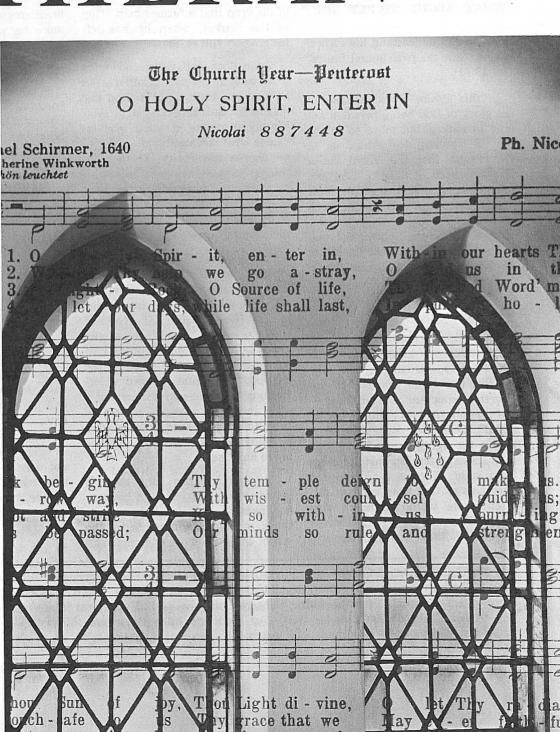
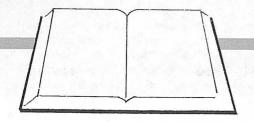
LUTHERAN





According to the Word

WHAT ABOUT SECRET SIN?

"Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults" (Ps. 19:12).

In this Psalm David speaks of the glory of God being revealed not only in nature, but more so in the holy Scriptures. He shows us in this Psalm that the Word, as it is a rule both of duty to God and of our expectation from Him, is of much greater use and benefit to us than day or night, than the air we breathe, or the light of the sun. After he has shown how the Word of God can enrich one's soul, David asks the searching question, "Who can know his errors?" Can we really?

A London preacher once said, "When you are tempted to judge sin leniently, excusing it, and saying that it does not matter, remember that sins are like icebergs—the greater part of them is out of sight!" Scientists say that only about one-eighth of an iceberg is seen above water. The rest is hidden from sight. If only we could see ourselves as God sees us, how differently we would think of ourselves. The sins we see and confess are surely like the small samples

of his crop that a farmer may bring to the market, when he has left his granary full at home.

Satan does not object too much if we look at the sins of others, but he does not want us to look at our own sins. But here David is talking about errors, a word that includes the unintentional sins of which we are guilty. It includes things that may not even be known by the person himself because they have been committed unconsciously. Surely, who of us can understand the error of his ways?

God understands us, and knows all about us. God has given us His law by which we might know our sin. "By the law is the knowledge of sin" (Rom. 3: 20b). The child of God experiences enlightenment and needs daily the corection of the law. As the child of God sees in the mirror of perfection, his own imperfections, he comes to understand a little more his errors. All of us, even the most pious, have errors, or hidden faults, but we should not try to hide them.

The only reason any man is elated with a conviction of his own goodness is that he has no just sense of the requirements of the law of God. The more one reads and

meditates on the law of God, the more he will be convinced of the extent of his own depravity. He best knows himself who knows the Word. In his later years Augustine wrote a series of Retractions; ours might make a library if we had enough grace to be convinced of our mistakes, and be willing to confess them.

David did not only desire to know his hidden faults, but he desired to be cleansed of them. How good it is to know that there is pardon and cleansing for all sin. It was for himself that David prayed. "Cleanse thou me." We too need to pray less about the sins of others and more about our own. We need to ask the Lord to deal with our secret sins, of which there are so many. For only when we see our sins do we begin to realize the riches of saving grace. Until we have learned to read our Bibles and pray in this personal way, we have yet to enter in upon the transforming power that God wants to exert upon our lives. But let us not dare to pray to God, "Cleanse thou me from secret faults," unless we are willing to have Him obliterate even our most hidden and darling sins.

-R. Snipstead

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WELCOME TO THIEF RIVER FALLS

FROM OUR CHURCH PRESIDENT:

"Our Precious Faith!" This is the theme of the Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations meeting in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, June 8–12. Our faith is precious. Our faith is under attack today. We meet to undergird our convictions and thinking concerning free and living congregations.

Welcome to our Conference. We hope that folks from every congregation in the Association will attend. Come praying. Come looking forward to the rich fellowship awaiting. May God give us a blessed

Conference.

Pastor John P. Strand
President
Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

FROM THE HOST PASTOR:

Time passes swiftly. It is about four years since what is now called the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations met in Thief River Falls for the first time. I think that that was a good and spiritual convention. Many things have happened since then, some good, some not so good.

The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations is again to meet in Thief River Falls. Will this one be a good and Spirit-filled convention? I know that God wants it to be so, and He is able to make it such if you of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations permit Him to have His will.

Therefore, it seems to me that there needs to be a deep soul-searching as you return to Bethel, or more correctly, to God (Gen. 28: 10–22; 35:1–8). It is so easy to say, "We have made many mistakes," but it is harder to admit, "We have sinned." There may have been pride, envy, deceit, falsehood, compromise, division, lukewarmness, self, etc. (I Cor. 1:11–31).

As you know, my time as regular pastor terminates June 1, 1966. I will, however, continue to serve as interim pastor until Our Savior's Lutheran Parish can secure another pastor or until winter sets in. In this capacity and with a conviction that there needs to be confession, repentance of sin, and prayer, I wish you all a hearty welcome in Jesus' name.

Pastor Marius Haakenstad Our Savior's Lutheran Church

ASSOCIATION BIBLE SCHOOL WILL OPEN THIS FALL

In a joint meeting on Monday, May 16, the Board of Trustees of Free Lutheran Seminary and the Co-ordinating Committee of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations voted to open a Bible school this fall at the Headquarters-Seminary building, Minneapolis, Minn.

Registration will take place on Saturday, Sept. 10, and classes will begin on Monday, Sept. 12. The seminary will follow the same schedule.

Details concerning the Bible school will be released later, but preliminary contact can be made now and inquiries should be addressed to

Rev. John Strand 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd. Minneapolis, Minnesota 55427

The full course offered will cover two years' study.

It is hoped that group housing can be secured for the girl students, at least, and negotiations are being made for such facilities in downtown Minneapolis on a temporary basis.

Pray with us for this venture of faith. Encourage students to enroll. Consider attending the Association Bible school yourself.

"And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God" (Eph. 5:2).

"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?" (Luke 11:13).

THE TIME FOR PRAYER

When is the time for prayer? With the first beams that light the morning sky.

Ere for the toils of day thou dost prepare,

Lift up thy thoughts on high;

Commend thy loved ones to his watchful care

Morn is the time for prayer!

And in the noontide hour,

If worn by toil or by sad care oppressed,

Then unto God thy spirit's sorrows pour,

And he will give thee rest:

Thy voice shall reach him through the fields of air:

Noon is the time for prayer!

When the bright sun hath set, Whilst yet eve's glowing colors deck the skies,

When with the loved, at home, again thou'st met.

Then let thy prayers arise.

For those who in thy joys and sorrows share:

Eve is the time for prayer!

And when the stars come forth— When to the trusting heart sweet hopes are given

And the deep stillness of the hour gives birth

To pure bright dreams of heaven—

Kneel to thy God; ask strength life's ills to bear:

Night is the time for prayer!

When is the time for prayer?

In every hour, while life is spared to thee—

In crowds or solitude—in joy or care—

Thy thoughts should heavenward flee.

At home—at morn and eve—with loved ones there,

Bend thou the knee in prayer!

—Author Unknown

(from The Old Testament and the Fine Arts)

DOES IT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE?

Does it make any difference? That's what a pastor in Norway asked a very prominent lay preacher with whom he came to visit one day. Does it make any difference if a pastor is really converted or not? Does it make any difference whether a saved pastor lives a consistent Christian life or not, just so he proclaims the truth as it is in the Bible? The Word of God is living and powerful in itself to convert and save sinners, regardless of the pastor. Isn't that true?

It was a hot summer day and the pastor had hiked a long way. He was tired and thirsty, so he asked for a drink of water. The lay preacher thought the convenient time had now come to give his pastor an object lesson. He took a cup, smeared a little mud inside of it and went over to the spring, filled it with water and offered it to the pastor. The pastor looked rather indignant and surprised as he beheld the water in the cup, and he said, "I don't drink dirty water." The lay preacher said, "Well, my dear man, I took the water right from the spring with crystal clear, fresh water!" The pastor answered, "Then the cup could not have been clean." "Well, I didn't think it would make any difference just so the water came from the right source," said the lay preacher.

Then the pastor said, "I see your point, thank you for the lesson. Now I also see why there are so few that will come and drink. The cup is dirty."

"If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work" (II Tim. 2:20).

—Pastor Lars Stalsbroten

PORTRAIT OF A PASTOR

HILE at Everett, Washingon, it was my privilege to sit by the bedside of a retired pastor, whose Bible I now hold in my hands. Since then he has gone home to be with the Lord. That Pastor was Oscar C. Olson. As I finger through his Bible, I find notations, underlined words, checks and numdepicting many bedside prayers, vigils, and knee-deep hours of communion, all because that WORD had captured and consecrated a heart for the Lord. What a privilege to receive such a Bible! What a true man of God!

Think of the endless hours of perusal of these pages; the search from word to word that finally develops the picture sought. Sitting by his side in his daughter's home in Seattle, one sensed the passing years of tireless searching of this Word; the reflection of consecrated efforts of this enfeebled frame. given that others might find what he had found in service to his Savior. His faltering speech, full of praise to his Lord, his love for fellowship and enthusiasm for prayer spoke volumes of a ministry and sacrifice of love for his congregations. He left his mark of love in many hearts.

The loving care for his invalid days was such a touch of preparation for the Master's Word, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord" (Matt. 25:21). How lovely the Lord rewards his servant by giving him into the benevolent and devoted

care of a daughter, Mrs. Pearl Preston, whose every thought was for his welfare and ease during his last years. How rich such a service! And how rewarding!

You know, pastors are not successful. They are just faithful or unfaithful. There is a heaven of difference between the two. The markings of Pastor Olson's Bible in the underlined and scored words, the emphasis of a marked thought reveal the soul-care he exercised in his ministry. Only the Lord knows the pleading prayers of this lonely figure at the altar that eventually led a soul to surrender because of this mighty, yet humble, man of God. The devout recollections of members of his parishes are echoes in the corridors of his consecrated ministry. It was our privilege to serve in his wake in two congregations, Silverton and Everett, and feel the blessed impact of his labors. Where and what was his power? It was the Word of God. He believed it, trusted it, felt its inner power and grace, and was led by it in his meditations and preaching. He loved the Bible, the Word of God, and sought its wisdom to deal with souls. He did not live by assumption, but by the reality that the Lord had spoken, and spoken to him through the Word. He believed what Spurgeon had so aptly written:

"The Bible is a vein of pure gold unalloyed by quartz, or any earthly elements. This is a star without a speck; a sun without a blot; a light without darkness; a moon without its paleness; a glory without a dimness. O Bible! it

cannot be said of any other book, that it is perfect and pure but of thee we can declare all wisdom is gathered up in thee, without a particle of folly. This is the judge that ends the strife where wit and reason fail. This the book untainted by any error; but is pure, unalloyed, perfect truth."

I vividly recall Pastor Olson's enfeebled years. What precious memories! Though no longer capable of engendering the pastoral activity of personal visitation and dealing with souls, yet the heart and mind were ensconced in its rich experiences. You felt it in the clasp of the hand, the chortle of enthusiastic greeting as he sought with repressed tears to express his pleasure for a time of fellowship. The sharing of names of mutual ministration brought joy of remembrance and happy recollections of a difficult, but blessed ministry. At his bedside, the assured dominance of his beloved Scriptures was reflected in the attentive reception and joy of its reading. His manifest love for the Word was a lesson to every visitor. Visiting him, one received more than was given. It was just the consecrated love of this man of God.

As one thinks of this man's ministry with so little of the monetary rewards of this world, how rich he was in God's "riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19). When sacrifices had to be made to keep a congregation going, the example was to be found in the Olson parsonage. It was simply the heart of this pastor. More honor to his mem-

ory, and the helpmeet whom God gave him.

As one thinks of this particular Bible as a sword in the hand of a soldier of Christ, one is reminded how the Lord unlocks for His servant the secret chambers filled with untold riches; how He brings a fresh lamp to manifest the treasures hidden in Scripture, "that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Tim. 3:17). As we read the Word, we realize the canon of Scripture is closed, but God simply rivets the old truths: no new doctrines, but the old ones are just revived. The Holy Spirit revives the dusty chambers of memory and cleanses the picture. How prone and humble was this pastor to the Spirit's leading!

Pastors who today are so taken up by present-day emphasis on the "tongues movement" reveal an immaturity shaken by outward pressures. In contrast is the consecration of mature years in the Word as exemplified by this dear man of God. You will usually find a hidden selfish motive in the promotion of tongues-speaking to take the place of a self-sacrificing ministry in behalf of others. The Bible is too often relegated to the cupboard of neglect because one inferior gift is overemphasized to the loss of untold blessings. The warning of James 3:5, "the tongue is a little member and boasteth great things," is also suggestive of the hidden dangers of the indiscriminate use of this inferior gift. I recall the oft-repeated statement of Pastor Olson, "just to have the Word and use it for others."

The Lord has had other true men of God who, like Pastor Olson, found blessedness in the pilgrimage of a pious life. I think of two of whom it was my privilege to witness their "home-going" and consign their remains into the little green tents of peace. They were Pastors Christ Mohn and Jens Halvorson. What has been written of Pastor Olson could also be written of them and others who have gone to their blessed reward. It is still the tremendous spectacle of today,

beholding the timid and feeble defending the citadel of truth, not with hard blows of logic or sounding canonade of rhetoric, but with tearful earnestness and implicit confidence, against which the attacks of present-day revilers are utterly powerless. The Bible is still the Word of God, and imbues its power to the surrendered and consecrated heart. Its pages pulse to the touch of benevolent love. May we who are called to share its treasures be found faithful and true in these times of such active enmity to that which is holy and allpowerful, the Word of God, the Bible -Rev. A. L. Hokonson Faith, S. Dak,

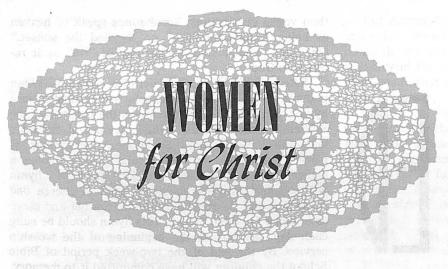
PERSONALITIES

Rev. E. P. Dreyer, Spokane, Wash., retired, recently spent about five weeks in a Veterans' Hospital. He is much better now and looking forward to a complete renewal of strength.

Little Gwen Snipstead, daughter of Pastor and Mrs. R. Snipstead, Ferndale, Wash., gave her parents quite a scare when she was missing from home for about three hours not long ago. A search, aided by neighbors, the police and junior high school boys, found Gwen sleeping by a clump of bushes near the swimming pool.



"The world . . . can never forget what they did here."



FROM MONTANA TO ARIZONA

"Hitherto hath the Lord helped me."

I was born at Sidney, Montana, September, 27, 1913, the seventh son of Neils and Laurine Dynneson, of a family of nine children.

I grew up in the Brorson Community near Sidney which was settled by Danish immigrants. The center of this community was Brorson Lutheran Church of the United Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and blest with sound evangelical preaching and teaching of the Word, which teaching kept me in His grace. Realizing my sinful nature and aptness to stray has often brought conviction of sin to me, and this has thrown me upon the mercy of the Lord, to trust in His forgiveness and salvation.

Because of ill health, and because of a feeling of being called to missions, I left the eastern Montana ranch in 1945. I enrolled in the Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis, graduating in 1947.

In August of that year, Gola Opdahl and I were married, having met at LBI. In January 1948, we left Minneapolis to look into mission possibilities in western Mexico. We were led to locate at Nogales, Arizona, at the main entry to west Mexico. We bought property there and settled down to make our Christian testimony count for the Lord. In due time the first Lutheran Sunday School was started in our home and other

projects begun.

Our prayers for a pastor were answered in that I went back to school: two years at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., and then on to Northwestern Lutheran Seminary, Minneapolis, Minnesota, for three years. I was ordained in May, 1960, at Grand Forks, North Dakota. To be ordained I had to agree to accept an organized congregation, so I accepted a call to Louisville, Mississippi, where I served three years under the United Lutheran Church in America.

September 1963 found us returning again to Nogales, hoping to firmly establish the mission we had started and which was being carried on by faithful lay people.

Before returning I inquired into the possibilities of being sponsored by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations which we had heard about. This led to a visit from Rev. John Abel, director of the Mission department, and to financial aid forthcoming early in 1964. For all this we at Nogales humbly thank our God.

In January 1964, I met with the leaders of the Association in Fargo, North Dakota, and was received as pastor on a fellowship basis for one year.

In January 1965, Triumph Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized at Nogales. I was installed in March 1965 by Rev. John Strand. We are indeed grateful for the increased support received in

prayer, finance, letters and clothing. Especially are we amazed at the generous financial support in the last year for our proposed building fund from the WMF and the Luther League.

"And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen."

-Rev. Lawrence Dynneson

THE SECOND OF EIGHT DAUGHTERS

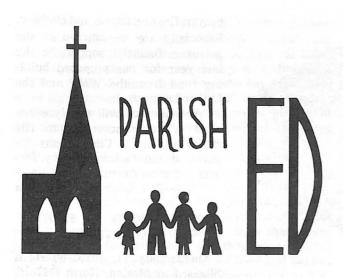
On January 11, 1916, during a blizzard at Marion, North Dakota, I was born to Carl and Julia Opdahl, who farmed near Marion. I was the second daughter of eight (nine children in all).

My parents belonged to the Marion Lutheran Church (ELC) and faithfully attended. They early brought me to the Lord in baptism and nurtured me and taught me. Early in life I desired to serve the Lord, turning from the ways of the world. I shared a ministry of singing with my sisters during much of my teen years. During this time as I grew closer to the Lord, Satan brought plaguing accusations against me, and then one day at Bible camp I found victory in Christ and assurance flooded my soul, bringing with it the power to witness.

After graduating from high school I spent eight years in Fargo, North Dakota, working in a hospital and doctor's office. I attended First Lutheran Church and received good spiritual food as well as opportunities for service. I thank God for Luther League days.

In 1944–45 I spent eleven months in Portland, Oregon, in defense work. I attended Central Lutheran Church where I was challenged by the pastor to "stir up the gift" of God within. The war ended, my job ceased, and I decided to spend some time at Lutheran Bible Institute. At that school in Minneapolis my interest in missions was stirred as it had been during my teens

[Continued on page 15]



MUSIC IN BIBLE SCHOOL

Edited by Mrs. David C. Hanson

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God" (Col. 3:16).

The language of music is universal. It does not depend on words alone, for the melody also carries a message that transcends language barriers and speaks to the hearts of men. It is an important tool for teaching, and those who have this responsibility in Bible School may find a few simple rules helpful as they plan. They will want to select music that:

- 1. Has literary value and musical quality.
- 2. Is suitable for the age group that is served.
- 3. Has a definite objective.
- 4. Children enjoy singing.

Select music that has literary value and musical quality. Hymns for young people should be simple, religious poems that teach right ideas about God, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Christian way of life. Many a session has been spoiled by the addition of a semi-jazzy chorus that is bouncy rather than beautiful, and whose words have little spiritual depth. Music and words should be suited for each other. Can you imagine, for example, singing "Onward, Christian Soldiers" to anything but a marching melody?

Select music that is suitable for the age group you serve. The range of a child's voice varies with his development. Beginners best notes will be g, a, b, c, d, and perhaps e or e flat. Primary children will increase the lower range rather than the upper and will sing notes as low as middle c. Juniors have the same range, but are much more able to use the lower register.

Words should be evaluated carefully so that both the words and ideas presented by the hymn are within the understanding of the children. Difficult words may be explained; difficult ideas are sometimes impossible to explain to young children.

Choose hymns that present specific ideas rather

than vague generalities. Some songs speak of heaven as being "above the blue" or "beyond the sunset." One very popular song spoke only of "He" as it referred to God.

Select music that has a definite objective. When planning for Bible School, the song leader must choose hymns that will help to accomplish the purpose of the session. In other words, "which hymn will correlate with the Bible lesson?" Sometimes the amount of material available on a particular theme makes a choice difficult, other times only one stanza of a hymn will suit the lesson. It might be good to choose one hymn that will tie all of the lessons together and serve as a theme for Bible School. This hymn should be sung each day, perhaps at the beginning of the worship service. By the end of the two-week period of Bible School the children will have committed it to memory. To summarize, we could say that spiritual songs and hymns can be used to praise and thank God, motivate Christian conduct, teach Bible verses and Bible stories, introduce a lesson, summarize a lesson, review a lesson, and lend variety to a session.

Select music that children enjoy singing. Unless the children enjoy the songs that are chosen, the music will not accomplish the purpose for which it is intended. Quite often the children themselves choose songs that have a swingy rhythm but very little spiritual value, so it would be better for the leader to select music well in advance rather than leave the choice of hymns to the children.

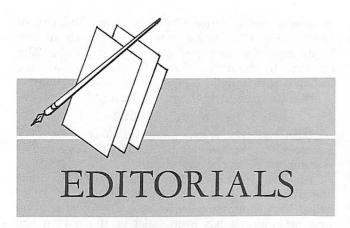
Is it possible that the children can learn to enjoy the great hymns of the church when their previous experience has led them in another direction? Of course it is, for children can be taught to love the things that are fine and good if they are introduced properly.

The use of visual aids will do much to help children understand, remember, and enjoy singing hymns. There are many visualized hymns available at Christian bookstores, but it is also possible to visualize our own music. (Instructions for visualizing a hymn were given in an earlier edition of the *Ambassador*.)

Sometimes leaders have a tendency to confuse making a "joyful noise" with loud singing, and encourage their children to "sing louder." The response that results from such encouragement is difficult to recognize as praise of God. Children should be encouraged to sit or stand in a position that is correct and comfortable. Good health posture is also good singing posture and will help the children to produce a better tone. If hymnals or song sheets are used, they should be held in such a position that the children are singing to the leader rather than the floor. Correct pronunciation, understanding of words, and good diction are necessary.

Music is a method of teaching and a means of expressing our faith. It holds a unique place in the

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Another in a series on the Apostles' Creed HE DESCENDED INTO HELL

"For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit; in which he went and preached to the spirits in prison" (I Pet. 3:18, 19).

The descent into hell (or prison) was a part of the *exaltation* of Jesus, as the *Explanation* states. He entered hell to announce or proclaim the victory which He had won over the devil and his followers. But this is not to say that there is a "second chance" beyond this life.

The Formula of Concord says that there are unanswered questions about this phrase of the Creed, but it is enough to know that Christ destroyed hell for all who believe in Him. It further states that we must postpone to the next world all those questions which "our blind reason cannot comprehend in this life but which we simply accept."

ASSOCIATION LUTHERANS GOING "HOME"

The setting for the AFLC Annual Conference of 1966 will be the same as that of the Special Conference of October, 1962, at which the groundwork for the Association was laid. Therefore, in a special sense, this conference will be a homecoming as delegates assemble at Our Savior's Lutheran Church and the Knox Elementary School in Thief River Falls, Minn., June 8–12.

Conditions have changed tremendously since the fall of 1962. Little was known then as to what an indefinite number of congregations not wishing to be a part of the merger could do about maintaining a church fellowship. There were dreams, hopes and ideas, to be sure, but there was a good deal of uncertainty, too. Today there has been considerable realization, with prospect of much more.

This is not to say that we have "arrived." In fact, we ought never to achieve that goal here, indeed, we cannot. To believe that we have attained would only be delusion and stagnation. The goal must always be just beyond reach like the bucket of oats before the horse at the water well.

But Annual Conference 1966 finds the Association at a point where consolidation and strengethening, and outreach, are the order of the day. We hope that all who attend the conference will be prepared to make decisions to that effect seriously, maturely and prayerfully.

Thief River Falls was the scene of several Annual Conferences of the Lutheran Free Church (1912, 1920, 1938, 1954, at least). It was in that city that we saw our first conference as a boy, the sessions being held in the Trinity Lutheran Church, in 1938. That was the largest church we had been in up to that time, and the size of the building and actually being at an "aarsmøte" (annual meeting) were awesome impressions on a lad. (We wonder if children still get impressed like that.)

It will be nice to get back "home" for this conference. May God bless our gathering there and may this convention be a base from which we launch an ever increasing mission for our Lord.

THE PERENNIAL PROBLEM

What is the age-old problem dogging annual conferences? It is that of dwindling attendance as the conviction goes on. Thursday's filled chairs are sparsely populated on Saturday. On the last working day, a handful of the faithful transact business which must surely have more importance than the attendance indicates.

Very likely our Saturday attendance will be better this year than on some occasions, but the decrease will still be only too obvious. One reason for the lesser attendance on Saturday will be that for a second straight year the farmers are well behind in their work. In a largely rural church that really hurts a church convention.

A factor which will aid week-end attendance this year is that we have quite a few churches in northern Minnesota and eastern North Dakota.

Everyone who possibly can should attend all business sessions or as many as he can. We want to keep our conferences as free as possible, but it is no tribute to freedom when people, particularly of the church, seize that as an opportunity to abstain from exercising responsibility.

Enough said.

PRAY FOR LONDON

If there is a first city of the world, it is London. It is not so powerful or influential now, nor quite so much the hub of the world's commerce, but it still possesses a magic spell that cities like New York, Tokyo and Moscow cannot match.

The world will watch with interest and Christians with prayerful interest as the American Billy Graham once again strides to a London rostrum, this time in Earl's Court. About a decade ago he was there, with noteworthy success, but failing to touch off the world-sweeping revival so badly needed.

On this trip Mr. Graham will find a London gripped even more tightly in Satan's clutch. Ungodliness abounds. He will find a London and an England influenced by the radical views of Bishop A. T. Robinson and men of his ilk. It is these men who have spawned, or at least nursed, the "God is dead" craze of today.

Into a city and nation where sin rages and where the churches are torn by new theologies that give man the power to make God and His law what he wills, strides the evangelist Billy Graham with the message that the Bible is the Word of the living God and we stand or fall by it and the Christ it presents.

He will preach that God is holy and just, but also that He is love and that there is salvation for people who, aware of their wrongness, throw themselves at the Savior's feet. Hundreds and thousands will believe and will receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. But will there be enough to spark the revival so desperately needed?

Yes, we should pray for London. Pray that Satan's forces will be bound. Pray that many will be saved. Pray that winds of blessing will be wafted once again to America from that mother country. The hour is too late and critical that we should stand idly by at this great moment of opportunity.

God bless you and use you, Billy.

SHED NO TEARS

Two recent news items of church interest leave us strangely unmoved. They are, we submit, no cause for the shedding of tears or loud lament.

One is the decision by the Lutheran Student Association to halt publication of its periodical, *Frontiers*, with the April issue. We were not acquainted with this magazine except in the last two years, but we sensed a decided lack of spiritual warmth in it.

What a tremendous opportunity there is in Lutheran student work today! And the possibilities are growing by leaps and bounds. If we had the gift for it, and we do not, there would be no more challenging area of ministry today than university student work.

How effective is the present effort on scores of college campuses? The approach and effectiveness vary from campus to campus, but we are afraid that all too often the programs are spiritually anemic as an effort is made to reach a certain intellectual-artistic type of student with a watered-out message while neglecting the majority who would be blessed by a down-to-earth ministry that would give them a haven from the sexual-social-political pressures all about them. *Frontiers* typified the former attitude and we do not mourn its passing.

The other news item concerns the resignation of Bishop James A. Pike as Episcopal bishop of California. He remains a bishop of the church, but not as spiritual leader of a geographical segment of the church.

For all his gifts, Bishop Pike is far too unsettled himself to lead a diocese of his church. A modernist of the first order, he would change our understanding of almost every major Christian tenet. We cannot believe that God would permit the church to live in delusion for centuries and leave it to the 20th century to discover what was really so, as the bishop seems to indicate. No, we can't accept that.

We are glad the bishop has stepped down.

LET US REMEMBER

Memorial Day is past, but we do well to hark a moment on the meaning of the day. It was a day of remembrance for our war dead.

American men have died in many wars now. Some are giving their lives this very day in a far-off place called Viet Nam. How senseless it all seems and yet how necessary it has been. That is, if our men had never fought, this world would be absolutely indistinguishable from what it is today, and not for the better.

Our nation is divided in its approach to the war in Viet Nam. No one is in favor of war, but we do differ as to whether to escalate, slow down or stop the war effort and on what conditions. Always the question haunts us, if communism is given any advantage or reprieve now, will there be a greater day of reckoning later?

But of one thing we can all be sure. American men are dying in combat today and those who are out there ought to feel that their nation is strongly behind them. These who die are on foreign soil, far from home, but let us remember that only a very few of our war dead died on American soil. And we are grateful for that.

We honor our war dead. We grieve that they had to make this sacrifice. Yet we know of no way in which it could be avoided in a world made up of human beings prone to sin and so many of whom are not motivated by the love of God. Only in that world beyond where God's people shall be gathered, free from all self-seeking, will men live together in perfect peace and harmony. God grant us all to enter that rest.

AND PENTECOST

From speaking of war to Pentecost. What a strange turn-about!

Thank God for the Holy Spirit who came in a manifestation of power first to a people under the bondage of a world ruler. Though subjugated physically, through this Spirit many of them experienced freedom in their hearts.

And thus it has always been, and is now. The Holy Spirit takes the words of the Bible and the works of Jesus and applies them to the hearts of men. Where there is acceptance, there transformation to new life comes, no matter what outward circumstances may be.

"I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me—."

Blessed Spirit, may Thy good purpose be accomplished in every heart!



Luther League Activities

HEGLAND CHURCH WAS SCENE OF NORTHERN MINNESOTA LUTHER LEAGUE RALLY

The Northern Minnesota District Luther League spring rally was held at the Hegland Lutheran Church, rural Karlstad, Minn., Gene Sundby, pastor, on Sunday, May 1.

At the afternoon session, Mrs. Daryl Haugen of Newfolden led the singspiration and Susan Anderson of Greenbush was in charge of the devotions. Music was presented by Eunice Englesbritson, the Youth Choir of Thief River Falls and Susan Anderson and Sheryl Haugen of Greenbush. Pastor Marius Haakenstad of Thief River Falls brought the message. Over one hundred and fifty people attended the afternoon session.

In the business session, it was decided to send an offering of \$70 to the Luther League Federation. The motion was passed to have spring and fall rallies as in the past. A new president was elected, Ervin Schmitke, Newfolden, to replace Stanley Holmaas, Newfolden, and secretary, Barbara Holm, Badger, to replace Gracia Kjersten, Badger.

A banquet supper was served by the Hegland ladies at 5:30. Devotional Life secretary Judith Wold, Thief River Falls, Minn., led in chorus singing.

In the evening, which was also programmed under the theme "His Way with Thee," Mrs. Haugen again led the singspiration. Sonja Mortrud, Thief River Falls, gave the devotions. Janelle Ness and Phyllis Burk sang solos and Gracia and Rachel Dyrud, Newfolden, rendered a duet. The inspirational message was preached by Mr. Burton Rygh of Wannaska.

The day was truly a day of inspiration and blessing to all who attended.

Gracia Kjersten Secretary

WEST COAST LEAGUERS MET IN ASTORIA

The West Coast District Spring Luther League Rally was held in Astoria, Oregon, the weekend of April 22–24. Pastor Sterling Johnson of the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement spoke on the theme verse of the rally, Matthew 25:21, "Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Other pastors participating in the rally included Richard Snipstead of Ferndale, Washington; Albert Hautamaki of Everett, Washington; Karl Stendal of Kalispell, Montana; and Ray Persson of Astoria.

Sixty-five youth and adults registered for the rally, which was highlighted by a tour of the historic city of Astoria and the surrounding area Saturday afternoon, with a banquet dinner Saturday evening.

At the business meeting held Saturday morning, the following new officers were elected: President, Allen Pheifer of Ferndale; Vice-President, Paul Persson of Astoria; Secretary, Linda Mickelsen of Everett; Treasurer, Bette Moksness of Astoria; and Devotional Life Secretary, Kristin Kjos of Kalispell.

Kalispell, Montana, invited the district Leaguers to attend their Family Camp the weekend of August 5–7. They also offered to host next spring's rally, but it was decided that the rally be held in Everett because Kalispell is hosting the National Convention of the Luther League Federation.

Linda Mickelsen West Coast District Secretary

DALTON PARISH HONORS SENIORS

The Dalton Free Lutheran Parish, Dalton, Minnesota, Harry C. Molstre, pastor, held their annual Luther League banquet honoring the high school seniors at the Tordenskjold Lutheran Church, May 2. Fifty-seven leaguers and counsellors were present at the banquet. Following the banquet a program was presented consisting of hymn singing, each of the four leagues in the parish contributed musical numbers, and Mrs. Norman Gunderson, former missionary to Japan, was the guest speaker. Each of the graduates were introduced and they in turn told of their plans for the coming year.

-Corr.

BIBLE VERSES

"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you" (John 14:26).

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me" (John 15:4).

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).



BIBLE CAMP IN BRAZIL

Greetings with this verse: "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36).

In Brazil the Bible camps are pretty much like those in the States. Usually camps begin on Monday. Our first meeting (the big one I recently attended here) began on Monday night.

In the first meeting we get acquainted with each other and divide up in teams. Each team chooses its captain, its yell and its song. During the whole week the teams will be competing to win points in studying the Bible, sports, cleanup, prompt arrival at meetings, etc. Our second meeting on Monday night is an evangelistic service, usually conducted by one of the directors. After this service everyone heads for his cabin where he has his devotions and turns in. Tomorrow will be a big day!

Bing, bang, bong! goes the bell ...it's time to get up! Time? Yes, seven-thirty, with breakfast at 8:00, only half an hour to get dressed, make your bed, clean up the room and head for the dining hall. For breakfast we have milk with coffee in it (we call it "cafe com leite") and bread with peanut butter (pao com manteiga).

After breakfast, at 8:30 we spread out around the camp with our Bibles and have half an hour of quiet time; this is to be a quiet devotional fellowship with God.

At nine they play the Brazilian national anthem. We all stand at attention as the Brazilian flag is raised. After that is over we all hurry to the chapel for our first morning Bible class. Anyone who comes late loses 100 points for his team

At nine-fifty we have a ten-minute recess before the second Bible study. This second hour is divided into various classes. You can choose a subject that you're most interested in. There is a class on the Second Coming of Christ, Christian dating and marriage, your vocation, being a missionary etc.

At eleven everyone goes down to the sports field where the two teams have their representatives playing off games of various kinds like volleyball, basketball, soccer, ropepulls, etc.

We start the afternoon off by eating, because we don't eat until one o'clock. The mess hall, or dining hall, is the noisiest at dinner time. I guess the directors let us make a lot of noise then so we will be quiet in the meetings, where you don't make any noise at all. The kids have a lot of yells and games and announcements which all go on during the dinner hour. Every time they make an announcement about one of the teams, the cheering and velling is so loud it seems as if the roof will come off. This is the time they give the report on the room inspections. Anyone who has a messy bed or room loses points for his team. Sometimes things are



David Abel, right, and two friends from Camp Mourao who were at the Bible Camp.



The Bible camp which our Lutheran youth and Pastor Abel attended.



The teenagers from Campo Mourao who attended Bible Camp. Pastor Abel stands at the right corner of the jeep station wagon.

picked up and then the person has to go up and get it at noon while everyone is really yelling. This just about kills a guy.

After dinner we are free until three o'clock when sports start. You can do whatever you want to. There is swimming (Dad taught a lot of kids to swim this year), horseback riding, boating, tennis, volleyball, basketball, soccer, ping

[Continued on page 14]

Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

June 8-12, 1966

Thief River Falls, Minnesota

Our Savior's Lutheran Church 401 St. Paul Ave. S.

The Rev. Marius Haakenstad, Pastor Host Congregation

Sessions at the Knox Elementary School Auditorium 701 East Hughes

Conference Text: I Peter 1:3-9

Conference Theme: "Our Precious Faith"

Wednesday, June 8

9:00 a.m. Registration for the annual Women's Missionary Federation Convention

10:00 a.m. The WMF Convention begins

10:00 a.m. All Conference Committees are to meet at Our Savior's Lutheran Church for a devotional session and room assignments

8:00 p.m. Opening service, with a message on the Conference Text by Dr. Iver Olson, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Opening of the Conference by President John P. Strand
The appointment of necessary committees

Thursday, June 9

9:00 a.m. Devotions

The report of the Credentials Committee

The election of the Nominating Committee for 1967

The President's Message

The report of the President of the Coordinating Committee

The Treasurer's Report

The Report of Committee Number 1

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour

The Prayer Hours will be lead by Pastor Hans Tollefson, Hatton, N. Dak.

2:00 p.m. Devotions

The report of the Credentials Committee

The report of the Nominating Committee:

The election of nominees for the Mission Corporation and Board The election of nominees for the Free Lutheran Theological Seminary Corporation and Board

Continuing discussion of the report of Committee No. 1

The election of President, Vice-President and Secretary of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

The election of Committee No. 1 for the 1967 Conference

The election of one member to the Coordinating Committee

The Report of the Committee on the Conference Committee set-up

The Report of the Committee on revising "The Rules for Work"

7:30 p.m. Mission Festival Service conducted by the Women's Missionary Federation of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

Friday, June 10

9:00 a.m. Devotions

The report of the Credentials Committee

Seminary

The report of the Seminary work by Mr. Howard Lieder

The report of the Dean of the Seminary, Pastor John P. Strand

The report of Committee No. 2
The report of the Nominating Committee

The election of Committee No. 2 for the 1967 Conference

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour

2:00 p.m. Devotions

The report of the Credentials' Committee

Missions:

The report of the Missions' Director, the Rev. Harold Schafer
The report from the chairman of the Commission on Evangelism
The report of Committee No. 3
The report of the Nominating Committee

The election of Committee No. 3 for the 1967 Conference

6:00 p.m. Banquet for the pastors and their wives 8:00 p.m. Laymen's service with a message by Mr. Melvin Walla, Sidney, Montana

Saturday, June 11

9:00 a.m. Devotions.

The report of the Credentials Committee

Stewardship

The report by the chairman of the Stewardship Board, Dr. Iver Olson

The report of Committee No. 4
The report of the Nominating Committee

The election of Committee No. 4 for the 1967 Conference
The election of one member to the

Stewardship Board

Publications and Parish Education

The report by the chairman of the
Board of Publications and Parish
Education

The report of the Executive Secretary of the Department of Parish Education

The Report of Committee No. 5 The election of Committee No. 5 for the 1967 Conference

The election of one member to the Board of Publications and Parish Education.

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour 2:00 p.m. Devotions

The Report of the Credentials Committee

Youth Work

The report of the Youth Board The report of Committee No. 6 The election of one member to the Youth Board

The election of Committee No. 6 for the 1967 Conference

Pensions

The report of the Pension Board The report from Committee No. 7 —Pensions

The election of one member to the

Pension Board

The election of Committee No. 7 for the 1967 Conference

General Resolutions

The report of the General Resolutions Committee

8:00 p.m. Youth Night at the Conference, with our youth in charge of the service

Sunday, June 12

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion Service

Meditation by Pastor Hubert F. De

Boer, Fosston, Minnesota

10:30 a.m. Worship Service Message by Pastor John P. Strand, Min-

neapolis, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

2:00 p.m. Closing Service

The 35-voice choir from St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cloquet, Minnesota, will sing the cantata, "Let the Earth Hear His Voice," by Eugene Clark Message by Pastor Herbert Franz, Cloquet

CREDENTIALS STATEMENT

(To be signed by all who wish to speak and/or vote at the conference)

"I, the undersigned, am a voting member of a Lutheran congregation. I approve of the Guiding Principles and Rules for Work of the Lutheran Free Church, and will work for the continuing of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. I have not, nor do I plan to participate in activities that are in opposition to the established principles and endeavors of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations."

World Missions

[Continued from page 12]

pong, chess, checkers, dominoes, hiking, and just plain visiting. At five-thirty everyone heads for his room to get ready for supper. Sometimes it's a "silent supper," sometimes it's a picnic supper under the trees or near the waterfall, and on Sunday evening, our last night, it's always a banquet. Since on Sundays we don't have any sports and the kids are all as dressed up as they can be, some parents come out to visit, etc. During the week, however, we can dress informally.

We start our evening services at seven-thirty. First its a singspiration and then a Bible message. After this part, at nine o'clock, we have

something special like a talent show, music concert, games, except on Friday night when we have a campfire with a real emphasis on accepting Christ and on consecration. Saturday night is a time for testimonies and encouragement of new converts, etc. So there is something different every night. By ten o'clock we all head for our rooms, usually tired out. Our cabin counselors lead us in devotions and talk about receiving the Lord and being a true Christian. By eleven lights are out and there's silence in the cabins. After the first day the kids are pretty well worn out each night so they're glad to quit talking and get to sleep.

We've really had some wonderful Bible camps here in Brazil. This

year Dad got a group of 15 teenagers to go from our town of Campo Mourao. Most of them were from Catholic homes and several gave their hearts to Christ at the camp. They need your prayers. Pray for our teenagers in Brazil. Here in Camp Mourao we also have a nice little place by the lake that Dad and I and others have worked a lot on for young people and for Sunday school. We've had some spiritual retreats out there, and we believe in the future we can even have our own Bible camp here for our Free Lutheran youth. Thank you for your prayers, and we pray that your Bible camp back home will be a real blessing and success this year also.

David Abel

[Continued from page 8]

development of spiritual life. Let us use it wisely, well, and with variety in our Bible Schools.

BITS AND PIECES

WE TOOK INVENTORY

With excellent cooperation from the Sunday school superintendents in the A.F.L.C. we have been able to gather some information about the work in Parish Education in our churches. We are extremely grateful to all those who took the time to fill in the questionnaire that was sent, and for the concern that was expressed in so many of the replies.

Of the 68 churches reporting three have not yet organized Sunday schools. The total number of children and adults enrolled as students in the other 65 churches is 2,424. They are served by 454 teachers, bringing the total enrollment to 2,878 souls. If my arithmetic is correct, we have one teacher for every five and one half pupils; so there seems to be no teacher shortage in our fellowship.

Twenty-two congregations have an ADULT BIBLE CLASS meeting on Sunday morning with a total enrollment of 257 men and women.

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE CLASSES are a part of the teaching program of 33 churches with 235 young people enrolled.

314 JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS attend Sunday school class in 51 churches (some of these are confirmation classes), and there are 1,248 children in the groups for KINDERGARTEN THROUGH SIXTH GRADE, and 370 PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN enrolled.

The largest Sunday school has an enrollment of 231 students, the smallest boasts of six children.

There is a variety of materials in use within our group and a few congregations use more than one kind.

Concordia — 30 Sunday schools

Gospel Light — 14

Scripture Press — 13

Augsburg — 8 (This is the old graded series)

Lutheran Brethren — 1

David C. Cook — 3

"Through the Bible" — 2 (Used for older children)
The catechism is used as a supplement in quite a few churches.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

By the time this is published two editions of the Sunday School Newsletter will have reached superintendents. Both have been concerned with Bible School offering reviews of teaching materials and suggestions for teaching aids that will correlate with the lessons and add interest to the sessions. If you are a Sunday school superintendent and are not receiving the newsletter, please notify us so we can complete our mailing list. Or ... if you do not desire to receive the newsletter we would also like to be informed of that.

A VISIT TO BRAZIL

Just off the mimeograph is a visualized story, written and illustrated by Mrs. James Wright of Minneapolis, that provides a view of the country in which our missionaries serve. It includes information about the land of Brazil as well as the animals, birds, insects, and people who inhabit it. Ten illustrations add interest to the story, and suggestions are given for coloring and mounting the pictures. This is the first in a series that we hope will be available in time for use in Bible School.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Committee on Publications and Parish Education is planning a display that is intended to be helpful to pastors, teachers, and superintendents. Included will be such items as a letter of call for teachers, attendance and financial records, absentee cards, birthday and welcome pins, banks, and other helps that are useful in Sunday school and Bible school. A special group of teaching aids, designed to create interest in missions will also be displayed.

Women for Christ

[Continued from page 7]

as I heard missionaries from various fields. Home missions became important to me, too. Several opportunities in this field faced me. It was at LBI that I met my husband-to-be and after graduation we went to the home-foreign mission field at Nogales, Arizona. Our four daughters were born here—Karla, 1948; Miriam, 1950; Pauline, 1952; and

Lois, 1954.

When my husband, Lawrence, decided to go back to school, I again found employment, this time as a practical nurse. As I worked Lawrence studied and baby sat. My three years at Ebenezer were a joy, opening as they did a new field of service. Many testings came our way as Lawrence came closer to his goal—the seminary. Problems rose—my health, his back, money (perennially)—but the Lord knew

all about them and as we placed our hands in His He undertook and proved Himself the Faithful One at all times.

'Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation" (Isa. 12: 2, 3).

-Gola Alice (Opdahl) Dynneson

LSAA HALTS PUBLICATION OF ITS CAMPUS MAGAZINE

Chicago (NLC)—"Frontiers," a campus periodical for Lutheran college and university students, ceased publication with its April issue.

The decision to discontinue the magazine was made by its editorial board, in a four-to-two vote, and was influenced by "the mounting indebtedness of the publication during recent years."

Published by the Lutheran Student Association of America on a monthly basis, September through April, the magazine had a circulation of over 4,000. With its predecessor, "Campus Lutheran," it had a 17-year history.

Because planning requirements and production schedules called for early action, the editorial board was empowered by the Executive Committee of the LSAA Council to decide the question of continuation or termination.

Shortly after it voted to terminate publication, the editorial board prepared a statement for presentation at the LSAA Council sessions. The meeting will be held at Lenior Rhyne College at Hickory, N.C.

The statement recommends that LSAA members consider subscriptions to other student Christian magazines and it commends and encourages local Lutheran campus publications, which, it notes, have been increasing in number in recent years.

Appropriations to "Frontiers" were estimated at about one-third of the student movement's \$20,000 annual budget.

NORWEGIAN CHURCH RELIEF AGENCY NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE

Oslo (LWF)—The Rev. Elias Berge, pastor of the Scandinavian Lutheran congregation in Sao Paulo, Brazil, has been appointed executive secretary of Kirkens Nodhjelp, the overseas relief and aid agency of the Norwegian Lutheran Church.

This autumn he will succeed the Rev. Olav Egeland who, after 12 years as the agency's staff head, has been named vicar in the Tweten parish here.

Kirkens Nodhjelp collects and sends abroad about a million crowns (\$140,000) a year for world service projects and programs. It also ships to other countries large quantities of clothing, medical supplies, and other material, relief goods.

Born in 1922 and ordained to the ministry in 1953, Mr. Berge has been serving the Sao Paulo congregation for the past five years. It is a member of the Central Brazilian Synod of the Church of Lutheran Confession in Brazil.

TAIWAN CHURCH OPPOSES UN MEMBERSHIP FOR CHINA

Taichung, Taiwan (LWF)—Opposition to the admission of the Chinese mainland government to the United Nations was declared by the Taiwan Lutheran Church in a resolution passed at its 11th annual assembly here. The Church also reaffirmed its anti-communist position.

They also endorsed cooperation with the China Evangelical Lutheran Church, a smaller body associated with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in radio and television evangelism. The two have been working together in the production and distribution of Christian literature for several years.

TREASURER'S FIRST QUARTER REPORT

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations Feb. 1 to April 30, 1966

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| | | | Proposed | | | First | |
| | | | Quarterly | | | Quarter | |
| | | | Budget | | | Income | |
| | GENERAL FUND | \$ | 8,250.00 | | \$ | 6,689.91 | |
| | SEMINARY FUND | \$ | 6,750.00 | | \$ | 3,776.93 | |
| | MISSIONS | \$ | 8,750.00 | | \$ | 8,098.46 | |
| | PUBLICATIONS & PARISH ED | \$ | 625.00 | | \$ | 691.86 | |
| | STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE | \$ | 250.00 | | | none | |
| | YOUTH COMMITTEE | \$ | 50.00 | | | none | |
| | TOTALS | \$ | 24,675.00 | | \$ | 19,257.16 | |
| | PRAISE PROGRAM | | | | | | |
| | TOTAL received first quarter | | | | \$ | 1,448.00 | |
| | | | | | | | |