

January 28, 1975

The Lutheran Ambassador



An Old Fence Post

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

MEDITATION MOMENTS

THE EPIPHANY LIGHT SHINES

Read Isaiah 60:1-5

The Epiphany celebration on January 6 commemorates the day the Wise Men visited Christ, and the revelation of Christ to the Jewish and Gentile worlds. The Magi came from the East to meet the Christ, to worship and adore Him, to leave their gifts at His feet. In their giving they received. In their worship they had a vision. In their quiet adoration they heard the call of God. They were Magi missionaries, bringing the Gospel to others.

We use this Epiphany season to emphasize the historic fact that the True Light has come in the Person of Jesus Christ. This season also emphasizes the mission of the Church.

When Henry W. Longfellow was very old, he was asked how he could keep so vigorous and write so beautifully. Pointing to a blooming apple tree, Longfellow replied: "The tree grows a little new wood every year, and I suppose it is out of that new wood that those blossoms come. Like the apple tree I try to grow a little new wood each year."

Sometimes the Christian may feel like a dried-up apple tree, brittle with unconfessed sin, fruitless in his witness to the world, bearing the green apples of resentment, hate, jealousy, and guilt instead of the red apples and blossoms of love, kindness, forgiveness, and purity. Do we really care if the Epiphany Light shines or not? Do we want to be Magi missionaries? Since her small and humble but

powerful beginning, the Church has been in need of the Holy Spirit to make her blossom, bear fruit, and be sweet when she has been fruitless and sour in her witness to the world. Likewise, every Christian must want to be a fruit-bearing tree for his Lord and Savior. The Epiphany Light shines when we EXPERIENCE HIS ENERGY WITHIN US. As the prophet Isaiah envisions the birth of Christ, he appeals to the Old Testament Church, to Israel, to "Arise, shine, for your light has come."

The New Testament has numerous references to Jesus as the "Light of the World." Knowing this cardinal truth, we have a Light to give to the world, a Christ to share, a Christ to uplift and glorify. This we do individually and collectively, in private and publicly, through the Church and in our daily Christian living. But so often we are more concerned with the supper room than having prayer in the "upper room." We gather more at the committee table than at the "communion rail." Isaiah calls and challenges us to "arise and shine," to examine our personal lives and to "get going with God."

Secondly, the Epiphany Light shines when we ENLIGHTEN OUR LIVES AND DISPEL DARKNESS. Isaiah writes: "Darkness as black as night shall cover all the peoples of the earth, but the glory of the Lord will shine from you." (60:2, *The Living Bible*). An old Chinese Proverb says: "Don't

curse the darkness, light a candle." In a gloomy dark world, Christians must light the candles of faith, prayer, and action. We must believe in answered prayer, that God works in and through His people. Armed with the Holy Scriptures and with the zeal of Magi missionaries, we can dispel gloom and darkness wherever we find it.

Thirdly, Christians must ENGAGE IN EVANGELISM. Someone has said: "Reach all you can, teach all you reach, win all you teach, train all you win, enlist all you train." God has a message for us to deliver: "For to you is born this day... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." What we need today is every kind of evangelism that will call men to Christ: mass evangelism, personal evangelism, dialogue evangelism, systematic evangelism, and literary evangelism.

Lastly, the Epiphany Light shines when we: EXPECT EXCITEMENT AND RESULTS. William Carey, the great missionary of the 18th century said: "Expect great things from God, and plan great things for God."

What has His birth done for us? Will there be any change in our lives because Christ has come? The Epiphany Light shines when Christians are aflame with His power and like the Magi missionaries share the Gospel News. We can all "grow a little new wood" this year.

Dale R. Battleson

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Impressions of Brazil

by Rev. John P. Strand,
President, AFLC

On November 11th, Mr. Robert Knutson, the chairman of the Foreign Mission Board, and I began a 10-day trip to visit the AFLC mission field in Brazil. The trip was requested and authorized by the annual conference and was a very fine experience. I appreciate very much that I was sent to Brazil and trust that some value will come to the AFLC mission endeavor as a result. The fellowship and comradeship with Mr. Knutson was also thoroughly enjoyed.

With this brief article I want to give some of my impressions of Brazil. Obviously, I am not an expert on Brazil after only a 10-day visit. I do, however, have some impressions to share.

We traveled quite extensively for such a short stay. We spoke in six of our eight congregations and saw the other two church buildings. The longest stay was at our school in Camp Mourao. We were happy that the school was in session when we were there. Much time was spent in fellowship with the Abels and the Dyruds.

Brazil is a big, beautiful, and rich land with tremendous scenery. It is a very fast-developing nation. The jungle is being destroyed, perhaps too rapidly, as the forests of the U.S. were. Large fields comparable to the fields of North Dakota are common. Because of the climate, two crops can be raised each year. We saw beautiful stands of soy beans, rice and corn. Often these crops were planted between the rows of coffee trees. Delicious fruits are generally in abundance. Herds of cattle were common. A farm family can make a comfortable living on 60 acres of land. The hills seemed to be cultivated as extensively as the flat lands. We wondered about erosion. The most modern farm equipment was being used. There were some farmers still plowing with oxen or horses, but these

seemed very much in the minority. It was interesting to at times see the most modern and the old-fashioned working side by side. There was a place and need for both.

Brazil has an ambitious road-building program. While main roads were paved or are in the process of being paved, most of the roads are very rough and dusty, not suitable for pleasure driving. The drivers, native and otherwise, attacked them as enemies to be crushed. No vehicle can stand up under this abuse and usage.

We were amazed by the cities we saw. They were different from the U.S. cities in some aspects, but were very modern. I have never seen as heavy traffic in any U.S. city as we saw in Sao Paulo. It is no place for timid drivers. There were very few traffic officers, and we observed no accidents. Traffic moved very swiftly.

The bus system in Brazil puts the U.S. system to shame. Their busses were excellent. On our return to Sao Paulo from our mission field, we took a sleeper bus. I have seen nothing like it in the U.S. It was most comfortable, roomy, clean, smooth, fast, and quiet. I slept very well. The bus schedules make travel by bus sensible and efficient. The cost is also reasonable.

The people in Brazil seemed happy and relaxed, and were very friendly and considerate. You ask a question needing a simple yes or no answer and in their eagerness to help, you'd get a reply taking five or ten minutes. They were alert and clean and, for the most part, well-dressed.

As in the rest of the world, there is severe inflation in Brazil. From the prices observed, things must have been ridiculously cheap before inflation. There are large grocery stores like our supermarkets. Food prices there are comparable to ours, generally. Their fruit and vegetable selec-

tion far surpasses ours. While rice and beans seemed to be their "meat and potatoes," potatoes and refrigerated meats were readily available. The food eaten in Brazil was delicious, especially their bread. In restaurants the meals were less expensive than comparable meals here at home.

Our type of houses would be ridiculous in Brazil. Such housing just is not necessary nor advisable in that climate. A good share of the homes have shutters but no screens or glass windows. They don't need them. Flies and mosquitoes are generally scarce. We had a "house meeting" in a home recently built for \$3,500.00. It was roomy, clean, and very comfortable.

Many of the houses look "shacky" to us, but evidently are all that the people need and desire. TV towers were on many of even the poorest-looking homes. We saw no areas as tragic as the ghettos in our cities, although there may be some.

It was a joy to visit our congregations. We met many fine Christians. The people were attentive and reverent. They appeared enthused about the Kingdom. Our missionaries are evidently doing a good work.

The church buildings were simple but adequate. The attendance was generally good, with lots of children. A good lay leadership is being developed. This is, of course, very essential. This calls for solid teaching in the Word and humble commitment.

We of the AFLC are not the only ones working for Christ in Brazil. We met several dynamic evangelical Christians busy proclaiming the Gospel, each in their own way. Some of them assisted Mr. Knutson and me very substantially during our trip. We thank God for the many evangelical groups working in Brazil.

We saw the new building under construction at our school. It will be a

very worthwhile addition. While there were only nine students in our school last year, there will be room for many more. We were pleased with the quality of the students. We must pray that the school will be filled by young people called out by God to prepare for Kingdom service.

Our missionaries are working hard. They live in comfortable, modern homes, according to our U.S. standards. We appreciated their warm hospitality and generous concern that our trip be of value to our church. We must uphold them faithfully with our prayers.

I am happy for our mission work in Brazil. It is a challenging work. The Brazilians need Christ, as do all people. We go to them, not to make their homes, their churches, their customs like ours, but to so preach and teach the Word of God that they know Christ and find life in Him. Our concern is not just social betterment but individual salvation through the preaching of the Gospel, the "power of God."

MR. PAUL BJORNSTAD

Paul Bjornstad died at Duluth, Minnesota, last Christmas Eve Day. He was born in Trondheim, Norway, June 26, 1886, and was privileged to live to the age of 88.

He married Emma Eklund, who preceded him in death in 1962. To this union five daughters were born: Elna Ulrikke, deceased; Alphild (Mrs. James C. Eletson), Duluth, Minnesota; Martha (Mrs. Abner Batalden), Minneapolis, Minnesota; Miss Else Bjornstad, Arlington, Virginia; and Elizabeth (Mrs. Lloyd E. Luukkonen), Big Lake, Minnesota. In addition to his daughters, he is survived by two sisters: Miss Gudrun Bjornstad and Mrs. Ulrikke Gjonnes, Brevik, Norway; eight grandchildren; nine great grandchildren and many friends.

During Mr. Bjornstad's illness from October 1 until the time of his death his Christian faith and example never wavered. His admonition to those who stood by was that they should "Seek the Lord while He may be found" because when you got to be as ill as he was then was no time to be

seeking, because one didn't have the capacity nor the strength, and if one hadn't found the Lord it was too late at that time. He had asked one of his nurse's aides if she knew the Lord and she replied, "No, but I'm learning about Him from you."

He was one of the founders of St. Stephen's Lutheran Free Church in Duluth and served as a chairman of the Board of Deacons until his death. His entire life had been a witness to his Lord and even in his death the memories of those who knew him will continue to be a witness of a spiritual giant.

Memorial services were held at St. Stephen's, December 27, at one o'clock. Rev. John P. Strand officiated, assisted by Mr. John Kjos. Music was provided by Mr. Don Rodvold, soloist; Mrs. Dorothy Kern, violinist; Mrs. Grace Novak, pianist; and Mrs. Lucille Tengquist, organist. Pallbearers were Mr. James C. Eletson, Mr. Abner Batalden, Mr. Lloyd E. Luukkonen, Mr. Stanley Johnson, Mr. Walter Novak and Mr. Walter Mattson.

Interment was in Park Hill Cemetery, Duluth. Blessed be Mr. Bjornstad's memory.

—Corr.



Mr. Paul Bjornstad, left, and Mr. John Pederson, also deceased.

(Ed. Note: See editorial "When Pillars Are Removed.")

PERSONALITIES

Address of Rev. and Mrs. J. G. Erickson (Medicine Lake Lutheran) is 2345 Jonquil Lane No., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

OUTSIDE YOUR DOOR

Outside your door Christ is standing,
waiting,
Arms outstretched to draw you
to His heart.

Why do you keep the door closed?

Do you wonder about the meaning
of life;

Life in all its beauty and ugliness,
Joys and sorrows, successes and
failures?

Where do you fit in? Do you long
For someone to come and show
you the

Path and walk it with you always;
To never again be alone, afraid?

Christ is waiting,

Waiting to share your life,
Waiting to show you the path
And walk it with you.

Whether it be smooth or stony
He will be there, gently uplifting you
When you stumble, searching for you
If you should stray,

Rejoicing with you in your joys,
Strengthening you in your griefs;
Always with you,
Leading, teaching, drawing you
ever upward.

There is no problem He does not
understand

For He came from Heaven to dwell
on earth

Because of you.

He took your sins upon Himself.
He died for you.

Because He was wounded, your
wounds can be healed.

Because He gave His life, you can
know life.

Outside your door Christ is standing,
waiting,

Arms outstretched to draw you to
his heart.

Why do you keep the door closed?

—Marlene Moline



Women For Christ

BE URGENT—IN SEASON, OUT OF SEASON

Mrs. B. Foss, Ray, N. Dak.

"Ring the bells, ring the bells, let the whole world know Christ was born in Bethlehem, many years ago."

The joyous message of Advent and Christmas has faded into the past. Even by Christmas Day the bells were ringing a little softer. Now as the new year has begun we settle back into our old routine and our thoughts turn back to Christmas as a pleasant month-old memory.

In the 4th chapter of II Timothy there is a verse with several very strong words in it. I believe that just as Paul wrote these words to Timothy many years ago, so God is speaking to each true Christian today.

Chapter 4, verse 2, reads like this—"preach the Word, be urgent in season and out of season, convince, rebuke, and exhort, be unfailing in patience and in teaching."

What does it mean then when it says to be URGENT in telling others about Jesus? It means that it is important, pressing, demanding immediate action: there is no time to lose, Jesus is coming again! soon! Tell the good news—at Christmas, at Easter and all the days in between, in season and out of season.

We are not to tell it once and let it go at that; we are to convince, to persuade by proof. The proof is in God's Word, the power to persuade is in the resurrection power of Jesus Christ which God offers freely to all.

The next word then is rebuke, to express disapproval. How long has it been since we have spoken out against the evil that is settling down over us

like a cloud of smog? It is so much easier just to turn away even if we see others doing things that will mean the loss of salvation if they continue in them. It is our duty to express disapproval and to offer instead God's plan of salvation for all mankind.

To exhort is more than just telling; it is to urge strongly, to warn earnestly, to have a great concern for un-saved souls.

Then in our convincing, rebuking and exhorting, we are to be unfailing in our patience and teaching.

This is too much to expect from a human being, you say? Yes, it is, if we try to do it in our own strength. God has promised us the victory if we serve Him with courage and obedience.

If we search His Word we find the answer and the promise." (My Word) shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose" (Isaiah 55:11). "And let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up" (Eph. 6:9, The Living Bible).

WMF WORKSHOP REMINDER

Feb. 7, 1975, at 4:30 p.m.

At a church one block from Zion Lutheran, Dalton, Minnesota.

All ladies welcome.

Cost of meal: \$3.00.

Please notify President,

Mrs. Robert Dietzche

of the approximate number from your group who will attend.

DR. JAMES GERDEEN WINS SCIENCE AWARD

HOUGHTON—Dr. James C. Gerdeen, professor of engineering mechanics, is the winner of the 1974 Faculty Research Award of Michigan Technological University.

The award was presented by Thomas P. Evans, MTU director of research, at the University's Midyear Commencement Saturday.

"The existence of this award," Evans said, "symbolizes the faculty's considerable activity in research activity which has grown notably in the last few years and which will continue to grow.

"Dr. Gerdeen's selection for this honor is based on the judgment of his colleagues at Michigan Tech who also are engaged in research in many different fields. Dr. Gerdeen is well known for his personal dedication in his field and for the value of the research in which he is engaged. He has earned a high degree of respect and reputation in his profession."

Dr. Gerdeen, a native of Escanaba, received his Bachelor of Science degree from Michigan Tech in 1959, a Master of Science degree in Engineering Mechanics from Ohio State University in 1962, and his Ph.D. degree from Stanford University in 1965.

From 1959 to 1968 he was with the Battelle Memorial Institute's Columbus Laboratories. For four years as a research engineer in the Applied Mechanics Division he worked on a variety of research projects including both experimental and theoretical techniques. From 1965 to 1968 he was a senior research engineer in the Advanced Solid Mechanics Division, working in research on elastic, plastic analysis of shells, high-pressure containers, and metal working problems.

He joined the faculty of Michigan Tech in 1968. A professor of engineering mechanics, he teaches graduate courses in plasticity, dynamics, and plate and shell theory.

Dr. Gerdeen is listed in "American Men of Science" and he is a registered professional engineer in the State of Michigan. He is a member of Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, the American Academy of Mechanics, The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and the Society of Ex-

perimental Stress Analysis. He is a member of the subcommittees on shells and on elevated temperature design of the Pressure Vessel Research Committee of the Welding Research Council, and he is a member of the Design and Analysis Committee of the Pressure Vessel and Piping Division of A.S.M.E. He is the author or co-author of 15 papers which have been published in professional journals as well as 40 research reports.

Dr. Gerdeen's current emphases in research are in the areas of plate and shell theory, in elastic material behavior, rock mechanics, and computer analysis.

He is the principal investigator in a two-year research project funded by the U.S. Bureau of Mines to analyze resin and mechanical roof bolting systems in mines. He is co-principal investigator in a National Science Foundation-funded study of engineering education in materials processing.

—*Escanaba Daily Press*
Escanaba, Mich.

(Ed. Note: Dr. Gerdeen is an active layman in the AFLC and is temporarily serving his home congregation, Maranatha Lutheran Church, Houghton, as a lay pastor. He has attended the two seminary short courses which have been offered at Free Lutheran Seminary. He is referred to in Pastor Mundfrom's article on his trip to Michigan found elsewhere in this issue.)

MISS GERDA MORTENSEN

Miss Gerda Mortensen, 79, dean of women at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, Minn., for over 40 years, passed away Dec. 4 at a Minneapolis hospital. Funeral services were held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 21st Avenue and 5th Street South, on Dec. 6. Rev. Sheldon Torgerson officiated and gave the meditation. Dr. Oscar Anderson, president of Augsburg College, presented a tribute.

The pallbearers were Gilbert Berg, Dr. Bernhard Christensen, Bruce Gildseth, Johan Hambro, Robert Karlen, Gordon Mork, George Nelson, John Norton, Dr. Martin Quanbeck, Martin Sabo, Paul Sonnack, George Sverdrup, Roy Thorshov and Joel Torstenson.

Gerda Mortensen was born at Mankato, Minn., the daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Jacob Mortensen. She attended Mankato State College and received her bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, in 1923. A master's degree was bestowed upon her by Columbia University, New York City, in 1928. She came to Augsburg in 1923 and retired in 1964. In the '30's she taught at an American school in China for one year. Her only surviving brother, Rev. Ralph, was a missionary and American Bible Society representative in the Far East for many years and now lives in Southington, Conn.

Since her retirement, Miss Mortensen had busied herself with planning for the 100th anniversary of Augsburg in 1969 and with Norwegian-American activities. She was executive secretary for the Norsemen's Federation in Minneapolis. She was on the Board planning for the Sesqui-centennial celebration of Norwegian immigration to the U.S. which will take place this year. She received the St. Olaf medal in 1971.



Miss Gerda Mortensen

A 15-story highrise at Augsburg is named after her.

In addition to her brother, she is survived by five nieces and one nephew.

(Ed. Note: Gerda Mortensen was associated with Augsburg for almost half of its history. She left behind a remarkable record of service to others.)

AFLC PASTORS SERVE ON INTERDENOMINATIONAL COMMITTEES

Two AFLC pastors are presently serving terms on the executive committees of statewide interdenominational groups. Pastor Robert Lee, Valley City, N.Dak., is the secretary of the North Dakota Association of Evangelicals; and Pastor Eugene Enderlein, Minnewauken, N. Dak., is the first vice-president of the North Dakota Evangelical Sunday School Association. Both organizations are affiliates of the National Association of Evangelicals.

ASPELUND CHURCH REMODELED

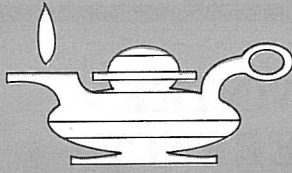
Aspelund Congregation, located near Langdon and Walhalla, North Dakota, recently remodeled the front of their church. They lowered the ceiling and paneled the altar area, enclosing the beautiful picture of Christ knocking at the door. They also remodeled the entrance of the church, making room for coats to be hung. The congregation is being served by Rev. Dennis Gray, who also serves Bethel Congregation in Grafton.

LEBANON CONGREGATION HOLDING SERVICES IN LEEDS

Lebanon Lutheran Church, Leeds, N. Dak., is presently holding its Sunday worship services in the Legion Hall in town, rather than at the rural church. The services are conducted at 11:15 on the second and fourth Sundays of each month by the church's pastor, Eugene Enderlein.

The Minnewaukan Parish Newsletter also states that services are not being held at Tunbridge Church at present due to snow problems and the members are invited to worship at the Leeds service.





SCHOOL NEWS

Introducing our Seminararians

THE LORD HAD OTHER PLANS

When did all this begin? I remember it well, as my life began to change, and the Lord was definitely trying to direct its course. I went to my pastor for some answers, explaining that it seemed like I was supposed to study for the ministry. We talked, and though I was still uncertain, I will never forget that he directed me to Deut. 31:6-8, the words spoken to Joshua in what was certainly a much more difficult situation: "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you. . . . And the Lord is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

My life had been my own, and it had been a good life. Raised on a farm near Greenbush in northwestern Minnesota, part of a wonderful family, having loving parents, the church had been a central feature of our lives and I intended to keep it so. After high school I attended Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., and prepared to teach. All went well and I taught for three years, but it seemed that the Lord had other plans. For about a year I had been dissatisfied with the work and earnestly asked the Lord for help. Then at age 26 I was drafted. That didn't seem like much help at the time, but it got me moving on the Lord's side. Now it was no longer a simple life, with the church as a part of it. Now the Lord demanded my life, everything. Only when I yielded that was there peace, as Jesus became Savior and Lord.

He let me spend two years in the army before actually entering sem-

inary, but I'm thankful for it. Then He gave me the most wonderful wife, and I thank Him for her. It was like everything that was supposed to happen suddenly began to happen. Now, at last, I was in the Lord's will. I still wonder why it was this particular call to Christian work, and He may wonder, too, sometimes, but I surely want to praise the Lord for it.

Donna and I have lived in Osseo during the school years. We have had the privilege of working with great people in the Tioga (N. Dak.) parish and now in the Cumberland-Clayton (Wis.) parish. It has been a privilege also to work with the other students and the fine faculty at the schools. We look forward to a future with our Lord.

It is true. "He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear, or be dismayed."

Wes Langaas



The study hall at AFLBS

CONQUERORS IN LEAGUE SCHEDULE NOW

The basketball team at AFLBS is called the Conquerors. It plays in a YMCA church league on Monday nights and is coached by Dave Russum. (He is not a playing coach as

previously reported.) Two league games have been played to date of writing. One was a 62-55 loss to Cross of Glory Lutheran and the other was a 62-50 loss to Salem Lutheran. Non-league games were played at Concordia Jr. College, St. Paul (Jr. Varsity) on Jan. 17 and at St. Paul Bible College, St. Bonifacius, Minn., on Jan. 25.

Coach Dave Russum lists the following as members of the squad, twelve of whom dress for a game. Seniors—Steve Johnson, Upsala, Minn., Otto Rodne, Manfred, N. Dak., Don Olson, Bothell, Wash., John Presteng, Grafton, N. Dak., and Bob Nelson, McVile, N. Dak. Juniors—Dave Johnson, Upsala, Minn., Arne Berge, Binford, N. Dak., Reuben Quanbeck, McVile, Lou Valdez, San Antonio, Tex., Paul Haagenson, Minnewaukan, N. Dak., Dick Moberg, Fairdale, N. Dak., Keith Nash, Colfax, N. Dak., Larry Olson, Tioga, N. Dak., Dave Rudebusch, Ortle, S. Dak., and Mike Rudebusch, Ortle.



Lunch in the rec room after a Mission Club outing.

Other News Items

Second Quarter student body officers are: Bob Nelson, McVile, N. Dak., president; Allen Herset, Kalispell, Mont., vice-president; Diane Grothe, Thief River Falls, Minn., secretary; Marty Horn, Kalispell, Mont., treasurer; and Tony Stockman, Tioga, N. Dak., chaplain.

Some AFLBS students, notably those taking the course in Courtship and Marriage, attended the Family Life Seminar at First Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Jan. 17-18. Guest speakers were pastor-author Tim LaHaye and psychologist-author Henry Brandt.

Due to the Jan. 10-11 blizzard, nearly all Bible School students stayed at

the dorms that weekend. The Saturday night youth rally had to be cancelled but the students put on their own social-devotional in the recreation room. Lunch was served, too.

Present plans are that the Choral Club will be on tour for a week preceding Easter and the Choir for two weeks beginning Easter Sunday evening. The Choir will go to the West Coast this year. The Easter recess will end for the non-choir members on April 7.

The First Quarter proctors and deans were treated to a supper at Country Kitchen by the Board of Trustees on Dec. 5. The proctors were Dave Youngberg, Fergus Falls, Minn., Harold Nelson, Brooten, Minn., Don Olson, Bothell Wash., Dean Bernard, Erskine, Minn., Jennifer Broden, Fertile, Minn., Verna Whitaker, Minneapolis, Ruth Solheim, Everett, Wash., Becky Haugen, Strandquist, Minn., Pattie Erickson, Roseau, Minn., and Vonnie Kylo, Zumbrota, Minn.

The Second Quarter proctors are Dave Simonson, Faribault, Minn., Allen Herset, Kalispell, Mont., Bob Ordway, Centuria, Wis., Marty Horn, Kalispell, Mont., Kathy Ostrand, Ranier, Wash., Diane Grothe, Thief River Falls, Minn., Janet Wall, Comfrey, Minn., Paula Benson, Colfax, Wis., Marily Eversvik, McVile, N. Dak., and Cindy Dragseth, Madison, S. Dak.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Mar. 3—Spring Quarter begins. Register now.

Mar. 2-6—Spiritual Emphasis Week



Wallace, S. Dak.

Calvary Lutheran Church

Larry V. Severson, pastor

Mar. 9-13

Rev. Robert L. Lee, Valley City,
N. Dak., speaker

THE AFLC WINTER BIBLE CONFERENCE

February 6-9, 1975

Zion Lutheran Church, Dalton, Minnesota
Wendell E. Johnson, Pastor

* * * * *

Pastor J. G. Erickson, speaker for the evening services
Pastor Philip Haugen, Bible teacher

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

8:00 p.m. Opening Service

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

9:15 a.m. Devotions

9:30—10:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30—11:00 a.m. Coffee Break

11:00—12:00 noon "Bible Camp Work" by Pastor Dennis Gray

2:00—3:00 p.m. Bible Study

3:00—3:30 p.m. Coffee Break

3:30—4:30 p.m. "Family Devotional Life" by Pastor Alvin Grothe

8:00 p.m. Evening Service

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

9:15 a.m. Devotions

9:30—10:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30—11:00 a.m. Coffee Break

11:00—12:00 noon Message, Pastor John Strand

2:00—3:00 p.m. Bible Study

3:00—3:30 p.m. Coffee Break

3:30—4:30 p.m. "Bible Versions" by Pastor Harold Hosch

8:00 p.m. Evening Service

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class

11:00 a.m. Divine Worship. Message by Pastor Ernest Langness

2:00 p.m. Program by students from AFLBS

editorials

WHEN PILLARS ARE REMOVED

The Apostle Paul used the word "pillar" in referring to the position of Peter, James and John in the congregation at Jerusalem. Whether he was the first to use that word in reference to leaders in the church, we do not know, but it is a word we use today also to signify someone who is recognized as representing more than ordinary strength in a congregation.

Sometimes the word may be used of someone who is a large contributor to his church, perhaps the largest. At other times it may refer to one who has definite leadership qualities. Yet again, it may be said of someone who sets a record of faithfulness beyond the usual, or of a consecrated prayer warrior. There are times when all four of these factors are found in one man or one woman.

Pillars in the church. In the local congregation, and perhaps in the fellowship of congregations which make up the church body. Thank God for these people who set an example for others to follow. It hurts when they are removed, when the Lord calls them to Himself. We do not begrudge their translation to the heavenly presence of God, no, rather, we rejoice for them. But we miss them. We long to see them again, to hear their counsel, to know of their prayers. Thank God, other pillars are raised up. The church is rarely left without them, but it is human to be lonely when remembering those who have left us.

The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations has lost two of her stalwart men in a short time, Amos Hinderaker and Paul Bjornstad. The one was young enough when the Association began to find a place of service on an important board of the church. The other was already then beyond the age when men reasonably accept such duty, but occupied a place of deep respect in the church and his words were listened to carefully. Both men were pillars in their own congregations first, and then in the fellowship at large. They attended all church-wide events they could. They were there.

In writing of these men, we are reminded that there have been many other pillars in the church also, now departed. Some of them became well known in the Association, others were not much known beyond the borders of their parishes. The passing of some of them was noted in the *Ambassador*, that of others was not. But God knows of them all and the others close to them recognized them for what they were.

As we write we recall some of those who covenanted with us in the work in days gone by and are now experiencing their eternal reward. How dear are the memories. They may not have been saluted by us at the time of their departure (in some cases we did not learn of it until much later), but we recall them with fondness, with gratefulness. It may be only their faithfulness, their interest, that we knew of, yet they were salt in the earth, they were pillars in the church. And for those entirely unknown to us, but whom God knew, and you may have known, we also are grateful to God.

Pillars in the church of Jesus Christ. Some of them have been removed now. There are others of whom the word "pillar" can be used. We thank God for them.

A SAD COMMENTARY

Often it is necessary in one's work to shift gears or change direction suddenly. President Ford is said to have changed his economic thinking by 179 or 180 degrees concerning the war against recession when he came out in favor of a tax cut instead of an increased income tax.

We have been speaking of pillars in the church, but now we are to say something about the contract recently signed by Jim "Catfish" Hunter with the New York Yankees baseball team. We are sure that not a few religious publications will have something to say about this event because it touches upon the moral climate of our country.

We write as a lifelong sports fan and as a Yankee fan for almost as long. One of our greatest thrills was to be in Yankee Stadium (before the rebuilding began) a few years ago. But it is a sad commentary on American life when a man who entertains can command remuneration of three and three-quarter million dollars in five years. A little quick arithmetic tells this writer that he has no reasonable expectation of making as much money in a 40-year working lifetime as Catfish Hunter will make in one year under that contract. That isn't revealed as any personal sour grapes. We have had what has been needed. The Lord provides.

Millions of other people are in the same situation, living in what may be called the lower middle-class and lower class financially. Many teachers and pastors do not rise much above this level, and many do not get above it. The same is true for numerous vocations. But our entertainers are drawing increasingly huger salaries in comparison to the average man or woman.

Here it can be asked, isn't there something wrong with our values system? Shouldn't some of what we spend for entertainment be given to the poor and toward meeting crushing human tragedies and problems?

We can be sure that there will be increasing demands for the fabulous salaries by athletes in all professional sports. Players are seeking greater freedom in negotiat-

ing, striking at the reserve clause in baseball, for instance, which binds a player to one club for life. If that clause is stricken, a bidding war will develop which should destroy the game as we have known it, as the rich clubs get rich and the poor get poorer. Our colleges and universities, citadels of learning, do not set a much better example concerning athletic values. The better high school athletes are sought by scores of colleges and universities desiring to "help them get an education." Worthy young people with countless other interests and abilities have no real chance to get such assistance toward an education. Nearly everyone deplores this situation, but few know what to do about it or have the courage to do anything.

Perhaps it will take a recession more severe than we have yet to turn the tide. If people have to stay away from the parks, then owners, and players, would realize that a readjustment is needed. That time hasn't come yet, however, when thousands of people could go to New Orleans and live it up for a Super Bowl weekend, some of them leaving a trail of drunken debris on Canal Street and in the French Quarter. And in Pittsburgh the joy of the fans overflowed in riotous behavior and debauchery.

As we said, we've had a lifelong interest in sports, but some things that are happening in that world today are a sad commentary on our national life and system of values.

OUR PRAYER

May a dying Saviour's love inspire you—II Corinthians 5:14

May a risen Saviour's power preserve you—Philippians 3:10

May an ascended Saviour's blessing enrich you—Ephesians 4:8

May a constant Saviour's ministry aid you—Hebrews 7:24-25

May a living Saviour's word sanctify you—Ephesians 5:25-26

May a seated Saviour's acceptance rest you—Hebrews 10:10-14

May a faithful Saviour's grace empower you—II Corinthians 12:9

May a present Saviour's presence cheer you—Isaiah 41:10

May a holy Saviour's indwelling mould you—Galatians 2:20

May a joyful Saviour's joy strengthen you—John 15:11

May a powerful Saviour's Spirit use you—Acts 1:8

May a loving Saviour's yoke couple you—Matthew 11:29

May a perfect Saviour's example allure you—John 13:15

May a coming Saviour's return attract you—Revelation 22:12

May Christ himself be all to you—Colossians 3:11

—Fundamental Evangelistic Association

Recall your own Christian experience. Renew your promises to God. Resolve to do your best in His service.

Enter into worship regularly. Exert every effort to win someone to Christ. Enlist him in God's service.

Visualize people's need for Christ. Vow that you will do something about it. Voice your desire daily in prayer.

Invite people to church. Impress upon them the importance of Christ and His Church. Intensify your own efforts.

View the fields "white unto harvest." Volunteer your services when needed. Visit in homes as much as possible.

Aspire to all that is good and holy. Attend all activities when possible. Allow yourself to be used by the Lord.

Love people freely for they need love. Let the Holy Spirit guide you. Look on the world, needy and sinful.

With every prayer that you will help to accomplish this REVIVAL in 1975.

—Minnewaukan, N. Dak. Parish Newsletter

What We Are Learning from a Crisis Experience

by Mrs. Neil Mayer,
Lake Stevens, Wash.

I would like to share a real delight that we are able to see in the life of Leslie. She is six now, and we can see such spiritual maturity, which is in itself a miracle. Since Grandpa died she has often talked of heaven and when we would be able to go there. Throughout the summer she was not physically strong and much of the time was not able to be near groups of people. Nonetheless, we had been planning to attend family Bible camp and somehow had the assurance that if she had a remission for a week only, it would be during that camp week. And we did go! Even more so as I look back, I feel that the Lord had a plan more for Leslie in that camp experience than any of us. We received rich blessings and the memory of camp is the highlight of the year. There could be no more wonderful way to spend precious time with your family than being with the family of God, sharing as well as learning about our God and Father. The following week we found that Leslie was again in relapse, and it was questionable that she had even been in a remission. It was clearly God's miracle that allowed this special time apart with Himself and His own.

Shortly after this Leslie began to really question me about who in the family knew Jesus and who did not. She was concerned as to what would happen to those who didn't if they would die or if Jesus would come. Since we travel a long distance to and from the hospital several times a week, this discussion went on and on. I was amazed at her earnest concern and hunger for the salvation of souls. She recounted how all of her little friends already knew Jesus and expressed the desire to tell someone of Christ. Her thoughts reminded me of how we often get into the pattern of surrounding ourselves with Chris-

tian friends and often lose contact with the unsaved and even lose zeal for seeing them come to Christ.

If time can possibly be sweeter when shorter, that is what it is for us. They have used up all the medicine available and are now going back through drugs that have been used unsuccessfully in the past. Each day is very precious and the lessons are many. Those of you who were at the Annual Conference in Ferndale in 1973 may remember my sharing how we were so hating the thought of Leslie losing her hair. This occurs through either chemotherapy or radiation. She had had every chemotherapy treatment available and hadn't lost her hair from it. God seemed to be keeping it for us, as foolish as it seemed. Just a week ago she lost her hair when she had to have radiation. We can't believe how good God is to give us peace. Leslie has the same peace to the point that she won't even wear either of her two wigs. I've made her little hats that she wears instead. Neil relates so personally to this since he has always been concerned about going bald. We are taught by this precious private instructor the Lord has sent in the person of our child. Each one has his special lessons for us as parents. What an encouragement this is to create a spiritual wave length with each individual child on which we can have "give and take."

I discussed one day the severity of Leslie's illness with our eleven-year-old and was amazed at the work of the Spirit in her heart for a parting time. I had been hesitant to bring this up, not knowing how she would react and again was the recipient of strength and not the giver.

The strength of the Lord is apparent to all around us. Many ask where we find the strength to go through this trial. We can only echo Paul, We "can

do all things in Christ who strengthens" us (Phil. 4:13).

We thank you for your prayers and thank God for the blessing of life: the beauty of realizing that because of Christ there is no death, and we are given victory through the Spirit for every situation. We are more than conquerors through Him who loves us so.

PRUNING

Thank you, dear Lord, for people You
Have chosen here to love me through.

Thank you for reaching out to touch
The parts of me that hurt so much.

For bringing me down upon my knees
With hurt that reaches out to these—

These special ones sent to attend,
Who with my sorrow, in prayer bend;
And bending, Lord Jesus, oh, this
would I be,
That I should be humbled and filled
more with You.

What beautiful joy and peace fill
my heart
When I think of this love of which I
have a part.

That to me in whatever place I may
be,
You even my tiniest, smallest need
see.

How with every temptation there's a
way of escape,
That there shall never be too much
to take.

Lord, I thank You for pruning this
branch of the Vine,
That the fruit I bear would be wholly
Yours.

Not struggling myself the fruit to
produce,
But yeilding completely to Your
choice of use.

Not rushing ahead to be falling behind,
But receiving all life from You the
True Vine.

O Lord, what a lesson, if I can but
learn,
So let Your sweet presence within me
burn.

May the oil of the Spirit give out such
a glow
That even the stranger who passes
would know.

(Continued on page 14)

My Trip to Michigan

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

Part II

I did not have to wait long. James Gerdeen was driving a small four-wheel-drive bus.

"Would you like a sandwich before going to the church (Maranatha, Houghton, Mich.)?" he asked.

"Yes, if there is time," I answered.

"There will be time enough for that," he said. "There is a short cut to where I live. Follow me."

I did not want to get lost as had been the case in Cloquet the night before. Not thinking of ice and snow patches on this side road, I tried to stay close behind James. All of a sudden, I hit a patch of ice. My car began to swerve, and I slid into the ditch. I blew the horn good and loud, hoping to stop James. He heard me and backed up. With a little shoveling and the four-wheel-drive bus, James was able to pull me out. However, in pulling me out the muffler again became detached from the car and was dragging underneath.

We decided to park my station wagon, putting just a part of the Christian book fair in the bus. We would come back after the evening service and see what could be done to repair my station wagon.

It was getting late now, so we went right to the church. The sandwich would have to wait.

The church building was quite new, overlooking beautiful Lake Portage. This building was formerly used as a floral display. The business went broke and this congregation was able to buy it at a very reasonable price. With a few readjustments inside it was easily converted into a beautiful church.

By the time I got my clothes changed and the limited book fair set up, it was time to start the evening service.

It was not a large group that I faced that night, but those present were a very warm, friendly, receptive audience. They made me feel most welcome and they were glad that I had come. I found it easy to preach. God's Spirit was present and, as a group,

we were blessed. After the meeting, the people expressed their appreciation for the Word of God I had shared with them. They showed interest in the Christian book fair and did freely browse and buy.

After everyone had left, James took me to his home and his wife prepared me the sandwich. I was quite hungry by now, having eaten very little since breakfast time, which seemed ages ago, way back in Cloquet, Minnesota.

James and I went out into the night once more to see what could be done about my car. We managed to wire up the dragging muffler. James proved himself quite capable as a mechanic. The muffler now was still disconnected, but I was able to drive it to James' house. Again the car sounded like a hot rod, and I was reminded of the car trouble I had had the day before. James assured me that he could fix the damage, and that it would not be necessary to take it to a garage.

I slept well that night, thankful for how God had helped through all the problems and anxieties of the trip thus far. Again all was well that ended well.

The next morning, Mon., Nov. 18, I slept late. God had given another beautiful, sunny day. James had gotten up long before, and surprised me by having my car all fixed by the time I got up. I ate a hearty breakfast.

"I should go to the University for a little while this forenoon," said James. "We are giving exams this week and do not have classes. I will be back about 11:30 and would like to take you to the Union Building on the campus for lunch."

"That should be interesting," I said. "I will go and pick up the book fair at the church and be back here in time to go with you."

Having done this, we both later left for the University. I followed James in my car. It was a good feeling to realize that the muffler was in place again. We arrived at the Union Cafeteria before the noon rush. We ate a light lunch, after which James showed

me his office which was on the ninth floor of one of the tallest buildings on the campus. From this floor we were able to see over the entire campus and the city of Houghton. I was able to see the road I was to take out of town as I continued my travels. James also drew me a map, showing how I could get on the road to Ontonagon where I was to speak that evening.

My spirits were high as I started on my way once more. How thankful I was for Christian friends and for their love and help in time of need.

It was only about 50 miles from Houghton to Ontonagan. On the way I stopped at one of the little towns and wrote and mailed a letter to Margaret, my wife. I had much to share with her. So much had happened since I left home only two days earlier.

I arrived in Ontonagan in late afternoon. The AFLC church there is served by Al Jarvinen, a layman from Bessemer. He goes there on Sundays to conduct the worship service and bring a message. In talking to some of the people later on, they were very thankful for the ministry that Mr. Jarvinen is able to bring them.

My instruction upon arriving at Ontonagan was to contact Mr. Norman Lindrus, who works at the Chevrolet garage. I had no trouble finding Norman. He welcomed me and asked about the Christian book fair which I had brought with me. He led the way in his car to the church.

The church is an old building, perhaps one of the oldest buildings in town. But it has lots of room. There was a rather large fellowship room off to one side of the main sanctuary, which was called the chapel. This was an ideal place to set up the Christian book fair.

Norman unlocked the church for me and invited me to make use of as many of the tables in the room as I needed.

In talking with Norman a bit more, I discovered that no plans had been made for any kind of meeting that evening. A women's meeting was scheduled to be held in one of the homes. The understanding had been that anyone interested could come to the church, browse and buy any time during the evening.

Norman left me to set up the book

fair. I felt defeated in my efforts as I thought about what Norman had just said. I had my heart set on preaching and had come a long way for that purpose.

Would anyone come just to buy books?

I wondered, too, about a place to stay that night. I noticed a couch in the room. If no one invited me, I could stretch out on that for the night.

Slowly I began to carry in the books and other items I had with me, wondering if my efforts might not be in vain, if no one came.

Soon another man, whose name I forget, dropped in. After introducing ourselves, I told him my plight and how I greatly desired to preach a message.

"Do you suppose it might still be possible for me to bring a message," I asked. "I have preached to small groups before. Even if only a few come, I would be grateful."

"Yes, it might be arranged," he said. "I will talk to a few others and see what can be done."

After he left I continued in my efforts to set up the book fair. I did it with greater faith and enthusiasm now. There were hopes that I could bring a Christian witness for my Lord by preaching a sermon. I also set up a few chairs in case I did have an opportunity to preach.

It was about 5 o'clock when I finished. I saw no restaurant near by. On the corner about a block away was a grocery store. Here I bought some sweet rolls and chocolate milk. In the church was a small kitchen just off from the fellowship room in which I seated myself at a table to eat my supper. Just as I sat down and started to eat, in walked another man.

"It looks like I got here too late," he said. "I wanted to invite you over to our house for supper. My wife is expecting you."

"Oh," I said immediately, glad that I did not have to eat alone, "I can eat this tomorrow." I put the rolls and milk back in a paper sack.

"My name is Austin Miller," said the man. "We live about one block down the street. If you need a bed for the night, you are most welcome to stay at our house.

"Thank you," I said. "I do appre-

ciate your offer." Again God was taking care. He never forgot.

After turning off the lights in the church, I walked to the Miller home. Here I met Austin's wife and two children. They all made me feel welcome. How very happy I was to be there.

After supper I went back to the church. Eight people came and started to browse and buy books. Norman was there and assured me that it would be all right to have a program and for me to bring a message from God's Word. He asked that I be through by 8 o'clock so the ladies could go to their meeting.

I told a little about the work of the Bible Book Mission, recommended certain books, and preached a message. I felt somewhat under pressure in trying to get everything said by 8 o'clock and I did not quite make it. No one complained and everyone listened most attentively. After I finished speaking, they remembered me with an offering and continued to browse and buy. One by one they left until only Austin and I remained. I was amazed at how much only a few did buy. God was so good. I no longer felt defeated. I now felt my stop at Ontonagan to have been very worth while.

Austin helped me to pack my merchandise together and load it back into the station wagon. We went back to his home and enjoyed an evening of fellowship. Both Austin and his wife were interested in spiritual things. It was 1:00 a.m. before we called it a day and went to bed. It was a most blessed evening we had as we shared and talked about the things of God.

The next morning, Tues., Nov. 19th, Mrs. Miller served delicious hot waffles for breakfast. Then I was soon on my way again. That evening I was to speak at Ishpeming. Again God gave me a warm, sunny day for travel.

Rev. Ernest Langness is pastor in Ishpeming. I was looking forward to being with him and his wife. They were old friends. Before going to Ishpeming, he served in McVile, North Dakota, and was in the same district I was. I preached from his pulpit one summer while he was on vacation. It was Pastor Langness who had done so much in making this trip possible for me.

It was about the middle of the afternoon when I arrived at the parsonage. The weather was somewhat uncertain by now. It was snowing and the sky was overcast.

I was given a warm welcome by Pastor and Mrs. Langness. Ernest invited me to go with him in making a couple of calls. The calls were out of town. On the way he showed me Suicide ski jump and an open-pit iron mine.

Our first stop was at an old people's home in the neighboring town of Ne-gaunee. There I had the privilege of meeting Mr. and Mrs. Orval Sutton, who operate that home. I was impressed with the type of care they gave and the spiritual concern they had for those who stayed there. We promised to remember one another in prayer.

Next we stopped at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Denho Loven. Mr. Loven has an incurable disease and is confined to his bed. He could not talk but listened and in his own way responded to what we said. I was invited to pray. Denho wept as I prayed and spoke of the goodness of Jesus. He managed to utter a very clear "thank you," which his wife said was the clearest he had spoken for some time. Their son was also present and he and his mother expressed their appreciation for our coming.

We went back to the parsonage, where Mrs. Langness had prepared a tasty evening meal.

Then we went to the church and Ernest helped me set up the Christian book fair. The church is a new church with a nice blacktopped parking lot. Just last summer they had added a new wing. A day or two before my coming someone had broken into the church and split the door casing. About five dollars had been stolen out of the pastor's study. An appreciative group came out for the evening meeting. It was a joy to speak to those people. After the service they told me how much they appreciated the message. One lady expressed appreciation for my articles "Falling in Love," which had appeared in **The Lutheran Ambassador**. She asked for a mimeograph copy which she hoped to give to someone.

The Christian book fair was appreciated and the sales were good. I was

made to feel so very welcome and wanted.

I slept well at the parsonage that night. Some fresh snow fell during the night and it was still snowing in the morning, Wed., Nov. 20, but the temperature was mild.

Rev. Langness was leaving for a board meeting in Minneapolis after breakfast. We both went to the church where he unlocked the door for me so I could load my book fair and he went on his way.

After loading the books, I decided to use my credit phone card and call Margaret. I had not heard from her since I left home. It was good to hear her voice. All was well at home.

(To be continued)

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

THE CHRISTMAS ISSUE

May I express my appreciation of the beautiful Christmas issue of the **Ambassador**? I have read it from cover to cover and expect to re-read it more than once.

All of the articles are just excellent. There is inspiration and blessing in each one. I wonder how many mothers read "Musings of a Mother at Christmas" with tears in their eyes as they substituted the names of their own dear ones.

Thank you again for the **Ambassador**. May it continue to be a blessing to all its readers.

Mrs. Rudolph S. Hegge
Cloquet, Minn.

(Continued from page 16)

in Scotland in 1948. In that period he also attended Luther and Princeton seminaries.

LUTHERAN YOUTH TO MEET IN NEW ORLEANS

New York—(LC)—The nation's three largest Lutheran denominations have begun planning for a mass youth

gathering, scheduled for New Orleans in August of 1976.

Mr. Raymond G. Johnson, a staff member of the American Lutheran Church Division for Life and Mission in the Congregation, has been named executive director of the event.

The Rev. Robert Matthias of the Lutheran Church in America, Mr. Gerry Glaser of the American Lutheran Church and Dr. Ben Eggers of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are advisers to Mr. Johnson. The three advisers are involved in youth work for the sponsoring denominations.

Units within the church bodies sponsoring the assembly include the LCA's Division for Parish Services, the Board of Luther League and Division for Life and Mission in the Congregation of the ALC and the Board of Youth Ministry of the LCMS.

A similar all-Lutheran youth gathering was held in 1973 in Houston.

According to the planning committee, the youth rally is expected to draw several thousand participants. An approved statement of purpose asserts that the gathering is "to provide opportunity for youth and adults to celebrate together our oneness in Christ, experience the rich diversity of the Christian community and, in our common life, discern and bear witness to the liberating presence of God's kingdom within and among us."

(Continued from page 11)

May the love so unceasing You pour
out on me
Flow right on to others that they, too,
might see

The face of my Savior, my Father,
my Friend,
Who is all and in all, who my heart
does mend.

That seeing what care, what love,
what concern
He gives one so unworthy, they too
will yearn
To meet you, dear Jesus, and of You
to learn.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Love sees through a telescope—not a microscope.

Some people give and forgive;—
others get and forget.

Do you see difficulties in every opportunity, or opportunity in every difficulty?

Some cause happiness wherever they go; some whenever they go.

The only way on earth to multiply happiness is to divide it.

There is something wrong with a man, as there is with a motor, when he knocks continually.

—New Hope Center Beacon



Sister Milla Pederson, 1888-1974. Obituary in the December 17 issue.

LET ZION PRAISE THE MIGHTY GOD

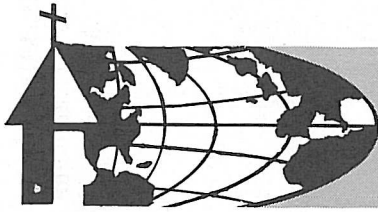
Let Zion praise the mighty God,
And make His honors known abroad;
O sweet the joy our songs to raise,
And glorious is the work of praise.

Our children live secure and blest;
Our shores have peace, our cities rest;
He feeds us all with finest wheat,
And adds His blessing to our meat.

Through all our coasts His laws are shown,
His Gospel truths made plainly known,
By the pure teaching of the Word,
In Zion's courts; Praise ye the Lord!

(from Mission Hymns)

—Missionslieder)



CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

**Salvation Army officers recently entered Cuba for the first time since Castro's takeover. An average crowd of 200 attended each of six meetings. Sixty-nine decisions for Christ were recorded. A special training school was set up to train several young Cubans who expressed interest in becoming Salvation Army members.

**Vatican figures peg the worldwide Catholic population at the end of 1972 at 683 million, up 14 million from 1971. 49 million of them are in the United States.

**Municipal trucks pick up hundreds of bodies each morning from the streets of Dacca, Bangladesh, where people are dying on the sidewalks nightly from starvation and cholera. Torrential rains have wiped out most of this year's harvest, and starving farmers and their families are flocking to Dacca to die there.

**450,000 American children and teenagers are alcoholics. An Alcoholics Anonymous member recently honored for going a year without a drink was 11 years old.

**400 members of a Nazarene church in Michigan recently tossed their TV sets into a bonfire to protest the quality of programming. Twenty members sold their sets and donated the money to the church.

—Tyndale House Publishers

2 LUTHERAN STORIES AMONG RELIGION'S TOP 10 IN '74

New York—(LC)—Religion editors around the nation and the staff of Religious News Service here ranked two Lutheran stories among the "top ten" religion news events of 1974.

The doctrinal crisis in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod was ranked as

the second top story of the year by the Religion Newswriters Association, an organization of religion writers for secular newspapers, magazines and wire services. The LCMS controversy had placed first in the 1972 and 1973 RNA polls.

RNA members ranked the irregular ordination of 11 Episcopal women as the top story of 1974.

The staff of Religious News Service ranked the LCMS dispute eighth in its list of ten top stories of 1974, placing religious concern for the world's food, energy and population crisis at the top of their list. RNS staffers ranked the ordination of the Episcopal women second.

Both groups also cited the Lutheran-Roman Catholic document on papal primacy as one of the top stories of 1974. RNS ranked that development number 10 and the RNA poll listed the agreement among four stories which didn't poll enough votes to be in the top ten.

Other stories ranking among the top ten on the RNS list included: evangelization, the theme of the 1974 Roman Catholic Synod of Bishops and the congress in Lausanne, Switzerland; the acceleration of Middle East tensions; religious protests against human rights violations in South Korea, the Philippines, Chile, Brazil and the Soviet Union; the coup in Portugal; religious concern over the moral tone of the U.S. as it applies to Watergate, President Nixon's resignation; the West Virginia textbook controversy, Wounded Knee Trials, abortions, and amnesty/clemency for draft resisters.

Also noted on the RNS list were the naming of Elizabeth Seton as a Roman Catholic saint and the installation of the new archbishop of Canterbury.

The RNA poll also listed the controversy over "The Exorcist," the

expanded interest of Protestant evangelicals in "social concern," the persistence of the charismatic movement and church concern for "repressive" regimes as top stories of 1974.

DR. SUELFLOW AGAIN HEADS LUTHERAN HISTORIANS

St. Louis—(LC)—Dr. August R. Sueflow was elected to an unprecedented third two-year term as president of the Lutheran Historical Conference at its biennial meeting at Concordia Seminary here. More than 40 members attended.

The Lutheran Historical Conference was formed in 1962 as an organization of Lutheran archivists, historians and librarians interested in working together on research, documentation and preservation of resources dealing with Lutheranism in the Americas. It has endeavored to coordinate archival, library and photoduplication efforts of Lutheran church bodies, stimulate further efforts, provide a channel for communication and cooperation, and encourage research and the production of scholarly works.

Dr. Sueflow, director of Concordia Historical Institute here, has been a member of the board of directors of the Conference for all but two years of its existence.

KEITH BRIDSTON TO EDIT THE LUTHERAN QUARTERLY

Gettysburg, Pa.—(LC)—Dr. Keith R. Bridston, professor of systematic theology at Pacific Lutheran Seminary in Berkeley, Calif., has been elected editor of *The Lutheran Quarterly*, a theological journal sponsored by the seminaries of the Lutheran Church in America and the American Lutheran Church.

Dr. Bridston, 50, was named to a five-year term by the Editorial Council of the *Quarterly*, headed by Dr.

Richard A. Jensen of Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, as chairman.

The Quarterly, which traces its beginning back to 1849, "conceives of its primary task at this juncture as translating the latest theological insights into the realm of practical parish ministry," Dr. Jensen said.

Dr. Bridston succeeds Dr. Daniel Martensen of Hamma School of Theology at Springfield, Ohio, editor for the past five years, who has assumed a three-year assignment with the Lutheran World Federation in Geneva, Switzerland. Dr. Martensen will serve as secretary for interconfessional studies in the LWF's Department of Studies.

Dr. Bridston gained nationwide publicity in 1970 when he announced his candidacy for the presidency of the ALC in what he termed an attempt to bring about "wholesome, open political activity" in the denomination. The 18 districts of the church nominated him as one of the ten candidates for the office. Eventual winner was the late Dr. Kent S. Knutson, who died in 1973 midway through his six-year term.

Born in Grand Forks, N. Dak., Feb. 20, 1924, Dr. Bridston obtained his B.A. from Yale University in 1944, his B.D. from Yale Divinity School in 1945 and a Ph.D. in Divinity from New College of Edinburgh University

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