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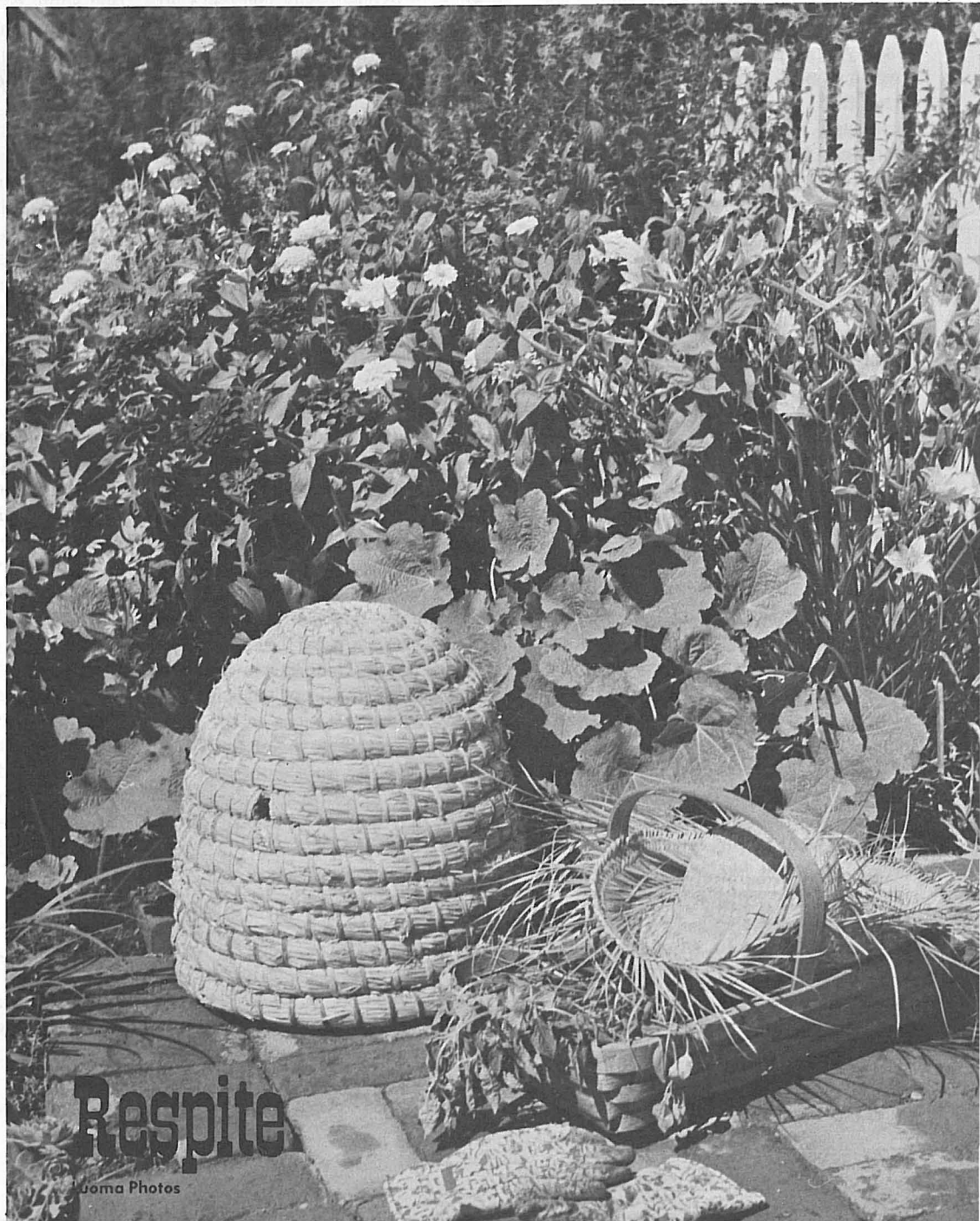
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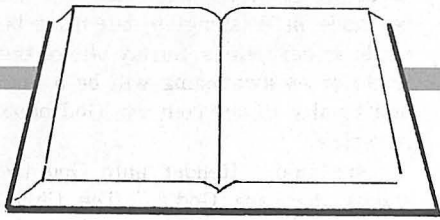
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According to the Word

THE WORD OF TRUTH

Today we want to deal with the Bible, which is the only book which has the distinction of being called the Word of God. Before you read this message, I would like to have you read Neh. 8:1-8 and II Tim. 3:14-17.

Since you and I believe that the Bible is the Word of God, ought not we be very anxious to know what God is saying in this book? Why then are we so slow at reading the Bible? I dare say that some of you reading this message have never read the Bible through. It is known as the world's greatest book, and is found in more homes than any other book, and yet it is said to be the most neglected book. There is nothing the devil is more determined to do than to keep people from reading the Bible. He has been quite successful, too, and that is because so many obey the devil rather than God. That is why we have so many unbelievers, and so many lukewarm Christians, because they obey the devil when he tells them not to waste their time reading the Bible.

In Nehemiah we read of how the people gathered themselves together on the first day of the week for Bible reading, and there Ezra the priest read to them from morning till mid-day. Do you complain when the Sunday morning service goes over the hour? They didn't complain of having to sit or stand too long. They were there all forenoon and they listened attentively to the reading of the Word. "The ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law." I think it would do us good also to have some meetings like that. We have our mid-week meetings when we meet for

Bible Study and prayer. These are the powerhouse meetings of the church. Yet how many attend, and why are there so few? It is again because so many are listening to Satan who does his best to keep them home on prayer meeting night. He helps you to make all kinds of excuses why you can't go, but remember, they are just excuses of the devil. Ask yourself honestly, "Why am I not attending the weekly Bible study and prayer meetings?" Can you before God give a good answer? Are you really putting God first in your life?

In II Tim. 3:16, we read: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." This means that God placed into the minds of a certain few men what they should write and then He guided them in the writing. Thus it became the Word of God and every word is Truth. That is why the Word has such power, because it is God's Word. "It is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword." It has power to change men's lives for those who will read it and believe it. God's Word is spoken of as "the Sword of the Spirit." "Is not my Word like as a fire, saith the Lord, and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?" We have many instances in the Bible where we see the power of the Word. Peter, on the day of Pentecost, went on quoting the Scriptures to the people, and that was the arrow that went down into their souls so that 3,000 souls were saved. The martyred Stephen rehearsed and expounded the

Scriptures to the Jews from the time of Abraham and downward, and again it was the Scriptures that pricked them to the heart.

The Word of God is not only a sword but it is also our shield. There is no situation in life for which we cannot find some consolation in the Bible. In afflictions, in adversities and trials, in joy and sorrow, in health and sickness, in poverty or riches, in every condition of life God has a promise in His Word. Likewise, when we are tempted, it is the Word of God by which we must combat Satan, just as Jesus did in the wilderness.

But how are we to find the right Scripture passages and God's promises? There is only one way and that is as Jesus says in John 5:39, "Search the Scriptures." Read through the New Testament, and underline all the promises of Jesus that you can find. Don't be afraid to mark up your Bible. Some have had Bibles for years and they still look practically new. How can God give us anything if we don't read His Word. If a Christian wants to be used of God he must know the Scriptures. Memorize important Scripture verses.

Then, maybe there are some reading this who do not read the Bible because they do not know the Author. One who has not given his heart to God and become a new creature in Christ cannot be expected to love the Word of God. Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." Knowing Him as our Savior, is to love Him, His Word, His Church.

Hans J. Tollefson

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

Part I

To the Eighth Annual Conference of The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations gathered in session at the city auditorium in Valley City, North Dakota, June 10-14, 1970.

Grace and Peace!

It is good to be back in Valley City, North Dakota, for another annual conference. We appreciate the invitation from the Grace Free Lutheran Church, and the Zion Free Lutheran Church, pastored by the Rev. Harry C. Molstre. We are confident of a wonderful welcome and a warm hospitality on the part of the congregations and the community, and trust we may be a blessing to many.

We are meeting in sobering times. The Christian minority in the world is becoming smaller and smaller. The forces of godlessness and unbelief are mounting in earthly strength. But Christ is Lord. The Lordship of Christ gives hope even in these days when despair comes easy. This is not a time to shrink back, but a time for humble boldness on the part of God's children. Christians are salt and light. Let us be faithful. Unless we are faithful, surely the darkness will become deeper, and life will have no meaning for an ever increasing number of people.

We are wrestling for the souls of men. A soul's worth cannot be measured. A soul is worth more than the whole world. God has made this valuation. This valuation was revealed at Calvary. We dare not treat as cheap what God has priced so highly. Unless we give our all to God's will and service, we are placing too small a value on our own souls and the souls of others.

We seek the salvation of mankind not on our own terms or methods, but

in obedience of One who has all authority in heaven and on earth. When Christ sent out His first disciples He impressed them with the truth of His authority. Christ has all authority in heaven and on earth.

We are living in an authority-rejecting generation. Children are rejecting the authority of parents. Students are rejecting the authority of teachers and administrators. Citizens openly reject the authority of the laws of the state and nation, if it suits their purposes. Many have little or no respect for law enforcement agencies, the elected officials and leaders, nor our president. We believe that all these tragic actions, and many more, stem from the rejection of the authority of Jesus, the Living Word, and the Bible, the written Word.

Unless there is respect for some authority, anarchy follows. We are dangerously close to it today. Man is busy dethroning all authority, and crowning himself. Submission is a forgotten concept, but is still at the heart of all true Christian behavior. Let us as a church learn submission to the authority of Jesus who has all authority, and before whom all knees will bow some day.

Jesus said, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesars'." Ours is not a perfect government. We are a sinful people. It is unrealistic to expect peace among nations when homes are without love and understanding and the divorce rate is climbing at a tragic rate. It is unrealistic to expect wars to cease when men stoop to use force to get what they want in schools, industry, and the streets of the nation. Has anyone a right to expect more of his nation than he is as an individual in home, school, and community? This is a time to pray for our nation and our leaders. This is a time for repentance that God would send a Spirit-wrought awaken-

ing, making new individuals, new creatures in Christ who respect the authority of Jesus. The start will not be made in Washington, but must be made in our hearts. Surely one of the fruits of an awakening will be a love and loyalty to our country. God bless America.

Jesus said, "Render unto God the things that are God's." The Christian's first love and loyalty must be to his God. The Christian must be obedient to His Word in all things. When respect for the authority and truth of God's Word is gone, there is little left.

When making decisions people seldom ask, "What does the Bible teach?" Situation ethics and man's self-centeredness have made many forget the authority of Christ in all things. The desires of the flesh have a greater influence than the Word of God. As a result, some strange decisions are made in high and low places. Abortion, the destroying of innocent, unborn life is defended while the punishment of evil and crime is made more and more difficult. Pollution of the universe, a great tragedy, is overemphasized but the pollution of the mind is defended and made a human right. Adultery, homosexuality, and fornication are treated lightly and often made virtuous while the beauty of a clean and pure life and home is mocked. The killing of thousands each year because of drunken driving is ignored, while millions are spent each year in research against disease. While there has been some programs against smoking, some of the same zeal should be aimed against liquor and drug abuses. There is much "to-do" about woman's liberation but the privilege and high position of homemaking and motherhood are largely ignored. We wonder if there has ever been as much hypocrisy as there is today on the part of those who are ignoring what God's Word teaches.

Jesus, our Lord, who has all authority in heaven and on earth, has told us what we are to do. We are to make disciples. This is done by baptizing and teaching. The Christian Church must never stoop to other methods. The social gospel is in the center of much of church programming today. We have something better. Jesus has commanded something better. It is the

Gospel of the Grace of God in Christ Jesus. It is the power of God's Word to make men new. It is a "seed" which will never return void. It is the "sword of the Spirit," always active and sharp. It is love for God and love for men. It is giving people what they need most, spiritual life in Christ Jesus our Lord. This must always be our basic task.

In the World of Religion

The Association is a comparatively small church body, with convictions. We believe that the congregation is the right form of the Kingdom of God on earth, with no authority over it but the Word and Spirit of God. We believe that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God to which all man's teachings, theories, beliefs, and practices must bow. We believe that believers are united in Christ to each other in a spiritual bond, and that the present human efforts of organic unity are of limited value and dangerous to true spirituality. We believe in pietism, that the believer must live a separated life apart from worldliness and the works of the flesh. We believe that the proclamation of the Word of God is the essential task of the church and that liturgies, dialogues and forms should not replace preaching in importance in the church service. We believe that men must know Christ by a personal faith and therefore the church must be evangelistic in approach. These evangelical convictions are not shared by all today.

This past year has seen an apparent polarization on the part of conservative and liberal trends in the outward church. The liberal and conservative wings, contrary to the hopes of many, are not coming closer together. The very opposite seems to be taking place. The liberals are becoming more liberal and bold, and many conservatives are becoming more conservative. This is a normal trend. Personalities and personality clashes are becoming more evident. It is not easy to determine fact and truth in such situations. It is good that the liberal teachings, practices and purposes are made apparent. It is tragic when basic conservative beliefs are clouded

because of personalities. It is tragic when items of lesser importance become central in discussion. It is possible to strain at a gnat and swallow a camel. Some are demanding complete agreement in all details before there can be fellowship, and seemingly seek items on which to disagree. Others again want to fellowship even though there is no agreement on any basic issues. The Association has sought to take a middle course. It has kept separate from, and been critical of, the liberal theological and social trends of the day. It has been fearful of an orthodoxy with an emphasis on complete agreement, but not having an emphasis on spiritual life and freedom in Christ. We must prayerfully continue in this posture.

We are in an ecumenical age. The ecumenical momentums are strong, although some weaknesses are becoming apparent. The extremely liberal National Council of Churches has lost much of its influence and many are predicting its dissolution. There are already proposals to replace it with a more inclusive council, which may be even more dangerous. Meanwhile the World Council of Churches is receiving more public criticism. It still enjoys promotion from most of the news media, however. It still tries to speak for all Christendom but its message is more political than theological. The Gospel of redemption has a seemingly small place in its program.

The Association believes in Christian unity, the spiritual unity found in Christ. This unity is not severed by synodical or denominational lines. This unity is not strengthened necessarily by the destruction of these lines. We work together with people of like faith and heart, even though they may be members of other denominations. This is seen in the altar and pulpit privileges in our congregations. This is reflected in our granting voting and speaking rights at our conferences to people of other Lutheran denominations who believe in what the Association stands for. We give these same rights to Lutherans who may not have the opportunity to belong to a local Lutheran congregation. Our Christian cooperation is seen in our use of Lutheran pastors

who are not members in the Association for service in the Association. Our Christian cooperation is seen in our sharing our pastors for service apart from the Association. We have received more aid than we have given, however. Because of Association needs we trust that that might continue to be the case.

The Association was well represented at the Congress of Evangelism held in Minneapolis last September. The fruits of that Congress were shared with the membership of the Association through **The Lutheran Ambassador**, pastor's conferences and discussions, and the Seminary classroom. We are grateful for the opportunities afforded by the Congress and continue to thank God for our Association and what she stands for.

(To be continued)

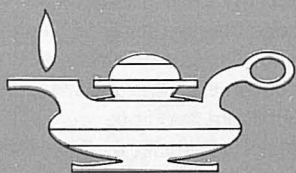


THE ROBERT BURSHEIMS HONORED LAST MONTH AT MINNEAPOLIS FAREWELL

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bursheim were guests of honor at a farewell dinner held in Minneapolis on May 12, 1970. The AFLC Coordinating Committee, the Bible School and Seminary faculty, and other staff workers, together with husbands or wives, were in attendance.

Short talks of appreciation were given and gifts presented: Rev. Julius Hermunslie in behalf of the Coordinating Committee; Dr. Iver Olson for the school family; and Rev. Arvid Hokonson representing the Medicine Lake Congregation. Rev. John Strand served as master of ceremonies. Responses were given by the Bursheims.

The Bursheims moved to Minneapolis six years ago to become caretakers of the newly acquired AFLC property. They are charter members of the Medicine Lake Lutheran Congregation. Mr. Bursheim also served as treasurer of the AFLC for a time. They are returning to their former home at Winger, Minnesota, where Mr. Bursheim will be employed by the Winger-McIntosh School District.



SCHOOL NEWS

GRADUATION CEREMONIES CONDUCTED AT ASSOCIATION SCHOOLS

Graduation took place for one seminarian and 24 Bible School seniors on Friday, May 22, at Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn.

A large crowd attended the simple but impressive service, presided over by Rev. R. Snipstead, dean of Association Free Lutheran Bible School. Miss Orpha Flaten was the organist.

The graduates entered the auditorium to the strains of "Air" by Handel. Dr. Iver Olson, dean of Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, led the devotions and later conferred the theology degree upon Mr. Stephen E. Odegaard, Tioga, N. Dak.

The commencement address was given by Rev. Ernest J. Langness, McVile, N. Dak., chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Schools.

Mr. Donald Rodvold conducted the Bible School Choir in two numbers, "I Heard a Great Voice" and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." The

latter was the closing song and was followed by the benediction by Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom, Grafton, N. Dak., father of one of the graduates.

Pastor Snipstead presented the diplomas to the Bible School graduates, all of whom had completed the two year course. Their names and home towns follow:

Marjorie Benson
Colfax, Wis.
Barbara DuBois
Tioga, N. Dak.
Alva Flaten
Strandquist, Minn.
Wanda Floan
Fertile, Minn.
Linda Haabak
Kloten, N. Dak.
Lyle Hansen
Everett, Wash.
Eldon Hermunslie
Abercrombie, N. Dak.
Gloria Hodnefield
Radcliffe, Ia.
Gwen James
Minneapolis, Minn.

Claudette Kjersten
Badger, Minn.
Charles Kvanvig
Sebeka, Minn.
Lauren Meyer
Lucan, Minn.
Stanley Miller
Binford, N. Dak.
JoAnn Moland
Fertile, Minn.
John Mundfrom
Grafton, N. Dak.
Jane McC Carlson
Webster, S. Dak.
Deanna Oien
Binford, N. Dak.
Colleen Olson
Tioga, N. Dak.
Leslie Peterson
Thief River Falls, Minn.
Lois Presteng
Grafton, N. Dak.
Astrid Sather
Spokane, Wash.
Shirley Solheim
Everett, Wash.
Ronald Strand
Abercrombie, N. Dak.
Deborah Sveen
Tioga, N. Dak.
Lorilee Torgerson
Fergus Falls, Minn.

A reception was served in the church parlors after the graduation ceremonies.




Rev. E. J. Langness, left, speaker at commencement exercises, and Rev. Amos Dyrud, teacher in the Schools, look at a mural painted for the graduation reception.

REV. KENNETH L. ANDERSON ELECTED VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE AFLC

At the 8th Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations held in Valley City, N. Dak., earlier this month, Rev. Kenneth L. Anderson, Radcliffe, Ia., was elected vice-president of the church for a one-year term. Rev. Robert Rieth, Kirkland, Wash., was re-elected to a second term as secretary. There was no election for president as Pastor John P. Strand is still in his first year of a third three-year term. The terms of constitutional officers of the church begin on Oct. 1.

Coverage of the recent Annual Conference will begin in the next issue of the **Ambassador**.



WOMEN for Christ

THE GOOD LIFE by Mrs. Wendell Johnson Dalton, Minnesota

In a recent issue of one of the leading women's magazines, several famous people expressed their views on "The Good Life on Earth." They said: The good life here on earth 1) is predicated on the principles of construction and conservation; 2) let it contain no unkindness, only a few homespun pleasures; 3) it consists of four cornerstones, family, words on paper, the world of nature and privacy; and 4) is to have the courage to do nothing but what we really believe in, and to be nothing but loved.

The good life on earth for the Christian is experienced in a realm of wealth, by the grace of God. In the words of the song writer "it is joy unspeakable and full of glory." Jesus Himself has told us that "He came that we may have life and have it abundantly." The good life for the Christian is peace—the peace that only Jesus can give, the peace that passeth all understanding. Phil. 4:6-7: "Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Peace comes to us only through faith in Christ and we find in God's Word a recipe for this good life. 1.) Be anxious about nothing. In the hustle and bustle of a fast-moving society today, it is so easy to be anxious and impatient. Jesus says, "Be still and

know, and wait patiently."

Let us commit our ways and trust in Him. Only as we wait humbly before our Master and hear Him speak, will our anxiety cease. 2.) Be prayerful about everything. The Bible admonishes us to pray without ceasing. Whether the circumstances be small or the burdens be heavy, we are to pray. Prayer is releasing the energies of God. Prayer is being intimate with God. It has been said "Hem in the day with prayer and it will be less likely to ravel out before night." 3.) Be thankful for anything. Thankfulness is the homage of the heart, rendered to God for His goodness. It's not hard to express our gratitude to God for joys in our lives, but we find it more difficult to thank God for the burdens, sorrows, and trials that we experience. Thankfulness for the entirety of life is so important, for the simplest blessings of the day, for the laughter of a child, for the beauty of nature, for friends, neighbors, and strangers who pause to do acts of kindness, for the calm of night, the activity of day, for warm firesides and still shadows.

For yesterday is but a dream
And tomorrow is only a vision
But today—well lived
Makes every yesterday
A dream of happiness,
And every tomorrow a vision of hope.

Christians have a double blessing. Today in Christ we are blessed with the good life on earth and the best is yet to come, eternity with Jesus forever.

Only one life to offer,
Jesus my Lord and King;
Only one tongue to praise Thee,
And of Thy mercy sing.
Only one heart's devotion,
Savior, oh, may it be
Consecrated alone to Thy matchless
glory,
Yielded fully to Thee.

O GOD, BENEATH THY GUIDING HAND

O God, beneath Thy guiding hand
Our exiled fathers crossed the sea;
And when they trod the wintry strand,
With pray'r and psalm they
worshipped Thee.

Thou heard, well-pleased, the song,
the pray'r;
Thy blessing came, and still its power
Shall onward thro' all ages bear
The mem'ry of that holy hour.

Laws, freedom, truth, and faith in God
Came with those exiles o'er the
waves;
And where their pilgrim feet have
trod,
The God they trusted guards their
graves.

And here Thy name, O God of love,
Their children's children shall adore,
Till these eternal hills remove,
And spring adorns the earth no more.

Leonard Bacon
(from *The Concordia Hymnal*)

MODESTY ASKED IN DRESS AT FAMILY BIBLE CAMP NEXT MONTH

In a communication to the camp staff and pastors of the church, the camp dean, Rev. Leslie Galland, urged modest dress among campers at the eighth annual Family Bible Camp at Lake Geneva, July 6-12.

Among prohibitions in the dress code for girls which has been established is that no bikini-type bathing suits are to be used at camp. Pant dresses or skirts, instead of dresses or regular skirts, may be worn for morning classes, if they are a "decent length."

Another camp regulation is that no radios are to be brought to camp.

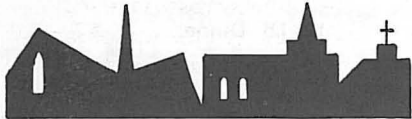
MEET

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OF OUR

FELLOWSHIP



TODAY: OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH, SPOKANE, WASH.

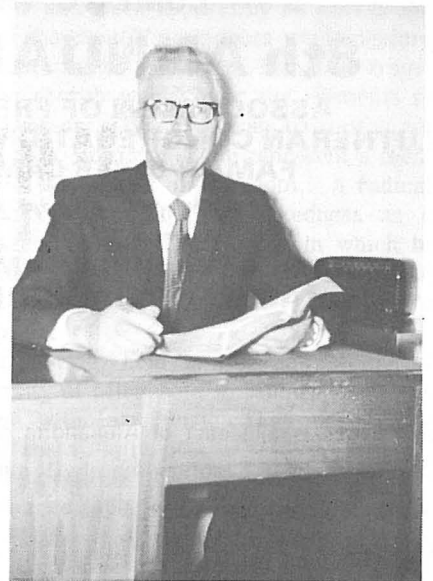
Olivet Lutheran Church, 2803 North Lincoln, Spokane, Washington, was organized in the summer of 1967. Pastor E. P. Dreyer, who had recently retired after many years of faithful ministry in the Lutheran Free Church, and living in Spokane, was asked to help out as his health permitted, until a full-time pastor could be called. The congregation met for worship services every Sunday at a woman's club, and at various homes

every Wednesday night for Bible study and prayer.

In the spring of 1969, a church building was purchased, which formerly had been a Baptist church. The congregation remodeled the front interior, got some chancel furnishings, painted the outside of the church, and had its first worship service on Easter Sunday, April 6, 1969.

In June a few representatives of the congregation went to the Annual Conference in Minneapolis to meet with the Home Mission Board to ask for help in securing, and also for the support of, a pastor. Knute Jore was then sent a letter of call to serve Olivet Lutheran Congregation. He and his wife arrived in Spokane on September 1, 1969. The congregation had rented a house to be used as a parsonage.

The congregation is small, few in numbers, as yet, but with a group of praying Christians, who are zealous for the salvation of souls. We believe the congregation will grow, as there is much unrest among the people in this city. Almost every Sunday there are one or more visitors at our morning worship services. The Sunday School and Ladies Aid have doubled in number. The Wednesday evening Bible studies are well attended. There is now a Family Night which meets



Knute Jore serves as pastor of Olivet Lutheran Church. More complete biographical information can be found in the write-up on the Culbertson, Mont. parish, where he served before coming to Spokane to serve Olivet Lutheran Church.

the first Sunday of every month. A 15-minute radio program is sponsored every Sunday. On Palm Sunday, 11 new members were received into the congregation. A family of five was received as members in the congregation in May.



Olivet Lutheran Church 2803 North Lincoln, Spokane, Wash.



The home in which Lay Pastor and Mrs. Jore reside, located at 5130 West Hoffman Place.

COME TO THE
8th ANNUAL
ASSOCIATION OF FREE
LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS
FAMILY BIBLE CAMP
JULY 6-12
LAKE GENEVA BIBLE CAMP
ALEXANDRIA, MINN.

LOCATION

BY CAR: 1 mile east of Alexandria on Highway No. 52, approximately 1 mile north, located on west side of Lake Geneva.

BY MAIL: Address in care of Lake Geneva Bible Camp, Alexandria, Minn. 56308

BY PHONE: 763-3680
 Monday - Registration
 First Meal served Monday night
 Evening services at 8:00

WHAT TO BRING

Bible, pencils, paper, bedding, pillows, blankets, towels, soap and other personal needs, swimming suit, playclothes, etc.
 Cottages accommodate four persons. Divided cottages accommodate two persons per room. Dormitory rooms available for teenagers and single persons.

CAMP STAFF

Dean of Men Dennis Gray
 Dean of Women Miss Pearl Aanstad
 Camp Nurse Mrs. Vernon Russum
 Camp Newspaper
 Editor Rev. Howard Kjos
 Recreation Ranleigh Anderson
 Lifeguard To be announced
 Bookstore Rev. Gerald Mundfrom
 Treasurer Miss Marion Hellekson
 Campfire To be announced

Camp Dean
 Rev. Leslie Galland
Asst. Camp Dean
 Lay Pastor Gene Sundby
Camp Manager
 Sheldon Mortrud
Assistant Camp Manager
 Robert Bursheim
Camp Registrar
 John Arlen Johnson
Assistant Camp Registrar
 Mrs. John Arlen Johnson
Evangelist
 Rev. Laurel Udden
Adult Bible Study Leader
 Rev. Amos Dyrud
Youth Bible Study Leader
 Rev. Francis Monseth
Choir
 Don Rodvold
Confirmation Teacher
 Mrs. Vernon Nelson
Grade School Teacher
 Miss Judith Wold
Kindergarten Teacher
 To be announced
Adult Prayer Hour
 Rev. Larry Severson
Youth Prayer Hour
 Rev. Wendell Johnson
Discussion Hour
 1. Sex Education
 Rev. John Strand
 2. Ecumenical Movement
 Rev. G. L. Halmrast

CAMPING

Camping area is available on the northwest corner of the camp for campers with tents and camping trailers.

SPORTS

Swimming, boating, softball, tennis, horseshoe, basketball, fishing, conversation, ping pong.

A Bible-Centered Program

DAILY SCHEDULE

7:00 Rising Bell
 7:30 Morning Devotions
 7:35 Breakfast
 8:30 Camp Clean-up
 9:00 Bible Hour
 9:50 Recess
 10:05 Doctrinal Hour
 10:55 Recess
 11:10 Missionary Hour
 12:15 Dinner
 1:00 Quiet Time
 2:00 - 5:00 Recreation
 3:30 - 4:45 Swimming
 5:30 Supper
 6:30 Staff Meeting
 7:00 Prayer Service
 7:45 Evening Service
 9:15 Campfire
 10:30 Lights Out

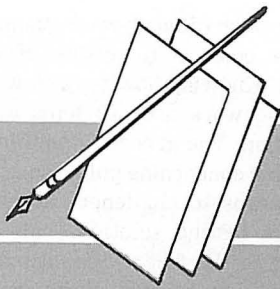
SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 Missions - (to be announced)
 11:00 Morning Worship
 Rev. Richard Snipstead
 12:00 Dinner
 2:30 Closing Service - Camp Choir
 3:45 Coffee Hour
 5:00 Camp Closed

RATES

Weekly Rates

Meals and Lodging	
Children	\$ 7.00
Teenagers	\$14.00
Adults	\$19.00
Registration fee per person	\$ 1.00
Registration fee per family	\$ 2.00
Maximum rate for large families	\$70.00
Individual meals available at camp	



EDITORIALS

THANK YOU, PASTOR TOLLEFSON

Rev. Hans J. Tollefson has been the writer of the devotional series for the *Ambassador* for the first half of the year. His concluding article in the "According to the Word" series is to be found in this issue.

During the months of his assignment, Pastor Tollefson has moved from the Hatton, N. Dak., parish to the Eben Jct., Mich., call. In the latter he is also serving an Evangelical Mission Covenant congregation. The new location has also brought him relatively close to his native L'Anse, Mich.

Pastor Tollefson's articles have been clear and forceful, always emphasizing the need for personal decision for Jesus Christ. We are sure that these devotional messages have struck a responsive chord in many hearts.

The new writer will be Rev. Lars Stalsbrotten, a man now in his 80's, but who has been granted vigorous strength of the Lord. Testimony to that is the fact that as this appears in print, he is on a trip to his native Norway. He prepared a number of articles prior to leaving on the six-week journey with his son Oliver.

His writings, too, will be welcomed by *Ambassador* readers as he pens God's eternal truths in an effective way and out of over 50 years of Christian ministry in both this country and Norway. Pastor Stalsbrotten is from Eugene, Oregon, and his first devotional writing will appear next time.

NUDE COMMUNION

You thought it would never happen? Well, it has. Reading about it all seems like a bad dream now. It was something that shouldn't have happened, but since it did, ought never occur again.

At a holy communion service at the annual convention of the Southeastern District of the American Lutheran Church, a young man and a young woman took off all their clothes and in the nude sought participation in the Lord's Supper and were served by a Lutheran pastor, formerly of the Lutheran Free Church.

The newspaper account noted the fact that the 800 other communicants took the affair in stride with no great sense of embarrassment and no apparent effort to disrupt the scene. The pastor who served the girl said he felt that she was very devout.

It would be wrong to fault the whole ALC for this in-

cident caused by two who were apparently no part of the convention. Many of the church's members would deplore this happening just as much as we do. But it is tragic that a pastor of the church would offer the elements to a naked man and woman. Theirs was an irrational act and in a world like ours, immoral. They represent a mentality akin to that of the "Sons of Freedom," a radical Doukhobour sect in Canada, who use nakedness as a threat. Nudity is seen as the ultimate way in which to embarrass and offend an opponent. Now how that can represent the true spirit in which to receive the Lord's Supper is difficult to see.

The communion service, held in Coffman Memorial Union at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, was a contemporary one with jazz music. That alone casts grave doubts about the validity of the service. Perhaps what preceded the distribution of the elements, whatever they were, made it easier for the exhibitionists to do their thing and find a sympathetic clergyman waiting for them at the table.

This travesty is another of the bewildering events taking place today that one feels couldn't happen, but has. How do you top what happened in Minneapolis? Have more than two people without clothes on at the communion rail? Is it to be the church's position that naked people will not be refused at the Lord's Table?

AMERICA'S TIME

Historians and analysts are debating what time it may be in America's history. There are those who are sure that the decline has set in which precedes the fall of the republic. Others assert that present turmoil is only an adjustment in a nation still in the ascendancy.

Certain it is that only six years shy of our country's 200th birthday, there are many problems and strange things are happening, such as nude people participating in what is to be one of the most sacred rites of the Christian church. We will forego mentioning other current troubles at this time since they are constantly called to our attention through the news media and from the pulpit. Only one quite dulled in the senses could fail to be aware of them.

We do not know where we may be in the American cycle. Nor do we know God's timetable for this world. You or I could make predictions and occasionally we may do so, but we aren't aware of any foolproof divine revelations that have been given within recent time. Certain it is that there is a growing feeling among both Christians and the irreligious that time is running out not only for America but for the earth.

However, as the 4th of July is at hand, we'd like to put in a good word for our country. It has been a good place in which to live. The standard of living is high, although we no longer take the pride of boasting in that that we once did. Having more bathtubs and TV sets per person than people in Communist countries have is hollow victory. Unless we have a more substantial advantage than that, our country is in poor shape.

Life has been good here in other important ways. There is a great deal of freedom, not least in religious affairs. Churches have great leeway in conducting their programs. They have great freedom in criticizing one another.

There is talk of a repressive society. To most Americans this is a mystery. Abiding under the framework of the law, there is great opportunity. Some complain of repression of dissent at a time when dissent and ways of expressing it are greater than ever in the history of our country. It is difficult to conceive of how a society could exist with more dissent than there is at present.

This is not to say that our country is or has been perfect. The political system has its failings, partly due to the fact that so few of us have ever taken an active part in it outside of voting, and that perhaps spasmodical-

ly. For a long time not all American citizens were granted full opportunity because of the color of their skin. Even yet the old prejudices die hard. Knowing how to cope with poverty and putting everyone to work are problems that always seem to elude full solution. The greed and unthinking of man is compounding trouble concerning pollution.

Yes, there are enough concerns to challenge the best in us all. Christian people see lasting solutions only in Christ. They see the conversion of the lost as the ultimate answer, and it is. But in addition to that there must be the effort to live the Christ way in society, attacking the problems that exist, doing what seems best for the common good. It is this two-pronged approach that will be most effective in aiding this country which has been so good to us and which still, under God, can be a wonderful place in which to live.

GANDDAL PIKEKOR ITINERARY IN UPPER MIDWEST

The Ganddal Pikekor (Girls' Choir) from Norway is touring the United States again this summer, in addition to places in Canada. The Choir appeared in the U.S. two years ago and was well received wherever they presented concerts. The many friends they made then will want to try to hear them while they are on this tour, too. Dr. Iver Olson has been responsible for arranging the midwest part of their 1970 tour.

Audun Vagle is the director of the 26 young ladies who make up the Ganddal Pikekor.

- June 30—Chicago, Ill., Salem Evangelical Free
- July 1—Durand, Ill.
- July 2—Madison, Wis., Midvale Lutheran
- July 3—Open
- July 4—Ossian, Iowa, Stavanger Lutheran
- July 5—Clermont, Iowa, 11:00 a.m.—Clermont Lutheran
Decorah, Iowa, 3:00 p.m.—Glenwood Lutheran
Mabel, Minn., 8:00 p.m.—Scheie Lutheran
- July 6—Radcliffe, Iowa
- July 7—Story City, Iowa, Immanuel Lutheran
- July 8—Forest City, Iowa, Immanuel Lutheran
- July 9—Sioux Falls, S. Dak., Messiah Lutheran
- July 10—Brookings, S. Dak., First Lutheran
- July 11—Farmington, Minn., Christiania Lutheran
- July 12—Norway Day, Minnehaha Park, Minneapolis, Minn., morning and afternoon.
- July 13—Willmar, Minn., Calvary Lutheran
- July 14—Open
- July 15—Madison, Minn., High School Auditorium
- July 16—Wilmot, S. Dak., Wilmot Lutheran
- July 17—Fergus Falls, Minn., Bethlehem Lutheran
- July 18—Fargo, N. Dak., Pontoppidan Lutheran
- July 19—Fargo, N. Dak., Stavangerlag Closing Session—10:00 a.m.
Hillsboro, N. Dak., Our Saviors Lutheran—3:00 p.m.
Grand Forks, N. Dak., Trinity Lutheran—8:00 p.m.
- July 20—Lake Park, Minn., Moments of Meditation Bible Camp
- July 21—McVie, N. Dak., New Luther Valley Lutheran
- July 22—Minot, N. Dak., Zion Lutheran

Evening appointments on weekdays

We hope to have the Canadian and West Coast itinerary for the Choir available for printing later.

MRS. CLIFFORD THORSON, FAMILY BIBLE CAMP COOK, DIES

Mrs. Clifford (Gyda) Thorson, 63, a cook at the Family Bible Camp for a number of years, passed away in March. She had lived in the Hampden, N. Dak., community since coming from Norway as a small child.

She is survived by her husband, five sisters and three brothers.

"I can forgive, but I cannot forget," is only another way of saying, "I will not forgive." A forgiveness ought to be like a cancelled note, torn in two and burned up, so that it can never be shown against the man.

—Henry Ward Beecher

SOMEBODY

Somebody did a golden deed;
Somebody proved a friend in need;
Somebody sang a beautiful song;
Somebody smiled the whole day long;
Somebody thought, "Tis sweet to live."
Somebody said, "I'm glad to give";
Somebody fought a valiant fight;
Somebody had to shield the right;
Was that somebody you?

Author Unknown
(from **The Old Testament and the Fine Arts**)



Luther League Activities

Edited by Jane Thompson

IS THERE LIFE BEFORE DEATH?

Read that title carefully. Yes, it says "before death." The debate is usually about life after death and a Christian certainly would be on the affirmative side.

But life before death? That is a different story. You can say that's a silly question; a person reading this would have to be alive in order to consider such a thing. But consider the word LIFE. To be breathing regularly, inhaling and exhaling, focusing our eyes in order to navigate, to speak when spoken to, to ask questions when something puzzles us, to nourish ourselves daily, and to rest our bodies when they feel weary, do not constitute LIFE.

What does the Word of the Creator of LIFE tell us about our existence here?

For whoso findeth me, findeth life ... (Prov. 8:35).

... a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things which he possesses (Lk. 12:15).

In Him was life; and the life was the light of men (Jn. 1:4).

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly (Jn. 10:10).

He that hath the Son hath Life ... (I Jn. 5:12).

There is something much greater, much more potent, exciting and valuable about possessing this thing called Life. It is not getting up, going to school, sacking out in front of the

boob tube, getting up to answer the phone and then going to bed. It is not even the exciting parts of the day which give variety to routine. Life is Christ. And that is difficult, if not nearly impossible, to comprehend if one is not in possession of this LIFE, bubbling out, bursting forth, and running over.

As I write about this amazing wonder called Life, I wonder what type of person is reading this. Are you one who has grown up knowing what this Life is all about? Are you one who has known and then pushed it aside, fearing it would require too much of you? Are you one who says, "Yes, that certainly is a good way to look at things"? Or one who has never really come face to face with the reality that what you call living is really a poor substitute for an exciting existence?

No, Life is not all grand, sunshiny, glittering days with sorrow conspicuously absent. There are the nights when you feel that friends have deserted you, but one Friend remains.

There are the days when everything you say is misunderstood. But there is the one who understands all things. Before they happen. There are the mornings which would have been better spent in bed. But there is the Almighty Refresher breathing energy where there was lethargy. There are the times when health is gone and even the spirit is broken. The Great Physician stands nearby willing and lovingly eager to give healing to His child.

Now, no matter who you are, the One who is LIFE itself is standing near, waiting to give these things to you. And you stand there with the power to accept or refuse to be linked to the very energy which gives LIFE its only meaning. All things beside Christ are foolishness. With Christ, they all fall into their proper place, some by the way, some to be used for His glory, some for our fulfillment and enjoyment, and some to be definitely avoided because they do not glorify God.

Yes, there is life before death. A really great life! And having eternal life right now is something to shout about. In a day when there is so much tension over world troubles, high taxes, inflation, drugs and all the wages of sin, Jesus Christ gives us something to sing about. Don't be afraid to let the world hear the melody which Christ has given you. And if there is no clear melody coming through, perhaps you should check into His Word to see just what the trouble is, because there definitely is LIFE before death.

CHAMBERLAIN GIRL ELECTED SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT LUTHER LEAGUE PRESIDENT

Dayle Gunderson, a senior at Chamberlain High School in the fall,



Four of the new officers of the South Dakota District Luther League are pictured here. They are, left to right, Donald Lake, devotional life secretary, Randy Sharping, treasurer, Sandra Cummings, secretary, and LaDonna Larson, vice-president. Not pictured is the president, Dayle Gunderson.

was elected president of the South Dakota District of the Luther League Federation at the annual convention of the organization held at Tabor Lutheran Church, Webster, S. Dak., May 1-3.

Other officers chosen, all from the Pukwana-Chamberlain area, were LaDonna Larson, vice-president; Sandra Cummings, secretary; Randy Sharping, treasurer; and Donald Lake, devotional life secretary. Rev. Karl Stendal, pastor of their parish, was named advisor to the executive committee.

The convention adopted a revised constitution and accepted an invitation to meet in Pukwana for the next convention. Contributions were voted to the LLF and the Association Schools.

Registration and a get acquainted time occupied Friday evening. LuAnn Olson, district president, led a brief devotional service.

On Saturday morning devotional life secretary Randy Almos led the opening session which featured a Bible study by Pastor Stendal on the topic "He is My Peace," under the convention theme "Christ is All to

Me." That theme was displayed on a handsome banner reaching across the church chancel.

Also on Saturday morning, the second annual Bible quiz was held. Teams from Pukwana-St. Olaf and Lake Region Parishes competed in a quiz on the Book of Ephesians, using **Good News for Modern Man**. Lake Region won the contest for the second time and retained possession of the good-looking wall plaque. A third win will give them permanent possession of it.

Following the business meeting on Saturday afternoon, leaguers played volleyball in the Roslyn gym.

At six o'clock the traditional convention banquet was held in the attractively decorated church parlors of Tabor Church. Bruce Baumgarn, vice-president, was toastmaster. Mr. Ken Moland, Fertile, Minn., a student at Free Lutheran Seminary and the LLF treasurer, was the speaker, on the topic "He is My Life." A film, "The Shield of Faith," was shown later in the evening in a session led by Sharon McC Carlson, secretary of the district. Vespers closed the evening and were under the leadership of

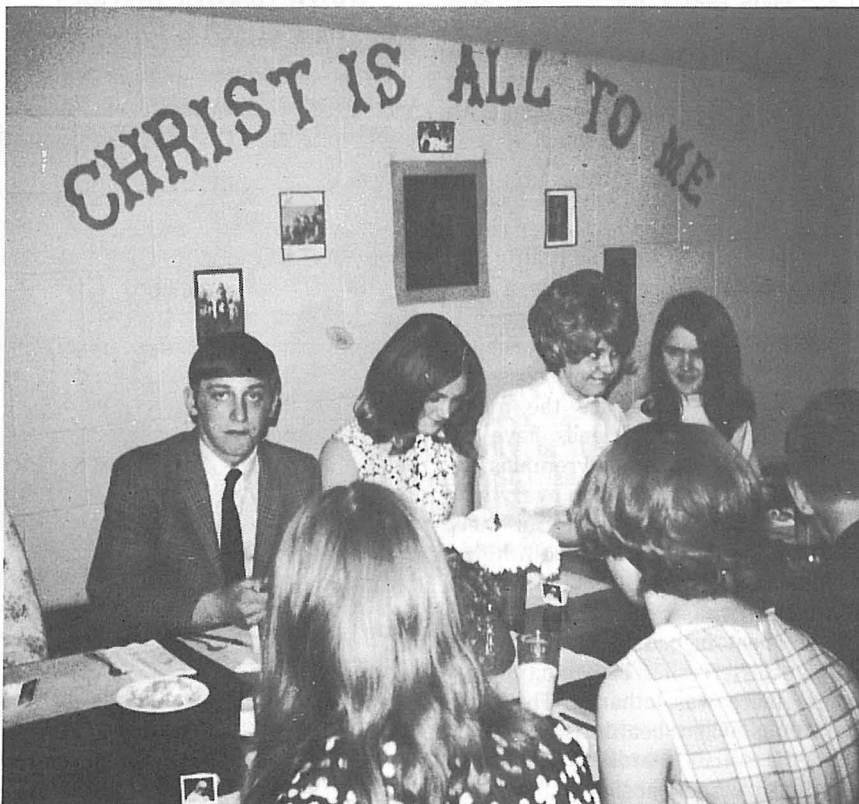
Rev. Raynard Huglen, host pastor.

Ken Moland gave the Sunday morning Bible study on "He is My Righteousness," Jer. 23:6. Paul Tvinnereim, treasurer, conducted the hour.

At the morning worship, Pastor Stendal spoke on the theme "He is My All." The convention choir, under the direction of Mrs. Moland, sang, as did she and her husband. One of the choir's numbers was the convention's theme song, "He's Everything to Me."

LuAnn Olson led the closing session at which Pastor Huglen installed the new officers. Each responded with a Bible verse. Mr. Moland gave the final topic, "He is My Hope." Special music was provided at this meeting as at each of the convention's main periods.

The convention once again this year enjoyed fine attendance.



A scene from the convention's banquet on Saturday night. Note the convention theme in the background.



Pictured here are the new officers of the West Coast District of the Luther League Federation. Left to right, bottom row, they are Karen Pederson, Ferndale, Wash., **The Lutheran Ambassador** reporter; Peggy Johnson, Astoria, Ore., treasurer; and Evangeline Stenberg, Lake Stevens, Wash., devotional life secretary. Top row, Steve Bottom, Kirkland, Wash., vice-president; Pauline Persson, Astoria, secretary; and Carrol Lane, Everett, Wash., president. Not pictured, Rev. Francis Monseth, Everett, pastoral advisor.

Note: Youth Editor Jane Thompson will be in Austria this summer with Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. Any news should be sent to Editor Huglen.

The Bible Book Nook

by Gerald F. Mundfrom

The history of our book ministry, now called **Bible Book Nook**, is an interesting one. It goes back about three years when the pastors of the South Dakota District (AFLC) were making plans for the Bible Camp at Pickerel Lake.

At that time I suggested that we have a book table of Bibles, Testaments, and Christian literature for the young people to browse among and buy. The other pastors thought it a good idea, and I was given the task of planning the table and ordering the books. I ordered Bibles and Testaments from the American Bible Society and other books from two Christian book stores in Minneapolis. Both of these places permitted me to buy on consignment basis, that is, I could return what we didn't sell. They sold the books to me for 20% discount. This allowed us to make a small profit.

We did well at Bible Camp. Parents and friends from the nearby area came in for evening services. They were good customers. During the week we sold over \$100 worth of books. After Bible Camp it was decided not to return the unsold books. We would then display them at other district functions—including the WMF convention that fall and the Luther League convention the following spring. We took the name of **South Dakota Book Nook**.

At that time Pastor Arvid Hokonson, who was serving at Faith, South Dakota, was dean of the Family Bible Camp at Lake Geneva, Alexandria, Minnesota. He told me that he had no one to arrange for and operate the book store at Family Bible Camp and asked if I would take the **South Dakota Book Nook** to Family Camp.

This was a much bigger undertaking. It would mean ordering many more books. Again I ordered quite a supply of books from my supply sources. The help and credit given by these two bookstores has been a big help in the starting and develop-

ment of our book ministry.

We sold close to \$500 worth of books at Family Camp. That year we also sold books at the Bible Conference in McIntosh, Minnesota, and at the Annual Conference in the summer at Cloquet, Minnesota, as well as at our South Dakota district affairs. Since that time we have had (more or less) a standing invitation to display and sell our books at all Association gatherings. The profits from our sales were used to build up our stock.

During the summer of 1968 I attended the Billy Graham School of Writing in Minneapolis. By this time we had a small amount of capital to work with. By chance I dropped in at International Distributors which has its headquarters in the Billy Graham Building. They distribute all of Billy Graham's materials, including music and records, and many other good paperbacks. I told them about our book ministry and asked what discount they would give us if we ordered directly from them. They said that if my orders were not too small they would give 40% discount. This proved to be a big help. Their material was much in demand and sold well. We also started to sell Christian records and music, especially sheet music. We did a good business in this.

Our ministry continued to expand. Our stock continued to increase in volume. We were even doing a little mail order business.

Then in the winter of 1968-69, we were making plans to leave South Dakota. I asked the pastors of the District what to do with the book nook. The feeling was that I should take it with me.

In January of 1969, we moved to Grafton, North Dakota, and took the supply of books we had with us. For lack of a better name, I called the ministry **North Dakota Book Nook**. Later the name was changed to **Bible Book Nook**.

The first public display of the books

after moving was at the Bible Conference in Grand Forks in the winter of 1969. At that time we had no sponsor. Later I asked the Eastern North Dakota District of the AFLC to sponsor the book ministry. This was discussed at a pastoral meeting. The pastors were interested and agreed to sponsor the book ministry. I asked that I might have two to serve on a committee with me. Pastor Howard Kjos of Hampden and Pastor Larry Severson of Abercrombie were appointed.

In October we had an opportunity to set up a booth and sell books at the Potato Fair in Park River, North Dakota. This proved to be interesting and exciting. Almost \$100 worth of books were sold. Many tracts were handed out and we sold enough books to pay expenses. The fair gave us a good welcome and invited us to come back in 1970. We received many compliments and much encouragement while at the fair. We also learned much which will be of value in future undertakings of this kind.

This fair served to raise our vision in this ministry. It was evident that there was a need for a Christian bookstore in Grafton. I shared this concern with Pastor Robert Gillquist, the Baptist pastor of Grafton. We made it a matter of prayer.

One evening in mid-January of this year, Pastor Gillquist stopped in at our place and suggested that if we (our family) had a better place to live, a better location, and also more room, that we could begin the bookstore in our home. I agreed that such was a possibility.

The very next morning there was a notice in the paper of a house for rent. We immediately looked into this and found it to be what we wanted. We agreed to rent it that very same day. By the end of January we had moved in.

It was a big house with nine rooms. It was only four blocks from the main street. The back part of the house had

been made into an apartment and had a separate entrance. This would make an ideal bookstore.

Up to this time our stock had been in our church here in Grafton. We now moved it to our new location. A sign was put above the door and another one on the lawn, both reading **Bible Book Nook**. A news item was put in the local paper and we were open for business.

A number of agencies have been established with publishers and book sellers. We hope to establish still more agencies. This will give us a greater margin of profit, but it also means we must pay cash for our books and are no longer able to buy on a consignment basis. We will be doing less ordering from our original suppliers. However, they are still a help to us when we want a book for which we have no agency. We shall ever be grateful for the help these stores have given us.

Our ministry is growing. There is a demand for Christian literature today. We hope that in the future we can serve God in a bigger way in this type of ministry.

We are especially interested in serving the people of the AFLC since this is the only book sales of this kind within our Association. If you would like to have a Christian book display at your Bible camp, or district function, we invite you to write to us. If it does not conflict with commitments already made, we will gladly come. Also if you should be interested in having a book fair of Christian literature in your church, we again invite you to write to us.

We are hoping to be able also to serve the Association members by mail order. We are planning to send out catalog material in the future. If you should like to be on our mailing list, let us know. We would be happy to hear from you.

At the present time we have on hand a goodly supply of Bibles, Testaments, Christian books for all ages, records, songbooks and sheet music, tracts, greeting cards, stationery, novelties and other items.

The **Bible Book Nook** is a mission. It is sponsored by the Eastern North Dakota District, AFLC. It has its own board.

All profits and gifts will be used for the distributing and printing of Christian literature. We covet your prayers.

Our mailing address is:

Bible Book Nook
809 McHugh Avenue
Grafton, North Dakota 58237

THE REAL PEACE CORPS

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword. . . ." (Heb. 4:12).

This letter is written both to promote the efforts of missionaries in all parts of the world and as a challenge to those who protest the acts of war we are presently engaged in. The unhappy truth is this, the very war these protestors seek to stop is often fueled by their protesting. There is not adequate information available for ministers, college professors and students to formulate national policy. We can come to no intelligent conclusions concerning their particular conflict, since we remain ignorant of national security demands.

How does a Christian cope with world-wide Communist aggression without becoming an aggressor himself, or an unwitting tool in the hands of others? One of the few positive answers is a challenge. Support our Christian soldiers in the field and join them. They are members of a "Peace Corps" that preceded J. F. Kennedy by centuries. They are indeed people who cannot stand idle and watch men suffer and die. The names of some we should recognize: the Abels, the Dynesons, the Knapps and the Dyruds, just to name those who are associated with our congregations. They are armed with the two-edged sword of Christ," and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword" (Rev. 1:16).

Every prayer, every dollar, every word on behalf of worldwide missions is a protest against war and human suffering that cannot be used against us by our enemies. Let us fight our wars at their beginnings where poverty, ignorance and superstition make fertile soil for the seeds of violent greed and hate. In these days of tur-

moil, let us join forces with "the Prince of Peace."

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end. . . ." (Is. 9:6, 7).

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matt. 28:19, 20).

Mrs. Luther Melby
Dalton, Minn.

[Continued from page 16]

guages, at the end of 1969, according to a report by the United Bible Societies released here by the American Bible Society. This represents an increase last year of 21 languages in which one book or more of the Scriptures had been published for the first time.

The Bible Societies also reported complete Bibles published for the first time in Lisu:Hwa, a language spoken in Burma and China; and in Ogoni, a Nigerian language.

Six complete New Testaments were published for the first time in Chinanteco:Ojitlan, Popluca:Sayula, and Tarascan—languages spoken in Mexico; in Latuka from the Sudan; the Huehuetenango dialect of Mam used by Guatemalans; and Neo-Melanesian, spoken in Papua and New Guinea.

Included in the total are the first Bible publications in six languages used in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea; six in Asia, four in Africa, five in Latin America, and one in the Pacific Islands.

The United Bible Societies, an organization of 49 national Bible Societies with work in over 150 countries, is dedicated to translating, publishing and distributing the Scriptures to all people everywhere in the languages they can read and understand.

CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

RELIGIOUS THEMES IN POSTAGE STAMPS

NEW YORK—When mutineers on board H.M.S. Bounty landed on Pitcairn Island in 1789, they burned the ship but took the Bounty Bible with them. For 20 years the Bible—the only reading material the mutineers had—served as a guide for setting up a Christian community on Pitcairn. More than a century and a half later—in 1951—the small British island in the South Pacific issued a 4-penny stamp in honor of the Bounty Bible.

The Bounty Bible stamp is one of the stamps with religious themes from 27 countries currently on display in the gallery of the American Bible Society headquarters at Broadway and 61st Street.

Stamps depicting the Flood, musical instruments of the Bible, the crucifixion of Christ, and the dove are included in the display. The dove is often used on stamps both as a religious symbol for the Holy Ghost and as a sign of peace.

Famous works of art also reproduced on other postage stamps of many nations are in the exhibit. A Guyana stamp issued at Easter, 1968, depicts Salvador Dali's "Christ of St. John of the Cross."

Other masters represented include Rembrandt's "The Adoration of the Magi" on a New Zealand stamp issued at Christmas, 1960; and "The Holy Family" by Titian on a 2½-penny stamp issued by New Zealand at Christmas, 1963.

The first countries to establish the practice of issuing annual Christmas stamps were New Zealand and Aus-

tralia. The United States has issued Christmas stamps since 1962, and last year, more than 40 countries followed the custom.

Religious stamps ranked fifth among the 738 most popular topics and subtopics in stamp collecting in 1968, according to the American Topical Association.

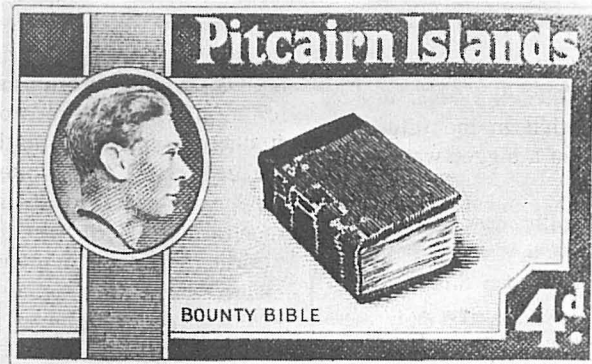
The Six Days of Creation are depicted on a set issued by Israel in 1965. Designed by the Israeli artist A. Kalderson for the Festival of the New Year 5726, the stamps are unusually long and narrow, with contemporary designs in gold on colored backgrounds.

Michelangelo's "Isaiah," as seen in the Sistine Chapel, appears on a 25-lira stamp released by the Vatican

series put out by the United Nations in honor of former Russian Premier Khrushchev's visit to the UN in 1959.

Commemorating the United Nations Human Rights Day in 1958, Israel issued a stamp bearing the Bible quotation, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" (Leviticus 19:18). The Bible verse is depicted in Hebrew carved on a stone. Attached to the stamp is a gummed label with translations of the Bible verse into the official languages of the UN—French, English, Spanish, Russian Chinese.

Only 14 countries have issued stamps actually depicting the Bible. Austria celebrated the 450th anniversary of the Reformation in 1967 with a stamp showing an open Bible



The Bounty Bible issued in 1951 by Pitcairn Island.
ABS PHOTO

in 1964 in honor of the great Italian Renaissance sculptor-painter.

Phrases from the Scriptures are often included in the design of the stamps. Isaiah 2:4, "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares," is used in the "Towards Disarmament"

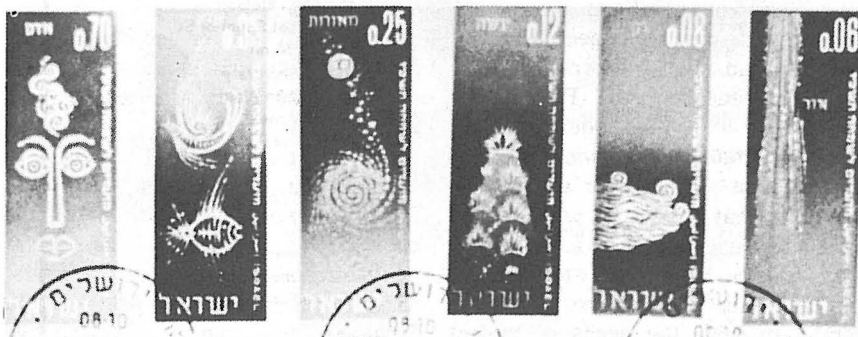
on a rock rising from the waters. An eye, with a triangle, looks down on the Book.

Marking the 300th anniversary of the first Bible printed in Finnish in 1942, Finland released a stamp showing an open Bible resting on an altar in front of a gothic-framed crucifix, illuminated by a stream of light.

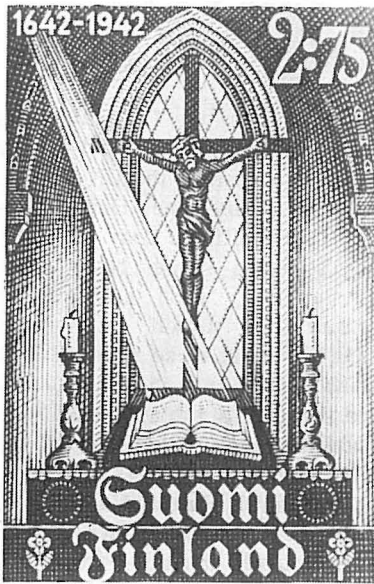
On a Brazil stamp commemorating Bible Day in 1951, the Bible is opened over a map of Brazil, with the inscription "Dia da Biblia."

The display is on loan from James W. Faust of Pittsburgh, Pa., a magazine writer with Scripps-Howard who has collected stamps for more than 40 years.

The Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to translating, publishing and distributing the Scriptures



"The Six Days of Creation," issued by Israel in 1965
ABS PHOTO



The 300th anniversary of the first Bible printed in Finnish. ABS PHOTO

without note or comment, seeks to provide all men everywhere with the Scriptures in their own language at a price they can afford.

(Ed. Note: News of the Pitcairn Island stamp arrived after the editorial "Pitcairn's Island" had been sent to the printers. The Bible Society story above errs in giving the impression that the **Bounty's** Bible was a force for good for all the 20 years after the mutiny. It was only after some years that the last **Bounty** survivor on the island gave the Bible the chance to change life.)

THE BIBLE NOW IN 1413 LANGUAGES

NEW YORK—At least one book of the Bible had been published by various organizations in 1,413 lan-

[Continued on page 14]

Directory of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

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