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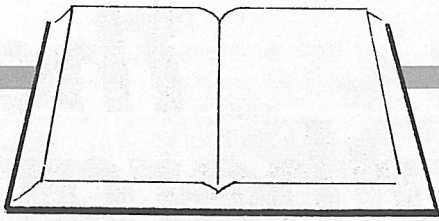
# The Lutheran Ambassador



**SYMPHONY IN WHITE**

**"Thou hast made summer and winter." (Ps. 74:17 RSV)**

RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE PHOTO



# According to the Word

## UNLIMITED POTENTIAL

James 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights . . . ."

During the last semester of teaching in our extension seminary in Bolivia, I had the privilege of teaching the Acts of the Apostles. One of the many new insights I received was to discover the man Agabus, who was a prophet. It was exciting how he came out of the pages of Scripture and became a blessing to me. This man, gifted by God, was so important in the working out of God's will in the apostle Paul's life, and the life of the church. So much has been written and expounded about the gifts which God gives. This is especially true now with the revival of the Charismatic movement throughout the world. Much emphasis has been placed on the identification and explanation of these gifts. And, many articles have been written on how we can obtain them. But what has been of particular interest to me has been to see **how** these gifts have been utilized or exercised in the lives of various individuals.

Let's take a quick review of these gifts from I Corinthians 12: healing, faith, wisdom, knowledge, miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues, interpretation of tongues, practical service, preaching (exhortation) contributing, administrative ability, acts of mercy, apostleship, evangelist, pastor and teacher. Now as we look over this list we must keep in mind how Paul leads into Chapter 13 of I Corinthians, as he says in 12:31, "But earnestly desire and zealously cultivate the greatest and best—the higher (gifts) and the choicest (graces)" (Amplified Version). This

is quite a full amplification of the verse, but it does point out that we are to utilize what God has given so graciously. Jesus stresses this same truth in the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30. There is a direct ratio between the gift and the responsibility we have before the Lord in using it. So as not to be frightened or burdened by this privilege of receiving one or more of these gifts, let us look to some examples.

Agabus can be found only twice in the Bible. Both times he appears in Acts. He had the gift of prophecy, and he might be called a doomsday preacher. But what a blessing he was to the church! In the 11th chapter of Acts he prophesies of a famine. What happened? The disciples got everyone together and started a relief fund to help the Christians over in Judea. They got a blessing in giving and the needy brothers received their gift and were warmed by this expression of Christian love.

Then we see Agabus in the 21st chapter of Acts and how he very graphically shows Paul and the Christians in Cesarea Paul's own future. Taking Paul's girdle he binds his own hands and feet, thus showing how Paul himself would be bound and delivered by the Jews in Jerusalem and turned over to the Gentile rulers, the Romans. Can you imagine how this fell as an unbelievable burden on the hearts of the believers? They wept, they pleaded with Paul not to go to Jerusalem . . . to no avail. Rather, exhausted emotionally, they could only say, "The will of the Lord be done." At that moment they were a church pleasing to God. What a blessed result!

Paul himself is another individual to look at in thinking about the utilization of the gifts of God. In the

introduction to each of his letters he presents his authority, his apostleship. This demonstrates how he actualized the gifts which he had received. The miracle of reviving the boy who sleepily fell to his death (Acts 20:7-12); the wisdom and knowledge that created so much interest in Athens and everywhere he went; how he could defend himself before rulers and knowledgeable men of the day; faith as he sang while in prison and suffered shipwreck, knowing he would arrive in Rome.

Peter and John had the gift of healing as they stretched forth hands to lift up the crippled man at the Gate called Beautiful. It opened a door to hearts that day as 5,000 people believed (Acts 3-4:4).

Dorcas had the gift of service to others as she was known for her good works and acts of charity. As I think of Dorcas, I am reminded of fellow missionaries who have been endowed with this gift of service to others. So many times a message would go over our radio communication, "Dixie, could you please check on this for me?" or, "Elvera, would you please buy the following things?"

The call of God to service is closely aligned to the giving of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Whether we receive these gifts after we are called, or if we are called first is not important. The realization of the will of the Lord in and through our lives is what is important. How has God's gift to you been manifested in your daily life? Is the power of the Holy Spirit being utilized day by day as you live and serve God? As a child of God, you have great potential and I urge you to not quench the Spirit, but to open your heart to what He would do through you.

—Richard W. Gunderson

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# Sanctification

by John C. Rieth,  
Free Lutheran Seminary

Volumes can and have been written on the subject of sanctification. To even attempt to cover this broad topic in a paper such as this would be foolish and unjust. Therefore, I want to consider some thoughts on the **means used** in accomplishing sanctification.

To begin with, it must be stated that the basic means of sanctification is the **Word of God**. There is no work of the Holy Spirit outside the Word of God. It is the Word which effects sanctification. **Psalm 119:11** states, "Thy Word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee." Understanding sanctification as a continual growth toward and in Christ and a continual departure away from and out of the fruits of darkness, we can see through Scripture how one should strive toward sanctification in this life. There are three areas concerning the means of accomplishing sanctification that I will consider—the **importance**, the **effect**, and the **conclusion** of the means.

Dealing first with its importance, it goes without saying that there is no salvation, justification, or sanctification outside the Word of God. J. T. Mueller stated on the basis of Scripture that we are sanctified or continue in sanctification "primarily by the Gospel, although the Law acts as a mirror, revealing sin, a curb, restraining the flesh outwardly, and as a rule, guiding the Christian into good works." Since we believe that continued willful sin in the life of the Christian will separate him from God, we must then seek the source of deliverance out of temptation. To begin with, I Corinthians 10:13 states, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be

tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." This is a key verse when considering the means used in accomplishing sanctification because it promises deliverance through God's faithfulness in the Word. II Timothy 3:16-17 states that "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the **man of God may be perfect**, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

The Word of God is also the only means we can draw from. Jesus in the wilderness countered every temptation of Satan with Old Testament Scripture. Finally, Satan had to leave defeated for he could not refute the Word of God. The Psalmist also states, in Psalm 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." The Word of God used in this sense could apply to the place of the Law mentioned previously. The light that goes before all Christians is Christ. The analogy of the vine and the branches in John 15 in itself points out the need for Christians to seek out and realize the importance of the Word of God as the sole means of accomplishing this sanctification.

Secondly, we must consider the effect this means will have on our lives and on the lives of non-Christians. In Peter's immortal sermon on Pentecost, recorded in Acts 2, he gave evidence of sanctification as being wrought of God. The Holy Spirit spoke to 3,000 souls on that day. The people commented that "**these men have been with Jesus.**" I Corinthians 15:33-34 states that "Evil communication corrupts good manners (morals). Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame."

Rev. Harold Hosch, teacher at Association Schools, will give the Bible studies at the 11th annual Winter Bible Conference of the AFLC to be held in Fargo, N. Dak., Feb. 22-25. His studies will be on the Holy Spirit.

Speaker for the evening services Thursday, Friday and Saturday will be Rev. Leslie Galland, Spicer, Minn. Each service begins at 8 o'clock.

On Sunday morning, at the worship service, Rev. Henry A. E. Johansen, Virginia, Minn., will deliver the sermon.

The closing conference session on Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m., will be in charge of students and faculty from Association Free Lutheran Bible School.

Individual lectures during this conference, the first to be held in Fargo, will be presented by Missionary Connelly Dyrud, Dr. Iver Olson, Rev. John Strand and others.

Day sessions on Friday and Saturday commence at 9:15 and 2. Opening conference session is the service on Thursday evening.

The conference will meet at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1603 North Fifth Street, Melvin Walla, lay pastor.

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The long range effect of the Word of God on one's life is as inexhaustible as the number of saints it has redeemed. I am drawn to think of Paul, imprisoned in Rome for his faith. The whole palace guard knew where he stood with Christ, and many were believers. The Word of God in and of itself will "not return void, but will accomplish that which God has purposed." How sad, however, that men desiring to see the means of sanctification in our lives instead **so often see the need for sanctification**. How small was the pebble that slew the giant Goliath, yet improperly placed, our lives can be the cause of stumbling rather than stepping into new life in Christ. The woman at the well went home to her people and said, "Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?" The means of sanctification affected many in that

day because of one woman's faithfulness to share what she had received. This effect "affected" her first, and then in turn spoke to others. Then her neighbors could truly say, "Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that he is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world."

Considering then what we have, what is the **conclusion** of the means used in accomplishing sanctification? It thrills my soul when I read the many passages of Scripture regarding that great day of conclusion. As John so aptly stated, "Beloved, now are we the children of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." "What a day that will be when His glory I shall see. When I stand by His grace and look upon His face." Often when we become discouraged here in this life it is because we have taken our eyes off Christ and focused them on ourselves instead. The Spirit of God in our hearts as Christians moves us to **long for that conclusion to come**. Paul felt that "to be with Christ was far better" as he faced the trials and sufferings of this present life. It is not just left up to us to meet the conclusion of the means of sanctification. Christ kept His promise in "sending a Comforter," the Holy Spirit, to direct and guide us day day, leading us continually into new and deeper truths and experiences in the Word of God. As the song writer has put it, "Lead me through the veil of shadow, bear me over life's troubled sea, then the gate of life eternal, may I enter Lord with Thee. Close to thee, close to thee. Lead me through life's pilgrim journey, keep me, Master, close to Thee." I believe this sums up in man's words what each Christian desires to be the "conclusion," not just for himself, but for the whole of mankind.

Could we in conclusion just think a moment again on the means of accomplishing sanctification? Does the Word of God have free course in our lives? Are we concerned, as the woman at the well, that others may know the importance of and feel the effect of the Word of God in their lives? Moreover, do we look

upon ourselves as "here having no permanent dwelling place," but looking toward a better land, together in a state of complete sanctification with Christ? Yes, it is good for us all to evaluate and readjust our motives and priorities as Christians so we might be conformed, not to the world, but reformed daily into God's image. We as Christians are the road maps to a lost and dying world. By our lives they should be led to the importance of the means, the effect, and the conclusion of that means in accomplishing sanctification. "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

(Ed. Note: The above article was a class assignment by one of our seminarians. His professor recommended it for publication and we are glad to use it here.)

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#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Too often we simply say or repeat the Lord's Prayer instead of praying it. Not infrequently pastor and people hurry through the Lord's Prayer as though it were an unpleasant task to be rid of as soon as possible. Nor does it help anything to say or pray it so slowly as to forget the former words before the next one is said. In praying it the mind should be all devotion and absorbed in what is said and prayed.

The Bible has many beautiful prayers both in the New Testament and in the Old. Some have but a few words, though comprehensive in meaning. The Lord's Prayer is recorded by Matthew (6:9-13) and Luke (11:1-4) and is the gem of them all. It received its name from the fact that the Lord Jesus gave it to His disciples at their request as a daily prayer for private and public use. The person who sincerely and reverently prays it, not simply repeats it, mornings and evenings as Luther recommends, will not go far wrong.

The following from Johann Spangenberg, a friend of Luther, may give

us a better appreciation and a greater reverence for this prayer of prayers. He says:

"The Lord's Prayer leads us into the magnificent, royal castle of our heavenly King. With the words: "Our Father who art in heaven" we knock at the door. Then we enter into His royal temple, where the Cherubim and Seraphim stand singing "Holy, holy, holy" and we pray "Hallowed be Thy name." We then step into the hall of His throne, where those who have overcome surround Him and where He wields His scepter over the world, and we pray: "Thy kingdom come." We now enter His private cabinet, whence proceed His commands and the winds are made His messengers and the fiery flames His servants, and we pray: "Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven." The fourth petition leads us into His royal store-house from which even the sparrows under heaven are fed, and we pray: "Give us this day our daily bread." Thence we go to His treasury, where all the bills of debit are filed, and we pray: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." With the petition, "Lead us not into temptation," His armory is opened for us, from which we can daily draw spiritual re-enforcement. And last He brings us into His royal garden to the palms and the crystal fountains with the petition "Deliver us from evil." There is nothing else left us now than reverently to say: How marvelous is Thy castle! Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen."—Translated from the German by J. S.

—The Friend

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#### THE LAW OF LOVE

Dig channels for the streams of love,  
Where they may broadly run;  
And love has overflowing streams  
To fill them every one.

For we must share if we must keep  
The good things from above;  
Ceasing to give, we cease to have—  
Such is the law of love.

—R. C. Trench



## Jimmy the Rat

The dirty-windowed store that stood on the corner of South Clark Street in Chicago in the 1920's might have been a laundry. Some people did, in fact, unfold laundry tickets from their pockets as they pushed open the door with the bell that jangled somewhere out of sight. These same people came out of the store with flat bundles wrapped in brown paper.

But there was more than flatwork in the brown bundles and lot more than a jangling bell out of sight. Below the room with counters where the several Chinese dolls smiled and spelled out the letters on laundry stubs was another room, long, dark and narrow. In this room, beneath two windows, boarded up except for a slim line of light, laundry tubs sagged. A gas jet flickered in the corner.

Flanking the wall across from the tubs was a double row of wooden bunks, and from the bunks, or shelves, an arm dangled or a leg twitched. This was John Lee's opium den.

On a Sunday afternoon in the 20's, two legs seemed more alive than the others, for with a jerk, they flipped over the bunk edge. Their owner sat up and peered down from his shelf, blinking in the darkness. The dank hair, the pasty face belonged to a boy not yet twenty. His head pitched forward as he swayed on the edge of the bunk.

From somewhere outside the room, slippers slapped on the cement floor. The boy leaned back into the darkness as a trim Oriental bustled into the room and appraised the bunks with his customary haughtiness.

From a lower shelf, a girl moaned. The Chinese hurried over to her, taking from her limp hand a pipe into which he tapped opium. Then he lit the pipe and put it back into the girl's hand.

"There you are, my dear." His voice was metallic, out of tone with the misty dimness of the room. "A nice deep draw on your lovely pipe." The girl sighed as she nestled her head into the pillow and breathed deeply, the pipe neglected in her relaxed hand.

The boy on his shelf furtively watched, bubbling through slightly parted lips. The girl breathed evenly, softly. Someone in another bunk snored. The boy slid off his shelf, bobbed a bit as his "rubbery" legs hit the floor, and then crept over to the girl's bunk.

He reached for her outflung hand and, like a hungry animal, he sucked on the pipe the man had lit.

A laugh began low in the darkness by the laundry tubs and rasped across the room. "Thought I'd gone," the Oriental said. "Thought you'd steal from paying customers' smokes. You low rat. Jimmy the rat."

The boy pulled away from the pipe, hunched over, shrank back toward his own bunk.

"That's right. Jimmy the rat. That is just what you are. You sleep like a rat on a dirty shelf. Then you creep around in the dark and steal like a rat."

Jimmy stood still. "Why shouldn't I take her pipe? She paid for it. You're not losing. And I pay you for mine, too."

"Yes," John Lee told him. "You do pay for it. And that reminds me. Get busy with the laundry tubs. You have had enough smoke for one day. It's your time to get busy." He came across the room and pushed the boy toward the wash tubs.

Jimmy rounded over the tubs and listened to John Lee's slippers flap up the stairs. The basement room was silent except for some smoker's pleased whimpering, an uneven gasp.

"Hey, Rat!"

Jimmy started back from the tubs.

"Hey, Jimmy the rat! Bed cess (luck) to you, Rat. Where are you? I cannot see you in all this confounded darkness."

An ugly man perched on the stairs, peered through the banisters at Jimmy.

"Why, Ben Shamus, sir, here I am," Jimmy whispered. "What do you want, sir?"

"Come here." The ugly head wobbled as if its neck had no bones. "Say, our friend, John Lee, murdered that little Chinese girl last week, didn't he?" Ben Shamus hissed the sentence between his broken teeth.

"Murdered?" Jimmy questioned.

"Yeah, you know that little Rose Ling or Sing or Ming or whatever her name was."

Jimmy slouched sheets in the water. He pinched his face into a frown. "I don't talk about Mr. Lee," he said.

"Well, I do. I pay as I go here. You can keep still if you've a mind to. You're just a rat, but I'm a paying customer. I talk about him and I know for a fact when his oriental highness' nerves gets all unstrung he takes it out on—"

"On me," Jimmy interrupted.

"And also on the little wooden dolls upstairs. Hires them to hand out the bundles of laundry with dope in them. Then when it strikes his fancy he beats the daylights out of them."

Ben Shamus laughed. A woman on a shelf rolled over and groaned. A moment's quiet, then Ben Shamus laughed again.

"And then he murders them. And if you don't watch out, Rat, he'll kill you."

Jimmy grated a sheet over the scrub board. Ben Shamus stopped talking. Silence settled like dust until—a song leaked through the boarded-up window into the cellar room.

"I — am — so — glad — that — Jesus — loves — me," came the words.

"Whist ye," Ben Shamus said. "The Pacific Garden Mission boys out on the Gospel car singing about God. Them with their faces clean and their pants pressed and me setting in a dope house like a heathen. It's Sunday afternoon, so help me."

Jimmy stopped kneading the clothes. "Pacific Garden Mission? What's that?"

"A mission, my boy, right around the corner from this dump. A Christian mission, if you can think of it."

The singing was louder now. "I — am — so — glad — that — Jesus — loves — me." Jimmy covered his ears with his soapy hands.

"I — am — so — glad — that — Jesus — loves — me." Jimmy had sung that song himself once. He had learned it in Sunday school and he had been singing it one summer morning as he had sung through his dad's Indiana orchard, hands in his pockets. "Hey, there," he had called across the orchard to Dick, the newest hired hand on the farm.

"You sound happy," Dick had said. "Heard you singing."

"I 'most always sing," Jimmy had answered. "That's my favorite song."

Dick spat on the gravel of the driveway before he said, "Aw, it's corny."

"I don't see how. I like it. It makes me feel good."

"You're kidding."

"No, I'm not," Jimmy had answered.

The hired hand had chuckled to himself, put his fingers to his jacket pocket for a second. "Hey, kid, come on out to the barn after the milking's done this evening and I'll show you something that'll really make you feel good."

"I don't understand."

"You don't have to," Dick had told him. "Just meet me in the barn."

The pipe that Dick caressed that night in the barn did not look like any other pipe. Jimmy had taken it, looked at it in the light of the hayloft window, and held the bowl in his hands, as Dick talked. "One drag on it, kid, and you'll be in Heaven. Soft lights, women, music, anything you want. It's all in that pipe."

The boy had been puzzled. "But the habit's bad, isn't it?"

"No, kid. You're wrong there. Just a few times won't hurt. There's no habit in it, just rainbows."

Then Jimmy had picked up the pipe.

He had puffed at it and watched the light from the hayloft window whirl into a "rainbow." He had curled in the hay and smiled.

At that summer's end, Dick an-

nounced he was leaving.

"Dick, you can't leave me. What'll I do? I haven't got any more stuff. Ma and Dad'll find out. Dick, don't leave me!" Jimmy had clung to the man, tugged at his arm.

"So what?" Dick was nonchalant.

"So I'll die, that's what. Leave me a little of it."

"How much is it worth to you?"

"I got twenty-nine bucks. I'll give you all I got. You can have it all." Jimmy's hands had torn at his jeans-pocket until he drew out his wallet. "Here, now give me that stuff."

The smokes that Dick had left Jimmy didn't satisfy him long. He had run away from the Indiana farm; found John Lee's laundry where he got his opium and his heroin, morphine and cocaine, for scrubbing clothes, lived for three years as if at the bottom of a festering cesspool.

\* \* \*

"I — am — so — glad — that — Jesus — loves — me." Jimmy let the sheets and clothes sink to the bottom of the dirty washwater and went quickly through the basement room, up past Ben Shamus drowsing on the stairs, over a short, creaky platform to a door.

"Don't open that door," John Lee had said. Soundlessly, Jimmy tugged at it, and the street noises and sunshine rushed in at him. "Do not go outside," John Lee had warned. "You are in bad shape. The police may spot you and then we will all be in serious trouble."

Jimmy leaned against the door and gripped the door knob. The singing was finished, but a woman's voice, high above the clatter on the street, said, "We just sang a song called 'I Am So Glad That Jesus Loves Me.' And Jesus does love you, anybody."

"And if anyone, within the sound of my voice right now, wants to find release and freedom from misery and loneliness, caused by a life shackled with sin, all you have to do is ask for prayer. I want to pray with you. I'll be waiting for you."

Jimmy stepped stumblingly forward. His hand slid free of the door knob.

He was wrenched around. "Get back in there, Rat," John Lee commanded.

"I wasn't going anywhere. Honest, I was just listening to the lady," Jimmy stuttered.

John Lee yanked him aside, hurtled him across the platform, and slammed shut the outside door. He slapped Jimmy on the mouth. "Rat, try to get outside once more and see what happens."

Jimmy slunk back to his shelf. John Lee hurried upstairs again. When he reached the top, he began to shout.

"You, Lotus, you're as stupid as Jimmy the Rat, or any of the rest of them."

"Yes, John Lee."

"'Yes, John Lee.' Is that all you can say?" A slap stung bare flesh.

"Me serve you good, John Lee?" the high voice asked.

"Just as good as the rest, I suppose," his voice lowered. "Lotus, do you like me?"

"Me—hate—you."

The man's voice spluttered. "You stupid girl. I'd as soon kill you as look at you."

Feet shuffled back and forth across the floor above Jimmy. He went to the bottom of the stairs, jumped back as the door at the top burst open. There was a thump as a body rolled over and over down the stairs. With a thud, little Lotus hit the concrete floor, head down.

Jimmy stood without a move. Then he bent over her. "Lotus, Lotus," he called to her.

"Me—go—dead, Jimmy," the little Chinese girl said.

"No you don't, Lotus," Jimmy held her head. "You can't die. Don't die and I'll get out of here somehow and get you out and we can be good to each other."

Lotus turned her head, tried to turn her painted mouth into a smile, began to gasp.

"Don't die, Lotus," Jimmy repeated. "You're such a kid. We can get out of this hole together."

"Me glad to go dead," Lotus sighed.

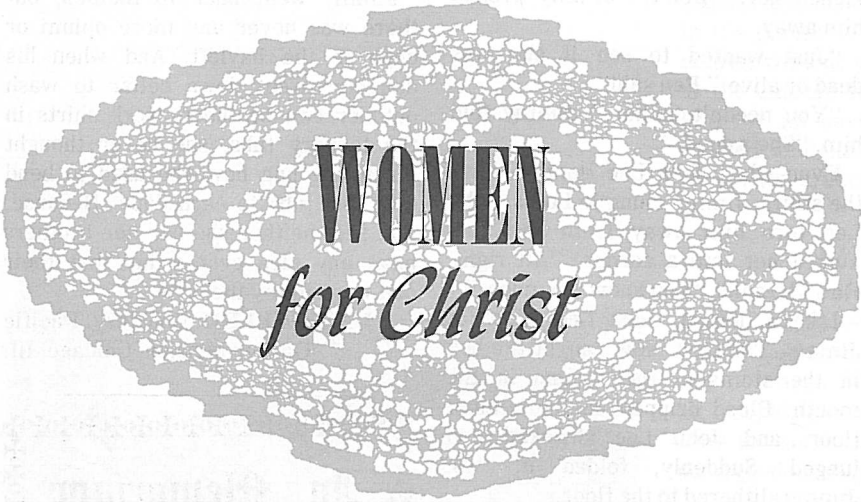
"Listen to me, Lotus."

For an hour, Jimmy squatted in the dust with the broken body in his arms, rubbing the doll-size hands with his.

Once Ben Shamus lurched over and

(Continued on page 8)





# WOMEN *for Christ*

## In Everything Give Thanks

By Clara Haakonson  
Moorhead, Minnesota

This is not a Thanksgiving Day message. The above title is a statement found in I Thess. 5:18, which is good advice for every day in the year. "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." Have you ever meditated on these words "**in everything give thanks**"? Do you ever find it difficult to give thanks when circumstances are pressing and unpleasant? Are you burdened with severe trials, sorrow, sickness, etc.? Can you still praise God with a thankful heart? According to our Bible text this should be possible for God's children, but don't we often succumb to moodiness, sadness, self-pity, and even bitterness when things seem to go wrong? A truly thankful spirit enables us to praise God in spite of adverse circumstances. As Christians, we must recognize that God has allowed everything that has happened to us. God often permits us to face unpleasant situations in order that we may grow in His grace and be a blessing to others. May I use an illustration?

A few weeks ago we received a letter from a dear friend in California. In part, she said: "Enroute to \_\_\_\_\_, we had one of 'these blessed car troubles.' As I paid the bill, I said, "When things like this take

place, I know there must be a reason. I wonder if **you** are the reason? If you should die right now, where would you go?" "Heaven, I hope," replied the mechanic. "Wouldn't you like to **know**?" "Certainly." A car drove in and I said, "If you are interested, we'll wait." Result? A precious soul was gloriously saved and was wishing all were as we were." How many of you reading this article would turn car trouble into a blessing by using the opportunity to win a soul for Christ? This friend of ours, no doubt, had a disposition characterized by thankfulness to be able to call her car trouble **blessed**, but note how God used her. This attitude comes from a continuing confidence in God's wisdom, power, goodness and love.

Have you ever become discouraged and depressed because of illness that has come to you or your family? This reaction would only be natural for most of us, I fear. However, wouldn't it be far better to thank God for what He intends to accomplish through that trial? We must always remember that God never makes a mistake. God allowed Paul to suffer with a "thorn in the flesh" that he might learn the sufficiency of God's grace. II Cor. 12:9, "And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in

my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take **pleasure** in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake, for when I am weak, then am strong."

Surely no one but a wholly-surrendered child of God could make such statements. However, there are suffering Christians in our day also who thank God in spite of handicaps. I am reminded of an elderly lady whom my husband visited. This lady was so crippled with arthritis that she couldn't even lift her head to greet my husband as he came in. She had been sitting in a wheelchair night and day for fifteen years. In the ensuing conversation my husband said to her, "I don't suppose you have much to thank the Lord for in this condition?" She tried to raise her head, smiled, and replied, "Oh yes, the day isn't long enough to thank the Lord for all He has done for me!" My husband told me this lady did more to increase his faith than he did to comfort her. Imagine what a tremendous testimony this saint was in her home and neighborhood! She didn't have much of this world's goods, nor a healthy body, but she had a truly thankful heart filled to overflowing. And would you believe it? The Lord took her Home on Thanksgiving Day!

Space does not permit me to enumerate the many other ways in which we can be **thankful in everything**, but I would suggest to you, readers, that you search the Scriptures and discover for yourself what God says about being thankful.

I have experienced much pain and physical suffering the past three years and, believe me, I haven't always been able to give thanks as I should. So I want you to know that I am speaking to myself more than to anyone else as I write. All I can say to God at times is to tell Him how I feel, that I don't understand, but I'm so thankful He knows and does everything for the best. How often I've found comfort in Rom. 8:28: "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."

A few weeks ago I searched the

Scriptures for verses that had some form of the verb **thank** in them. In just a short time I had over fifty verses, and there are countless more. I wish there were space to list them all. We know that God loves a thankful heart, and we mustn't forget that God is with us **in everything** that happens and He works through every situation. If we remember this, we won't find it so difficult to **give thanks in everything**, even though things may look dark and dismal at times. Trust in God is very basic to a thankful attitude.

One day as I was listening to a pastor speak on prayer over radio station KFNW, he stressed the importance of thanksgiving as found in Phil. 4:6-8: "Be careful for nothing, but in **every thing** by prayer and supplication **with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known unto God." As he closed his message, he challenged his listeners to fall on their knees and pray a prayer of **only thanksgiving**. He told us we'd find it extremely hard being we more often make requests. Now I challenge each of you, readers, to try this, and see if you also will discover that it isn't easy to **only** give thanks and ask for nothing. We are such beggars, aren't we? My prayer is that this article will help us all to be more **thankful in everything!**

Our God is very good to us  
In countless different ways.  
We should more often lift our hearts  
In loving, grateful praise.

—Beck

#### PERSONALITIES

Address of **Rev. Stephen Odegaard** is 614 171st Pl. N.E., Bellevue, Wash. 98008.

Now serving in his first parish, **Rev. Elden Nelson's** address is Rt. 5, Eugene, Ore. 97402. Pastor Nelson is in charge of Spencer Creek Lutheran Church. The former pastor, **Rev. Lars Stalsbrotten**, is temporarily living at 1810 Thompson, Woodburn, Ore. 97071.

**Rev. Trygve F. Dahle**, interim pastor, is planning to stay at Tioga, N. Dak., until June or July. His address is Box 546, Tioga.

(Continued from page 6)

kicked her. "Don't," Jimmy pushed him away.

"Just wanted to see if she was dead or alive," Ben said.

"You needn't bother," Jimmy told him. "She's dead."

Even when John Lee flapped down the stairs, Jimmy clung to Lotus. John Lee tore him away from the girl, kicked her into a corner. "All right, Rat," he said. "You know too much."

Like a demon, John Lee raced at Jimmy. The first blow caught the boy in the stomach, the second in the mouth. Blood dripped on the cement floor, and John Lee shrieked and lunged. Suddenly, folded in two, Jimmy slithered to the floor.

"He won't talk now," scoffed John Lee to the two sodden-faced Chinese who pounded down the stairs. "He'll be dead soon. You can toss him on a heap of junk. Far enough away, please, so that the stench doesn't blow back this way."

The two sodden-faced men threw Jimmy on a pile of scrap lumber five alleys away, and his arms and legs flailed out over the boards. There they left him.

Rain dripped on Jimmy's face, washed some of the blood away from his mouth, smeared the rest all the way around to the back of his neck. The street lights came on, shone down on his swollen eyes. Jimmy came to, clutching at a dirty board. He moved one stiffened leg, then the other. He crawled down from the lumber pile, limped down the alley. One badly injured leg dragged painfully.

"It was the Pacific Garden Mission," he muttered to a cat that scampered away from him. His long wet hair hung in his eyes, and above his suit that hung in strips, his face was blotched and bruised.

"I'm going to find that mission." Someone said they would be waiting to pray for him.

Yes, the mission door was open. Down the aisle, Jimmy hobbled. Weakly, he pitifully wavered, "Please, oh please, I want somebody to pray for me."

The woman who had spoken that afternoon on the street in front of John Lee's came up to him. "I've been waiting for you, Son," the dear little lady said. "And so has Jesus. We

can pray together."

Jimmy went back to Indiana, but there was never any more opium or dope in the hayloft. And when his daughter went down cellar to wash out her two brothers' work shirts in the laundry tubs, she never thought about a young boy who used to bend over the tubs to earn dope. Because, you see, neither she nor her brothers have any idea even today that their dad was Jimmy the Rate.

UNSHACKLED; Courtesy, Pacific Garden Mission, Chicago, Ill.



Key: The name of the town is the address of the deceased. Following that is listed the name of the deceased, age, date of death and the church in which he or she held membership.

NORTH DAKOTA

Minnewaukan

**Mr. Peter A. Brekke**, 69, Dec. 10, 1972, Trinity McVille

**Mr. Henry T. Quanbeck**, 85, Dec. 30, 1972, New Luther Valley

#### COME, MY SOUL, THY SUIT PREPARE

Come, my soul, thy suit prepare,  
Jesus loves to answer prayer;  
He Himself has bid thee pray,  
Therefore will not say thee nay.

With my burden I begin;  
Lord, remove this load of sin;  
Let Thy blood, for sinners spilt,  
Set my conscience free from guilt.

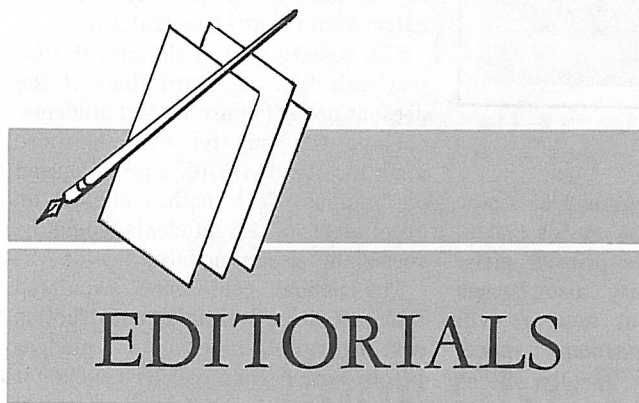
Lord, I come to Thee for rest,  
Take possession of my breast,  
There Thy blood-bought right maintain  
And without a rival reign.

While I am a pilgrim here,  
Let Thy love my spirit cheer;  
As my guide, my guard, my friend,  
Lead me to my journey's end.

Show me what I have to do,  
Ev'ry hour my strength renew;  
Let me live a life of faith  
Let me die Thy people's death.

John Newton  
(from *Concordia*, 1917)





### IN FROM THE HINTERLANDS

A pastor we heard about used to refer to his parish (in and near a thriving Dakota city) as being the "hinterland." He no doubt used the word to indicate that he was not living in near proximity to the offices of his church body.

All this comes to mind as we have seen the pastors from throughout the church come to Minneapolis for the annual conference for pastors. They come from the outlying areas, most of them, so to speak.

And yet, they are just as much of the church as we are who live in the Cities, for the church is where the congregations are.

But it is good to see the men come for this convocation. It is good for us to have them come here. They have news to bring of what is happening in their churches. Some can report new members for the kingdom of God. Some can tell of steps being taken to improve the physical plants of their congregations.

Their job is not an easy one. They don't always feel that much is happening spiritually among their people. But they believe in the power of the Word, of the Holy Spirit working through the Word, and this gives them courage to keep on. The parish pastors, too, are men who are happy in the work they are doing. They were called of the Lord to the ministry and there is no place they would rather be.

The pastors at the pastoral conference wanted to hear from those of us here about how work is going. They are deeply interested in the Seminary and Bible School. They wanted to hear about the spiritual interest of the Bible School students, about prospects for new students in the Seminary, about the progress of the dormitory building fund drive. They asked those pastors involved with mission work how things were going on home and foreign fields.

It was good for us to be together for those few days

in January. We are working as a team, those of us at schools and headquarters and those out in the hinterlands, in the parishes. We need each other. Neither can be the church without the other, if we think of the total mission of the church. It was edifying to meet with one another. May we all have returned to our tasks renewed and refreshed and built up in the faith and with new strength for our work, each where the Lord has placed us.

### FARGO BIBLE CONFERENCE

An excellent opportunity for fellowship is to be had at the annual Winter Bible Conference scheduled for St. Paul's Lutheran Church in the Red River Valley metropolis of Fargo, N. Dak., Feb. 22-25. This gathering is for all people, pastors and laity. The winter isn't an easy time for some people to get away from home and work, but a good-sized group manages to do so each year.

The sites of the previous conferences: McVille, Winger, Radcliffe, Willmar, Dalton, McIntosh, Grand Forks, Thief River Falls, Spicer, Grafton; and now Fargo. Fargo has played host to a number of Association gatherings—two annual conferences, two Luther League conventions (counting the one in Moorhead), two District Instructor's Training Sessions and two pastoral conferences—but never a winter Bible conference. However, this year, God-willing, we will convene in that "gateway to the West."

A stimulating program of teaching and preaching is being arranged. Some details of the program can be found elsewhere in this *Ambassador*. The greatest benefit can be had for those who can take in all the sessions of the conference. If that's impossible, attend just as many as you can.

Pray much for this 11th annual Winter Conference. May it be a time of refreshing in the life of our fellowship.

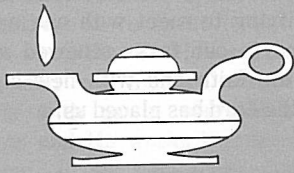
### TWO NEGLECTED FEATURES

A correspondent asks about our Letters to the Editor column and whether there could be a question and answer feature in the *Ambassador*. Actually, both features are available to our readers but are seldom used.

Please remember that letters to the Editor are welcome. If something pleases you or displeases you, write about it. Our only qualifications are that you be factual, that you do not impugn the integrity of another person and that you sign your name to a letter. If there are obvious reasons why a person's name should be withheld when a letter is to be printed, we can be agreeable to doing so.

Dr. Iver Olson of our seminary faculty stands ready to try to answer questions submitted to him. When this feature was begun a few years ago we thought it would be a popular one, but it has lagged very much the last two years. If you can't remember seeing it, there may be good reason.

But if you do have a question, send it to him at the Seminary or to the Editor. Then Dr. Olson will come up with a thoughtful answer or at least give some helps toward what an answer might be.



## SCHOOL NEWS

### DORMITORY FUND OVER \$84,000 MARK

The AFLC business office had received cash and pledges toward the Boys' Dormitory building fund in the amount of \$84,538.87 by January 15. Broken down, it consisted of \$56,229.12 in cash gifts and \$28,309.75 in pledges. Additional cash gifts and pledges have come in during the last two weeks. The total today may be closer to \$90,000.

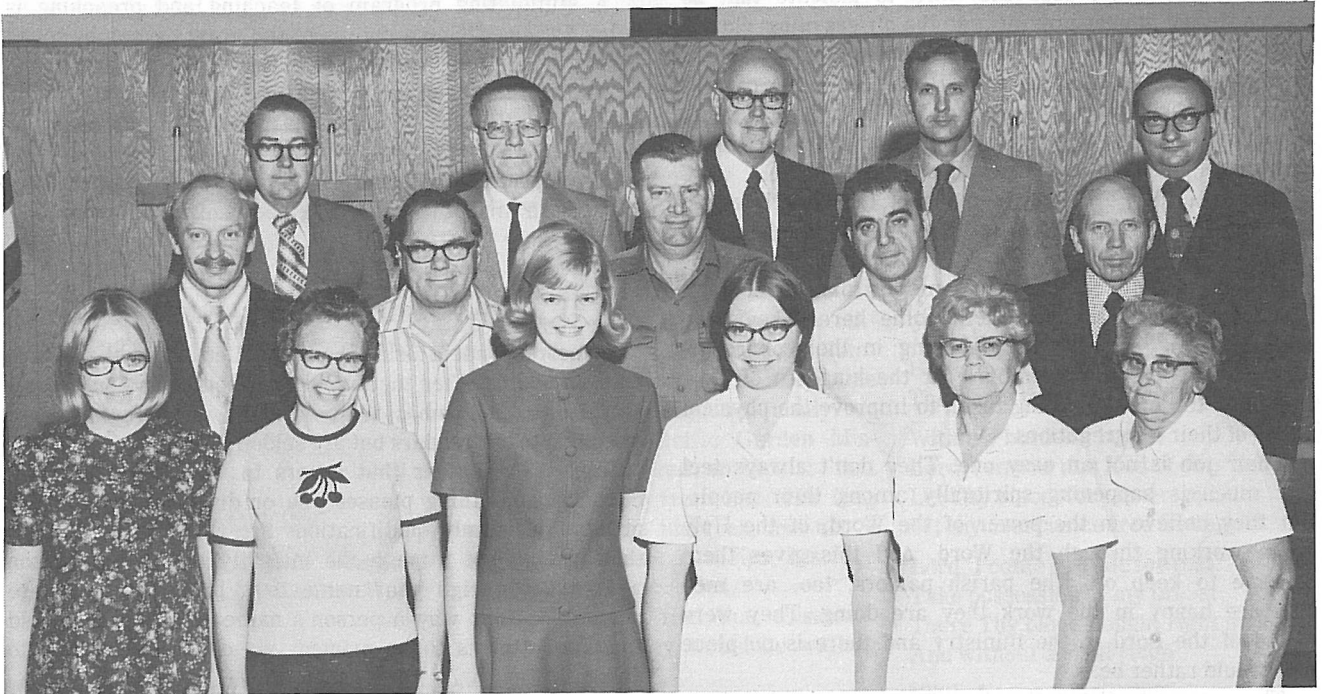
The AFLC annual conference last

June authorized the building of a new dormitory. It is to be at least two-thirds the size of the present girls' dorm, which currently also houses all male students but four. It will include some classroom space, a lounge for students, faculty offices and a recreation area. Space used for classrooms would likely be converted to rooms for residents at such a time as a classroom-library is built. When first constructed the dorm could house approximately 65 students.

A proposed floor plan will soon be presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration. The Board will make the final decision on what is to be included in the building and whether it is to be a two- or three-story structure. It will be situated off to the left (or east) of the front entrance of the girls' dormitory.

The construction of the new dormitory will free the third floor of the present dorm for use by girl students, opening the way for over 40 more girls to attend AFLBS and be housed on campus. With both buildings an enrollment of 175 students could be reasonably accommodated.

The annual conference stipulated that half of the estimated construction cost be raised in cash and pledges before actual construction begins. At the conference the total cost of \$250,000 was suggested. That means that \$125,000 is the goal the church is presently trying to reach and toward which it has received over \$84,000 as of Jan. 15.



AFLC HEADQUARTERS AND SCHOOLS STAFF

Bottom row, left to right, Orpha Flaten, secretary to the Bible School dean; Mrs. Aini Myking, dean of women; Linda Moan, secretary to the president; Marge Benson, assistant dean of women and cook; Mrs. Mildred Qualley, cook; and Mrs. Alma Wold, cook. Middle row, Donald Rodvold, music director and instructor; Rev. Albert Hautamaki, business office; Clifford Holm, maintenance engineer; Donald Hansen, business office; and Rev. Raynard Huglen, dean of men and instructor. Top row, Rev. Laurel Udden, instructor; Dr. Iver Olson, instructor; Rev. Amos Dyrud, dean of the Seminary and instructor; Rev. R. Snipstead, dean of the Bible School and instructor; and Rev. Harold Hosch, instructor. Not pictured: Rev. John P. Strand, president; Mrs. Virgil Showalter, nurse; and Richard Anderson, athletic director.



Realistically, if the dorm were to be ready for occupancy next September, construction should begin in April. Prior to that the Board of Trustees must determine whether the goal of \$125,000 will be reached (if it hasn't been) and engage a general contractor.

It stands to reason that the Board's job will be made easier if the remaining 35-40 thousand dollars in cash and pledges comes in soon. But cash gifts now should not be at the expense of current operating funds for the Schools. They must be something over and above those needs.

#### NEW VICE-PRESIDENT CHOSEN

Kermit Berge, first year student from Binford, N. Dak., was elected by the student body of AFLBS to replace Wayne Brown, Wyoming, Minn., as vice-president. Wayne had to leave school during the second quarter.

#### BASKETBALL SCORES

Conquerors 63  
St. Olaf Lutheran 21

Alumni Game

Conquerors 74  
Alumni 68

Conquerors 47  
Calvary Lutheran 34

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 21—Second Quarter Ends

February 26—Registration for Third Quarter

February 26—March 2—Spiritual Emphasis Week at AFLBS

#### WANTED: A MISSIONARY COUPLE

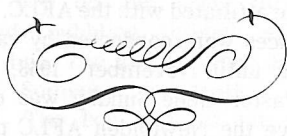
The Redby Lutheran Indian Mission, Redby, Minnesota, is looking for a missionary couple to begin work as soon as possible.

If interested, notify the secretary, Mr. Raymond Odegaard, Gonvick, Minnesota 56664. Telephone: 218-487-3918.

Raymond Odegaard, Secretary  
Northern Lutheran Missions

We have sometimes sung the words, "Earth is a desert drear." But where did we learn it? Who taught us the lesson? Where can such teaching be found in the Word of our Lord? We go on to say, "Heaven is our home." Yes, indeed it is, but in the bounty of divine grace we can find some of the home-glory while we are still on the way to it.

J. H. Jowett (on Psalm 72:19)



FIRST YEAR STUDENTS AT AFLBS, FIRST QUARTER, 1972

Bottom row, left to right, Peggy Burns, Diane Moland, Debbie Rudebusch, Crystal Carlson, Margie Sorteberg, Marie Breden and Arlette Haugen. Second row, Barbara Waterworth, Elaine Willand, Linda Erickson, Debbie Bjorgaard, Evangeline Stenberg, Avis Anderson, Debbie Flach and Sharon McCarlson. Third row, Lila Hegseth, Mariana Sutton, Darlene Stulen, Elaine Strand, Wanita Nash, Jeanne Whitaker, Karen Snipstead and Kathryn Hodnefield. Fourth row, Sandi Olson, Gail Ness, Naomi Rolf, Kathi Jones, Annette Hudson, Mary Ellen Flaten, Judy Johnson and Kathy Engevik. Fifth row, Beth Backstrom, Jerry Mellem, Jeffrey Kamphaugh, John Sunde, Dale Finstrom, Gene Finstrom, Larry Haagenon and Mark Antal. Top row, James Lindgren, Larry Voll, Joel Erickson, Ed Anderson, Don Nash, Wayne Brown, Kermit Berge, David Gross and James Weinkauf.



# NEWS

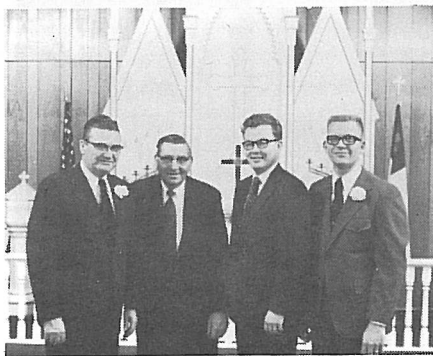
## of the Churches

### DEDICATION SERVICE HELD AT HEGLAND CHURCH IN NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 12, 1972, was a festive day for Hegland Lutheran Church, rural Strandquist, Minn., as dedication services were held. Dedicated that day were a remodeled church sanctuary and a new entrance to the church.

Mr. Rodney Stueland, lay pastor, presided. Devotions were led by Mr. Paul Flaten, chairman of the congregation. Special music at the service was provided by Mr. Grant Gjovik, a men's quartette and a group of young people. Rev. John P. Strand, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, preached the sermon and officiated at the dedication.

Hegland congregation began in 1886. The first place of worship was a one-room country schoolhouse. Hegland Church was a member of



Left to right: Pastor John Strand, AFLC president; Mr. Ed Mathison, Lay Pastor Gene Sundby and Lay Pastor Rodney Stueland, present pastor at Hegland. Notice the new paneling on the church walls.

the Evangelical Lutheran Church until 1959 when it voted to withdraw from the Karlstad ELC parish. In 1968 it became affiliated with the AFLC.

Services were conducted by various pastors until November, 1963, when Lay Pastor Gene Sundby was called to serve the Newfolden AFLC parish of which Hegland became a member. In 1969 Pastor Sundby resigned to accept a call to Culbertson, Mont. Mr. Ed Mathison of Bagley, Minn., gave interim service for six months. On January 1, 1970, Pastor Stueland began serving the parish and Hegland. Other congregations in the parish are Westaker and Bethania. Hegland has 50 confirmed members.

### OUR SAVIOUR'S PARISH RECEIVED NEW MEMBERS

The Our Saviour's Lutheran Parish of Brooten, Minnesota, received and welcomed into the congregations two



Hegland Church after two additions were made, on either side of the entrance. To the right are two washrooms with a furnace room in the basement. To the left is the ground-level entrance with stairways to the basement and main church floor. This also includes a cloakroom.

new families at services the latter part of October. They were received as transfer members from another congregation. Our Saviour's Parish is served by Rev. Marvin Haara.

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Brooten, received into its membership Mr. Russell Tangen and his wife Florence, with their ten children, Phylis, Donald, Russell Lee, Cheryl, Charlene, Paul, William, Dean, Joseph and Peter.

West Lake Lutheran Church of Sunburg received into its membership Mr. Richard Black and his wife Ann, and their four children, Richard A., Kari, Troy and Barry.

The congregations wish to thank the Lord for them and pray that the Lord will bless them as they worship and serve Him in the congregations.

—Corr.

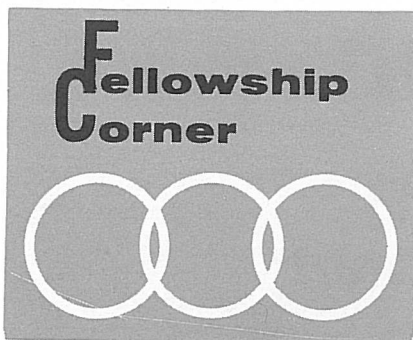
The last place to which a sinner ever betakes himself for relief is to Jesus Christ. Sinners had rather be saved in any other way in the world. They had rather make any sacrifice, go to any expense, or endure any suffering, than just to throw themselves as guilty and lost rebels upon Christ alone for salvation. This is the very last way in which they are ever willing to be saved.

—Charles G. Finney

We act as though the Holy God were just like ourselves. And so there arises a flippant intimacy which we foolishly regard as freedom. We take liberties with God and call it liberty. There is a hail-fellow-well-met sort of air even about our spiritual communion. There is no adoration, no wonder, no awe which draws us to our knees. We speak to Him without much thought about it. We say "anything that comes." There are no soul silences. **There is no great listening.** We are as big as our Rock. We are not as those on whom there falls the solemn shadow of the Almighty.

There will be no depth in our life while there is no height in our vision. Our prayers will move among lesser things until we gaze upon the unutterable glory.

J. H. Jowett (on Psalm 61:2)



### MY FAITH WAS BROUGHT OUT

How exciting it is to be able to share Christ, what He is to me, and how I came to know Him as my personal Lord and Savior!

On our sixth wedding anniversary, my husband and I were in church. We had been going rather regularly for a few weeks. This was a pattern with us; we would go faithfully for a short time, then fall away. This Sunday a visiting missionary was bringing the morning message. As he recalled the conversion experience of one native, I found myself identifying with his experience. I knew the truths of salvation but had never applied them to my own condition. Was I willing to let this sacrifice be in vain?

What a relief came to me when I realized that I could not work hard enough to make myself fit as a Christian. I had completely given myself to everyone, or everything I thought was a good cause for years, trying to "live a good life." "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death" (Proverbs 14:12). Busy with these good works I had so often found myself feeling like an actor, never really finding fulfillment, playing first one part then another. Truly, all of this was vanity and striving after the wind.

Since my decision for Christ was a quiet miracle, one I shared with no one, I lay dormant for a period of about one month. Then as our pastor was visiting one afternoon, he asked me if I had ever made a personal decision for Christ. I felt badly to tell him I had accepted Christ while he was away from our church. Of

course, at that time I had no knowledge of how the sower and reaper shall rejoice together. From this point of my first verbal expression of faith the growth in my Christian life was to begin. Within a short time, I was introduced by one of our church members as a "born-again Christian." That was some shock, but also beneficial in my self-identification with Christ. Since I hadn't experienced a great emotional conversion, these things were reassuring to me. How beautifully the Lord leads us along!

During the first few months I received so much blessing from a Christian radio station. And we were able to attend our first Bible camp that summer, when I first felt the joy of seeing others come to Christ. Also the testimony of our pastor's family after the loss of the pastor's father made a deep and lasting impression on me.

In the first part of December, we came to a point of crisis in our family. Our eighteen-month-old daughter became ill and was diagnosed as having leukemia. This was a deep shock, but what confused me more were my continual thoughts of loving the Lord and how He must receive glory through this. My old nature said I should be worrying now and leaving the "religious business" for later. It makes me laugh as I look back to that time now. How beautifully the Spirit takes over, and surely His peace does pass all our human understanding.

The first two weeks after the diagnosis was made were some of the most beautifully Christ-filled days I remember, not knowing if the medication would have effect, or how long we might have our baby. I could be completely filled and strengthened in Christ.

What a wonderful Christmas we had my first year as God's child. How much I had come to know and love Him in the twelve months from January to December. A beautiful privilege was mine to share on Christmas Day the gift of Christ given to each one for the remission of sin. It thrilled me to tell the congregation how this special gift had so enriched and given new purpose to my life. I am so thankful that our pastor encouraged me to share Christ's gifts to me with

others. This has served as a growing experience in my spiritual life.

As I recall these experiences, we are nearing the Christmas season again, four years later. I am so thankful that it has been in His perfect plan to have given us three years of good health in our little girl. Within the past few weeks the doctors have found leukemic cells in her spinal fluid and central nervous system. Again we can give thanks and praise, for we know that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord and are called according to his purpose. Just as I have been comforted before, so I am comforted again. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. If I should begin feeling that burdens are too great, I can always trace the trouble to my failure to keep my eyes on Him. Only as I look to people and circumstances do the burdens ever become too heavy.

I have found power and strength in giving thanks. This praise is able to lift me above the circumstances. We have the whole armor of God if we choose to put it on.

It is such a joy to be able to share with others the love of God—a thrill to see His hand working in my everyday life. He is sufficient in every area of my life. It is assuring to rest in Him who knows the end from the beginning, and to know that He who has begun a good work in me will bring it to completion at the day of Christ Jesus. Two songs especially express my feelings: "He's Everything to Me" and "I Am So Glad that Jesus Loves Me."

(Ed. Note: The poem below was composed by Mrs. Mayer when she first learned of her daughter's illness.)

### MOTHER'S PRAYER

Dear Lord, I come to You in prayer,  
I ask our daughter's life You'll spare.

To tell You what is best, we can't,  
But, please, for us this one prayer grant.

Submissive we would want to be,  
But can't help making just this plea:

Your will be done, Your name up-  
raised,



Whatever comes, Your glory praised.

If it is not Your choice to heal,  
Please unto us a path reveal

Upon which we can bring good news:  
All have salvation if they but choose.

If through the loss of our dear babe  
Other souls in Christ are saved,

What greater prize to her could bring,  
Than sharing glory with our King!

What kind of Christian mother I'd be  
If I would keep her here with me,

When in His precious arms she'd go,  
And to the joy each longs to know?

O yes, dear Lord, here I sit,  
So selfish as I think of it.

But confident You understand,  
I find it hard to lose this hand.

If You decide that she must go,  
The parting will be short, I know.

I unto You her life commit  
To do whate'er You would with it.

Yet always praying that Your com-  
mand  
Would grant her stay within this  
land.

In Your wisdom we can't share,  
But bring our babe to You in prayer.

Mrs. Neil Mayer  
Elim Lutheran Church  
Lake Stevens, Wash.

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### MY LITANY

"From trusting in my own strength,  
From seeking to serve Thee in my  
own way,  
From impatience with the infirmities  
of others,  
From looking for the praises of men,  
Blessed Jesus, deliver me."

—B. Leppington

---

With all Word and no Spirit,  
you dry up:

With all Spirit and no Word,  
you blow up:

With an abundance of both  
you grow up,

To fullness in Christ.

—Author Unknown



### INFORMATION ON THE NOGALES BUS PROJECT

The project of collecting Betty Crocker coupons for a bus has already been started and many of our congregations have responded by sending in their coupons. The task of clipping and removing excess cardboard is a big job and in this regard, Mrs. Mel Heggem asked if the church in Ferndale, WA would be able to handle that job. We have taken on this project and many of our members have spent a lot of time taking care of the coupons that have been sent in. In this regard, I will say that the men and women who have been working on this have enjoyed the fellowship very much. We've had two work parties and they are eagerly looked forward to. Also, anyone who so wishes takes coupons home to work on them.

The only coupons that are being accepted are Betty Crocker. There is no outlet that we know of that will handle the other kinds of coupons. The only other thing that we are taking, if you don't have Betty Crocker coupons, is cash donations. Some people don't have any coupons because they're using them for other things, so we are also having a savings account. In the account at the present time is a total of \$877.00.

Our goal is to have this bus for the Dynnesons at Annual Conference time here in Ferndale in June. We have already looked into a bus and it will be ordered in the near future. Because the sorting of coupons and

then the mailing takes some time, we would hope that everyone could send their coupons or cash to us by May 1. Please stress that the coupons are to be mailed to us in Ferndale—not Nogales. Also, all excess cardboard should be peeled off and the coupons trimmed as close as possible. That will save the donors a lot of postage and will also facilitate our work here.

The mailing address is:  
NOGALES BUS PROJECT  
c/o Clarence Norgaard  
2554 Mountain View Rd.  
Ferndale, WA 248

Please make checks payable to:  
NOGALES BUS FUND.

We are most anxious to get this bus for the Dynnesons and thank everyone for their cooperation.

I have always felt that people in our Association do work together so well. It seems the response to a request is so good. We know this project will be successful—many prayers are being offered and we know it is the will of God that more people are reached and this bus seems to be one way of helping.

Mrs. Don Nelson is Chairman of the Project here in coordinating the efforts towards this end.

Thank you so much for sharing our information.

Sincerely yours,  
Mrs. Don Pederson,  
Secretary-Treasurer  
NOGALES BUS PROJECT

# CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

## THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

- Wycliffe Bible Translators has been invited to send linguists into the Soviet Union. Coming after five years of effort, the invitation was presented verbally by the Soviet Academy of Science. Pray that the Russian government will continue to be sympathetic to the project.
- In Northern Ireland thousands of Protestants and Catholics recently met in streets and churches to make "joint acts of intercession" for their nation. Over six hundred have died violently there since sectarian strife erupted in 1969.
- Reaching the world's 800,000,000 illiterates with Gospel cassettes is the task of Bible Translations on Tape, Inc. The six-month-old missionary agency's first project was to provide 200 tape players and 3000 Gospel cassettes for Vietnam. Illiterates will hear the Bible instead of reading it. Until now, years of translation effort in small tribes has sometimes had little use because of illiteracy.
- Not one evangelical missionary is working among the 40,000 Arab Muslims in Mombassa, Kenya.
- Yugoslavia's first Bible Institute has opened, with government approval. Located in Zagreb, Biblical Theological Institute is sponsored by the Assemblies of God. This is the ninetieth Bible training center operated by this denomination in a foreign country.
- The Philippine Islands need your prayers. Last summer wide areas of Luzon (including Manila) were ruined by a five-week flood, the worst natural disaster in Philippine history. Six hundred people were killed and 1,000,000 families made homeless. Disease became rampant. Meanwhile, a religious-cultural war between Christians and Muslims is raging on the large island of Mindanao. Thousands have died. Also, for the first time in the country's history, martial law has been declared. This has slowed the crime rate but long-range results are uncertain. Pray!

—Tyndale House Publishers

## CADETS WILL STILL WORSHIP SAYS WEST POINT CHAPLAIN

West Point, N.Y.—(LC)—Religious life at the U.S. Military Academy here will not be greatly affected by the Supreme Court's refusal to review a lower court ruling which held that compulsory chapel attendance at service academies is unconstitutional.

That was the opinion of the Rev. James D. Ford, a Lutheran pastor who is senior chaplain at West Point. Chaplain Ford said that the worship life at the academy would go on "with a great enthusiasm."

Much of the religious programming at West Point has anticipated the changes on the American religious scene, Chaplain Ford stated. He noted that in the last few years cadets had the option of attending worship in the cadet chapel, denominational worship services, or a religion class.

Presumably all required religious activities at the academy will now cease. In mid-December the high court unanimously refused to hear arguments appealing the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals handed down last year. That decision (Laird v. Anderson, No. 72-653) prohibited the service academies from requiring students to attend religious services.

Chaplain Ford told LC News Bureau "I don't want to say the court decision was good or bad. I'm saying that my job is to provide worship."

There are many other religious activities at West Point, Chaplain Ford noted. He said that the post Sunday School has more teachers than it can use, and that the chaplains sponsor "five or six retreats a year and daily morning devotions."

Attendance at the denominational services which are offered in lieu of compulsory "general Protestant" worship has increased, the Lutheran Church in America minister stated. "For some time, we have been providing more alternatives," Chaplain Ford said.

Many Protestant denominations, including the LCA and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, have opposed compulsory religious activities at U.S. military installations. The

American Lutheran Church in 1964 resolved that it supported "the concern of the U.S. government for providing worship services at the academies," but argued that the "general Protestant services" did not meet the requirements of Lutheran faith and life.

## MANY ENGLISH VERSIONS OF SCRIPTURES

There are "at least" 339 published English versions of the Scriptures, according to Miss Elizabeth Eisenhart, librarian of the American Bible Society. Of these 45 are complete Bibles, nine contain the Old Testament text only, and 88 the New Testament. The remaining 197 are versions with one complete book or more, but less than complete Testaments.

William Tyndale's New Testament, the first printed English Scripture, appeared in 1525 and was followed in 1530-31 by part of the Old Testament. Tyndale was working on further translation and revision of the Old Testament when he was strangled in 1536 for such a "heretical act" as translating the Scriptures into the vernacular.

To Myles Coverdale goes the credit for printing the first complete English Bible 1535. Although he prefixed a dedication to King Henry VIII, in the hopes of securing royal favor, he was unable to secure a license for the book from the king.

## SEMINARY, COLLEGE ENROLLMENT FOR LUTHERANS DROPS SLIGHTLY

New York—(LC)—Enrollment of full time, regular students in Lutheran seminaries declined slightly in 1972, and enrollment in Lutheran four-year colleges also dropped, according to statistics gathered here by the Lutheran Council in the USA.

A total of 3,191 students are enrolled in the bachelor of divinity (B.D.) or master of divinity (M.Div.) programs at 20 Lutheran Seminaries in the U.S. and Canada, the Lutheran

Council Office of Research, Statistics and Archives reported. That figure reflects a decrease from the 1971 total of 3,419. The total of all students—including those in graduate programs, summer school courses, and other programs—is 4,379, an increase of 89 over the previous year.

### LWF RADIO VOICE OF THE GOSPEL MARKS 10 YEARS OF BROADCASTING

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia—(LC)—On a huge plateau 20 miles outside this capital city lies an “antenna farm” of 3 steel towers, one reaching over

400 feet into the sky. Tons of cables hanging between the towers create a broadcasting transmission capability of 10 million watts—making the installation one of the most powerful transmitting systems in the world.

The “antenna farm” is linked to a four-acre tract of land within the city limits. There 200 people from 12 different nations man Radio Voice of the Gospel, the highly-acclaimed station operated by the Lutheran World Federation. RVOG began its operations 10 years ago this February, after long negotiations with the Ethiopian government and church officials.

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