompanied by Mrs. Robert Bursheim, Minneapolis, organist for the service. His son, Francis, spoke on behalf of the family.

Pallbearers at the service were Mr. Eugene Enderlein, Minneapolis, Rev. Hans Tollefson, Hatton, N. Dak., Rev. Raynard Huglen, Roslyn, S. Dak., Rev. Jay Erickson, Ferndale, Wash., Rev. Edwin Kjos, Roseau, Minn., and Rev. Harry Molstre, Valley City, N. Dak.

Later that day interment took place in the Hemnes Lutheran Church cemetery south of Minneota, Minn. Pastor Strand officiated. Pallbearers there were Donald Myrvik,

Lowell Konsterlie, Olaf Hovseth, Otto Myrvik, Edwin Lyng and Egil Johnson.

One of the leaders in the formation of the AFLC in 1962 and temporary chairman of the organizing convention in Thief River Falls, Minn., Fritjof Monseth was born on Dec. 18, 1904, at Minneota. He attended Willmar Bible School, Willmar, Minn., and received his B.A. degree from Augsburg College, Minneapolis, in 1933, and his Bachelor of Theology degree from Augsburg Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, in 1936.

Ordained into the ministry of the Lutheran Free Church that same year, he served parishes in Bronx, N.Y., Zahl, N. Dak., Superior, Wis., and Valley City, N. Dak. He was at the latter post at the time of the formation of the AFLC.

Among positions held in the LFC was that of a trustee of Oak Grove Lutheran High School in Fargo, N. Dak.

In the winter of 1968 he commuted from Valley City to Minneapolis as a part-time instructor in the Association Schools. That same year he accepted a call to teach full-time and he and his wife moved to 9467 Pilgrim Lane, Osseo, Minn., a year ago. His widow continues to make her home there.

Mr. Monseth was a member of the Co-ordinating Committee of the Association and was secretary of the Board of Home Missions at the time of his passing.

Previously he had been a member of the editorial board of **The Luther-an Ambassador** and of the Board of Trustees of the Seminary in addition to being the first man to serve as vice-president of the church. He was dean of the Family Bible Camp in 1964 and 1965.

Pastor Monseth was much in demand throughout his ministry as a speaker at Bible Camps, conferences and evangelistic meetings. In February he was the Bible study leader at the Winter Bible Conference in Grand Forks, N. Dak.

In the summer of 1967 he and his wife made a preaching tour in Norway.

In addition to his wife Olga, he is survived by one son, Rev. Francis

W. Monseth, Everett, Wash.; one daughter, Rhoda, Mrs. Erling S. B. Huglen, Roseau; four sisters, Mrs. Elvina Konsterlie, Willmar, Miss Cora Monseth, Minneota, Mrs. John Loland, Spokane, Wash.; and Mrs. Otto Myrvik, Minneota; and five grandchildren.

Blessed be his memory.

MRS. KNUT GJESFJELD PASSED AWAY IN JUNE

Mrs. Knut Gjesfjeld, second wife of Pastor Gjesfjeld, passed away on June 7 at Northwestern Hospital in Thief River Falls, Minn., where the couple resided at the Valley Home. Funeral services were held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls with Pastor Melvin Walla officiating. Burial was at Spearfish, S. Dak., where she had lived previously.

Frances Gjesfjeld was born at Roscoe, S. Dak., on Nov. 10, 1888. Also married previously, she and Pastor Gjesfjeld were united in marriage in the fall of 1959 at Lapeer, Mich.

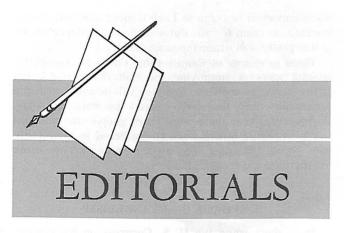
Pastor Gjesfjeld continues to reside at Valley Home in Thief River Falls.



Pastor and Mrs. Gjesfjeld at the Family Bible Camp several years ago. When health permitted they could also be seen attending the annual conferences of the Association.

PERSONALITIES

Pastor Knute Jore has accepted a call from Olivet Lutheran Church, Spokane, Wash., and the Board of Home Missions to serve the congregation there. He will take up the work next month.



REV. FRITJOF B. MONSETH

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon in the pleasant rolling countryside of southwestern Minnesota, he was laid to rest in the cemetery of Hemnes Lutheran Church near Minneota, the church of his childhood and young manhood. But his soul is with God, there to await the day of resurrection.

It gives me a strange feeling even yet to write of Fritjof Monseth as someone whose active work is completed. His spirit lives on among us, his influence will never be gone, but his physical presence is no longer here. And yet so recently he concluded his year as a full-time teacher in the Seminary and Bible School, addressed the annual conference of our church, assisted in the ordination of six men into the ministry and participated in sessions of the conference, and made his plans to teach in several Bible Camps this summer. In fact, it doesn't seem long ago at all since he called to say that he felt compelled to postpone his coming to Pickerel Lake Camp because he wasn't feeling well that day.

This was how he chose to live out his life, to plan as though he would live here and have more time to work, and yet ready for the Lord's beck and call whenever it might come. "For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21).

Fritjof Monseth was a man of deep and quiet faith. His preaching and teaching rang with a sincerity no one doubted. He was privileged to counsel with many concerning spiritual matters and to lead a goodly number into the Christian faith.

As a pastor, both in his own congregations and among the people of his own church body, and beyond, he commanded respect and affection beyond the ordinary.

Fritjof Monseth was a man of peace. Thus, it always seemed odd that the greatest confrontation in the merger struggles earlier in this decade swirled about him and his congregation in Valley City. But he was a man of conviction and friend and foe respected him for that. It was interesting that he used the occasion of the opening message to the annual conference in June to reaffirm his belief in the rightness of the course taken by congregations in 1962 and 1963 to form the Association. Perhaps he meant that to be his final word to us.

He has gone, but will not be forgotten. In so many ways he exemplified warm and living Christianity. His friendliness and ready smile will be missed.

In the beautiful funeral service for him on July 12, there were a number of things said and sung which could be said to typify Fritjof Monseth, but none more eloquently than the words of one song sung by Pastor Richard Snipstead, "I'd Rather Have Jesus." That, I think, too, is a message Pastor Fritjof Monseth would want to leave with us.

Raynard Huglen

MISSOURI ELECTS NEW LEADER

At a dramatic and tension-filled biennial convention the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod ousted Dr. Oliver Harms as president and chose instead Dr. J. A. O. Preus, son of a former Minnesota governor and cousin of a man whom some think will be the next president of the American Lutheran Church, David Preus.

That was considered a victory for conservative elements in that church body. More liberal forces gained the next triumph when the Synod voted in favor of pulpit and altar fellowship with the ALC, a measure strongly opposed by the conservatives and an action which the president-elect had asked the convention to delay. (The AFLC does not vote fellowship with any Lutheran body, but leaves the matter of fellowship and cooperation up to the local congregations and pastors.) In still another major decision before the Missouri Synod's convention, the conservatives scored a smashing win when proposed membership in the Lutheran World Federation was defeated handily, again at Dr. Preus' request.

So the conservatives won something and the liberals won something at Denver last month. Outwardly this might seem to be just the thing to hold the badly split Lutheran synod together. But already there are rumblings among some conservatives of possible defections, to add to the erosion, small though it is, which has already taken place over the past few years.

We met Dr. Preus in Cleveland, Ohio, in November, 1966, when we shared a table together with about six other persons at the banquet of the constituting convention of the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. No one can envy him as he takes up the reins of leadership in his church. He will not be able to please very well either the right or left wings of the church, although he tends more toward the right than the left, of course.

However, Dr. Preus may be able to provide some real service to his church and Lutheranism at large if he is able to stimulate discussions, as he says he wants to do, on the doctrine of the Word. Even though there ought to be ample statements on that subject by now, including the one in "United Testimony on Faith and Life," it appears that some new re-affirmation is needed. This is not so because the Word or its authority have changed, but because some Luthe, ans have expressed strange attitudes toward it. Dr. Preus, we believe, may be able, in view of his fine spirit and theological training, to provide valuable leadership in the direction of a consensus concerning the Word, a consensus which in all

likelihood will not satisfy the ultra conservative nor, of course, the man on the left who has already shown his contempt for the Holy Scriptures as authority.

We wish Dr. Preus well as he attempts to lead his adopted church in what will certainly be troubled days.

FAMILY BIBLE CAMP

The Seventh Annual Family Bible Camp proved a real blessing to those who attended it last month. Once again a large number came, probably close to 600.

Young people of confirmation age and through high school made up a good portion of the regular camp residents. For some, Family Camp is their only camping experience of the summer. For others, it is a supplement to their own parish or district camp.

It would be a fine thing if more "families" could attend the camp. That would be the best way to take advantage of a family camp. But we know it isn't always so easy for families to make the arrangements.

The preaching and teaching were good at Lake Geneva again this year. There certainly are fine opportunities for Bible study and fellowship. However, attendance at prayer services both among the youth and adults could be improved a good deal. Sometimes even those who make public profession of faith attend the prayer hours poorly or irregularly, something that ought not to be unless there is good excuse.

Every year there are quite a few new faces at Family Camp. One wonders what would happen if twice as

many happened to come to Lake Geneva one year. There wouldn't be room for all. But somehow attendance seems to stay pretty well within the same range.

Those in charge of Family Bible Camp are constantly seeking ways of improving the operation and conduct of the camp, we are sure. And they will no doubt welcome suggestions from those who shared the week this year.

Again this year there were young people who returned to Christ, while others were strengthened in their faith, both young and older. For all this we especially thank our merciful and gracious Lord.

EMPHASIS ON EVANGELISM

In a short while the U. S. Congress on Evangelism will begin in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Your editor is planning to attend as a member of the press section. Several other members of the Association will be present as official delegates.

In a future issue of the **Ambassador**, we will try to bring both factual reports and observations about the Congress which will bring together clergy and laity from many denominations interested in the spread of the Gospel of Jesus in our nation.

It is difficult to state how much good actually comes from large gatherings of this kind. But let us be in prayer that the Congress will have a real effect on our national life. It is later than we think, time is running out, and a great effort must be made now to win America for Christ.

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Offering Youth:

A two-year Bible course
Stressing assurance of personal salvation
Preparation to face a secular society
Challenge to do God's will
The finest of Christian fellowship

The Fall Quarter begins September 15

Enroll today

Write: Association Free Lutheran Bible School 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd. Minneapolis, Minnesota 55427

THE WEAVER

'Tis here I sit and weave away
A little bit of life each day.
I know not what the pattern shows,
I only know that as it grows
I, too, grow more to trust that Thou
Wilt guide me in my tapestry.

Oft times the threads are rough and black, And I would want to turn them back, For I work too close to perceive The total color of the weave.
By faith my fumbling hands are led To find again the golden thread, For in this darkened room I seem So prone to miss the precious gleam.

I know not when the ending time, When I shall see my whole design, A weaving filled with sad mistakes That only mortal hands can make. But Thou wilt touch it with Thy grace And make it perfect in God's face.

> -Marlene Moline Lansing, Iowa

that He was not guilty of treason. Pilate believed Jesus innocent, and wanted to release Him, but he feared the people so tried to reason with them.

The people refused to reason or be reasonable. Finally Pilate tried to be firm and demanded that Jesus be released. The people now threatened to go over Pilate's head and appeal to Caesar with this case.

Anyone other than a Roman citizen was not necessarily innocent until proven guilty. The Roman government was not too concerned about justice to anyone who was not a Roman citizen. They thought nothing of convicting a suspect, guilty or not. Any person who was suspected of treason could be prosecuted in order to remove all danger of his starting a revolution against the government.

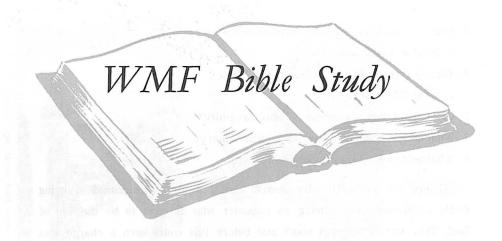
If the people went to Caesar, Caesar might very well have turned on Pilate for not prosecuting a suspect of treason even if not found guilty. That could have endangered Pilate's office and also his life. Because of the pressure from the people Pilate went against his better judgment, and sentenced Jesus to be crucified.

CONCLUSION

The trial before Pontius Pilate was also very unfair. The mob, the people who had been brainwashed and excited by the false religious leaders, was allowed to serve as jury and to pronounce Jesus as guilty.

This group had become so stirred up by these religious leaders, that no one, especially Pontius Pilate, could reason with this mob. Such a spirit and closed mind is most unsuitable for a jury.

At Jesus' trial before Pontius Pilate the mob was the jury. Pontius Pilate acted as both judge and defense attorney for Jesus. The religious leaders acted as the prosecuting attorney.



NEW TESTAMENT BIBLE HISTORY QUESTIONS

Lesson 9

September 1969

THE TRIALS OF JESUS INTRODUCTION

The world, and even the Devil, want to put on a righteous front and give the appearance of being just, fair and honest.

We see this now to be the case concerning Jesus. Although He was unjustly accused, the world would give Jesus a trial.

Yes, Jesus had a trial, but it was a very unfair trial, as time has revealed. It was held at night, which implies that the truth regarding Jesus was not revealed. False witnesses were hired. Jesus spoke very little at the trial, and yet the little that He did speak in claiming to be the Son of God, was used to conclude that He was guilty and to condemn Him.

Jesus before the Council (Matthew 26:57-68; Mark 14:53-65; Luke 22:66-71; John 18:12-14)

- 1. Where did they take Jesus?
- 2. Approximately what time was it?
 - a. At what time are trials usually held?
- 3. Who followed at a distance?
- 4. What did the chief priests and council seek to find, but had difficulty in finding?

- 5. What accusation was brought against Jesus?
 - a. In what way was this false?
- 6. What question did they ask Jesus?
 - a. What did Jesus answer?
- 7. Of what did they conclude that Jesus was guilty?
- 8. What does blasphemy mean? (look in dictionary)
- 9. What sentence did they impose on Jesus?

Before the Sanhedrin (the Jewish court) Jesus was accused of being guilty of blasphemy—of being an imposter who claimed to be the Son of God. This was a religious court and before this court such a charge was worthy of the death penalty.

Before Pilate Jesus was accused of treason. The charge of treason would not have meant very much to this Jewish court; the Jewish people, including this court, were looking for a man who would dare to rise up in treason against the Roman government and overthrow the power it had over them.

On the other hand, the charge of blasphemy before Pontius Pilate (a heathen ruler) would have meant nothing to him. Little did the Roman government concern itself with the religious problems or customs of these people. However, treason was serious and worthy of death to a Roman ruler such as Pontius Pilate.

Peter's Denial (Matthew 26:69-75, Mark 14:66-72, Luke 22:54-65, John 18:15-27)

- 10. How many times did Peter deny Jesus?
- 11. Why did Peter deny Jesus?
- 12. Why did the crowing of the cock cause Peter to realize what he had done?
- 13. What did Peter now do?

Peter fought a losing battle. First, he was over-confident and boasted of his steadfast love and concern for Jesus. Certainly there was pride here. Second, he failed to pray with Jesus in the garden. Because of his over-

confidence he probably felt little need of prayer.

Third, he tried to fight evil with a sword. We fight not against flesh and blood but against principalities (Eph. 6:12). Our fight is against the lies and smooth talk of the evil one.

Fourth, he followed Jesus at a distance, which did not lead to victory but to defeat. We must go all the way with Jesus in order to win with Jesus.

Fifth, he denied his Lord three times.

However, Peter saw his sin and repented. And fellowship with his Lord was again restored. God works all things for good, and this defeat did make a stronger Christian of Peter. We see this demonstrated in the second chapter of Acts where he boldly proclaimed Christ to a large number of people.

Before Pilate (Matthew 27:1-32, Mark 15:1-15, Luke 23:1-26, John 18:28—19:16)

- 14. Why did they bring Jesus to Pilate before crucifying Him?
- 15. What question did Pilate ask Jesus?
- 16. What accusation did the religious leaders bring against Jesus now? (Luke 23:2)
 - a. Was it the same accusation that they brought against Him in their own council?
- 17. Who was Barabbas?
- 18. Did Pilate believe Jesus was guilty and worthy of death?
- 19. Why did Pilate have Jesus beaten?
- 20. How did the people react to having Jesus beaten and covered with blood?
- 21. Why did Pilate agree to having Jesus killed (crucified)?

The Sanhedrin could not sentence anyone to death but had to get Pilate's consent. Therefore a trial before Pilate also became necessary.

Pilate knew these Jewish people. He knew that they would not bring him anyone guilty of treason. He knew these people would gladly follow such a man rather than convict him. Pilate also questioned Jesus and knew



Message given to the Annual Conference by Rev. John H. Abel, recently returned missionary from Brazil.

MISSIONARY LIFE AND WORK

Text: "If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature under heaven..." (Col. 1:23-28).

Many of you are here today because you have been thinking about missionary life and work. You want to think and to encourage our Association in this. As a WMF, as a congregation, and as an individual you and I believe in our Association Missionary Life and Work.

Personally, Mrs. Abel, the children and I would like to thank you as a WMF, and as individual representatives of the various congregations, for your unfailing and undiminished lovalty to us on the field. Almost five vears ago we embarked on a new venture of faith. It was your faith going out as well as ours. It was faith expressed and unexpressed. It was sacrificial, praying faith. It was faith that stayed at home and faith that worked on the field. To paraphrase verse 24 of our text, by faith our Association Missions in one small part of the world was called to fill up that which was lacking of the afflictions of Christ in our flesh, for His body's sake, the church, and so there have been struggles, sickness, operations, heartbreak, and the passing on to the Church Triumphant of our first colaborer Francis Helen Grothe. Friends, we have also laid away and sent on before some Brazilian brethren who were brought to Christ, baptized and confirmed during these past few years.

We want to thank you for the faith which prompted you to pray. We want to praise HIM for making known by the Holy Spirit the riches of the glory of Christ among the Brazilians. Be faithful in continuous prayer, for this is the secret of any spiritual success we may have seen or hope to see.

Today we wish to think about Missionary Life and Work. This is an extensive subject, for it is a world-wide consideration. So inclusive is such a consideration that it is beyond the scope of any single message. This, then, is simply an attempt to highlight some of the implications. I would like to suggest to you as individual Christians and congregations what I believe it is to enter into missionary life and work. Perhaps I'm going to oversimplify. Forgive me. Simply stated, then, to enter into missionary life and work is to "Practice the Presence of Christ." In this, of course. I'm speaking to the saved Christian. If there are those at our convention today who lack the assurance of salvation, who don't know if they are a born-again child of God or not. I plead with you to seek out a pastor or known Christian layperson and settle the most important question of your life today. Wouldn't it be wonderful if souls were saved at this conference? And isn't it perfectly natural that souls should find salvation at our annual conferences.

We are so thankful for the precious promises of God's Word that are given to us to proclaim to every nation. Think of Rom. 10:13: "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." And I Jn. 5:13:

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life." And with the precious promises of salvation go this marvelous promise of His presence: "Lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28:20).

Now, friend, if you have experienced His salvation, then the Word of God tells you: "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Yes, brethren, work out what the Holy Spirit has put in. This is Missionary Life and Work. In paraphrasing this, we can simply say, "Practice the presence of Christ."

What Is the Presence of Christ?

The Bible calls it a mystery. "... the mystery of the ages is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27). CHRIST IN YOU...a blessed and marvelous reality. It produces a new being who is a missionary in life and work.

The presence of Christ

It Is Like A Map—for dwelling within He guides and orientates along the way.

It Is Like A Magnet—for His presence in and through you will draw others to see and to serve Him.

It Is Like A Mirror—for His presence shows us what we are and where we are.

WE NEED A MAP IN THESE DAYS

These are days of syncretism, the mixing of truth and error. And in the labyrinth of rationalism and relativism, paying attention to the Divine Map is essential. We read of Common Committees of Lutherans and Catholics or of formation of world councils and papal councils. There are joint efforts to develop common liturgical and worship texts, to promote united mission endeavors for social services and a sick world. These are missions without a mesage. I read recently that Robert S. McNamara, present president of the World Bank in Switzerland, has asked the World Council of Churches to put its mission emphasis on agri-

[Continued on page 15]

The writer gives his views on two areas or prophecy

THE REIGN OF ANTICHRIST AND THE RAPTURE

By Rev. Knut Gjesfjeld Thief River Falls, Minn.

These are two events that will take place in the near future of our church history. Which one is coming first? Which one is the Church waiting for? There is no doubt in my mind that the common people and even most of the preachers talk and preach more about the Rapture than about the reign of Antichrist. What is the cause of this? For one thing all believers in Christ like to hear that the saved ones are to be taken away from persecution in this world. They will enter into the heavenly glory to be with all the saints. That the time is so near that we can expect it to happen any moment is another cause for joy and for talking about it.

Now some think that I am not believing the truth revealed to us. Don't jump at the conclusion so hastily. It's just a question if we are taking the historical facts in the order they are presented to us in the New Testament

Hear what Paul says in I Thessalonians 4:15-18: "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

These few verses of Paul make it sufficiently clear that the resurrection of the dead and what is called the "Rapture" take place at the same time. Where the resurrection is, there is also the Rapture. They

are not separated by a space of time. Only the resurrection of the dead is previous to the Rapture.

Are we today looking for the resurrection of the dead? How come that we are talking about the Rapture and not about the first resurrection, which is Scriptural? "No one says the first resurrection may take place before I am through at the radio, but they say that of the Rapture." So said Pastor Anton Cedarholm. He was quite a preacher.

We also have to say a few words about the reign of Antichrist. It is written about quite a bit. But it is not commonly talked about like the Rapture.

Paul has a clear and detailed talk about the Antichrist's reign in II Thessalonians 2:1-12. In verses 3 and 4, he has the following statements: "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

Any believer who uses common sense reading Scripture doesn't believe that Antichrist has revealed himself yet. Nevertheless, a young lady in our Bible class told us, "They have seen the Antichrist out in North Dakota." To this remark I will say that it only proves how easily anyone can be deceived or led astray.

As a guide to all of us, let me quote just a short verse from Revelation, 13:8a, "And all who dwell upon the earth shall worship him." Don't look for him in North Dakota when the rest of the world doesn't know anything about him.

There is no doubt in my mind that the church of today is preparing for Antichrist. But the majority is ignorant about it. The ministers are not telling their people. No, they deny that we are aiming to join with the Catholics into one church organization. They deny that we are aiming to join with the Communists. But they work and write and speak for one church and one government.

I do think that is going to come into

reality sooner than most of us are aware, and when that is done the Antichrist is ready to take over. Because so many are sleeping, it will come as a surprise. Am I dreaming writing what I do? It is rather a specialty to find a person who is reading the Bible and has had experience of salvation. Ignorance among church members is woefully thick. In Bible class we had a question hour. A Christian was asked, "Who was the first murderer on earth?" He did not know. Privately, a person was asked, "Do you know that a saved person has two natures?" He had never heard of it. It is difficult to carry on a conversation with church members and get anywhere because of ignorance. To some, or let me say, to many, the most important thing is to be many. The Bible tells us differently.

I want you to know that according to Paul the Antichrist's reign is what we can look for and should prepare for. It will come previous to the first resurrection and previous to what is called Rapture. Bear in mind that the first resurrection and the Rapture come at the same time. These two facts coincide. But the first resurrection is first and we are caught up together with those of the first resurrection in the clouds.

Again I ask, how come that we do not ask for and do not talk about the first resurrection?

But now comes the question. How can the writers place the reign of Antichrist after the first resurrection and after the Rapture? They are all risen to reign with Christ. Just think, for a thousand years. They will be many. If Jesus comes today, how many would be changed in rapture? Do I dare to say some millions? All believers of the Old Testament will number in the millions, too. All believers who died in the New Testament time are also in the millions. All these millions are to serve God for a thousand years. Where does the reign of Antichrist come in? This reign is from hell and by the devil. Is there really a place for the Antichrist after the first resurrection when all the saints of God have taken over?

(To be continued)

[Continued from page 13]

culture for a starving world, and I'm sure they will respond. Imagine where our Association would be in Brazil today if we had been farming for the past five years instead of evangelizing, if we had been plowing instead of preaching. CHRIST is our chart, our map. Practice the presence of Christ as you pray, as you read the Bible, as you walk and as you work. "Ye shall be witnesses unto Me" (Acts 1:8). This is His World Program, the only program He ever gave to His Church, We can take the Apostles as our example. John said, "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you...that you may have fellowship with us and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ" (I Jn. 1:2).

New Testament fellowship presupposes agreement in faith and life. Fellowship comes from common experiences and common goals. Our five churches in Brazil today have such a fellowship as ours assembled here today. They have a Brazil Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Why? Because the people in these churches have come to a common faith, a common catechism, similar experiences through the Gospel, the believing and professing of the same faith. I am reminded of how hard the road has been for some who have come. We have a middleaged woman in one of our churches who is the mother of two fine teenage daughters. Her name is Dona Maria. Her husband made or lost his living at gambling, she ran a little store to keep the family in groceries. When services were begun in a rented hall nearby she came more or less out of curiosity. God began to work through the seed sown in her heart and she appeared more and more at the services. Finally her husband found out what was happening, and in a fit of anger said, "I'll kill you if you become an evangelical." This was no idle threat, coming from a dangerous man of the world, and in a country where the women have no rights. For some weeks she was absent from the meetings but then during a series of special meetings Christian friends came to invite and pray with her. Her courage and con-

victions strengthened, she began again to attend. By the end of the week Dona Maria and her two teenage daughters had decided to follow Jesus, and like the song, said, "No turning back, no turning back." She made a public profession of faith and upon returning home found her husband and said, "You can kill me now if you wish, for I have become an evangelical." He was so taken aback and smitten in his heart that there was no strength for reaction. By God's grace and with many friends praying, Dona Maria went on with her daughters to study and be bap-

(To be continued)

PASTOR MONSETH'S SERMON AVAILABLE

A tape recording was made of the sermon delivered by the late Pastor Fritjof Monseth at the opening session of the recent Annual Conference. That tape has now been put into print and copies of the sermon are available at the church office, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis 27, Minnesota.

A small contribution for postage would be appreciated.

VALLEY CITY WILL BE SITE OF 1970 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Grace Lutheran Church, Valley City, N. Dak., Harry C. Molstre, pastor, has extended an invitation to the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations to hold the 1970 Annual Conference in that city. The Co-ordinating Committee, at a recent meeting, accepted the offer on behalf of the church fellowship.

Dates of the conference will be June 10-14.

An annual conference was last held in Valley City in 1964.

ASSOCIATION PASTOR WAS AT WRITING SCHOOL

All roads led to Minneapolis as 215 budding writers attended the seventh annual School of Christian Writing sponsored by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and held at their headquarters July 7-9.

Out of 350 applicants the 215 were screened and accepted by the school.

The writers came from all parts of the United States (35 states being represented) and Canada.

Other countries represented were Central America, Bahamas, the Netherlands, Japan, France, Hong Kong, Mali West Africa and the Philippine Islands.

The writers represented a cross section of vocations, both laity and clergy, young and old.

The dean of the School was Dr. Sherwood E. Wirt, editor of **Decision** Magazine, monthly publication of the Billy Graham Association.

The program consisted of lectures by well known Christian writers and publishers and workshops on various phases of Christian writing. It also included a tour of the Billy Graham Association headquarters.

The school was climaxed with a banquet on the closing night at which Dr. W. Stanley Mooneyham, president of World Vision, was the speaker.

Others not yet mentioned, who gave lectures and conducted workshops were: Mrs. Margaret Anderson, author and past president of the Minnesota Christian Writers Guild; Dr. Robert O. Fern, director of ministerial relations of the Billy Graham Association; George M. Wilson, managing editor of Decision Magazine; Dr. John E. Hunter, Keswick speaker from Capernwray Hall, England; Mrs. Helen Kooiman, biographer and columnist for Christian Times, Fullerton, California.

Publishers who were present were: Joseph C. Bayly, managing editor of David C. Cook Publishing Co., Elgin, Illinois; Floyd W. Thatcher, senior editor of Word Books, Waco, Texas; Charles McKinney editor-in-chief, Moody Press, Chicago, Illinois; Alex Liepa, senior editor, Doubleday and Company, New York; and Clayton Carlson of Harper and Row Publisher, New York.

From the state of North Dakota there were three represented at this school.

Pastor Gerald F. Mundfrom from Bethel Lutheran Church, Grafton, North Dakota, was in attendance.

Pastor Gerald F. Mundfrom

WMF TREASURER'S PROGRESS REPORT

February 1, 1969 to June 30, 1969

Annual Budget **Amont Received** (5 months)

Cradle Roll	\$ 200.00	\$ 84.04	
Honorary Membership and In Memoriam	800.00	319.90	
Mission Scholarship	500.00		
Junior Missions	2,500.00	1,583.54	
Church Extension	3,500.00	633.59	
My Missionary for a Day	4,500.00	1,897.15	
* General Fund	4,000.00	1,281.12	
Total Received on Budget to June 30, 1969		\$5,799.34	

* Project in present need of support.

Non Budget Pagainte

Total Receipts

Non-Duaget Receipts.	
Dormitory Furnishings	510.00
Convention offering (traveling expense of missionaries)	2,346.85
Mission Festival offering (Home Missions)	1,433.16
Special gifts to missionaries	15.00
Total Receipts	\$10,104.35

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