

January 1, 1974

The Lutheran Ambassador



WHITE ON WHITE

“Have you entered the storehouses of the snow?”
(Jb. 38:22 RSV)

Religious News Service Photo

MEDITATION MOMENTS

Renewed Life

A popular song several years ago began with the words, "You keep me waitin' 'Til it's gettin' aggravatin,' you're a slowpoke." The song went on to state that though individuals are often behind schedule, time waits for no one.

At this time of the year we are perhaps more conscious of the rapid passage of time than at most other times. The year of 1973 which such a short time ago came new and fresh upon us has now passed into history. Many of the things we had hoped to do in 1973 are still undone. There were so many good ideas and plans for which we didn't find time. Unfortunately, our priorities often get turned around and we spend much time and effort on things of lesser importance instead of on matters of eternal significance. These vital needs are often left waiting.

We are often challenged as we hear of the needs of souls around the world. We are motivated by reports coming from our mission fields. We are moved by the reports of hardships suffered by Christian brethren behind the Iron Curtain. "Something should be done about that," we say. Yes, how true. But who is to do something? Too often our concern stops short of real action and our attitudes in effect say, "Let George do it."

However, at this time of the year we often make resolutions to do better

ourselves. We will gather our resources and discipline our minds to carry out all those important plans that have been sidelined too long. We are going to turn over a new leaf.

Ah yes, I think most of us have traveled that road before. Resolutions so enthusiastically made on January 1st are often broken or badly bent by the end of the month. It reminds me of a young fellow I once spoke to concerning his spiritual life. He knew he was unsaved and from time to time had experienced a real desire to be a Christian. As we talked, he said, "I've tried many times before but I always went back to the same old habits and life. I really wish I could turn over a new leaf." This man later became a Christian. But it was not because he was able to "turn over a new leaf." It was because he surrendered his life to Christ and received a NEW LIFE. Every "new leaf" that we can turn over is just another page in the same old book of human effort that comes from a nature which is totally corrupt and cannot please God. It is doomed to failure.

What we need is not a "new leaf" but a NEW LIFE. This is true if we are to be saved. This is true also if we are to "press on" in a fruitful life with our Lord. We must not, like the Galatians, fall back into a routine of human effort. We must present ourselves to our Lord DAILY as living

sacrifices.

A sacrifice is something which dies. As we allow the Holy Spirit to apply His Word to our hearts DAILY, real repentance and death of self becomes our experience. THE NEW LIFE, born of God, then comes forth and walks in love and obedience to the Savior. Important things which were formerly neglected because our priorities were turned around now are done happily and spontaneously. Our renewed minds will press on to resist the devil and his temptations, to grow in God's Word and Christian fellowship and to fulfill Christ's commission to evangelize the world.

I'm afraid God can say of many of us, "You keep me waitin' till it's gettin' aggravatin', you're a slowpoke." Some day His patience will come to an end. Let's not keep Him waiting any longer. Remember, we need not a new leaf, but a NEW LIFE: not a New Year's resolution, but a transformation.

"I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect" (Rom. 12:1-2, NASB).

Edwin M. Kjos

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New Life for the New Year

by Rev. Terry L. Olson,
Radcliffe, Iowa

Galatians 2:20—"I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

You have heard it said that the old must pass to make way for the new. You have just witnessed the truth of this statement as 1973 changed to 1974. Another year has come and gone, and so quickly! The Psalmist expresses it so beautifully when he says, "Our years are spent with sighing." The length of each year after it passes is but a sigh. And yet you are blessed with a new year (365 days) which you shall spend one day at a time.

You have probably already made some statements on how this year is going to be different from last year. You have made resolutions with the hope that you will not make the same mistakes. Thus at the end of the year you shall have helped yourself as well as others.

Every day you have new intentions to accomplish specific goals. Every month a new budget is going to be strictly adhered to, or else. For the students every new quarter or every new semester is the beginning of better study habits for higher grades. It is often our experience to fail more than to achieve our goals. Certainly attempts are made but often fail because of lack of self-power.

As you look at your life today in this new year, is your "Christian" life one of many broken resolutions? It should not be, for it should be a life lived in the blessed newness of

every day where forgiveness of sins is fresh and Christ becomes sweeter as we know Him better. And yet so few have experienced this. Why? Let us consider Galatians 2:20 as our answer for this year of 1974.

First of all, Paul begins where all of us must begin our walk with Christ. He simply says, "I am crucified with Christ." In other words, the old must pass to make way for the new. What did Paul mean? He could not be literally crucified with Christ, nor can we. In Colossians 3:3, it says "for you are dead." What are we dead for? Certainly not for sin. You and I are unable to die for anyone's sins. In Psalm 49:7, 8, we read "None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever." The Lord Jesus Christ is the only one who could die for sin because He was sinless Himself (II Corinthians 5:21). Thus, in Christ and in Him alone we can consider ourselves dead unto sin, the devil, and death. In Christ we can consider ourselves dead unto the law and its self-righteous demands, and thus alive unto God.

So far it does not look like a new year with much life. Then consider Paul's next statement, "nevertheless I live." His daily life does not cease to exist. The Christian needs to work for food, clothing, shelter and other necessities. The Christian needs friends. He needs encouragement as well as trials. But he no longer lives unto himself or for himself. Paul says that "I live; yet not I." As you consider your own salvation, "you must look away from your own person" (Luther). Christ is your righteous-

ness. Christ is your sanctification. If you turn from Christ and look unto yourself, you have turned away from the power which saves and keeps you.

What is the secret to being alive unto God? It is "Christ living in me." Paul's life every day was Christ living in him. In Philippians 1:21, he says, "For me to live is Christ." It is Christ who supplies the strength and courage to follow Him. As long as Christ Jesus lives within you, sin, death, and the devil are defeated foes. The abiding presence of Christ also delivers you from your sinful self. And thus the Living Christ is your shining testimony this new year.

As we consider Christ living in us, then we can rightfully and truthfully consider these New Year's Resolutions:

"I will, like Paul, **forget** those things which are behind and press forward; like David, **lift** up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help; like Abraham, **trust** implicitly in my God; like Enoch, **walk** in daily fellowship with my heavenly Father; like Jehoshaphat, **prepare** my heart to seek God; like Moses, **choose** rather to suffer than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; like Daniel, **commune** with my God at all times; like Caleb and Joshua, **refuse** to be discouraged because of superior numbers; like Joseph, **turn** my back to all seductive advances; like Gideon, **advance** even though my friends be few; like Aaron and Hur, **uphold** the hands of my spiritual leaders; like Isaiah, **consecrate** myself to do God's work; like Andrew, **strive** to lead my brother into a closer walk with Christ; like John, **lean** upon the bosom of the Master and imbibe of His Spirit; like Stephen, **manifest** a

Christmas in Madagascar

by Roger Ose

People began arriving at the church an hour before the Christmas Eve services in order to get front seats. From a dozen different villages around the main village people came barefoot on the footpaths. By seven o'clock the church was filled to capacity, and there were people standing in the doors and looking in the windows.

Although the program was scheduled to begin at seven, in typical Malagasy fashion, it started closer to eight. The children came in singing, "O Come, All Ye Faithful," and took their places.

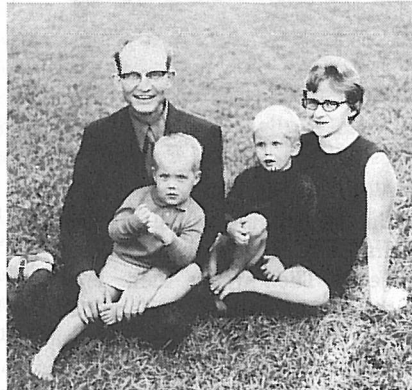
Then the recitations and carols began. With evident delight the fifty or more children sang "Silent Night," "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," and a number of Christmas hymns that their youth leaders had composed. That's Malagasy custom—you must have an original composition for an event like Christmas Eve services.

What surprised me was that the recitations, carols and Bible selections were nearly all given from memory. Malagasy children have a remarkable ability to memorize. Even the very small children had learned quite long portions of Scripture and poems.

When the little children sang their carols, the audience reaction was so loud we couldn't hear the children. That's the way parents let the children know they approve. Throughout the evening the audience noise level was far too great for our American ears. But for the Malagasy, it's their way of saying, "We like your program."

About ten p.m., Janet took our boys home to bed although the program was still going strong. An hour later the Malagasy children joined hands and marched around the Christmas tree singing carols with evident happiness. For many of them this Christmas program was a highlight of their whole Christmas season.

The tree was 12-foot high and still had fresh leaves on it. It was big and



Dr. and Mrs. Roger Ose, with their sons, Daniel and Scott.

bushy and resembled an American oak tree. The children had decorated the tree with chains made from big leaves and with old American Christmas greetings. Years ago, before customs charges were so high, a church group in America sent them over two hundred cards. That night they were all on the tree. There were also several lighted candles burning on the tree. The Malagasy thought it was beautiful.

The closing number was the "Malagasy Farewell," sung by all the Sunday School children. As they sang they waved handkerchiefs and wished everybody a "Merry Christmas," and "Good-night."

Next morning was the Christmas Day service. Again the church was packed with over seven hundred people. The three-hour service included a number of carols, one or two sermons, numbers by the youth choir, and some contributions by the young people. For us the service was a bit too long, but not for the Malagasy. As far as they're concerned, the longer, the better.

Christmas evening the young people put on the pageant of Jesus' birth. They included the characters of Mary, Joseph, the Baby, shepherds, kings, and even old King Herod, who tried to destroy God's precious gift. I can still hear the choir as they sang in closing, "Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

THY WILL BE DONE

Among the lessons that we learn
In life's great school, we oft discern
The one most difficult, each day,
Is, to our Father bow and say:
"Thy will be done."

We plan the course we want to take,
And figure out how much to make,
Then push ahead without delay,
But often we forget to pray:
"Thy will be done."

Our plans are swiftly overthrown,
The darkness comes—we give a groan,
"Oh God, I cannot see the way,
But give me grace just now to say:
"Thy will be done.'"

The trials that did me involve,
The problems which I cannot solve,
The debts I strive in vain to pay,
I leave it all with Thee and say:
"Thy will be done."

Dear Father, give me grace to see
My Savior in Gethsemane;
The burden of our sins was laid
Upon Him, yet He humbly prayed:
"Thy will be done."

Lord Jesus, let me stay with Thee,
Lead Thou me on, I do not see;
Lord Jesus, give me grace each day
To follow Thee in faith and say:
"Thy will be done."

Agnes Shefveland Arhaug
Thief River Falls, Minn.

"THE PILOT'S CHRISTMAS" SECURED BY EDITOR

The booklet, "The Pilot's Christmas," by Wilhelm Pettersen, which Editor Raynard Huglen announced to **Ambassador** readers that he desired to secure, has been received through the kindness of Olive England of Forest City, Iowa. She had a copy of this booklet of poems and was willing to part with it.

Olive England writes that her late brother, owner of the book, attended Augsburg Seminary at the time that Rev. Pettersen was teaching there. He also studied under Professors Georg Sverdrup and Sven Oftedal. She recalls her brother speaking highly of all of these men as teachers.

One other person indicated that he had a copy of "The Pilot's Christmas." Thank you for the response to this request.

Women For Christ

REFLECTIONS OF A FORMER TREASURER

by Mrs. James C. Eletson,
Duluth, Minn.

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:10).

Several months have passed since I turned over the Women's Missionary Federation Treasurer's books to the new treasurer, Mrs. Emberson of Esko, Minnesota. It was a time of mixed emotions. It was a time of great relief to shift the responsibility of the office to another, but a time of sadness also to in a sense lose the many, many contacts with the dedicated women who serve out in the parishes, who not only remember the work of the WMF with their means, but more importantly remember the work and the National Board in their prayers. It would be a meaningful experience if each lady affiliated with the work of the AFLC WMF could serve a term or two as treasurer. The blessings are boundless and the witness of the workings of the Lord are innumerable.

The response to a simple budget arrived at by the national board is evident in the annual reports. There has never been a time when our budget has not been exceeded—and praise the Lord for that! When we are over budget it allows extra monies to be channeled where funds are most needed, and there is rejoicing for that, too.

Coming from probably one of the smallest congregations in the AFLC, it has always been interesting to watch how the various groups respond

to WMF needs. We have one WMF in the Association which assigns 90% of its income for the national WMF projects. Then where there is a two or three-congregation parish, it is surprising to see how a small group of ladies in a small country church can surpass the larger groups in the parish in their giving. Much of this can be attributed, I am sure, to vigorous Bible Study, because it is only through the Word that we all become aware of what our responsibilities and obligations are to the work of the Lord.

Each year the national board expends a great amount of prayer, effort, and expense in preparing the project calendar for each lady in the Association. I have often wondered how many of our ladies actually look at the information contained therein. Each project is carefully explained so that there can be few questions as to how the work of the WMF is programmed, and it is designed in such a way that it can be folded to a good purse-carrying size. The Board does not claim to be infallible and if anyone of you has a better suggestion for disseminating the project information, please let them know. The important thing is that women who are knowledgeable about the work of the WMF will be more prayerful for the work.

One thing, perhaps, that should be made ever so clear...the importance of channeling all WMF gifts to any individual or branch of the work through your national WMF treasurer. It is only by doing this that we can be aware of the great contribution of our women to the work of the Association. Personal gifts to the missionaries or to other branches of the work are immediately sent on to whomever the giver designates. This last summer one of our districts

gave a substantial money gift to our Brazil missions, but because it did not come through the national treasury their generous gift will never be a part of the permanent records of the National WMF. How important it is to share the giving of these gifts as an impetus to those who might also have similar interests.

I've appreciated very much the four years it was my privilege to serve as Treasurer of the Women's Missionary Federation of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. It is apparent that the Bible Studies prepared and published in each issue of the *Ambassador* should be a pivotal point of our local WMF meetings. When we concentrate on the study of the Word and prayer as women in the church, we will receive these blessings poured out of the windows of heaven, and there shall not be room enough to receive them...think on this...blessings in such abundance that we do not have room to receive them.

Mrs. James C. Eletson

MRS. YOUNG, MRS. MELBY CITED

Members of the Ladies Aid of Zion Lutheran Church of Dalton, Minn. paid tribute to Mrs. Ralph Melby and Mrs. Alvin Young for their years of faithful service recently by presenting them with Honorary Membership in the Women's Missionary Federation.



Shown with their daughters who presented the membership pins to their mothers are, from left to right: Mrs. Stanley Genz and her mother Mrs. Alvin Young, Mrs. Ralph Melby and daughter, Mrs. Allen Hanson. Well done good and faithful servants! You set a good example for us all.

Mrs. Roger Holo, Secretary

MARTHA GUILD GIVES HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS

The Martha Guild of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Cloquet, Minn., recently honored several ladies of the church by presenting them with honorary memberships in the Women's Missionary Federation.

The Martha Guild was in charge of the evening service on Sunday, September 23rd, at which time the ladies of the church who have been previously honored with honorary memberships, and the new honorary members were presented to the congregation.



WMF Honorary Members from St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Front row (left to right): Mrs. Lawrence Carlson, Mrs. Albert Iwasko, Mrs. Herbert Franz, Mrs. Toivo Siltanen and Mrs. Rudolph Hegge (New Members). Back row (left to right): Mrs. Mary Pouti, Mrs. Hilda Tuomi, Mrs. Elsie Anttila, Mrs. John Seppala, and Mrs. Melita Jokela (Old Members).

Mrs. Dennis Lampi, Corr.

Special guest for the evening service was Rev. Connely Dyrud, who presented a program of message and slides of the work being carried out by himself and fellow workers on the mission field in Brazil.

A fellowship hour followed the service.

"FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS" THEME OF CLOQUET MEETING

The women of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Cloquet, Minn., recently hosted the Women's Missionary Federation District fall rally. The theme for the day long rally was "For Such a Time As This," taken from Esther 4:14b.

The Ladies Aid of the church served

coffee in the morning while the guests were greeted and registration was completed. Mrs. Reuben Emberson, national WMF treasurer, and St. Paul's Martha Guild president, opened the morning session with the welcome address, and devotions and prayer were shared by Rev. Herbert Franz of St. Paul's. Mrs. Robert Dietsche, national WMF president, of Sand Creek, Wis., brought the morning message. The morning was also filled with WMF Project reports, business meeting, and special music.

The noon luncheon was served by the Martha Guild of St. Paul's, after which the afternoon session was opened with devotions and prayer and special music. The ladies also spent time sharing in fellowship and testimonies. Missionary Connely Dyrud of Brazil brought the afternoon message, through which the Lord's work done on the mission field was shared with the rally guests. Also we were reminded to remember the mission workers with our prayers and support.

Mrs. Dennis Lampi, Corr.

SEDAN CHURCH HONORS TWO WOMEN



Mrs. Albert Nelson, left, and Mrs. Simon Kolstad, both over 80 years of age, were presented with honorary membership pins in the WMF for their many years of devotion to their Lord and church at the WMF meeting at Scandia Lutheran Church, Sedan, Minn., Richard Gunderson, pastor, on Sept. 12, 1973.

ZION CHURCH SCENE OF FALL RALLY

The Western North Dakota-Eastern Montana Women's Missionary Fed-

eration fall rally was held at Zion Lutheran Church, Tioga, N. Dak., Forrest Swenson, pastor, on Saturday, Oct. 13, 1973. St. Olaf Ladies Aid hosted the day.

The theme for the rally was "Break Forth with Joy!" from Isaiah 52:9a. Registration began at 10:30 a.m. and 56 were registered.

Mrs. Clifford Iverson, Zion, was organist. The opening hymn, "Praise Him, Praise Him," was sung and Mrs. Alfred Sundhagen, St. Olaf, gave the welcome. Mrs. Forrest Swenson read the Scripture and offered prayer. Mrs. Vernon Zunich and Mrs. Lyle Fox, Norman, favored us with a duet.

Pastor Swenson brought the morning Bible study. He based his study on the theme verse. He stated that before we can bring joy to others, we have to experience it ourselves. If we repent and believe we have full assurance of being saved. He spoke of the joy of the Israelites as they were returning home and compared it to the joy of a lost sinner being found. He gave us a number of Bible verses to mark in our Bibles as special verses.

The Hymn "To God Be the Glory" was sung. Mrs. Clifford Berglee, Bethel, district president, conducted the business meeting. Mrs. Art Olson, Zion, was elected vice-president and Mrs. Eilert Haakenson was re-elected secretary.

The noon luncheon was served by the St. Olaf Ladies Aid. The noon offering was given to the Bible School and Seminary in Minneapolis, Minn.

The opening hymn for the afternoon session was "Bringing in the Sheaves." Mrs. Melvin Gravgaard, Zion, gave a report on the Annual Convention held at Ferndale, Wash., in June. The theme there was from Esther 4:14b. She stated that 164 women were registered. A check was given to the (John) Abels for a piano and the keys to a 12-passenger bus were given to the (L. C.) Dynnesons to help them in the work at Nogales, Ariz.

Mrs. Alma Thompson, Culbertson, Mont., favored us with a solo and Pastor Verle Dean, Culbertson, was the afternoon speaker. He based his

[Continued on page 10]



SCHOOL NEWS

AFLBS 45
Bethlehem Lutheran 47

AFLBS 46
Calvary, No. 150

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Feb. 20—End of Second Quarter
Feb. 25—Registration for Third Quarter
May 17—Commencement

CONSTRUCTION OF DORM BUILDING NOW UNDER WAY

Shortly before Christmas vacation the excavation for the boys' dorm at Association Free Lutheran Bible School was completed. The footings for the building were also finished before Christmas. So the long awaited commencement of construction has taken place.

The boys' dorm will be built over the winter and spring months and should be ready well in advance of the 1974-75 school year opening in September. The three-story structure, plus basement, will provide room for about 65 boys. There will be an apartment for the dean of men, classroom space, recreation area and a music rehearsal room. When the boys move from the third-floor of the present dormitory that area will be freed for use by girl students, providing room for 35 or 40 of them, depending on the demand.

Nearly \$150,000 has been contributed or pledged toward this new dormitory. The total cost of the facility currently stands at \$329,640. It is hoped that whatever construction and

furnishing cost is not covered by advance cash and pledges will be taken care of by individual loans.

CHRISTMAS COMMITTEES AT BIBLE SCHOOL

Christmas Tree—Don Nash, Abercrombie, N. Dak. Marty Horn, Kalispell, Mont.

Recreation—Mary Ellen Flaten, Strandquist, Minn., Karen Snipstead, Minneapolis, Minn., Kathi Jones, Wyndmere, N. Dak.

Food—Ruth Solheim, Everett, Wash., Vangie Stenberg, Lake Stevens, Wash.

Program—Jennifer Broden, Fertile, Minn., Ruth Mundfrom, Grafton, N. Dak., Vonnie Kylo, Zumbrota, Minn., Mark Antal, Wayne, Pa.

BASKETBALL SCORES

AFLBS Conquerors 51
St. Paul Bible College B Team 50

AFLBS 45
Beautiful Savior Lutheran 30

AFLBS 42
Northwestern College 108

SNOWFALL

How bare the earth, where once was green

The ugly scars of waste are seen.
All is naked, and barren poor
Where living gems had hung before.
Glass, rusty metal, scraps and stones;
There is no covering on the bones,
At mercy of the winds that blow
Before the falling of the snow.
How softly it reclothes again
In comeliness the marks of men,
Caught, covered, changed within a night
To the soft purity of white.

So shall man then stand as the earth
A sinful creature from his birth,
Before the mighty throne of God,
Fast beneath the justice rod,
In barren shame and sinfulness,
Without a claim but to a cross,
Redeeming blood to heal within
The ugly scars of human sin;
Christ to around his shoulders throw
His own robe purer than the snow.

Marlene Moline



During the excavation of the basement for the new dorm. The present dorm is shown in the background.



Lunch was served following the Christmas concert at AFLBS.

editorials

THE LOOK AHEAD

We said last time that the year 1973 was a good year in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations because it was a time of forward movement and strengthening of the work, characterized by a spirit of unity. As we take the look ahead, can we not trust that the new year upon which we have just entered will see the same kind of progress and unity? Yes, we must so believe, and then we must work that it will be so. All of this, of course, is dependent upon the Lord's blessing, but as we look to Him, He will bless.

As the new year begins, there is building progress at our Bible School. Normally, we have not thought of construction work taking place during the winter, but that will be the case this time. A fine new dormitory for boys will be ready for occupancy by next fall. This time there ought to be no last minute rush to get ready. (We trust that the delays on this project are mostly behind us.) It is good to see the large amount of money that has been contributed or pledged toward the dorm **before** work began. That is all to the good.

The enrollment at our Seminary is lower than we would like. Only two men will complete their seminary training next spring. We ought to have half a dozen. And there will be more in future years. But pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers. We only want men called of God and therefore we don't want to use man-made pressures in getting recruits for the ministry.

Home Mission work needs to be strengthened. Gradually the AFLC has entered into a number of communities, usually in situations where Lutheran people from one or more established local churches have become dissatisfied and look our way in the desire to begin a different type of Lutheran church in the community. This does have the advantage of having a nucleus of people with which to begin work. But it would also be good if we could start from scratch in some smaller cities and in urban and suburban areas where there is as yet little church work being done. As time goes on we hope that more of this kind of home mission effort can be taken up.

As to World Missions, the big news as the year begins is the tour that some of our people are making to the field in Brazil in February. All of these people will come back as good ambassadors for world missions. Not that AFLC people need a lot of encouragement to support world missions. They have always had a keen interest in bringing

the Gospel of Christ to other lands. More and more native Brazilians are becoming ordained pastors on our field in Parana. But for our own sakes, too, we need to send more American workers to Brazil. Perhaps in 1974 we will learn who the next missionary couple will be and in what directions our work in South America will now go.

There are other areas to our work, too, but we stop with these now. Closely allied with the picture of our church at work is the financial picture. The next editorial has something to say about that. But the look ahead is the same as it has always been in the AFLC. There are open doors all over the place. Only our lack of obedience and commitment will prevent their being entered into. May the Lord help us to be up and doing, willing to spend and to be spent that His gracious work may be done.

FIGURES DON'T LIE

The December report was not available for this issue of the *Ambassador*, but it is interesting to notice the treasurer's report as of December 1 in the AFLC. This was printed in the Dec. 18 issue and we do trust that these monthly reports are faithfully followed by our readers.

The report showed almost 63 per cent of the goal reached for the 1973-74 budget with two months left in the fiscal year. In other words, we must do a lot more in two months than we have in any other two-month period of the year. But it is our history to do just that. However, do not forget, a real effort must be made to reach our goals this year.

Looking at the picture item by item, we see that Schools and the Praise Program (actually a fund for Schools, at present) lag far behind the General Fund, Home and Foreign Missions in percentage of goal reached. The former stood at 51 per cent, the latter at 41. Why this should be is hard to understand. Our people seem to take pride in the Bible School and Seminary. They have backed the building of a boys' dorm for the Bible School in an emphatic way. Yet giving to current operating expense for the Schools trails very obviously, even as it did last year when contributions to Schools fell over \$17,000 short of the goal.

What has saved the AFLC from having to borrow money from commercial lenders in order to make up for what has not come in from the churches and individuals is the presence of money in the Praise Program. It is good to keep the borrowing within the "family," but it would be even better stewardship if it weren't necessary to do this (to borrow from a fund which is much less than the obligations against it from the building of the first dormitory).

It is good to see Home and Foreign Mission goals being met and the General Fund within striking distance of its objective. Not so pleasing is the prospect that unless a miracle happens (we still believe in miracles) Schools and the Praise Program will fall considerably short of their goals. Operating schools of any kind is an expensive business today. But our church has attested to the importance of having a Bible School and Seminary again and again.

It would be good if the support for current operating expense at the Schools and capital expansion (Praise Program) were so strong that each year the budget could be met.

In these closing weeks of the fiscal year of the AFLC, give special emphasis to the two funds that stand in greatest need and that are most apt to fall short, Schools and Praise Program. Remember, all contributions must be in by January 31.

FEELING THE PINCH

In these these days of energy crisis and rising fuel prices, one cannot help but speculate on what is going to happen financially in our local congregations.

Consider the pastor. Gas prices have risen 25 per cent over the past months and may rise higher. He can't be expected to stand that increase by himself for his business driving. He would have to curtail the number of miles he drives. Less church work would be done, not a satisfying prospect to either himself or the congregation. The same

would be true regarding the heating of his home. If he has no utilities allowance, he will have to pay considerably more to keep his house comfortable, even at 68 degrees. This might add a real financial burden.

The congregation, on the other hand, will find that it must draw up a new budget in order to share in the added expenses of the pastor and to continue to keep the church building heated and comfortable. In some of our churches this will not pose any problems. In others, the smaller ones, the added costs may cause a real pinch. What will this do to contributions to the common work of the AFLC, the benevolences? There, too, costs are rising, needs are greater. Larger budgets will be asked.

These are crucial days. No doubt there are those in our church who are studying these things, not least the Budget Analysis Committee and the Stewardship Board. We believe the means exist to support all our work, even with rising costs and expansion. But there must be the will to act. Much wisdom will be needed in the days and months ahead to plan well and to take good care of what we have in the local congregation and in the work together.

MR. MAURICE HANKA

The Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn., on Nov. 11, 1973, was saddened by the death of its oldest member both in age and membership duration. Mr. Maurice Hanka was born in Annandale, Minn., on Sept. 27, 1888, and died in the Lutheran Deaconess Hospital, Minneapolis, at the age of 85 years and one and one-half months.

Funeral services were held on Nov. 14 with Pastors Chester Heikkinen, of Morgan Avenue Lutheran, and Leonard Masted officiating. Interment was in Glen Haven Memorial Gardens. He is survived by his second wife, Mina, three daughters, one son, 19 grandchildren, three sisters and one brother.

The deceased was a member of his congregation for about 60 years. A number of decades ago he underwent a deep spiritual conversion after which he was constantly giving of his time and means to various Christian endeavors. The Lutheran Colportage Association found in him a willing and dedicated person, using his car to deliver tracts and speakers of this group in many areas of Minnesota and neighboring states. He was the chairman of the local "Arctic Mission" chapter whose work is centered in

Alaska. The Lutheran Evangelistic Movement, World Mission Prayer League and New Hope Center, to name a few, were groups where he served beside his own church, where he was a deacon for many decades, also doing much visitation work, presenting Christ to folks alienated from the church.

In his own right Maurice was a sincere and convincing witness of the power of Christ in his life, which he ever tried to convey to everyone who listened. What the Apostle Paul declared to young Timothy in II Tim. 4:7 is quite apropos, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." There is also a comforting thought expressed in Psalm 116:15, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

Wm. J. Kangas
(Ed. Note: In a personal note, Bill Kangas reminds that Maurice Hanka was a warm-hearted supporter of the AFLC, not able to contribute so much financially, but urging prayer for its support. I, too, remember Maurice as a loyal follower of our work, always happy to meet his friends and to find the fellowship of the brethren. May the Lord raise up many more like him.)

[Continued from page 7]

talk on John 15:1-2. He emphasized that without Jesus we can do nothing. There must be unity between the Vine and the branches. We are the branches and should be obedient to the Vine, the Lord, and bear fruit. If we don't, we are like the suckers that cling to the branches and become fat off the church. We must be fruitful Christians. He closed by saying that Matthew 11:28 was the verse that brought him to Christ.

The afternoon offering was given to Church Extension. The travelling trophy was presented to St. Olaf Ladies Aid for having 100% of their members present.

Mrs. Verland Hartsoch, Beaver Creek, gave the invitation to the spring workshop. Closing benediction and prayer were given by Pastor Verle Dean and afternoon coffee was served by St. Olaf Ladies Aid.

Mrs. Eilert Haakenson, Secretary

"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ..." (Phil. 3:20, New International Bible).

MISS MARTHA KLEPPE

Funeral services for Martha Kleppe, 81, were held on November 24, 1973, at Westaker Lutheran Church, Newfolden, Minn., with Rev. David Molstre, Thief River Falls, Minn., and Rev. Clifford Kalmoe, Newfolden, officiating. She had passed away from cancer at Northwestern Hospital in Thief River Falls on November 19. Interment was made in Oak Grove cemetery at Newfolden.

Martha Kleppe was born on November 4, 1892, to Mr. and Mrs. Ole Kleppe in Martin County, Minn. The family later moved to Newfolden where her father was a merchant and also served as postmaster. She attended elementary school in Newfolden and high school in Thief River Falls. She taught rural schools in Pennington and Marshall Counties, and in the then two-room schoolhouse at Newfolden.

Continuing her education at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., and the Moorhead, Minn., Normal school, she later taught at Central School in Thief River Falls and Park Region College in Fergus Falls, Minn. In July, 1927, she received her bachelor of science degree from the University of Minnesota and accepted a position as teacher of normal training in Bagley, Minn. After her father's death in December, 1928, Martha Kleppe lived with her mother in Newfolden for some years, also succeeding her father as postmaster.

Her mother passed away in 1934 and Martha enrolled at Columbia University in New York and was awarded a master of arts degree in 1936. She taught at Moorhead State College in Minnesota for many years, being in charge of the teachers' training course. Later she taught at Concordia College, Moorhead, Oak Grove Lutheran High School, Fargo, N. Dak., and Waldorf Lutheran College in Forest City, Ia. Most recently she had done some teaching of Norwegian at the area vocational-technical institute for adult evening classes in Thief River Falls.

Survivors of Miss Kleppe include two brothers, Ray, Tucson, Ariz., and Lars, Blooming Prairie, Minn.; a sister, Mrs. Hjalmer (Elizabeth) Haug-

en, Newfolden; two nieces, a nephew and an aunt.

Blessed be her memory.

A TRIBUTE TO MARTHA KLEPPE

Miss Martha Kleppe, who passed away in November, was a long-time friend of my mother (they were instructed for confirmation together in Newfolden, Minn.). I really became aware of Martha after we had moved to Newfolden in 1940. Her sister was Elizabeth, Mrs. H. C. Haugen, the superintendent of the Sunday School in Bethlehem Lutheran Church, and it was very common to refer to the sisters together, Martha and Elizabeth.

At Martha's funeral I had the opportunity to speak a few words on behalf of her family. The passage of Scripture I used as a greeting was II Tim. 2:15, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." I felt that those words typified her. She didn't want to be ashamed of her stewardship in life, not only in regard to handling the Word of God, but concerning all of life, and so she worked to do well.

Martha Kleppe was a handler of the Scriptures. She was a Bible student and became well versed in the Scriptures. The Bible was the most important part of her reading activity.

She was a master teacher. Fortunate were those who had her as their classroom leader whether it was in the rural school, in high school or on the college level. I remember one of my seminary classmates, who had had Martha as a teacher in high school or college, perhaps both, speak of her teaching ability in the highest terms. Another place where she often taught or spoke was the women's Aid meeting, or a Luther League Family Night. She always had something worthwhile to offer. One of my sisters recalls a memory-gripping talk she gave in which she likened the spreading of the Gospel to the stars punching holes in the darkness.

Martha Kleppe came from a pioneer family at Newfolden and she was proud of it. All her life she worked to preserve the memory and the heritage of the early settlers. Her father was a founding merchant in New-

folden.

After her passing, someone used the word "gracious" to describe her, and the description was an apt one. Martha was not one to be occupied with small things. I don't mean that she wasn't interested also in the seemingly insignificant things of life, for she was. But she wasn't one to begin or nurture conversation about small or mean ideas or opinions about people. In other words, she avoided "godless chatter."

Martha Kleppe was active in the work of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Less than two months before her passing she attended the organization's meeting in Mother's home. She was glad that the work was still being carried on, the work against an evil foe.

She left a generous gift to the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. She was very much interested in our work. One year she gave a talk at the Family Bible Camp by Alexandria, Minn.

We miss people like Martha Kleppe when they are gone. We are poorer because she is gone. But we are richer because she was here and put so much into the lives of so many.


Raynard Huglen

PRINTING COSTS FOR THE AMBASSADOR GOING UP

The Lutheran Ambassador has been advised by its printers, Bethany Fellowship, Inc., Minneapolis, Minn., that rising paper costs have necessitated a "dramatic" increase in the cost of printing the magazine. That increase in cost is being reflected now in our billings from Bethany Fellowship.

Through subsidies from the major agencies of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations and the subscriptions paid by our subscribers, The Lutheran Ambassador has come through nearly 11 years of existence very well, financially speaking. Only one increase in subscription price has taken place over that period of time. It is evident that some new assistance will be needed by the Ambassador to meet the increased printing and mailing costs. We trust that such sources of help will become available.

The Editor



NEWS

of the Churches

RONALD KNUTSON INSTALLED AS PASTOR AT MASON-DRUMMOND

On Sunday afternoon, October 14, 1973, Ronald Knutson was installed as pastor of Drummond, Faith and Moland congregations in a service at Drummond Lutheran Church. The officiating pastor was Rev. Amos O. Dyrud, dean of Free Lutheran Seminary in Minneapolis, Minn., from which Pastor Knutson was graduated last May.

Miss Christine Hanson, a 1973 graduate of Association Free Lutheran Bible School in Minneapolis, was the soloist, singing "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."

The three congregations in the parish feel that it was a definite answer to prayer when Mr. Knutson accepted the call to serve as permanent pastor after having served here as student pastor for some time. In God's Word, we are told of three things mentioned about John the Baptist which are true of every dedicated servant of God. First, John was a man; he was not an angel or a supernatural personage, but he was a human being just like we are. For that reason, John 1:6 begins with the words, "There was a man." Second, we are told in the next verse that he was sent from God. He was distinguished from others in that he was a specially chosen vessel. He was a God-sent one. Third, verse 7 goes on to tell us that he was sent from God to bear witness of the Light.



Rev. Ronald Knutson

In other words, he was sent to preach Christ as a promised Messiah, the Savior of sinners.

Therefore, in the above passage, three facts were set forth. First, John had human limitations because he was a man. Second, He had divine authorization for he was sent from God. Third, he had the commission to preach Christ for he was to bear witness of the Light. These three characteristics mark every divinely appointed pastor of today. By God's help we know that Pastor Knutson will be able to fulfill these.

At the close of the installation service a coffee hour followed in the Drummond church educational unit. After that the Knutsons held open house at the parsonage for all who were in attendance that day.

Mrs. Joe Berweger
Mrs. Theo. Hanson

NEWS FROM VALLEY CITY, N.D.

The parish youth sponsored a "Thanks Retreat" November 23-25 at Wesley Acres, near Dazey, N. Dak., which was attended by about 50 district and local leaguers. Wayne Pederson, LLF advisor, led the study sessions, with emphasis on spiritual gifts and youth's role in church and world.

On Sunday, November 25th, following the morning worship service, a special fellowship dinner was held, marking the completion of an extensive remodeling of the basement facilities of Grace Lutheran Church. Pastor Robert Lee led in a prayer of dedication, and a thanks offering was received for World Relief.

The \$16,000.00 project at Grace included new wiring and lighting, two new gas furnaces, four additional Sunday School classrooms, plus carpeting and redecorating.

The congregation is looking forward to hosting the AFLC Winter Bible Conference in February.



If the people of the Church could eliminate the spirit of **ambition** from their hearts, and put there the spirit of **devotion**, the prosperity of Zion would know no end and brook no hindrance.

L. S. Keyser

Those who in the early days of Christianity opposed Jesus and His religion did so because they believed Christ and His religion to be in opposition to human wisdom and that which human nature and reason demanded. Whether the very existence of Jesus is denied or His deity questioned, the nature of the opposition is the same at all times. The natural mind is at enmity with God and His Christ.

—Theodore Huggenvik

Letters TO THE EDITOR

IT IS BELIEF THAT DISTINGUISHES

Would like to bring up a point concerning a paragraph written by Mrs. L. Norum in the article "Where To?" (Nov. 6, 1973, p. 15). She writes: "'If you claim to be a Christian, you must live like a Christian,' . . . Can people see the difference in your life?"

If I believed in the social gospel I would agree with that statement. I would prefer that it be properly stated (from a Lutheran interpretation): "If you claim to be a Christian, you must believe like a Christian."

And, no, people can't see the difference in my life, in fact, there are undoubtedly thousands and millions of people who live outwardly better than I do and they are not Christians. But I am distinguished from them by my belief—not by my life (thank God!)

The impression given by Mrs. Norum is that sin is disobedience and a Christian tries not to sin and this lack of disobedience is reflective in life. But sin is basically not disobedience, but as Luther says, "Sin is basically unbelief."

The basic thrust of existentialist and social gospel theology is that Christianity should be reflective in the life and institutions of its members. This is achieved only by the Holy Spirit acting through the implanting of faith and this is the only thing that distinguishes a Christian—*Sola Fidei* (Faith Alone) and nothing else. Faith is only in the heart and any attempt to place our salvation outside ourselves in our works must be soundly rejected.

Garrett B. Frank
St. Paul, Minn.

(Ed. Note: Even as we invite reactions to articles and editorials, we invite reaction to Letters to the Editor.

AFLC PASTORS' CONFERENCE SET FOR JAN. 22-24

Dr. Robert Preus of the faculty of one of the Missouri Synod's seminaries will be the featured speaker at the annual pastoral conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations to be held at Free Lutheran Seminary, Minneapolis, Minn., Jan. 22-24.

A brother of his church's president, Dr. J. A. O. Preus, Robert Preus will give two lectures on the morning of January 24. One is, "How Does a Lutheran Interpret the Old and New Testaments?" and the other will be "Can an Evangelical Lutheran Use the Historical-Critical Method of Interpreting the Scriptures?"

The conference will begin on Tuesday night with a Holy Communion service with Dr. Iver Olson of the seminary faculty bringing the meditation.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Northern Lutheran Missions will be held Sat., Jan. 19, at 1:00 p.m., at Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, McIntosh, Minn., Orville Olson, pastor. There will also be reports from our missionaries: Alvin Larson of Bethel Lutheran Chapel, White Earth, Minn., and Andy Lindgren of Redby Lutheran Mission, Redby, Minn.

At 7:00 p.m. the same evening a mission service will be held with special singing from both Missions.

Ed Mathison from Bagley, Minn., will be the guest speaker. All are welcome.

Harvey Dyrud, Secretary

A WORD FROM THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

The use of the Unit-Responsibility Plan to support missionaries of the AFLC is much appreciated by the Mission Board, but donors using this plan are informed that contributions designated for support of people not on the mission staff, cannot be used by the Board. If the people making such pledges will consider changing their commitment to support our called and commissioned workers, the

funds will be put to use, otherwise they will have to be returned to the donors.

Board of Foreign Missions, AFLC

LEM CONFERENCE TO BE HELD

"Congregations Alive!" will be the theme of the 38th annual Mid-winter Conference of the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement, January 20-25, convening at Augustana Lutheran Church, 7th Street and 11th Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn.

Evening speaker will be the Rev. Carl J. Johansson, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls, Minneapolis. He will speak Sunday, January 20, 7:45 p.m., and will continue each evening, Tuesday-Thursday.

Day sessions will begin Tuesday at 10 o'clock with the Bible Hour, led by the Rev. Laurel Udden, teacher at Association Free Lutheran Bible School, Minneapolis, and the 11 o'clock hour by the Rev. Everaldo H. Strom, president of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren, Fergus Falls, Minn. He will use as his topic, "Living in the Secret of His Presence."

Five workshops will be offered each afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. Leaders will include LEM personnel and local pastors and educators.

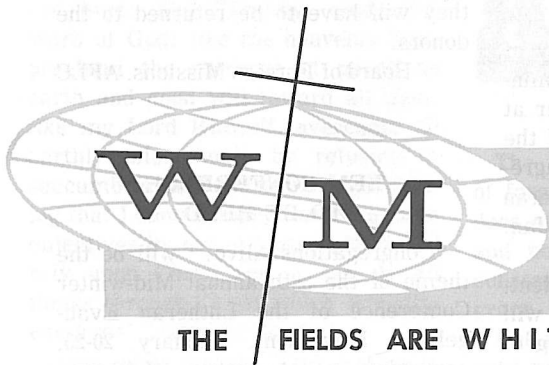
The conference will conclude with sessions for youth at the Minneapolis Armory, January 25 and 26, with an estimated attendance of 5,000. Speaking both evenings will be the Rev. Ralph Bell, associate evangelist of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Others appearing on the Youth Conference program will be Al Palmquist, director of Midwest Challenge in Minneapolis, and Rev. Bob Griffin, LEM evangelist on the East Coast.

The public is invited to all sessions.

To talk to a convert about neglecting Christian action till he gets strength is absurd. If he wants to gain strength, let him go to work.

Charles G. Finney



WORLD MISSIONS

THE FIELDS ARE WHITE UNTO HARVEST

OVER THE RIVER

by Rev. John H. Abel

"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God" ... "there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth..." Jn. 3:3 and Rev. 21:27

On the way to our furthest-out station, it is still a case of "over the river and through the woods"...to the Lord's House in Alvorada we go. This was my experience again just lately. Missionary Knapp is more familiar with this off-the-beaten-trail station than I for he normally serves them once a month, since Pastor Dyrud left on furlough. Now we had scheduled a few days of evangelism and I needed to get over there also to sign the land deed on their church land purchase, as President of the Association here. We want every congregation to hold title to their own land, but they cannot do this until they are legally organized as a religious corporation.

For several weeks we had planned this trip but with rains and high water it had been postponed. The first week of October seemed propitious. With clear skies and cool days, on Wednesday afternoon I was off. Traveling in the middle of the week usually finds one rolling along. George Knapp, Yeddo Gottely and Ruby (my wife) would be busy with the students at the Institute, plus our own school children to look after. I was traveling for the first time on a rather long run with my '67 Jeep-4 wheel drive wagon, called a "Rural" here. After two years of hard wear on my Chevy pickup, I felt it was time to look for a good trade. It was good now to have 4-wheel drive with the prospect of driving through

at least one swollen river. At the last minute, I had remembered to take a little wrench along to get the fan belt off in case the water was extra high at the river.

It was almost dark as I rolled down the long ridge toward the Mukilao River. I remember thinking "if I don't make the river in another 15 minutes it will be too dark to chance a crossing." The farmers were all making their way home from the fields carrying their big hoes or hand planters over their shoulder. I stopped at a little store near the river and asked about the water's height. An authoritative voice said, "You can make it if you cut into the river behind that big rock. Don't take the truck route, it's too deep. Head straight across just above the rapids and turn upstream only near the other bank." On the other side I found out that the reason for the straight run was a bunch of big bridge spikes still under water, which had blown more than one tire recently. The bridge had long since gone down the river in a period of torrential waters. But what a rocky, jolting ride, as the Rural, reduced into

low and 4 wheel drive, slowly climbed and bucked over the under-water rocks. It was a wide and shallow river as they go here, but in the middle, over 50 yards from shore, I began to seat a little, hoping I was on the right track, gurgling, foaming water all around me, and I thought, "Man, am I going to lose this car on the first trip out?" But by then the other bank was getting closer and the motor hadn't missed a beat. One last lunge through the mud and we were pulling up a steep road grade to the farmer's house on the far side.

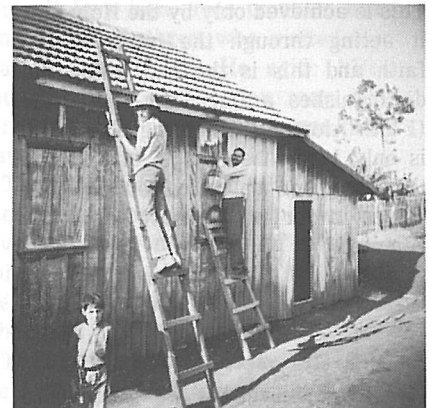
I had a short visit with a few men standing around, not saying much but probably thinking, "Wonder if this foolhearted stranger's going to make it across." I asked them about the road ahead. It had been over a year since I passed this way and now night was closing in. They encouraged me and said I had only about 12 miles of climbs and turns. "Always bear off to the right." So with this information I hurried on for there was still time to make Alvorada for their evening meeting.

All went well and by 7:45 I rolled down the last ridge into this new little town which overlooks valleys for miles around. The gas lights were already on in the church. My how nice it looked since my last visit. A new painted picket fence around the church yard and the whole structure freshly painted inside and out. The front is rather gaudy, or should we say joyful, with three colors, yellow, green and blue, but then this is their church and was all of their own plans and effort.

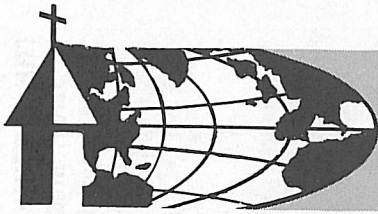
Timothy Vieira is the spiritual lead-
[Continued on page 15]



The Alvorada Free Lutheran Church, newly painted and with a new picket fence.



Big Tim and his son, left, helping paint their church.



CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

**Late last month (December 27-31) 15,000 students from across the nation gathered at the University of Illinois campus to consider the possibility of becoming missionaries. The convention, entitled Urbana 73 was sponsored by Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship.

**During the next 12 years, the American Bible Society will produce 725,000,000 Scripture portions in 200 languages, using words simple enough for new literates to understand. The reason: many of the world's new readers have little or no easy reading material and soon will fall back into illiteracy. This "Good News for New Readers" program will cost \$62.8 million.

***"If religious books are not widely circulated among the masses in this country, I do not know what is going to become of us as a nation. If the evangelical volume does not reach every hamlet, the pages of a corrupt and licentious literature will" (Daniel Webster, 1823).

**Christian youth gatherings and Sunday schools can now meet openly in Poland, despite the atheistic, anti-religious government there. And an 80-year-old evangelical leader says, "My vision is to supply my people with 1,000,000 New Testaments before I die."

**Eleven hundred people have requested Bible correspondence courses in response to 16 ads run in major secular magazines and newspapers in the Philippines.

NOTED LUTHERAN THEOLOGIAN ARTHUR C. PIEPKORN KIES

St. Louis, Mo. —The Reverend Dr. Arthur Carl Piepkorn, noted Lutheran theologian, graduate professor of systematic theology at Concordia Semin-

ary, St. Louis, Mo., and retired chaplain (Colonel) of the United States Army, died suddenly Thursday morning, December 13.

The 66-year-old scholar and ecumenist was buried Monday, December 17, after a service of holy communion was celebrated in the seminary chapel at 9:00 a.m. Burial took place at National Cemetery, Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis.

Surviving Dr. Piepkorn are his wife Miriam (nee Sodergren), to whom he was married in 1936, and their four daughters: Mary Catharine (Mrs. Edward E.) Eckart of East Lansing, Mich.; Faith Elisabeth (Mrs. Richard E.) Hoffmann of University City, Mo.; Felicity Ann (Mrs. James C.) Steere of Fort Wayne, Ind.; and Angela Dorthea Piepkorn of St. Louis.

The Reverend Dr. Piepkorn was born in 1907 at Milwaukee, Wis., to John and Bertha Piepkorn. His career as academician includes his graduation from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 1928; he pursued post-doctoral studies at several institutions after earning the Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Chicago in 1932. He studied at Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio; Washington and St. Louis Universities here; and the Ecumenical Institute at the University of Geneva, Switzerland. He also participated in expeditions at sites in Iraq and Palestine in the early 1930's.

He has served as professor at Concordia Seminary since 1951 and chaired its Department of Systematic Theology from 1962 to 1966. Named graduate professor in 1961, Dr. Piepkorn also served on the editorial staff of the seminary's theological journal, CTM, from 1953 until his death.

An expert in the era of the Reformation, Dr. Piepkorn was, at the time of his death, a member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Reformation Research in Clayton, Mo.,

having served in that position since 1969. He developed a paleography manual to aid students of the Reformation in reading the handwriting of Reformation contemporaries.

[Continued from page 14]

er of this group of believers. It was he who first wrote to me some five years ago about starting a congregation in his area. "Big Tim," as Pastor Connelly likes to call him, now has a new house. Most of his boys are married and living on farms of their own in the area, and when all these relatives and a few more families get together, they fill the little church to overflowing.

This house of God is one of the nicest and cleanest houses in town, and Pastor George and other helpers from our Bible Institute and Seminary have the habit of getting a few benches together (there are no backs on the benches) and rolling our their sleeping bags. This is just what I did after our evening service and bidding good-night to the families at the door. They left a gas lantern with me, and as I looked about at the freshly-painted walls and the shining polished hardwood floor, I thought of what a difference from the time we first drove our old Chevy truck, "Blue bird," loaded with the Gospel tent, into this town. Of how we had gone out to "Big Tim's" new farm, not much more than a clearing in the jungle, and cut poles to raise the tent. I thought of the dirt and dust and heat of those days, and of how nice it was to be in this clean little church tonight. The town of Alvorada has grown also. It has several stores, a drugstore, a few bars and next year is scheduled to get electric lights.

Thursday through Sunday were not to be days of idleness. The congrega-

tion had plenty of visiting lined up for me, besides the trip into the County Seat to sign the church deed. Sunday afternoon was their big service, together with Sunday Evening. Besides the evangelism services on Sunday afternoon, we had a wedding, profession of faith, baptisms and the Lord's Supper. Over 150 people were present for the closing evening service. How I did rejoice, to see the results of a congregation that is working for Christ. As I left them for the long ride home I thought of Neh. 4:6, "The people had a mind to work and so the wall (church) was built."

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR
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