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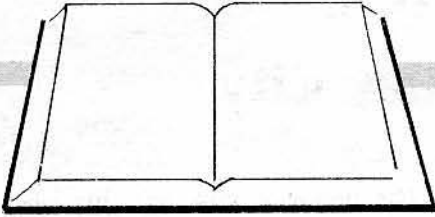
No. 13

LUTHERAN

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President John Strand and Secretary Richard Snipstead
at Conference Headquarters



According to the Word

A Man Called Jesus

“And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught. And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes” (Mark 1:21-22).

They were “amazed” and “astonished,” we read. What had happened? A carpenter’s son had come into town from neighboring Nazareth. His name was Jesus. And they all took notice. He wasn’t like the crowd nor was He like the religious group. He was *different*. Shall we look for a few moments on “this man Jesus”?

His companionship was different. Here He was in a strange town, away from home. As a young man, doors were open to Him everywhere. There were doors of pleasure, doors of business, doors of sin. Here’s where the crowd lingered even on a Sabbath day. But Jesus, we read, “straightway” entered into the synagogue. How we need young folks who are *different* in that way. It is so much easier to conform to the crowd in place of allowing oneself to become transformed in His presence. However, victory begins in the “upper room” with Him. Jesus sought the fellowship of others in the house of God. He also sought the fellowship of His Father. We read about Him:

“And, in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed” (Mark 1:35).

His attitude toward life was different. Others came into town to get; He came into town to give. No sooner had He arrived in the synagogue than, we read, He began to teach. We recall the words of Peter to a man in need: “What I have, I give unto you.” We cannot give what we do not have. And we cannot have anything to give without living near the source of life and supply—namely, Jesus. There was a positive reaction to the words of Jesus as He taught. We read that they were “astonished” at His doctrine. He used the same old Book; He spoke the same old truths—but it had a different sound to it. The Word came to life. The Word became real to them, for it was real to Him.

Folks are looking to God’s people today for the *real thing*. They have been lying beside their “Bethesda pools” so long—waiting. But the “wells” which were to meet their need turned out so often to be “wells without water.” There was a “form of godliness” but the power was lacking. They are still reaching out empty hands and hungering hearts for the real thing. Who can meet that need? Only One, Jesus. When He no longer could walk the trails of Galilee, He asked ordinary men and women to carry on—men and women who would live close enough to Him

to become channels through which He could pour out His blessings to hungering hearts.

His impact on the community was different. Things began to happen when Jesus came. There was a certain man in the synagogue that day. He had been there before, time and time again. We read about him that he was possessed—under the power—of “an unclean spirit.” It seems strange that we should find him in the house of God, but seemingly he felt at home there—until Jesus came. He may have been one of the ushers or a member of the “church board.” He appears to be a leader in the house of God, for he speaks for the rest of them. He could stand a lot of religion—but not of Jesus. Jesus just didn’t seem to fit into his religious program. “Leave us alone,” he cried out. Doesn’t that have a modern ring to it? Every concerned soul winner has heard or felt that same spirit at times. Folks are in such deep religious slumber and do not like to be “disturbed.” Jesus knew the real source of opposition. The showdown for a soul was on—and Jesus won. The unclean spirit was strong but Jesus was stronger. A religious soul in bondage was set free. That is His program even today—to “release captives”—to set at liberty those that are “bruised.” May Jesus be permitted to enter our town, our church, our hearts and “release captives.”

—Karl G. Berg

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Held in Valley City

Under the theme "Contending for the Faith" (Jude 3), the Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations was held in Valley City, N. Dak., June 10-14. Host congregation was First Lutheran Church, Rev. Fritjof Monseth, pastor. All sessions were held in the city auditorium.

The conference, the second one since the merger of the major part of the Lutheran Free Church and the American Lutheran Church, brought 337 delegates from 10 states and 84 congregations for the business sessions. Those registering for the conference were not necessarily from Association-connected churches, although approximately 80 congregations are considered part of the AFLC. Many others attended conference meetings and on Sunday about 450 persons attended the morning and afternoon services.

Highlight of the conference was the commissioning of two couples for mission service in the soon-to-be-established field in Brazil. The large crowd assembled heard Rev. Harold Schafer, DeKalb, Ill., chairman of the Board of Missions, speak on the feeding of the five thousand. He described the hungry multitudes, the helpless hosts and the faithful disciples. What we have, he said, is nothing unless placed at His disposal. Rev. John P. Strand, president of the Association, conducted the commissioning of Rev. and Mrs. John Abel, Fargo, N. Dak., and Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Grothe, Badger, Minn., assisted by the members of the Board of Missions. An offering of \$745.00 was given toward missions, and was, surprisingly, the same amount (except for cents) as received for the seminary in the morning.

President Strand preached the sermon on Sunday morning on the epistle lesson for the day, Eph.

2:1-9. He emphasized the living congregation, stating that it is made up of "living" people. This life is in Christ who has raised us up, he stated. Furthermore, Christ is the motive, joy and purpose of the living congregation. All that we need is in Him, the president declared.

The convoked delegates heard and approved the plans for establishing a theological seminary outside of Minneapolis in September of this year. The impending purchase of the Hauge Inner Mission Federation building on Medicine Lake, west of Minneapolis, was announced by the chairman of the Board of Administration, Rev. Julius Hermunslie, Spicer, Minn. He said that the structure will be the headquarters of the church, but will also house the seminary. It is situated on a 21-acre plot of land. The chairman of the Seminary Committee, Rev. Fritjof Monseth, announced that by conference time nine young men had indicated an interest in being in the first class at the school. (Application does not necessarily indicate acceptance.)

As has been announced before, Dr. Uuras Saarnivaara of Finland will be one of the seminary teachers. Others are yet to be named. The conference was advised that Rev. Strand will serve as dean of the school in addition to his duties as church president. He will move to Minneapolis from Tioga, N. Dak., in August.

The assembled representatives recommended by a large majority a pension plan for the church's pastors and full-time lay workers. The plan must now be accepted by a sufficient number of congregations and pastors to go into effect. Participants in the plan may choose one of several combinations made up of life insurance, hospitalization insurance and retirement or accept the retirement feature alone. Congregations must pay two-thirds of

the premium cost and may pay more if they choose. The remainder is to be paid by the pastor or lay-worker.

In addition to the decision to begin a mission work in Brazil this year, the conference accepted the free Lutheran Mission in Nogales, Ariz., as a home and world mission field. Beginning on July 1, it will be given \$200.00 per month. Rev. Lawrence Dynneson is director of this mission.

A capital investment program was launched by the annual session to raise funds for the purchase of the Hauge building and a president's home and needed equipment and remodeling in the headquarters building. The goal of the ingathering will be \$130,000.00. It is not yet known what the duration of the campaign will be nor how it is to be conducted. The Board of Administration will appoint a committee to lead the ingathering.

The yearly meeting was told that Mr. Robert Bursheim, Winger, Minn., will be the new treasurer of the Association. He succeeds Mr. Wm. Svano of Minneapolis who has served in that capacity from the beginning. From this time all contributions to the Association's program should go to Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3210 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. Mr. Bursheim will also be custodian of the headquarters building.

In still further developments, the Annual Conference approved the Board of Administration's decision to appeal the finding of Judge Gordon L. McRae (name case) to the Minnesota Supreme Court, recommended the re-publication of Ministerial Acts, urged the investigation of the possibilities of establishing a Bible school in 1965, asked congregations to cooperate in the teachers' training program planned for this fall and suggested

that district stewardship meetings be held throughout the church this fall.

A total budget of \$87,093.62 was adopted by the conference. The congregations receive no allocations and the goals voted by the conference are reached only if the congregations choose to give this support. Decisions of the conference are not binding on the local churches.

The conference was preceded by the annual meeting of the Women's Missionary Federation on Wednesday, June 10. Mrs. Ole K. Ose, Thief River Falls, Minn., was re-elected president of the organization. The WMF adopted a new budget of \$10,000.00 and gave an offering of \$1645.00 (goal of \$1500.00) to the John Abels and Alvin Grothes for outfitting expense and shared a portion also with the Lawrence Dynnesons of Nogales.

CONFERENCE DECISIONS

We begin today a summary of important decisions made by the Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Not all can be mentioned here, but you may read of the remainder of them in the printed annual report which will be available in about two months.

President's Message and Administration

—recommended the two model constitutions (write to the church secretary) and the Fundamental Principles as safeguards for free and living congregations.

—recommended the continued use of Order of Service No. 2 for congregational worship (found in the Concordia hymnal).

—recommended the use and republication of the altar book, Ministerial Acts.

—asked that a committee be appointed to study the divorce question and report to the next annual conference.

—approved the appeal of Judge

McRae's decision regarding the use of the name "Lutheran Free Church (not merged)" to the Minnesota Supreme Court for clarification.

—approved the purchase of the Hauge Federation property on Medicine Lake for a headquarters and seminary building.

—called for a special effort to improve the public image of the Association through the means at our disposal and to correct misconceptions.

—authorized the Board of Administration to appoint a committee to govern an appeal for capital funds in the amount of \$130,000.00.

—expressed consent for the methods by which pastors are received into the clergy roster.

—rejoiced that Pastor John Strand has accepted the call to be dean of the seminary, as well as church president.

—rejoiced in the organization of seven new congregations (one was a reorganization) during the past

year and specifically welcomed the Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church of Minneapolis, Minn., Rev. Chester Heikkinen, pastor, into the Association.

Missions

—approved the country of Brazil as an official field for an AFLC mission operation.

—recommended that Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Grothe and Pastor and Mrs. John Abel be commissioned as missionaries.

—recommended the goal of sending forth two new missionary families or single workers each year for the next three years.

—accepted the Free Lutheran mission in Nogales, Ariz., as a home and foreign field of the church and voted increased support of it (\$200.00 per month in total.)

—recommended that at least two young men be sent for summer work in the Nogales mission.

(To be continued)

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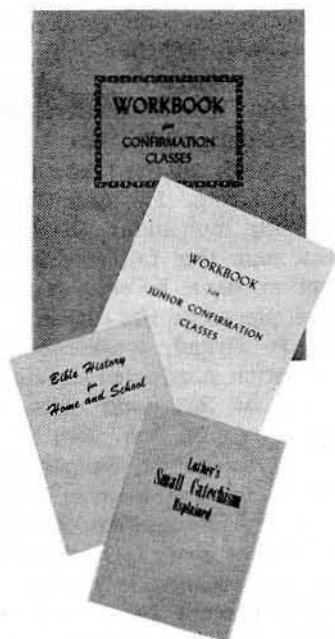
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CONFERENCE ELECTIONS

Vice-President—1 year
Rev. Fritjof Monseth
Valley City, N. Dak.

Secretary—1 year
Rev. Richard Snipstead
Greenbush, Minn.

Board of Administration
5-year term
Rev. Harry C. Molstre
Winger, Minn.

2-year term
Rev. Jay G. Erickson
Faith, S. Dak.

1-year term
Mr. Russell Duncan
Fargo, N. Dak.

Trustees, Pension Plan
5-year term
Mr. Eldor Sorkness
Sand Creek, Wis.

4-year term
Mr. Stanley Block
Spicer, Minn.

3-year term
Mr. Albert Moen
Grand Forks, N. Dak.

2-year term
Mr. Milton Hove
Minneapolis, Minn.

1-year term
Rev. John P. Strand
Tioga, N. Dak.

Nominating Committee, 1965
Rev. Ernest J. Langness, McVille,
N. Dak.

Mr. Robert Broden, Fertile, Minn.
Mr. Oliver Landsverk, Fosston,
Minn.

Rev. Trygve Dahle, Kalispell, Mont.
Mr. John Swanson, Pukwana, S.
Dak.

Rev. Harold Schafer, DeKalb, Ill.
Mr. Ralph Melby, Dalton, Minn.
Mr. Even Ose, Thief River Falls,
Minn.

Summary of the President's Message to the Annual Conference June 11, 1964

Continued from last issue

Seminary

With gratitude to God we are assured that our seminary will open for classes on September 21, preceded by a rally on Sunday, September 20, if possible. No Bible school will be started at this time.

Mission Program

We rejoice that two missionary families will be sent out this fall. This is the beginning of what we hope will be a significant mission program.

There are great mission opportunities in America also. We must strengthen the home base so that world outreach will be strengthened. The program of missions is, after all, one mission.

Pastors' Supply

We are in a critical pastoral shortage at this time in spite of the willingness of men of retirement age to continue to serve. Consecrated laymen are helping to fill the gaps. We must continue to make use of such men, but we see something good in the desire of parishes to have ordained men.

We are not justified in beginning new work until more of our vacant parishes are filled. Some parishes will soon be losing their pastors to other Association responsibilities, too. We must pray that God will supply the pastors needed. Care must be exercised that those received are of the right spirit and motivation.

Finances

We must conduct ourselves as men of faith and wisdom. There are open doors before us, but we must not be tempted to try to do too much. Nevertheless,

the budget to be presented has been carefully gone over and is well within our means.

Support thus far has been very good even though our stewardship program has been unorganized and weak. We praise God and thank Him and our people for their response in spite of shortcomings in making the needs known.

The farm population faces an uncertain economic future and since we are a rural church, we must make good use of every dollar.

We have purchased a site for our seminary and headquarters near Minneapolis at a very reasonable figure. To equip this property, as well as pay for it, we contemplate a special financial program separate from our operating budget. We believe our people will respond to the needs of both current operating expense and capital investment.

Public Image

The average public has been getting a confused and very inaccurate image of the Association. We have done very little to correct misconceptions and to cooperate with the various news media. With added staff we hope to do something about this.

There is some misunderstanding as to whether the "Declaration of Faith" should be discussed at this conference. We should not make more of it than was intended. It seems adequate to do what it was intended to do.

Thanksgiving

The Association is grateful for the many faithful Board members and officers who have worked tirelessly the past year. With the new facilities the work should be easier and better organized. Thank you for your patience.

Again, our thanks to God for His faithfulness. Let us continue in prayer that the work God has given to us be done, because we abide in Him.

Faithfully yours,
John P. Strand

O SING UNTO THE LORD A NEW SONG

The WATCHMEN QUARTET, made up of Roger Strom, Steve Hokonson, John Reith and Francis Monseth, are presenting the Gospel in song this summer in many of our congregations in the Midwest and on the West Coast. They began their summer itinerary on June 1 in the Faith Lutheran parish, Faith, S. Dak., following a commissioning service at First Lutheran Church in Valley City, N. Dak., on Sunday, May 31. The WATCHMEN spent an entire week in the Faith parish, teaching Vacation Bible School during the day and singing each evening in various churches in the area. They were enthusiastically received by our people and their radiant testimony in song and spoken word left deep impressions.

Following their week at Faith, they were scheduled for appearances at Pukwana and Webster, S. Dak., before returning to Valley City where they participated in the Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran

Congregations, held June 10-14. They left immediately after the closing session of the conference for Spicer, Minn., where once again they were scheduled to teach Vacation Bible School during the day at the Green Lake Lutheran Church, Rev. Julius Hermunslie, pastor, and to sing each evening in area churches. From Spicer, Minnesota, their itinerary covered several churches in southern Minnesota and central Iowa. During the last few days of June they visited congregations at Batavia and DeKalb, Illinois, as well as several points in Wisconsin.

Their itinerary for the remainder of the summer is printed below. Let us support them with our prayers as they go from place to place bearing witness to the saving grace of God in song and spoken word. We believe souls will be reached and won for Christ through their ministry this summer.

The Youth Board
J. G. Erickson, Chairman

ITINERARY

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| July 3
Minneapolis, Minn.
Faith Free Lutheran Church | Youth Picnic
Dalton, Minn. | McIntosh Free Lutheran Parish
July 21
Thief River Falls, Minn.
Our Savior's Lutheran Church |
| July 5—Morning
Sand Creek, Wis.
Running Valley Lutheran Church | July 12—Morning and Evening
Dalton, Minn.
Dalton Lutheran Parish | July 22
Newfolden, Minn.
High School Auditorium |
| July 5—Evening
Minneapolis, Minn.
Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church | July 13
Wyndmere, N. Dak.
United Free Lutheran Church | July 23
Clearbrook, Minn.
Lutheran Brethren Church |
| July 6
Stacy, Minn.
Sunnyside Community Church | July 14
Fargo, N. Dak.
St. Paul's Free Lutheran Church | July 24
Greenbush, Minn.
Greenbush Lutheran Parish |
| July 7—Evening
Elbow Lake, Minn.
Grace Evangelical Free Church | July 15
Perley, Minn.
Landstad Lutheran Church | July 26—Morning and Evening
Roseau, Minn.
Roseau Lutheran Parish |
| July 8
Doran, Minn.
Stiklestad Lutheran Church | July 16
Winger, Minn.
Dovre Lutheran Church | July 27
Greenbush, Minn.
Greenbush Lutheran Parish |
| July 9
Fergus Falls, Minn.
Bethel Lutheran Brethren Church | July 17
Maple Bay, Minn.
Maple Bay Lutheran Church | July 28-30
Shevlin, Minn.
Shevlin Lutheran Parish |
| July 10
Pelican Rapids, Minn.
Bethel Lutheran Church | July 19—Morning and Evening
McIntosh, Minn.
McIntosh Free Lutheran Church | July 31
McIntosh, Minn.
McIntosh Free Lutheran Church |
| July 11 | July 20
McIntosh, Minn. | Aug. 1
Portland, N. Dak.
Youth Fellowship Picnic |
| | | Aug. 2
Zoar Lutheran Church, Hatton
Ny Stavanger Lutheran Church,
Buxton
Trinity Free Lutheran Church,
Grand Forks, N. Dak. |
| | | Aug. 3
Walhalla, N. Dak.
Aspelund Lutheran Church |
| | | Aug. 4
Hampden, N. Dak.
Zoar Lutheran Church |
| | | Aug. 5
McVillage, N. Dak.
New Luther Valley Lutheran
Church |
| | | Aug. 6
Binford, N. Dak.
Bethany Lutheran Church |
| | | Aug. 7
Valley City, N. Dak.
Nazarene Church |
| | | Aug. 8
Galesburg, N. Dak.
Free Lutheran Church |
| | | Aug. 9—Morning and Evening
Valley City, N. Dak.
First and Zion Lutheran
Churches |

[Continued on page 11]



ADVENTURING IN FAITH

Perhaps only now that we are home again from Valley City do we realize the significance of what we heard and what we did at the Annual Conference. For it is not often that a small group such as ours hears that a seminary is to be established, votes to begin a mission work in another country, and takes under its wing a mission on the Mexican border.

We are at least making plans to do the things a church must do if it is to perpetuate itself. If it please God and if our people respond, the work shall be done. There are many reasons to be encouraged as we stand on this side of the Annual Conference of 1964.

But talk is cheap, and we must put flesh and blood into our decisions, as our president, Rev. Strand, said. We have talked big at Valley City, and our efforts must be more than half-hearted if we are to reach the goals we have set.

Yes, we mean financial goals, for one thing. No matter how the capital investment program is planned, we will need to do the best that we have ever done.

A second means of accomplishing our tasks is the practice of much prayer. Prayer is bending our will to His will. If our work is in His will, He will make us willing to do our part to accomplish it.

That brings us to this: We must work. There is work to do. There is work for you to do if it is your prayer that the kingdom of God come.

Ours is a faith venture. Other churches can claim that for their programs, too, but especially this is true when people start out with so little. The doors have opened, and we are entering step by step. May we press forward as workmen who need not be ashamed.

A GOOD CONFERENCE

The Annual Conference of 1964 will go down in history as a good, progressive assembly. It was a working convention, accomplishing a great deal and occupying about 18 hours of business sessions including the devotional periods. It was a historic conference, dispatching matters necessary to a new, yet old, work.

Convention hall facilities in Valley City were of

the very best. Many remarked about this. The auditorium provided ample space for seating, for registration, for display, for moving about, for office work, for serving and eating meals. All the details that fall upon host congregations to such an event were carried out in an admirable way by First and Zion Lutheran Churches and their pastor and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. Fritjof Monseth.

We enjoyed our stay in Valley City. We were well received by the city and appreciated their acceptance of us, from the greetings of the mayor and the president of the ministerial association on Wednesday night to the courtesies shown us in the various business places patronized. Our own particular area of responsibility brought us into contact with the city's newspaper, the *Times-Record*. We received the finest cooperation from them.

Conference time is fellowship time. It is pleasant to meet old friends, recognized from conferences over the years, and to make new acquaintances. The widening of the fellowship was evident this year in having people present from Arizona and Oregon. But we do miss having so little contact with our neighbor to the north, Canada. It was of personal interest to find out that we know the sister of Rev. Lawrence Dynneson of Nogales, Ariz., Mrs. (Rev.) Ejvind Nielsen of Willow City, N. Dak. We look forward to the time when the Dynnesons can travel throughout our church.

Some fine messages were preached at the conference. Edifying special music was provided. Worship through offerings met a good response. There were opportunities each day for prayer fellowship and, at the laymen's service, for testimonies.

All in all, it was a good conference.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHT

There is no doubt in our mind that the high point in the Annual Conference was the commissioning of the two prospective missionary couples, the Abels and the Grothes. This was, indeed, a fitting climax to the conference.

An air of expectancy prevailed as we awaited the service. Our congregations have a history of mission interest, and we have known that we could not be what we ought without a mission work of our own. We are not unaware of the Nogales mission, but we are thinking now of something which we begin ourselves.

We consecrated two couples, two families, as our first representatives in Brazil. One, the Abels, have had considerable experience in Brazil before, and this is a great advantage for us. The other, the Grothes, have more recently been called from another occupation, farming, to the task of evangelizing in another land. The consecration of the Grothes was of special interest to your editor because Alvin Grothe's parents

[Continued on page 11]

CONFERENCE PHOTOS



Delegates assemble and visit outside the Valley City auditorium prior to the convening of a conference session.

Two men from other countries visited the conference. They are, left to right, Evangelist John Tejpar of Tanganyika, and Leonardo Osco, Tiahuanacu, Bolivia, a pastor. Mr. Tejpar spoke at the pastors' banquet on Friday.



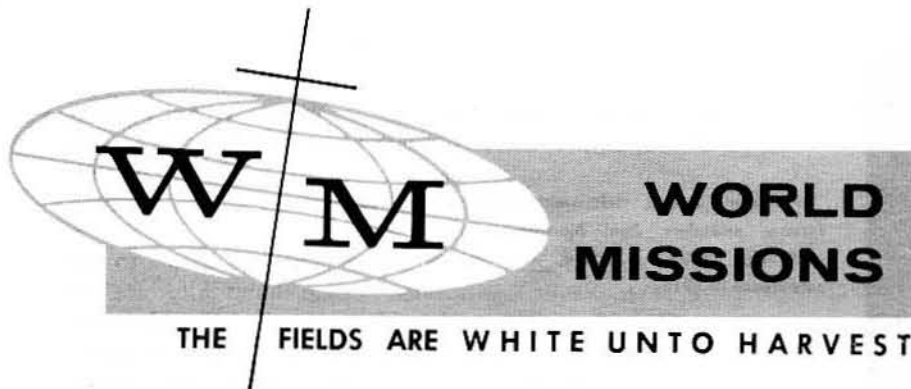


President Strand, left, with two veteran conference attendees, Paul Bjornstad, Duluth, center, and John Pederson, Binford, who first attended a conference in 1913.

Morning and afternoon conference sessions were interrupted by coffee-breaks.



Conference members chat outside the auditorium between sessions.



A JOURNEY FOR JESUS (On Brazil's Frontier)

by J. H. Abel

Part II—"Making New Friends"

It was a busy afternoon for Lourdes and Maria and their brother, Manoel. They worked as hard as their mother and father and grandma, dona Pedrina. Like other families moving into the frontier, they knew that only what they did for themselves would get done. Now it was soon rice and bean planting time and they must work very hard to have enough clean land on which to plant. Only as they planted would they have food to eat when the dry season came around.

Well, perhaps all the frontier mothers and fathers thought much about the clearing, planting and building to be done, but the children thought about other things also. How they loved to run back into the jungle looking for wild honey bees' nests in some tall tree! They would cut down these trees and smoke out the bees and have a real feast as they filled up pails full of sweet, delicious honey. This was about the only sweets one could get on a frontier farm, and to these children it was as good as candy. Then there were butterflies to catch, lizards to kill and bring home to be cooked. Why, they tasted just like chicken after mother cooked them! But right now little Lourdes who was eight, and Maria who was 10, and strong Manoel who was almost 12, weren't thinking about bees or butterflies or lizards or anything else, except getting to the "fazenda" tonight for the "culto" meeting which that man who called himself

a "pastor" had told them about that morning.

"Mamae," Maria said, "we have worked hard and we have the palm tree leaves all laid out on top of our little shelter for tonight, and it is not going to rain, and our beds are ready on the ground. And, Mamae, we like to sing and hear music. And, Mamae, will Papai take us over to the big fazenda tonight?" Her mother nodded and said, "You have been very good children today, and very helpful. We shall ask Papai after he has had a good supper."

Soon the supper of salt pork, beans and rice, with some homemade bread, had been eagerly devoured and it was father himself who spoke up and said, "Mamae, I heard the children talking several times today about the culto, and then Maria begging you about supper time. I have been thinking that maybe it would be good to go and meet some of our neighbors at the fazenda tonight. After all, it is time for us to make new friends." "Bom, Bom," (goodie, goodie) shouted the children. "We shall go, we shall sing, what fun!"

Before long senhor Garcia's truck came chugging slowly into the large open yard near the saw mill on the fazenda. Several other trucks were parked here and there and already the people were seated under a large roof. The building being used for the meeting had no walls. It was just a large roof standing on trees that had been cut into rough pillars. Under this large shelter, logs were sawed during the day and now it was a perfect place to meet at night. Lanterns were hung here and there to give at least a little light so one could see where to sit on the many

planks that had been laid out as benches for the meeting.

This was the first meeting that the Garcia family had ever attended where they sang songs about Jesus and read from the book of God called the Bible. You see, back where they had lived before, it seemed the people were afraid of meetings like this. But now they were out on the frontier, a new land, new friends. People didn't seem to be afraid of anything here, and they wanted to hear and learn about everything they could.

The singing was good. They sang a song called: "Quao bomdoso amigo é Cristo" (What A Friend We Have in Jesus"). This was the one the children seemed to like best, but there were many others also. After the meeting the people began to shake hands with each other and give their names and where they lived. Papai Garcia found out who many of his neighbors were, and the children—well, it didn't take them long to get acquainted, especially when someone had them form a big circle and play a game.

Off in a far corner Manoel, who always liked to wander around and investigate everything, saw the pastor talking to his father as they sat under a kerosene lamp. As he drew closer he saw that the pastor had his book open and was reading something to his father. He drew closer in the darkness and listened. "You see then, senhor Garcia, God has given us many precious promises, and the Bible tells us that if we believe His Word, it is able to save our souls. Some day soon I shall stop by your little farm and we shall again look at the promises God has given us. I'm sure He will help you to believe and receive Jesus as your personal Savior." "Thank you, senhor Pastor, for all the good news you have shown me in God's book tonight. I and my family are anxious to hear more. We really want to do what God says and we need His blessing for our new life."

—John H. Abel

EDITORIAL

[Continued from page 7]

belonged to his father's first parish and he has known the family name since childhood.

God be with these friends as they go out in September or October. The conference recommended that our church have the goal of sending two new missionary families or single workers each year for the next three years.

Brazil is the door the Lord is opening for us now as our first definitely world mission field. If we honor this opportunity, perhaps He will honor us with other possibilities in future days.

WHAT MIGHT BE IMPROVED

Nothing is perfect in this world, and we try to be honest in looking at faults as well as good points. We want to spend a little time in discussing what might be improved regarding our conferences.

We must seek to search out more capable laymen for positions on committees and boards of the church. (We mean "more" in numbers.) Some names pop up again and again among the committees of the church and convention. Surely these are capable people, but we must seek to find new talents and share responsibilities among more and more people.

Anyone who has served on a convention nominating committee knows that it isn't an easy task to come up with new names. But we are confident that some valuable people are being overlooked unintentionally, and we must find ways to put them to use and work.

Tied in with the above is the need to impress on all who are chosen for committee or board work that they seek to discharge their responsibility in and

for the task given them. It is too bad when a place stands empty when one has been honored for it. We are in this work together. Let us all serve in our place if there is anything we can possibly do about it.

Some congregations are not taking pains to be represented at conference. Some habitually are in this category. We will confess that we thought that congregations which stayed out of merger or came out of it would exhibit a greater degree of loyalty to the conference of the Association than others might do to theirs. Now we aren't so sure. All we can say is what we said before: it does something for "life together" when units of a fellowship care enough to be represented at the annual meeting of that fellowship. Whatever we can do to remedy this situation will be all to the good.

Participation by more delegates in the business discussions would be good. A spirit of unity is fine, but that there is full and free discussion of a topic does not mean that there is lack of real unity. We fear that sometimes opinions are left unexpressed when they should come forth. Much time is spent on grammatical phrasing when a discussion of issues might be to better advantage.

Finally, the spirit of negativism showed itself in conference, not a great deal, but some. It may be impossible to eliminate this altogether, but we ought to try. We aren't denying the value of the "positive 'no.'" We believe in that. We would warn against giving the impression that we alone have the truth and can be trusted with it.

It was a fine conference. We rejoice in all the good things, in all the blessings received. We have a goodly heritage and fellowship. It ought not damage our working together by hearing a little self-criticism.

ITINERARY

[Continued from page 6]

Aug. 10-14

Alexandria, Minn.

Association Family Bible Camp

Aug. 16—Morning and Evening

Tioga, N. Dak.

Tioga Lutheran Parish

Aug. 17

Williston, N. Dak.

Aug. 18

Brockton, Mont.

Zion Lutheran Church

Aug. 19

Malta, Mont.

Lutheran Brethren Church

Aug. 20

Kalispell, Mont.

Stillwater Lutheran Church

Aug. 21

Spokane, Wash.

Aug. 23—Morning

Everett, Wash.

Calvary Lutheran Church

Aug. 23—Evening

Seattle, Wash.

Bethel Lutheran Church

Aug. 26

Ferndale, Wash.

First Lutheran Church

Aug. 28

Siverton, Ore.

Aug. 30—Morning and Evening

Kalispell, Mont.

Stillwater Lutheran Church

Sept. 4-7

Labor Day Weekend Retreat

As the Lord lays it upon your heart to share in our work, we invite you to send your contributions to

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Free Lutheran Congregations
Mr. Robert Bursheim, Treas.
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God loves a cheerful giver.

"For my people have committed two evils:

They have forsaken me,
the fountain of living waters,
and hewed out cisterns for themselves,
broken cisterns,
that can hold no water" (Jer. 2: 13).

Vitas of Our Missionary Candidates

Alvin Grothe

Alvin Grothe, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Grothe, was born and raised at Badger, Minnesota. He grew up in a Christian home of five children on a farm near Badger. He also graduated from the Badger High School.

Shortly after graduation he entered the service and spent one year in Korea, which played an important part in his calling to a mission field.

Upon returning home he bought a farm at Badger and also become employed as a carpenter.

The turning point in his life came when he was brought back into fellowship with Jesus Christ at an evangelistic meeting at his home church.

He was united in marriage to Frances Tauer in 1952.

Through the work of the Holy Spirit, and the Word, and circumstances, God called him to apply as a mission candidate in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

Frances Tauer Grothe

Frances Tauer Grothe was born in Badger, Minnesota, to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Tauer. Her childhood was spent on a farm a few miles from Badger. She attended Badger Consolidated School and also graduated from high school there. In 1952, she married Mr. Alvin Grothe and to them five children have been born:

Terry 11 years
James 9 years
Susan 6 years
Kathryn 5 years
Kelly 2 years

Three years ago she felt the need of a Savior, and accepted Jesus as her own, but it wasn't until two years ago that she felt the call of God to do full-time work for Him. Two verses from

Psalm 96 were given to her.

"Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all the people; say among the heathen that the Lord reigneth."

She attended the Lutheran Brethren School at Fergus Falls, Minn., the past year in preparation for the mission field.

John and Ruby Abel

"Thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place" (II Cor. 2:14).

Pastor Abel was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, but while he was just a young child of four years of age his father passed away and shortly thereafter his mother returned to northern Minnesota with her children to her parents' home. John Abel grew up in the Red River Valley in the town of Stephen, Minn., and graduated from high school there in 1943.

After high school he was employed for several months before entering the armed services during World War II. His employment with Northwest Airlines led him to work in the Yukon Territory of Canada and it was in the city of Whitehorse, Yukon, where God spoke to him through the Word and brought him into an experience of conversion.

In December of 1943, John Abel entered the U. S. Navy and thereafter saw service in various South Sea Islands, the Philippines, Okinawa and Japan. During these years he sensed that God would have him prepare to be a foreign missionary. After the war, in 1946, he returned to enroll at Concordia College and in 1949 received his B.A. degree from this institution. During one summer vacation period in his college years he and two friends took a trip through Mexico, Cen-

tral America and Colombia observing mission work and visiting missionaries. This led to his conviction that God was directing him toward the continent of South America, yet the country of service was not known. After graduating from college he married a student whom he had met while at Concordia, Miss Ruby Hitterdal of Hitterdal, Minn. Together they entered upon preparation for the ministry, Ruby studying at the Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis, Minn., while John studied at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.

Ruby Hitterdal Abel was born in Hitterdal, Minn. She graduated from high school there. It was during her years at home that she came to the assurance of salvation in Christ. She attended Concordia College for one year.

In 1952 upon graduation from seminary John and Ruby applied as missionary candidates to the World Mission Prayer League for the opening of a new Lutheran mission field in Brazil. They were accepted for this call and went to the field for the first time in January of 1953. While home on fur-

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WOMEN *for Christ*

SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT WMF HELD RALLY IN MAY

The South Dakota District Women's Missionary Federation Spring Rally was held at the Tabor Lutheran Church of Webster, S. Dak., on Friday, May 29, with sessions at 3:00 and 7:30 p.m. Five congregations of the district were represented. The theme for the day was Matthew 28:19.

The afternoon session opened with a singspiration led by Mrs. Bob Jensen of Faith, followed by devotions by Mrs. Clarence Storley of Roslyn. Miss Ginger Samuelson of Faith furnished the special music and a reading was given by Mrs. Agnes Rice of Sisseton.

The WMF projects and the budget were presented by Mrs. Sherman McCarlson of Webster, and a short business meeting was held

with Mrs. Ervin Tvinnereim, Webster, presiding. Plans were made to have another meeting in the fall, but to dispense with the spring rallies on a district basis and have parish ones instead. Mrs. Ingvald Storley of Roslyn was elected Cradle Roll Secretary.

Rev. Obert Landsverk of the Santal Mission in India was the guest speaker and gave an interesting talk on the organization and work of the mission. He stressed the needs of the Indian people both spiritually and physically and urged our prayer support for this unevangelized country. Rev. Jay Erickson of Faith closed the afternoon session with prayer.

Offerings were received at both sessions and Mrs. Jay Erickson of Faith and Mrs. Arnold Tvinnereim of Andover were accompanists. The

Tabor Ladies Aid served supper and lunches to those in attendance.

The evening session opened with a singspiration led by Mrs. Donald Tvinnereim of Webster, followed with devotions by Mrs. Magnus Iverson of Sisseton. Special music was furnished by Mrs. Bob Jensen of Faith, Julie and Jane McCarlson of Webster and the Tabor Lutheran choir. Mrs. Ingvald Storley gave a reading.

Rev. Landsverk spoke briefly and showed a film of life on the Santal field entitled "Decisive Journey." The evening closed with the singing of our theme song, "Christ for the World We Sing" and remarks by Rev. R. Huglen of Roslyn.

We trust that this was a day of blessing and inspiration to all in attendance and that all will carry out the theme of the day both in our local churches and abroad. "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matt. 28:19).

Mrs. Sheman McCarlson
Secretary

THIRST SATISFIED

Every human soul is thirsty and hungry. Even in the darkest heathen nation, men and women are parched, empty, thirsty, for something which eludes them. Did Jesus know that the woman of Samaria was thirsty? Of course, He did! He knew all about her longings—He knew her desperate needs, too. He knew that her life was not satisfying her, her friends were not satisfying her—her heart only grew more arid. How many souls in our American homes and churches are thirsty, parched, hard and dry! How Jesus must be longing even now to go through Samaria!

In all mission work the sad thing is to know that souls do not realize they are thirsty. Not until they meet Jesus do they begin to see their need. Jesus said, "If any man thirst let him come unto me and drink." If anyone hungers for salvation, let him come unto Jesus and be filled; if anyone longs for forgiveness, Jesus is the

lough in 1958 this field was transferred to the Evangelical Lutheran Church and they returned under this church for a second term. In 1962 they returned again on furlough and he was led to resign from the mission and accept a call shortly thereafter to be Missions Director under the newly formed Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Pastor Abel now returns as a missionary of the Association to help begin the new field in Brazil. Pastor and Mrs. Abel have seven children, all of whom will be returning with them to Brazil. The parents of Pastor Abel live in Bemidji, Minn., and Mrs. Abel has her parents, Mr.

and Mrs. E. B. Hitterdal, living in Hitterdal, Minn. They, together with their family, rejoice in the fellowship of our Free Lutheran Congregations. They write, "We will miss dearly the many friends, both lay and pastors, with whom we have become so well acquainted during the past year and a half. However, at the request of the Board, and sensing a strong call from God, we look forward with great anticipation to going out to help establish a new foreign mission field for our Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. We have one great and continuous request: 'Brethren, pray for us.'"

door to the heart of God. All the desires, longings, thirsts, appetites, yearnings of the human heart can be satisfied only by Jesus.

The fourth Beatitude, however, has to do with another thirst—a thirst for righteousness. Jesus says, "Blessed are they which hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled." The fact that Jesus calls them blessed suggests that He is speaking here of children of God, born-again believers. And, of course, an unsaved person would hardly be thirsting for righteousness. Thirsting for

salvation, yes, for forgiveness, for peace, but not for righteousness. Jesus gives a thirst for righteousness—Jesus who is righteousness and holiness implants in the believer a desire to be righteous as He is righteous. In Isaiah 64:6, God declares: ". . .but we are all as an unclean thing, our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." It is only as we allow the Word of God to become as a mirror and reflect our true image of filthiness and uncleanness and helplessness that we even begin to thirst after righteousness. The unsaved person has

no desire for righteousness because he does not see his guilt and sinfulness; but when the glorious illuminating light of God's Word in His Son is permitted to penetrate the far recesses of the soul, then that soul longs to be perfectly whole and righteous.

What an amazing thing it is that the righteousness of Jesus Christ our Lord, the Son of the living God, is given to one who believes in Him and trusts Him for salvation! Isn't it glorious to think that although in me, in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing, yet the Spirit of

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CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

SWEDISH BISHOPS DENY SOFT STAND ON PREMARITAL SEX

STOCKHOLM (LWF)—Bishops of the Church of Sweden have repudiated recent press reports that they were considering a softening of their earlier condemnation of premarital sexual relations as a sin.

One of their number stressed that the April meeting of the Lutheran Bishops' Conference had stated, to the contrary, that it "naturally stood firm on Christian principles as set forth in such statements as the bishops' letter of 1951."

The same spokesman, Bishop Bo Giertz of Gothenburg, added that Bishop Helge Ljungberg of Stockholm had denied a report that quoted him as anticipating a revised, less harsh pronouncement on the subject.

A press dispatch widely reproduced abroad said the bishops in late April had decided to set up a special commission to review

their 1951 statement that categorically labeled as sinful all sex relations outside marriage.

It also said that Bishop Ljungberg had predicted that this would lead to the issuance of a new statement with softer language, since the problem was "not only to say what was right and wrong but to help young people to live according to Christian rules."

Bishop Giertz said the bishops took no such action but rather decided to await a report from a committee of the Central Swedish Church Board (Diakonistyrrelse) which several years ago began a study of the subject.

He said "very much opposition" had been aroused in the Church against the recent assertions on premarital sexual relations made by Chief Editor Carl Gustaf Boethius of the central board's illustrated weekly *Var Kyrka* (Our Church).

Mr. Boethius publicly urged the church to condone sexual relations

before marriage by couples who intend to be united and faithful to each other, arguing that it was "pointless" to be out of step with "reality."

BISHOP SIMOJOKI NOMINATED AS NEXT FINNISH PRIMATE

TURKU, Finland (LWF)—Electors of the Archdiocese of Turku gave a decisive vote to the Bishop of Helsinki, Dr. Martti Simojoki, to be their next Archbishop and thus the Primate of Finland's national Lutheran Church.

Bishop Simojoki, who is first vice-president of the Lutheran World Federation and chairman of the federation's Finnish National Committee, has been spiritual head of the Diocese of Helsinki ever since it was constituted in 1959 by dividing the Diocese of Tampere.

Having obtained 270 votes, his name heads the three-man slate submitted to the President of the Republic, Dr. Urho Kekkonen, who is to choose one of the three to succeed Archbishop Ilmari Salomies. The latter plans to retire on Sept. 1 at the age of 71.

Two other bishops were runners-up in the election on May 28 for the 51st occupant of the see of Turku. Second place on the slate went to Bishop Eero Lehtinen of Lapua with 131 votes, and third to Bishop Olavi Kares of Kuopio with 103.

Although the President usually appoints the man who received the most votes in the diocesan election, he is free to name either of the next two candidates.

Bishop Simojoki was chairman of the Finnish Committee on Arrangements for the LWF's Helsinki Assembly last year, and has been serving as chairman of the Finnish Lutheran Bishops' Conference.

Before becoming the first Lutheran Bishop of Helsinki, he was the spiritual head of the Diocese of Mikkeli, succeeding Bishop Sal-

the most-high God is willing to make me His temple and clothe me in the wondrous righteousness and purity of His beloved Son? When I think of these truths, and meditate on them, I truly thirst after His righteousness! I thirst and hunger that that righteousness might be eminently manifest in my life! I long to be like Jesus; to be dead to myself and alive unto God. And I praise Him who has given me the garments of His own righteousness and the desire to know Him more perfectly! "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!"

—Esther Farrier

Reprinted from *Blessed Are Ye*

ALL THINGS GOOD

It is good to be weary, for then we seek rest,
And we find it at last as we lean

on His breast.

It is well to be lonely, for thus we may prove

That this Savior can fill every void with His love.

It is good to be weak so that thus we may turn

To the Strong One for help, and His mightiness learn.

It is well if we find that the desert is drear,

It is thus we are taught that our home is not here.

It is good when our burdens are heavy to bear,

If they send us to Him and they drive us to prayer;

Every need is a boon, every sorrow is blest,

When it leads us to put His great love to the test.

—Anonymous

omies in that see when the latter was named Archbishop in 1951.

Born on Sept. 17, 1908, in Uusi-kaupunki, Martti Simojoki earned degrees of bachelor of divinity, master of arts and doctor of theology from the University of Helsinki. He was assistant to the professor of practical theology in the university from 1943 to 1950.

RETREATS?

During Easter vacation our area Free Lutheran churches held a retreat for high school seniors and college students at Battle Lake, Minnesota. We spent almost three days worshipping, studying, working and playing together. They were God's days and as a result of much working of the Spirit, we saw real victories for Him in lives. At least six young people accepted Christ as their personal Savior. Many Christians, dissatisfied with their unproductive spiritual lives, were led to a desire for more power for themselves and with unsaved people.

Was this retreat successful? I emphatically say "Yes!" What makes a retreat successful? I must say that, of the many retreats I have gone to in my high school and college years, this one stands far above the others. Was it because this one was sponsored by the AFLC? No, we have no "corner" on God.

The retreat was a success because these days were God's days. It was a success because there were young people and pastors who left themselves completely open for God. It was a success because of constant prayer on the part of many Christians.

A retreat in itself is nothing. Unless used by God, the days are unprofitably spent playing church and having a good time. But when those days are given to God and He is allowed to work His work in the lives there, *then* and only then will we see God bless our retreats for himself. And *then* we will be

able to expect young people to be saved and find out what the Christian life is all about as God himself speaks to them.

The retreat, just as the church service or anything else, unless filled with himself is counterfeit and it is playing around with God. The retreat can be dangerous without Him; not just because it becomes a time of fun only, but because the spiritual time is leading the young people away from God if it is not leading them to Him. We can shut out God's blessing simply by telling Him that we can handle the retreat because of competent dorm counselors and eloquent speakers, because we have had experience with retreats before and know pretty much what to expect.

When Christians in faith begin to pray for the retreat and tell God it's His to do with as He pleases and claim His promises for those days, God will begin to work. He must because He must remain true to himself; but better than this, He will answer prayer because He is a loving God who wills that all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

These same things hold true for the Bible camp, the Sunday school, the youth group, the individual life: as God himself is given complete control of the situation; as Christians come to Him in faith and sincerity asking that He use them; as He is allowed to give them all that He wants to give them of himself no matter what the cost; as Christians claim the promises He has given us (and they are there for that purpose) . . . THEN we will see young people and adults come to know the meaning of the verse "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin."

Seeing, then, the possibilities of a retreat used completely for Jesus Christ, can we settle for anything less?

See you at Bible camp.

Miss Pat Jacobson

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Resolution

That, the Executive Committee of the Steering Committee of Lutheran Laymen is asking by resolution for financial support of member congregations of the Free Lutheran Association for the Court hearing to be held July 14, 1964, at Valley City, North Dakota, to establish a precedent for the congregations with reference to merger.

Dated on the 10th day of June, 1964, at Valley City, North Dakota.

H. Morris Borstad
Karl Stendal
John B. Kleven
Steve DeVries
Leon P. Ohma
Lawrence Dahlgren

The above resolution was passed at the Annual Conference in Valley City. Contributions may be mailed to Mr. Lawrence Dahlgren at Lake Park, Minn.