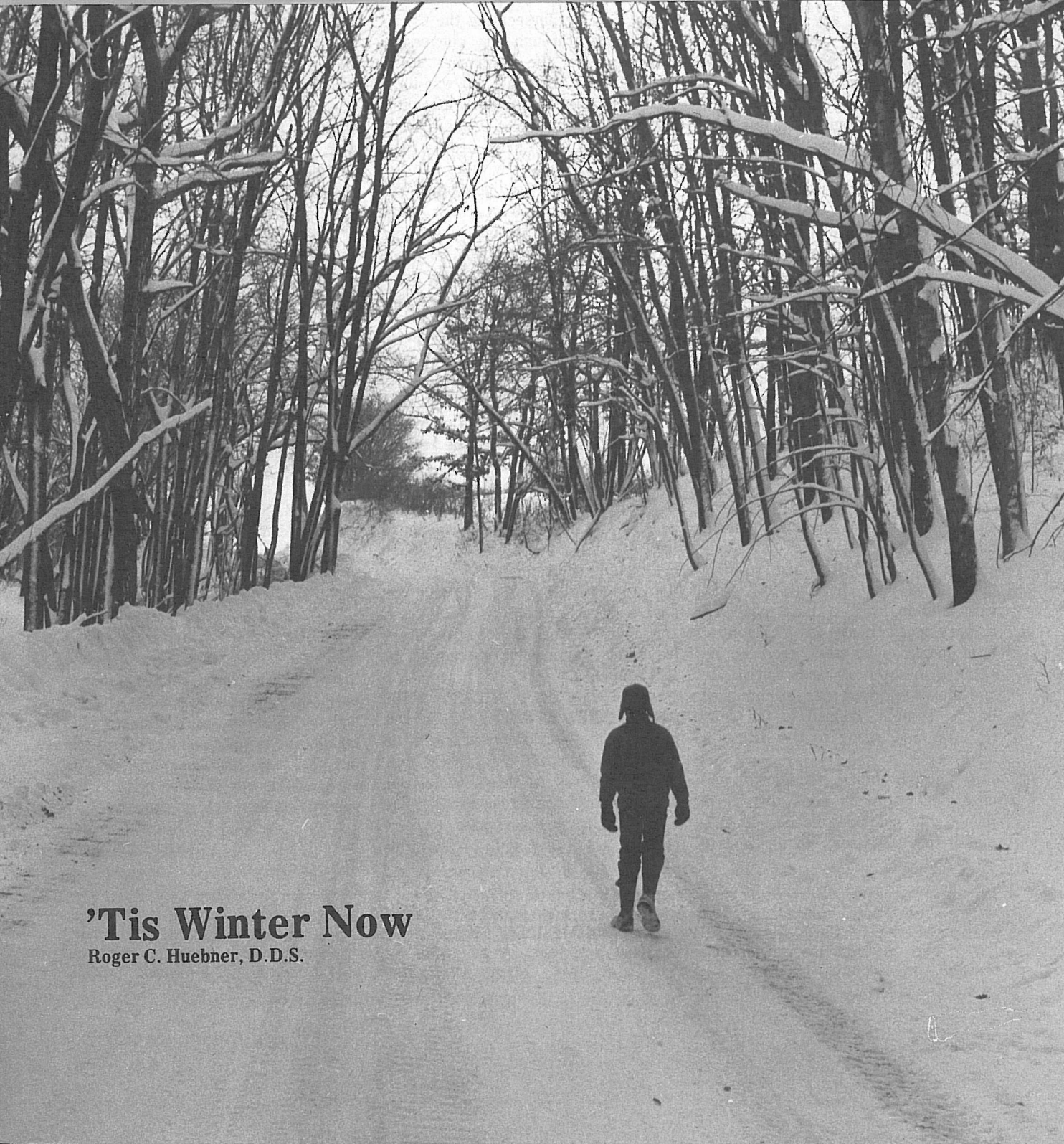


January 14, 1975

The Lutheran Ambassador



'Tis Winter Now
Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

MEDITATION MOMENTS

FOR A FRESH START IN '75

"Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come" (II Corinthians 5:17).

"...but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead" (Philippians 3:13b).

Have you heard that silly country-western novelty tune that goes something like this: "I wuz looking back to see if you wuz looking back to see if I wuz looking back at you"? The picture, of course, is ridiculous, but the point is that everybody was looking back at somebody.

Many people will enter this New Year wishing they could escape their past; others wish they could forget it. What does one do with one's past? That's a very important and relevant question as we seek a fresh start in 1975. The Apostle Paul, in the Scripture verses before us, has the answer..." the old has passed away, behold the new has come" and "forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead." Paul was a man with a past, and not a very good past. In Philippians, Paul speaks of his past before he became a follower of Jesus Christ. He had been a religious man, circumcised in the Temple, trained in the Jewish Law and rising to the office of a Pharisee.

But simply being "religious" and observing religious rites and ceremonies did not bring peace and happiness to Paul's soul. In his zeal to

please God by persecuting the Christians, Paul through his conversion experience on the Damascus Road became "one of them" and was himself persecuted for being a loyal follower and worker for Jesus Christ. Coming to know Christ Jesus, Paul was off to a fresh new start and his life would never be the same. We, too, can experience a fresh start in '75 by surrendering our lives anew to Christ and letting Him be Lord and Master.

In the past of each of us are things which we wish were not there—failures and mistakes, regrets and sins, but with St. Paul, Christians must FORGET PAST FAILURES AND MISTAKES and let the past be past. St. Augustine was a man with a past. In his Confessions, he reveals his former life before he became a Christian and Augustine wasn't proud of that "former life." But by the grace of God, Augustine rose above his past and became one of history's outstanding churchmen. We, too, by the grace of God can rise above our past and enter the New Year fresh and alert to what God can do if we leave the unpleasant memories of 1974 behind us.

Secondly, DON'T CARRY THE OLD INTO THE NEW. An important part of accepting our past has to do with what we call "forgiving ourselves." Unless we learn to let our past sins drift behind us, for God has forgiven our sins confessed to Him (I John 1:9), they will imprison us

in a cellblock of destructive guilt. The best way to be free of these destructive guilt feelings of failure is through ACCEPTING the forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ. Christ came to bring us forgiveness. Christ was born and Christ died to remove our guilt and sins. We sing "Burdens are lifted at Calvary," and indeed they are. But even Christians have a difficult time in "forgiving themselves." Are we really ACCEPTING God's forgiveness if we cannot forgive ourselves? Jesus warned about pouring "new wine into old wine skins" and said that "new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved" (Matt. 9:17). FOR A FRESH START IN '75, don't carry the old into the new. Let God give you a new year with new challenges, possibilities and goals.

Thirdly, STRAIN FORWARD INTO THE FUTURE. Whatever our past, we can be free from its shackles and burdens because "in Christ we are free." Paul writes, "FORGETTING WHAT LIES BEHIND AND STRAINING FORWARD TO WHAT LIES AHEAD." "Straining forward" indicates that the New Year, that the "new life" in Christ, may not be an easy one. We will have struggles and sorrows, sin and suffering, disappointments and discouragements but God who has been our help in ages past is our hope and health for years to come.

Dale R. Battleson

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What We Are Learning from a Crisis Experience

by Mrs. Neil Mayer,
Lake Stevens, Wash.

"Thank you, Lord for this past year: for learning what is the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, and of being filled with the fulness of God."

Some of you may remember the article of January 30, 1973, in which I shared about our little daughter having leukemia. Just as then, we continue to receive so many blessings along with the trials, and would count it a privilege to tell how His grace is sufficient and indeed His power is made perfect in our weakness.

This past year, since January 24, Leslie has been going back and forth to the hospital for treatments which haven't proven very effective. The longest period of remission she has had over this period has been only three or four weeks. It is with much joy that we can relate to you that these fiery ordeals do "prove our faith," and His steadfastness.

I'm sure many of you have experienced how the Lord goes before to prepare the way and make straight the path. No matter how I turned this whole matter over to the Lord, there was one thing that kept coming back to haunt me: how could I ever get along after such a time that Leslie would not be with me any more. Though I knew the promises of Scripture I could claim, I'm very often a "show me" person; I just have to see for myself how things work. You know, if you ask often enough, you are going to get an answer, and I got mine. January 18 my grandfather died suddenly of a heart attack. At that time every beautiful promise of John 14:26-27 concerning the Holy Spirit being with us and the peace that causes our hearts to be without trouble (or fear) became a reality in my life. When the phone rang and my mother told me Grandpa had died, I really was a little hysterical for a moment. I hung up the phone and

turned to see four alarmed little faces looking at me, my three children and a neighbor child who was there to play. Then the peace that passes understanding turned my heart and mind to Christ Jesus, my Lord. I knelt down on the floor with the children and we began to thank God that Grandpa had died, and that he had lived. I still rejoice in the beautiful memories of how God cared for every single emotional as well as physical need in that time. My husband was called at work and his testimony was also one of comfort and grace. We loved Grandpa dearly and were extremely close to him. Though we learned the kind of pain we had never before experienced, we also came to complete assurance that Christ can and does fill our every emptiness, and that "neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God." What a timely lesson! It was the day after Grandpa's funeral that the rest of this year of testing and blessing began.

When we learned that Leslie was in relapse, she had an initial series of treatments to which she responded well. The doctors reported that the drugs being used were good ones, but that they seldom had much success with very long maintenance programs. Her remission was brief, and by the first part of May she was hospitalized for ten days. We could stop right here and recount together the many wonders of the Lord during that ten-day period. With David I often call to mind the deeds of the Lord and remember His wonders of old (Ps. 77:11). As Leslie grew in physical strength, Neil and I grew spiritually, along with all of the loved ones in the congregation and community who were in partnership with us through prayer and physical acts of concern.

There were so many opportunities

to share the love of Christ during that hospital stay. As we continue to come and go to the hospital it is really almost as though I am a "marked" person, which I humbly pray is truly the case. I want the mark of God's love to shine brightly in our lives. Many mothers of sick children have shared their burdens and sorrows with me. I have been able to tell them how God has always cared and still is caring for our every need. Though some are receptive, many are very bitter and can't seem to relate to the love of God when they are suffering the loss of a child. Yet, like a moth is drawn by light, even the ones who reject are still coming for more answers and even comfort from the Christ who strengthens us. Neil finds the same experience at work. One beautiful lesson this has brought to me is the grace upon grace that God sheds on us, even on those who don't recognize where it comes from. I watched for a long time the mothers who had no faith in God and wondered where they ever got the strength to go through each day. Then I realized that they, too, receive from the immeasurable riches of God's grace and mercy. God is merciful to the just and to the unjust, desiring to lead them to repentance.

So many times I find myself drawing strength from Romans 8:28, knowing that all things do indeed work for our good because we love the Lord. That has made me no more comfortable about those who are without Christ. Nor is there any comfort for them, for there is no other name written among men by which we must be saved. Now I do realize that even these unsaved persons receive of the immeasurable mercy that was shown to us while we were yet dead in trespasses, and how much more confidently I can share how much He loves them when I understand more completely this seemingly small truth. This has been one continual series of lessons, each

one bringing us to a better understanding of an uncomprehensible love. We marvel at the people God has chosen through which to shower His gentleness, understanding and, even strength, upon us. And, if you can believe this, some have been met with rejection. I feel the only way to really share my blessings is to also be honest about my many failures, and that is my intention. I'd like to share one or two experiences that have been particularly encouraging to me as God has worked them out to my growth and maturity.

A couple of days before Leslie went into the hospital in May, I stopped to give the pastor's wife some dahlia bulbs. I was greeted by Pastor with a cheery, "We have something here for you, too," as he handed me a check for fifty dollars from the congregation. They knew that the expenses were increasing and were anxious to help. Right away I started to cry. This was an absolutely wrong reaction for me to allow, for I can't stand to be a sloppy, weepy woman. Two days later, when Pastor was visiting, I was still embarrassed and upset over the crying incident. I began to apologize when he suggested that I really examine my strong negative feelings about this God-given emotion. After he left I did continue to prayerfully search for the answer. I realized that I had always equated tears and emotion with mental instability.

I noticed another reason a few days later. I was speaking to my sister on the phone about the possibilities of a hospitalization for Leslie's transfusion. I mentioned my intention of staying at Grandma's, near the hospital, and started to cry at the thought of not being with Leslie. My sister's reaction to my tears was similar to mine, the concern that I might break down in front of Grandma and how this would hurt her. This is just an illustration of how our society thinks. We don't want to cause others any pain, so we seek to control our emotions. As I began to notice some of these things, it was like a giant kaleidoscope, every turn becoming a new pattern more intricate and involved than the previous: First, pride—people might think me emotionally unstable, contradictory

to the peace on the inside. Secondly, not wanting to bring others into my area of pain and hurt. Thirdly, the realization that I was not giving this area of my life to God, but determining myself whether or not I would permit the release of tears in any given set of circumstances. If I did not so determine, I would endeavor to just grit my teeth and bear it. When I failed, I was embarrassed, hurt and upset.

Because Basic Youth Conflicts and the Scriptural principles brought out through this seminar have been so constructive for me in practical areas, I was able to take this sin of rejection of the way God had made me, and go through the steps of asking forgiveness and receiving the victory and freedom to cry openly and unashamedly when God so allows. For many this may seem a trivial thing, but for others who also may share this concern about tears, perhaps my experience will cause you to examine yourself and take the matter up with God. Freedom in this area can mean much to you physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

As I was working through this period, God put a wonderful woman doctor on our case. She is a very warm and emotional person. Frequently she would be in tears as she discussed what was happening with Leslie to me. Many times I would come away so irritated with her lack of control, I would say to myself (and even to others), "Isn't it enough that I have myself to control without having to worry about the doctor, too?" Everything is so plain in hindsight. I needn't have been controlling anyone, but rather be turning all control over to God. He had chosen this darling person to get the message through to me. Since that time I am happy to report that she and I have come to a close, understanding relationship. I'm so thankful to the Lord for the opportunities in which I have had the freedom to comfort her in my arms as she wept tears of compassion and sorrow for her patients. How humbling it is to know and be constantly reminded that every person we are in contact with is there by divine appointment, to teach us and to receive from us of God's love.

(To be continued)

THE CHAINS OF BONDAGE FELL

The chains of bondage fell this day,
the bonds of Satan's tyranny.
I'd tried so hard to break away
but gained just sorrow and dismay.

My will couldn't pull away, you see,
from this my sin and agony.
The more I tried, the worse it got
until I despaired of this my lot.

I relinquished all to God alone
for sins I know He did atone;
Deciding then to live my days
for just His honor and His praise.

I gave my all to Him alone
and there, while kneeling at His
throne,
He cleansed me of my every sin
and made me pure and clean within.

His praise I'll sing throughout my life,
and come what may of pain and
strife,

I'll rest secure at Jesus' feet,
for there my life is all complete.

Mrs. Kent Quanbeck
McVile, N. Dak.

JULIUS L. SOLSENG

Julius L. Solseng, 61, passed away in Rugby, N. Dak., on Nov. 21, 1974. A lifetime resident of the Landa community, funeral services were held for him at Bethany Lutheran Church, an independent Lutheran congregation, but formerly affiliated with the Lutheran Free Church. He served as treasurer of the congregation for several years. Among his survivors are his wife Myrtle, who is a cousin of Mrs. Myrtle Hove, and a brother, Lester, both of Landa.



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

Abercrombie
Miss Annie O. Wold, 86, Nov. 13, 1974,
Bethany

My Trip to Michigan

by Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom,
Grafton, N. Dak.

For sometime I had had it on my heart to make a preaching tour of our (AFLC) churches in Michigan. Pastor Ernest Langness of Ishpeming encouraged me in this.

Just before Thanksgiving, the week of Sunday, Nov. 17th, seemed the best time. Pastor Langness had contacted the churches and they were all willing to have me come that week.

I left home (Grafton, N. Dak.) mid-forenoon on Sat., Nov. 16th. The back part of my station wagon was filled with a Christian book fair, consisting of Christian reading for all ages, Bibles, Testaments, records, music, greeting cards, pictures and novelties.

It was a sunny fall day, an ideal day for traveling. I had been told there was snow in Michigan, therefore I took a shovel, battery cables, over-shoes and extra winter clothes.

Traveling south to Grand Forks, I turned east on highway 2, which would take me all the way to Michigan.

About noon I came to Mentor, Minn., and decided to stop at Mrs. Ole Nelson's for lunch. Mrs. Nelson had been a member of the church I served in Granville, North Dakota, way back in the Fifties.

Having already eaten, Mrs. Nelson fixed me a tasty lunch. She told me about her family and grandchildren, some of whom I had baptized. After a brief visit I was on my way again.

As I turned on to the street, I heard a scraping noise under the car. Upon investigating, I discovered that the muffler was dragging. Slowly I turned around, hoping not to damage the muffler anymore. However, I did not go far and the muffler became completely disengaged from underneath the car. I picked it up and laid it on top of the book fair in the back of the station wagon. My car sounded like a "hot rod" without a muffler.

I found a garage, but they couldn't help me for at least an hour. Having a long way to go, I decided not to wait.

I remembered my friends, the Haldor Heggs of McIntosh. It was not so very far to McIntosh. I decided to drive that far before seeking further help.

Haldor had just finished eating, when I arrived. He was most ready to help. He suggested the Standard Station which was managed by Stanley Brekke, a Christian businessman and a member of the AFLC church in McIntosh. I had met Mr. Brekke earlier this last summer.

Stanley was ready and willing to help me at once. A new muffler and forepipe was needed. Soon my car was ready and I was on my way again. Mr. Brekke charged me only for parts and not for labor. How good God is to provide friends and help when you need them most.

My next stop was Bagley, where Bruce Dalager is pastor. I found Bruce hard at work preparing his Sunday message in his study in the church. He gave me a warm welcome and wondered what brought me to his door.

"I am on my way to Michigan," I said. "I am wondering if it might be possible for me to speak here in your parish, and have a Christian book fair on the way back."

"Well, that just might be possible," answered Bruce. He seemed pleased with the idea. Plans were made for me to speak there the following Friday evening, Nov. 22nd.

Again I was on my way. The next stop was Cloquet. I was to speak at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Duluth the next morning, Sun., Nov. 17th. Cloquet was only a few miles from Duluth. I had called a dear friend of mine, Walter Neimi, and asked if I could stay overnight with him. It so happened that the Walter Neimis' guest room had already been promised to someone else for that night.

"But you come here anyway," Walter had said, "I will find some place for you to stay."

It was dark when I arrived at the apartment of the Neimis. Walter's wife was at a meeting at the church. Walter offered me a cup of coffee and something to go with it.

"I have a place for you," Walter said, "Out in the country with a Christian friend of mine. I will call him and ask him to meet you here and escort you to their place. It is rather difficult to direct you there." This sounded good to me.

Walter called and soon the party was there. After being introduced, I was told to follow him home. He was driving a red pick-up.

"It shouldn't be hard to follow a red pickup. That should be easy to see," I remarked.

And so I began to follow. But it was dark, and there was quite a bit of traffic. I found it difficult to keep up. Somewhere along the line another red pickup pulled in between us. Not realizing it, I was now following the wrong red pickup. He led me under a viaduct, around some curves and sharp corners. I realized we were not heading for the country, and I began to suspect that I was following the wrong party. After a bit the pickup pulled up in front of a tavern. Now I knew for sure that I had made a mistake. Then I saw that the man in the pickup was not the one I had started out to follow. He knew by this time that he was being followed. Perhaps he thought it was some kind of hold up. Slowly he rolled down his window, and I apologized for having followed the wrong party and drove away.

I was really lost now. I did not remember the name of the party who invited me to stay with them. I did not know how to retrace my route having gone around those curves and sharp corners. I drove to a nearby filling station and phoned Walter Neimi's apartment. But no one answered. Walter had joined his wife at church.

On the way back to the car I met a kind looking man. In talking with him, I discovered that I was only about a block from the highway I had come in on. Once I got back on that highway, I could again find my

way back to Walter Neimi's apartment.

I had no trouble getting back. But since no one was home the door was locked. There was nothing to do but wait in my car. The night air was chilly. Periodically I ran the motor and put the heater on to keep warm. I thought of Jesus when a boy and how when He was lost waited at the temple for His parents to find Him. I would wait here by Walter's apartment until I was found.

It was almost ten o'clock (a good hour-and-a-half wait) before Walter and his wife came home. After telling him what happened, he again called the party with whom I was to stay. I wrote the name down. It was Albert Iwasko.

This time Mrs. Iwasko came to escort me. The traffic was less now and I had no trouble following. We soon arrived at the Iwasko's home in the country.

I was invited to have something to eat before going to bed. Together we reviewed the happenings of the evening. We were able to laugh about it now. All was well that ends well. The Iwaskos made me feel most welcome.

They drew a map for me, explaining the way to the church where I was to preach the next morning. Then I went to bed. I had a very comfortable bed and received a good night's rest.

The next morning, Sun., Nov. 17th, I was given a hearty breakfast. The Iwaskos assured me that I would be most welcome to stay with them anytime that I might be passing through. I thanked them and was on my way.

God had given me another good day for travel. I had no difficulty in finding St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. This is a very young congregation with only a few members. They had bought an old church not far from downtown Duluth. The church is very roomy and gives much room for growth.

There was only a handful of people present, but they made me feel very welcome. A young girl told me how she appreciated the articles on "Falling in Love," which I had written in **The Lutheran Ambassador**. This gladdened my heart.

This congregation is being served

by a student, John Kjos. John is in his last year at the University in Duluth. He is planning to start his training for the ministry at our seminary next fall.

John invited me into the sacristy where we both took part in prayer. He led the worship service and I brought the message. It was easy to preach to this little group. Everyone listened and was very attentive.

After the service, I was handed an envelope with a check in it. "Oh," I said, "but I was not expecting anything for preaching. I am grateful for the opportunity to share God's Word since I was passing through anyway."

"But that message was worth something," said the man who gave me the check. "We want you to have this."

I thanked the man and put the check in my pocket. God had already provided for half of the cost of the new muffler.

John invited me to have dinner with him after Sunday School, which followed the worship service. However, I felt I could not accept, because I was to speak at the Maranatha Lutheran Church near Chassell, Michigan, that evening and still had about 300 miles to drive. John bought a couple of books and I was on my way.

I did not immediately stop to eat, realizing I had no time to lose. While going through Ashland, Wis., I noticed a Hardee's hamburger place close to the highway. I stopped for a quick bite to eat. I was impressed by the young girls who worked there. They were so very kind and considerate. I wondered if some of them might not be Christians.

My next stop was Bessemer, Mich. I was to speak at this address on Thursday evening. Kenneth Pentti is the pastor. I decided to make a quick phone call to the pastor on my way through.

Kenneth reminded me that I had just lost an hour's time by crossing the time line. This put me under still greater pressure.

"How do I find you when I come on Thursday?" I asked.

"When you get to Wakefield, the next town east of here, call me again and I will come to meet you."

"Oh, that will make it easy for me. Thank you very much."

I had now come into snow country, but the roads were good. I traveled north and east for over two hours. It was mostly wooded area. It got dark early and I had to put my lights on.

At about 6:00 p.m. (E.S.T.), I came to Painsdale, which was not very far from my destination for that day. I now had hopes of making it in time.

Dr. James Gerdeen, a layman and a professor at the University in Houghton, is serving the church I was to speak in. Not knowing where Dr. Gerdeen lived or the location of his church, I pulled into a filling station and telephoned for directions.

Dr. Gerdeen was expecting me. "Just stay where you are," he said. "I will come and meet you." How very thankful I was for this offer. I was tired by this time. It was very dark now. The lateness of the hour and being in a strange area had made me quite tense. But now I could relax and just wait for James to come and lead the way. It reminded me of life on this earth and of Jesus. We, too, are in a strange land as we travel through life. We have never traveled through life before. How good it is to just let Jesus take over and escort us toward heaven.

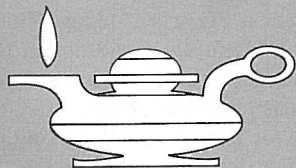
(To be continued)

PERSONALITIES

Rev. Merle Knutson, Lakeville, Minn., has been accepted on the AFLC clergy roster on the fellowship basis and has accepted a call to serve the Newfolden, Minn., parish (Westaker, Bethania and Hegland), and will begin his work there at the end of February. A missionary to Madagascar under the American Lutheran Church for a number of years, he also served a parish at Montpelier, N. Dak., before moving to Lakeville. He is married to the former Ardis Eggen, daughter of the late Pastor and Mrs. Morris Eggen.

The Newfolden parish is being served during the vacancy by **Rev. Hubert F. DeBoer**, Thief River Falls, Minn.





SCHOOL NEWS

Introducing Our Seminarians

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS CONTINUES

The words of Lamentations 3:22 are brought to mind very often: "They (Thy mercies) are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness." They become ever more precious when I recall God's faithfulness in the past, as well as in the present. My heart is filled with thanksgiving as I think about the path He has called me down.

It was at our Family Bible Camp that my personal relationship with Christ was brought to light and I realized my life to be lacking. My Christian family origin, good manner of life, and good church background would not carry me to heaven or guide me through life successfully. At Bible Camp I submitted to the call of Christ and asked Him to dwell within me.

My next major step in my Christian life was God's call to Bible School. Attending Association Free Lutheran Bible School strengthened my faith immeasurably. It was there that I met my wife Susan (Rockhold), who has been a great help in my spiritual life. It was at Bible School that God called me into the ministry through the help of prayers on my behalf and the influence of my home congregation and pastor. After fighting off the call, I finally submitted to God's call and started preparing for full-time service for the Lord.

After Bible School I attended Bemidji State (Minn.) College for four years and also served Bethany Lutheran Church in that city for two and one-half years as student pastor. This experience has richly blessed my life and increased my spiritual maturity.

Now as a seminary junior, I, as well as my family (including Bethany Lynn—14½ months), have seen God's

provisions in all areas of our lives. We have peace in Him (Is. 26:3).

To all our readers, I want to thank you so much for your prayers **above all else** and also for making seminary possible by your support. God bless all of you.

Charles Kvanvig

AFLBS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Feb. 24-26—Final Examinations, 2nd Quarter

Mar. 3—Spring Quarter begins. Register now.

Mar. 2-6—Spiritual Emphasis Week

SCHOOLS TO HOST ANNUAL PASTORS' GATHERING THIS MONTH

Association Free Lutheran Bible School and Free Lutheran Seminary will host the annual pastors' conference, January 21-23. Program details have not been announced, but sessions will be held at the church building, beginning with a holy communion service Tuesday evening. Some of the pastors will be housed in the Bible School dormitories and meals will be served in the school cafeteria. Seminary students will sit in on all sessions. One of the visiting pastors will speak at the joint chapel service on Jan. 22.

NEWFOLDEN YOUTH COMPLETE LUTHER LEAGUE PROJECT

Last year the youth group of the Newfolden Lutheran Parish began work on a project. Their goal was to raise enough money to furnish a room



in the new boys' dormitory at our Bible School. This was accomplished over a period of time by sponsoring special talent programs, rummage and bake sales, and car washes.

The Newfolden Parish youth group meets every first and third Saturday evening of the month and is in charge of services in the parish one Sunday of the year.

The youth group would like to encourage other leagues to set up a project and work together to reach their goal. Not only is it a great challenge, but a wonderful blessing is received as we see the Lord providing for the work of His kingdom.

Rev. Hubert F. DeBoer is interim pastor of the parish.

—Corr.

'TIS WINTER NOW: THE FALLEN SNOW

'Tis winter now; the fallen snow
Has left the heavens all coldly clear;
Through leafless boughs the sharp
winds blow
And all the earth lies dead and drear.

And yet God's love is not withdrawn;
His life within the keen air breathes;
His beauty paints the crimson dawn,
And clothes the boughs with glittering
wreaths.

And though abroad the sharp winds
blow,
And skies are chill, and frosts are
keen,
Home closer draws her circle now,
And warmer glows her light within.

O God! who givest the winter's cold,
As well as summer's joyous rays,
Us warmly in thy love enfold,
And keep us through life's wintry
days.

Samuel Longfellow
(from *The Pilgrim Hymnal*)

Annual LEM Midwinter Conference Set

Letters TO THE EDITOR

"The Word to the World" will be the theme of the 39th annual Midwinter Conference of the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement (LEM), January 26-31, convening at Augustana Lutheran Church, 7th Street and 11th Avenue S., Minneapolis, Minn.

Keynote speaker will be Dr. Henry Morris, former instructor and assistant professor in Civil Engineering at the University of Minnesota. At present he is Director of the Institute for Creation Research and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Christian Heritage College of San Diego, Calif.

As a scientist, his chief concern today is to present the Biblical creationist alternative to balance with the evolutionist bias in most school textbooks. He will speak each afternoon at 1:30 o'clock, Tuesday through Friday.

Evening conference speaker will be the Rev. Roy Bloomquist, director of Psalm of Life, radio program of the Lutheran Bible Institute, Minneapolis.

Day sessions will begin Tuesday and continue through Friday. Speaking each day will be Pastors Maynard Force, president of California Lutheran Bible School of Los Angeles; Leonard Patzold, director of the World Mission Prayer League, Minneapolis; and Omar Gjerness, vice president of Lutheran Brethren Schools, Fergus Falls, Minn.

The conference will conclude with sessions for youth at the Metropolitan Sports Center, January 31 and February 1. Speakers will include Rev. Bob Griffin, LEM eastern evangelist; Dr. Henry Morris; Mel Johnson, "Tips for Teens" speaker on KTIS; Al Palmquist, Director of Midwest Challenge and Minneapolis Police Drug Education Specialist, and others.

EXPRESSIONS OF THANKSGIVING

Greetings to all who read the **Ambassador** and write in it. All deeply appreciated. Greetings with II Cor. 5:21, 8:9, 9:15; Matt. 1:21; Jn. 3:16, 17; Mal. 3:8-10. These verses have all become so precious to me and I know they will to you as you take time to read and meditate on them. For only as we take time for God's Word to meditate on it and in prayer to God can He speak to us and through us.

I find in my own life that I get so busy and that is not good. We get in too fast a pace and that's not good. Our only quietness and assurance is in God's Word and there we find peace and rest for our troubled souls. I thank God for the time I have been laid aside even though I didn't like it at first. It has been precious and Christ has become precious to me.

Thank God, you are back in God's work, Pastor and Mrs. (Hans) Tollefson. Thanks to you, (Pastor) Lars Stalsbroten, for your heart-searching message in the **Ambassador** (Nov. 24). It really spoke to my heart. Do I live so others see I am against what's wrong and stand for the true Gospel. Do they see Christ in me? Thanks to God for Pastor (Fred) Carlson who comes with the truth and preaches the Law and Gospel. And I thank God for each one in the Association who preaches the Law and Gospel. We need the Law to drive us to Christ. Thank you to each one of you that write in **The Lutheran Ambassador**.

A blessed Christmas and a happy new year to you all in Christ. As we are soon to enter another new year may we go forward in faith in God alone, then we need not fear the future, for He will see us through to the end. Have heard that there are

365 Fear Nots in the Bible. May we each take time to read them and apply the message God has for each one of us. So much fear, unrest, confusion hatred in the world today. The greatest problem is sin and notice that the middle letter of that word is "I."

Christ has the answer. Let us take time for Him in His Word and prayer. Closing with Revelation 20, 21, 22: warnings God has for us there, but also precious promises. We need both. In heaven we need no light for Christ is the Light. Praying for you all.

Mrs. Pauline Pope
Wadena, Minn.

APPRECIATION FOR THE AMBASSADOR

Being out here in western Oregon, your **Lutheran Ambassadors** are like a cherished life-line with our large church family of God. They are read and re-read with deep gratitude and enjoyment—and shared with others, too. **Truly heartwarming**. God bless every person involved! Day by day, all year long.

Mrs. A. L. Hokonson
Silverton, Oregon

FAREWELL PARTY FOR SUNWALLS AT BETHEL CHURCH

A farewell banquet was held at Bethel Lutheran Church, Culbertson, Mont., recently to honor Mr. and Mrs. Philip Sunwall who are taking up service at an Indian mission in South Dakota. Approximately 60 people were in attendance.

A brief program opened with Scripture reading and prayer by Lay Pastor Verle Dean of the congregation. Group singing followed and a solo was rendered by Mrs. Ted Thompson and a duet by Mr. and Mrs. Ken Erdahl. Various comments and good wishes were offered by several friends and relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Sunwall were presented with a check from the congregational mission fund. A roasted chicken dinner was served by ladies and girls of the church.

—from a newspaper account

editorials

BLIND SPOTS

Every so often one becomes aware of an inconsistency in the life of a "confessing Christian" or a "professor" (of the faith), as Charles G. Finney was wont to describe a believer. Perhaps it shows up in regard to a family responsibility or problem or a lack of concern over a neighbor in need. It may be evidenced in a lack of compassion for the unfortunate near at hand or far off. The inconsistency may be a hardness of heart toward people of another race or national group or an unwillingness to be reconciled with someone with whom one has had differences. It may be seen in a tolerance of injustice, perhaps even that which one has caused toward a family member, an associate or neighbor.

Others, looking from the outside, may see these things and see them clearly. Observers who are not confessing Christians wonder at these things and are not attracted to a Christianity that does not reveal the festering sore to the one involved. They say, "If being a Christian doesn't make more of a difference in life, then I want no part of it." Observers who are Christians watch the inconsistency in the life of a professing brother or sister and are saddened. They would like to point out the fault but are hesitant about doing so. They don't know how they would be received and they realize that their lives are not without fault, too.

We can call these areas of life, these inconsistencies, blind spots. They are parts of life which we do not face honestly and are able to rationalize into something else. Like the lawyer of old we seek to justify ourselves. Long ago a psalmist prayed to God, "Clear Thou me from hidden faults" (Psalm 19:12). The psalmist was conscious of the fact that there could be areas of his life that had evil in them and which he did not realize and he prayed God to deliver him from those sins, too. And again, what may not be clear to us may be quite visible to others around us.

This is a call to Christian brothers and sisters to recognize that there are blind spots in life. No doubt everyone has some. The Scottish poet lamented, "Would that we had the gift to see ourselves as others see us." Let us pray that we would see the inconsistencies in our own lives and eradicate them, that they no longer prove stumbling-blocks to others. Let no personal relationship or attitude of hardness cause others to doubt our spoken testimony and the validity of our Christian witness.

There is a real need to pray the prayer, "Clear Thou me from hidden faults." Not only the prodigal son needs to "come to himself," to be totally honest so that he can be accepted again. But Christians, too, must be completely frank and honest with themselves. And among Christians, pastors are included. Let each of us so think and act that there be no further cause of offense in our lives either toward those of the household of faith or toward those who are without, that we be "blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among who you (we) shine as lights in the world" (Philippians 2:15).

A WORD TO CHARLES COLSON

In the midst of the heartbreak of Watergate there have been some rays of light which rejoice the heart. We refer to the reports of spiritual work in the hearts of leaders of government, of changed lives. Among such fruit is the man Charles (Chuck) Colson, who is reported to have been ruthless in his political dealings before he met Christ.

While one may not agree completely with all that he has said since his change of heart, it seems clear that such a transformation has taken place and we must allow time for the growing up in the faith which he needs.

But there is this word that we offer him as he sojourns in prison because of his Watergate-related offense. If we are not mistaken, he is reported to have twice asked for clemency or commutation of sentence. Because he is a Christian we don't think it is a good witness that he should be asking for this mercy when he is suffering the due reward of his deeds.

Certainly God has forgiven him and that is what matters most of all. But there is a civil penalty to be paid and he should bear it willingly. In prison he is a free man and can be witness to those about him, fellow prisoners and authorities. We say to Charles Colson, make the most of this time for you have a unique place in which to witness for your new-found Master.

Prison is no bed of roses, to be sure. It is a shame to be there for wrongdoing. But others are there for the

same reason and it does not serve our Lord's cause well to ask for clemency when others who don't have that "inner light" you now have are bearing their punishment.

God give strength for each day.

GIVE GENEROUSLY AND GIVE NOW

When you read this there will only be days left to the end of the fiscal year of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. It is too late to mount much of a last minute campaign for additional funds. Nor do most of us know for certain what the needs are in these closing days.

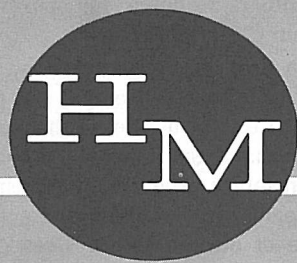
But it is safe to say that the AFLC causes need all

the financial support they can get. It is safe to say that our Schools, the General Fund and the Praise Program need the most last minute contributions if their goals are to be met.

Unfortunately, in this time of double-digit inflation, even if the minimum goals are subscribed, the amount given will not really meet our needs because of what this inflation has done to us. And the recession which has come to our country doesn't make it any easier to give what is needed. But we trust that support of God's work will not be the first to suffer in our belt-tightening. Honor God's work and He will honor you.

Give generously for the task we have been given and contribute what you can **now**, before January ends.

(Note: See Treasurer's Report on Page 14.)



HOME MISSIONS

HOME MISSION REPORT

We are living in days that give indication that the Coming of the Lord is near. According to God's Word, the age which ushers in the Coming Again of Christ can be described as the "Age of the Itch." We read of itching feet, itching ears and itching hands.

Daniel speaks of people "running to and fro" on "itching feet" in the closing days of this dispensation of grace (Daniel 2:4). We as a Home Mission Board are much concerned about these restless people running to and fro because they have no one to tell them about the One who has said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

We are also concerned about those people with "itching ears," which Paul speaks about in II Timothy 4:3-4. Ears will be turned away from the truth in the last days and we see that before our very eyes today. Jesus said that in the last days "many false prophets shall rise and deceive many" (Matthew 24:11-12). People are not hearing "sound doctrine"

(II Timothy 4:3-4) in many churches and are turning to our AFLC for help. There are still some people who want to hear the truth of God's Word and not a "watered-down Gospel."

God's Word tells us that in the last days there will be a period of apostasy—where hear-say and heresy will lie together. They are good bed partners. Just take some of the religious cults and beliefs prevalent in the world today. Much of it is heresy founded on hear-say. One of the reasons for the rise of cult worship is the failure of many pastors to preach the whole counsel of God without fear or favor. One man has said that "some of the darkest pits in the world today are the pulpits of many churches. Many a church is little more than a sanctified social club and many a preacher only a ministerial masseur hired to soothe the searing conscience of a carnal congregation." But there are still some people who do not want that kind of church. There are still some people who want a diet of sound doctrine, of evangelistic preaching, coupled with pietistic living. Such people have turned to our AFLC for help. What are we going to do about it?

We need a full-time Home Mission director out in the "fields which are white unto harvest." We need to pray about this, but more than that we need to act upon this at our June convention. If we had a man out in the field right now I am sure we would have thriving congregations in Minot, North Dakota; in Cleveland, Ohio; in Great Falls, Montana; in Vancouver, Washington. These are only a few of the many places where our kind of church is needed. At our last Home Mission Board meeting, our Board members were frustrated because of the many needs of so many people in so many places and so few men and so few dollars to work with. May God lay such a burden upon our hearts that we would not be able to continue to slip carelessly along in our Home Mission work while thousands of people who need our ministry go into a devil's hell. We need some \$150,000 to \$200,000 in our Church Extension Fund right now. We need to build new church buildings in St. Paul, Minn., and Vancouver right now. All those who want to loan money to the Church Extension Fund receive eight per cent interest on any loan over \$1,000. May the Lord not only convict you of the needs of our Home Mission work, but also convince you that you must pray and give right now.

Rev. Herbert L. Franz, Chairman
Board of Home Missions



Memorize I Samuel 2:3

19. Notice the words which suggest, or even insist upon fullness, in Ephesians 1:15-23. (The "alls" and the "everys.")

- a. How great is the dominion of our Lord and Savior? _____
- b. How much does He depend on our human strength? _____
- c. How many decisions are there for the Church to make on its own? _____
- d. How much is there for me to boast of, in myself? _____

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

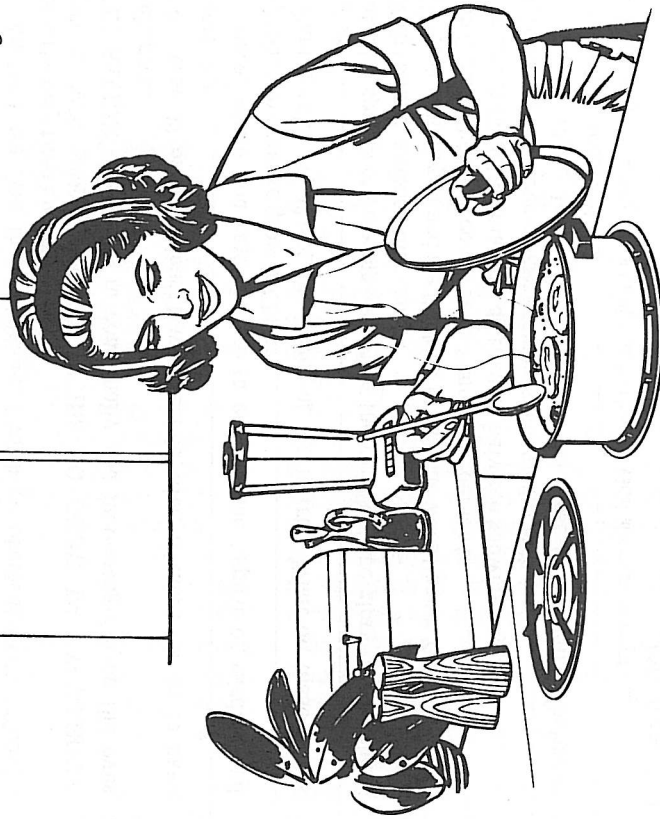
"A man must not choose his neighbors; he must take his neighbor that God sends him. In him, whoever he be, lies hidden or revealed a beautiful brother. The neighbor is just the man who is next to you at the moment. The love of your neighbor is the only door out of the dungeon of self."

—George MacDonald

At your back door is a mission field. Your neighbor may act unconcerned, but beneath this indifference there is a seeking for God in our land today. Man is restless and uneasy. We, who now by the grace of God, stand in the kingdom, know their need. The church offers forgiveness to the sinner, peace to the restless, fellowship to the lonely, because it offers Christ. And Christ is the answer to all our needs.

(from "A Woman's Year")

W.M.F. Bible Study



GOD IS FOR WOMEN . . . GOD IS FOR YOU

LESSON 2

February, 1975

GOD IS FOR YOU—HE OPENS EYES

In 2 Timothy 3:16 God gives us His formula for opening eyes and for growing in knowledge. This formula includes:

1. _____ (He lays out His ABC's, plans and schedules.)
2. _____ (Obedience is the key here. I cannot obey God any time I want to, neither can I procrastinate and expect to find the blessing that accompanies prompt obedience.)

3. _____ (Let us receive the chastisement of the Lord with humility and grace, especially when hard circumstances are the result of our turning away from the counsel of the Lord.)

4. _____ (If I display any level of holy living, it will be because God has persuaded me to be obedient to the Word as it comes to me. And if I am ever to be obedient, I must be obedient NOW, TODAY, for this is the only time I have.)

GOD WANTS EVERY CHILD OF HIS TO GROW IN KNOWLEDGE OF THE SAVIOR—He wants to continually and increasingly open the eyes of His children.

5. In verse 17 of Ephesians 1 we are told what it takes for us to have this knowledge: _____

6. Where, would you say, are we to acquire the "spirit of wisdom and of revelation" in order to grow in Christ? _____

7. Paul speaks (v. 18) of the "eyes of the heart." What do these words mean to you? _____

Paul also speaks of knowing—knowing the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, among other things.

Let's look at the word and the thinking behind the word "know."
8. In Genesis 3:22 God compares a "knowing" person to _____

9. In Isaiah 43:10 God makes a distinction between knowing and _____

10. In John 17:3, Jesus makes knowing synonymous with _____

11. In John 10:14, Jesus intimates that the closest communion between the sheep and the shepherd is _____

12. Basically, no one knows God the Father or God the Son except _____
(Matthew 11:27)

13. Many times in the New Testament we are admonished to _____
(Colossians 1:10)

TO KNOW IS . . .

to see the existence of

to be able to identify

to be able to describe

to understand the character of

to have tested the faithfulness of

to have probed the reality of

(Do you see the progression of knowledge here?)

AND GOD HIMSELF CALLS HIS CHILDREN TO A FULLNESS OF KNOWLEDGE

14. Now, if knowledge is a gift from God, and if He wants all His children to come to a fullness of knowledge, how is it that all are not at the same level of understanding? Why do not all "open eyes" see the same thing?

15. One of the things God wants us to have open eyes about is His POWER (v. 19). Read Matthew 28:18 and compare with Ephesians 1:19-23. Now read Ephesians 3:20. Is there a difference in the power which Jesus claimed, the power which raised Him from the dead and set Him at God's right hand, and the power that is at work in you and me? If so, what is the difference?

16. In Ephesians 1:19-23 Paul builds a picture of Jesus Christ. He speaks of Christ's completed work on earth, of His position now in glory, and then returns to earth again, speaking of Christ's relation to the Church. a.) What is that relationship? _____
What, then, is the relationship between Christ and the individual member of b.) His Body, the Church? _____

17. Back again to verses 18 and 19, there are three things which Paul prays we may be enlightened about: a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

18. Has your understanding been enlightened by the Spirit of God so that you can see what each of these is? How would you go about finding out what is meant in each of these phrases? Using the references in your Bible, and/or using a concordance, look up other passages on these topics and now write in your own words these same phrases you found in verses 18 and 19 of Ephesians I.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Women For Christ

HEAR AND LISTEN

by Mrs. Morris Gohrick,
Tioga, N. Dak.

The Scriptures stress the importance of hearing in connection with eternal salvation. "He who hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life" was spoken by Jesus. Now Jesus didn't use the word "hear" in the sense of apprehending sounds by ear but so we could understand the meaning and to respond in faith.

Consider the joy of hearing voices, music, sound waves and noise and to be able to sort out the different sounds. We often hear the remark made, "It goes in one ear and out the other." What that person heard just didn't register as it by-passed the brain.

God has many ways of making us "listen," sometimes by miracles and catastrophies. We know time is marching on by a clock ticking. Our own heartbeats tell us we are alive and well.

A baby is made aware of his mother's entrance into the room by listening and responds with smiles and baby talk. Later a child learns to talk by listening to those around him.

Throughout our own life we learn to listen. Much knowledge is gained by that.

FIVE WOMEN HONORED AT CULBERTSON

The Culbertson WMF honored five ladies at its December meeting. Those honored were Mrs. Martha Reum, Mrs. Anetha Berglee, Mrs. Sellstine Dahlberg, Mrs. Kinley Bolstad and Mrs. Bertha Qualley. The meeting was called to order by President Mrs. Erling Brekke. Christmas hymns were sung. Devotions on the Christmas story were given by Mrs. Joe Gandrud. Gladys Qualley gave the meditation on the General Fund. An offering was taken. She also gave a



The honored ladies at the Culbertson WMF are, seated, Mrs. Martha Reum, and standing, left to right, Mrs. Anetha Berglee, Mrs. Sellstine Dahlberg, and Mrs. Kinley Bolstad and Mrs. Erling Brekke, WMF president. Mrs. Bertha Qualley was unable to attend.

poem of honor for our honored guests. Frances Sunwall read a topic, "Laboring for the Lord," and also "Give Thanks and Share."

Mrs. Kinley Bolstad shared a beautiful Christmas letter she had received from Mrs. (Otto) Saukerson. "If I Had Been at Bethlehem" was a reading by Mrs. Sellstine Dahlberg.

Mrs. Brekke read Ecclesiastes 3:9: "What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?"

Mrs. Clifford Berglee gave a talk on the work of the WMF on the local level as well as what the District had done and a little about the national officers.

Pastor Verle Dean closed by reading the story of Mary and Martha and how our honored guests always worked for the Lord in serving and in worship.

A delicious potluck lunch was served with the honored ladies at the head table. Tables were decorated and candles lit. The husbands were also invited to this honorable occasion.

Rachel Berglee, reporter

CHURCH AT ISHPEMING HONORS FIVE WOMEN

The WMF of Hope Lutheran Church, Ishpeming, Mich., honored five of its older members at the Sept. 16, 1974, meeting. Honorary membership pins were presented to Mrs. Amanda Kari, Mrs. Helen Simons, Mrs. Evelyn Williams, Mrs. Lempi Quayle and Mrs. Jean Leffler, Mrs. Walter Peronto, president, presented the pins. Rev. Ernest Langness is pastor of the congregation.

Mrs. Richard Schauland
Vice-president





WORLD MISSIONS

THE FIELDS ARE WHITE UNTO HARVEST

**PRISCILLA WOLD
COMMISSIONED AS
MISSIONARY TO BRAZIL**

Priscilla Wold, commissioned as a missionary under the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, on Oct. 27, returned to Brazil earlier this month.

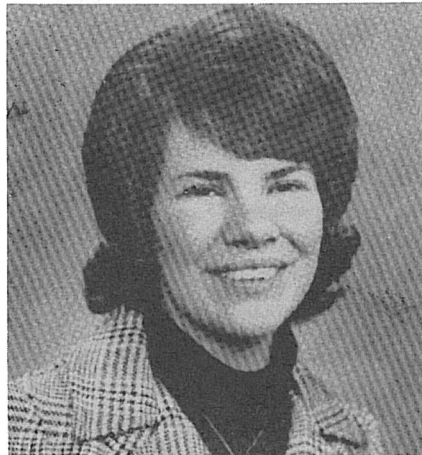
She worked in Brazil under the Brazil Inland Mission from January, 1971, to June, 1973, teaching missionary children in Umuarama, a city not far from Campo Mourao, headquarters of the AFLC work.

Last year she attended Association Free Lutheran Bible School and was graduated from that school last May. During the summer and fall she counselled at Bible camps and did deputation work.

The commissioning service was held in her own church, Bethany Lutheran of rural Abercrombie, N. Dak., in the evening. Dale Mellgren is the student pastor of the church. The service began with the congregation singing "O Zion, Haste," after which Pastor Francis Monseth, Minneapolis, Minn., led in devotions and brought a greeting from AFLBS, where he teaches. A Bible School Gospel team was present and sang "Follow Me."

Rev. John P. Strand, president of the AFLC, gave the message of the evening, entitled "Appointed," based on Acts 26:14-15. The congregation then sang "Thy Life Was Given for Me," and Scripture portions were read by members of the Board of Foreign Missions: Chester Dyrud, Thief River Falls, Minn., Vernon Russum, Grafton, N. Dak., Rev. Alvin Grothe, Stacy, Minn., and Robert Knutson, chairman, McVile, N. Dak.

The consecration of the missionary



Priscilla Wold

candidate was then held by the Mission Board under Mr. Knutson's leadership. The Gospel Team sang "The New 23rd Psalm." Following this greetings were given by Pastor Grothe, representing the Board; Victor Myhre, Bethany Congregation; and Pastor J. H. Levang from the Lutheran Brethren Schools, Fergus Falls, Minn., where Priscilla studied from 1964-66. Priscilla also gave a response. The Bethany Ladies' Double Duet sang "So Send I You," and the service closed with the audience song, "Hail to the Brightness of Zion's Glad Morning."

Priscilla left for Brazil the first week of this month and will attend the Bible Missionary Language School (for Portuguese) in Sao Paulo from February to December and then begin work at our Bible Institute in Campo Mourao.

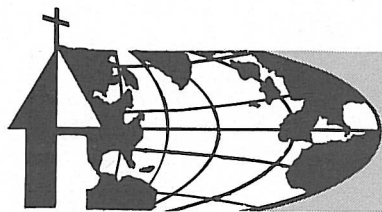
While in Sao Paulo at language school, her address will be

Bible Missionary Language School
Caixa Postal 6227
Sao Paulo, S.P.
Brazil, S.A.

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

**BUDGET RECEIPTS
February 1-December 31, 1974**

	Total Proposed Budget	Current Budget during Dec.	Received	Total Rec. to Date	% of Total	Balance Needed to meet Budget
General Fund	\$ 56,000.00	\$ 51,333.37	\$11,153.63	\$ 43,640.60	77	\$12,359.40
Schools	82,830.00	75,927.50	15,760.35	57,488.78	69	25,341.22
Home Missions	50,000.00	45,833.37	6,694.84	45,771.67	91	4,228.33
Foreign Missio	57,370.00	52,589.13	10,831.41	53,614.39	93	3,755.61
Praise	18,000.00	16,500.00	3,514.68	11,952.46	66	6,047.54
Total	\$264,200.00	\$242,183.37	\$47,954.91	\$212,467.90	80	\$51,732.10
1973-74						
1973-74	\$236,202.00	\$216,518.50		\$174,157.66	73.7	
Legacies: \$91,53						
Dorm Fund:						
Cash received through November			\$170,803.71			
Cash received during December			6,658.87			
			<u>\$177,462.58</u>			
Unpaid pledges			<u>14,344.25</u>			
			<u>\$191,806.83</u>			



THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

**Among the 26 murders in Chicago during the weekend of October 11 was Dr. Clate Risley, well-known evangelical director. His body was discovered by his wife, lying on the sidewalk outside his office in the early evening.

**Thirty-two countries with a total population of 2 billion permit no foreign missionaries, or greatly restrict the work of the few who are there.

**Three million tons of grain are used annually for alcohol production in the U.S. This mountain of corn and barley would go far in feeding the hungry millions of the world.

**Since the chapel attendance requirement at West Point Military Academy was ruled unconstitutional in 1972, attendance has declined, but voluntary involvement in group morning devotions, Bible studies and retreats has increased markedly.

**"Wales for Christ, 1975," a year-long evangelistic appeal, has begun. Wales has been Gospel-hardened for many years since the great Welsh revivals early in this century.

"FRANK" MEETING BETWEEN ELIM, SYNOD DIRECTORS

St. Louis—(LC)—A meeting between representatives of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Board of Directors and the Board of Directors of Evangelical Lutherans in Mission (ELIM) ended here Dec. 6 with participants agreeing that the discussions were "frank and conducted in a spirit of Christian openness."

However, the Board of Directors of ELIM, an organization of "moderates" in the LCMS doctrinal struggle, said that future sessions should direct themselves to "the real issues—to righting wrongs that have been committed and to the restoration of those

persons who have been unjustly removed from positions to which the church had appointed them."

These persons, said an ELIM spokesman, include Dr. John H. Tietjen, ousted president of Concordia Seminary here, the former faculty of Concordia, now teaching at Concordia Seminary in Exile, and others who have lost their jobs as a result of the doctrinal controversy in the 2.8 million-member denomination.

ELIM's board of directors said that the restoration of these persons would be the "truly Christian and proper method of preparing the stage for productive dialogue in the future on the issues troubling our beloved Synod."

The board also called upon "those who exercise power in the church" to "publicly and immediately" declare a moratorium on any further dismissal of professional church workers.

Those participating in the Dec. 6 meeting from the Synod's board of directors were: Dr. J.A.O. Preus, president; Dr. Edwin C. Weber, first vice-president; the Rev. August Bernthal, fifth vice-president; Mr. Harry Barr, and the Rev. Alvin Mueller. ELIM's representatives were: the Rev. Samuel Roth, president; Mr. Elwyn Ewald, general manager; Dr. C. Thomas Spitz, executive associate; Mr. Bill Carter, and Dr. Tietjen.

COMMITTEE SETS FURTHER PLANS FOR THEOLOGICAL CONVOCATION

St. Louis, Mo.—"The nature and function of Holy Scripture" has been selected as the theme for the theological convocation to be held April 14-18 in St. Louis. The agenda committee for the convocation in a meeting December 13 also selected discussion topics, general format, and persons to be invited to attend.

The convocation will bring together

about 300 persons that will include: five representatives from each of the Synod's 40 Districts, to be comprised of the District President, a parish pastor, and two laypersons and a teacher or three laypersons, to be elected by the District Board of Directors; the president and four faculty members from the two synodical seminaries and "Seminex"; the president and one faculty member from the six terminal schools of the Synod—River Forest, Seward, Ft. Wayne, Bronxville, St. Paul and Valparaiso; the president or his designee from 11 other synodical schools; the synodical Board of Directors; present and past presidents and vice presidents of the Synod; and two representatives each from the Board for Higher Education, the boards of control of the two synodical seminaries; and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations.

The four major topics to be discussed will be inspiration and inerrancy, Gospel-Scripture relationship, the historical-critical method, and the church under the Scripture. The Committee is in the process of selecting presenters described as "men of stature in the church" for each of the four topics. Two reactors will also be selected for each topic to be followed by small group discussions.

Dr. Roland P. Wiederaenders, first vice-president of the Synod until his retirement in 1973, has agreed to serve as moderator. LCMS President J.A.O. Preus will deliver the opening keynote address, and closing remarks will be given by the Rev. August Bernthal, fifth vice-president. Rev. Arnold Kuntz, Southern California District president, will serve as devotional leader.

Committee chairperson Lloyd Behnken, president of the Florida-Georgia District, commented on the group's hopes for the Convocation, "The church has in the past enjoyed a remarkable unity of teaching and practice. We would seek to rediscover

with joy that basic doctrinal consensus. Although we recognize that the Convocation will not be the panacea for our problems, we do expect the meetings to build a climate for reconciliation and peace under the Word of God. The result could precede and prepare the way for the 'grass roots' of the church to recapture the sense of direction for mission and ministry."

In addition to Rev. Behnken, members of the committee are: Rev. August Bernthal, fifth vice-president of the Synod; Rev. Harold Brockhoff, president, Oklahoma District; Dr.

Erich Kiehl, CTCR; Rev. Arnold Kuntz, chairperson of the Advisory Committee on Doctrine and Conciliation (ACDC); Rev. Samuel Nafzger, CTCR; Rev. Ellis Nieting, president, Iowa West District; LCMS president J.A.O. Preus; Rev. Samuel Roth, ACDC; Rev. Richard Schlecht, president, Michigan District; and Dr. Lorenz Wunderlich, ACDC.

The synodical Board of Directors agreed to co-sponsor the theological convocation, initially called for by the Council of Presidents, together with the president of the Synod and the Council of Presidents.

Directory of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

OFFICERS

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

Vice-President

Rev. R. Snipstead
 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
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