

June 18, 1974

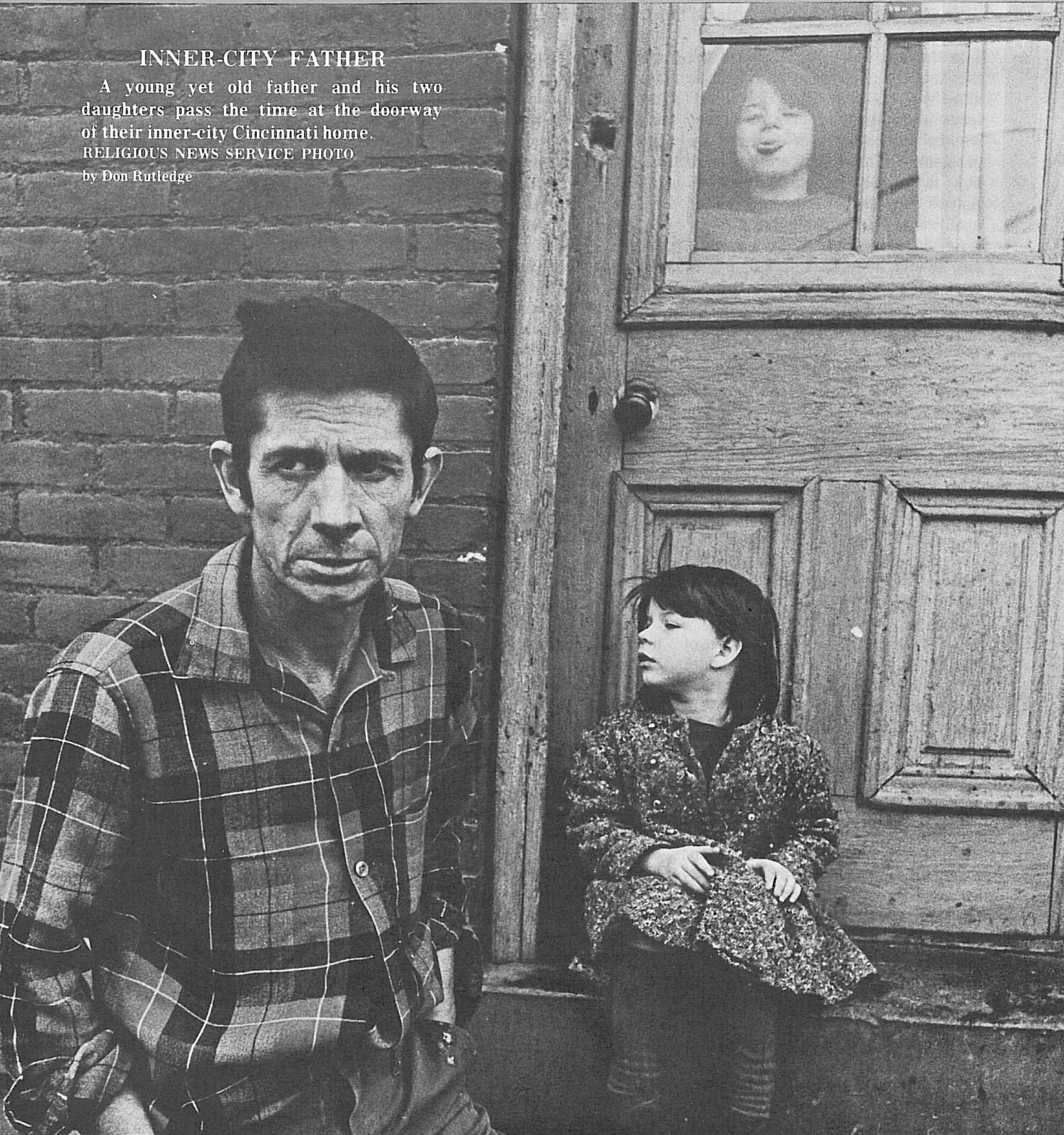
# The Lutheran Ambassador

## INNER-CITY FATHER

A young yet old father and his two daughters pass the time at the doorway of their inner-city Cincinnati home.

RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

by Don Rutledge



# MEDITATION MOMENTS

## REVIVAL WILL COME, IF . . .

"If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (II Chronicles 7:14).

In the last issue we discussed the fact that God calls upon us to humble ourselves and pray. The Holy Spirit leads us to the place where we see our helplessness in the face of the problems at hand and are ready to bow in humble prayer before God. As we bow before Him, His Word again comes to us, "Seek My face."

As Christians we may sincerely desire to live dedicated Christian lives and serve our Lord effectively . . . But many times we seek to serve the Lord according to the reasoning of the flesh. Our own reasoning is very faulty. Paul says that our natural reasoning can't understand spiritual things (I Cor. 2:14). Therefore we are admonished to "Trust in the Lord with all thy heart, and lean not to thine own understanding: in all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct thy paths" (Prov. 3:5, 6). God wants to communicate with us and direct us . . . He speaks to us through His Word. The Psalmist wrote, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" (Ps. 119:105).

As we get into the illumination of God's Holy Word we will soon see that we are in the presence of the One who is holy, almighty and omniscient. We will recognize the truth of God's Word as He speaks in Isaiah 55:8, 9: "For my thought are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." By the grace of God we may perhaps see how foolish we are when we try to carry out spiritual work without

the constant guidance of Him who alone knows what is best. We will "seek His face" because we realize that He alone can lead us in the paths of righteousness. We will diligently study His Word with the Psalmist's prayer on our hearts, "Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law" (Ps. 119: 18). When we "seek His face" and He reveals His will to us we must "be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (Jas. 1:22).

As we "seek His face" and see Him in the Word we will become more and more aware of our sinfulness. We will again hear His Word, "Turn from your wicked ways."

Perhaps the sins of Christians are more often in the realm of sins of omission than in sins of commission. We know that we should spend more time studying God's Word; we should spend more time in prayer; we should witness more; we should give more. With this knowledge come the Sword of the Spirit with convicting power, "To him therefore that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (Jas. 4:17). Though our outward lives may be without blemish our thought life may be filled with selfish, unclean things. God says, "As a man thinketh within himself, so is he" (Prov. 23:7). It may be that we are praying but our sins make our prayers fruitless. The Bible says, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear" (Ps. 66:18). If we want our lives to be fruitful and to experience the blessings of God, we must "turn from our wicked ways." This means we must repent.

To repent is to have a change in our thinking, to realize with shame and sorrow our waywardness. It also means that there is a change of direction in our actions, that we turn from sin and turn to God. May we truly

pray as King David did, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Ps. 139:23, 24). May we permit the Holy Spirit to work repentance in our hearts so that we may "turn from our wicked ways"

Now then, look at the precious promises of God to those who obey Him: "I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." Can we trust God to keep His promises? The Bible says, "There has not failed one word of all His good promises. . ." (I Kings 8:56).

The responsibility then comes back to each one of us who claim to be "God's people." God wants all men to be saved. He wants to send revival. But the Holy Spirit uses God's people to spread the saving Gospel. Christians who are not fully dedicated to the Lord stand in the way of revival and will cause judgment to fall upon many people and upon our beloved land.

We have recently celebrated Memorial Day. Independence Day is almost here. At this time we often think of the blessings of our beloved land and of the sacrifices made in blood sweat and tears to gain and keep our freedom. Certainly we want to do everything possible to preserve this freedom. But as worthy a cause as the preservation of our national freedom is, it should not be the basic reason for our obedience before God. Our obedience should come because we love our God and earnestly desire to please and serve Him. Do we love Him? Are we concerned about the revival God wants to send? If so, then may we allow the challenge of II Chronicles 7:14 to become a reality in our hearts. If we respond in obedience and submission to God, revival will come.

—Edwin M. Kjos

# The President's Report to the Church

To the congregations of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations and to the Twelfth Annual Conference in session at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, Minnesota, June 12-16, 1974.

Grace and peace!

Again we are gathered in annual conference. The years are swiftly passing. The conferences seem to be coming more often. How good we can be together in our Lord's Business.

It is wonderful to be back in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, where the Association was organized. It is good to be back at Our Savior's Lutheran. This is home territory. It is evident that God has blessed Our Savior's Lutheran just as He has blessed the Association.

Much has happened since October, 1962, when the AFLC was formed. Some who were very active then are no longer with us. As we meet in Our Savior's we are reminded of one in particular. Mr. Even Ose of this congregation was most concerned about our church, and active in many ways, supporting her growth. Mr. Ose died just a few days before our annual conference last year. We are grateful to God for Mr. Ose's witness and thank God for all who are devoted to Christ and His Church.

We are a called people. We are called to salvation and to service. Our service is centered basically in the congregations of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations and our corporate work. We marvel at this Grace. We tremble at our responsibility.

In the seven letters to the churches in the Book of Revelation, Christ strikingly introduces Himself. There were some heart-searching messages to the churches, but before they were given, Christ reminded them of Himself, and His Power. As we as congregations and concerned people are gathered, we have much to do these days and the coming years. We be-

lieve the best way to begin is to be made aware again of what Christ revealed concerning Himself to the churches of Asia. Christian work can draw us from Christ. Our work and challenges must not draw us from a deep faith and trust in the Lord of the church. Our first love must be the Lord.

Here is the way Christ introduced Himself to those churches.

The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands (2:1).

The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life (2:8).

The One who has the sharp two-edged sword (2:12).

The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze (2:18).

He who has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars (3:1).

He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens (3:7).

The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God (3:14).

Christ walks amongst us! He knows us intimately. He is concerned about every pastor, every congregation. And He is eternal, having conquered our worst enemies, even death. He is not helpless but has a mighty sword for action. He sees through all sham and hypocrisy, and can stamp out all that is unworthy. All true Spirituality is found in Him. He is holy. He rejects sin and all uncleanness. He is true. His Word is beyond question. He, not Satan or the world, has the future in His Hand. He is to be trusted and obeyed. His might and power cannot be measured. He is truly the Lord of Lords and King of Kings. He is our Lord. We say, "Oh Lord, Who is like thee? To Thee we turn as we are gathered in worship and service. Without Thee, there is no light in our day.

Without Thee, our hearts would faint for fear. With Thee, we may mount as on the wings of eagles and meet each and every challenge, each and every foe."

## Worship

We have a great God. We are to worship Him. "Ascribe to the Lord the glory of His name; Bring an offering, and come into His courts. Worship the Lord in holy attire; Tremble before Him, all the earth" (Psalm 96:8-9). Worship, not activity or service, is at the heart of true church life. It is easier and more natural to be a Martha than a Mary, however. Today's emphasis is on activity that one enjoys, that is basically pleasing to self. Many are too busy doing good to worship. Scriptural worship is a lost reality to most individuals, and many congregations. The center of their religious experience is what they do, not in adoration and submission to God.

Many attempts at worship are man-centered, man-pleasing, not God-glorifying. Because they want to please men, they are always experimenting with liturgies and forms, trying to arrive at that which people enjoy.

Church music is changed. Instead of having a Word-centered message, the emphasis is on "beat," on that which is easy, and a shallow sentimentality appealing to man, often unconverted man. This is justified as an attempt to win the world. We must remember, however, that it is just as possible for the church to gain the world and lose its soul as it is for an individual.

Some desire to prepare their own forms for various services. God and His church are expected to adapt to their likes and dislikes, to their condition. "Take me as I am," is interpreted, "I'll come the way I want to." We must come to God on His terms, because He is God. He demands humble submission. He is to be wor-

shipped. May true worship be at the center of our lives as individuals and congregations.

### World

The world is in upheaval. Peace is elusive. There is little political stability. Shortages plague the nations. Natural resources are becoming more important, and used more successfully than arms to gain advantages. Famine is a stark reality for millions of people. It is difficult for us to realize this. We have a Christian responsibility, however.

The National Association of Evangelicals, through the World Relief Commission, is doing a great work to help the needy, spiritually and physically. The Coordinating Committee decided to alert the congregations of the Association to their opportunity to help the starving through the World Relief Commission. Many congregations sent gifts which were channeled to famine-stricken people. This conference could take action concerning our role during these days of famine.

Our nation is in political and economic turmoil. We are ashamed of what is being revealed about the morality in our political processes. Cynicism is mounting, and those seeking personal advantage and ambition are very bold. Might is more important than right. "The end justifies the means" is the philosophy most visible.

Various cures for our national turmoil are proposed. Some cures are worse than the ailment. A return to God is the only answer for that which plagues us. Our nation does not seem willing to return to God in repentance and faith, however.

The president of the Association attended a leadership conference in our nation's capital last winter. This conference was sponsored by the National Association of Evangelicals. We came away with strengthened hope for America. There are many fine people in government, many Christian people. We must uphold them in our prayers as they seek to serve us under difficult circumstances. We cannot believe all we read and see through the news media. The worst is accented, the best ignored. Let us give ourselves to more earnest prayer

for our leaders in government. May our nation return to her former moral greatness.

### The Church Scene

As with the world scene, the Church scene is also confusing. There are intense struggles between liberal and conservative approaches to the Scriptures. Issues are often confused by bringing in side issues, and the use of similar terms but meaning entirely different things. Scriptural truth is at stake, however. How fortunate we are to be spared the struggles thousands are experiencing in their church bodies. God has been good. May a genuine spiritual renewal come. This is the only remedy for, and protection from, theological liberalism. We must pray for our brethren in church fellowships where the Word of God is under attack. We must pray that those upholding the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions be strengthened and encouraged.

There is a growth of interest in things called spiritual. Demonism is receiving a great deal of the wrong kind of attention. While there is a searching for spiritual reality, there is so much error because of ignorance of the Word. There is much emotionalism, sentimentality, and universalism. Experience is sought, and truth ignored. Spirituality that is not founded on the objective truth of the Scriptures is folly.

We thank God for the many efforts to bring people back to God through a preaching that calls for repentance of sin, taking up the cross of Christ, and daily renewal.

There are false or unworthy movements appealing for prayer and financial support. Some have pious-sounding names and goals. We must be careful so that God's money is not given to unworthy ministries. There must be adequate accounting and responsibility before programs are to receive our support.

### The AFLC

God has been good to the AFLC yet another year. Much has been accomplished, for which we thank God. There is much to be done.

Last year's conference changed district boundaries. We are not aware

of any great problems arising. There seem to have been good benefits.

It appears that our greatest human need continues to be the need for more pastors. There were only two graduates from our Seminary this spring. They accepted calls from congregations previously served by students and faculty from our Seminary. There will be some retirements this summer. Home Mission opportunities demand attention. We believe and are grateful that next year's class will be larger than this year's class. In the meantime, some parishes will seek in vain for the kind of pastor they want. Some parishes are perhaps too choosy, but that is their right and we do not criticize. We realize what can happen when a parish calls a pastor not qualified or suited for their parish. In the Association, the congregations do the calling and may call whomever they desire. It is regrettable when pastors desire but do not get calls. It would appear that God is speaking through this too.

(To be continued)

### DEAN OF GIRLS ISSUES CALL FOR COUNSELLORS

Counsellors are needed for girls attending Family Bible Camp at Lake Geneva, Alexandria, Minnesota, August 18-25. Counsellors must be at least one year out of high school.

If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Aini Myking, Dean of Girls, at 2925 Hillsboro Avenue North, Apt. 713, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55427, as soon as possible.

### LECTURES ON PSALMS GIVEN BY PASTOR PERSSON AT CANNON BEACH SCHOOL

Pastor R. S. Persson of Bethany Lutheran Church, Astoria, recently completed a series of lectures on the Psalms at the Ecola Hall Bible School located at Cannon Beach on the Pacific coast.

The Ecola Bible School was founded two years ago and comprises a student body of 125. Non-denominational in purpose the school sponsors teachers of various evangelical persuasions to lecture there.

—Corr.

# Loneliness in the Local Church

by Helen Adams

Loneliness has always been a problem to mankind. In our own computerized society, man has been especially threatened by loneliness and isolation, which are the main themes of contemporary music and literature. However, I do not wish to philosophize about society in general. I want to be specific and ask you to take a look with me at the problem of loneliness in the local church. One would think that the "fellowship of the saints" would do much to alleviate man's aloneness, but does it?

Let's examine your own church. Perhaps it's a typical suburban one, newly built, with the best facilities for the total church program. There's a thriving Sunday school, and there are activities for every age group. The church, of course, is sound in doctrine, and it is one in which the members desire to reach the community with the Gospel.

As a member of this successful church, you are probably not particularly lonely if you are between the ages of twenty-five and fifty, are in the middle-class income bracket, are happily married (at least on the surface) and have two or three children. You probably are not a lonely member if you have average talents and education and are using these in the church, if you attend prayer meetings, if you agree with your church's code of social practices, and if you do not speak out too strongly against established ways of doing things or do not introduce too many new ideas. People chat with you after the services and invite you to their

homes for "fellowship" (whatever that may be) after the Sunday evening service. You are comfortably "in."

However, there are a number of members and regular attendants in your church who may not be "in." These persons, in my opinion, seem to be the lonely ones, and I list them:

College students. Other church members are frequently suspicious of some students because of their beards, mini-skirts and somewhat radical ideas, and are concerned that their faith probably has been shattered while attending college. This is especially true when students have been away from their local churches and have been exposed to new ideas and independent thinking. It is difficult for them to feel at home where things haven't changed while they have.

Single people (widows, widowers, divorcees, unmarried). This is undoubtedly the largest lonely group. Church folks often do their entertaining by couples. There seems to be something magic about being married, as far as church socializing goes. However, single people are often neglected, even in choices for positions of leadership.

Well-to-do, affluent people. I was acquainted with a woman whose husband was an outstanding and well-known surgeon. She had a 21-room house and everything that money could buy. However, she was one of the most lonely and miserable church members I have ever met. Fellow church members were shy about inviting her and her family because of her husband's reputation and her social prestige.

Those of other ethnic or cultural backgrounds. Language difficulties and different customs hinder these

people from being entertained. However, church families do not hesitate to invite missionaries and nationals of foreign lands into their homes during the annual missionary conference. Why do these same families find it so difficult to make "foreigners" and those unaccustomed to their way of doing things feel that they are a part of the church family?

Elderly people. Young adults with families seem to forget the older persons who live alone or in a home for senior citizens. These folks include those who formerly were church leaders, and they may enjoy comparing notes with present ones.

The well-educated and very talented. Often these members are used because of their abilities but aren't included in the times of fellowship in homes. I heard a woman say that she would like to invite a certain couple to her home but the husband was so talented that he scared her!

Those who have suffered tragedy or bereavement in the family. People feel awkward because they don't know how to express concern or sympathy. I have known people to cross to the other side of the street to avoid meeting those to whom they should say words of encouragement.

Parents with a large family. Who wants to risk the chance of a gang of kids messing up a lovely, neat home?

No doubt you can add others to the lonely list. It's easy to be friendly to those with whom we feel comfortable and have similar interests and standards. With them, we have no problem of communication and do not have to exert ourselves. Our reasons for not inviting the lonely ones into our homes are usually superficial ones. We feel awkward, inferior, awed, repulsed or incapable. Basically, these feelings are based on pride, which is hardly a valid reason when we claim that we "are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28).

Remember those with whom Jesus was friendly? If you've forgotten, look them up in the Gospels. Remember that He also commented: "Inasmuch as ye have done it to the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matt. 25:40).

Don't let pity or obligation be your motive for showing friendliness; the

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Helen Adams is an English teacher on the associate faculty of Ontario Bible College, Toronto, Ontario.

lonely ones will quickly sense this and resent it. We all have so much to share with one another. It can be exciting and challenging to share and discuss your Christian faith with those outside your regular clique.

Look around your local church. Who is coming to your home for fellowship after the evening service next Sunday?

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### I NEED MY LORD TO GUIDE ME

I need my Lord to guide me  
As I go along the way,  
For He knows the many pitfalls  
And the snares along the way.  
He alone can know the tempting  
Of the evil one each day,  
And when some sin overtakes me  
And I draw back in dismay.  
How I've grieved my precious Savior,  
Yielded to the sin He hates!  
"Oh, my Savior, will I ever,  
Ever reach those heavenly gates?"  
He alone can know the anguish,  
The grief and deep despair,  
That I tell of in His presence  
As I bow to Him in prayer.  
Lo, He alone can know the darkness  
He has led me through thus far,  
And the treacherous billows, foaming,  
By the path where we now are.  
Oh, praise God, He'll never leave me  
Nor despair when I do fall,  
But He'll lift me gently, kindly,  
When upon Him I do call.  
Mabel Quanbeck  
McVille, N. Dak.

### SCHOOL DORM REACHED

The third floor of the new dormitory at the Association Bible School in Minneapolis, Minn., was not reached as early as a previous **Ambassador** (May 21) predicted. But it has been put on now. Barring unforeseen delays, interior work should be carried out at a good pace.



A spring banquet honoring the senior members of Trinity, Antiochia and Lebanon Lutheran Churches was held Friday evening, April 26, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Minnewaukan, North Dakota. The Married Couples Club of the parish served a banquet supper and favored the guests with devotions, musical selections, poetry readings, and various prizes, both humorous and serious. Approximately 90 people attended the banquet, senior members, guests and Married Couples Club, according to Pastor Eugene Enderlein.

### THE ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard Minneapolis, Minnesota Budget Receipts February 1-March 31, 1974

|                  | <u>Proposed<br/>Total Budget</u> | <u>Current<br/>Budget</u> | <u>Received<br/>during May</u> | <u>Total Received<br/>to date</u> |
|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| General Fund     | \$ 56,000.00                     | \$18,666.68               | \$ 1,872.48                    | \$12,480.51                       |
| Schools          | 82,830.00                        | 27,610.00                 | 4,585.92                       | 17,169.94                         |
| Home Missions    | 50,000.00                        | 16,666.68                 | 3,241.35                       | 10,524.69                         |
| Foreign Missions | 57,370.00                        | 19,123.32                 | 3,791.41                       | 11,926.05                         |
| Praise Fund      | 18,000.00                        | 6,000.00                  | 1,983.76                       | 4,002.92                          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>\$264,200.00</b>              | <b>\$88,066.68</b>        | <b>\$15,474.92</b>             | <b>\$56,104.11</b>                |
| 1973-74          | \$236,202.00                     | \$78,734.00               |                                | \$45,724.00                       |

Legacies—\$8,107.25

#### Dorm Fund

|                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Unpaid Pledges              | \$ 21,811.75        |
| Cash Received through April | 152,212.62          |
| Cash Received during May    | 4,412.92            |
|                             | <u>\$178,437.29</u> |

## When a Hungry Child Cries

by Dr. Roger Ose

She put her eight small children to bed on one big straw mat in the middle of their traveller's palm hut. It was cold and the wind was blowing through the cracks in the walls, so they snuggled close together under two big blankets.

But the smallest ones cried and begged for more food. The mother comforted them and explained that they were out of food today. Tomorrow they would probably find some tasty wild plants down by the river to cook for dinner. Eventually the little ones cried themselves to sleep.

They knew, and the mother knew, that their beautiful corn and rice fields had dried up in the burning tropical sun. For more than a year the rains had not come at the right time, or they didn't come at all. As a result, the family was forced to eat the precious seed grains that they would need to plant a new crop next year. This tragic story is repeated in six countries of Central Africa, where they are experiencing their second year of severe drought. Most children in these countries will go to bed hungry tonight.

Then they see us foreigners living in big homes and having enough to eat. We bought extra sacks of rice during the short harvest season. We have enough money to buy cars, but they must walk twenty miles to the big town.

They get angry, and rightfully so. They are willing to believe the Chinese Communists who tell them that Western nations have stolen the food and goods that rightfully belong to them. The Malagasy know that the local French mining companies and sisal plantation owners are fabulously wealthy, but the nationals don't have enough food for their children. They hear on the radio that some nations waste food and natural resources.

I can understand their thinking. For example, an average American family throws away enough food in a day to keep a small Malagasy family alive. Americans generally drive big cars that use lots of gasoline. Americans could drive smaller cars, but they choose to drive big ones that

waste precious fuel. Consequently, the Malagasy run out of petroleum because Americans waste what should come here. I can see why they think that way. Here in Fort Dauphin we pay \$1.40 a gallon for ethyl. We have a hard time getting kerosene for any price.

I believe Americans will be held accountable for their extravagance and waste. But you can help change that now. How? Use OUR precious natural resources sparingly. Try to understand how people from the Third World, the underdeveloped nations, feel about your wastefulness.

Get to know a couple of foreign students. You have more than two thousand of them going to schools in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. Try to understand what are their dreams and hopes for their own countries. Listen carefully as they give their opinions about you, and your country. Remember, most of them come from countries where ignorance, disease, and poverty have been the norm for centuries.

As you get to know them, be careful of a superior or condescending attitude. Don't give to them because they're so poor. That robs them of their dignity. Rather, help them like you would want somebody to help your son or daughter.

Encourage your congressman to continue foreign aid programs that help increase food production in the Third World. The most effective foreign aid I've seen is when the U.S. gives 50 per cent of the cost of a dam or rice plantation canal, and the Malagasy government gives the other fifty per cent. That arrangement is a gift that can be accepted with dignity.

Encourage your children to serve overseas. Support your church missionaries. I've noticed that missionaries can accomplish more with far less money than government agencies. For example, the Malagasy tell us that they get better service and health care at our Lutheran hospitals than at their own government hospitals.

Be careful with OUR precious

natural resources. Let your family discover ways you can share what you have. Put your ideas into action. And tonight a small child somewhere far away will go to sleep with a full tummy because you shared.

## Letters TO THE EDITOR

HERE IS "ONE ROUND TUIT"

Enclosed is "one round tuit" as you mentioned in the April 23 issue of **The Lutheran Ambassador** (page 9). Maybe you will wish I hadn't gotten around to writing my opinion of such.

Isn't this what is called sarcasm or satire? I don't believe sarcastic or satirical things belong in a Christian paper. Oh yes, pointing out our sins belongs, and in a stern manner, too, I believe. Then showing us the right way. But this sort I do not believe in.

I'd also like to comment on the article "Divorce and Remarriage," page 13, April 9th issue. I've never understood any of the references to divorce or putting away, that either party is free to marry again without committing adultery (except marrying the same partner again). And if that is called "so legal" then it's better to be legal than take the chance of doing wrong. Is there any "innocent party" ever?

Jesus gave that "except" as a reason for divorce but not as a reason or excuse to get married again. We like so much to find any little excuse to do what we want to do.

Mrs. Joseph Nelson  
Cannon Falls, Minn.

(Ed. Note: The dictionary definition of satire and sarcasm, especially of satire, does not preclude or rule out their use in a Christian publication. Our Lord and the apostle Paul, to name two, made use of these types of speech in exposing the hypocritical and self-righteous spirit. The little article on the "one round tuit" was rather gentle needling of those who put off and put off what they should do about their families' spiritual welfare and that reminder is always in season.)



**WORLD MISSIONS**  
THE FIELDS ARE WHITE UNTO HARVEST

**“I SAW CHRIST DIE ON THE CROSS”**

Easter Sunday in Alvorada was a beautiful day. Clemente, three other Bible school students and I were making routine visits with church members and interested people when we stopped at the home of a new convert. Their little three-year-old girl was standing outside the door crying. Inside we heard screaming, banging and all kinds of racket. The little girl said, “Can you help my mommy? She’s sick again.” We came into the house and found the young mother on the floor screaming and banging her head on the floor. The man living with her was sitting on top of her, trying to hold her down and keep her from killing herself or someone in the house.

As we walked in she seemed to calm down and said, “I’m the spirit of light” (II Cor. 11:14). Then she started reciting Bible verses. We said, “Listen, if you are a spirit sent from God you wouldn’t torment this lady. The fruits of the spirit are love, joy, peace.” At this she started screaming and frothing from the mouth.

We then all prayed over her and told the evil spirit, in the blood of Christ, to leave her. We asked what his name was and he said, “We are a band of spirits dwelling in her.” We kept praying and compelling them to leave. Then one shouted out, “I saw Christ die on the cross!” and we asked him, “If you saw Christ die on the cross then you also saw Him rise from the dead three days later and defeat sin, death and the power of Satan which also includes you.” With this the spirits really went crazy. Screaming, frothing and swinging her arms, the poor lady was really tormented. We kept telling them to leave in the name of Christ. Then she finally lay



Alvorada Lutheran Church

back, opened her mouth and belched out a spirit. She sat up and was herself again. Smiling, she asked what we were doing at their place and started talking about her children. Then she asked for a cigarette. We told her Christ had liberated her from those vices. That’s all it took for her to start screaming and swinging her arms. Her man held her down and we started praying over her again and asking the evil spirit to tell us his name. He said he was an English-speaking spirit. With much prayer, he was expelled. She sat up and started asking for a cigarette again and when she couldn’t have it she went through the same routine again. This time another spirit told her man who was sitting on top of her, holding her down, “I’m going to hound you like a wolf night and day until I’ve got you, too.” The look on her face was terrible, like the devil himself. With continued prayer that spirit left, too.

The last spirit that left said “I’m going to call in seta flechas (seven arrows) to fight you.” He is supposed to be a powerful demon in Brazil. With this the demon left and the lady sat up, completely worn out. Then she told us of her painful plight.

The man she was living with was

not her husband. Her children were with a different man. She wanted to get married but he didn’t want to marry. She was filled with guilt feelings. The man living with her has Christian parents praying for them but he is a millstone around her neck. He was the one who tempted her to drink whiskey for dinner that Easter day and when she did that her resistance to the demons broke down and they entered her again. She said they entered her through her fingernails and like a hot surge went up her arms and filled her whole body. So when we came there to visit them we found her in that awful state.

She said that her father had been a chief of one of the spiritist bands and just before he died he passed his demons unto her, against her will. She later got involved with the spiritist band but then became afraid.

She moved to Alvorada with the man living with her and was converted in our church there, during special meetings with John Abel. Ever since, she has been hounded by the demons. She said, “Whenever I read my Bible I go blind and fall into a faint, and whenever I go to church the demons pull my hair. I see them standing around me smoking and laughing at me. They wear long sleeved blue shirts.”

This young lady, like many more in Brazil, are fighting a real and forceful enemy that doesn’t give up easily. But this enemy is becoming more and more powerful in all parts of the world. While home on furlough last year we encountered people in the same situation in the States. Which more than ever before proves that we should “be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (I Pet. 5:8).

Many of the Christians of Brazil are afraid to fight these demons that have possessed another person because of their strength and also the threats that they say will happen; such as the demon that told me “he would call in sete flechas to fight with us.” This can be fearful, as has been proven many times here. Whole families and homes, etc., have been persecuted and tormented night and day by demons after a hex has been

*[Continued on page 14]*



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# editorials

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## THANK YOU, PASTOR KJOS

If one verse of Scripture seems to be a theme passage of Scripture for Pastor Edwin Kjos, who has written our devotional articles during the first half of 1974, it is II Chronicles 7:14. Pastor Kjos has referred to it more than once and it is well for us to remember those words again here: "If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (Am. St.).

He said, "If we believe God's Word we realize that the moral and spiritual dilemma of our beloved land can be solved if we will bow before our God in repentance and obedient faith." Who can but agree to that assertion, for it is the way out as ordained and urged by the Lord.

We thank Pastor Edwin Kjos for his articles under the series "Meditation Moments." He has called Christians to greater earnestness and holiness and he has invited those outside the fold of God to enter into the joy of the Lord. Thank you, Pastor Kjos, for sharing in this work of the written Gospel and God's blessings continue to be upon your ministry in the West River country of South Dakota, where the far-off horizons speak eloquently of the greatness of God.

Now we introduce the new writer in the series, Rev. Laurel M. Udden of Minneapolis, Minn. When he consented to be this for us he did not know that he was to become

acting director of the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement, but an evangelist for the organization. So he will be a busy man, but thus far we have only used busy men as our writers.

Pastor Udden has a long experience as a parish pastor, has recently taught for five years at our Bible School and Seminary, and has been much in demand as a Bible camp and Bible conference speaker. He will have many insights to share with us, we are sure, as he writes the "Meditation Moments" articles, beginning next time.

God bless this effort, Pastor Udden, and your new tasks with the LEM.

## A COURAGEOUS MAN

A man we've read about who lives in the Twin Cities area has shown a lot of courage as mayor of one of our suburban communities. He is putting up a determined fight against lewdness and indecency in his city. He objects to indecent exposure and acts of depravity that either have been going on in night clubs, lingerie shows, etc., or may be brought in if authorities aren't vigilant. The mayor, a family man with young children, objects to the baser elements of his society establishing the moral standards of the community. He has protested the flagrant flaunting of nudity in the newsstands and other sex-oriented come-ons that tempt the public. He is out to make it hard on the purveyors of filth and indecency.

The mayor is a lawyer by profession and a member of the Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormon). We call that religious group a sect and rightly so. In the Mid-West they make up a tiny minority of our society. Their representation on our city, town and village councils must of necessity, then, be very small. Most of the members of such councils come from the traditional churches, well-established and respected. How often do we find anyone who is in a position of influence who raises a stink about some of the worst things that go on in a community, as this Mormon mayor is doing? And how often do the church-going people back such a public official to the hilt?

Too often there is fear of offending someone and economic reprisal. There is the old bugaboo about censorship and endangering freedoms also. But those who want to sell smut and indecency to the people and in other ways prey on human weakness ought to have some real restrictions and we ought to make it as hard for them as we can.

We trust that as concerned citizens, especially if we have Christian conscience, that we will always be found on the side of decency, of purity, of good morals, and will work toward what builds those things up, all the while throwing what roadblocks we can in the path of what tears them down.

The above mentioned topic does give us the opportunity to comment on the present fad of streaking. It has been discouraging not only to have young people (usually) who will take off their clothes and run naked in a public place, but also to have the spectators, by and large it seems, cheer them on. All in all, it's hard to understand and reveals a pretty sick spirit in our society. Another reason to look again at that verse, II Chronicles 7:14.

# Women For Christ

## INSPIRING WMF RALLY AT GREENBUSH, MARCH 30

An inspiring day was experienced by all who attended the Northern Minnesota District Women's Missionary Federation rally held at United Lutheran Church, Greenbush, March 30th. The program was centered around the theme "The King Is Coming!" The theme verse was "Therefore by ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 24:44). The theme song was "What a Day That Will Be."

The morning session began with a singspiration led by Mrs. Gerald Berg of Greenbush, with Miss Heather Sundby of Greenbush as pianist. Mrs. Ben Danielson, Roseau, led the Scripture and prayer. Mrs. Larry Voll, Salol, and a trio composed of Mrs. Dallas Erickson, Greenbush, and Mrs. Rocky McFarlane and Miss Kerri Erickson, both of Badger, provided special music. Mr. Art Grimstad, Thief River Falls, gave a Bible study based on Titus 2:11-14. He centered his thoughts around the thought, "We should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world."

A business meeting was held where the following officers were elected: president—Mrs. Roger Berg, Wannaska; secretary—Rebecca E. Anderson, Badger; and cradle roll secretary—Mrs. Bernhard Dalager, Roseau. Outgoing officers were Mrs. Emanuel Seidel, Badger, president; and Mrs. Clara Nelson, Karlstad, secretary. Other district officers are Mrs. Ingvald Rokke, Strandquist, vice-president; and Mrs. Norris Fugleberg, Badger, treasurer.

Pastor Gerald Mundfrom, Grafton, N. Dak., told about the "book nook"

he had set up for the rally and also closed the morning session. A delicious dinner was served by the United Lutheran ladies.

The afternoon session began with another singspiration, followed by Scripture reading and prayer by Mrs. Berg. Special singing was provided by Mrs. Daryl Haugen, Strandquist, and a rally day choir. Miss Judith Wold Thief River Falls, executive secretary of the WMF, gave a report on her trip to our AFLC mission field in Brazil. The afternoon speaker was Lay Pastor Clarence Haaland, Gonvick. His message was based on the theme verse. He said that we are given "signs of the times" from Genesis to Revelation. In the moments of busy-ness Christ will come and be gone. What are we busy about?, he asked. Is it so that our bodies and minds are comfortable? The Bible says that we should be ready. There will be no time to get ready when the trumpet sounds, Pastor Haaland warned.

Pastor Karl Stendal, interim pastor of United Lutheran, closed the afternoon session and the audience sang the theme song again. Mrs. Emanuel Seidel, district president, presided throughout the day.

Rebecca E. Anderson  
Secretary

## MEDICINE LAKE LUTHERAN HOSTS GATHERING

The Spring Rally of the Minneapolis District WMF was held at Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn., on Tues., April 16, Amos Dyrud, pastor. The theme of the rally was Isaiah 12:3, "With joy shall you draw water out of the wells of salvation."

President, Mrs. Carol James,

opened the meeting and led in a responsive reading of Psalm 98. The theme song, "Let the Joy Overflow," was led by Mrs. Marlin Benrud of Zumbrota, Minn. Mrs. Oscar Christopherson of Rosedale Lutheran led in devotions. A welcome was given by Mrs. Ray Jacobson of the host church. Mrs. Victor Parsons of St. Paul sang a beautiful solo, "Fill My Cup, Lord."

Missionary George Knapp, home on furlough from Brazil, gave the morning message based on Isaiah 12. We need to be happy to win people to Christ. We need some means to dig deep into the well of salvation. This means is God's Word. Once we find the joy of salvation we must tell others, he said.

Mrs. Robert Dietsche, national WMF president, explained the goals and projects of the WMF, stressing that the main purpose is winning souls for Christ. An invitation for the fall rally on Oct. 12 was extended from Faith Lutheran Church, Colfax, Wis. The election of officers resulted in the following: president, Mrs. Irvin Hodnefield, Radcliffe, Ia., treasurer, Miss Margaret Anderson, Sand Creek, Wis.; nominating committee, Mrs. Philip Featherstone, Colfax, Wis., Mrs. Francis Hodnefield, Radcliffe, and Mrs. Celia Mackie, Morgan Avenue Lutheran, Minneapolis. Pastor Dyrud led in closing prayer and table grace. A delicious lunch was served by the host church.

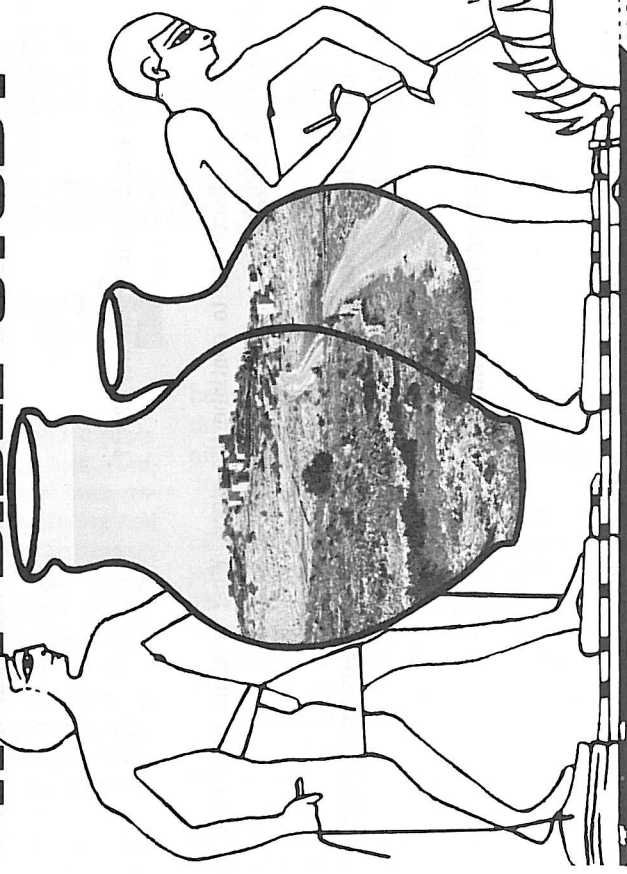
The afternoon session opened with the singing of "O Thou, Before Whose Presence." Mrs. Clifford Nelson, Emmanuel, Kenyon, Minn., led in devotions from 1 Peter 4:13-19. Mrs. Eldon Kinnunen, Morgan Avenue, gave a presentation on postal delivery to the mission field, assisted by Mrs. George Knapp. They shared how God can use this means to be a blessing to both sender and receiver. Mrs. Eldora Koski, Morgan Avenue, played an organ solo, "How Great Thou Art." The afternoon message was given by Mrs. Knapp. She told about a typical missionary wife's day in Brazil, stressing the joy of knowing the presence of God's love through each day. We were each given a heart with a love verse to read when we reached our homes.

Mrs. Benrud again led in singing the

[Continued on page 13]

Sit still, my daughter! Just sit calmly still!  
 Nor deem these days—these waiting days—as ill!  
 The One who loves thee best, who plans thy way,  
 Hath not forgotten thy great need today!  
 And, if He waits, 'tis sure He waits to prove  
 To thee, His tender child, His heart's deep love.  
 Sit still, my daughter! Just sit calmly still!  
 Thou longest much to know thy dear Lord's will!  
 While anxious thoughts would almost steal their way  
 Corrodingly within, because of His delay—  
 Persuade thyself in simple faith to rest  
 That He, who knows and loves, will do the best.  
 Sit still, my daughter! Just sit calmly still!  
 Nor move one step, not even one, until  
 His way hath opened. Then, ah then, how sweet!  
 How glad thy heart, and then how swift thy feet  
 Thy inner being then, ah then, how strong!  
 And waiting days not counted then too long.  
 Sit still, my daughter! Just sit calmly still!  
 What higher service could'st thou for Him fill?  
 'Tis hard! ah yes! But choicest things must cost!  
 For lack of losing all how much is lost!  
 'Tis hard, 'tis true! But then—He giveth grace  
 To count the hardest spot the sweetest place.

# WMF BIBLE STUDY



JEREMIAH

Lesson VII

July, 1974

## WMF REMINDERS

Our convention offerings this year went to Missionary Furlough Housing and Dormitory Furnishings and if you as a local WMF have not shared in this as yet we encourage you to do so.

Mission Scholarship is our project for July. This fund makes it possible for seminarians to receive help with their education. We need to be much in prayer for our seminarians and that as God speaks more men will answer "yes" to the call into the ministry.

Mrs. Robert Dietsche

## MORE PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

In our last lesson we saw how his friends and the home-town folks had turned against Jeremiah. Today we continue his personal story through the siege of Jerusalem and the events following that terrible time. These events are not always recorded in chronological order. The Babylonian army had surrounded Jerusalem but the Egyptian army arrived on the scene to help Israel. When the Babylonians heard Pharaoh's army was coming they withdrew from the city.

1. In chapter 37, during the temporary lull in the fighting, Jeremiah set out on a journey. What was he accused of doing? 37:13
2. What happened to him? 37:15
3. King Zedekiah heard of this and summoned Jeremiah. What did the king ask of him? 37:17
4. What was Jeremiah's answer? 37:17
5. Back to chapter 32 to continue the story. What is again happening in the city? 32:2
6. Considering the state of affairs in the country, what strange transaction took place? 32:6-9
7. Why did the Lord have Jeremiah do this? 32:15
8. Jeremiah was obedient in all the Lord told him. His was a great faith expressed by the words in 32:17. What did he believe?
9. Jeremiah was telling the people to leave the city and surrender to the Babylonians and they would live. As a result, what did the princes decide? 38:4
- How did they go about carrying out their decision? 38:6
10. Read 38:7-13 to see how he was released.

11. Chapter 39 tells of the fall of Jerusalem.
- 39:7 What was Zedekiah's fate?

39:9 What happened to most of the people?

39:10 Did any remain in Jerusalem?

What of Jeremiah? 40:1, 40:4, 40:6

12. The events following Jerusalem's fall will be covered in another lesson. See 43:7 to find where we last see Jeremiah.

“The book of Jeremiah does not record the last days of the prophet. The intention of such an ending must be, among other things, to emphasize the blessed truth that though in a sense one's earthly ministry comes to a close, its fruits continue in time and eternity. Considered the uninterrupted ministry of Jeremiah to this day. What Christian is not indebted to this man of God who, for the fire in his bones, could not but speak the Word committed to him.”

JEREMIAH by Jensen

#### BE STILL AND KNOW

Psalms 46:10: “Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.”

Our Twelfth Annual WMF Convention is now history but I pray that the blessings and challenges received will continue to show forth in our lives from this time forward. The above verse was our theme verse this year for our WMF convention. Let us not forget it. Let us keep it before us daily and take time to “Be still and know that He is God.” Let us always seek His will first.

This is our trouble in regard to our Christian life; we want to do something to be Christians when we need to let Him work in us. Someone has said that we must learn to be as still as when we have our picture taken.  
May I share with you again this poem by J. Danson Smith:

[Continued from page 10]

theme song. Pastor Dyrud closed the rally with prayer and the benediction. Among the 145 ladies registered, one could sense the joy of salvation overflowing. We returned to our homes thankful to God for a wonderful day of fellowship.

Mrs. Burton Boyum, Secretary

### CHILD ENROLLED AT RADCLIFFE

Nathaniel Peter, son of Pastor and Mrs. Terry Olson, was enrolled at our Mission Society program into the Cradle Roll, April 1974, in Salem Lutheran Church, Radcliffe, Ia.

Matthew Jonathan, his brother, was enrolled in the Cradle Roll at our November meeting, 1973.



Pictured here are Pastor and Mrs. Terry Olson, Nathaniel and Matthew

### NORTHEAST SOUTH DAKOTA WOMEN HOLD WMF DAY AT TABOR CHURCH

Under the theme "More Love to Thee, O Christ" women of the northeast South Dakota churches of the AFLC gathered for a Women's Missionary Federation Day at Tabor Lutheran Church, rural Webster, on Tues., May 28. Rev. Howard M. Kjos is the pastor.

Women were in attendance from Ortley, Calvary, Buffalo Lake, Hope, Saron and Tabor congregations. Both sessions were held in the afternoon. The Tabor ladies served a delicious coffee break at 3 o'clock. Each table in the church parlors had a different color motif. Guests were seated at the table where the color matched that of their name tags.

Mrs. Sherman McCarlson presided at the first session which began at 1:30 and gave the welcome. Mrs. Darrel Waddle led the singspiration. Devotions were given by Mrs. Ella Herig-

stad, Hope. A ladies chorus from Saron sang. Guest speaker for the day was Rev. Raynard Huglen, Minneapolis, Minn., a former pastor of the Lake Region Lutheran Parish. He presented a Bible study on the first chapter of I Corinthians in the first section of the meeting. Rev. John Rieth, Ortley, sang a solo, accompanying himself at the piano, and Pastor Kjos closed the session.

When everyone had assembled after the coffee break, the audience sang "Christ for the World We Sing." Mrs. Leslie Waddle led the second part of the service. Devotions were given by Mrs. Roy Cleveland, Buffalo Lake. Rev. and Mrs. Larry Severson, Wallace, sang a duet. Pastor Huglen spoke on the four dimensions of Christian living: length, which is a reaching forward in greater sanctification; breadth, which cares for the spiritual and physical needs of others; depth, which is a strong devotional life; and height, which is the upward look to the "city which is to come."

The WMF projects were next set forth by a group of ladies, namely, Mrs. Albin Dalager, Selma Tvinneim, Mrs. Ervin Tvinneim, Mrs. Earl Davidson, Mrs. Lorraine Haagenson, Mrs. Justin Nilson, all of Tabor, and Mrs. Martin Hovland and Mrs. Ingvald Storely of Saron. The theme song was sung in closing, the hymn "More Love to Thee, O Christ," and Pastor Kjos closed the meeting.

Because of the great distances, only one district WMF meeting is held a year in South Dakota. In the spring the northeastern churches gather for their own fellowship meeting. The annual convention of the WMF will be held in the Pukwana-St. Olaf parish this fall.

### HAMPDEN CHURCH HOSTED EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA RALLY

One hundred and forty-five were in attendance at the Eastern North Dakota District Women's Missionary Federation spring rally at Zoar Lutheran Church, Hampden, Rev. R. L. Larson, pastor, on Saturday, May 4. The rally offering was given to Church Extension. The Bible study, based on our rally theme, "Willing to be Made Willing," was given by Mrs. Harvey Carlson, Grand Forks.

Missionary George Knapp gave the mission message. Greetings from Brazil were brought to us by Mrs. Knapp.

Mrs. Russell Duncan  
Secretary

[Continued from page 16]

churches this year are mission groups in Wellington and Sheffield Lake, Ohio, and Dr. Toelke expects there will be more.

Our Saviour's is building its church with a cluster of three Circle Eight units in a new design developed by the Ohio district's architects: Geary, Moore & Ahrens. The unit in the center of the cluster will be elevated four feet above the other two.

The first church built with Circle Eights, Gethsemane Lutheran in the Youngstown suburb of North Jackson, has two units, connected by a foyer that houses rest rooms and utilities.

The new Chillicothe design will be recommended for all future mission churches in the district, Dr. Toelke reported. He explained that since site preparation and foundation construction are major expenses, the third unit, providing a great deal more space, can be added without a proportionate increase in the total cost.

The pastor of Our Saviour's, Rev. Harvey Deater, said the congregation, with 75 communicants, had been planning to build a church for almost two years but felt it had to keep the total cost under \$60,000. "That was not possible," he said, "until we learned about the Gethsemane experiment from Dr. Toelke."

At Gethsemane, completed in 1973 at a cost of about \$43,000, Rev. Rasper said the congregation "could never have had its own church" without utilizing the Circle Eight units.

"What is most important, he said, "is that now the people have a church. And it is a very beautiful edifice, with a full program of church activities: a Sunday school program, a youth group, ladies aid, confirmation classes. Children are being baptized; couples married. The sick are visited. And the Gospel is preached every Sunday."

Dr. Toelke, a former vice president of Valparaiso (Indiana) University, spent several years attempting to de-

## Blessings On Their Way

wise a plan that would permit mission groups to build a church that would be "esthetically acceptable and functional," at a cost they could afford.

Until the Gethsemane experience, he said, most mission congregations believed they could not build a suitable church for less than \$200,000.

The Circle Eight buildings were developed by Game Time, Inc., Litchfield, Mich., leading manufacturer of park and playground equipment and mobile recreation vehicles. The eight-sided panelized buildings also are used for park shelters, vacation homes, offices, concession stands, golf course pro shops, school classrooms among other applications.

Game Time, Inc.  
Litchfield, Michigan

[Continued from page 8]

put on them. But we trust in the promises of God, as found in Romans 8:38-39: "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

In this passage we find that no force, not even death, can separate us from the love of God. Also in Job 1:9-10: "Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land." We read that we who are in Christ are "hedged about," even our homes. This is very comforting to know. We therefore ask you more than ever before to uphold your missionaries in your prayers daily as seen in II Thess. 3:1-3: "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith. But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil."

Joy in His Service,  
The Connely Dyruds

"My beloved speaks and says to me: Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land" (Song of Solomon 2:10-12).

Youth is for love, and spring is always in season. To woo and to wed in the springtime of life is the sheer delight of stawltart swains and modest maidens. Granted it is that folks may marry later in life, and in any month of the year, but youth and June belong together. Let it be granted, too, that love deepens with the passing years and grows from a rippling brook to a stately stream; yet the matron fondly remembers that the river was once a rill and he at her side relives the blissful days of youthful love.

These are wedding days, and what is so rare as a day in June? Hearts and hands are joined in holy matrimony. The lives of two are entwined to rear another home among us. Hands can make houses of brick and boards with mortar and nails, but only loving hearts can build a home. As the happy pair turns at the altar to face a new life together they take with them the blessings of the Church and her Lord. The blessing of the Lord makes rich, for He always gives more than He asks.

Age may sagely offer words of wisdom, for love, too, learns by doing. Love remains young just so long as an aura of mystery hovers over the other. Lovers always discover in each other new reasons for admiration; so life becomes a never-ending adventure of delight.

One of the abiding mysteries of the married life of Christians is that each one owes a prior allegiance of love to someone else than the other. Christ is number one in a Christian marriage; bride and groom become second and third. He is the Lord and Savior of both.

Herein lies the secret of a blessed marriage. Bride and groom have both learned the secret so pointedly put by the psalmist, "I have set the Lord always before me" (Psalm 16:8). Both look first to Him, and then to each

other. Should it ever happen—which God forbid—that one of the two should have to choose between spouse and Savior there is no doubt as to what the option would be.

This is the secret of a Christian marriage. Christ becomes the real unity in their common life. Their love for Him makes not their love for one another less strong. A new dimension has been added to their wedlock; they are united in Him.

Of such a marriage it may be predicted: It is insoluble. All marriages should be so; but unfortunately they are not. The reason for failure lies with people who have not always set the Lord before them. A more common name for it is selfishness. When this spirit penetrates the souls of people they are separated from God. It is such a short step thereafter to be separated from one another. Then bitterness replaces blessedness, and rancorous rancidity takes the place of reverence and respect. Nourish the life of godliness together; then yours will be a "happy home, where God is loved the dearest." The peace of God will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

May yours be a blessed marriage.

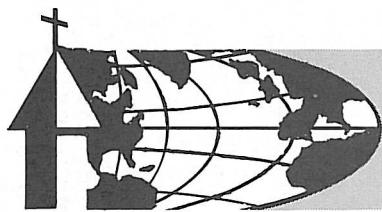
Dr. Iver Olson

### THE SUMMER DAYS ARE COME AGAIN

The summer days are come again;  
Once more the glad earth yields  
Her golden wealth of ripening grain,  
And breath of clover fields,  
And deepening shade of summer  
woods,  
And glow of summer air,  
And winging thoughts, and happy  
moods  
Of love and joy and prayer.

The summer days are come again;  
The birds are on the wing;  
God's praises, in their loving strain,  
Unconsciously they sing.  
We know who giveth all the good  
That doth our cup o'erbrim;  
For summer joy in field and wood  
We lift our song to him. Amen.

Samuel Longfellow  
(from *Pilgrim Hymnal*)



# CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

## THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

**\*\*Cuban fighter planes recently forced a missionary plane to land on that Communist island, giving the 25 lay Christians aboard a unique opportunity for witnessing. The group was returning to the U.S. from mission projects in Jamaica and Haiti. They made the most of their 25-hour stay by holding three public prayer meetings and singing Gospel songs at the top of their lungs!**

**\*\*Famine in Ethiopia is sparking unprecedented response to Christian witnessing. Moslem areas, antagonistic to Christ for generations, are being changed by the compassion of Christians who are rushing aid to their areas.**

**\*\*American youth are "exceptionally religious" when compared with the youth of eleven other countries, according to the recent Gallup polls. Only 12 per cent of the American youth had "no interest" in religion, as compared with 32 per cent of the English, 41 per cent of the Swedish, and 74 per cent of the Japanese. 88 per cent of American-college educated youth indicate interest, about the same as those less educated.**

**\*\*Nepal was completely closed to the Gospel until 1950, and direct evangelism is still prohibited, but Christians who are doctors, linguists, or teachers are permitted entry. Once in the country, they have the possibility of telling others about Christ. Several indigenous churches have been established.**

### LCA PASTOR OPENS CAMPAIGN FOR PRESIDENCY OF CHURCH

Lancaster, Pa.—(LC)—The pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran church here has announced that he is a candidate

for the presidency of the Lutheran Church in America.

The bid for the presidency by the Rev. Wallace E. Fisher marks the first time anyone has actively campaigned for the leadership of the nation's largest Lutheran denomination.

Dr. Fisher, in a mailing to all LCA pastors and delegates to its 7th biennial convention in Baltimore, July 3-10, said that the president of the church "must act now to restore and strengthen the confidence and morale of parish pastors and lay leaders in the visible church."

The President of the church, he asserted, must have "alert, informed, sensitive, daily involvement with the living Word, with people in the church and with people in the world."

Also required, he added, "was a first-hand, in-depth, up-to-date knowledge of and experience with the possibilities and limitations of the parish ministry in accepting, proclaiming, and doing God's Word."

In a letter that accompanied a 16-page booklet entitled "An Invitation to Dialogue and Decision," Dr. Fisher said:

"I am so deeply committed to the policies presented in this mailing, that if the delegates were to seek their implementation by me, I would consider that to be God's call, and under that constraint, would surrender the congregation I am now serving in Lancaster to accept the office of the presidency."

Much of the booklet is critical of what Dr. Fisher terms the "management style" of Dr. Robert J. Marshall, currently president of the denomination.

"Over the last two decades (the LCA) has become an aggregation of vested interests increasingly isolated from the congregations," he said. "Depersonalizing administration fosters this."

The pastor's "platform" calls for

more "openness and personal responsibility in the LCA," new ways to cope with change, efforts to improve the morale of the clergy, new "collegiality" for synodical presidents, and a re-examination of how the church raises its funds, and some changes in what he calls the "central control" over theological education.

Dr. Fisher asserted that "if the LCA is to serve Christ by serving persons with any effectiveness in the 1970s it must become in essence a 'continental congregation' exercising Christ's ministry." He said he is committed to "the democratic process" in the administration of the church and charged that "hidden political maneuvering" results in hostility to the church.

The Lancaster pastor also asked for an upgrading of economic support for clergy, augmented pensions for retired church workers and encouragement for "bold, experimental, biblically-rooted" ministries.

He added that the president and other national leaders of the church must maintain a "give-and-take partnership" with parish clergy.

Dr. Fisher, the author of seven books about parish life, also released the text of a letter to Dr. Marshall in which the Pennsylvania clergyman requested the opportunity to discuss his candidacy "with you and others at Synod meetings and in other groups throughout the church which you and others may choose."

The mailing to all LCA pastors, executives and delegates to the 1974 convention was apparently made possible by Dr. Fisher's congregation, which the minister says, shares his "uneasiness" over the "present LCA administration's managerial style."

Dr. Fisher, 56, is a native of Greensburg, Pa., and a graduate of Gettysburg College. He earned a B.D. at the Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia and served a number of congregations

in Pennsylvania. For two years he was an assistant professor at Gettysburg College.

He has been pastor of Holy Trinity in Lancaster since 1952.

Dr. Marshall, 54, is completing his first four-year term this year after serving the last two years of the unexpired term of the late Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, who died in 1968.

### THREE MORE 'CIRCLE EIGHT' MISSION CHURCHES FOR OHIO LUTHERANS

Chillicothe, Ohio—At least three more mission congregations in the Ohio district of the Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) will be building churches this year, after many years

in temporary facilities, utilizing low-cost panelized buildings called "Circle Eights."

"Our experiment is bearing fruit," reported Dr. Otto W. Toelke, the Church's executive director for the Ohio district, who spearheaded, with the Rev. Dennis Rasper, a Youngstown pastor, the first use of the unique structures for a mission church.

The second is under construction here, near the campus of the Chillicothe branch of Ohio University, for Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. Organized 20 years ago, the mission congregation has been worshipping in a local theater, in the home of one of its members and in a store.

Also planning to build Circle Eight

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