

The Lutheran Ambassador



WINDOWS

Apartments are more than living places in the nation's cities; for many of their occupants they are a platform and a window upon the world. The scene is repeated daily in all the country's urban centers; this observer watches the story of the streets unfold in her New York East Village district.

RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE PHOTO
by Charles Lerrigo

MEDITATION MOMENTS

UNTO THE HILLS

**"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills"
(Psalm 121:1).**

With some fresh fruit bought in Merced, California, we started up the Merced Road to Yosemite National Park, located in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Here is one of the most beautiful spots in the world. After our arrival in Yosemite Valley, a U-shaped mountain valley about ten miles long and one mile wide, we sat down under the shade of a tree near Camp Curry to eat our fresh fruit, taking in the majestic scenery that lay before our eyes. As we sat in this beautiful setting, looking up at the granite formations of Half Dome and Glacier Point, this verse came to me: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills." The rest of this verse and the second verse give us a further message—"From whence cometh my help? My help cometh from the Lord who made heaven and earth." In the blessing of Jacob to his sons he calls them "the everlasting hills," as does Moses in his blessing on the twelve tribes as recorded in Deuteronomy 33:15.

The mountains give us a picture of majesty and grandeur. They give us a feeling of being eternal with all of their ruggedness and strength. Added to all of this sense of lasting qualities, strength and majesty there is often unequalled beauty in their own right. "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that

bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace" (Psalm 52:7).

Why is the psalmist reminded of God when he looks unto the mountains? It is very easy to understand the answer to this question when one sits in the midst of this beauty and majesty. There are many close parallels between God and the eternal mountains.

First, it gives us a picture of the majesty of God. God is one who is very near and He Himself dwells within every true believer in the person of the Holy Spirit. God is also one who is "wholly other," completely above and beyond anyone or anything in this world. God reminds us of this in Isaiah 55:9: "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." God interrogates Job on this very matter of His sovereignty in Job 38-41, so that in Job 42:2 we find Job himself admitting to God, "I know Thou canst do everything; and that no thought can be withheld from Thee."

Whenever man has had an encounter with God it brings a sense of fear because when man sees God as He really is he sees His majesty and only then sees his own insignificance. The result is a feeling of fear and humility. How many times Jesus had to say to those He met, "Fear not, it is I." This sense of the majesty of God was always present.

Secondly, there is a realization in looking at the rugged mountains of God's almighty power. "From whence cometh my help? My help cometh from the Lord who made heaven and earth." Concerning creation in Genesis 1, we read, "And God said—and there was." We cannot begin to understand the power of God to create the whole universe with a word. When one looks at these majestic and seemingly unmovable hills, one can realize the power of God, at least in a partial way.

This is what makes the promises of God to a believer such a marvelous thing. When a person becomes a child of God by faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ, it is this same power that has created these "eternal hills" that is a vital part of the Christian's life. "From whence cometh my help? My help cometh from the Lord who made heaven and earth." This same power that created the world is now my help and my strength—by faith in Jesus Christ. This is why when a believer looks unto the hills he is reminded of the majesty and power of God, and again turns to the Lord for His power and strength in time of need.

Is this your source of strength for all of your needs and problems today? It can be yours if you will but confess your sin and allow Jesus Christ to dwell in your heart by faith.

Laurel M. Udden

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What Does the Power of the Holy Spirit Mean?

by Dr. Sverre Norborg

My unseen friend, the power of the Holy Spirit is Christ Jesus.

When we behold the glory of Christ, we are instantly filled with the Holy Spirit. At that very moment we begin to realize how completely un-Biblical is most of the modern preaching on the Holy Spirit. Very often the spiritual background of such teachings is fundamentally wrong and blindly false.

It seems that Christians are divided into two categories: first, those "ordinary" Christians who have God and Christ, but who have not the Holy Spirit. Then on the second floor are those happy, free people who have the Father and the Son plus the Holy Spirit. They are ecstatic, overflowing with joy and reveling in liberty; they do not belong to a "dead" church; they have assurance and their name is written in heaven. The second-floor Christians pity the "ordinary" ones. In fact, they often seem to believe that they themselves are the only ones who really have found all of God.

Exegetical study, Biblical doctrine, personal liberation in Christ, and hundreds of heart-to-heart talks with old Christians and new—all have proven to me that this second-floor Christianity is un-Biblical. Therefore it tends to produce spiritual pride and contempt of other children of God, who may be living the hidden life in Christ.

We are not going to spend time in futile debate with the modern mysticism of Pentecostalism, its falsehood of "second blessing" and "eternal security." We are not longing for mysticism or "absolute experience." We are longing for the living God and the fulness of Christ in the Holy Spirit.

In the divine presence of the Triune God we find that we must never yield to the false, modern idea that the Holy Spirit is one-third of God, so that some Christians have God and Christ, while others have thirds: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Every true Christian has the whole God, the one, true God. In the Holy Spirit he knows Christ and the Father. They have come and taken abode in him, according to the promise given to all Christians. Hallelujah!

A Christian knows God, because "the Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." A Christian has one confession to make: "For to me to live is Christ." That life he has in the Holy Spirit: "No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost."

On this three-cornered, eternal foundation—Romans 8:16, Phil. 1:21, I Cor. 12:3—a Christian will live, and here he will die.

Three Scriptural statements make it amply clear that when a Christian longs for the power of the Holy Spirit, he is not longing for a mystical moving to mystical "second-floor Christianity."

His great longing is to enter more fully into all he has in Christ. He is distinctly conscious and has a living conviction that he may have a great deal more—in the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. His thirsting soul says, "Would that I might realize the promise of Christ when He says: 'Take my yoke upon you, . . . and ye shall find rest unto your souls.'"

What you and I need, as modern Christians, is not more spiritual excitement, more ecstasy or a more radiant happiness. What we need is exactly what Christ will give: Rest for our souls.

The power of the Christian life, the power of the Holy Spirit, is the peace that passeth all understanding, that divine peace which was bought by Christ and given in the Holy Spirit.

To our tired, worried souls comes a gospel: "Let yourselves be filled of the Spirit" or "Be filled of the Spirit." Both are Scriptural. The latter is more stern, with the sternness of the Physician who sees our deepest need. The former more gentle, with the gentleness of the Friend who

heartily longs to help our helplessness. It matters not, God's sternness and gentleness belong together. God's gentleness is stern; His sternness gentle. Because God is love.

On the basis of the text in the eighth chapter of Romans we would, therefore, set up certain fundamentals. We rejoice that when we shall attempt to speak of the power of the Spirit, we must again begin with Christ. The eighth chapter of Romans begins with Christ. It begins with Christ presented upon the darkest possible background: namely the seventh chapter of Romans. This chapter might well be entitled: "A Christian's despair of himself."

Every Christian who has lived for some time in fellowship with God, knows that while he was still living a worldly life in sin, without concern for his soul, he never knew the despair which he has experienced as a Christian. The law came and sin was revived. Sin became such a reality that he could see nothing but sin in his life. When he looked to himself there was an abyss of despondency.

I shall never forget a certain dying consumptive. He was a Christian when he contracted the insidious disease. He was having a hard struggle. He had been such a happy Christian. During his illness he had been instrumental in leading two of his fellow-patients to Christ. Now he had been seized with spiritual distress. He was reading his Bible.

May I suggest to you, Bible-reading friend, that if you can read your Bible without ever experiencing spiritual distress and condemning despair, you must be reading it in a most careless manner.

During a visit I asked him: "Shall I read to you something from the Bible?" He answered: "No, not that. When the Bible speaks there is nothing but judgment upon me. I no longer dare to read the Bible." Then he confided to me that for a whole week he had not read the Bible. When he did read, it was all about him,

all against him. His sin would rise up before him, and the Word was full of condemnation.

That is often the situation when a Christian reads the Bible: I find that the law is spiritual; but I am carnal. That is most certainly the situation not only in the case of a distressed consumptive. It is true in the lives of all Christians. The ancients discerned far more clearly than we modern Christians the decisive distinction between the law and the Gospel. The law, immovable; yet the law a schoolmaster unto Christ; until they had nothing but Christ: Christ alone. Law and Gospel.

The law imposes an absolute demand: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself; . . . this do and thou shalt live." What happens? There remains only what Paul experiences and describes: "When the law came, . . . I died; I found myself in bondage under sin."

If we are absolutely honest, that is, honest before God, we will rise with one accord and say: If you knew how thoroughly I am under bondage of sin! Above all, the sin of unbelief!

I recall a Christian who had lived with God forty-four years. If ever there was a Christian on earth it was old Hans. He was a spiritual benediction. One day, however, when I met him, I asked: "How are you?" He looked at me sadly and answered: "I feel so ungodly."—Was he right? Of course he was. When a person sees himself in the searching light of God, he will never be able to rise up and declare: "Here am I; I am filled with the Spirit." On the contrary he will deplore his condition: "I feel so ungodly."—And this has no reference to externals. He is thinking of his heart and mind, the sin that dwells in him.

Were you to address such a Christian: "But, my friend, the Spirit of God dwells also in you,"—he would probably answer: "Whether the Spirit of God dwells in me, I do not know: but that sin dwells in me, that I know."

What, then, shall we say? First of all this: To be Spirit-filled means to live in constant despair of all that

is one's own. If, therefore, a person possesses a spiritual "Christian" life which makes him feel pleased with himself, it can indeed be said of him that he may be filled of many things, for instance, with false religionism, but such a person does not know what it means to be filled of the Spirit. This internal conflict creates a tension.

What is this tension? It is the tension of faith; the tension between the law of my spirit, which delights in the law of God, and the law which I perceive in my members, which are in bondage under the law of sin.

It may sound like paradox. But it is true that he who is under the power of the Holy Spirit always is poor in spirit. It is a special gift of God when a Christian becomes so poor that he senses that he is nothing, avails nothing, possesses nothing in himself. This means a constant new beginning, which compels him to cling to the Word alone: "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Here, however, we are at the critical point, at a deadly corner.

This is the point where most Christians in our age declare, "No, I have travelled with you all the way down this street; here we are at the corner that is marked: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit.' There is the Word of God; it says I must live in this back alley all my life." Then he returns to his poverty, saying: "God wants us to be poor. He wants us to be in distress; that we shall not progress; that we shall not attempt the way of sanctification and liberation."

Quite the reverse is true. The Word did not say: Go back to spiritual defeatism and despair, to a life in the chain-gang of powerless captives. If life in Christ had not power to lift, to raise, to sanctify, we should have to admit that of all men the Christians were most miserable. If Christ did not mean a new life with a new power, if I were compelled to live in my sin and remorse as long as I live, then Christ were no Christ. Then Pentecost was a lie. Now this is not so. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. And the truth is that Christ Jesus has conquered the devil, sin, and the world. He calls us to His victory, He shares His power with us. He wants us to

be His, that is free, free, free! In Him, who sets really free.

The Gospel of the power of the Holy Spirit is, therefore, that every Christian is invited to move out of the back alley of defeat into the joyful road of grace. Even you and I.

Ye are not under the law—but under grace.

Here reference should be made to a Christian whom we all know, but whom we have not properly understood. His name is Dr. Martin Luther. His tune never varied where sin, the world, and the devil were concerned. Do you know the tune? He sang of Christ, and in His name bid defiance to all the powers of darkness. When he came to the corner where all the demons of defeat assailed him with the cry: "Martin, hurry back! This is no place for you!" then Martin Luther flung in the face of the demons:

Stood we alone in our own might,
Our striving would be losing;
For us the one true Man doth fight,
The Man of God's own choosing.
Who is this chosen One?
'Tis Jesus Christ, the Son.
The Lord of hosts, 'tis He
Who wins the victory
In every field of battle.

Whereupon Dr. Martin Luther simply refused to return to Defeat Street.

At this point, therefore, comes a gospel of comfort to all the sad souls living on Defeat Street. When you reach the dangerous corner the sign is there: "Wretched man that I am." But if that is permitted to undo you, you have not yet arrived at Romans, the eighth chapter. Move on! Glorious things are awaiting you!

If you wish to proceed, push on with the defiance of faith through all the obstacles of the demons. Sing the song of Jesus! You will reach the corner, but also a new street. It is a cross street and the marker reads: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus." There and then the Christian moves over into Liberty in Christ.

Christ is a real Christ. Even for you and me.

—From the chapter of the same name **What Is Christianity?**, Augsburg Publishing House.

JOURNEY IN SASKATCHEWAN

by Raynard Huglen, Editor

When I looked out over the vast Saskatchewan plains, New Orleans and the Oregon seacoast, places I had visited last summer, seemed far away, and they were. Here were no magnolias or palm trees, but an abundance of caraganas. Here were no huge stretches of ocean beaches and lapping waves but an enormous sweep of prairie reaching out as far as the eye could see, distances actually greater than on the ocean because of the lay of the land.

As a very young schoolboy I learned to spell that name—Saskatchewan. My first memories of life are from there and there I took my first three years of school. Regina was the first big city I saw. It was about 60,000 population then.

So every once in a while I must get back to Saskatchewan to see this place that had such a big influence upon my early life, even though I wasn't born there. And this summer my vacation trip took me to Saskatchewan, to some familiar places and some new ones.

Saskatchewan is a large place. It isn't the largest Canadian province, by any means, but only Alaska and Texas, of the American states, are larger. Only the southern half of the province is really inhabited, however, so the population per square mile is very low. My journey in Saskatchewan covered some 1800 miles and that was touching only part of that southern half, but it was something.

Let me report on this journey in diary fashion, listing events day by day. I'll use names because they won't be used in a way that will give any offense.

But before beginning, let me say that I visited Pastor and Mrs. Gene Sundby in Outlook one evening. They were at home with their son while their three daughters were at Bible Camp at Elbow with their grandparents, Sylvia's folks. The Sundbys have been in Canada since the first of April due to his illness. He has brucellosis, first contracting it perhaps as long as ten years ago, but doctors did not recognize it until this year. Because the disease wasn't treated for so long,

considerable damage has been done to various body functions, but they and we are hopeful for his soon recovery.

Gene met me outside when I arrived after a call from the motel. I spent over an hour with them. They were in good spirits and asked many questions about our Association work. They have had their dark times, but are cheerful in spite of all. He does not have the strength to do any work yet and does not know when he will be able to return to his work. There could be a change soon or it could be a matter of months. Let us be in prayer with them in what must be a very difficult time. They send their greetings to all their friends. I know they will be much in prayer and thought for the Family Bible Camp where he was to have served as dean again this year.

July 5

Travelled from Newfolden, Minn., to Westby, Mont. Made a side trip into Saskatchewan at Portal. At Roche Percee, southeast of Estevan, I looked at some of the strange rock formations. Many people have carved their names and initials in these sandstone rocks over the past 100 years and more. Going on to Estevan I passed acres and acres of spoilbanks, the aftereffects of strip mining. No wonder there is agitation today to reclaim such wasteland.

I drove into Torquay where I had been with my parents in 1938 to hear the Norwegian layman, Ludvig Hope, speak. I don't remember much about the occasion, only of being there.

Hoffer, Sask., had once been a Jewish colony and I had read about it. But now there was no town, only an elevator and some unoccupied buildings. A bank vault remained as evidence of bigger things in time past.

At Westby I stayed overnight at the Idor Ekness home. They had been members of my father's Oslo congregation, northeast of town in Elkhorn Twp. Today the Oslo church stands on Main Street in Westby and is owned by the Assembly of God congregation. I drove out toward Antelope that evening to

see Peder Brensdal. Now in his 80's, Peder had had one of his legs amputated within the past year. His speech has been affected by an earlier stroke and his vocabulary is limited. But he greeted me warmly, leaving no doubt that he welcomed my coming. I had prayer with him. He is a member of the St. John's congregation between Plentywood and Westby.

July 6

The Eknesses served a bountiful breakfast. I appreciated their hospitality very much. Before leaving town I stopped to greet our neighbor across the street, now 90; the mother of my best friend as a boy; a lady who gave me many haircuts when I lived there; and the postmaster. Westby has always seemed like home, too, and as a boy I knew every nook and cranny in it, as well as the countryside immediately adjacent.

Crossing over into Canada near Fortuna, N. Dak., I eventually went over the highway to Regina and headed for Big Beaver. Now I encountered the first in my trip of what were to be many miles of gravel roads somewhat slickened by rain. There was no question about getting through but there were times when one had to drive slowly. And always, I was not the first one through after the rain, fortunately.

It had rained hard at Big Beaver and conditions were very muddy. A tour to points of interest in the area was scheduled to leave at 2 o'clock and would be gone for 5-6 hours, but I had to pass it up. After eating a hot dog at the lunch counter in the curling rink I drove north toward Bengough. After crossing the Big Muddy Valley I spied Big Muddy Lake, far off to the southeast. It is a large lake but not easily accessible and few people have seen it close up.

There is a park near Willow Bunch which I wanted to see. The town itself has a pretty natural setting, lying in a valley with heavily wooded coulees running up the hillsides. The park, a mile or so out of town, is named

after Louis Legare, a trader from Quebec who did much to save Sioux Indians from starvation. The park is a very pleasant one with an abundance of trees. It had rained not so long before I was there and I had some concern about how to get out of the park. A car preceded me out on the exit road but could not make the last part of the hill due to lack of gravel. We both had to back part way down through the trees. Fortunately, I was able to take another road out. It seemed strange that there was not a real all-weather road to a very pretty place.

Passing by the small French village of St. Victor, which proved to be disappointing in light of the advance publicity I'd had, the final leg of the day's travel brought me to the thriving town of Assiniboia, of perhaps 2,000 population. I took lodging in a large hotel on Main Street. It once had some 80 rooms in use, but now needed only a handful. It must have been quite a place in its day, when Assiniboia was a railroad center.

July 7

On Sunday morning I went to the service at the Lutheran Church. It turned out to be an LCA church, the pastor being a native of Indiana. They had communion that day and the pastor did not speak any words to the individual communicants as he distributed the elements. I missed that. The audience sang hymns during the distribution.

After the service, the pastor, hearing that I was from Minnesota, let this be known to others. I soon met a lady who had come from Clarkfield, Minn. This was a double interest because I had recently been there hoping to learn something of my father's days there early in the century. This lady invited me to their home (the Larry Dahlmans) for dinner. His two uncles were asked to come over also because they had once lived at Clarkfield, too. No one could shed much light on the early days there but we did discover that the father of the uncles, who were named Bjelland, was a cousin of Knute Twedt of McHenry, N. Dak., a man I know well and with whom I threshed in 1946-47 when I worked in that neighborhood for Roy Rasmussen.

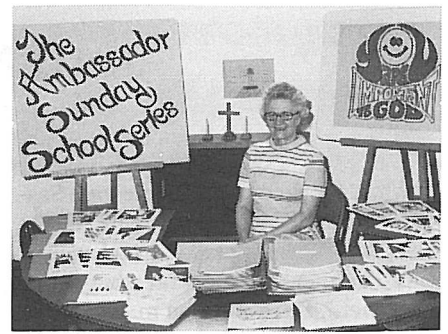
Taking leave of these friendly people I headed toward southwestern Saskatchewan. I purposely drove to Stonehenge to see the place with such an illustrious name. It consisted of two elevators and two or three houses. Stonehenge in England, as you know, is the place where the giant slabs of stone rise from the ground and no one knows the real story behind them.

I wanted to see Wood Mountain Historical Park. Near it there was a rodeo in progress on that Sunday afternoon. Muddy road conditions had delayed its start, but now it was in full swing and there were hundreds of people in attendance.

Bypassing the rodeo, I went to the Historical Park. It is a park because it was there that the Northwest Mounted Police established a post in 1876, and there that Sitting Bull and his band of Sioux Indians spent some time after the battle with Gen. George Custer and before he returned to the U.S. and surrendered to the U.S. authorities at Ft. Buford, N. Dak. It has always been to the credit of the RCMP that they, with a very small force, were able to maintain law and order north of the border to such a great degree. They did so because they were fearless and fair. As I walked about those pleasant grounds it was hard to imagine that history of 100 years ago. The fort at Wood Mountain has a beautiful natural setting.

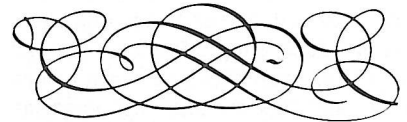
Now it was time to make the long drive to Frontier, and I made it with the hope that it would not rain on the way for there were miles of gravel roads to traverse and many Saskatchewan gravel roads could stand more gravel. But the rains held off and the trip was made without incident. Once I saw a coyote and stopped my car to observe it. He seemed to have the same curiosity about me for he was in no hurry to move on. Years ago there must have been many of them roaming those prairies. Past Val Marie, Canuck and Climax, towns of varying description. There was no one around the hotel in Frontier and so, after getting something to eat at a drive-in, I drove back to Climax for the night. In that small-town hotel I had my most humble accommodations of the whole trip.

(To be continued)



PARISH EDUCATION SECRETARY

Shown here is Miss Judith Wold, executive secretary of Parish Education in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. On display on the table is the Ambassador Sunday School Series. Orders are being taken now for the coming Sunday School season. Place your order, or request information about this AFLC series from her, at 324 North Arnold, Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701.



AFLC OFFICERS

Shown here are the officers of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations and the chairman of the Coordinating Committee. Seated, left, is Rev. John P. Strand, president, and Rev. R. Snipstead, vice-president; standing, left, Rev. Kenneth L. Anderson, chairman, Co-ordinating Committee, and Rev. Dennis Gray, secretary-elect.

—Courtesy, *Thief River Falls Times*

Women For Christ

**CHRISTIAN WOMEN,
EARTHEN VESSELS**
II Corinthians 4:7-12
by Mrs. Herbert Presteng
Grafton, N. Dak.

Do you wonder why God chose to put such a wonderful treasure, Christ, in such a frail vessel? It is only to reveal that the power of a Christian's life is of God and not of self. God has shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. As we allow ourselves to be broken vessels, the treasure within will be seen of men. Christ is our power and

our purity. He longs to fill us so others may see Jesus in us.

When we are troubled on every side, perplexed and persecuted, we can choose to be distressed, in despair and be cast down; or we can let the power of Christ within be revealed, and die to self, so that Jesus might be manifest in our bodies. We need the love of God shed abroad in our hearts if we are to meet the circumstances of this life and react in the right manner.

God has seen fit to record the story of many great women in His Word. We read of them in both the Old and

New Testaments. He has given to women great talents and abilities. Their intelligence is equal to men, their stamina and emotional endurance are often greater. He does not want women to bury their capabilities, but He wants to channel them. A wife's primary responsibility is to give of herself, her time and her energy to her husband, children and home. This does not mean that women cannot have responsible positions of leadership and not be in God's plan. God seems to have honors for women; they were last to linger at the cross and the first to come to the tomb. It was to a woman, Mary Magdalene, that Jesus first appeared after His resurrection. It was just a humble woman, most blessed among all women, Mary, who brought our Savior into the world.

We as women of the church today must do as God has said, "humble yourselves," if we are to be used of Him. When God poured out His Holy Spirit, it was to men, women and children. In other words, to all people. It is Christ and His blessed Holy Spirit that can give us an attitude of repentance, which is the only way for fruitful Christian living. When Christ is ALL and we are nothing, then God can use us to further His Kingdom.

In the Bible, God used women like Rebekah, Hannah, Deborah, Esther, Ruth and many others because they were obedient to God's will for their lives. They prayed and trusted God, not self. Their faith was in the living God.

There were also some very wicked women in the Bible times. Jezebel, who was the daughter of the king of Tyre and an evil woman, made Baal worship the State religion of Israel. She was beautiful but she had the wiles of a serpent and a heart for blood. Her husband Ahab repented so that God sent His wrath upon Jezebel after Ahab's death. You may want to read about the slaying of Jezebel in II Kings 9:30-37. Surely the wrath of God upon the wicked and unbelieving is something to be feared.

There has never been a perfect woman in the world and only one perfect man, Jesus Christ. So then, my dear friends, let us have faith in God. Let us not forget for one minute that every woman in the past, present and



OFFICERS OF THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY FEDERATION

Seated, left to right, Mrs. Oscar Christopherson, secretary; Mrs. Robert Dietsche, president; Mrs. Reuben Emberson, treasurer. Standing, Mrs. Palmer Haugen, 1st vice-president; Mrs. Amos Dyrud, outgoing secretary; Mrs. Kenneth Moland, 2nd vice-president; and Miss Judith Wold, executive secretary.

—Courtesy, **Thief River Falls Times**

future is saved by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8).

JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF GOD

Read the Bible and you will see;
The Christ who bled and died for me;
 Broken body—thorns and nails.
The Christ who went to the grave for
me;
 The Empty Tomb.
The Christ who is risen for me;
 Living today.
The Christ who is walking with me;
 Praying always.
How can I help but
 See Him
 Believe Him
 Receive Him
 Love Him
 Serve Him
For some day He is coming for me.

BADGER CREEK WOMEN PREPARE COOKBOOK

The Badger Creek Mission Endeavor, Badger, Minn. has compiled a cookbook. They hope to have the 250-page book printed and ready for sale by August 1st. The book will also contain spiritual food for thought.

Orders are being taken and you may send your request to either Mrs. Becky Anderson, Badger, Minn., 56714, or Mrs. Martin Johnson, Badger Minn. The price of the cookbook is \$3.50. Also, please include enough for postage if it is to be mailed. Thank you.

LET CHRIST BE THE MASTER OF YOUR LIFE

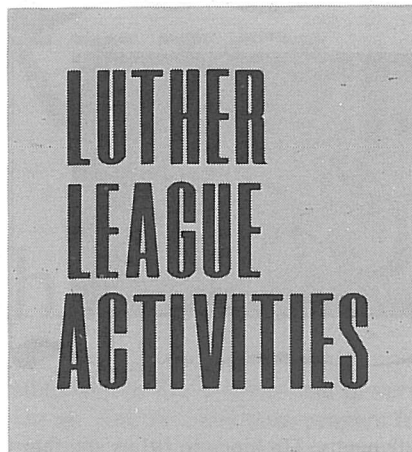
by Mrs. Wilfred E. Akerlund
Lake Bronson, Minn.

When I was asked to write an article for the women's page, I asked, what subject? The answer was, on any subject.

Well, my favorite subject is Jesus Christ, my Lord, who died on Calvary that I might be free. Free, that I may be a bondservant for Him. Let Christ be the Master of your life.

One needs to give oneself completely over to Him, so He can guide in all things we do, even in the lowest task. Our heart must be humble, so God

[Continued on page 11]



"WHAT CAN I DO?"

Have you ever asked yourself that question? Are you ever frustrated because your youth group seems to have lost its life? I want you to know that God wants to use **YOU**—and **YOUR** Luther League—**RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE—RIGHT NOW!** Standing on the promises of God, I want to tell you that your Luther League can be all you want it to be—**AND MORE**—as you allow Christ to work through you!

That is why we are inviting all district and local Luther League officers and advisors to our LLF Federation Council Meeting to be held at Family Bible Camp at Alexandria, Minnesota, on Saturday, August 24th. Along with some of the regular Bible Camp sessions, we have set up the following special hours together:

9:00 a.m.—**THE DUTIES OF LUTHER LEAGUE OFFICERS** (LLF Executive Officers)

10:00 a.m.—**LIFE IN YOUR YOUTH GROUP** (Pastor Richard Anderson)

1:30 p.m.—**MUSIC IN CHURCH AND LEAGUE** (Mr. Rodger Olson)

2:15 p.m.—**Business Meeting and Discussion Time**

3:00 p.m.—**HOW YOUTH FIT IN THE CONGREGATION** (Pastor Wendell Johnson)

Anyone involved in Luther League work would benefit by joining us in these sessions for discussion, new ideas, and practical insights into what

Leaguers can do for Christ. We want to know how we as national officers can better help you in your church and how local, district, and national levels of the LLF can better work together in winning and training young (and old!) for Christ.

Can you join us? If not, encourage your Luther League officers to come! We look to the future with great anticipation to see what CHRIST can do as we surrender to Him.

"Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe" (1 Timothy 4:12).

Joyfully for Christ,

Linda Moan,

National LLF Secretary

FAMILY BIBLE CAMP SET TO OPEN AUGUST 19

The 12th annual Family Bible Camp, sponsored by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, will open on Monday, August 19, at Lake Geneva Bible Camp, Alexandria, Minn. No one not on the staff is to arrive until 2 o'clock that day. Please do not come until after 2.

Everyone registering will pay a \$1.00 registration fee, but there is a maximum registration fee of \$2.00 for a family. Similarly, there is a maximum family rate for meals and lodging of \$75.00. Individually, the rates for meals and lodging are children, \$8.00; teens, \$15.00; and adults, \$20.00.

Minnesota law requires that any young person under age 18 **must** have a health certificate signed by a physician if he attends camp without a parent or guardian.

As to camp rules, radios, record players and tape players are not permitted. Recorders are allowed for the purpose of recording class or service sessions. Dresses or skirts are to be worn in all sessions. Pant suits may be acceptable. There are to be no mini-skirts or bikini bathing suits. Bermuda shorts are for recreation only. Firecrackers are forbidden. All in all, modesty in dress is encouraged and avoidance of anything which will cause offense to others.

[Continued on page 11]

editorials

THE FELLOWSHIP CORNER

For some years we have had a "Fellowship Corner" in *The Lutheran Ambassador*. You say you can't recall it? That may be for it is seldom and irregularly used.

It isn't a solicited feature, that is, we haven't gone after people to write something in it. But we have let it be known that the space is available for those who would like to use it and would be willing to use it.

The Fellowship Corner is a place where people can share their experiences and blessings in the Lord Jesus Christ. Some may be willing to tell about how they came to know the Lord or how they returned to Him from the far country. Still others may wish to describe their walk with the Lord in uninterrupted fellowship from their baptism and on.

We do not think it is a mark of spiritual pride to tell about one's spiritual experiences. Providing, of course, that the glory is given to Christ and is not taken unto oneself. Sharing one's own religious journey can be of real help to someone else who may be groping and searching. Such a one may find that this situation is not as unique as he thought and he may take courage from what he reads in our Fellowship Corner.

Pastor Ray Persson of Astoria, Ore., has written about his experience in coming to Christ. We are sure that that will be used of the Lord to help others. Perhaps you could share something in a brief article for our Fellowship Corner. No one need be perfect to do this. None of our readers are perfect and neither are any of our writers. All we ask is that a person be on the Lord's side and others know that this is his position in life. That a person still has struggles does not disqualify him from sharing what he has experienced thus far.

Pastors, lay people, feel free to write for the Fellowship Corner. Again we say, something you write could be the means of bringing great help to someone else. Think about it. Pray about it. Do you have something to share about your spiritual experience or from a crisis situation in your life?

A STARTLING THOUGHT

An editorial in *Christianity Today* early this summer raises a startling point. The editor reveals that Bob Jones University, which refuses to admit single black students, is losing its right to have donations made to it declared tax deductible. Bob Jones University claims to defend its right to exclude such black students on Biblical grounds.

With *Christianity Today*, we think BJU is wrong in

its stand on black students and our Board of Trustees has notified the U.S. government that we do not discriminate against any student because of race or national origin.

But the startling point the editorial raises is that if the Internal Revenue Service continues to be successful in its policy concerning BJU (which is acting on what it believes are religious convictions), what might eventually happen in regard to seminaries which refuse to admit women students for the purpose of ordination? Or what about schools which refuse to admit homosexual students, if they are granted full rights under the law?

These are disturbing things to contemplate. The editorial in *Christianity Today* suggests that the U.S. Congress should more carefully supervise the IRS so that the possibilities listed above don't come to pass. It also suggests that Bob Jones University's "right to be wrong" must be protected in the interests of religious liberty, and hence receive tax exemption.

But we think there is a difference in discriminating because of race and making distinctions on the basis of a male-only ministry and homosexuality and we trust that the Congress and the Courts will continue to recognize this.

DOMESTICATED MAN

While driving in our automobile a few weeks ago we heard a catchy statement over the radio. Possibly it was Richard Halvorson who spoke it—"Man domesticated by Christian tradition."

If we recall correctly, the statement was made to describe a good many people in the church of today. They are not really committed to the Lord Jesus Christ but have come under the Bible's message and influence to the extent that they are "domesticated by Christian tradition."

We think that this is an apt description of things as they are. More people in the U.S. belong to organized churches than don't. But in this vast host of over 100 million there seem to be many more who are "domesticated" than are "saved."

There are many who have built church buildings or are sons of those who did so, who are extremely loyal to their congregation, who shun crass deviation from morality and laws, even Biblical ones, and who yet do not have a warm, living, personal relationship to Jesus Christ. They have no joy, no peace, no hope. Their best expressions are ones of "hope so," "think so," and "I'm doing the best I can."

Perhaps it is better to be "domesticated by Christian tradition" than to have not been in touch with it at all. But we certainly hope that the millions in this situation can move to higher ground, to Christian experience and life. It is for this reason, too, that we in the Association speak of the "quickenings preaching of the Word." That is, we want to preach in such a way that those who may have been only tamed by association with the Christian church will come to experienced salvation.

This we must continue to do while at the same time reaching out to those in the community who have no real contact with the Gospel at all.



NEWS

of the Churches

NEWS OF THE ONTONAGON PARISH

Ontonagon, Michigan

On Sunday, May 26th, four young people were confirmed: Connie Broemer, Susan Dorvinen, Jerry Blake and Richard Keranen. Two graduates, Patti Lindrus and Patti Moilanen. Also, two new families were received into membership; namely, Mr. and Mrs. Austin Miller, Austin, Jr. and Paige; Mr. and Mrs. Alvar Neimi, Alan, Adell and Andrew. Lay Pastor Alvin Jarvinen presided over this festive service which was followed by a reception sponsored by the WMF. Many guests and visitors were in attendance. Over the past several months several children and adults have been baptized.

On Sunday, June 2nd, three young people were confirmed at the Green Lutheran Church, located seven miles west of Ontonagon; Richard Myhren, Patricia Myhren and Virginia Bolo. Lay Pastor Alvin Jarvinen officiated and coffee and cake was served after the service. Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Larson and Mr. and Mrs. George Kaare are carrying on the work in this area. Earlier this spring, 17 children and young adults were baptized into the Christian faith.

Sunday School has been dismissed for the summer months, but both churches are having a Daily Vacation Bible School this month.

Mr. Alvin Jarvinen, our lay pastor from Wakefield, has been serving our parish since the resignation of Pastor Stendal last August, due to illness. Mr. Jarvinen is a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Bessemer, Mich., and is employed full-time as a meat cutter. Along with his family respon-

sibilities, he has a great load in serving us, and we covet your prayers for him. We thank the Lord for his willingness to be used of the Lord, and we praise the Lord for His faithfulness in the strength and the wisdom and guidance He has given Mr. Jarvinen. PRAISE THE LORD!

Mrs. Toivo Keranen
Ontonagon, Mich.

THE KANGASES TELL ABOUT THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING

The Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church of Minneapolis, Minn., was the scene of unusual activity on Sunday, June 2, starting at 2:00 p.m. The golden wedding celebration for Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Kangas was being observed, first with a devotional service, including Pastor Chester Heikkinen's opening remarks and prayer. Our son Allan from Omaha, Nebr., in retrospect went back to childhood days, citing incidents that took place along the years.

Our grandson and granddaughter, Jeff and Laurie, with guitar accompaniment, sang "Amazing Grace." The two older grandsons, Todd and Scott, contributed with talks partly humorous, but mostly of spiritual content, using Bible texts. Our daughter Phyllis was MC and also contributed with a few remarks. My nephew, Danny Kangas of Iron River, Wisc., who is attending Northwestern Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., sang "The Lord's Prayer," with organ accompaniment by Sharon Heikkinen. "To God Be the Glory" was sung by the audience with much gusto and spirit, and the benediction was pronounced, after which the gath-

ering, over 300 people, moved down to the church parlors.

There a catering service had prepared lunch served from a setting of long-curving table, with glistening silver and floral groups beautifying and raising the stature of the occasion. Especially gratifying to us was that six Association pastors and their wives honored the occasion by their presence. These were Dr. and Mrs. Iver Olson, Pastor and Mrs. John Strand, Pastor and Mrs. Richard Snipstead, Pastor and Mrs. Amos Dy-rud, Pastor Raynard Huglen and our own Pastor and Mrs. Heikkinen. Truly we were honored beyond words. Thank you, gentlemen and ladies of the cloth! Someone made a remark that there were more preachers than Finlanders in attendance. However that may be, we were truly blessed and uplifted by the presence of so many people, old friends and acquaintances we hadn't seen for years, plus the very special people I have named. The Lord bless you all real good!

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. J. Kangas

NORWEGIAN SERVICE AT OLD STONE CHURCH

The annual Norwegian service at the Old Stone Church southwest of Kenyon, Minn., was held Sunday, July 21, at 2:30 p.m. The guest speaker was Rev. Jacob Andreasen, director and speaker of "The Hour of Awakening," which is heard on KDHL each Sunday morning at 7:30. The entire service was conducted in Norwegian, including the congregational singing and special music.

Pastor Andreasen is a native of Norway, who has served in the Lutheran ministry here in the United States for many years. His weekly radio program is conducted half in English and half in Scandinavian. His experience both in Norway and in this country has given him a good understanding of the Haugean emphasis in Norwegian Lutheranism.

The Old Stone Church building has become a historic landmark in the Kenyon area. Now over one hundred years old, its unique and meaningful furnishings are reminders of a rich spiritual heritage. The unusual altar depicts the two tablets of the Ten

Commandments bisected by the Cross, a graphic portrayal of the Law and the Gospel. Written in Norwegian below is John 3:16, the main thrust of the Gospel.

The Norwegian service, sponsored by the Hauge Lutheran Church of Kenyon, was open to the public. Many who were interested in hearing the Gospel in Norwegian were able to attend.

The Old Stone Church was the first structure for Hauge Lutheran congregation. Rev. Kenneth Moland is the pastor.

—Corr.

CHURCH FLAGS DEDICATED AT BADGER

The American and Christian flags given to Badger Creek Lutheran Church, Badger, Minnesota, in memory of Adolph Grothe, who passed away June 14 (Flag Day), 1971, were dedicated on Sunday, June 30th at the 11:00 service. Memorial funds were used to purchase the flags.

WADENA CHURCH DEDICATED

May 19 was an eventful day in the life of the members of Bethany Lutheran Church of Blue Grass and Zion Lutheran of Wadena, Minn. In the morning at Bethany, nine young people from the two churches were confirmed. They had spent two years

in receiving instruction from Pastor Fred Carlson. Now at this Sunday morning service they were to publicly confess their desire to renounce the devil and follow Jesus Christ. Included in the instruction was that each confirmand had been personally shown the way of salvation. The pastor's sermon title for the day was "Blessings and Responsibilities." The pastor emphasized what God had given them and what would be required of them.

Then in the afternoon at Zion the church was dedicated. Zion congregation bought the former Christian and Missionary Alliance building in Wadena and redecorated the building. Pastor Herbert Franz, Cloquet, Minn., was the speaker for the dedication service and he spoke on the theme "Occupy Until I Come." He challenged the congregation to be faithful in proclaiming the true Word of God until Jesus Christ comes again. President John Strand, Minneapolis, Minn., officiated at the rite of dedication and fervently prayed that the congregation continue to uphold the truth of God. Pastor Leslie Galland, Spicer, Minn., presented the district as he had Scripture and prayer. Frank Rutherford of Zion led in congregational singing. We as a congregation were thankful for the many that came to the dedication. And we at Zion praise God for His many blessings.

—Corr.

[Continued from page 8]
can use our feeble bodies, minds, hands, feet, lips, and tongues to glorify Him alone. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (I Corinthians 6:19, 20).

Oh, how we need to be humble in our homes, as wives and mothers. Our home should be a place where husbands and children will love to come, after work, school, or play. Where they know that we love them, and that Jesus is truly, our Lord.

My heart is very sad to see how so many homes are breaking up in divorces today. Women, wake up before it is too late. God called us to be overseers of our homes here on earth for Him. You may lose out with God because you are not doing all you can to keep a home intact. Satan is always around tempting one, but you can be victorious over all things, if you seek God, He will be there to help if you call on Him. My heart aches for all the children who suffer needlessly because of what a mother decides to do. I know men must do their part, but, women, God made us helpmates. Let God have His way instead of Satan, and you will be blessed by Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World. Let Christ be the Master of your life.

Mrs. Wilfrid E. Akerlund
Lake Bronson, Minn.

[Continued from page 8]

Lay Pastor Rodney Stueland, Buxton, N. Dak., will be the evening speaker at camp. Rev. Eugene Enderlein, Minnewaukan, N. Dak., will teach the adult Bible class and Rev. Bruce Dalager, Bagley, Minn., will teach the teenagers. Rev. Stephen Odegard, Winger, Minn., will lead the evening services.

Rev. Dennis Gray, Grafton, N. Dak., assistant camp dean, will be in charge of the camp due to the illness of Lay Pastor Gene Sundby, convalescing in Canada.

Plan to come to Family Camp for a week in God's Word and Christian fellowship.



Rev. Herbert Franz preached the dedication sermon at Bethany.



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In Memoriam
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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.

- MINNESOTA**
 Spicer
 Mary Lou Gustafson, 17, May 25, Green Lake
 Leone C. Callahan, 48, May 27, Green Lake
 John E. Knudson, 91, May 27, Green Lake
 Hannah Knudson, 86, June 20, Green Lake

THE SMELL OF GUNSMOKE

As it was in the days of the wild west a few years ago, so it is in Brazil on the frontiers or as often referred to as the interior today.

Iretama, which has just started to grow these last ten years, seems to be a bustling, peaceful town. But justice or injustice seems to be in the hand of the man who pulls the fastest gun or wields the quickest knife.

Some weeks ago one of the taxi drivers of Iretama was gunned down for no particular reason. Then word got around that he was supposed to have been running out with another man's wife. This is horrible if it was only gossip and never happened, but if true it is the price one has to pay for sin. The widow is now left behind with three children, the youngest a baby of a few months.

The killer, who is also the husband of the lady involved, fled town in his Volkswagen. He is not searched for by the police because that business is settled between the two parties involved by the "smell of gunsmoke."

The tragedy of it all is that three years ago when we had a tent campaign in Iretama, the taxi driver invited us over to his place for supper. He and his wife were interested in the Gospel. He took a stand for the Lord that night, but fell along the way. He stopped coming to church and finally ended that way. Losing every-

thing, but worst of all his own soul.

One man who witnessed the shooting said the last words the taxi driver cried out as he was dying were, "My God, my God." But then it was too late.

As we look around about us we see so much injustice in all parts of the world, but this is the price that has to be paid for living in a sin-sick world. Where can we find justice? Only with our Lord and Savior in heaven, because He is the source of all justice. Ps. 89:14-16: "Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face. Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted."

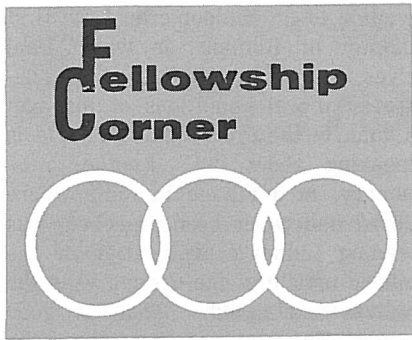
Joy in His Service,
The Connely Dyruds

OFFICERS OF THE MISSIONS CORPORATION

- President—Robert Knutson, McVille, N. Dak.
 Vice-President—Rev. Herbert Franz, Cloquet, Minn.
 Treasurer—Dr. Wayne Sletten, Faith, S. Dak.
 Secretary—The new secretary of the Foreign Mission Board

GOING HOME

My Shepherd is walking before me
 In the path where He wants me to go;
 He leads through the pleasant green pastures
 Where refreshing and cool waters flow.
 When I come to the valley of shadows,
 Where the way becomes dark and dim,
 I know that my Shepherd is with me,
 My comfort and strength are in Him.
 Then ahead there appears a great mountain,
 Where a glimpse of His glory I see;
 Looking upward I see "Jesus only"—
 Who loves me and who died for me.
 As we walk again in the valleys,
 Where there is so much suffering and sin,
 There His goodness and mercy still follow,
 And I shall dwell forever with Him.
 So may the good Shepherd who found us,
 Who is guiding His children today,
 Make our lives to be shining for Jesus,
 To help straying ones find Him the Way.
 Mrs. Laura Norum
 Clear Lake, Wis.



LET ME SHARE MY TESTIMONY
Holy Reflections

Laboring over a drawing board designing a tool at the Rock Island Arsenal, the thought came to me that someone some day would ask me the question, "Are you saved?" The thought was very repulsive because I had been a fairly good church member the greater part of my 19 years of life. Working on the drawing, the precious thought came that a good way to counteract any religious nut or kook would be to quote some Bible verses because, after all, that is what Jesus did when He was tempted by the devil. So I chose some very good verses whereby I could put to silence any imbecile who would approach me in so brazen a way as touching my relation to God.

God Works in Wondrous Ways

It was a lonely time of my life. Mother had died the year before and having lost Dad when I was but five sort of made me feel kinda orphan-like. Then, too, I really did want to have some feminine companionship. I wanted to have a nice girl friend. That would help a great deal. God was good in His gracious leading in my life. It was my opinion that a good place to meet some feminine companionship would logically be in God's house. Subsequently, I sallied forth on a Good Friday evening to the Calvary Lutheran Church of Moline, Illinois. Memory fails me as to the message of the evening, though I felt it was very nice. Following the service, shaking hands with the preacher at the door, I told him that I was going to join his church. He was delighted and when in addition I told him that I was going to sing in the choir he was doubly elated and told me to join the

choir which at the very moment was practicing for the Easter service. Of course, he did not know that he was dealing with a cunning Jacob who was really only thinking of some lovely feminine companionship.

The Confrontation

The choir leader was so happy to have another voice in the choir and cheerfully told me to get on up into the bass section. So, in all the exuberance of youth I went up into the choir loft. As I came to a vacant chair, a young man stood up to greet me with a most lovely smile on his face and said, "My name's John Heberling, what's yours?" Likewise with a radiant smile on my own face I responded, "My name is Ray Persson. Happy to 'meetcha.'" Then he asked, "Are you saved?" There it was, the very thing I knew would happen and in a flash my smile melted, anger flooded my soul and I actually had it figured out to a left hook to the jaw and a right and that would resolve the situation. The Bible verses that I had fortified myself with were as birds that flew out the window. I was speechless and angry. Then he most graciously said, "You can know you are saved." And looking down at Grandpa Nelson (well over 80 years and singing in the choir!), he said to him, "You know you are saved, don't you, Grandpa." "Yah, shure, aye know I'm saved!" he responded. Of another man in the choir, he likewise inquired, "You know you're saved, don't you, Jim." He likewise responded with all joy and the assurance of the Holy Spirit. Finally, the choir director impatiently said, "Let's get going here," and I was greatly relieved to sit down after a most vexing and embarrassing experience. I breathed a sigh of relief and settled down to sing among other songs, "Now Let Every Tongue Adore Thee" by Bach. Wonderful Song.

Salvation a Gift

Later, in conversation with myself, I asked, "What went wrong? Why could I not answer the guy and what about those verses?" I remained with the church and was under the wonderful preaching of Pastor Erlander. One day, as I was standing in my "Y"

room thinking of nothing, a verse came to mind. It was Romans 4:5. The pastor had quoted the verse many times as it was the verse that had influenced his salvation. But it was not until that day in the "Y" room that I really heard it. "To him that worketh not." Why, I thought, that's me, I don't want to work, I don't want to tell people about Jesus, I don't want to be a missionary, I don't want to be a preacher. (I had the thought that by becoming such I would really be a Christian.) The verse persisted, "but believeth on Him who justified the ungodly, his faith is reckoned for righteousness." Then I saw it in a flash. It was not what I had done, nor would do but **what Christ had done for me on the cross!**

The Witness of the Spirit

Oh, the wonderful peace that came through that lovely and wonderful realization in that verse that changed my whole life. I learned, too, why I could not say that I was saved. The truth was revealed in I Corinthians 12:3, "No man can say that Jesus is Lord, but by the Holy Spirit." The Lord is good! Several years later, in that same church there was found a particular feminine companionship in the good wife that I in Jesus am so privileged to have.

Pastor R. S. Persson
 Astoria, Oregon

**AT THE CROSS OF CHRIST
 I BOW**

At the cross of Christ I bow
 With all my shame and guilt;
 Pleading the blood of Jesus,
 Praising His holy Name.
 Thou show'dst Thy love on Calv'ry,
 Paying my debt of sin;
 Suff'ring brutal agony
 So heaven's crown I'd win.
 Jesus, stay Thou by my side
 And let me walk with Thee;
 Keep me in the narrow way,
 Make me Thy will to see.
 And when my eyes close in death,
 Be Thou my lasting friend;
 Till heav'ns morning I will see
 And all my toil shall end.

Jim Erickson, AFLBS
 Ferndale, Wash.

[Continued from page 16]

director at Radio Voice of the Gospel, said that regular transmissions were continuing.

“Occasional statement on behalf of the armed forces are being transmitted with the full understanding of government authorities,” Mr. Chambron said.

The Ethiopian army has moved to occupy key communications sites in recent months as military authorities take a more active role in the nation’s administration. Authorities, however, have denied that a coup is taking place, since the military remains ostensibly loyal to Emperor Haile Selassie.

Radio Voice of the Gospel has been operating for more than 10 years with the cooperation of the Ethiopian administration.

LWF officials in Geneva also said that they were maintaining contact with the LWF famine-relief effort, headquartered in Ethiopia’s capital

city. The director of the program, currently visiting outlying areas, is expected to report to the LWF soon.

MY PRAYER

My dear heavenly Father,
This is my prayer to you.
I have prayed so many others—
And all strengthen my soul anew.

Thank You for the love of a husband,
And a Christian one at that;
His cares, kindness and helping hand
Are like only You can grant.

Then, thank You for a daughter,
A most precious gift You gave,
That with Your love You gave her
To thankful parents waiting in prayer.

So very many blessings
You’ve granted us each day:
A home, a family, Christian friends,
And trials that strengthen faith.

Thank You for Your Word so true.

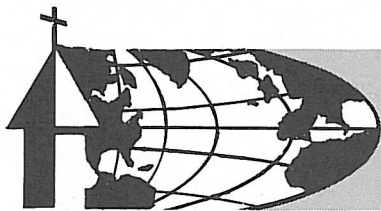
A missionary in a Chinese city was reading to an outdoor crowd the first chapter of Romans, in which Paul gives a vivid portrayal of the depraved moral conditions of his age. A man in the crowd shouted, “He is speaking about us!” Another missionary, in a village in India where Christ had never been preached, was reading Luther’s explanation of the second article of the Creed, when the natives exclaimed, “That is **good news!**” The Law and the Gospel, the word of sin and the word of grace, have a perennial vitality. To look for another message is like seeking a substitute for sunshine. Whether the world is primitive or scientific, feudalistic or capitalistic, communistic or fascistic, the message needs no alteration or revision. No other foundation can be laid than the one God has already laid. We have a Savior and we do not have to look for another.

T. A. Kantonen in **The Message of the Church to the World of Today**



Watching a Ship Pass By

—Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.



CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

RESEARCH SHOWS LUTHERAN SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

St. Louis, Mo.—That persons who have attended Lutheran schools are different from Lutherans who have not attended such schools is the conclusion of a just-released book, **How Different Are People Who Attended Lutheran Schools.**

People who attended Lutheran schools were found to be significantly different in twenty identified characteristics. They tend to be "better Lutherans" when this is interpreted in terms of Biblical knowledge, doctrinal understanding and assent, personal commitment, congregational activity and leadership, and orientation to Gospel rather than Law. They also differ in the way they engage in personal evangelism and in their practices of personal piety.

The research was done by Dr. Milo Brekke from data collected by the Youth Research Center for **A Study of Generations.** Those data were neutral in that they were not collected with the thought of comparing Lutheran school attenders with non-attenders. When the data were summarized the findings did show significant differences. While the researchers were careful not to claim direct cause and effect relationships, they did try to eliminate all other factors before announcing their conclusion.

Dr. Melvin Kieschnick, executive secretary of the Board of Parish Education of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and sponsor of the study, said, "We are grateful to find empirical evidence to substantiate our personal conviction that Lutheran elementary and secondary schools are valid and strong agencies for a church in mission."

Other significant findings include: 1) the longer one attended Lutheran schools the greater the difference; 2) those who attended were much more likely to become clergymen; 3) there was no evidence that parochial

schools were particularly more or less effective today than 60 years ago; and 4) those who attended report much greater involvement in personal evangelism.

On the negative side, it was reported that persons who attended Lutheran schools are less inclined to encourage and support the church's involvement in social issues and are about as prejudiced and humane as Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod members in general.

When evaluating their day-by-day life, persons who attended a Lutheran school evidence no more or less general sense of meaning and purpose in their lives. However, it is clear that the parochially-educated find meaning in life beyond the physical, material world that they can see and touch. They tend more characteristically to find their meaning in relationships with God and with other people and in transcendental values such as forgiveness, eternal life, love, family happiness and religion as a whole, rather than in worldly values such as power, prestige, adventure, money, beauty and personal achievement.

Dr. Andrew Greeley of the University of Chicago, director of the National Opinion Research Center, after reviewing the study before publication, said it "established beyond any reasonable doubt the impact of Lutheran parochial schooling on those who attend."

"This is a worthy and needed book—significant for anyone pondering the value of parochial education," wrote Dr. E. Rakow of Boston College.

In making the study, the Board of Parish Education was assisted with funding from the Clara and Spencer Werner Foundation and Lutheran Brotherhood. Publication is by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri.

LCMS PRESIDENT PREUS REPORTS ON TRIP TO SISTER CHURCHES

St. Louis, Mo.—LCMS President

J.A.O. Preus has returned from a three-week tour of seven Asian sister churches and mission fields, assured of the desire of all that relationships between the sister churches and the Missouri Synod be continued and strengthened.

Contrary to reports that some sister churches might break off relations, Dr. Preus stated categorically that none of the sister churches would sever its relationship. He did note a great concern "...for the troubles our church is enduring and a desire to help in solving these problems," but he also noted "...a great resistance on the part of the nationals to any American who wants to inject our problems into their churches."

Dr. Preus commented, "When I visited the sister churches a year ago, it gave me an opportunity to become acquainted with their work and to see a great part of their physical operation. This time I had an opportunity to get a much greater understanding of their thinking. We shared ideas; we compared notes. We went in depth into what it means to be in sister church relationship and into the role of the missionary of the church of the 1970's. We talked doctrine and theology; we talked of how it feels to be a Lutheran in a country where Lutheranism is a minority group."

"I had a chance to see how a young church feels in an emerging nation, with all of its tensions and challenges. The overall impression received was that our sister churches feel themselves to be living in exciting and revolutionary times. I am convinced that under God they have the spiritual strength, the theological solidarity and the mature human resources to enable them to make the most of their opportunities. Interest in evangelism was expressed on every side."

"The trip provided abundant witness to the Christian faith and dedication of both nationals and missionaries. Our church can help in the development of these young churches

as they find their own destiny, making more and more of their own decisions and making an increasingly greater impact on the society in which they carry on their work. We can be proud of and happy with the work which the Holy Spirit is accomplishing through our fine partners in mission. We have much to learn from them in dedication and resourcefulness."

During the course of his trip, Dr. Preus discussed with the presidents of the sister churches in India, New Guinea, Taiwan, the Philippines, Korea, Japan and Hong Kong various ways of exchanging resources and strengthening liaison at all levels. These proposals will be discussed at

the International Lutheran Theological Conference to be held this fall.

LWF RADIO PROGRAMS AIRED DESPITE ETHIOPIAN REVOLT

Geneva—(LC)—Although the Lutheran World Federation radio station in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, is under "army protection," the 500,000-watt transmitting facility has not been "occupied" during recent disturbances in Ethiopia, according to word reaching LWF headquarters here.

The Rev. Marc Chambron, acting director of the LWF Broadcasting Service, and Manfred Lundgren, station

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