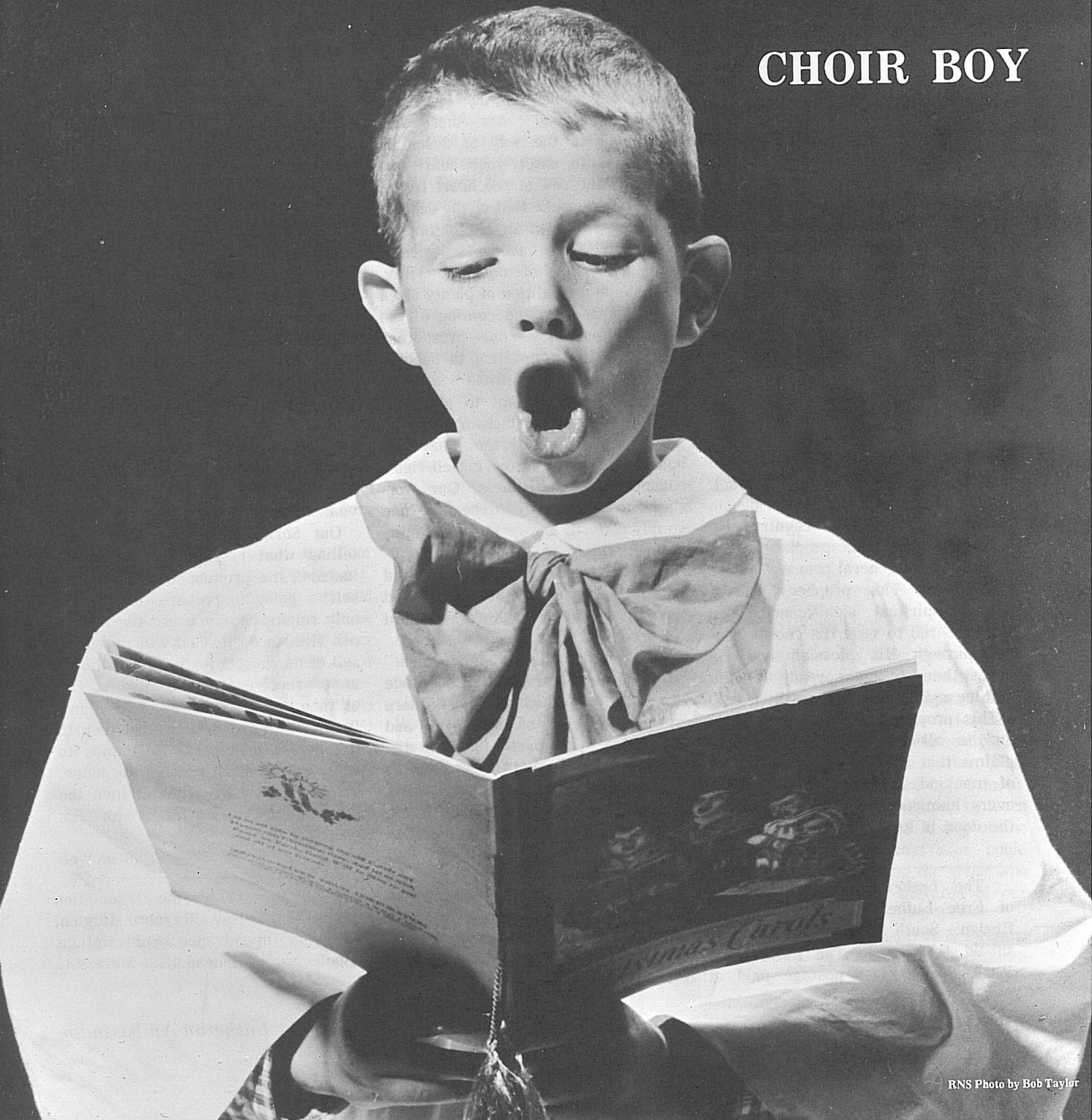
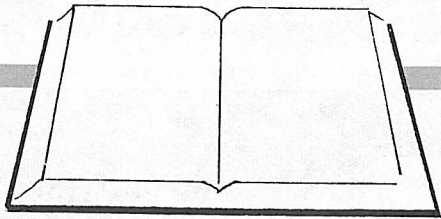


November 23, 1971

The Lutheran Ambassador

CHOIR BOY





According to the Word

PREPARING THE WAY OF GOD

"The voice of one that crieth, Prepare ye in the wilderness the way of Jehovah; make level in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the uneven shall be made level, and the rough places a plain; and the glory of Jehovah shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of Jehovah hath spoken it" (Isaiah 40:3-5).

The Advent season focuses our minds again on the coming of the Lord and the Christian heart rejoices in this holy and solemn season. Just as Jehovah, the God of Israel, was about to lead His chosen people back to their native country, He sends His herald, the prophet Isaiah, to proclaim a general preparation for the return. This prophecy had a special spiritual significance. The Lord desired to visit His chosen people through His Messiah and He asked them to make ready for the coming and receive Him royally.

This prophecy applies to all ages and to all people. The voice proclaims that Jesus Christ, the Savior of mankind, is desirous of entering every human heart. "Behold, He at the door is knocking! Hark, how He

pleads our souls to win!" Are you heeding the call? Are there any hindrances in the way of Jesus as He comes to enter your heart and mine? Is the soil of the heart fertile or is it barren like that of the desert?

We are living in an age of luxury. "I am rich, and have gotten riches, and have need of nothing" (Rev. 3:17). Such a condition of plenty often is a hindrance to the coming of the Lord. Often under our prosperous conditions the temptation to become self-sufficient and proud is very strong. We are so apt to give self the credit for every blessing and forget to give God all the glory and honor, and so we grow in self-righteousness and selfishness. Our worship has a tendency to become one simply of form and lacking the "spirit and truth" so essential to worship. Such mountains of pride and hills of self-conceit must be lowered through repentance before the Lord can enter.

"The uneven shall be made level" or "the crooked shall be made straight." How much dishonesty there is in social and business life, and in politics. The worst form of dishonesty is dishonesty in worship. It is not at all difficult to don a mask of piety on Sunday morning if we can only leave it off during everyday

life. It almost seems that we are tempted to believe that we can deceive God Who "searcheth the reins and heart" (Rev. 2:23).

The hindrances in the way of the Lord are many and great, and it may seem a hopeless task "to prepare a way for Jehovah." If John the Baptist labored today, he would call to a revival. He would demand repentance of sin and conversion to God. The same voice is calling us this Advent season. Shall we heed it and obey it? Are you willing to descend and sacrifice all your merits at the feet of Jesus and receive, through grace alone, the forgiveness of sin? Are you willing to abide by His revealed Word?

Our Scripture text is a prophecy telling what is going to happen. It includes the promise that God Himself is going to prepare the way. It only remains for you and me to permit Him to do it. God will make the soil of our hearts fertile. He will help us to receive His Son royally. Let us then prepare the way of the Lord, first to our own hearts, and then to the hearts of others. He comes to save and will also come to judge, so we must share with all men the urgency of making ready for His return.

—Reuben Wee

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Advent Past...

Advent Present...

Advent Future

Rev. Eugene W. Enderlein
Minnewauken, N. Dak.

Many of us wish that we could be like the mythical Roman god Janus who had two faces. He looked both forward and backward. Even though God hasn't chosen to give any of us two faces, He **has** enabled us to see both His plan in ages past and His plans for future days, through His Living Word, our Bible.

Before the foundation of the world was laid God planned to send a Savior. He knew that mankind, His dearest treasure, would fall into sin; He knew that there would be no hope for them unless He Himself would intervene in their world and redeem them. But God had to work with men and events for centuries to prepare the way for the coming of the Savior to this earth. When the situation was just "right" according to God's timetable, He sent forth His Son. Galatians 4:4, 5 tells us, "When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

Christ's coming into the world should have been no surprise to people. God had prepared the way and had given intricate details about our Savior's first coming, in His Scriptures. Long ago He had told the prophet Micah to prophesy concerning that little city of Bethlehem, that one day it would be of great importance because out of it would come forth One who would be Israel's ruler—and, in fact, One who had come "from everlasting and from old" (Micah 5:2). Hundreds of years before the actual birth of Jesus, God had told Isaiah that a virgin would conceive a Son and His name would be Immanuel, which means "God with us" (Isaiah 7:14). All

through the centuries Israel had longed for a Deliverer, and God's Word verified the fact that He was certainly coming! He would be greater than Moses, and of David's line, and yet King David himself spoke of Him as "my Lord."

But when Jesus actually did arrive upon our world scene, mankind as a whole was not prepared. Why? Obviously, men were not "up" on the Scriptures and were not taking God at His Word. God had prepared the world, but most people had not prepared their hearts to receive the Savior. A good example of this unpreparedness was King Herod. Do you recall how upset and troubled he was when the wise men came to his palace seeking the new baby king? The Scriptures tell us how Herod called together the scribes and religious leaders, who knew the Word of God, and how he demanded of them, "Where will Christ be born?" He wasn't ignorant of the fact that God was planning to send a Messiah. He knew that it was promised in the Scriptures, but he certainly was not prepared for the reality of what he had read and heard. The coming of Christ into the world would upset his kingdom! His own heart was far from God. He was not personally prepared.

What is the condition of your own heart? Do you know the facts about Advent Past... that Jesus Christ has come to die for your sins... and that, in fact, He is coming again! But do you remain unmoved and personally unprepared?

God tells us in Titus 2:11-13, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."

Yes, God has poured His great love out upon us! Christ has come once! This is Advent Past. Salvation CAN be ours, simply by repenting of our sins and unconcern about God, and receiving Christ personally into our hearts and lives. If we do this, we can claim "Advent Present." Jesus, our ever-living Savior will come in and take up residence in our hearts and our lives.

If you allow Christ to enter your life, you will earnestly want to be living for Him. You will want to know the Scriptures, but even more than that—you will want your heart to be personally prepared for "Advent Future," the second coming of Jesus Christ into this world. How can you be prepared for the return of God's Son? Through the power of the Holy Spirit! He will enable you to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world as you await the return of Christ.

"Advent Past" took place in a little stable in Bethlehem. It was an obscure setting, and even though a choir of angels appeared to the shepherds, actually very few people knew that the Savior had been born. Only those who were really waiting for His coming really took notice that He had arrived, those such as faithful Anna, Simeon and the wise men from the east. When Jesus returns in glory, it will be as the lightning shines out of the east unto the west. All the people of the earth will see Him coming on the clouds of Heaven (Matthew 24:27-31). Philippians tells us that everyone, even those who have not acknowledged Jesus as Savior in this life, will be compelled to acknowledge Him as the One He claims to be, the Savior and the Lord.

Jesus' first coming was to a life of humiliation. At His birth he was laid in a manger-bed on a pillow of straw, in a humble stable. During

His time on earth He lived simply. Remember that He said to a would-be disciple, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head" (Luke 9:58). But His second advent will be far different! He will come as the Lord of glory. John describes this for us in Revelation 19:12 and 16, "His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; . . . and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

Our Savior's first coming was to a short-lived life here on earth. Many people bemoan the fact that such a great life as our Lord Jesus lived continued for only thirty-three years. But we should not be grieved by this fact, for this was God's timetable for His Son's earthly visit. When His "hour had come" and Jesus had accomplished all that God sent Him to do, He gave up His life for you and for me, and three days later arose from the dead to live forevermore. No one took His life from Him, but

He gave it up willingly to accomplish our redemption. BUT when Jesus comes again, He comes as the Eternal Ruler of Heaven and earth. There will be no end to His reign then. "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever" (Revelation 11:15). Advent Future will be a glorious event and will begin the everlasting reign of our Lord Jesus Christ!

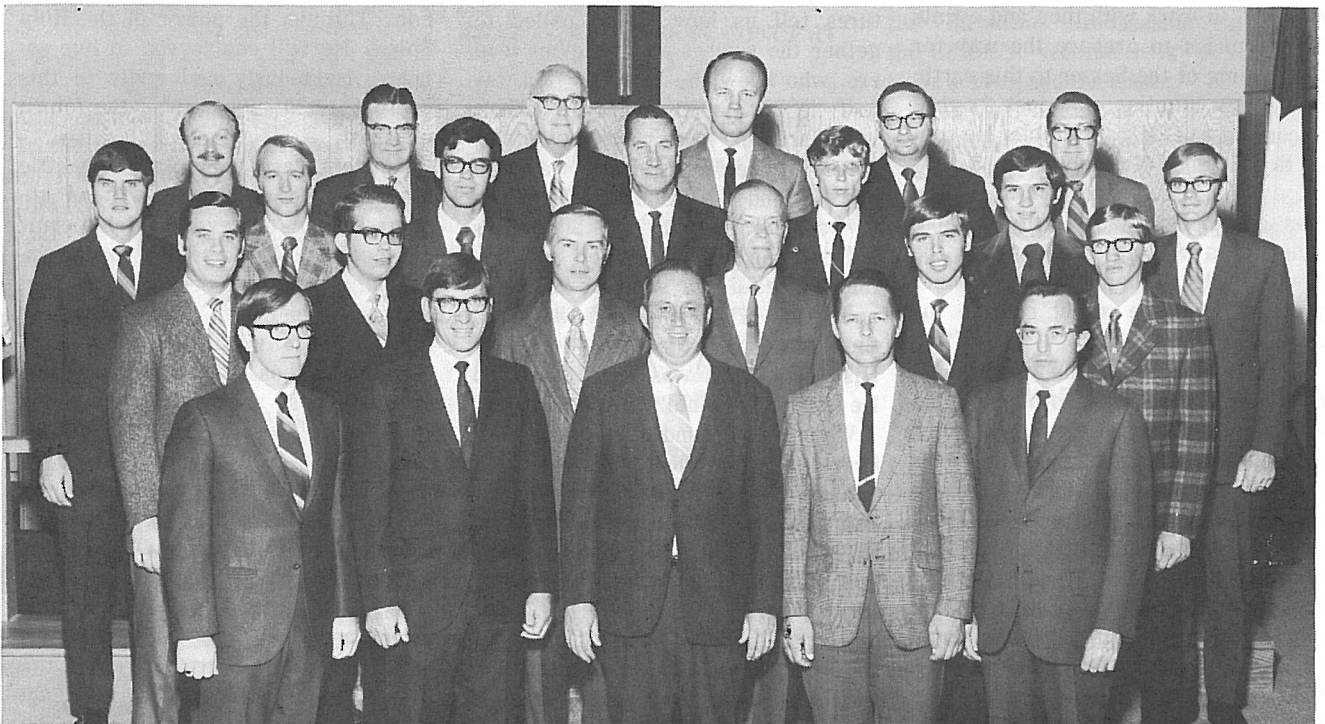
As we look to the future, God has given us the Scriptures to guide us, and we find that it is very exciting to see many prophetic Scriptures being fulfilled right before our eyes. When the disciples came to Jesus to ask the time in which He would return and set up His kingdom, He gave them many indicators that would herald His second coming. Today these indicators stand before you and me as warning signals that Jesus is coming soon.

Just as a bud bursts forth into a blossoming flower as the spring sun shines upon it, soon our Lord Jesus

Christ will burst forth upon our human scene. Are you really ready for Him? Beware lest this be simply a chorus that our young people sing, "Jesus is coming again," or a religious "cliche," "JESUS IS COMING." Will you be as Herod who knew the facts but was not personally prepared?

At this beautiful season of the year, when we celebrate the First Advent of our Lord, will you ponder anew the importance of His Second Advent which is yet future? Our Lord Jesus Himself solemnly warned us, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour when the Son of man cometh . . . Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 25:13 and 24:44).

Praise God for Advent Past: Jesus has come and paid for you and me! Praise God for Advent Present, that Jesus still comes into human lives who invite Him to be their Lord and Savior. Praise God for Advent Future: Jesus will return to this earth as our King of Kings! "Come quickly, Lord Jesus."



Students and faculty of Association Free Lutheran Seminary, 1971-72. First row, left to right, Elden Nelson, John Rieth, Kenneth Pentti, Kenneth Sortedahl and Adolph Hill; second row, Michael Brandt, Albin H. Fogelquist, Jr., Ronald Knutson, Anker Harbo, Terry Olson and Philip Haugen; third row, Kenneth Moland, Richard Anderson, Dennis O'Neill, Alvin Grothe, Elden Hansen, Wayne Pedersen and Bruce Dalager; fourth row, Mr. Donald Rodvold, Rev. John P. Strand, Rev. Amos O. Dyrud, Dean, Rev. Francis Monseth, Rev. Harold Hosch and Rev. Laurel Udden. Not pictured: Henry Johansen.

Recollections of a Trip to New York City

by Raynard Huglen, Editor
The Lutheran Ambassador

PART IV

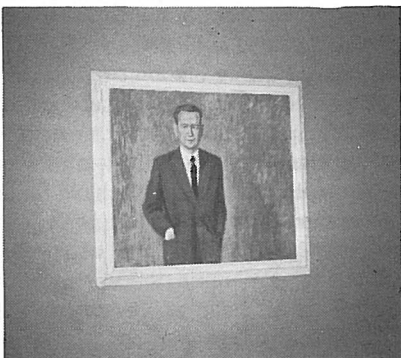
A Visit to the UN

There are many places one cannot see in a few days in a city the size of New York. But one that did seem worthy of the "must see" list was the United Nations complex on the west bank of the East River. Accordingly, on Friday morning I walked over to it, going along East 35th Street to First Avenue and up to that imposing UN building.

The plaza and gardens are well kept. It is a bit ironic that a statue of a man beating a sword into a plowshare is a gift of the Soviet Union. There was an interesting view of the East River activity from the railing at the river's edge.

I took a guided tour of the UN for \$1.50. Our guide was a statuesque Nigerian girl. All that can be said is that the building is spacious and very beautiful. We were able to walk only between two doors of the gallery of the General Assembly, and could not remain, because there was a meeting in progress commemorating the tenth anniversary of Dag Hammarskjöld's death in Africa.

Whatever one may think of the United Nations as an organization, it is a very impressive place. I shopped for a few minutes in the



A portrait of Dag Hammarskjöld at the United Nations.

souvenir shops and also had a bite of lunch in a restaurant there before walking back to my hotel.

A Saturday Night in Brooklyn

I must confess that I was more than a little apprehensive about going back to the Bedford-Stuyvesant area of Brooklyn on a Saturday evening to attend the rally at Teen Challenge. But I also knew that I wouldn't be satisfied if I didn't make the attempt. And so I boarded the subway and headed for Teen Challenge. Upon leaving the station on what I suppose was Lafayette Avenue, I discovered that I must walk several blocks before reaching Clinton Avenue. And it was not a pleasant area in which to walk.

Turning down Clinton, I soon became aware of unusual excitement ahead. There was only a block and a half to walk, but two discernible large knots of people could be distinguished on the right side of the street and both were situated very close to my destination which was, fortunately, across the street. The closest group of people also contained six or eight policemen and there was a squad car or two at hand. There had been some kind of a fracas and, when I crossed the street, I went past a young woman who was forcibly being restrained from going over to the trouble area. I later heard a rumor that the commotion had been started by two women and possibly this young woman had been one of them. Several policemen stayed at the scene for a while, but gradually all departed. Apparently this was one case that turned out well, with a minimum of violence.

The other congregation of people on Clinton Avenue that evening was gathering around a truck flat bed upon which a small combo was batting out some rock music. I soon learned from someone standing in the Teen Challenge compound, whose safety I

had reached by that time, that they were having a "block party" that day on Clinton. This, then, was the final part of that festival. It looked as though this truck bed performance was sort of an "amateur night" affair, but the performers entered in with great gusto.

The raucous sound of the rock music, the sounds of the world, diminished to something only faintly discernible as I entered the chapel for the evening service, one that was a special event since four young men were going to be "graduated" to the farm in Pennsylvania, having completed the basic course at the center. Outside there was music that had no message of hope or meaning, inside I was seated among young men who had been enslaved by a terrible craving that had made them worse than the denizens of the jungle, but now with Christ's help were being set free. Some family members were also present and then there were others, as I, who were only visitors.

The Rally at Teen Challenge

The service that night was Pentecostal in spirit. I am not a Pentecostal, but could grant them the privilege of being what they felt they should be. But it was old-time Pentecostalism or "conservative," if we can describe Pentecostalism in that way. The singing was spirited but it was the old songs that the audience sang. There were no long haired young men present. There was a conservatism noticeable.

One young man sang a solo. I think perhaps it was the song "He," but do not remember for sure. He did a fine job. Another young man, from the Dakotas, is the dean of men at Teen Challenge and he was the song leader. Don Wilkerson, David's brother, led the meeting and preached the sermon. He called on a young Negro to tell why he was happy to be there that night. The young black related

how he had been sentenced to four or five years at the State Prison at Elmira, but when the judge became convinced that his life had been changed, he was paroled instead. Thus he was glad to be at the service that night. Don Wilkerson told how this young man had a Jewish lawyer, not a Christian, and it had been quite interesting and astounding to hear him try to explain to the judge how his client's life had been transformed.

Don Wilkerson is not the dynamic personality that his brother is. In appearance he is taller and more slender. Nor is he the speaker that David is. Nevertheless, his sermon on John 14:1 and 2 was well thought out and stimulating.

It was announced that there would be baptism for the four men who had completed the course at Teen Challenge, had accepted Christ and were going to the farm for further study in the Bible. Before baptism each gave his testimony. One spoke in Spanish and an interpreter was used. One had been on drugs for 15 years, another for 13 years. All testified to the wonder of deliverance through the Lord. One fine looking fellow said it was through coming into the CURE Corps chapel on Fox Street in the Bronx that he had begun his way toward Christ. So out of such an unlikely and unlovely place as the Fox Street area lives are being reclaimed.

A titter ran through the audience as each person baptized came up out of the water. Three young women also were baptized at the service, but none of them had been involved in the drug problem.

After greeting the four men who had been baptized and shaking hands with Willie, the young man whom I had interviewed on Thursday, I stepped out into the night air. The block party was over and Clinton Avenue was quiet again. Refreshments were to be served at another building and I should like to have stayed and mingled with the people. But I was also interested in getting back to the subway before it got any later. The neighborhood changes dramatically, for the worse, in only the block and a half up from Teen Challenge to Lafayette.

All went well and I was glad that

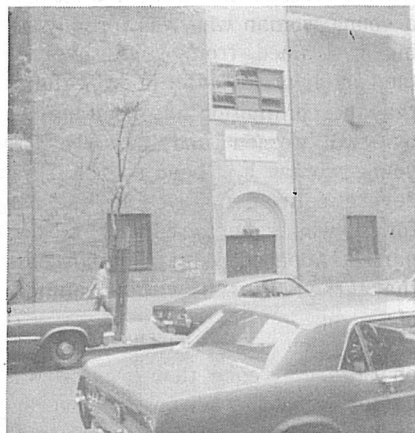
I had used the Saturday night in that way. Not able to agree with all things I had heard, I had nevertheless been uplifted.

Youth Development, Inc.

One other Christian work in New York that I wanted to look in on was that of Youth Development, Inc., headed up by Jim Vaus, the former wire-tapper. There was little likelihood of meeting him personally, since he had moved to San Diego to launch a nationwide program of work with youth. But at least I could look at the work in progress in the city.

The telephone book carried two addresses for YDI and I chose the one within walking distance, on West 42nd Street, for my first contact. The street between Sixth and Eighth Avenues was the most like the old Washington Avenue in Minneapolis, before urban renewal, of any place I saw in the city. In other words, it wasn't a very nice neighborhood. In an office building on West 42nd I found a YDI office listed, but on the floor indicated could not find any door with that name on it. Back on the street level a guard was able to give me the correct door which turned out to be the office of a certified public accountant.

After a wait of some minutes I was introduced to a Mr. C. G. Lambrides who identified himself as a member of the board of YDI. He was very busy that morning, but between interruptions told me a story of the work that was not very encouraging. The work in Spanish Harlem, the main work of YDI, had been cut back. A



Youth Development, Inc., Crossroads Center in East Harlem.

fine building for a high school and training school had been purchased. Perhaps it had been run for a year or so, but there was not enough money to pay the faculty and the school had to be suspended, although YDI still owned the building.

Mr. Lambrides told me that a worker does spend some time at the center various afternoons to work with the neighborhood children, but could not tell me at what specific times. There was no means of contact by telephone either, he said. The building stands unoccupied otherwise, guarded by watch dogs to prevent vandalism and looting. YDI does operate a summer camp in upper New York, to which city children and youth are taken for a while.

Spanish Harlem

I wanted to see the YDI center in Spanish Harlem and arranged a visit there the next day not knowing whether I would find anyone in the center. By agreement, my niece's husband, Mark Hanson, the student at Union Seminary, met me at Madison Avenue and 105th Street East, where I had come by bus. I wanted him along as I wasn't anxious to go into Spanish Harlem alone.

We walked a few blocks on 106th Street. We were met by long lines of uniformed children heading for St. Cecelia's Roman Catholic Church. We turned down to 105th Street and came to the YDI building. This was the Hell Gate section of New York and one of the toughest neighborhoods in the city. The street was narrow and there were many people lounging on the various apartment stoops along the street. The YDI building bore the name, I think, of Manhattan School of Music, indication of former glory. The door was locked. Windows at head level were open behind the wire mesh. We peered inside one or two and saw a watch dog. The dogs began barking and set up a noisy clamor. We went across the street and I took a picture of the building. I might not have taken the picture if Mark hadn't been with because he cautioned me about displaying a camera in the open. When I did have it along in the city it was carried in a coat pocket.

There was a sense of depression,

(Continued on page 14)



Letters

TO THE EDITOR

FLOURISHING YOUTH BIBLE GROUPS

I wanted to say how much I enjoyed Wayne Pederson's article on "A Bible Study is a Bible Study is a Bible Study."

How true! I agree 100% with it all. We have three teenage daughters and one 20-year-old, who through most of the summer have had Bible study and prayer meetings three times a week, sometimes more. The reason being they have made contacts with other teens and older, one through a missile man who came to our adult Bible study and brought this young person along, who had started a youth group in a town 26 miles from here. Monday nights they had the girls' meeting, Tuesday, the boys' group, and Wednesday a mixed group.

The parents were invited to come to their Wednesday night prayer meeting, so we could see how and what they were doing, especially since some of their parents are not born-again. They couldn't understand what it was all about. One Catholic girl got saved, a Christian Science boy also. I spoke to his parents at another meeting and they were really happy to know that their boy belonged to such a group of young people. I still don't think they realize what has happened to him, but the Lord has been blessing this group. Many have been added. Sometimes in the thirties, the number groups.

Another call they had came through one of the neighbor girls who was a counselor during the summer months. A young person came and asked if her prayer group could come and help them get started. That town

was approximately 60 miles away. So far they have made it once down there, and their group came up here for a young people's meeting.

What I discovered was like the article said. These young people shared the Word and their experiences and also pray one for another, and for unsaved loved ones. The one evening I was there, six girls were kneeling with their arms on each others shoulders, quietly in a corner. It really touched me to see the child-like humble spirit these girls had.

A word to the parents. Don't stand in the way if your young people want to have such a meeting together. I know some here have thought it an awful lot of going, but how thankful I am and happy to know that they are having their "more so meeting," as I have started calling them (Hebrews 10:25). How thankful these young people are when they have just come to know the Lord and are willing to share with others their testimonies. Some have been in everything that is wrong in the world today, even though they have at sometime gone to church, some with the fundamental denominations. What they want is reality, something they can live by, without any pretense, and I praise the Lord for these who are finding their answer in Him.

Mrs. Reuben Ivesdal
Edmore, N. Dak.

THE JOY OF THE LORD

The hearts are so silent. Is life growing uncertain? Has God's Word lost its meaning and our oil run out so there is no flicker of hope? Or

is it the silent love with the Lord and we want to be with Him alone? If we shed some tears of joy and feel so good inside, there is a concern of love that fills our heart. Oh, help us, Lord, to find this love that Christ can only give. It can't be found on blackboards or highway billboards where the world wants to advertise. Some seek it there and live two sides of life, with false love on their faces.

Give me the love as a child has and leave me alone with the Lord. The eyes of tears reveal the inner man when God has come to stay. The joy of His coming we seek and pray for. What a glorious day it will be!

When Christ comes in He changes the heart and He moves the furniture around. He stops the dirt that comes in and lets the sun shine in. He controls our ways and leads each day. His love brings JOY to stay.

Give me the silent deep in thoughts, with love beads from Christ on his cheeks, seeking for a soul that has no place to go. It could be a little boy crying for his dad with one of his shoes in his hand. It could be an elder seeking somebody's love to help him into the pool.

So humble me, good Lord, that I could love this way. I know the Lord has come to stay, so may I call myself a Christian and the Lord lead my way, till the day I meet Him. Praise the Lord!

So may I say, Christ will come to stay if you ask Him. Call Him up. But you must find it's more than words. He is real. As one missionary said, "Silent and deep are His ways and the surface is calm." I say, "Amen!"

True love is calm and deep. You cannot be what you aren't and if you try, it's only for a season. So may I say, "Seek the Lord." His hand will come out. Accept His hand and then your faith has a foundation in Christ with His love overflowing so you can feed the lost.

And set your minds and keep them on what is above... the higher things, not the things that are on the earth. (Col. 3:2).

Walter Niemi
Cloquet, Minn.

(Continued on page 15)

I took his hand



FALLING LEAVES

There was nothing really unusual about it; just a little group of happy children playing under some autumn trees. Nevertheless, I had to pause and look. From whence had all these rich golden yellow leaves come? They made a thick carpet on the walk and covered the entire lawn. But the trees did not seem to have lost any of their foliage. Just as I stood there I looked up to see the setting sun come out from behind a dark northwest sky. If only one could preserve in his memory this magnificent display of colors breaking through as if from another world! If only one could hear again the happy laughter of these children in contrast to the cries of sickness and death that come to our ears!

I took one of the nicest leaves home with me. Upon that leaf I wish to inscribe a memorial to a friend.

She was a widow, ninety-four years old last Fourth of July. Her husband and his brother met death in a severe blizzard in the seventies. She and the oldest daughter, then about sixteen, were rescued from a snowdrift a few feet away from their log hut on the old homestead out west. The Lord gave her strength to continue farming and rearing the children, all of them daughters, until they grew up and could shift for themselves. Then she moved to Minneapolis, where she has received loving care from one of her daughters. In this home there have at times been four generations living together.

It was here that I first met her—a refined, devout, praying soul, earnestly longing for the Lord's coming. In her room I have experienced some of the brightest prayer hours of my life. The roots of her Christian life were firmly planted in God's Word and in the church's rich trea-

sury of hymns. Not infrequently she impresses me as being like a tree planted by the rivers of waters, which gives its fruit in its season and whose leaf does not wither. She followed her relatives and friends and the work of the Kingdom with a vital interest.

Sometimes, however, her longing to go 'home' and be with the Savior Himself became so strong that she would say anxiously: "Perhaps I am even so sinful and unclean that He does not want me to come to Him." To the very end she experienced inner struggles and anxiety over sin, intermingled with peace and comfort from God's grace.

Toward the middle of last month she became suddenly weaker. We realized at once that she would never make use of the room which they had been busily fixing up for her during the summer. "My Lord and Savior has been preparing a still better room for me," she said as she was saying farewell to us. "He is coming now. At last I am going to move into my real home."

Since it had been a rule of her life to hallow everything with the Word of God and prayer, we united our hearts in prayer, as usual. This time she chose the closing song herself and started singing:

"Yearning homeward! Gracious
 Lord and Father, let me
 homeward come!
 Call me from all sin and sorrow!
 Soon I'll reach my home.
 Yearning homeward! There
 eternal summer suns shine
 o'er us.
 Thou dost say: 'Lo, I'm coming.'
 Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"

In Norwegian:

"Hjem jeg laenges! Naaderide
 Fader, la mig hjem faa gaa,
 Bort fra synd og sorger vide!
 Snart mitt hjemland skal jeg
 naa.

Hjem jeg laenges! Der er sommer,
 sol og sang saa viden om,
 Ja, du sier: 'Se jeg kommer!
 Amen. Herre Jesus, Kom!"

The words came gradually slower, her voice became steadily weaker. She whispered the Amen—and "Grandma" fell asleep in the arms of God.

On a sunny fall day the flower-decked casket was carried out of the church. The grass was covered with withered leaves. But the evergreens in the churchyard bore fresh branches.

Wm. Hagen



After working for one year to complete the requirements for his Pro Deo et Patria or God and Country Award, Star Scout Ward Sharp, was presented his award by Pastor Francis Monseth at the Sunday Morning Worship Service at Elim Lutheran Church, Lake Stevens, Wash.

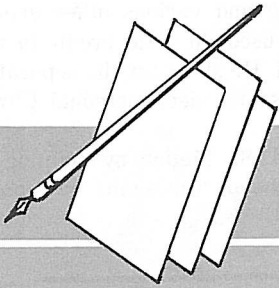
Ward Sharp, son of Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Sharp, has been a member of Troop 41, Lake Stevens, for two years. He is also a second year confirmant and an active member of the Youth Group at Elim Lutheran.



In Memoriam

Key: The name of the town is the address of the deceased. Following that is listed the name of the deceased, age, date of death and the church in which he or she held membership.

NORTH DAKOTA
 Binford
 Mrs. George Oien, Sr., 54, June 22,
 Bethany



EDITORIALS

ZEAL FOR THE COMMANDMENTS

"The Christian seeks to refrain from those acts, thoughts and words which are against a stated law of God."

Declaration of Faith, IV:1

In our consideration of the statements or theses, if you will, of **Declaration of Faith**, we come now to the fourth section or group, entitled Practical Life. And the very first one is simply a restatement of the words of Jesus, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39).

To be sure, Jesus stated the Law positively. And if the life of love were truly lived, the laws of the Lord wouldn't be violated and He would be loved as He deserves and one's fellow men would not be sinned against.

But alas, the Christian is not free from the old nature and the infirmities of the flesh as long as he lives here. He must constantly be on guard, lest he be overcome by evil desires. He recognizes that God's Law is his ideal, and, as the Catechism declares, that "it points out to the believer the fruits his faith must bear."

Our statement shows us today that one of the distinguishing marks of Christian life is that it is life which is seeking to follow the commandments of God. In other words, others have a right to look for a holy jealousy for God's Law in the life of one who professes to follow Christ. There can be no careless spirit concerning it, no sense that adherence to the Law is optional.

Where there is a flippant attitude toward the Commandments as a group or singly, there is evidence of a dying or dead faith. "By their fruits you shall know them" (Matthew 7:20).

"Sin is any thought or feeling, word or act, which is contrary to God's holy law."

MINISTRY NEEDS MEN

It should be a concern to the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations that only three full-time students are in the junior or first-year class of the church's semi-

nary this year. Seven men were admitted by the Board of Trustees and administration of the school, but for one reason or other there are only the three actually studying full-time.

It is fortunate that perhaps a dozen men will be entering into the church's ministry in the next two years. Their coming will help somewhat to alleviate the pastoral shortage which exists. But it should be evident that we will need more than three men entering the seminary a year in order to meet the demands of the future.

Why is it that not more young men are presenting themselves for training as pastors? Is there a breakdown in prayer? Jesus said, "Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Matthew 9:38). We don't want laborers the Lord hasn't thrust out, but it doesn't seem likely that He would fail to give the supply needed. The trouble must lie with us, as pastors, as lay people, as eligible young men.

Perhaps in our congregations we haven't held forth the challenge of the Christian ministry and mission work. Perhaps young men have let other considerations get larger in their lives than God's call to separation unto the ministry. Martin Luther, for one, debunked the idea that one could not serve God as well in vocations not church-related. But the point is, one can only serve the Lord well if he is where the Lord has placed him. And for some that is the ministry. We are only wanting to be sure that every Christian young man whom the Lord wants in the ministry and mission work gets there.

Naturally, it is a private matter, but we can pray that the Lord through the subtleties of the Holy Spirit will be able to work in the hearts of young men and direct them toward the ministry. Sometimes he will work very definitely through some other person to challenge the one whom He wants. Be ready to be used.

And those who do see the ministry as their field should move resolutely toward that goal, preparing just as well as they can, educationally and devotionally, for it is a vocation worthy of the very best training and effort.

Let us pray that the Association will be supplied with the number of seminary students needed to assure an adequate pastoral supply.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

We never saw Si Melby unless it was unknowingly at the annual conference of the Lutheran Free Church in Thief River Falls, Minn., in 1938, during our boyhood. But if ever we have heard a man spoken of in terms of respect and affection by many it is the late Si Melby, teacher and sometime athletic coach at Augsburg College in Minneapolis.

He must have been some Bible teacher, from all indications. He was interested in his students and their relationship to the Lord. He seems to have been a warmly evangelical and pietistic man.

Augsburg College honored his memory by naming the new gymnasium after him. After all, he had won some basketball championships when he was coach. It seemed a fitting memorial to a man held in such high esteem.

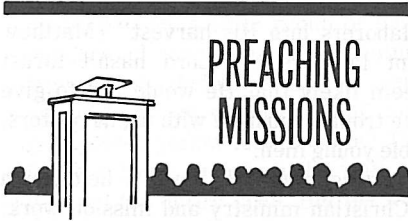
And then one reads about the kind of an evening they

had in Si Melby Hall a few weeks ago. A big name musical rock group performed there and rolled back the calendar to music of the 1950's. The five member combo came onstage offering "an occasional naughty gesture." Some members of the audience broke into spontaneous dances during the performance. A picture accompanying the article in the Picture section of the **Minneapolis Sunday Tribune** showed four of the five performers relaxing in a locker room of Si Melby Hall and two were holding

bottles of something that looked stronger than soda pop.

The events of that evening and various other events for which the gymnasium is used do little credit to the man who has become a legend. He stood for the separated Christian life. He was fearless for deep personal Christianity.

Augsburg College honored Si Melby by naming a building after him. Now let it honor him again, by removing his name.



PRECIOUS JESUS

Precious Jesus, my Lord thou art.
 Rule forever in my heart.
 Truly make me wholly Thine,
 From every sin and idol refine.
 Always obedient to your voice,
 Let me someday in heaven rejoice,
 Having brought in some precious sheaves.
 May my life have borne more than leaves.
 When I see Thee face to face,
 Just a sinner saved by Thy grace.
 Those through life's journey Thou hast lent me.
 May they also in heaven be.
 Praising thy name forever more,
 By Thy grace Thou didst restore.

Sent in by Mrs. Reuben Ivesdal
 Edmore, N. Dak.

CULBERTSON PARISH HAS RADIO PROGRAM

A 15-minute radio program has been aired for nearly a year now over KVCK, Wolf Point, Mont. It goes on the air at 8:45 in the morning and is called Joy in the Morning. It is sponsored by the Culbertson, Mont., parish. Gene Sundby, Lay Pastor.

"The church has not finished its task when it has sent out missionaries; it must stand with them, work with them, sacrifice with them, and fight the battles together with them continually."

Rev. Fredrick Ditmanson.
In Foreign Fields

Kirkland, Washington

December 1-5
 Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
 (Services will be in public school facilities)
 Robert Rieth, pastor
 Speaker: Mr. Tony Fontane,
 converted singer and entertainer

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE GIVES DATES OF SOME 1972 EVENTS IN THE CHURCH

The President of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations has released the following information concerning several events to be held in the church in 1972.

The annual Pastors' Conference will be held at the Schools in Minneapolis, Minn., January 18-20, beginning with a Holy Communion service on the 18th and ending with the noon meal on January 20th.

The annual Winter Bible Conference will be in Bethel Lutheran Church, Grafton, N. Dak., Dennis Gray, pastor, February 3-6, with the service on Thursday, February 3, opening the Conference.

The Annual Conference of the Association will be June 14-18, at the Schools in Minneapolis.

A notice about the 1972 Family Bible Camp at Alexandria, Minn., is found elsewhere in this issue of the **Ambassador**.

THE ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS
 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

February 1, 1971—October 31, 1971

Budget Receipts

	Proposed Yearly Budget	Current Budget	Total Received
General	\$38,250.00	\$ 28,687.50	\$ 17,147.53
Schools	61,424.00	46,068.00	31,690.54
Foreign Missions	36,000.00	27,000.00	26,856.39
Home Missions	34,245.00	25,683.75	14,311.45
Praise Program	30,000.00	22,500.00	11,899.41
	\$199,919.00	\$149,939.25	\$101,905.32

Received last year at same time—\$107,966.54
 One Grand Fellowship—\$225.00
 Library—\$59.00
 Legacies—1,006.05

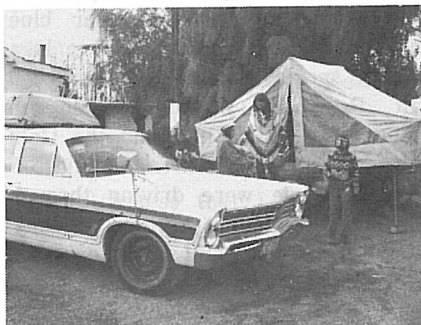
TRAVERSING THE HIGH ANDES

"There were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever" (Rev. 11:15).

Many of you may have followed our previous articles telling about our family trip through Central America. At that time we brought you up to date on events as far as Panama. Now we will give you the highlights from there and on to Brazil.

We had to ship our car around the southern part of Panama because they have not completed this stretch of the Pan American Highway, although money has now been appropriated by Uncle Sam and we understand that within two years this last stretch is to be completed. Having had a rather slow trip through the six Central American countries, we decided to ship our car as far as Guayaquil, Ecuador, instead of the closer port of Boaventura, Colombia. This would save us about 1,000 miles of mountainous driving in Colombia and the price was about the same, \$230.00 for car and trailer. We then flew, as a family of eight, from Panama to Quito, Ecuador. Our son David returned to The King's College in New York, because it was now near the end of August and his summer vacation was about over. It was hard to see him go, but we hope he can come out to Brazil to visit us some summer.

In Quito, Ecuador, we visited the famous missionary radio station, "Voice of the Andes," HCJB. This station spans half the world and has broadcasts that reach out to five continents in various languages. We visited old friends from Brazil, the Eugene Jordans. Two days later, after some interesting tours, we were on our way, literally across the Andes Mountains, headed for an old university city at about the same altitude as Quito. We planned to visit a former Seminary classmate now working in Cuenca with the World Mission Prayer League, the John



Camping along the way in Peru

Johnson family. The city was 12 hours away, and what a thrilling, or maybe a better word is scary, bus ride. It seemed like we were madly tearing up and down the hairpin curves and switchback roads. Ruby and I were praying that the driver would slow down and after two flat tires he did, for now he had no spare. I guess he didn't relish the idea of spending a cold night on an isolated mountain road with a bus full of passengers. Well, we for our part now began to enjoy the beautiful scenery as we drove sensibly along toward Cuenca.

After a weekend of activities with the Johnsons and an opportunity to see the work here first hand, as well as to hear of their development of a new seminary extension course, we took a bus down to the seaport city of Guayaquil. Here we discovered, after a two days' wait for our car, that our American Auto Association documents were not acceptable in Ecuador, and it seemed almost impossible to get our car off the ship. Two more days were spent in visiting Customs officials, getting signatures and affidavits from the American Consul, etc. Finally, with payment of port fees of \$60.00, they gave us the car and trailer and we made our way happily out of Ecuador. It is only about a four-hour drive from this seaport to the border with Peru, but we noticed that just before the border the jungle area rapidly gave way to cactus country and before long to just plain sand dunes. From the

border of Peru to Lima we followed the coast route on the only asphalt road in that part of the country. The Pan American Highway, we were to discover, is almost all tarred, except for the stretch we mentioned in Panama, and another short stretch in Argentina. We had three days of desert driving to the capital of Lima. We are told that parts of Lima have not had rain in 30 years. Many of the poor people do not even bother to build a roof over their homes, although they get cold and damp at certain times of the year when they have morning dews.

We spent three days in Lima with our friends, the Stumps. He is a director of the Goodrich Rubber Co., in Peru and a real witnessing Lutheran Christian. After resting up, we again confronted the desert road. At times we would have 80 to 100 miles between gas stations. It was no place to have a car breakdown. We are thankful that we now seemed to have an outfit with the bugs out of it and we rolled along for three more days in the direction of Peru's second largest city, Arequipa.

The months of August and September are springtime in the southern hemisphere. There is little fog along the coast at this time, so we had beautiful, sunny days, and not too warm as there usually were strong winds blowing off the mountains or the ocean. All along the coast we saw little fishing villages, usually no more than a dozen or more shacks, and not a tree in sight. Men were often observed going out to fish, or fishing along the beaches. Often we saw rafts of only a few logs with two or more men balancing on them, as little sails moved them out to sea and a day of fishing.

Our stop at Arequipa was at the home of Pastor and Mrs. James Redding. Their address had been given to us by friends in Lima. The Reddings are with the Southern Baptist Mission. We were warmly wel-

came there, though we came in on the end of cases of measles that had just made the rounds among their five children. After enjoying a day of their fine "southern hospitality, we made plans to travel on up into the Andes Mountains to LaPaz, capital of Bolivia. We were informed that the road rises nine thousand feet in about 50 miles, and was a dirt road, in not very good condition. Also, there was the matter of the recent revolution, only two weeks before, while we were in Ecuador. It was supposed to be over now and the country out of the hands of the Communists and in the hands of the Army and Rightist political parties. But this left the questions: how much of the country is under control? and is it worth trying to drive our outfit up the mountains and over those roads? We decided that the safest way would be for us to take a public bus and get up to LaPaz without our car. At five in the morning we were on our way. By sun-up we were at the highest point of the road, some over 15,000 feet. We stopped at a little Indian tavern, gave out a few Spanish tracts and had a cup of coffee. I noticed that there was ice on the water puddles and our breath was foggy. It is cold every night the year around at these altitudes. Ruby and I felt a little woozy at this altitude, but it didn't seem to bother the children. Our trip along the beautiful Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world, was beautiful. We saw a lot of little Indian reed boats that are used for fishing and transportation in these parts. This has led to the anthropological theory that these people of South America are descendants from the early Egyptian sailors and explorers. This, of course, helps substantiate the flood theory which maintains that all the peoples of the world came from the Mesopotamian area. Also on this bus trip, going and returning from La Paz, we met some interesting travelers. Some looked like hippies, but were not. On talking to them we discovered that in one case they were two brothers from a Canadian university spending the summer traveling around South America. Another proved to be a Danish school teacher teaching in one of their colonies near Brazil. Another couple turned out to be a

New York writer and his wife sort of hitch-hiking their way across the continent. Others were encountered from Norway, Germany and France.

Our trip at this point was mainly scenic, viewing the beautiful snow capped Andes, which rise to over 21,000 feet and are always snow-capped. Below were the startling clear blue waters of Lake Titicaca. This lake has a special color in this rarified air. Previously we had visited the Inca ruins near Lima and the Gold Museum with all its artifacts and relics. Now we were driving through the modern Indian culture of Peru today. Another point of interest in Peru was our coastal visit in Chimote, one of the largest fishmeal fertilizer plants in the world. Also, going through the city of Casmar, we saw effects of the earthquake which had almost leveled that city. In fact, in most Peruvian towns south of Lima, we saw earthquake damage. Now, however, we were driving along in a ratty, bumpy old bus almost literally on top of the mountains and some of it was blowing off right in our faces all the time. Tired and dirty, we arrived in LaPaz about 8 p.m. on a Saturday evening. A phone call to the WMPL home soon brought old friends to our aid and before long we were visiting with Mrs. Showalter, the Fenners, Andrews and others. Some of you may remember that in this city some 18 years ago we began our missionary career, and received our second son, Jonathan.

We enjoyed our weekend in LaPaz, visiting the various church activities and especially the afternoon dedica-

tion ceremony carried out by the Indian elders and preachers as they dedicated a new little church in one of the Indian villages on the Altoplano. We were told that the Amara Indians are now experiencing a small religious awakening. Through their own lay preachers, pastors and elders, Christian groups are springing up all over. A few years ago there were only a few Indian churches; now around La Paz alone there are over 25, and new ones coming into being every month.

Tuesday morning bright and early found us back in Arequipa, Peru. We were now anxious to pick up our car that had been left there with the Reddings and be on our way into Chile. Everyone was tired of traveling and we could almost smell Brazil, when a good southeasterly wind blew, though Brazil's odor has never been disagreeable.


Oh, I'm sure we should mention that we came down the Andes at night in a train, preferring to make the last part of the trip this way, as we heard of too many buses falling off the mountain road at night. Ruby and the small ones were able to get a sleeping compartment, while Debby and us old guys rode the coach and about froze all night long. Yet, we were pretty well bundled up by now and probably looked more like a group of Amara Indians with our Indian woven hats on and ponchos, etc., than anything else.

Our trip from the border of Chile began in a routine way, a few days of running up and down the sand dunes on the asphalt highway. It was only near Santiago, the capital of Chile that we found an area where rainfall permits green valley, trees and farms. As we passed Arica, Chile, and drove over the desert, we would have to time our trip so that by nightfall we would be in some larger town that might have a hotel, restaurant, gas station, etc. Such was our plan as we pulled into a little city called Iquique one evening about 8 p.m. The town, we learned, was in a large nitrate mining area. The only hotel in town, a large clapboard affair, was full, and even if it hadn't been I don't know if I would have wanted to take the family into it. As we

(Continued on page 14)



The WMPL Sunday School at Cuenca, Ecuador



WOMEN *for Christ*

THOUGHTS FOR ADVENT

by Mrs. John P. Strand
Minneapolis, Minn.

Advent is the beginning of the new church year. We will soon be in the midst of our Christmas preparations in church and home. Once again we need to carefully and prayerfully examine our thoughts, motives, attitudes, and actions with the familiar question of the composer who wrote "O how shall I receive Thee, How greet Thee, Lord, aright?"

For Christian women, this question should be more important to us this year than ever before. Because of the commercialization and increasing secularization of Christmas by the world, a God-pleasing emphasis in our holiday preparations is of utmost importance to the spiritual lives of ourselves and our families.

I have often been guilty in the past of categorizing my preparations into the spiritual and the material. This ought not be so. God desires that we do all things as unto Him! With much prayer for the "mind of Christ," and an awareness which seizes opportunities when they present themselves, we can grow spiritually, through, and in spite of, the busy-ness of the season. Our pre-Christmas duties and responsibilities can open avenues for learning experiences for the entire family.

Let us consider briefly the significance of Advent. It is a season of preparation for Christmas. Specifically, Advent means "coming." God's Son came to earth in human form that first Christmas. He will come

in Spirit and power to all who will receive Him in our day. Finally, Christ will come triumphantly as judge. We need to be reminded, and our children must be taught, that God's Christmas gift of Himself has no meaning for us unless today we have personally accepted that gift into our hearts, and thus rejoice at the prospect of His final coming in glory and majesty. For believers, Advent is a season of rejoicing in the coming of Christ—past, present and future.

What is the atmosphere of your home and mine this preparation season? Does it reflect this Advent joy? So much depends on the "homemaker"! It can be Christ-centered and God-glorifying with just a little extra effort on our part. Sacred Christmas music can inspire family and guests alike. The manner in which we decorate our homes will likewise witness to the fact that the coming of Christ is at the center of our festivities. This atmosphere is ever more important for children who attend schools where Christmas is secularized and the sacred carols banned.

This Christian atmosphere will surely do something to our own spirits as well, but we must also hide The Word in our hearts, that we might be fortified against the temptations to irritation and impatience which beset us during this especially busy season. Christian radio messages are one means of feeding our souls as we go about our daily tasks.

While the atmosphere of the home and our own reverent spirits speak forcefully to our children of spiritual values at Christmas, this is not

enough. We must teach also with words. The symbols of Christmas can be excellent "visual aids." Why do we bake star-shaped cookies? What is the basis for the gift-giving custom at Christmas? Why place an angel at the top of the tree? Indeed, why is a living evergreen tree a symbol of Christmas? What is the significance of candles?

Nativity scenes and advent calendars are effective teaching devices, particularly when we discuss them with the children. A few excellent Advent helps, which include daily devotions, are available for family use. The daily family devotions are of utmost importance in preparing our hearts for Christmas.

Worldly Christmas music and symbols have no place in the Christian home. Children must learn early that Santa is the symbol of a secular Christmas—of a world which will not accept the Christ of Christmas, who is the first, best, and most enduring of all Christmas gifts. To allow Santa to share the glory of Christmas with the Christ Child can only result in spiritual confusion for children. Christmas can never be more meaningful to any child than to those who realize that all the gifts, the family gatherings, the tree, and all the trimmings and festivities would lose their meaning apart from Him. As someone has said, "We prepare for Christmas because He first prepared Christmas for us."

Unfortunately, Satan is at work during Advent, too. In spite of our most earnest intentions, he uses our tired minds and bodies to destroy our spirits. The hymnwriter follows his question with a prayer which we might do well to make our own:

"O kindle, Lord, most holy,
Thy lamp within my breast,
To do in Spirit lowly
All that may please Thee best."

LANDSTAD LUTHERAN CHURCH SCENE OF WOMEN'S GATHERING

The fall rally of the North Central District Women's Missionary Federation was held on October 12, 1971, at Landstad Lutheran Church, Shevlin, Minn. Our president, Mrs. Bir-

deen Holt, opened the meeting. Devotions were by Mrs. Stanley Brekke and the welcome was given by Mrs. Takvam.

The Bible study was presented by Mrs. Knute Jore. It was entitled "Holding Forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:12-18). She divided the study into three parts: Obedience, vs. 12-13; Shining Lights, vs. 14-16; and Re-joining, vs. 16-18. She said that we are not only to be shining lights but torch bearers. The fruit of such a life is joy in our own life and for those who are brought out of darkness into light. There is joy among the angels of heaven and in the heart of the Savior for every soul who is saved.

The offering of the day was given to the Praise Program. Mr. Ed Mathison closed the morning and afternoon sessions. A delicious dinner was served by the Landstad ladies at noon.

The afternoon session began with a hymn sing and prayer time led by Mrs. Forrest Swenson. Mrs. Harlan Gilbertson gave a talk on Psalm 18:14. She has been in Ethiopia and spoke of conditions there. But God does not look upon us in America as superior to those who still use oxen, she said. Beloved John 3:16 applies equally to all.

In the morning ladies from Bagley and Rice congregations sang "In Times Like These" and "Each Step I Take."

The Maple Bay women sang "Wonderful Hands of Jesus" and "When I Remember Calvary" in the afternoon session.

Mrs. Morris Moan, Secretary

(Continued from page 12)

wondered about what to do we saw beyond the railway tracks some large, nicely painted buildings. Driving over there and talking with a few of the men outside. I learned that this was the company hospital and they were the doctors. I explained our situation and wondered if there were any motels in the area or a place where we could set up our camper. They immediately showed interest in us and one doctor told us his wife was away visiting with the family, their house was empty, and we were welcome to stay there.

So ended a big problem and began an interesting friendship. We had a good night's rest, with warm showers and a kitchen to cook in. The next morning these doctors called on us and wanted to take us for a trip around the mines in the area. All of this was very interesting and educational.

(To be continued)

(Continued from page 6)

not only from the meanness of 105th Street, but because this Christian work had fallen on hard times in such a needy area. We walked back to 106th. At St. Cecelia's Church we stepped inside for a minute. A sixtyish priest was having only partial success in keeping the attention of a church-full of children about 12-15 years old.

Mark and I took the bus across town, through Harlem, to Columbia University where I saw an acquaintance from South Dakota and then we went to Mark's apartment near the Hudson River.

(To be continued)

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT BIBLE SCHOOL

The annual Christmas concert at Association Free Lutheran Bible School will be held on Sunday evening, December 12. Check the local papers for the starting time. The choirs of the Bible School, under the direction of Mr. Donald Rodvold, will participate. This annual Christmas event is fast growing in popularity in the Twin Cities community and another large turnout is expected this year.

NEW AMBASSADOR SUBSCRIPTION RATE TO GO INTO EFFECT

On July 31 of this year the Board of Publications and Parish Education in a regular meeting voted to raise the subscription price of **The Lutheran Ambassador** to \$3.50 per year, effective some time in the fall. Because of the national wage-price freeze which was announced by the President on August 15, that increase was not put into effect. But it will be implemented on January 1, 1972.

An increase in printing costs plus

the rise in second class mail rates has made this move necessary. Added to that is the fact that some other competitive magazines already had a higher subscription charge than the **Ambassador**.

All subscriptions begun or renewed on or before December 31 will be processed at the old rate of \$2.50.

Thank you.

Raynard Huglen, Chairman
Board of Publications
and Parish Education

OUR CHRISTMAS ISSUE

Again this year, we will be putting out an enlarged Christmas issue of **The Lutheran Ambassador**. It will be out earlier than ever, too, thus insuring delivery to all well before Christmas is here.

Among the feature articles will be two Christmas stories, an account of an old-time Swedish Christmas and a message for Christmas by a pastor of the church.

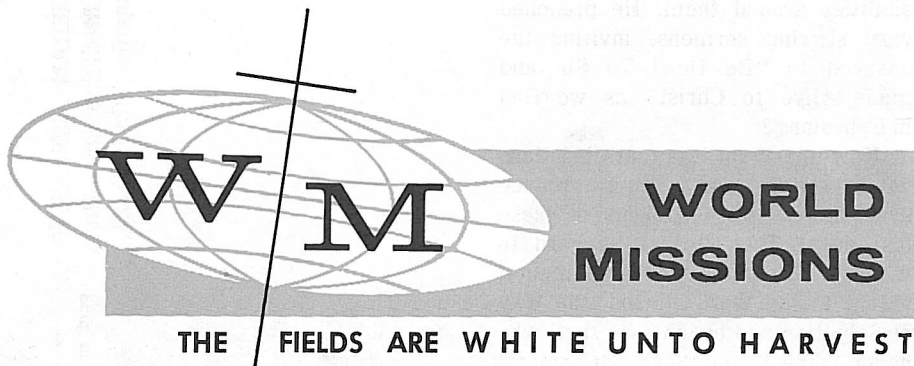
Pastor John Strand, president of the AFLC, will have his annual greeting to the church. The conclusion of the account of the John Abel family's trip to Brazil will be contained in the Christmas **Ambassador**, as will the Editor's "recollections" of his trip to New York and the East.

There will be poems for Christmas, and pictures, together with other Christmas-oriented material. We hope that you will look forward to this special issue and perhaps will want to send it to friends.

The Editor

ADVANCE INFORMATION ON 1972 FAMILY BIBLE CAMP GIVEN

The dates of the 1972 Family Bible Camp at Lake Geneva, Alexandria, Minn., will be July 3-9, according to Lay Pastor Gene Sundby of Culbertson, Mont., who will serve as the dean of the camp. The evening evangelist will be Rev. David Molstre, Thief River Falls, Minn. The adult Bible teacher will be Rev. Richard Gunderson, who will be home at that time on furlough from LaPaz, Bolivia. Instructing the youth section of the camp in Bible will be Mr. Wayne Pederson, youth director of the AFLC. Further information will be released as it becomes available.



by the Brazilians to this disaster area. A telegram was sent to the governor of Parana and the radio alerted all truckers carrying tile to head directly to Campo Mourao. No matter where they were going they were to cancel out their orders and go to Campo.

Sunday evening trucks started coming in and the flow of trucks with tile from all over Brazil has been pouring into Campo all week and we are going to need hundreds of more loads.

Hundreds, or 95 per cent of the houses and buildings are covered with brittle tile and if it wasn't broken it was cracked and damaged so it all has to be replaced.

The loss is staggering not only for business but our mission as well. All our buildings were hit and have to be covered. But the Lord will make a way for us. We are just thankful to God no one was hurt, so it could have been much worse. We now have our house fairly well taken care of. Pray for us.

(In view of these losses, against the background of our added need with the Abels now on the field, we urge the members of the Association and friends to give added support to our endeavors on the Brazilian field. Send in for the new slides and take a free-will offering for our Foreign Missions.—Pastor A. L. Hokonson, Chairman, Board of Foreign Missions.)



(Continued from page 7)

THE ARTIST KLAGSTAD

In many of our West Coast churches there are altar paintings which have been painted by Klagstad. Bethany Lutheran of Astoria is fortunate to have a painting of Peter endeavoring to walk upon the water. This painting is highly prized by its members. It would be interesting to learn something of Klagstad if any of the readers of the *Ambassador* could write a word regarding the artist who painted such lovely pictures of our Lord.

Pastor R. S. Persson
Bethany Lutheran Church
Astoria, Ore.

PERSONAL LETTER FROM THE DYRUDS IN BRAZIL TELLS OF MISSION LOSS IN HAILSTORM

(Ed. Note: This letter was written to the parents of Missionary Connely Dyrud, but we are reprinting it here for the information of the congregations and other friends.)

October 2

Sorry this letter is so belated but we've had another Brazilian experience that goes down on the records as a "winner!"

Sunday morning, Sept. 26, 5 A.M., there was a bright flash of lightning and then a rip of thunder, followed by a terrible rumble and an ear-shattering racket overhead. The lights dimmed and went out and the children started crying.

The ceiling lights fell to the floor and broke and the roar grew louder. So we picked the children up and ran to the doorway so as not to be hit by objects. A few minutes later the racket stopped as quickly as it had started and a moment of silence—then the rain came down in "buckets full" and it poured into the house just as if we had nothing overhead.

So I stepped outside and to my surprise the ground was white—no, not snow but hail as big as baseballs (and I'm not exaggerating). I looked up at our tile roof and 80 per cent of the tiles were broken. The water was just gushing into our house.

The neighbors came running out in their pajamas. They, too, had been hit and we soon learned that the whole city of Campo Mourao, a city of 45,000,

had been hit. Our two city churches and Bible Institute had been badly damaged.

I then went to see how the Knapps (Missionary George Knapp) were doing. They had already set up their tent outside. We went up to the Institute to get some tarps to put in our house for the children. We made a tent in our house so we could keep dry.

The rain kept on until 2 P.M.

The house was full of water, books, clothing, beds, everything drenched. Just like a flood or worse.

We got a canvas set up in the bedroom for the children and a gas lamp going so we could see what we were doing.

The rain finally stopped and we started helping the poor people, cold, everything soaked and night coming on, which made it even colder.

Then, to our surprise, at 5 P.M. the Abels pulled in from their trip (Ed.—from the U.S.). We were all but stunned. But they put their tents up in our yard and Carolyn made hot soup for them all. The next day all pitched in and helped us. So we thanked God for His protecting hand also at this time.

The owner of our house owns the tile factory, so Monday he brought over a truckload of tile. Then John (Abel) and boys and students from the Institute all helped to get our roof back on. The ladies all helped clean up the mess on the inside. We had to open all doors and put everything outside to dry.

But one of the most fantastic things I've seen was the quick response made

**EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS
HELD AT GRAFTON**

Evangelist Clarence Haaland of Gonvick, Minnesota, recently spoke at a week of special meetings at the Bethel Lutheran Church of Grafton, N. Dak. The meetings began on Reformation Sunday evening and continued until Friday evening, November 5.

Despite the stormy weather and icy roads—over 10 inches of snow were deposited on the Grafton ground—the attendance averaged 35 souls per night. Many came for one or two evenings with several families attending each evening.

Evangelist Haaland challenged the

Christians, often way too busy with worldly things, to rise from their drowsiness and awaken to the possibilities around them. He preached very stirring sermons, inviting the unsaved to “Be Dead To Sin and made Alive to Christ” as we find in Ephesians 2.

How important it is that Christians not be slothful and begin to produce even more fruit for Jesus in these last days! Then, too, it is hard to witness individuals who give mental assent to the Word of God, the Way of Salvation and even Jesus, but, who never come to our Savior to confess sin and to walk with Him!

—Rev. Dennis Gray

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