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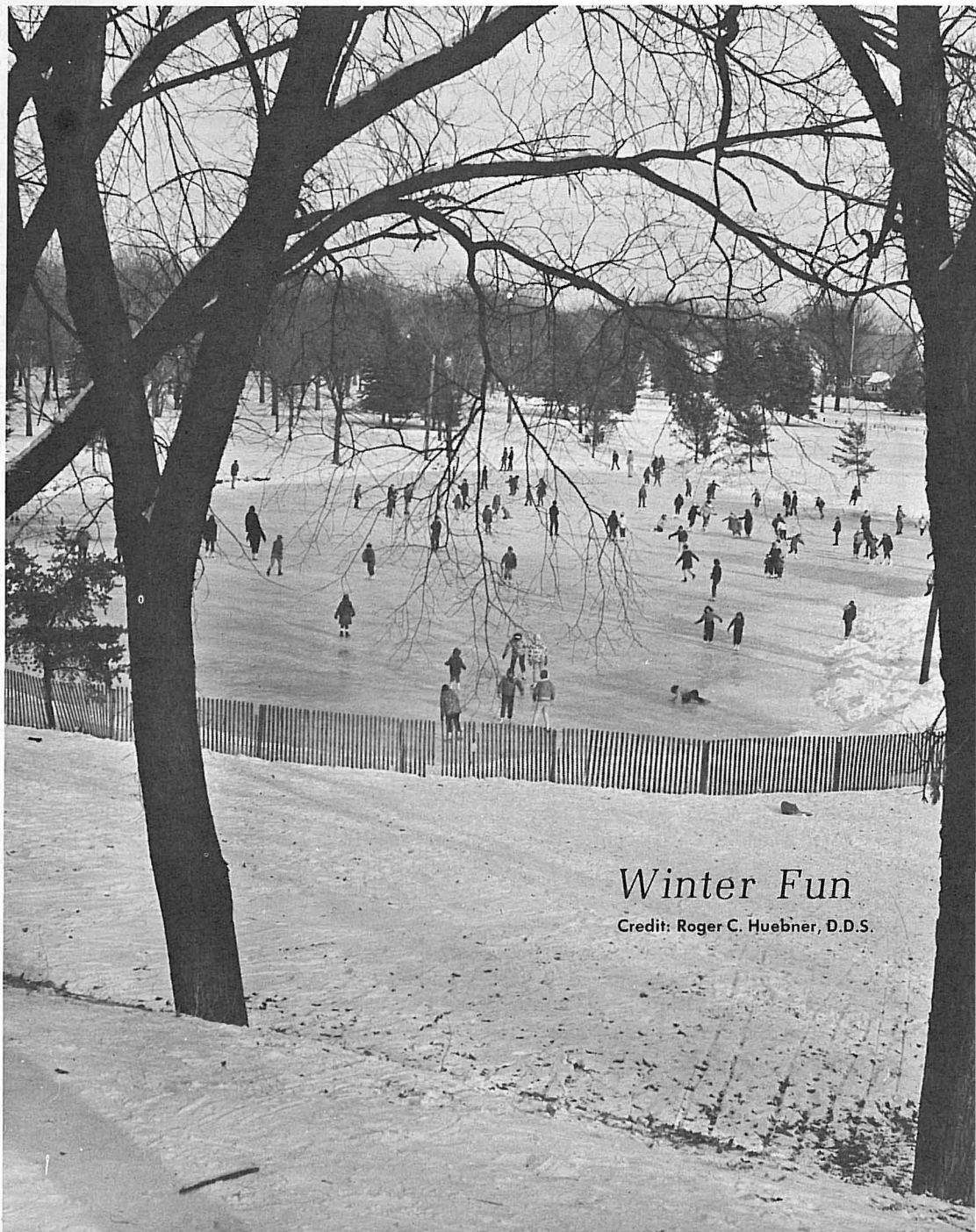
Vol. 8

January 6, 1970

No. 1

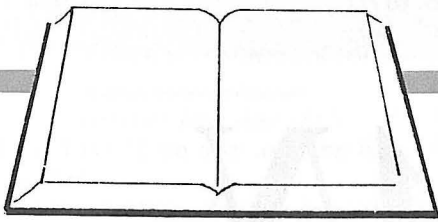
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Winter Fun

Credit: Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.



According to the Word

THE NEW LIFE II Corinthians 5:17

To the serious-minded person the close of the old year and the beginning of the new year will bring with it mingled feelings of gladness and sadness. One more year has passed; one less year of life; one year nearer to eternity. The old year is a closed book; we look forward to the new. We look back and see the failures and mistakes of the past year. These can be a lesson for us in the new year. But we can't take back any unkind word spoken, or any unkind deed committed. They can be forgiven, but they are a part of the past year.

With the new year comes new opportunities, new hope, new plans, new resolutions. It is all new. The old year is like the Old Testament and the Law which brings death, but it points to the New Testament which brings life. So also, everything with the old year reminds us of passing life, of age and death.

The Christian life can also be compared to the old and the new year. Before we come to Christ there is no newness of life; the old man, Satan lives within our hearts and we are living in the darkness of sin. But when the New Man which is Christ comes in, then He brings with Him all that is new.

First we experience the New Birth, and Jesus said, "Except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God." We have been born again, and we have become new, as we read in II Cor. 5:17, "If any man be in Christ he is a new creature, old things are passed away, behold, all things have become new." When Jesus takes over in our hearts then all things are become new. He gives me first a new heart. He says He will take away that stony heart and give me a new heart. Then, too, we receive a new spirit. "I will place a new spirit within you," we read in Ezekiel 11:19. That new spirit is the Spirit of Christ which changes my likes and my dislikes. I now love the things of God instead of the things of the world.

Then, too, He gives me a new song in my heart and on my lips. In Psalm 40:3, we read, "And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God." Yes, when Christ comes into our hearts He also gives us a new song. Then we can say with the Psalmist, "I will sing unto the Lord a new song," and it is only then that we can truly sing unto the Lord. What a difference there is to hear one sing whose heart is filled with the love of God than to listen to one sing who does not know the Lord.

All this results in "a new life." A new birth, a new heart, a new spirit, a new song, mean a new life. "Old

things are passed away, behold all things are become new." Some tell us that if we really want to live we can't be bothered with religion, but the truth is that we aren't really living until we possess this new life in Christ. We read in I John 5:12, "He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

Then, too, one who has this new life in Christ cannot live the old life together with the new. "Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Satan and the world can have no part in this new life with Christ. "In him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). Some think that as long as they mix some religion with their old life of worldliness that God is going to be satisfied with that, but God can have no part with sin. "Be not conformed to this world" (Rom. 12:2).

As we begin this new year may we be assured in our hearts that we possess this new life in Christ. May we not find ourselves in the sad state in which the people in Jeremiah 8:20 found themselves: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." There is only one resolution that can change a life completely from the old to the new, and that comes by the grace of God when one resolves to take Christ into his heart and life to cleanse from sin and make him a new being in Christ.

—Hans J. Tollefson

The Lutheran Ambassador is published biweekly (except the first issue of August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Mpls., Minn. 55427. Rev. Raynard Huglen, Roslyn, South Dakota 57261, is the editor. Subscription price is \$2.50 per year in advance. Subscriptions should be sent to **The Lutheran Ambassador**, 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55427. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn.

I Press Toward The Mark

Rev. Marvin Haara
Virginia, Minnesota

Philippians 3: 13-14

I Look Not Back

I look not back: God knows the
fruitless efforts,
The wasted hours, the sinning, the
regrets.
I leave them all with Him who blots
the record,
And graciously forgives, and then
forgets.

I look not forward: God sees all the
future.
The road that short or long, will lead
me home,
And He will face with me its every
trial,
And bear for me the burdens that
may come.

I look not round me; then would fears
assail me,
So wild the tumult of earth's restless
seas,
So dark the world, so filled with woe
and evil,
So vain the hope of comfort and of
ease.

I look not inward; that would make
me wretched;
For I have naught on which to stay
my trust,
Nothing I see save failures and
shortcomings,
And weak endeavors, crumbling
into dust.

But I look up—into the face of Jesus,
For there my heart can rest, my fears
are stilled;
And there is joy, and love, and light
for darkness,
And perfect peace, and every hope
fulfilled.

—Annie Johnson Flint

As we look back on 1969, no doubt each one of us may feel we have left some things undone—such as the importance of witnessing to God's plan of salvation at every opportunity, letting the love of Jesus be shown to others through us, and living a life completely yielded to Jesus Christ and shown by our daily walk. The values of real life perhaps have not been given the preference in us.

In looking back upon my own life during the past year, I realize that there have been many failures in God's work. Oh, what a joy it is to know that God does know all our failures and shortcomings, and yet in His great love and mercy is willing to forgive and forget.

As our theme suggests, we do not need to look back, but as Paul so aptly puts it, "forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

We need to look forward and make the New Year a more fruitful one for the Lord Jesus Christ. However, the song writer reminds us not to look forward alone, but trusting in God. He alone knows what the future, long or short, holds for us. We may have plans of doing so much and yet, the Lord may deem it best to make our walk on this earth short, perhaps ending this coming year or even this coming day. Therefore, at all times, our lives should be so lived that when our time on earth ends, we may reach the mark or the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

There is no promise that our life will be free from trials or sorrows. In fact, the Bible tells us that we may be called on to bear many heavy burdens. However, He will face all our burdens with us, if our true trust and faith is in Jesus Christ. We can face

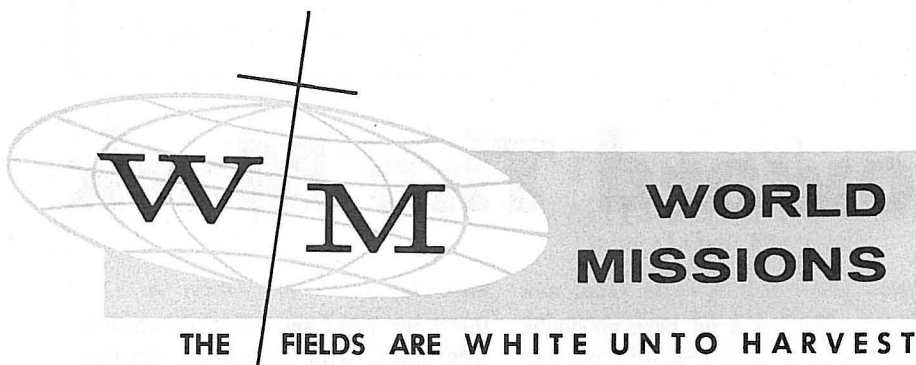
the New Year and press forward in true faith, with assurance, because God sees the future, and we rest our plans with Him.

Looking around us in the New Year, we see the world situation and find nothing but turmoil and a world so filled with evil. We see the racial problems and the riots, the drug addiction and the alcoholism. All around us we see the widespread moral decline. Crime and destruction are on the increase. The growing theological trends today attack the truth of the Scriptures and reduce it to myths.

In the face of all this we cannot help but realize that this is a harvest of a generation that has omitted God. However, we must never forget that God has a plan for each of our lives. He wants us to accept Him as our Savior and follow Him and trust in Him throughout the year. In the midst of all this corruption, we, as Christians, must walk as the light of the world.

How can we look inward? If we look inward it only makes us wretched. All we can see are our own faults and weaknesses. How many times we have failed to live the life we should have. Man in himself is wretched and helpless. He cannot accomplish anything by himself. This is why many make New Year's resolutions only to find that they fall short of the aims they have set for themselves. Man has nowhere to place his trust other than in Jesus Christ.

Are you looking to the New Year and making resolutions to be a better person and live a better life? Unless your complete trust is in the Lord Jesus, they will fall short. Many do look within and see their wretchedness, but fail to grasp that they must place their lives and all that they are in God's hand. Only then will the life you live in the New Year be a better one. *(Continued on page 7)*



LITTLE CHILDREN

by Missionary John H. Abel

Jesus said: "Allow (suffer) them to come unto me" (Matt. 19:14).

Why is it so important from the standpoint of church growth and the expansion of the Gospel to do as Jesus said, "Allow the children to come unto me"? Our Lord himself seems to answer this for us in the same verse when He makes a very profound statement: "For of such is the kingdom of Heaven." In the effort to bring the Gospel to the uttermost parts we are concerned not only with the salvation of the soul, but the salvation of life and usefulness of an immortal being. Children represent such a life of usefulness to the Savior and they are this because of several factors. Let us list some briefly.

First, they are the open-minded and open-hearted. We have found that the natural curiosity of children and their limited prejudice has made them prime targets for the Gospel of Christ. The easiest way often times to make an entrance into a community on the foreign field, and this in almost any area of the world, is to have some outdoor meetings where you can attract children. A missionary from Argentina some time ago told me that eight churches in an independent mission there had come about through neighborhood children's meetings that began in various parts of an interior area, most of them under a tree. The story, then, seems to be: to the tree out of curiosity, from the tree to the family, and thence to the Trinity. Forgive the pun, but it still carries a profound truth. That is, reach the children, for their curiosity is stronger

than their fears, and their responsiveness or open-heartedness is stronger than their prejudice.

Secondly, I believe that our Lord in commanding us to "allow the children to come unto Him" was very conscious of the fact that children are able to communicate to their parents. Aside from the fact that they were born in sin and conceived in iniquity, and that they, like their parents, are by nature lost souls, the job of communicating the lostness of our human existence, the depravity of our own hearts, is a tremendous task. The first step in communicating a divine truth is to communicate our human love and concern. We are many times, neither at home nor on the foreign field, able to communicate.

How do we "get through" to our lost friends, how do we keep them from "turning us off," how can we get across the great fact that we love them, and God loves them even more, not their sin, but their existence, their person, their potential in Christ? The answer many times is tied in with their children. Did you ever find it possible to get mad at a person who was doing something nice for your children? Maybe you didn't like a lot of things the guy was talking about, and maybe you didn't agree with a lot of the things he stood for, but if he was really treating your children wonderfully, taking an interest in them, teaching them good things, well, you just couldn't work up much of a storm against such a person, could you?

On the mission field we often have to take this approach—the parents many times will not darken the door of the church, that is until you have

a Christmas program with their children in it, or a vacation Bible School program with displays by their children. We used to say on the Brazil field that at such programs, with the church packed, we were getting all the in-laws and the "outlaws." So we reach out to the children at all ages, for often they are the keys to the evangelization of the entire family, often they are the first bridges over which many adult souls will pass to Christ.

A third factor which makes children important in the sight of the Savior is that they themselves are very teachable and preparable for the Kingdom. An apt and living illustration of this truth comes to my mind from an experience in one of our frontier churches. Young Carlos bore a strong resemblance to his father. He walked like him, had the same sort of speech cadance and many of the same natural gestures of his father. His father Manoel was a fine Christian, but at his age of almost 50, not too teachable anymore. He was elected to teach the adult Sunday School class for one year. It seems that he spent little time in preparation and usually droned on and on in rather tiring repetitions, but no one would say anything about this, and the hints and suggestions that I might give on my month to month visits just didn't register. But Senhor Manoel thought it would be a great thing if one of his boys should be offered to the Lord for His service, there being three others to stay home on the farm and work. So Carlos came to Bible School. My wife found out that he had a natural ability for music and began to give him accordion lessons. After a year Carlos was able to go home and lead the Bible class for his father, accompany the congregation in its singing on the accordion, and in general, the quality of both the music and the teaching improved considerably.

This one isolated case does bring home to us a great axiom: what the father himself may not be willing to learn, he may want his child to learn. Jesus knew that youth are teachable and preparable, and so He said "Allow—give a chance—to these little ones to come to Me, for to such belongs the Kingdom of Heaven."

[Continued on page 10]

The Association in the 70's

by Rev. John P. Strand, President
Association of Free Lutheran
Congregations

For a person who is not a prophet, nor even the son of a prophet, the attempt to peer into the future is very difficult. This is even made more difficult because of the rapid changes taking place. Changes will continue to take place, of that we can be sure.

Many believers are convinced that our Lord's return is very near. He may come in the 70's. If He does, all man's thoughts of the future will be much too inglorious. We must live as though Christ is at the gate. We must plan as though He is tarrying, lest we be guilty of the error of the Thessalonians.

The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations is basically a spiritual movement. Can an association so loosely knit, according to the ways of man, live and grow in days like this? We are convinced it can and will. God, Who brought the Association into being, Who has guided and kept her, will be faithful in the 70's, too. If the Association should depart from her principles and purposes, her life will be short indeed. We do not foresee this.

There will come some real testing. Some people never understand the concept of free and living congregations. When those most active in the formation of the Association are no longer on the scene, will those who must carry on have the genius of the free church movement clearly in heart and mind? It is not enough to have an intellectual knowledge of it. There must be a clear conviction, wrought, I am convinced, by the Spirit of God. This conviction must not be of convenience, but of compulsion by the Spirit. I believe God's Spirit will create it in those who must continue the work.

In the next decade there will be attempts made by many outside of the Association to return to the old foundations of the apostles and prophets. These efforts will be tragically fragmented. The battles between orthodoxy and liberalism will continue with the liberals clearly in control. Orthodoxy will be for some only a fetish, ardently defended, but the Spirit of God will be lacking. Their efforts will have little lasting effect. The Association will continue to stress orthodoxy of doctrine coupled with living faith. Sacramentarianism will not take the place of evangelism.

The Association is so completely dependent on the work of God's Spirit in the heart and mind of the people. There is no organization to do what must be done. The Spirit of God must be the mover. It is easy to lose sight of this. There will be temptations to over-organize, and over-promote. This is more dangerous than the under-sell. The Association will continue basically on the middle ground, with reliance on God's Spirit to work through the means of Grace motivating loyalties and convictions.

There will come a deeper appreciation of the truth that the congregations are the heart of our work, not the institutions, missions, and other common endeavors. As a result, there will be a renewed emphasis on the reawakening needed in our present congregations and building new ones through an aggressive home mission program. By the end of the 70's, there will be a band of congregations who are members of the Association stretching all the way to the East Coast. Because of shifts in population, many rural congregations will have a new lease on life, while others, by their own choice, will merge with

other congregations.

Because many public schools, instead of being neutral to religion, will become more irreligious, some congregations, in cooperation with Christian people of other denominations, will be forced to establish schools of their own. Their will be the growth of true ecumenicity on the local level, with Christian people, regardless of race, crossing denominational lines to fellowship and work with each other, without compromise of doctrine. The present world ecumenical movement will continue to be largely political but not reaching the grass roots with any significant aid. They will continue to show little sympathy and understanding towards those not liberal or not in the ecumenical camp.

To assist in the cause of evangelism, the Association will have by the mid-seventies a full-time evangelist. The enrollment in the Bible School will increase to the point where a limitation on admittance must be made.

The seminary will grow, both in staff and student body. Many non-association young men conservative of theology will enter our seminary to prepare for service in the Association.

The Association will continue to have her financial needs met. There will always be a struggle here. At crucial times, legacies will be received so the work can continue to progress.

In more areas of the world there will be active persecution of Christian people. This will serve to drive the church to her knees in repentance for sin and to cry for mercy. She will find again that only when weak will she be strong. May the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations be true to her Lord now and always.

A Truly Brazilian Church

by Mr. Robert Knutson

Chairman, Board of Foreign Missions

When the American people were told nearly ten years ago that this country would send men to the moon before 1970, there were many doubters, scoffers, and downright disbelievers. If ten years ago, the Church had been told how inadequately it would perform its duty, and how it would fail in so many ways to present the Gospel to mankind, there would have been just as many doubters and scoffers. But I dare say that today most Christians are truly sorry, and even ashamed, of the lack of influence and of the direction the Church has taken. The Church by and large, has not been engaged solely in its task of bringing the Good News to man.

The AFLC has had a part these past ten years in carrying out this task of the church. From our beginning in the early 60's, we felt it to be our responsibility, even as a newly organized group, to develop and carry on a program of Foreign Missions. We began our initial work in Brazil, and also later, by helping in a small way, an outreach to the Mexican people. God has blessed our efforts and today in Brazil we have a group of six churches, a thriving Bible School-Seminary program with 20 students, and three full-time families. Work among the Mexicans, centered in Nogales, has solidified, and is serving the need of many of the people in that area. While we rejoice in what has taken place, we also realize that so much more could, and should, have been done. And so as we look into the 70's, we must not count our laurels, if indeed we have any, but rather in seeing the magnitude of the task before us, press on into the open fields that are before us.

As is known to most of our AFLC people, our chief endeavor, both from a personnel and financial standpoint,

has been in Brazil. We have had as our goal the establishment of a truly Brazilian AFLC. That is why after the start of several congregations in various cities and towns in Parana, the emphasis has been placed on the construction and functioning of a Bible School-Seminary. As mentioned before, this is now operating with 20 students.

The young women are taking a two-year Bible Course, as are some young men. Hopefully a number of men will feel led, yes, compelled, to complete the four-year Seminary course. It is our prayer that as young Brazilians are trained in the Word, and are properly prepared for the ministry, that the churches will have grown to such an extent that they will be able to call and support their own pastors. Most of the people in that part of Brazil are poor and it will be a real sacrifice for them to do this. As we look at our responsibilities in the area, it seems to me that we must pledge ourselves to operate and finance this Bible School-Seminary program. This will be no small project for us. To truly operate on a smooth and efficient basis will require four or five missionary families, perhaps one home on leave and four on the field. This is only a minimum figure. There is a need for double or triple that number, with a great need also for medical and agricultural missionaries. But as we look at our own size here at home, we must be realistic, and we must only send out a missionary when we are able to support and keep him there.

So our first goal must be the calling, and the ability to support, those workers needed to carry out the program of the Bible School and Seminary in Brazil. Certainly, too, it would be of great value to have the personnel to go into the area and

spend much time creating interest and starting new churches. While the Brazilians will be doing most of this work as time goes on, it will be 1972 or 1973 before there will be any Seminary graduates from our Seminary in Brazil. We must also consider the feasibility of furthering the training and background of those qualified Brazilians who will become the leaders of their church. We have one young man from Brazil studying in our Seminary here in Minneapolis, but one is not enough. As the experience and knowledge of the Brazilian lay people and pastors grow, there will be an increasing need for them to further their training. This is especially true when one realizes the Brazilians will take on more and more of the responsibilities in their own land, including that of teaching in their schools.

As we consider our future needs in Nogales, and of the Mexican people, it becomes very apparent that we have done much less than should have been done. The work in Nogales has been a real blessing to the many American workers who labor in Mexico, but so much more needs to be done for the Mexican himself. It can only be the prayer of all of us that our Association will grow so numerically and spiritually, that we will be able in the 70's to help in the establishment of a work in Mexico itself, so that there might be a real outreach to those people as well.

And so, while it is easy for us to be pessimistic, and to become discouraged when we see the work that remains to be done, let us remember that this task is one which Christ has commanded us to be engaged in and that he has not only promised to be with us, but also to supply our needs. May each one of us pray "Lord, use me."

The Future of Our Schools

by Rev. Ernest J. Langness,
Chairman, Board of Trustees

"Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have little power, and have kept my Word, and have not denied my name" (Revelation 3:8b).

God has given to our schools an open door. May we ever keep His Word and be faithful in our calling. In looking into the future of our schools, should our Lord tarry, there lies before us a tremendous privilege as well as responsibility. We are thankful for the challenge and our goal is to occupy until Jesus comes.

There are various factors which play an important part as to the future of our schools. One is their geographical location in the heart of our Association parishes, located on the beautiful campus overlooking Medicine Lake in Minneapolis, Minn. Distance seems to be a small problem today and we have students from the West coast and also the country of Brazil, South America. Being located in Minneapolis there are opportunities for student employment. The afternoons and evenings are open so they can find good jobs and we know our students will leave a good reputation because of their Christian principles.

The beautiful dormitory is a drawing card. Many Bible schools do not provide dormitory living. Dorm life is

a rich experience as the students share with one another their various experiences and interests regarding the Christian life, prayer fellowship and devotional services, all which make up for an ideal climate for Christian growth and maturity.

Another, and perhaps the most important factor, is our emphasis that the Bible is the Word of God. There are many concerned Lutherans who are looking for a Bible school which holds true to the Word of God and emphasizes a testimony of personal salvation and power to live the Christian life. Because of our stand, I am confident that more students will be coming to our Bible school as our present students share with other young people the joy and blessing they have received in attending Bible school. This has been evident by the steady increase in the enrollment.

Our seminary has had a remarkable increase this past year. There have been some very fine young men who have come to us from other Lutheran synods wanting to study at our seminary. We thank God for concerned young men who realize the need of sound Biblical training with the knowledge of a personal experience of the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ.

Another factor of importance is our faculty. We are so thankful for those of like mind who have joined the faculty, concerned that the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity. Our present faculty is made up of men from various backgrounds and experiences and this will contribute much to the lives of the students.

Because of your concern in giving and your prayers, our schools have continued to grow and from these schools will come our pastors, missionaries, teachers, leaders of congregations and Sunday School teachers.

As I look ahead into the next decade (realizing my own limitation), but looking back upon God's blessing on our schools, I feel quite confident we have to erect another building on our campus, perhaps a boys' dormitory or an administration building. This may seem like a big undertaking but we have a great God who has blessed us so abundantly and we realize the urgency of the hour. We must work while it is day! We have been told that our beloved America is the greatest mission field today. Let us pray that we may be found faithful in His vineyard. May God bless this New Year for us all.

(Continued from page 3)

The best way to face the New Year is to look up—into the face of Jesus, knowing there we can find perfect peace and joy. Walking hand in hand with Jesus we know all fears can be stilled. No trial or temptation is too great when we have the Savior with us.

As the pages of the New Year un-

fold, no doubt there will be sorrows in some lives, while others will have trials and tribulations, while still others will have great joy and happiness. But how wonderful it is that "we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."

In conclusion, I would like to ask each one, are you trusting Jesus and

laying all in His hands? If not, may you commit your life to Jesus Christ and make this the richest and fullest year of your life. With Him all things will be more meaningful.

May each one forget the things behind and reach forth unto those things which are before, pressing toward the mark for the great prize of eternal life and salvation which is only in Christ Jesus.

Blessed Dollars for Home Missions

by Rev. Hubert DeBoer, Secretary
Board of Home Missions, AFLC

We are standing at an "open door" of opportunity! The philosophy of the world is 'discouragement at every hand' because of implements of war, technology, ideology, etc. This definitely is not the philosophy of the Church of Jesus Christ! We are truly on the threshold of vast possibilities! What this new decade has in store for any or all of us is still in the "mind" of the Lord.

But, as we stand on the threshold of the new decade, let us project our thoughts into what "can happen" and what likely "will happen" if the Lord carries in His second advent, and if we are faithful to His cause.

We've been confronted with the Macedonian mission call many times, I'm sure, but it's never been more REAL and PRESSING than it is today! Multitudes of people are dissatisfied with the watered down spiritual diet that is forced upon them by a modernist clergy and they are turning to those who proclaim the old-fashioned Gospel of sin and grace! Yes, many are calling loudly to the AFLC to "come over and help them!" As we stand on the threshold of 1970, what shall we do with those cries for help? Dare we take the course of the priest and the Levite in the Parable of the Good Samaritan and just pass by on the other side? No, we dare not! Not only because of our Christian obligation toward Christian charity, but

it's in this answering the Home Mission call at "Jerusalem" (Acts 1:8), that the way is made possible to go to "Judea and Samaria and to the uttermost part of the earth." It's at the "home base" where the first impetus of men and money and message must begin! No, we dare not ignore this call for help!

But, what should we do? We're often operating in the red now! Should we politely relate our financial picture to them and say (emotionally): "...we're real sorry...but...!" No, let us take God at His Word! Let's believe this 'whole business' that God tells us in His Word: "...prove me now herewith, saith Jehovah of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:10b). How does this promise come? As a result of taking God at His Word as to dollars and cents: TITHING!

My saintly mother often used the expression, "Where there's a will there's a way!" Many congregations would be financially solvent and independent if their members would take God's method of finance! Very likely there are congregations now depending heavily on Home Mission funds for support who could go independent if their members caught this vision of God's method of finance.

And think what would be the pros-

pects for the AFLC with "blessed dollars" which came as a result of "faith giving." Why can't we expect our people to accept this challenge for 1970 and on? And with such a prospect of "blessed dollars" we could PLANT one new congregation a year, AT LEAST!

Many of the Macedonian calls are coming to us from the larger urban areas, and this is where the congregations could first be "planted." Then, as they became self-sufficient (financially), the growth could reach out in all directions. We surely have no animosity against the rural folks. God bless them. Many are literally the "salt of the earth!" And God has blessed their efforts in building the Kingdom in rural areas, but the population is being thinned out there and "thickened" in the urban centers.

What are our thoughts for prospects in 1970 and on? Wonderful! Large! Tremendous! The number of men in our Seminary is increasing. Now we need FUNDS! We need BLESSED DOLLARS that have come as a result of FAITH GIVING! (Remember: "Where there's a will, there's a way.")

It's very possible that our Lord will come during the decade before us. May He find His Church working Full Speed Ahead, not only in preaching and teaching, but in GIVING and WORKING (James 2:26).

PERSONALITIES

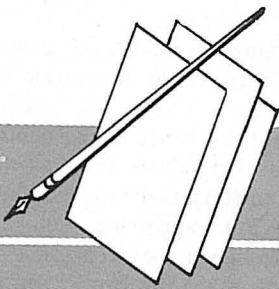
Mr. Rodney Stueland, former evangelist for the Hauge Lutheran Inner-mission Federation, has accepted a call to serve as lay pastor of the New-folden, Minnesota, parish. He and his family have moved to their new home from Renville, Minn.

FAMILY BIBLE CAMP DATES ANNOUNCED

The 8th annual Family Bible Camp will be held July 6-12 at Lake Geneva Bible Camp, Alexandria, Minn., it has been announced by the dean of the camp, Rev. Leslie Galland, Spicer, Minn.

PASTOR FRANZ TO SPEAK AT MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

Rev. Herbert L. Franz, Cloquet, Minn., will be the evening evangelist at the Mid-winter Conference of the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement at Augustana Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn., Jan. 25-31.



EDITORIALS

A NEW DECADE

Two weeks ago we took a backward look at a decade of the world of religion. It was a hurried look. There was neither time nor space for an in depth survey. One magazine page can hardly do justice to a subject some people are writing books about. It is always a consolation when one has not been exhaustive on a topic to be able to plead a lack of time. But this in no way suggests that what was written in our previous issue did not represent our convictions.

Today we are on the threshold of a new decade, the 1970's. If one had the gift of prophecy it would be relatively easy to foretell what this span of ten years will hold, but we don't know of anyone who can lay out the future in any more reliable manner than we can, making some general judgments based on what we know now and assuming that these factors remain stable and move in the direction they are heading at present.

With this in mind, the following statements are made.

Church mergers will continue but enthusiasm for them may have dwindled noticeably by the end of the decade. The Consultation on Church Union (COCU), mentioned last time, may have picked up enough steam to go through on the proposed plan to unite 25 million American Protestants, but it may spawn several fragmentary groups. No Lutheran groups are involved in COCU, by the way. Among the Lutheran Big Three (ALC, LCA, LC-MS), there will be an attempt for merger in this decade. If it is successful, there will be a sizeable defection of conservatives who will form two or three new bodies unless any present independent movements are able to assimilate the defectors, which is problematical. All in all, church mergers will gradually lose favor during the decade because the conservative-liberal friction evident in politics will be very evident also in the churches and many people will come to realize that there is no particular virtue in fighting within the family and that more can be accomplished constructively by separate and competing organizations. Views concerning the Word and the Gospel are just so divergent today that there has to be a parting of the ways.

It will be extremely interesting to watch developments within the Roman Catholic Church in the 1970's. It is difficult to imagine that the RCC can ever again be the unified structure it was 20 years ago. A wide gulf exists between her conservative and liberal wings and one would feel that "never the twain shall meet." The conservative group not only holds to the fundamental doctrines shared by the Prot-

estant conservative, but to all those points which have divided them for centuries. The liberals in the RCC are breaking away from many of the man-made traditions they see as no longer binding on the conscience, but they also tend to be careless with the landmarks of the faith, as does the Protestant liberal. Whether a middle-road approach will emerge strong enough to save the empire is not known. Much depends on the Pope and in all likelihood there will be a change in popes during the decade.

The 1970's will witness a growing involvement of evangelical churches and congregations in social concerns. Care must be taken that they don't shift undue responsibility to the group so that the primary responsibility doesn't fall where it ought, on the Christian in his everyday life and work. This has happened in some churches and councils of churches today and they face a difficult time at the hands of lobbies and interest groups. In the matter of social conscience, evangelical Christians face the dilemma at times of sharing a mutual concern with liberal churchmen but having to decline a joint attack on the problem because to do so would involve a compromise on doctrine or some other issue. Therefore, separate courses are sometimes needed in confronting one area of need.

There is a trend today whose course will be greatly determined by another decade. In earlier days conversion to Christ meant a turning away from the old life to new ways. Thus, if a person in show business, for instance, became a Christian, he was almost certain to leave his former occupation. Today that is not as apt to happen. Thus it is that even the eminent evangelist, Billy Graham, a man greatly used of God and a bulwark in the preaching of sin and grace, uses a dance orchestra soloist in his crusades and gives high recommendation to a popular singing star in Great Britain who still performs in his country's nightclubs. Furthermore, evangelical musical groups are appearing today who utilize the latest in dress, staging, lighting and amplification to bring the Gospel. Whereas there is general agreement that sex is used to sell everything from automobiles to men's ties, now it is being used to present the claims of Jesus Christ to the "now" generation. These are new developments, we can all agree, but they carry the seeds of a degenerate evangelical Christianity. Alas, evangelical Christians, too, like to be liked and are not always willing to call for the separated life.

The secularization of society goes on apace and it will be no different in the 1970's unless a nationwide revival takes place, of which no evidence exists today. Disregard for the Lord's Day grows. Churches are moving to accommodate members who will no longer make the effort to accommodate themselves to the church's schedule. In all too many areas of life Christians are loyal followers of fads and fashions exhibiting little evidence of a first allegiance to a higher Master. Willingness to be different is in short supply. Some Americans lay much blame on increased secularization of society to the prohibition of authorized devotional Bible reading and prayer in the public schools. But they not only forget that many schools never did have that practice, but that if we ask the schools to do this we ask them to do something which has never been done in the majority of our church homes, not even

in all our "Christian homes." If all our church homes were Bible reading and praying homes, we wouldn't have to worry about whether it is found in the schools. And doing it in the schools will never be a substitute for the family altar at home. Will secularization of society continue in this decade? It certainly looks like it unless—

We have scratched the surface in this survey of the decade we have just entered upon. Several areas out of many have been touched. But they are basic areas. They represent the outlook and bias of one person. No doubt there are readers who will agree and disagree on every point made. If you would like to express an opinion on something written here, may we hear from you in our Letters to the Editor column.

THE LOOK AHEAD

This issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador* features a number of articles by leaders in Association work dealing with the coming decade. We trust that you will find their pro-

jections into the future concerning the branch of the work for which they are primarily responsible interesting and helpful.

We have promised them that we would make it clear that they are speaking only as individuals in what they write here. They are not committing their agencies to a specific course of action but are expressing their own hopes and fears. But in all likelihood they represent the thinking of others, perhaps of a majority of their co-workers, if not the people of the whole church.

The Lord alone knows the future. He knows the length of the work-day we shall have, the doors that will be open and those that will be shut. Our prayer must be for obedience and faithfulness. If we possess those two qualities, the future will be all that it is meant to be as far as we are concerned, whether it be short or long.

The 1960's were years of organization in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. The 1970's will be a decade of consolidation and of building. May we meet the challenges with steadfast spirit and purpose.

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This brings us to the fourth challenge of this command. Allow them, because they have a life to invest. You and I may have money to invest in the Kingdom and little more than this. God needs it and will not despise it. These young people have a life to invest and little more than this. God needs it and will not despise it. I'm thinking now of the case of a pretty German-Brazilian teenage country school teacher named Adelina. Adelina's parents felt she could not go into the big city of Campo Mourao and study in our Bible Institute because she was too much needed at home. It was her financial contribution, her assistance to her mother, etc. Then Adelina became ill. She seemed to waste away. Each month when I saw her she looked worse. Finally they agreed that Ruby and I could take her in to the big city, get her treated at our doctor friend's hospital and keep her in our home or in Bible School until she was strong again. Adelina was on the verge of tuberculosis and well saturated with parasites and amoeba. By God's grace and the cooperation and charity of some Brazilian doctor friends she was much better after a month and able to go to Bible School. Here she fully blossomed out as a child of God. She taught some sewing to the other girls, sang in the choir and became in time a fine teacher for vacation Bible schools. Only God knows what great contributions youth

like Carlos and Adelina and dozens of others will make with their lives invested for Jesus Christ. Do you see now some of the profound implications of the great truth Jesus gave us when He said, "Allow the children to come unto me"? And do you agree that if they are willing to invest their lives, we should be willing, in obedience to Christ, to invest something also?

The real truth of this is that every time you and I make possible the training of a Brazilian for Christ, we multiply the effort of our missionaries. But how can they come to Him and how can they be committed to Him if we are not equipped to train them for work in His kingdom, to house them and to help send them forth to their own people? Our Association Mission Board is concerned about this both here at home and beyond the seas. We have previously invested three thousand dollars in the building of a first Bible School building, but there were no facilities in it for girls. We ended up having to put the girls in one of the class-rooms, but now that we need all the class-rooms, the time has come. Come for what? To venture out on faith again, trusting God and God's people, and so the Foreign Mission Board voted to send \$250.00 per month to the Brazil field to carry on a slow continuous construction of a girls' dormitory. This new building is being built entirely out of local, native materials, but will be

a substantial half-brick building and will house 24 girls plus house-parents.

By supporting our Association mission budget you are reaching out to youth, you are allowing the children of Brazil's frontier "to come unto Him." But just think of it, with this year almost over only two-thirds of what should have been on hand in November has come in. Right now we are about 20 thousand dollars short of what should be in at this time. Other funds in our Association are in much the same situation.

Just three weeks to tell the Lord that we care, that we will invest for eternity, that we will allow the little ones out there to come unto Him. Shall we hold back this year, or cut back our foreign mission program? Is our Annual Conference pledge for missions too much for us? Last summer we agreed it was not. We are over 100 congregations. If only six people in each congregation would give an extra \$20.00 for foreign missions we would catch up with our goal and keep the planned program going for God. Pray about this, friend. Jesus loves the little children of the world. Do we? Someone has written, "Our Lord said, 'You are my witnesses, you are my servants, you are my ambassadors, and the job of world evangelization will be won in our generation as soon as every child of God prays as he ought, goes where God sends him and gives as God prospers him.'" So be it, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Desired Goals for Evangelism for the Next Decade

by Rev. Trygve F. Dahle, Sr.
Chairman, Commission on
Evangelism

As we think back over the last few years, since we started over again as an AFLC, we see much for which to be thankful, and also much that has been lacking in our work, in every phase of our work as a Church. May we sincerely thank God for the successes, and may our mistakes become stepping stones for success in the years that lie ahead.

As we try to project our thinking into the future, there are many things we earnestly desire for our AFLC.

First, more fire and enthusiasm in every pulpit. We surely have much for which to be enthusiastic.

We have our wonderful Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who has won the victory over our common enemy and has put salvation within the reach of all who are willing to take up the cross and follow Him. May we "preach as though we would never preach again, as a dying man, to dying men."

Secondly, more aggressiveness in every confessing Christian for personal evangelism. "Each one, win one." This means not only praying for the unsaved, but visiting them and telling them what the Lord has done for us. Also seek to help a weak brother or sister, troubled with doubt and who lack assurance of salvation, into real faith in the promises of God, so they can have real peace and joy in the Lord. You cannot have joy without peace, and you cannot have peace without assurance of salvation, and you cannot have assurance unless you come all-out in confession of sin and believe God's promise to forgive and forget our sins (Isaiah 43:25; I John 1:9; John 6:37).

Thirdly, more fervent, agonizing prayer for our local churches as well as for the church at large; our total work which God has entrusted to our care.

Fourthly, less selfishness, pride, jealousy, envy, judging, ill feeling toward our neighbor, avarice or covetousness, etc. These are the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21).

Fifthly, more sacrificial giving all along the line, from the pastor (who should be an example to the flock), and on down to the last or least member of every congregation, including the youth. God says in Malachi 3:10-11, "Bring ye the whole tithe. . . ." Every congregation and every member should be more enthusiastic about God's great work, and the corner of His vineyard which He has entrusted to our care. Remember we will some day have to stand before Him and answer how we have used His talents entrusted to us.

I know people in our AFLC who give very sparingly to the work of their own church as well as to our common endeavors (our schools and missions at home and abroad), but they can buy more farms, or spend money for boats and motors or snowmobiles, without blinking an eye; or take expensive vacations costing hundreds of dollars, here at home, or tours abroad and still think they are doing God's work when they give a dollar or five or ten in an offering to schools or missions once or twice a year. Jesus said, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, shall they give into your bosom. For with the measure ye mete it shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38). We also read in II Cor. 9:6, "He that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he that soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." Paul says in I Tim. 6:10, "The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil; which some reaching after have been led astray from the faith." Let us beware, lest we be

caught in this trap or snare of the devil.

Our greatest need in our AFLC, at present, as well as for the years ahead, is a sweeping revival of the Christians and a real conviction of sin and an awakening of the unsaved. If we all could only get a vision of the blessings from the Lord that are in store for us; if we only would make a full and complete surrender of commitment to the Lord, we wouldn't be so slow in yielding everything to Him.

Unless America turns to God in dead earnest and in deep confession of sin, and in wholehearted commitment to Him, judgment is sure to come, and it is not far away.

Is God moving the candlestick from us? It seems so. There are more souls turning to God in the so-called heathen nations today than in the so-called Christian nations. In Indonesia alone, two and one-half millions have been saved in the last three years. And in India, South America, Africa and Mexico, souls are turning to God in great numbers. God's Word is still able to save. God's true Church is going forward while the organized churches are backsliding.

God told Moses, "Say unto the people that they go forward." The people had left Egypt, and stood on the west shore of the Red Sea, and Pharaoh was in hot pursuit behind them. Impassible mountains to the right and to the left. It looked impossible, but there are no impossible situations with God. God opened a way across the Red Sea, and the people went across on dry land, with all their cattle and all their belongings.

God can do the same today. "Is anything too hard for God?" "He is able to supply our every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus"

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A Full Curriculum

by Rev. Raynard Huglen,
Chairman
Board of Publications and
Parish Education

As the decade of the 1960's ended, the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations was in the process of completing work on Sunday School material for five grades and one year for post-confirmation high school Bible classes.

The courses have been produced at unexpectedly low cost and in attractive form even though there has been no interior art work. The courses completed, and those yet to be, will all be undergoing evaluation and revision as needed in the next several years. It would be well not to put anything into final form until it is seen that it proves generally useful and worthy.

Initial reaction to our materials has been good. But the Sunday Schools of the Association will do us a service if they will tell the Board of Publications and Parish Education about any mistakes and weaknesses they find in the courses. It is only in this way that

the strongest material possible can be presented.

It is the aim of the Board to not only complete the curriculum for all grades, one through nine, but to prepare at least nine quarterly courses for high school Bible classes. Thus, over a three-year period, a student would have covered nine different topics.

The decade we have now entered upon should also see some new materials available for confirmation instruction. Here again, the Board would welcome suggestions and ideas as to what sort of curriculum would be liked. This is not to say that present books and workbooks being used would no longer be promoted. They should continue to be promoted. Rather there could be some alternate studies prepared for those who would wish to try something different in their confirmation work. The writer has personally felt, for instance, that there

is a real need for a course which would help young people to better learn how to use their Bibles and to find what it really holds for them. Such a course would be one possibility.

Still another area in which much can be done in the next ten years in parish education is teacher training. It is always a question as to how best accomplish this. But in whatever way, it is only as the local teachers are reached that any real good can be achieved. District instructors' training sessions, district workshops and visits to local parishes by the executive secretary are all ways in which the Board can assist in this work. Parishes may also set up their own programs for teacher betterment without seeking any assistance from without.

All of our parish education work must be Christ-centered. It must have the goal of building young lives for Jesus Christ. Our work must be undergirded by much prayer.

BLUE GRASS CHURCH SCENE OF DISTRICT RALLY

The Central Minnesota District of the Women's Missionary Federation Fall Rally met at Blue Grass Church of Verndale, Minn., on Wednesday, October 15, 1969. The theme verses were Psalm 31:14, 15a. "In Times Like These" was the theme song.

Mrs. Larry Warous of Blue Grass gave the welcome and Pastor Kjelta of Hart Church led in devotions from II Cor. 5:17-21.

Mrs. Dean Erickson and Mrs. Ernest Thompson of Hart Church sang "The Mission Fields Are Calling." Pastor John Abel spoke on Matt. 25:31-46 and Pastor and Mrs. Abel sang "Trust and Obey." The offering went to "My Missionary for a Day."

Potluck dinner was served.

Prayer fellowship was led by Pastor Wendell Johnson of Dalton and afternoon devotions by Mrs. Lennie Bathun, also of Dalton. Portions of Scripture from II Tim. 3:1 and Romans 13:11-12 were read.

Pastor and Mrs. Johnson sang "O Crystal Fountain."

Mrs. Abel gave a talk on Prayer and Pastor and Mrs. Johnson sang "The Keys and the Kingdom" and a "Wonderful Blessing" accompanied by Mrs. Johnson on a stringed instrument.

The benediction was by Pastor J. Hermunslie of Fergus Falls.

There were 75 ladies and pastors present.

Mrs. Lawrence Dahlgren,
Secretary



Honored for twenty-five years of service in the WMF, at the August meeting of the Zion Ladies Aid of Tioga, North Dakota, were Mrs. Arthur Olson, pictured at left, and Mrs. Sig Olson. Present to pin the membership pins on their mothers were Colleen Olson, daughter of Mrs. Art Olson, and Mrs. Lyle Kornkven, daughter of Mrs. Sig Olson.

Open Doors

by Mrs. Melvin Walla, President
Women's Missionary Federation

The first verse that comes to mind as I think about this is I Cor. 16:9: "A great door and effectual is opened unto us." "For a wide door of opportunity for effectual (service) has opened for me, one great and promising, and many adversaries" (Amplified New Testament).

Perhaps never before has there been such a need for the preaching of the Gospel because of the multitudes of people in the day in which we live and the powers of the adversary to destroy everything that has to do with the same.

As a Women's Missionary Federation we adopted last June at the annual convention a set of goals for the year 1970. This should mean something to us. We as voting members pledged there to accomplish these in the year 1970, Lord willing. It should be our fervent prayer that this be accomplished and much more. These projects are not something different from what we as an Association of Free Lutheran Congregations are doing, but as an organization we are an arm of the church for the extending of the Kingdom of God here on earth. Each of the goals are listed in dollars and cents as we state them, but in the minds of each of us as Christians they are souls for the Kingdom. This should be uppermost in our minds. Let us never forget to pray that each goal met might mean just that—reaching lost souls.

We are so happy now that as we are coming to the close of the fiscal year our goals for the past year are met. This is much to praise God for. Let us never fold our hands and say well done. God has much more for us to do, and even greater blessings for us to experience in the way of spiritual

blessings as we trust Him in the coming year.

As we think of our schools, missionaries, and the church extension work, we see where we should be doing much more. There are so many open doors if we could only go in and work. There is more to it than giving. How we need prayer warriors among our women. Women who are really willing to band together and become burdened for those who are working, for needed funds, for workers for the vineyard. "Pray ye the Lord of the Harvest" that there might be young people who will be willing to say, "Here am I, send me," and older ones, too, whom God may lay His hand on to go, that they would be willing to leave all and follow where the Lord leads. James says, "Ye have not because ye ask not." I think we feel that if we have prayer in our devotions at our meetings, that is enough. I hope the time will come when our women will see the need of really spending time in prayer for these things and that we will have real prayer warriors among some of our older women who maybe cannot be out and about, but will be willing to carry the burden of the work in this way.

We see the fields "white unto harvest" all over the world. We have our missionaries in Brazil and we thank God for them, and for those learning the language that they might be able to spread the Word. We also think of the work carried on just across the border of Arizona into Mexico. We are thankful for the work that is being done there by the Dynnesons and the Swansons. Though the Swansons are not supported by our missions in any way they are doing a wonderful work in going across the border twice a week and working with the women and the children. Mrs. Swanson, who

carries on this work, has served as a missionary in various countries and knows the Spanish language very well and so is able to communicate very easily with the people. Mr. Swanson is making his living as a salesman. I would like to see that sometime in the future she could receive some support from us for the work that she carries on and would be able to do much more that way.

In a recent communication from Pastor Dynneson he tells of the earnest Christian man living across the border who is wanting to be a servant of God bringing the Gospel to his own people. Let us pray that this work could be enlarged and a good work established there. Let us always be looking for ways and means to enlarge the work wherever it is.

Added to the budget for 1970 is the Praise Program. As we give to this it ought to be just that, praise from our hearts for our schools where young men and women can be established and trained in the Word.

We hope that as the women receive their literature on these projects at the first of the year, they will note this, and use it at the designated meetings that all might become better acquainted with it and that it will be a fresh reminder to the rest and then that they will give prayerfully to the projects for the furtherance of the Kingdom. This will bring rich blessings to each one of our members and our groups will be more than just other groups or societies, but groups of eager concerned women digging into the Word and surrendering in obedience to it. Let us pray for the salvation of each of the women of our WMF that we may truly rejoice in the Lord. Then we will rejoice in His work. "For a wide door of opportunity has opened for me."

Youth Will Respond to the Word

by Rev. David C. Molstre, President
Luther League Federation

As one reminisces on the year 1969 and remembers the Christ-centered Bible camps of our AFLC, the Gospel teams from our Bible School sharing the Word in testimony and song, the Luther League convention and its spiritual emphasis, and the growing Bible School and Seminary, one has reason to be thankful and optimistic about our youth and the future of our Association, in which they play a most important part.

There is much talk today and much disgust expressed concerning youth and their seemingly ungodly, carefree attitude concerning religion, and their break from many of the traditions we hold dear. One minister and college professor told me that young people are no longer interested in the Bible or the things of God. I don't believe this is true. If young people are challenged with the Word, many will take up the cross and follow Him. The prob-

lem today often is that young people get everything **but the Word**. We see in our Bible School and Bible camps what happens when young people are given large doses of the Word and spiritual fellowship. The result is tremendous. May we never despair of our youth but may we pray for them that the Lord may have His way in their lives.

As we look ahead to 1970 the Luther League officers certainly encourage the local Luther Leagues to be active and also to contribute ideas to the national officers. What would you like us to do?

We would like to send out a Gospel team this summer, not only to share the Word at our various churches but also to serve as counsellors at the various Bible camps. We are hoping to work this out with the Bible School and its dean, Pastor Snipstead.

Then, too, there should be a youth project that all of our leagues could

be working on. One suggestion is that we send one or two of our AFLC youth who are planning on the mission field to Nogales to work there for a summer and then report their experiences to the local Luther Leagues.

We are planning a devotional book again for our youth, possibly to be available in the fall. Also there is the next Luther League convention to look forward to in 1971 and to begin planning and praying for. There has been the suggestion that this one be held in Minneapolis at our AFLC headquarters.

Again, may I say, let us hear of your concerns and your suggestions. Your Luther League Federation can only be as active as you the young people make it.

May your local Leagues have a blessed year in fellowship with one another and may Jesus be the center of your program.

HOUSING INFORMATION FOR THE WINTER BIBLE CONFERENCE

Thief River Falls, Minnesota

February 12-15, 1970

Please make your own reservations

Thief River Hotel 118 LaBree Avenue North

Telephone: 681-4132

One person, bath and telephone	\$5.15
One person, without bath and telephone	3.35
Two persons, double bed, bath and telephone	6.70
Two persons, without bath and telephone	4.38

Pennington Hotel 224 E. 3rd Street

Telephone: 681-4771

One person, bath, 1st floor	5.50
One person, bath, 2nd floor	5.00
Two persons, twin beds, bath	8.50
Two persons, double beds, bath	8.50
Four persons, double beds, bath	11.00
One person, without bath	3.75
Two persons, double bed, no bath	5.50

T-59 Motel East Approach on U.S. 59

Telephone: 681-2720

One person, original section	7.00
One person, new addition	8.50
Two persons, double bed, old section	8.00
Two persons, new addition	10.00

Four persons, double beds, old section	12.00
Four persons, new addition	16.00

Holiday Motel East Approach on U.S. 59

Telephone: 681-4053

One person	6.50
and	7.50
Two persons, double bed	8.50
and	10.00
Two persons, twin beds	12.00
and	14.00

Noper's Motel 1010 Main Avenue North

Telephone: 681-2640

One person	7.73
and	8.76
Two persons, double bed	9.27
and	10.30
Two persons, twin beds	12.36
and	14.46

We also have accommodations for four persons.

A limited number of rooms will be available at private homes. Anyone wishing information about these, please write to

Mrs. Philip Grothe

Route 3

Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701

Letters TO THE EDITOR

HAS HOME AVAILABLE

In a recent issue of **The Lutheran Ambassador** I read that there is need for a pension fund to help retired pastors. The cost of living has gone up and medical expenses are so high that many of us are wondering how would be best to plan for our retirement. Perhaps we could work things out in such a way as to share a home with someone else; or let them live in a home we own (at very low rent) until we need it.

I bought a nice little place at Sidney, Arkansas, two and one-half years ago, which has a good four-room house and three acres of land. I thought \$20.00 per month would be low enough rent so most anyone could afford it. If anyone is interested, they can write to me.

Sidney is a very small town in north central Arkansas, about 25 miles north of Batesville. Perhaps someone would like to live in their own mobile home on this place without paying any rent. I cannot go there to live yet because my income is not sufficient; but I wouldn't want to live there alone, anyway. It would be nice to have the property used by a couple of "mobile home" couples, as well as one or more people living in the house. There are fruit trees and plenty of space for garden. Abundant water supply.

Mrs. Ella Rasmussen
615 E. Adams St.
Tucson, Arizona 85705

WE ARE STEWARDS

Greetings from Phil. 4:19; I Tim. 6:6-12; I Cor. 16:1-2; Mal. 3:8-10 and II Cor. 9:6-8. What comfort in these words and also what a warning!

As I read these words this morning God really convicted my heart. God has promised to supply our needs but we haven't heeded the words in I Tim. 6:6-12 where we are told to be content with such things as we have and godliness with contentment is great gain.

We need to reread these words and pray about them and each one should ask God what He would have us do in regard to the shortage of money coming in for the needs of the Association.

I am afraid we have let our wants get ahead of our needs and that's why we are short of money for God's work. I am just as guilty as anyone and see things I'd like when I don't need them. Shame on me.

I wonder what would happen to us if God struck us dead like Sapphira and Ananias. They lied to the Holy Ghost and we do the same when we don't give the Lord what rightfully belongs to Him. We forget that we are stewards of His money as well as time and talents, and oh, how I have wasted them all so foolishly.

I feel the need of revival in my own heart. Unless we come back to God and His will and way we are doomed and souls will go to a Christless eternity and their blood will God require at our hands, Ezek. 3:17-21. What a

serious warning and in Ezek. 33:6-9 we see it again. We need to do like Isaiah did in Isa. 6:5-8. When God has full control of our hearts, time and talents, then only can His will be done in us.

Mrs. Pauline Pope
Shady Lane Nursing Home
Wadena, Minnesota

NOTICE OF NORTHERN LUTHERAN MISSIONS MEETING

The annual Business Meeting of Northern Lutheran Missions will be held at Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church (AFLC), Orville Olson, Pastor, McIntosh, Minn., Sat., Jan. 17, 1970, at 1:00 p.m. sharp.

At 2:30 the same day, Missionary Alvin Larson will speak at the mission service. He is our missionary at White Earth.

At 7:00 p.m., a mission youth rally with young people from Redby and

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

There is some misunderstanding about where contributions to the common causes in the AFLC are to be sent. It is important that all treasurers and individuals know where to send funds for our work.

All donations to the General Fund, Praise Program, Missions and Schools, as well as all funds pertaining to Pensions, are to be sent to the Business Administrator in Minneapolis, Minn. Our offices are located there and our business is handled at that place.

Rev. Robert Rieth at Kirkland, Wash., has been incorrectly designated as secretary-treasurer of the Association. He should be known only as the secretary. Rev. Harry C. Molstre, Valley City, N. Dak., has been elected treasurer by the Co-ordinating Committee, but the title is largely figurative. The actual bookkeeping and receipt and disbursement of funds are done at the main office in Minneapolis.

Please send all contributions to Minneapolis. **Make your check**, for whatever purpose, to **Association of Free Lutheran Congregations**. Designate, if you wish, on the lower left-hand corner of the check, the cause toward which it is given. Send your check to:

Business Administrator, AFLC
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55427

Treasurers of congregations should send in for transmittal blanks if they have not had any or if their supply has been used up.

All WMF contributions are to go to that organization's treasurer. Kindly notice that there is a new treasurer. Here are her name and address:

Mrs. J. C. Eletson, Treas.
Women's Missionary Federation
2130 East Superior Street
Duluth, Minnesota

White Earth participating will be held. All youth from the surrounding area are invited. The missionary at Redby is Verle Dean.

Northern Lutheran Missions sponsors the Indian Missions at Redby and White Earth, Minn.

DeFloren Rude, Pres.
 Harvey P. Dyrud, Sec'y
 Northern Lutheran Missions

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(Phil. 4:19), if we only ask Him and trust Him.

Before another decade is over, many of us will have left the land of

the living, and have entered that place where we will spend Eternity. Where will it be? Shall we spend Eternity at home with Jesus; or shall it be forever separated from Him, where "there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth." Just think; how wonderful: or how undescribably terrible; and it will be forever.

May we all thank God sincerely for all His blessings in the past and make up our minds to go all-out for God in the future. Let us begin today. Reading, heeding, praying, trusting, living and giving, while we have a chance.

Happy New Year to you all.

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 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
 Minneapolis, Minn.

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 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
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