

**T  
H  
E**

Vol. 8

March 31, 1970

No. 7

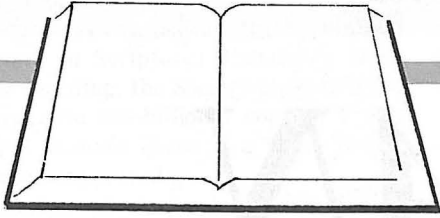
# ***LUTHERAN***

**A  
M  
B  
A  
S  
S  
A  
D  
O  
R**



**A SIGN OF THE SEASON**

RNS Photo



## *According to the Word*

### **“LOVEST THOU ME?” (John 21:16)**

Another Easter has come and gone, and the older we get the faster they come and go. How quickly time passes by!

In this message we want to deal with the meeting of Jesus and Peter by the seashore after Jesus arose from the dead. This incident occurred after the miraculous draught of fishes. While they were pulling their net into shore with all the fish, Jesus was preparing breakfast and bid them come to have breakfast with Him.

It was after breakfast that Jesus turned to Peter with the question, “Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?” Three times He came with the same question, except for one of the times when He added, “more than these?” Peter answered Him, “Thou knowest that I love Thee.” I am sure Peter could not help but be reminded of the three times he had denied his Lord. But it was a changed Peter now. Peter knew that as Jesus looked into his heart He would see that he loved Him. The Resurrection of Jesus had taken all fear out of the heart of Peter and he was willing now even to give his life for Him, which he later did, and in a most humble way.

After Peter had confessed his love for the Lord, Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.” I am sure it was a happy

Peter who was now forgiven and reinstated as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

The all-important question of Jesus to each one of us, then, is this, “Lovest thou me?” How much do you love me? Do you love me more than these? And by “more than these” He means all these things of the world. Are we willing to deny ourselves, take up the cross, and follow Him, and thus prove that we love Him? Abraham proved his love for God in that he was willing to sacrifice his son when God asked Him to do so, but when God saw that he was willing, He stopped him. We think of the many in the early history of the church who proved their love for Him by being willing to suffer persecution and martyrdom for Him rather than deny Him. And the time may not be far away when we may again be asked to do the same.

With the establishment of the great world church, and the great World Tribunal, or world bank, which will take over all the money in the world, then we know what choice we will have to make. We read in Rev. 13:17, “And no man might buy or sell save he that had the mark or the name of the Beast, or the number of his name.” Persecution lies ahead for those who would be true to the Lord Jesus Christ should the plans for the great World Tribunal materialize.

“Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou

me more than these?” We may not be asked to suffer martyrdom for Christ, and then again we may. But we are asked to love Him above all things, and the “more than these” means our loved ones and friends, our home and property, money and wealth, pleasure, occupation, etc. “Thou shalt fear, love, and trust in God above all things.” In Matt. 10: 37-39, Jesus tells us that if we love father or mother, or any of our loved ones more than Him, then we are not worthy of Him, and if we are not willing to take up the cross and follow Him, we are not worthy of Him. How faithful are we in witnessing for Him? So often when we have opportunity to speak a word for our Lord we are silent.

There are so many unsaved souls around about us and we talk to them about everything else except the Lord and their relationship to Him. In Mark 8:38, He tells us that if we are ashamed of Him, then He will also be ashamed of us, and He also says that if we will confess Him before men then He will also confess us before the Father. When Jesus meets us with the question, “Lovest thou me?” may we be able to answer as Peter did, “Thou knowest all things, thou knowest that I love Thee.”

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.

# To the Regions at Home

by

Wayne Pederson

Student, Free Lutheran Seminary

## I. The Problem

It has been well said that no man has the right to hear the Gospel twice until everyone has heard it once. Recognizing the importance of teaching and building up believers in the faith, Christians must guard against becoming so ingrown they forget their mission in reaching the lost world with the Gospel.

The American church has enjoyed a spiritual feast. In fact, our abundance has made us sluggish, overweight, and stupified. We have overministered to the church members, while failing miserably in using our time, attention and money to reach those who have never heard the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is vital to the very survival of the church that we awaken from our stupor and get a vision of the unreached fields white unto harvest.

In proper fulfillment of Christ's commission to preach the Gospel to every nation, the church has spent millions of dollars in sending missionaries to regions beyond the seas. Yet, in our much activity, we have failed to take the Gospel to the regions in our own community, on our own block, to the slum at the other end of town, to the hippie colony near the university, to the down-and-outs on Hennepin Avenue. We forget that Jesus told His disciples to preach first in Jerusalem, then to the uttermost parts of the earth. Missions must begin at home. There is now talk that Africa will be the Christian continent of the twenty-first century, sending her missionaries to America. American Christians have answered the call to foreign missions, but largely ignored and sometimes purposely shunned the needy souls within fifteen minutes of their homes.

Our churches contain people indifferent to the value of the Gospel. Our sated church people disregard the Gospel much as swine, indifferent to the value of pearls, trample the

jewels in the mud (Matt. 7:6). It is not that they have never heard. In fact, they have heard the Gospel so often they have become hardened to its power. Many a frustrated pastor preaches to deaf ears Sunday after Sunday. Many a pastor spoon-feeds his congregation while thousands outside the church starve spiritually. Many a short-sighted church concerns itself with non-essentials, neglecting the spiritually-needy of the community.

Why should a pastor continue to stuff indifferent people with religion, while those who have never heard the true claims of Christ remain unreached? This is the challenge that comes to me as I contemplate the work God has for me.

## II. The Neglect

We who call ourselves evangelicals have failed to do evangelism. We hold evangelistic meetings in our churches. Usually only the faithful members attend and hear the same message over again. Unfortunately, but perhaps understandably, those who need the Gospel are not there to hear. What we fail to see is that we cannot expect to reach the unchurched by confining our witness within the church walls. We cannot hoard the message within the sanctuary expecting the unchurched to beat a path to the church door to hear it. As was done in the first-century church, we must take the message to where the people are. Why not have evangelistic meetings in rented theaters downtown? As Leighton Ford said in his paper before the U.S. Congress on Evangelism, "Evangelism should always be of the church, but not always in it."

Although evangelism cannot be apart from the church, the church has become the obstacle to evangelism. Christian groups have become exclusive to the extent that they have lost their concern for the lost. Part of the problem is that Christians have too few unsaved friends. They restrict their social activities to Christian circles and have no opportunity to share

their faith with the unsaved. Instead of being the basis for drawing the unsaved into the church, Christian fellowship has restricted our outreach.

Christians have become like the Pharisees of Christ's day, who, upon seeing a known sinner, gathered their robes and turned away. They would have nothing to do with those who needed God's grace the most. Christians have reacted similarly to the rock crowd, the motorcycle crowd, the slum-dwellers, the hippies. For example, when we see a long-haired, bearded young man, do we love him as a person for whom Christ died, or do we immediately categorize him as an outcast and turn away in disgust and contempt?

Christ recognized the sinners' need of the Grace of God and earnestly sought rapport with them. As evidenced by His followers, He won thieves, murderers, prostitutes, and tax collectors for the Kingdom. Christians must get out of their ivory tower of neglect. They must be in the world, but not of the world. Christians cannot be isolationists. Their mission is to bear good news to the lost world for which Christ died.

## III. The Solution

According to Scripture, salvation through Christ is appropriated neither by the church, nor by the family, nor by the nation. Salvation is appropriated through Christ by individuals on an individual basis. Evangelism, too, is most effectively carried out on the person-to-person level.

Ours, however, is a mass-oriented age. Through constant propaganda bombardment by the mass media, man has grown immune to its persuasiveness. Man wants to be more than an object to be pawned by smooth salesmanship. He wants to be recognized for what he is—an individual. The ultimate source of human worth is contained in the Bible: God loves man and has placed man's sin upon His Son, Jesus Christ. The effectiveness of mass evangelism ends and that of the one-to-one



approach begins where individual Christians show concern and understanding for the personal salvation of another.

The pastor must first of all realize that his ministry is complete only when it includes personal encounters with individuals. His evangelistic program must include more than an evangelistic sermon each month and a week of special meetings every year. The pastor must visit the unreached where they are with the message of Christ.

However, it is both inadvisable and impossible for the pastor to do this mammoth task alone. On the contrary, the main task of the pastor is to motivate and teach his laymen to share their faith spontaneously in their everyday lives. It has been estimated from recent United States church statistics that it now takes six pastors and one thousand laymen to win one person to Christ in a single year. Quoting Carl F. H. Henry, "The basic crisis in evangelism is the fact that those who rightly know their responsibility for fulfilling the Lord's Great Commission are not actively doing so."

The basic problem is inward. People do not share Christ because Jesus Christ does not reign in their lives as Savior and Lord. Whether we evangelize or not is determined by our love for Christ and for those who do not know Him. We can train people who are motivated to share their faith, but no amount of training will help those who are not motivated by their love for Christ. People in our churches need an experience with Christ. The only way for a church to have an effective outreach to the unsaved in the community is for the spiritually-alive members to live and talk Christ. Again quoting Evangelist Leighton Ford:

"All of us, pastors, teachers, evangelists, and laymen, are going to have to understand that the church cannot afford to be made up of many spectators who pay and watch a few specialists do the work of evangelism. We pastors and evangelists must see that we are not to do all the work. We are coaches. Our job is to build an evangelistic team, starting with the leadership."

The church of the first century was spread by lay involvement. Today, the layman is still the key to evangelism. However, through the centuries, this responsibility has been relegated to the "professionals." This is not as it should be. We of the Association should be especially aware of the layman's importance in spreading the Gospel to the unsaved around him. If every Christian led one other person to Christ in a year, the world could be won for Christ in ten or twelve years. If the layman does not get involved, the Gospel will not get beyond the church walls.

Paul, in writing to Timothy, exhorted, "Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God. . . . For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord" (II Tim. 1:6-8). Human timidity and indifference have too long kept the Gospel of Christ from exerting its powerful effects on individual and collective lives. What good is it to possess the truth if we don't share God's revealed truth with others? Much will be required of Christians to whom so much has been given. Our greatest need is to surrender fully to Christ so that His love and power will be evident in our lives. "How can they believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how can they hear unless someone proclaims him?" (Rom. 10:14).

#### AN APPEAL FOR WORLD MISSIONS

**"All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name" Ps. 86:9.**

The Psalmist envisions a beautiful truth. Brazil is one of the nations, and we as an Association have a part in that work. The work is progressing with three families of missionaries now on the scene. The past year has seen a real enlargement in the progress of our mission work in Brazil with two families moving on to the field, the Knapps and the Dyruds, and one family, the Abels, returning. This has entailed an extra drain on our Mission treasury. Pastor Abel

returned in January for a three month tent evangelistic campaign and reports indicate a fine response from the field. All these efforts will entail an extra effort on the part of our people to commensurate the effort spiritually with a response financially. So the Mission Board makes this appeal to our people to make an extra effort to relieve the drain upon our treasury. Will you do your part? Thank you.

Rev. A. L. Hokonson, Vice President  
of the Mission Board

Ed. Note: See the article on page 11 by Pastor Abel to see what is being accomplished in Brazil.

#### BROOTEN CHURCH HAS CONCERT

About 180 people attended a concert given by Mr. Roy Hope and the Trebleairs of Minneapolis on March 8. Coffee was served by the Ladies Aid afterward.

The concert gave joy to the Christians, strengthening them, and the wonderful Gospel singing challenged others to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church was the sponsor of the concert. Many friends attended from the area.

—Dennis D. Gray



Winger, Minn.

April 5-9

Union Lake Lutheran Church

Forrest Swenson, pastor

Speaker: Ev. Clarence Haaland,

Gonvick, Minn.

Fargo, N. Dak.

April 16-19

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

John H. Abel, pastor

Speaker: Rev. Harry C. Molstre,

Valley City, N. Dak.

Sisseton and Roslyn, S. Dak.

April 19-23

Hope and Saron Lutheran Churches

Raynard Huglen, pastor

Speaker: Rev. Marvin Undseth,

Shevlin, Minn.



# Witness Within And Without

by Rev. Gary Skramstad, Kalispell, Montana

**“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”**

Hebrews 12:1-2

Another religious season has just come and gone. The various stores are again having their marked down sales on Easter candies and the other modern evidences of the movement of the church year. Yes, the Church also is now over with one of her busiest times of the year. The doors of many a church are again closed during the week. A host of respected church members can relax their attendance now that they have proven themselves to be really concerned with the Church and her Christ.

Is this the Christ that we worship in the churches of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations? God forbid! I can so well remember the late Rev. Fritjof Monseth reminding our seminary class last year that the power that brought the Christ of Easter from a cold tomb is the same power available for our lives here and now. When we read the last words of the four Gospels we see that the appearances of Christ after the Resurrection were being doubted or disbelieved by many who heard.

Our text is very fitting for us to ponder these days after the celebration of Easter within our congregations. I believe that many of our church members have again heard that Christ is risen from the dead but are living as though our Christ had been granted release from the will of His Heavenly Father. We are, indeed, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who have seen the Resurrection power of Christ evident in their

own lives. And still so many are unmoved by His love. Countless is the number of our people who are personally unaffected by Christ's victory over our final enemy.

If only the people who are led to read this article would believe that Jesus has come to do what He was announced to do, we would be a most blessed people. The prophet Amos continually reminds us that God despises vain and empty religious worship. He cares not to hear our beautiful Easter anthems one week and see an empty church the next. Neither does He care to see even faithful folk enter the house that bears His name week after week and depart without the presence of Christ in their hearts. If we care not to do God's work in His way we are just as well off not even trying. In John 6:29, Jesus answers the disciples' question of what to do that they might do the works of God by telling them to believe.

What are we to believe? First of all, let us believe God's Holy Word. Man's words and philosophies will come and go. God has promised us that His Word shall stand fast. Much has been said about the inerrancy of the Scriptures within our Lutheran Church. We have certainly come to an understanding that we accept, without reservation, that all Scripture is inspired of God. It is one thing to believe that God's Word must be respected and another to really believe that it is the sole authority for our life and salvation.

The words of the hymn written by Brun and translated by Smeby are often needed for a final admonition in our worship services. “How blest are they who hear God's Word, and keep and heed what they have heard.” Yes, secondly, God does not want you and me to believe that His Word is to be heeded by others and not ourselves. The first truth of Scripture that we need to grasp for ourselves is that we are completely separated

from God by the sin of our first parents. This gulf between man and God has oftentimes been overlooked. But how dare we overlook a separation with God for eternity? Man has tried desperately to please God at various times in history. But the Bible tells us that not only is there none righteous but that even our attempts to please God are as filthy rags before Him. Wait!! Didn't we hear something about a Christ who came to seek and to save the lost, during the hectic celebration of our modern Christmas? God wants us to believe that He loves us so much that He sent His only begotten Son into the world. This Christ of Christmas is not only the human child of Mary who shared the elements of mankind but the divine Son of God who could take all of our sins to the cross since He had none of His own to bear. Believe that Author and Finisher of our faith and be saved. His spirit will bear witness within ours that we are indeed the sons of God.

Thirdly, God wants us to believe that we are new creatures, if we believe that Christ has bridged the gulf between man and God. We are not to live in old sins and fears when we become children of God. The spirit of God will again witness within us by controlling our lives to become fruit-bearing. Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity, is the admonition of Scripture. The Catechism teaches us that there are three enemies that we must contend with in the church militant. They are the devil, the world, and our own flesh. Those who begin a sincere crusade against these three are soon to learn, and that right quickly, that Jesus says, “without me you can do nothing.” He means it. Our comfort must rest in I John 4:4, “Because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.” That's right! The same Christ Jesus who was risen from the grave on the third day lives within those who in-

vite Him to abide in their hearts.

Believers in the AFLC, why should we live as the defeated when the Victor is willing to live in our hearts? One of Aesop's fables tells us that there was once a man who had a huge sack of gold. This miser hid the gold in a hole by a tree in the garden. Every night he would look over his wealth, cover it again, and go to his meager house. One day he made his usual trip to the garden but soon discovered that his sack of gold was gone. A neighbor, hearing his lament, came quickly to see what troubled the poor neighbor. Upon learning that the gold was gone the neighbor gave this word of wisdom, "Wealth unused might as well not exist."

There is a lesson that many a Christian can learn from such a simple tale. We who profess to be the children of God oftentimes live like paupers. We are not found doing the work of God. That is, namely, believing Jesus. There is no reason why we should live as slaves to sin when the Bible promises to provide a way of escape with each temptation. The modern Christian can usually be found excusing his sin instead of resisting the devil and seeing him flee. The evangelical believers read the words of Scripture, "Cast your care upon Him, for He careth for you." Therefore, they pray to God about their problems, but rarely leave them with God. The promise that all things work together for good is maybe the hardest to really believe, especially during the onslaughts of the enemy.

Let us follow the examples of those who have gone before us. May the witness of the power of Christ within us be readily available for all who are without Him to see. Let us pray for open doors for the Gospel and then enter those doors in His strength. We are to be free from the guilt and bondage of sin. May each of us live as the redeemed children of God in the power of Christ's Resurrection and join the great cloud of witnesses.

If Christ could be raised again from the dead, He can certainly change you from a son of perdition to a child of God. Ask Christ to enter your heart and life today. Amen.

# Is There a Prowler in Your House?

Oscar C. Hanson

My mother and I were home alone on the farm. We had just blown out the kerosene lamp to retire for the night when Sport, the dog, began barking. His excitement increased steadily until he seemed vicious in his attempt to defend our front porch. It was very evident that someone, who thought that there was no one at home, was trying hard to get up on the steps. As a young boy I was very frightened and covered my head with the blanket. I recall how I reached over to take my mother's hand as I whispered, "I'm surely glad you are here, Mama." Gradually Sport simmered down to indicate that the prowler had given up and was leaving. Many times I have thought of those comforting words, "Surely glad you are here, Mama."

Today, prowlers are invading American homes not only to steal happiness, contentment and peace, but to wreck the marriage relationship completely. The American Institute of Family Relations says that more than 1,000 times every day, a judge somewhere in the U.S.A. announces the breakup of an American family with the words—"Divorce granted." This rate has obtained for nearly two decades. Basically the battle is spiritual, for "we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against powers, world rulers of darkness, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12). Our real enemy is the devil, the world and the flesh. Read Galatians 5:19-21, and you will see many causes listed that are given frequently for our divorces today. Our only safety against these prowlers is Jesus Christ. We can be secure only if we can say, "Surely glad you are here, Jesus."

In our modern day, this old spiritual enemy operates in the following ways:

1. **Things** become bigger!
2. **Love** becomes thinner!
3. **Christ** becomes smaller!

"Your adversary the devil prowls around—" (Peter 5:8). In devious

ways he is trying to invade even our Christian homes in our time of much pressure, speed and tension.

**THINGS BECOME BIGGER!** This prowler in the guise of **things** even invaded the homes of the Israelites as they loved and worshipped idols instead of the true God. From the TV, radio and newspaper advertising today, voices keep pounding away that you must secure more **things** and even a certain brand or you can never be happy. As a result, some things do not serve us but we serve things. They become so big and demand so much time, attention and love that I have little left even for the family. One mother said recently, "It is several weeks since our family has had occasion to talk together. Somebody is always going somewhere or some favorite TV program can't be interrupted." The following searchlight of questions can expose some of these modern prowlers:

1) Do you have a kitchen or does your kitchen have you? 2) Do you have a farm or does your farm have you? 3) Do you have a business or does your business have you? 4) Do you have TV or does TV have you?

**Things** get so big today that the order of importance gets all twisted. When this happens, jealousy, covetousness, envy, breed argument and tension shake the very foundation of our homes.

**LOVE BECOMES THINNER!** Homes cannot operate successfully without love. It is the cohesive ingredient that holds the home together. "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church." (Eph. 5:25-33). At the marriage altar, each pledged to the other a true faithful love "in good and evil days... so long as ye both shall live."

Love must be nurtured. It must be fed or it will die. Like piano playing, love must be practiced or you lose it. I believe many bridal couples experience real love on their wedding day, but often husband quits wooing wife, or vice versa, and gradually love gets

[Continued on page 8]

# MEET

---

# the

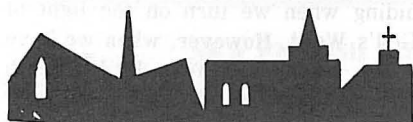
---

# Churches

---

# OF OUR

# FELLOWSHIP



Today: **BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Astoria, Ore.**

“Out of a prayer and longing, always present in the little circle of friends, to get the kind of church service that could nourish and develop the little spark of faith or spirit among us”—Bethany Lutheran Church of Astoria was formed. This Church is the farthest west of our Association churches. It lies almost within a stone’s throw of where the mighty Columbia meets the vast Pacific. Early pioneers and immigrants finding no satisfaction for their souls amid in the Lutheran church in Astoria—“The conversation was of the rawest kind, the peculiar thing about the Church union is that it works against the laymen’s work and that the Church and the minister take a stand against edifying prayer meetings more than they do against drinking and other forms of wickedness”—organized the Betania Lutheran Church of Astoria, Oct. 6, 1890. The group consisted of 37 persons.

To Dr. Georg Sverdrup went a letter signed by 25 persons requesting help in the church effort. A young man full of faith and promise, Hans Severin Olson, came in 1890, just out of Augsburg Seminary. His tenure of service was of short duration for at the age of 34, after two years of service to Bethany, he died of “consumption,” being the third name recorded in the burial records of the infant church.

Other pastors have been Peder

Steen, who built the existing parsonage, 1892-98 and 1918-31; C. S. Osterhus, 1898-1900; O. E. Haaheim, 1901-07; G. Blessum, who built the present pulpit, 1907-17; John Loland, 1931-34; James Tofte, 1935-46; Arthur Reesnes, 1947-50; Lars Stalsbroten, 1951-55; Hans J. Tollefson, 1955-64; and R. S. Persson, 1964—.

The congregation early learned that there is no blessing in the arm of flesh. In the early history of the church the basement was rented to a young men’s society. It had hoped that the group would be of financial benefit to the congregation and some thought that they could exercise a good influence by joining the society but the opposite was to result. The Word of God was scorned and ridiculed by this group in the basement of the church. But God intervened and sent a man to rebuke the congregation. The man, Brekhus, would speak to the congregation while in an unconscious condition—“after an attack of cramps, from which he became red as copper in his face, he fell away like a dead person and after a while he began to speak.” So read the the account in a letter of Andrew Lillenas written in 1895. “Often he prayed first—then read



Bethany Lutheran Church, with the parsonage in the background. The house was built in 1905 by Pastor Steen and later sold to the congregation.

(still unconscious) from Isaiah and told exactly where it was written.” He attacked the offending society, severely correcting the congregation for the caressing of the world and rebuking the preacher for his timid attitude towards the offending society. “What good does it do, if you preach up here in the church and get souls converted, as long as you allow the devil to sit underneath and bind nets and snares in which to capture these and bring them to sinful ways?” Such was the means God used to cleanse the church of its sin and shortcomings. The manifestation of God through the man Brekhus had the sanction and approval of all the ministers of the district. The high church people were recorded as being against such manifestations.

There were times of testing during the merger of the Lutheran Free Church and the American Lutheran

[Continued on page 13]



Ray S. Persson, pastor of Bethany, is from the old Augustana Lutheran Synod, as is his wife Doris, a former home mission, parish and National Lutheran Council worker. Pastor Persson attended the Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis, Minn., and Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill. He has served in the U.S. Navy and the Merchant Marine. For some time he was a tool and die maker and tool designer and part owner of a die making establishment in California. In Christian work, Mr. Persson served for a time with the Lutheran Mexican mission at San Antonio, Tex., and for ten years as a licensed lay pastor at International Falls and Loman, Minn., Ft. Frances, Ont., Hamill, S. Dak., and Buffalo, Wyo. The couple has two children, Paul and Pauline, both students at Association Free Lutheran Bible School.



[Continued from page 6]

thinner and thinner until it disappears. I have said to many couples, "Before you married this man, you didn't scold him at the door in a hard tone of voice when he came to see you because then you were wooing him, trying to win him." Likewise, "before you married this woman, you treated her with much kindness and consideration because you were wooing her." Something happens! Love becomes thinner and thinner and finally married life becomes a cold matter-of-fact partnership void of emotion. Then sex life degenerates into an animal experience. Any little disagreement causes tension, argument, an open battle. Paul gives us the real picture in I Corinthians 13 (The Great Love Chapter) when he says "Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful... Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful." (See I Cor. 13:4-7). When we lose our patience and become unkind, what's the trouble? Love is just getting too thin. A survey revealed that in a certain area in a certain period, the main cause for all divorces granted was irritability. This just means love has become too thin because "Love is not irritable." Husband and wife insist on their own ways because something has happened to their love.

Today in America we have the twisted idea that **things** and **love** are synonyms. Of course, this is not true. Mother, you may have the cookie jar full and be a good housekeeper and still not love your children. Dad, you may be a good provider and still not love your family. Love is an attitude of your heart. A teen-age girl was in deep trouble. I said "You have talked with your mother about this, haven't you?" "Oh, no," she said, "It wouldn't do any good." "Don't you think your mother cares for you? Isn't she good to you?" I asked. She replied, "My mother gives me more things than I need but, Pastor, it's her love I need and want, and I'm not getting it." A wife at the point of divorce from her husband (one of the leading couples in the community) said, "John gives me more things for my kitchen and home than I need but it is his love I want and I'm not getting it." The "proowler" even sneaks up on

good Christian homes where husbands and wives daily neglect to nurture their love as they seek to woo each other.

#### CHRIST BECOMES SMALLER!

This is the most tragic of all. Religious pictures and mottos may be in evidence in the home but there is little evidence of the actual presence of Christ. It is so true, as the little girl remarked, "If Jesus is in our house, I should think He would get very lonely because we never talk with Him." Christ becomes so small that He does not even rate a hearing. He may go unnoticed for several days as parents and children neglect their Bible reading and the prayer hour.

Many who read these words have beautiful memories of a **big Jesus** in their home. As a boy I knew that my own grandmother, Kari, had a big Christ. For hours she would read her Bible, meditate, pray, and sing and talk about Jesus. One hot morning as Jack was running up the stairs to get a drink of water he turned quickly to his playmate and said, "Ssh! be quiet! That door is closed!" His playmate replied, "Somebody sleeping?" "No," said Jack, "It's nine o'clock and Mom is praying." Jack knew that every morning at nine, his mother had her prayer hour. She had a big Jesus. A business man, deeply moved, said, "Every night when I was a boy in Norway, my mother came into my room, knelt by the foot of my bed and prayed with me. All my life I've walked in those prayers." This home too had a big Jesus.

If **Christ is big in your life, your Bible will be used much.** In this Book, Christ's presence and power becomes real. A business executive died suddenly. On the day of his funeral his daughter said, "Dad has been very good to me. He has given me a college education and much more. But the best and greatest he ever gave me was last week when he bought a new Bible and let me have his old one. This old Book is well-worn. He has marked many passages and written comments in the margins. This is the best gift he has ever given me." **What kind of Bible are you and I leaving for those who come after us?** Many young people even inside

the church are troubled like the college freshman who said "My Dad goes to church every Sunday but I never see him read the Bible nor do I ever hear him pray. I should think if he is a Christian, I would see him read the Bible at home at least once in a while. It would be easier to leave home if I knew for sure that Dad was a Christian. He never talks about Jesus Christ."

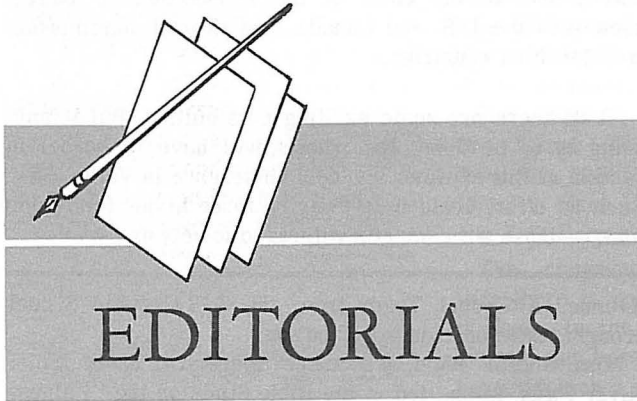
Do you recognize these evidences of the "proowler" in your home today? Some others may also be found in hiding when we turn on the light of God's Word. **However, when we have Jesus, we need not fear.** By His death and resurrection He has conquered every enemy. The **enemy** of DEATH often comes unexpectedly. "Advanced state of cancer and only a short time left," was the doctor's verdict. Yet the husband and daughter joined the sick mother to praise Christ who made "death to be gain," in heaven with **Him**. Many can talk about death but only **One Voice** has authority to talk to death and that is our risen Christ who was victorious over death. In His Name we can say, "O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?"... "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through out Lord Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 15:55-56).

Jesus does not force Himself into any heart or home. He just stands by the door of each heart and home, waiting to be invited. He says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me" (Rev. 3:20). When you invite Him and commit your life to Him, you can face any approach of the prowler, secure and unafraid. Then you too, can say in safety, "**I am surely glad you are here, Jesus.**"

Is there a prowler in your house? Turn on the strong light of God's Word so you can see and disperse him. Texts RSV

#### CORRECTION

In the notice of the death of Rev. E. A. Evenson (L.A., Feb. 17), it should have been stated that Pastor Evenson is survived by one son, in addition to his widow and one daughter. We regret this omission.



## NEW ENGLISH BIBLE

The latest development in the presentation of the Holy Scriptures in modern English is the publication in March of the Old Testament section of the New English Bible. The New Testament in that version was printed in 1961.

Some of us enjoyed reading the New Testament in that translation and look forward to going through the Old Testament this time in the New English Bible.

A few of the phrases in the NEB that attracted our attention in the New Testament are these (with the King James Version in the parentheses): "Whoever cares for his own safety is lost," Mk. 8:35 ("For whosoever will save his life shall lose it"); "Each day has troubles enough of its own," Matt. 6:34c ("Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof"); from the story of the Prodigal Son—"But while he was still a long way off his father saw him, and his heart went out to him," Lk. 15:20b ("But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion"); "Then you will be able to stand your ground when things are at their worst, to complete every task and still to stand," Eph. 6:13b ("That you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand"); "Thanks be to God for his gift beyond words," II Cor. 9:15 ("Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift").

With the appearance of the Old Testament, the New Testament portion has been somewhat revised over the past almost ten years, although all of the passages cited above remain the same.

As an example of a revision let us note this from the Christmas story in Luke 2. In the 1961 New Testament, in verse 6, we read, "She (Mary) was pregnant, and while they were there the time came for her child to be born." That passage, in the 1970 edition, has been changed to "She was expecting a child, and while they were there the time came for her baby to be born." That change, we will agree, is a fortunate one, making the account more beautiful.

Since we haven't read the Old Testament in the NEB yet, no real critique of it can be given. But we can take a look at a familiar passage in three different versions. Consider Psalm 103:17, 18:

In the NEB: "But the Lord's love never fails those who fear him; his righteousness never fails their sons and grandsons who listen to his voice and keep his cove-

nant, who remember his commandments and obey them."

In the KJV: "But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children. To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them."

In the RSV: "But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments."

Any reader of the New English Bible will find things he doesn't like as much as that to which he is accustomed. Nevertheless, he will realize that it is the Word of the Lord. Occasionally a word will be used that will sound strange to the ear and the reason for that is that this is after all a translation from England and a few words in usage there are seldom used over here.

There is a general rule that committee translations of the Bible are more reliable than those by individuals. The New English Bible is such a one and many American readers are going to look forward to reading, now, the entire Bible in this version.

## SHOULD WE CELEBRATE?

1972 will mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Lutheran Free Church. That church fellowship, progenitor, or forefather, of many of us, was the product of an emphasis on free and living congregations.

It grew out of a cluster of congregations loyal to Augsburg Seminary in Minneapolis which feared for the program and purpose of the school if the United Church gained control of it. Also, the leaders of Augsburg, Sven Oftedal and Georg Sverdrup, having come out of the State Church of Norway, feared the centralization and practises of that kind of polity and gave guidance to the establishing of a church which would be entirely congregational.

Thus it was that the **Fundamental Principles** drawn up to guide the church stressed the freedom of the local church, which, the **Principles** stated, is the correct form of the kingdom of God on earth.

But this is not meant to be a history of the LFC. The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, its ideological successor, is made up of people from other Lutheran backgrounds, too, but all attracted by the idea of free and living congregations. A concept, by the way, which many of them had cherished dearly, in their own right.

The thought occurs, might it not be a good idea to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the "free church" movement among Lutherans in the U.S. in 1972? No one else is going to do so unless we do. It would be an anniversary not so much of a church, for that would be difficult under the circumstances, as it would be the remembrance of an idea and a rededication to it.

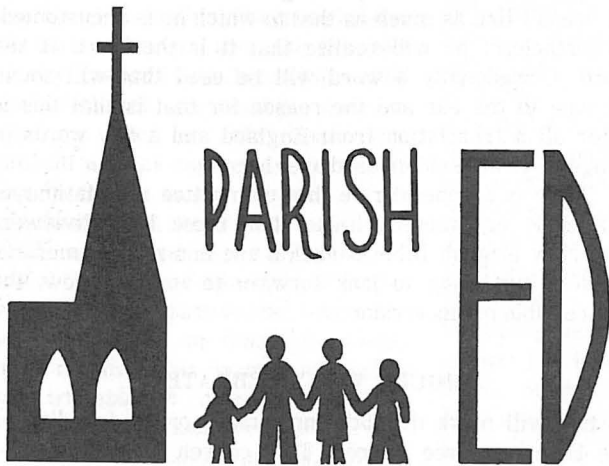
Possibilities for a year of observance would be the publication of certain historical material. Considerable work has been done in the past year on that, in the American Lutheran Church, and that doesn't have to be duplicated, but there is other literary effort that could be made. There are men available who could look at the history

of the "free church" movement also from the perspective of a good many years of personal experience and involvement.

It would be an advantageous time to gather the history of the AFLC together also (it will be the 10th anniversary of our church fellowship, too). There could be a reaffirmation of purpose in connection with the anniversary. Such a year-long observance would be a logical time for an emphasis on evangelism, a special appeal for funds,

and a look at the place of the Association in today's society in the U.S. and Canada, and through our mission work, in other countries.

Yes, there are some exciting possibilities. But if anything is to be done, the wheels will have to be set in motion at this summer's annual conference in Valley City. Such an effort could be a unifying force in our fellowship and, we trust, a meaningful witness to society as a whole.



#### PARISH ED WORKSHOP HELD IN MINNEAPOLIS

"Fulness of Joy" was the theme of the Minneapolis District Parish Education Workshop at the Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, on Saturday, March 7, 1970.

Mrs. Arvid Hokonson led in the morning devotions, from Revelation 19:1-16. We were welcomed by Mrs. Eldon Kennunen, Sunday School Superintendent from Morgan

Avenue. A Gospel Team from the AFLC Bible School brought testimonies in word and song.

Miss Judith Wold, executive secretary, from Thief River Falls, Minn., led in the Bible Study on the "Fulness of Joy," from Psalm 16:11.

We dismissed for a delicious noon luncheon served by the women of Morgan Avenue church. The afternoon session opened with devotions by Mrs. Alvin Grothe, reading from Philippians 4:4-9 and I Peter 1:1-11.

Mrs. Raymond Jacobson, president, conducted the business meeting. Officers for the coming year were elected: president, Mr. Robert Dietsche, Sand Creek, Wis., and secretary, Mrs. Wally Hanke, Wyoming, Minn.

Mrs. Laurel Udden, Minneapolis, spoke to us on Child Evangelism and Miss Wold presented us with the use of visual aids in our teaching. Rev. Heikkinen pronounced the benediction.

—Mrs. John Arlen Johnson

#### SPRING WORKSHOP SET FOR TIOGA CHURCH

A spring Parish Ed workshop will be held at Zion Lutheran Church in Tioga, N. Dak., on Sat., April 11. Registration will begin at 1:30 and the actual program will commence at 2 o'clock. The workshop is for the churches of the Eastern Montana-Western North Dakota district.

#### 95-YEAR-OLD ALC MISSIONARY DIES AFTER 71 YEARS IN JAPAN

Minneapolis—(LC)—Dr. J. M. T. Winther, 95-year-old clergyman of the American Lutheran Church, died March 3 in Japan, 71 years after he had gone there as a missionary, it was reported here by the ALC's Board of World Missions.

Born in Denmark in 1874, Dr. Winther came to the United States in 1896 and two years later left for his first mission assignment in Japan. For the first five years he served an independent mission group in Slesvig and Jutland, then transferred to the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which assumed his mission as its first foreign enterprise.

The UELC, now a part of the ALC, merged its work in Japan with the former United Lutheran Church in America in 1918 and Dr. Winther served under the ULCA until the outbreak of World War II.

His missionary career in Japan was interrupted twice, once between 1921 and 1927, when he returned to Denmark to serve a congregation, and again when World War II forced him to spend the years 1941 to 1950 in the United States. During this period he held pastorates in Shelby and Davenport, Iowa, where he retired in 1950.

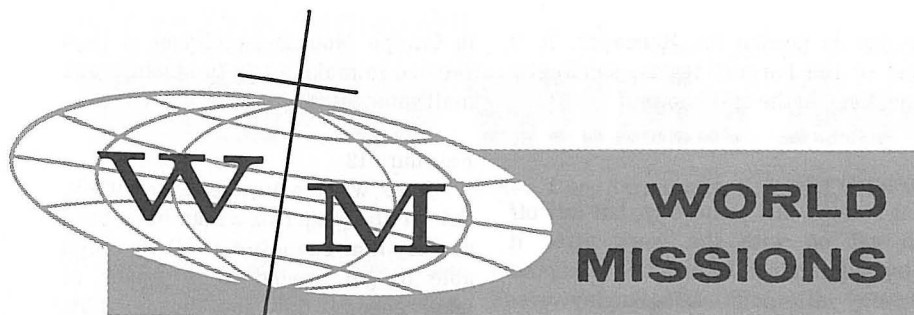
When Dr. Winther asked to return to Japan after the war at the age of 76, he was told he would have to do so "at his own risk and responsibility and resources." Although there was a limitation of 70 years as the top age of anyone returning to Japan, the late

General Douglas MacArthur, Japan's occupation governor, made an exception and granted him permission to return.

Dr. Winther helped to organize the Lutheran Bible Institute at Kobe in 1950 and taught a regular schedule of classes there until he passed his 90th birthday. The school is operated by the Norwegian Lutheran Mission in cooperation with other Lutheran groups.

In 1958, the veteran missionary had the unique distinction of being honored by two heads of state. King Frederick IX of Denmark conferred on him the Knight's Cross of the Order of Danebrog, and two months later he was decorated by Emperor Hirohito. That year also, a nationwide Japanese television network produced a 30-minute color documentary on the life and work of Dr. Winther.





## THE FIELDS ARE WHITE UNTO HARVEST

### EVANGELISM TRIP DIARY

John H. Abel

Editor's Note: In the following article Missionary Abel tells of further experiences in his recent trip on an evangelism mission to Brazil.

January 30

I am writing this on the bus from Roncador to Campo Mourao. I read an interesting poem in my devotions today, by Montgomery:

Lord Christ, we humbly ask  
Of Thee the power and will,  
With zeal and readiness of mind  
Each duty to fulfill.

Thought: "If a man really believes the Gospel, it will soon give him the go-spell."

I haven't written before this week and here it is already Friday. We've really been busy trying to get set up in Roncador. To take the tent down and pack everything in the truck in Alvorada was easy, but even so it was a hot job and took us all Monday morning. Then up and down those steep, rocky trails to Iretama. Those were the worst roads I've seen for a long time. The Lord was good to us in Alvorada. We prayed with 19 souls for salvation and left behind a national leader who is now looking for a place to rent for the beginning of their church there.

Monday, late afternoon and evening, we spent in Iretama. Manoel and Carlos got to spend the night at home and got some clothes washed. I was able to meet with our church leaders in Iretama and talk about their annual church meeting and the Association annual convention in Campo Mourao in February.

Arriving in Roncador Tuesday afternoon, we went to see the mayor and he showed us no small amount of kindness. We were able to set up our

tent on a nice grassy area beside the grade school, just off the city square. Across the street the local club gave us electricity and so we got to work setting up.

Wednesday was spent setting up. It was one of those very hot, muggy, January days, so things went slow, and no Christians to help. There is no evangelical work in this city and R.C. are strong here with three churches and a school. We decided to get our mast lumber at the sawmill and make bolts at the blacksmith shop and make our own masts, to avoid this problem in each city. The Lord blessed. The sawmill foreman was interested in our work and gave us six peroba planks and charged us only about a dollar for everything. We spent Wednesday and Thursday getting the masts made and up, and the tent hoisted. We all have callouses on our hands from swinging the big sledge hammer and pounding stakes. Thursday we visited most of the houses in town, played our loud-speaker and awaited results. About 50 people came, which we feel is very good for the first night in this hard town. Five stayed after for prayer, this was another victory.

I'm in Campo Mourao today to get a few things we need. The boys started DVBS with 12 children. I believe God will do a work for His glory in Roncador. Many are praying.

February 1

"The prayer of the upright is His delight."

Today is Sunday and it's quiet for us here in Roncador, because it has been raining hard all night. We had three meetings scheduled for the tent today, and I was to be in Santo Rei at noon for their Sunday School and bring a truckload here for our 3:30 afternoon service, but this has

fallen through because of the rain. I imagine the road and hills to Santo Rei are really slippery now.

Yesterday was an exciting day from start to finish around here. In the morning they had the installation of the new mayor. I took my two cameras and went to the doings at the town hall. Claudio Sileiro Pinto, the rich lumber man from Campo Mourao, who rented us our first meeting-place in Campo Mourao, was guest of honor. He still owns half the town there. I took a polaroid shot of him and some of the councilmen and gave it to him, and he was very pleased. I took another polaroid picture of the new mayor and vice-mayor and gave it to the mayor. We were then invited to the big barbeque. The whole town closed up for this. It was good we got invited or I don't know where we would have eaten. I met a number of important people in Roncador's society and had a seat alongside of Claudio Pinto and his wife.

For the evening (Sat.) a big dance was scheduled right across the street from our tent in the club that is furnishing electricity for us. The boys were worried about this, but I told them this is just what we need, lots of visitors and propaganda. Pastor Vitor and Nair were scheduled to bring some men from Campo Mourao to help and give their testimonies Saturday evening. They arrived in the late afternoon. With them were Sr. Raimundo, Sr. Adao and Sr. Jair.

I had visited with a soldier of the police force at the town hall and told him I would appreciate a special watch over the tent after 11:00 p.m., as the dance could produce a few drunks and fights, and our tent with equipment is worth about 6 million cruzeiros. I told him he could get his family dressed up Sunday afternoon and I'd come over and take a polaroid picture of them and give it to them.

We almost lost our lights for the evening service. In the late afternoon the secretary of the town council and the treasurer of the club came storming into the tent. They were mad about our electrical hook-up. I believe the priest had been after them and several others as the police sergeant told me today that the priest was threatening to kick several families out of the church for helping us. Any-

way, the boys sent the secretary over to see me, across the road. I was washing my feet. He gave his little speech, then I said something like this: "Olha Amigo, I've already spoken to the mayor and the president of the club and they have given their permission. I could go to Campo Mourao and ask the electric company for a direct hook-up, but this could delay several days. Also, I have promised to pay your entire bill for the month and we are using only for lights and the 'alto-falante' for four days."

They calmed down and went away quietly. Then the club bartender came later. We get our hook-up off of his bar and he wanted to shut us off, so I had to go through the same thing with him, but the Lord took care of all and we had our biggest and best meeting so far. Raimundo gave his testimony, so did Adao and Jairo, then Nair told a good story. She is a real evangelist. Pastor Vitor presented the message and I gave the invitation. We prayed with 11 that night. There were as many outside the tent looking in and listening as there were on the inside. We closed about 10 and the dance was just getting going, really noisy and lots of "cabouclos" (farm hands).

I had the tent well closed up and the two boys slept inside while I slept in the truck. I prayed that the Lord would send a good rain to spoil the dance and send everyone home. But the stars were shining brightly. However, about midnight a good wind came up and soon it was raining gloriously.

I went to sleep shortly after, but the boys said that about 3 a.m., a big fight came off. Three brothers were going to kill the police sergeant. He was talking about it at breakfast in the hotel today. He said he has given them until Wednesday to get out of the town or they or he will go out dead. So we see the fruits of the dance. I was glad they didn't start shooting last night because we don't want our tent full of bullet holes, nor do we want to see someone die unnecessarily.

Tomorrow will be our last day here. We trust that we may find a way to help the new Christians continue to meet and grow spiritually. Much

prayer is needed for Roncador. It is one of the hardest towns, spiritually speaking, in the entire state.

February 2

I started this yesterday, but left off to get on with the work after it stopped raining. Attendance was poor Sunday afternoon, but Sunday evening was good. The club across the road was showing a film at 9:00. We had our service and film starting at 8. They played their loudspeaker for the film and we played hymns on ours, so you could listen to both types of music at the same time. The tent was about half-filled, but they were spiritually hungry and interested people. There were 18 who stayed for prayer in response to the invitation. So we have much to rejoice in. Your prayers and that of many brethren are being abundantly answered by the Lord.

We've now prayed with 40 people, inviting Christ to come into their hearts and lives and to forgive their sins. Today I went to see the new mayor and the president of the club to see if they would rent the club for our group to use on Sunday afternoons. They seemed favorable and will take it up at the meeting of the directors that they are having this week. This could be the start of our Free Lutheran church in Roncador. We pray that He who has begun a good work in the hearts of the people will perfect it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:6).

I'm now continuing this letter from Maringa before I mail it. We arrived from Roncador about noon yesterday. One of the men we prayed with on Sunday evening has spent 30 years with a big circus. He and a few others were on hand to help us take the tent down after services late Sunday evening. When we got the big top down and rolled up to prevent it from getting wet if it rained, we went to bed. About 5 we were up in the cool of the morning and finished packing the truck. I went around and said goodbye to some of the key people in town, like the mayor, and told them I would be back in a couple of weeks to find out what they had decided about renting the club building to us. The old truck ran well on the entire trip and we were

in Campo Mourao for dinner. I then decided to make a trip to Maringa and mail some letters.

February 12

I have written two letters a week, but for the past two weeks have been so busy that one letter is all I've been able to get around to. I preach at least once a day and during Bible camp and our Annual Conference here twice a day.

We had a real fine first Bible camp here at the Bible Institute. About 30 young people took part. Would have been more, but it rained hard on the opening days of Saturday and Sunday, so no one got in from Herveira or Santo Rei. A good spirit was evident. The Knapp boys had just returned from Word of Life camp in Sao Paulo so they had a lot of good ideas to share with all of us.

We have started the Annual Conference and this Sunday will have the dedication of the Igreja Central (center church) in Campo Mourao, which now has its ceiling and floor completed and a new paint job.

Next week we start on our tent campaign in Goiere, and then a couple of weeks in Umuarama, then Sao Paulo for a few days, and home, so time will go fast.

Continue to pray that the Lord will use me as well as the other missionaries to challenge our churches to get to work as individual members and consecrate their lives to living and witnessing for Christ, and to realize that the future of their church depends on them alone and their consecration to Christ.

The expenses for this tent mission have been met in various ways. We are thankful for the Lord's provision for our needs from day to day and trust that all the needs for this work will be met.

Thank you again for your prayers and support.

---

## PERSONALITIES

Senior seminarian Stephen Odegaard has accepted a call to be the pastor of the Hatton, N. Dak., parish (Zoar, Valley and Ny Stavanger) following his ordination in June.

[Continued from page 7]

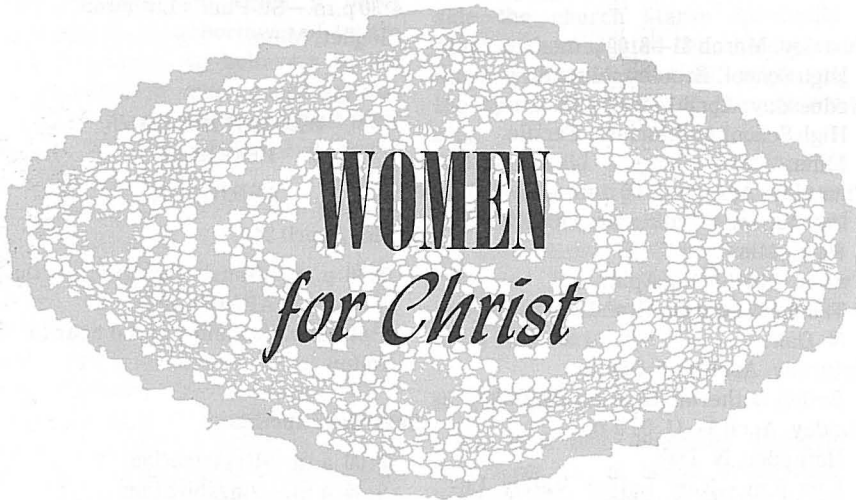
Church. But the Lord has seen the congregation safely through until this day. "If it had not been that the Lord was on our side, when men rose up against us—our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth" (from Ps. 124). The congregation was organized under the United Church, affiliated with the LFC in

1899 and the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations in 1969. For several years previous it was independent, although cooperating with the AFLC.

During Christmas 1888, Dwight L. Moody held some meetings in Astoria and it seems that some of the people of the congregation yet-to-be-formed were revived as a result of those meetings.

The present Bethany Church, at 34th and Franklin, was built in 1893. Prior to that the congregation met in a hall. Currently, there is a building fund, with a view toward constructing a new church when the relocation of the highway is determined.

Miss Mary Wahl, presently serving as parish secretary at Central Lutheran Church (ALC) in Tacoma, Wash., is from Bethany.



#### THE NEWNESS OF SPRING

**Mrs. Robert Dietsche**  
Sand Creek, Wisconsin

As spring returns to us again, our thoughts naturally turn to the newness of life in God's creation. We see the grass that was so brown last fall come forth as a new carpet of beautiful green. The trees which have been so brown and stark against the winter horizon spring forth in an abundance of new leaves. Even the little daffodil bravely pushes its head through the ground to blossom in golden splendor. In these and many other ways we are reminded that the time of planting is upon us again.

As women we know that if we are going to have tangible results from our gardens, we must first plant the seed. This seed must be planted in the ground to die. Then, and only then, can it be born anew and bear fruit. In John 12:24, we read, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a grain of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." Dear friends, is this not much more im-

portant in our spiritual lives? As wives and mothers, as workers in God's Kingdom, whatever capacity we may serve in, we must daily die to self if we are to bear fruit for our Master.

In Ecclesiastes 11:6, we are told, "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good." The Lord exhorts us in this verse to labor early and late, when we are young and when we are old, in sunshine and under clouds. Both the unpromising and the promising sowing may bear good fruit in others. How often we hear people say that there is no use to continue on with this work or with trying to help someone because there does not seem to be any result from it. Let us remember what Paul tells us in I Corinthians 3:6-7, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planted anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase." God only holds us responsible for being faithful in the tasks he has

given us, using the talents he has given us. The results are His.

Let us look to our mighty God for the help and wisdom we need to carry on this mighty task he has given us throughout this coming year. They tell us that the Bad Lands of California can be a very dismal place. Much of the year one cannot even find a single blade of green grass. However, if you were to visit the desert in the springtime, you would hardly be able to believe your eyes. During this brief growing period things burst into bloom that is incomparable. One writer describes it this way, "You can drive through desert vistas where the extravaganza of flowers and plants and blooms roll right out to the horizons." How beautiful this must be but how much more beautiful when one has been freed from the darkness of sin and there is springtime in the soul. How wonderful it is as a Christian to know that this is not only for a short a period of time as springtime in the desert, but that it can last forever if we nourish our souls on God's Word and prayer. Let us allow Christ to be the gardener of our soul. Let us plant in the garden of our soul such seeds as trust, comfort, courage, helpfulness, and faith, and let us let these seeds mature and blossom during all the seasons of the year.

"I looked all about me one day at the newness of the spring,  
I saw new life spring forth around me—but what about within?  
What about within the heart where Christ my Savior dwells,  
Had it become all cluttered up with things outside His Will?  
Had other things so filled it up, my Lord no more could say,  
That He was master of my heart and in my heart held sway?  
I knelt in prayer before my Lord and asked him to forgive,



Forgive my foolish, self-willed ways, in my heart once more live.

I looked all about me one day at the newness of the spring, I saw new life spring forth around me and also now within."

**DATES ANNOUNCED FOR MINNEAPOLIS DISTRICT WMF RALLY**

The Spring Rally of the Minneapolis District Women's Missionary Federation will meet at Willmar, Minnesota, Zion Lutheran Church, with Hubert F. DeBoer, pastor, on April 18. Coffee will be served during the registration period which begins at 9:30. The meeting will begin at 10:15. Pastor Amos Dyrud, teacher in our Bible School, will be the guest speaker. Plan now to attend this meeting on Saturday, April 18, to receive the blessings the Lord has for you!

Mrs. Irvin Hodnefield, Secretary

**EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA SETS WMF RALLY DATE**

The Spring Rally of the Women's Missionary Federation of the Eastern North Dakota District of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will be held in the Bethany Lutheran Church, five miles west and five miles north of Edmore, N. Dak., on Saturday, May 2, 1970.

Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. Mrs. Melvin Walla, WMF president, will be the afternoon speaker. Bethany Ladies Aid will serve the lunches and dinner.

Mrs. Donald Jacobson, Secretary

**BIBLE CAMP LEADERS, HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN SOMETHING?**

Response to our request for information from the Bible Camps of our church has been poor. We would like to have pertinent information about your plans for the summer of 1970 so that this information can be shared with the whole church fellowship in one spring issue of the *Ambassador*. Please forward information about your camp to the Editor at once. Send us data such as the dates of your camp, faculty, cost, age group you serve, the dean, etc.

Thank you.



**SPRING CHOIR TOUR, MARCH 31-APRIL 9, 1970**

- Tuesday, March 31—8:00 p.m.  
High School, Brooten, Minn.
- Wednesday, April 1—8:00 p.m.  
High School Auditorium, Fertile, Minn.
- Thursday, April 2—8:00 p.m.  
Our Savior's Lutheran, Thief River Falls, Minn.
- Friday, April 3—7:30 p.m.  
Trinity Lutheran, Grand Forks, N. Dak.
- Saturday, April 4—8:00 p.m.  
Bethel Lutheran, Grafton, N. Dak.
- Sunday, April 5—11:00 a.m.  
Hampden, N. Dak.  
8:00 p.m.—New Luther Valley Lutheran, McVile, N. Dak.
- Monday, April 6—7:30 p.m.  
Grace Lutheran, Valley City, N. Dak.
- Tuesday, April 7—8:00 p.m.  
St. Paul's Lutheran, Fargo, N. Dak.
- Wednesday, April 8—8:00 p.m.  
High School Auditorium, Abercrombie, N. Dak.
- Thursday, April 9—8:00 p.m.  
Green Lake Lutheran, Spicer, Minn.
- Saturday, April 18—8:00 p.m.  
High School Auditorium, Ashland, Wis.

Sunday, April 19—10:30 a.m.  
St. Stephen Lutheran, Duluth, Minn.  
4:30 p.m.—St. Paul's Lutheran, Cloquet, Minn.

**PROMOTION DAYS PROGRAM**

**APRIL 24-25**

**Friday, April 24**

**7:30 p.m.—Home Concert for the AFLBS Choir**  
**Refreshments and a social hour to follow**

**Saturday, April 25**

- 9:00 a.m.—Registration
- 9:45 a.m.—Singspiration
- 10:30 a.m.—Bible Study—"God's Will for My Life"  
Pastor L. Udden
- 11:15 a.m.—Question Period  
Panel, AFLBS Faculty
- Noon Luncheon
- 1:15 p.m.—Basketball game  
AFLBS versus "Prospects"
- 5:30 p.m.—Dinner
- 7:30 p.m.—Youth Rally  
Speaker  
Music

**TREASURER'S PROGRESS REPORT**

**February 1-28, 1970**

	<b>Proposed Yearly Budget</b>	<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>Total Received</b>
General Fund	\$40,500.00	\$3,375.00	\$1,389.73
Schools	59,000.00	4,916.67	1,343.50
Foreign Missions	35,500.00	2,958.33	1,434.09
Home Missions	25,000.00	2,083.33	584.40
Praise Program	15,000.00	1,250.00	540.00
	<b>\$175,000.00</b>	<b>\$14,583.33</b>	<b>\$5,291.72</b>
Special Pension Fund	\$32.75		

# CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

## PRESIDENT'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY NOTED

St. Louis—More than 500 persons joined the board of directors of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod at a thanksgiving service and banquet here observing church president Dr. Jacob A. O. Preus's 25th anniversary of ordination into the ministry.

Dr. Oswald C. J. Hoffmann, Lutheran Hour speaker and newly elected president of the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A., addressed the banquet.

People distrust the church, he said, because they're not sure the leadership has a grip on something real. The real gifts of God are people, not slogans, he said. He urged patience in waiting for the unfolding of God's plan that "every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord."

Dr. Roland P. Wiederaenders, the

church's first vice president, preached at the thanksgiving service preceding the banquet.

He noted that election to the church's presidency last summer forced Dr. Preus to make painful adjustments within a few days, face vexing problems, and cope with misunderstanding. It exposed him to criticism, accusations, and judgments.

"All these experiences," Dr. Wiederaenders said, "have inflicted wounds and left scars. However, as long as these wounds and scars are received in humble submission to... your Master, they are not ugly blemishes. Rather, they are marks of beauty, marks of the Lord Jesus."

Officials at the anniversary service were the Rev. Gerhardt E. Nitz, a member of the church's board of directors and pastor of host Grace Chapel where the Preus family holds membership, and the Rev. Herman

C. Schere, president of the church's Missouri District.

## LUTHERAN WRITER MARKS 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

St. Louis—The beginning of the '70's marks the golden anniversary of service in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod for Gerald L. Wind, 73, teacher, playwright, and novelist.

A 1920 graduate of Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Ill., Wind began his teaching career at Concordia Lutheran School, Louisville, Ky.

## SCRIPTURE DISTRIBUTION UP 47.6% IN U.S. LAST YEAR, SOCIETY REPORTS

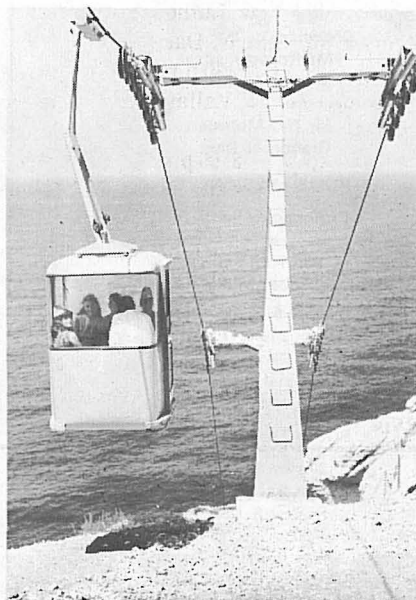
New York—Scripture distribution in the United States by the American Bible Society in 1969 rose 47.6 per cent to a total of 76,216,553 copies, it was announced here.

The record figure includes 660,250 complete Bibles, 6, 876,794 New Testaments, 8,063,216 Portions (one or more books of the Bible), and 60,240,150 Selections (less than a Book of Bible), said the Rev. Dr. James Z. Nettinga, executive secretary of the Society's National Distribution Department.

Also included in the total, he said, are 369,671 Talking Bible records and tapes for the blind and persons with impaired vision and 6,472 Braille volumes.

Scripture donations to the Armed Forces, said Dr. Nettinga, were up 3.3 per cent, totaling 2,224,844 copies, passing the 2-million mark for the second year in a row since World War II. The Society has been providing Scriptures free to all armed services personnel through the chaplains since 1817, the year after its founding.

In contrast to a reported decline of 26 per cent in commercial Bible publisher's sales over the past 10 years, the American Bible Society continued its upward spiral. In an expansion cycle with increases each year since 1958, the Society reported



## GROTTOES OF PHOENICIA NEW ISRAEL TOURIST ATTRACTION

ROSH HANIKRA, ISRAEL. The Grottos of Phoenicia, an ancient element in the landscape of the Holy Land, are enjoying a contemporary popularity as a result of the construction of a recently inaugurated cable railway. The railway makes the descent to the previously inaccessible grottos in a matter of minutes.

The illuminated grottos have been carved out of the soft white chalk cliffs by the Mediterranean tides. The sparkling sea offers a continuous display of green, blue and black; but it is at night when the illumination has the greatest affect.

Interest in the grottos has been so great that the sponsors of the project, the settlements of the Rosh Hanikra area, are already planning to double the capacity of the railway.

The grottos are located near the Israel border with Lebanon. Travellers can stay at nearby Kibbutz Guest Houses, camping grounds and Youth Hostels or in the cities of Nahariya, Acre or Haifa.

its recent annual U.S. distribution as follows:

YEAR	SCRIPTURES
1969	76,216,553
1968	51,642,211
1967	43,941,553
1966	38,981,620
1965	25,953,888

The figure for 1958 was 9,188,978 Scriptures.

Last year, passing the one-billion mark in Scriptures distributed since its founding, the Society presented the symbolic one-billionth copy to President Richard Nixon in a White House ceremony last May.

Increased demand for the Scriptures is rooted primarily in their wider use in evangelism—especially Portions and Selections—by churches and other groups for state and local area campaigns, said Dr. Nettinga. Even individual volunteers, many of them businessmen whom the Society regards as “Bible missionaries,” ac-

count for sizable quantities distributed in their respective areas.

### BIBLE SCHOOL GROUP AT SUNBURG CHURCH

Pastor Laurel Udden spoke at the Sunburg Free Lutheran Church on Sunday, February 8, at 3:00 p.m. Several Bible School students sang, gave their testimonies and conducted the meeting.

Besides representatives from the four congregations of the Our Savior's Lutheran Parish, the Green Lake Lutheran Church of Spicer; the Zion Lutheran Church of Willmar and the Faith Lutheran of Granite Falls and the First English Lutheran Churches were present.

A lunch was served in the Sunburg Church Parish Hall afterward. The church was nearly full for the service.

—Dennis Gray

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR  
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minn. 55427

Second-class postage  
paid at Minneapolis, Minn.

## Directory of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

### OFFICERS

#### President

Rev. John P. Strand  
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minn.

#### Vice-President

Rev. R. Snipstead  
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minn.

#### Secretary

Rev. Robert Rieth  
11611 N. E. 140th St.  
Kirkland, Wash.

#### Business Administrator

Mr. Donald Hansen  
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minn.

### CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

#### Chairman

Rev. Julius Hermunslie  
832 W. Stanton Ave.  
Fergus Falls, Minn.

#### Secretary

Mr. Sheldon Mortrud  
715 S. Tindolph Ave.  
Thief River Falls, Minn.

### ASSOCIATION SCHOOLS

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

#### President

Rev. E. J. Langness  
McVille, N. Dak.

#### Secretary

Rev. Raynard Huglen  
Roslyn, S. Dak.

#### Acting Dean of Free Lutheran Seminary

Dr. Iver Olson  
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minn.

#### Dean of the Bible School

Rev. R. Snipstead  
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minn.

### WORLD MISSIONS

#### Chairman

Mr. Robert Knutson  
McVille, N. Dak.

#### Secretary

Mr. Roy Mohagen  
Grafton, N. Dak.

### HOME MISSIONS

#### Chairman

Rev. Herbert L. Franz  
106 10th St.  
Cloquet, Minn.

#### Secretary

Rev. Hubert F. DeBoer  
613 Ann St.  
Willmar, Minn.

### PUBLICATIONS AND PARISH EDUCATION

#### Chairman

Rev. Raynard Huglen  
Roslyn, S. Dak.

#### Secretary

Mrs. Vernon R. Nelson  
1909 11th Ave. N.  
Grand Forks, N. Dak.

#### Executive Secretary

Miss Judith Wold  
324 N. Arnold  
Thief River Falls, Minn.

### STEWARDSHIP

#### Chairman

Dr. Iver Olson  
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minn.

#### Secretary

Rev. T. F. Dahle  
Spicer, Minn.

### YOUTH BOARD

#### Chairman

Mr. Sheldon Mortrud  
715 S. Tindolph Ave.  
Thief River Falls, Minn.

### Secretary

Mr. Gordon Johnson  
1924 4th Ave. N.  
Grand Forks, N. Dak.

### BOARD OF PENSIONS

#### President

Mr. Eldor Sorkness  
Sand Creek, Wis.

#### Secretary

Rev. G. H. Spletstoesser  
Pine River, Minn.

### WOMEN'S MISSIONARY FEDERATION

#### President

Mrs. Melvin Walla  
404 Kendal Ave. S.  
Thief River Falls, Minn.

#### Secretary

Mrs. H. C. Molstre  
1033 S. W. 5th St.  
Valley City, N. Dak.

#### Treasurer

Mrs. J. C. Eletson  
2130 East Superior St.  
Duluth, Minn.

#### Executive Secretary

Miss Judith Wold  
324 N. Arnold  
Thief River Falls, Minn.

### LUTHERAN LEAGUE FEDERATION

#### President

Rev. David C. Molstre  
1210 Chestnut St.  
Grand Forks, N. Dak.

#### Secretary

Miss Peggy Soyring  
Cloquet, Minn.

#### Treasurer

Mr. Kenneth Moland  
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minn.