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LUTHERAN

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According to the Word

**"BLESSED ARE THEY THAT
MOURN, FOR THEY SHALL
BE COMFORTED"**

Matthew 5:4

If we realize that we are poor in spirit, humble and contrite, we must also realize that we are sinful creatures. And as sinful creatures we must be sorry for what we have done. And this feeling that follows the realization of our sin, is a mourning for our sin. It is also a mourning for the sorrows and griefs of others in this world. But the Savior has promised us that we shall be comforted. We should mourn in true contrition and in deep sorrow for our sins. This has to be done constantly. Luther reminds us in his 95 Theses: "Our entire life must be a continuous contrition and repentance." This mourning for our sins should be a godly sorrow—a sorrow with our eyes ever fixed on Christ. Not only is it a sorrow for the consequences of sin, but a deep heartfelt sorrow for the sin itself, and asking our Savior for forgiveness. Those are God's mourners who live a life of repentance, who lament the corruption of their nature and their many actual transgressions.

When we sin, our communion with God is broken. Therefore, we have to repent of our sins and return to God again to enjoy the deepest communion with Him.

Therefore, this mourning is a constant cry on our part to God for help. We beg of Him to come to us and deliver us from our sin. This He has accomplished by sending us His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to die on the cross for the remission of all our sins.

Blessed are they that mourn. Sorrow rebuilds our character. All of our pride and honor seems to fade away in sorrow. Many things can cause us to have a stronger and more noble character. The death of a loved one may cause us to look with more kindness upon our family, neighbors and friends. We undergo an inward change, we are humbled. Sickness may also bring us to humbleness. We have time to think over our past and, if it pleases God, we arise from our sick bed to health a better and humbler Christian. The loss of earthly goods or a high position will often cause us to think of our past, and to build for a better, God-fearing life in the future. I think suffering in any form ennobles and refines our character.

"Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted," says our Lord. The greatest of all comforts is the absolution pronounced upon every contrite, mourning sinner in God's name. Without this comfort of forgiveness, all other comfort is vain. Forgiveness of our sins brings happiness. Our sins

will not be held against us. Jesus has given us His Word. And He has also promised to be with us. "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you" (John 14:18). And He has promised us His Holy Spirit so that He might bring His peace into our hearts.

Yes, we shall be comforted no matter what the troubles or sorrows may have been. I believe this with all my heart and soul. His Word gives us deliverance if we pray to Him. He gives us help and support if we come to Him with earnest and open hearts. He will uplift us from mourning to be true and happy Christians once again, ever rejoicing in His goodness. And certainly we shall be comforted in the future, for He promises to take us to His kingdom of glory above. God shall wipe away all the tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more pain, nor sorrows.

"Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted." Do you mourn a loved one? Bring your sorrows to Jesus. Do you mourn for your sins? God will forgive you. Do you mourn the loss of earthly positions? Only trust and obey. God will give you a new outlook on life and the strength and courage to bear your cross bravely. Happy are you if you come to Jesus with all your sorrows, for you shall be comforted.

—G. H. Spletstoesser

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The Joy of Giving While We're Living

Trygve F. Dable

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, shall they give into your bosom. For with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38).

There are some people in almost every community and church that have found the true treasure, the joy of living for God and their fellowmen. And the "joy of giving while they're living," of their time and talents for the furtherance of the kingdom of God and the salvation of precious souls. Their hearts are always open toward God, from whom they receive all good things, physical, temporal and spiritual. They do not hoard these gifts to themselves, but share them with others wherever there is a need and they are always on the lookout for someone in need with whom they may share God's blessings. Their lives are "an odor of sweet smell" in the community in which they live, and unto all with whom they come in contact. "The love of Christ constrains them." Like Peter, at the Beautiful gate, said to the impotent man, "What I have, I give thee."

The nature of love is to give. "God so loved the world, that he gave." Likewise, all who are born of God, are filled with that same love. They give willingly, joyfully, and sacrificially to the work in God's great vineyard, and they experience that the words of Jesus are true: "Give, and to you it shall be given."

A little over three years ago, the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, voted, almost with fear and trembling, to start a seminary for the training of pastors. It looked almost impossible. We had no building, no money, no teachers, but we had several dedicated young men that were ready to become the

first students, and we had faith in God. God heard our prayers and honored our faith; yea, put our feeble faith to shame by supplying our every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. He gave us a building, and teachers, and finances to operate. He raised up literally hundreds of compassionate and sacrificial givers and our seminary became a reality. The enrollment grew from year to year until we had 20 students in our seminary, of which six graduated last spring and they are serving as pastors in our Association churches today.

A year ago we again launched out in faith, this time, also, almost hesitatingly, to start a Bible school. Again we had to look to God for a teaching staff, finances and housing, and again God miraculously supplied all our needs, and 13 young people enrolled as the first students.

This year we have 34 students in our Bible school, and 16 young men in the seminary—50 of our precious young people, most of whom (if not all) have dedicated their lives to full-time work in God's great harvest field. Our Headquarters Building, although roomy, is almost bursting at the seams housing the Seminary and Bible school, with classrooms for both, and also acting as a girls' dormitory, plus being a church for the Medicine Lake Lutheran con-

gregation. We need a classroom and girls' dormitory building badly.

Last winter when the Coordinating Committee and the Stewardship Board met to consider the matter, at a joint session, we agreed that this building is a "must." A building with dormitory space on second floor, with room for 60 girls and classrooms for both the Seminary and Bible school on the first floor, with a full basement, built according to Village of Plymouth specifications, a fireproof building, could not be built for less than \$200,000. But where were we able to get that much money?

As we prayed about the matter and discussed it pro and con, a suggestion was made that we start a "thousand dollar club." We felt that there should be on the average one family in each of our 100 or more congregations that could, and would give \$1,000 toward this project. But we disliked the name "club." So someone suggested the name "fellowship." To that we agreed. Then "One Grand Fellowship" was suggested and that name was finally adopted. One of the members of the Stewardship Board gave the first gift toward this project. A little later the six young men of our first graduating class of the Seminary decided to give \$2,000 as a group, spread out over three years, and when this was presented to the Annual Conference last June the idea took fire,



STEWARDSHIP

and the number of contributors went up to 20, including the gift from the National WMF. To date (Nov. 8), we have 41 names on that "One Grand Fellowship" list, but we need 75 before we dare start building and we just have to have the building ready by fall 1968.

The writer of this article was engaged by the Boards to give full-time toward this project for three months, starting September 1, and he can report that he has met with the most encouraging reception from both pastors and congregations at every place he has been. We have found hundreds of people who are experiencing the "joy of giving, while they're living." Hundreds have told me that although they cannot give a thousand, they will give what they can a little later.

Of course, we have not been able to reach into every congregation, much less to every individual, hence, this article. If you are in the congregations we have missed and God has blessed you financially so you are able to join the "One Grand Fellowship," why not make it known to your pastor, or send in your cash (or pledge, to be paid in three years) to the treasurer of our Association, or the undersigned at Spicer, Minn.?

These gifts to the new dormitory, naturally, are over and above our regular giving to our common endeavors; and by the way, all our treasuries are at a low ebb and need some good donations very soon. Pray about this and give as God has prospered you and experience the "joy of giving, while you're living." Remember the words of Jesus, "Give, and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together."

In His joyful service,
Trygve F. Dahle, Secretary
Stewardship Committee
Spicer, Minn. 56288

MISS IDA JACKSON

Miss Ida Jackson, 73, Fargo, former member of the teaching staff of the Oak Grove Lutheran High School, died of an apparent

heart attack while visiting a friend at a local nursing home, Wednesday, October 25. Miss Jackson was born in Minneapolis, December 1, 1893. She was for many years a member of the St. Petri Lutheran Church of that city. As a young woman she studied at Moody Bible Institute of Chicago to prepare for teaching the Bible. She taught first at Willmar Bible School. In 1927 she came to Fargo to teach at Oak Grove Seminary, later named the Oak Grove Lutheran High School, where she taught Bible and was Dean of Women until her retirement in 1960. Memorial services were held in Pontoppidan Lutheran Church in Fargo with Pastor Donald Ronning officiating. Pastor E. G. Larson, president of Oak Grove, spoke on behalf of the school. Interment was made at Hillside Cemetery in Minneapolis.



A TRIBUTE TO IDA JACKSON

To the student body at Oak

Grove Lutheran High School today Ida Jackson is but a name; but to the thousands who enrolled at the school during Miss Jackson's thirty-three years of service, there are countless precious memories of a beloved teacher. As Bible teacher she reached all the students with the message of the Gospel. As Dean of Women she gave loving guidance and counsel to the girls. As the leader of the memorable Saturday evening prayer meetings she never tired of extending the challenge to the boys and girls to commit their lives in full dedication to the Savior, and many, many did so. Her chapel talks revealed clear insight of needs of youth. She loved the boys and girls and even when she administered discipline it was with gentleness and firmness, applying good will and reason to every problem. In fervent prayer she found strength that enabled her to meet discouragement with patience and love and faith. Miss Jackson was a favorite speaker and Bible teacher at Bible camps, W.M.F. Conventions, and other church groups. All of us who knew Ida Jackson as friend and co-worker treasure fond memories of a devout Christian, frank, agreeable, without pretension, whose sole purpose in life was to serve the Lord.

—Miss Martha Kleppe

ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

Treasurer's Progress Report

February 1, 1967, to October 31, 1967

	Fiscal Year Budget	Current Budget	Total Received
General Fund	\$ 39,980.00	\$ 29,985.00	\$21,669.21
Missions	41,000.00	30,750.00	27,078.56
Seminary and Bible School .	29,000.00	21,750.00	13,562.72
Praise Program	30,000.00	22,500.00	16,969.85*
TOTALS	\$139,980.00	\$104,985.00	\$79,280.34

Total received for Seminary Library Fund — \$892.86

*Funds received toward the "One Grand Fellowship" are not included in these figures.

We have 38 that have indicated by cash or pledge that they want to be included in this program.

NOTES FROM A MISSIONARY'S DESK CALENDAR

Rev. David Westborg

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:15).

In order to get some ideas for this article I have had to resort to my desk calendar and, according to that, it has been an exceptionally busy year. But most of the time has been occupied in day-to-day routine work: accounts and administration, services, and meetings, confirmation classes, Bible school classes, courses for elders and pastors, council meetings and visits to the villages. Some time has been used in treating the sick and bringing them to the hospital.

There has been a great deal of illness during the past year. We had one case of typhoid and some epidemics. The medical budget on the station proved far from adequate.

Close to Gaurang and also in other localities on our field we had a cholera epidemic and many passed away. But, to my knowledge, not one of our Christians died in spite of the fact that the non-Christians in Darrang buried their dead close to the borders of our Christian villages.

Here at Gaurang a small, weak child died a few months after birth. On the other hand, two of our workers who have suffered from TB were completely healed.

Some of our pastors and elders practice James 5:14. They anoint the sick and pray for them and several of them have been restored to health. Some of our older Christians tell us that the progress in

the Boro work was due to the missionaries' prayers for the sick as some of them were healed. In Kamrup Circle we find that non-Christian people ask for intercession for their sick. Some have been helped, but I do not think anyone has become a Christian on that account.

In the spring we had a Bible course for old elders from the Guarang Circle. There were 25 delegates. At the beginning of December we had a course for our pastors, and we had the privilege of having our field secretary, the Rev. Stronstad, as the main speaker.

At the Bible school we have conducted two courses during the year: 3 months in the spring and 3 months in the fall. At the first course we were surprised to have only two students. Several other young men had applied, but they failed to appear. I thought the reason might be that the boarding place was not yet ready. Later on I came to the conclusion that it is difficult to get away from the villages at that time of the year because the fields have to be prepared and paddy has to be sown, especially now when there is such a shortage of food all over the country. At the beginning of September when the Bible school opened again, we had eleven students. Every seat was occupied, although the boarding facility still was not ready.

September 15 was a great day for our Bible school. That day the new Boarding was dedicated by Rev. Upen Mosahary, President of

the Bongaigaon District Church Council. After the devotion in front of the building, information was given about the donors and about the way the funds had been given. Mrs. Westborg had the honor of cutting the ribbon, and the new Boarding could be inspected. There is one room for morning and evening devotions and five rooms for students. In order that students may be able to concentrate on their studies, there are only two students to each room.

We hope that by and by we may be able to build a cook house, a dining room, a lecture hall and a library.

After the dedication we moved to the bungalow where a feast was prepared for the teachers, the contractor, the carpenters, the masons and all the students. There was only one drawback. During the festivities there came a messenger with a letter to the effect that Mrs. Westborg should get out of Assam that very night because of the Chinese threat of invasion.

I would like to take this opportunity once again to express my heartfelt thanks to those in the homelands who made it possible for us to build this Boarding which has proved a great blessing to our work.

A close call. . . As usual, we have been on the road a good deal. Usually this does not entail any danger. But last fall when we brought the car home from the workshop in Shillong, we had a narrow escape. One of the tie-rods broke, and we swerved suddenly to one side of the road. Fortunately no one was hurt. Once again we realized the truth of one of the Lord's precious promises: "For he shall give his angels charge over thee to keep thee in all thy ways" (Ps. 91:11).

The highlights of congregational life are the sabbas, or conventions, which are held during the winter. There are mixed sabbas and women's sabbas, and I do not hesitate to say that the latter are the most successful. The men, somehow, do not have the energy and interest that the women display.

Through the years a change has taken place. Years ago the young men were very much in attendance at services and meetings. Now it is more the elderly people that are in the lead. The younger generation is more than ever taken up with better education and higher positions, and concentrate on reaping the fruit of better living. We need a revival among our young people. In this respect Barapani Christian College has been of great help to our students.

The number of Christians is steadily increasing, but it is mainly due to the general increase in population. Happily, however, we also see the kingdom of God go forward in places which, hitherto, without exception, have been populated by non-Christians.

Birnaram sadhu (as he is called), who attended our Bible school some time ago, has been working in Silbari in Kamrup District. On April 25, we had the joy of baptizing two new Christians and dedicating a small church. Ten others also wanted to be baptized. But, as it often happens, "the sower sowed good seed in his field, but while the people slept an enemy came and sowed tares in his field." Opposition arose and they decided to wait and see. But Rotni and Kesop, the two who were baptized, have remained steadfast. Two people in a village several miles away now want to become Christians. This is also a result of Birnaram's work at Silbari.

The dedication of the church at Silbari was an experience we would not have missed. When Mrs. Westborg and I drove east looking for the new place, we were a bit downcast. We expected to be almost alone. Imagine our surprise when we arrived! Haugstads at Parkijuli (situated 18 miles east of Silbari) had sent a lot of young men and women to take part in the dedication. Some of the leaders of the congregation at Parkijuli

were also present. Some had come on bicycles, some by train and bus. It was a great joy to see them all!

The small church was nicely decorated. At night candles were flickering everywhere. Before the evening devotion Saturday night the new, frail little church bell chimed for the first time.

The dedication on Sunday was also an experience to be remembered. Premonondo, the evangelist, headed the procession with a banner on a bamboo pole. The banner consisted of a red cross on a blue background. We marched singing around the church seven times. Finally the Christians shouted: "Victory for Christ!" three times while the non-Christians looked on with interest.

There was a crowd of people, and at times it was not too quiet. But when Kesop stood up and gave a personal testimony after being baptized, everyone was alert in order not to miss a word of what he was saying. We still hope that some of these who withdrew will some day come back again.

The church collections are the thermometer that shows the position and progress of our church. We are not satisfied with the progress so far attained in self-support. It could have been much better as far as we can see. To be sure there has been progress, but not enough. The church still has to make greater efforts in order to become fully self-supporting, not to mention the need for active missionary work. That must be the goal of the church everywhere.

We look forward with joy and expectation grounded on the precious promises of our Lord and Savior and the intercessions and gifts of our mission friends.

A hearty thanks to known and unknown friends and intercessors!

Your co-worker in Christ,
David Westborg

—Reprinted from

The Santal Missionary

SUN-LIT CLOUDS

Anna Hoppe

"And now men see not the bright light which is in the clouds" (Job 37:21).

In the wonderful eleventh chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews, the apostle Paul exhorts his readers to steadfastness in the faith by relating incidents in the faith-life of the fathers, and illustrating the rewards and fruits of this Spirit-born, saving faith. Obstacles, seemingly insurmountable to human reason, were overcome by the divine power of heaven-kindled faith. In the thirteenth verse we read that the believers of old confessed themselves strangers and pilgrims on the earth; in verse 16 it is stated that He who was not ashamed to be called their God had prepared for them a city, and that the reaching of this "better country" was their hearts' desire. Having had such wonderful manifestations of the sure fulfillment of God's promises during their pilgrim-days, the absolute certainty of possessing the heavenly Jerusalem, whose Builder and Maker is God, crowned their faith with the continued joy of victory.

Strangers and Pilgrims! A godly man once said, "If this earth were our abiding place, we might complain because it makes our bed so hard. But it is only a traveler's inn on the way to the heavenly country, and who can expect home comforts?" True, the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, and He has made the place of His footstool glorious. Verdure-clad nature—the beauty of flowers and streams, the fields of golden grain, the colorful splendors of the changing seasons, the glistening dew-drops, the purity of the snowflakes that garb the trees in mantles of ermine, the beauties of sunrise and sunset, hills that kiss the skies, and forest stillness that beckons to worship—all are gifts of His love to fill us with joy. But we would never

[Continued on page 10]



Luther League Activities

LIVING WITH PEOPLE

Jon Dyrud
Newfolden, Minnesota

Senior at Moorhead State College

I think it would be well worth our time to discuss the part of our lives as Christians that is concerned with other people. Come to think of it, that is a big part of our lives simply by being people. Much of our happiness or sadness depends on the people with whom we daily come in contact.

When I say "living with people" I can use the word "living" in more than one way. Besides the common way in which we use living, we can use it in the way Christ did when He said that He came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. When we accept the kind of life that He gives, we have real life—life which makes sense. But what makes sense only to God and to us who are alive.

Right here we have the problem before us. How do we fit into the world of people who do not have real life? This is a problem with many sides to it. But the one that I want to talk about is our personal relationships with people who do not have the life in Christ that we are experiencing.

Our most natural way of facing this situation is to act with them as if neither we nor they have life. It's easy to see, of course, that this is not a good solution to the problem because we are hiding the

facts. We are escaping from reality. Neither we nor they have the benefit of God's most abundant life this way.

Another quite natural way to face the situation is to say by our words or actions, "We are alive and you are dead; until you are born we don't have very much in common."

This attitude makes it very hard for us to have a genuine love for and a real friendship with these people. When we get to know a person very well as a real friend, we can better see which areas of his life need God's healing and comforting touch. Then as a friend, we can show him that according to God's promise, he, too, can experience the abundant life.

The best way to show a person God's love is to let it be demonstrated through you in the same way that God has accepted you. You then can point your friend in God's direction, telling what God has done for you and what you hope he will let God do for him.

This discussion is of little value to you unless you not only let God take care of the secret sin problem in your life, but also are developing a deepening personal friendship with Him. He wants you to know him better and better and for you to hand over more and more of your life to His confidence.

As you get to know Him better through observing His loving actions and listening to Him in the Bible, you will learn how to love

Him and at the same time how to love and be a real friend to other people.

There are two related things I would like to add. One is to always remember that people's whole lives are related to their relationship with God, so be interested in and love all parts of them as a whole. The second is to keep always in mind that God works in people when we ask Him to. So pray. We ourselves can't do the work of the Holy Spirit, so just relax and be a friend as God gives you the wisdom and strength.

Peace be with you.

Send all contributions to Jane Thompson, 510 S. 16th St., Moorhead, Minn. 56560.

Something to think about:

Many people develop a split personality because they try to be a saint and a sinner at the same time.

The way to keep a circle of friends is to keep on the square with them.

I GAVE MYSELF FOR THEE

I gave my life for thee,
My precious blood I shed,
That thou might'st ransomed be,
And quickened from the dead;
I gave, I gave My life for thee,
What hast thou given for Me?

I suffered much for thee,
More than thy tongue can tell,
Of bitterest agony,
To rescue thee from hell;
I've borne, I've borne it all for thee,
What hast thou borne for Me?

And I have brought to thee,
Down from My home above,
Salvation full and free,
My pardon and My love;
I bring, I bring rich gifts to thee,
What hast thou brought to Me?

—Frances R. Havergal

NEWS of the Churches



GROUND-BREAKING HELD FOR MONTANA CHURCH

Ground-breaking ceremonies for the new Association Lutheran Church at Culbertson, Montana, were held October 15, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon with Pastor Knute Jore officiating and a large crowd in attendance.

Looking back at the very small beginning of the work in this area, we praise God for how He has guided and led. It began with a number of families from the Zion Lutheran Free Church who did not go into the merged church. They began meeting in a schoolhouse north of Brockton and conducted their own services. In July of 1964, they asked Pastor Karl Stendal to come and help them. He did extensive survey work throughout the area, had Bible studies in the homes and had worship services every Sunday in the schoolhouse. Later on he also started some Bible studies in Culbertson. In December, he was called to serve in



Those who attended the ground-breaking for the new Association Lutheran Church at Culbertson, Montana.

Kalispell, Montana. Pastor John Strand came and conducted services a few times during the winter months.

In March of 1965, Pastor Knute Jore was called to serve the Zion congregation. He arrived April 1. Besides serving the congregation in the schoolhouse, worship services and Bible studies were also conducted in some of the homes in Culbertson. In June, a two-apartment house was bought in Culbertson. One apartment serves as the parsonage and the other as the chapel where worship services and other activities of the church are conducted.

The membership is growing in the Culbertson area. Besides their regular worship services they now have a Women's Missionary Federation, Sunday School, Bible study, ladies' prayer group, Luther League, confirmation class and fellowship meetings. The present facilities have become crowded. The people began to pray and plan for a church building.

A building fund was started and later a building committee was

elected which consists of Henning Dahlberg, Clifford Berglee and Otto Hansen, with Paul Jacobs as treasurer. Lots have been bought and now we are looking forward to the new church to be erected which will give ample room for the worship services, Sunday school classes and other activities of the church.

TWO NEW FEATURES

Two new features are being added to *The Lutheran Ambassador* as of now.

One is a "Preaching Mission" corner where evangelistic services, Bible conferences and spiritual emphasis weeks in local congregations will be listed. This will enable interested Christians to pray for the meetings and also advertise the services for those who may wish to attend from a distance.

The notices of the meetings should be mailed in at least one month before they begin in order to insure proper coverage and should include the following information: dates, name of congregation, address, visiting speaker, local pastor.

The second new feature is an "In Memoriam" column where the names of those recently deceased will be listed. We ask that only members of our congregations be sent in.

Pastors are invited to send in the names of deceased members and should include the following additional information: age (optional), address, congregation and date of death.

Our church fellowship is small enough to use this personal service and publication of these names will make it possible for others to share the loss of the bereaved.

Our parishes are invited to make use of the "Preaching Mission" and "In Memoriam" columns in *The Lutheran Ambassador*. All information should be mailed to the Editor at Roslyn, S. Dak.



Ground-breaking at Culbertson, Montana. From left to right: Erling Brekke, Henning Dahlberg, Orville Qualley, Kinley Salstad, Clifford Berglee, Otto Hansen, Pastor Jore and Paul Jacobs.



EDITORIALS

IS THERE AN AFLC?

Yes, of course, there is an Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Gradually but surely our church fellowship is becoming known to an ever wider circle of people. Sometimes misunderstood, but many times understood, she is taking her place among the independent Lutheran groups of which there will always be several in the United States.

But there is an area where we have not yet been placed on the scoreboard and that is in the official listing of Lutheran church bodies put out every year by the Lutheran Council in the United States of America. Ten churches are listed there but no AFLC.

While to this day we have never seen membership statistics for our church, it is safe to say that the AFLC has more members than four of the churches named in the report and as many or more congregations than five of them. Therefore, the issue is not that the Association is so small that it does not deserve to be mentioned.

Failure to be mentioned in LCUSA's statistics appears to be due to our not having supplied them with information rather than to their unwillingness to include us. There may have been some reason to withhold statistics earlier in our history, but now after soon five years since the merger of the Lutheran Free Church and the American Lutheran Church there shouldn't be any reluctance to get our name on the board.

Whether or not we are recognized by LCUSA, the Lutheran world or the American public in general is not the important thing. The important thing is whether we are doing the Lord's work. And still there can be some value in being listed as what we are, a Lutheran church or fellowship in the United States.

Take, for instance, our home mission work. One of our mission congregations advertises itself in a community as an AFLC congregation. Someone has access to the LCUSA statistics and looks for the AFLC. He doesn't find it. Naturally, he wonders about it. It is evident that there must be some organization because she has sent a pastor out to start a mission but why isn't she listed with the other Lutheran bodies? The same situation would hold true in world mission work and in other areas.

Is there an AFLC? Why, of course, there is. And now after nearly five years of existence, we think it's time that we got on the scoreboard, a move that cannot help but assist our work. To do this, the co-operation of every congregation and pastor will be needed by the Coordinating Committee.

WHITHER THE SALVATION ARMY?

Many people, of the church or no, have stood in a kind of holy awe of the Salvation Army. A good deal of this has been generated by the conviction that the Army has combined evangelistic zeal with love demonstrated in action. In other words, they have tried to save both men's bodies and souls as few religious groups have done. They have not only talked a good game but have played it.

There have been a few disquieting things about the Army lately. Moves have been made to identify with the "beat" generation and to be where the action is in a way never done before. Some methods of doing this are disturbing because it always seemed that you could count on the Army to hold to the "old-time religion." In fact, they were even willing to stand on street corners and be laughed at for Christ's sake. And many of them still will. But not all.

Not long ago a news item in *Christianity Today* reported that the Salvation Army Joystings in London agreed to perform in the Playboy Club there and in return the club bunnies are going to sell bonds for the Army. This looks like a bad bargain all the way around because when a partnership is entered with an organization that really epitomizes the immoral spirit of the age, it can't help but weaken the witness of the Army.

Like the mother of Shoeless Joe Jackson is reported to have said when news of her famous son's involvement in the Black Sox scandal broke, "Say it ain't so, Joe."

It is tragic when religious groups bearing the name of Christ covenant with the forces of evil officially or unofficially. There is a compromise and one concession leads to another. And so many times in life it proves that once barriers are removed there really isn't any way of knowing where the slide will eventually come to a halt. We think many of the Lutheran colleges in America have become involved in this vicious circle today.

Certainly something has been lost by this arrangement with the Playboy Club in London by the Salvation Army. That club now gains an aura of respectability it should never have. And what has the Army gained? A few dollars, but dollars that are offset by a loss of confidence in the minds and hearts of many people. Whether the former is worth more than the latter the Army will have to decide, but we are saddened today.

Say it ain't so.

STEWARDSHIP MONTH

November is often associated with stewardship. The association is a natural because November marks the end of harvest and it is the month of Thanksgiving Day in the United States (in Canada that falls in October).

Farmers, since the days of Abel and Cain, have brought gifts to God from the produce of their toil, although today's diversified farming doesn't place quite as much dependence upon the fall harvest for income as in the past. Nor are there as many farmers as there once were.

Albeit, the principle is the same, we are to offer gifts to the Lord from that which we have received, whatever our occupation. Two principles should guide our giving. Give as He has prospered and give as we see the needs.

It is good to give proportionately. Some people like to give a tenth of their income to the Lord. In the Old Testament the faithful were obligated to give the tenth to God first. It is difficult for some people to establish what their income is until tax time. Others debate whether expenses should be deducted before gifts to God's work are given. Each one will have to determine the ground rules for his giving. There is no rule that should be imposed from without.

Yet the suggestion can well be made that God's work is not to be considered a luxury, something that

will be provided for if any funds remain. It must be provided for just as surely as a house is maintained and food and clothing purchased. And if there is this willingness to share with the Lord in His work, He will honor such faithfulness. He will pour out His blessing.

Sometimes stewardship speakers promise prospective tithers, at least, material prosperity in exchange for their offerings to God. That may not be exactly so. But we can be sure that such a giver will always have what he needs. His income will go just as far after his gift as before. And God has other ways of blessing. Whoever said that God's greatest blessings are material ones? To say that would be to go contrary to all Christian doctrine.

There is joy in sharing in Christ's work on earth. After all, to have His kingdom come and to have a part in helping it to come, that is something wonderful. This, coupled with the thought of God's great gifts and His greatest Gift, should bring forth generous offerings which will provide for a work which will bring glory to His name, win souls for His kingdom and warm the heart of the giver.

Let us truly seek to be givers to God's task on earth. For His task is our task. Let us not be content to be dues-payers, contributors to a list or half-hearted donors. Let us make our offerings to the Lord acts of worship and thanksgiving.

Sun-lit Clouds

[Continued from page 6]

see the rainbow if the skies were always blue! Then why do we mourn as those who have no hope, and grieve as worldlings when some dark cloud momentarily shuts out the sunlight of the Father's smile, concealing His love? Oh, for the faith of a Job that could penetrate the cloud and perceive the hidden silver lining! Oh, for a faith that can sense the certainty of spring's coming though the thermometer registers zero!

Clouds! Misfortunes come—financial losses and embarrassments—and we anxiously wail, "What shall we eat? What shall we drink? Wherewithal shall we be clothed?" Have we forgotten that He who owns the cattle on a thousand hills,

who clothes the lilies of the field in a garb more princely than that of a Solomon, who feeds the fowls of the air, and who upholds all things by the might of His power, is well able to take care of us? What if we had gained the fortune we strived for? Wealth might have made us proud—too proud to pray "Give us this day our daily bread." Not many of those rich in the world's goods are eminent for their piety, self-denial, and desirous of bringing souls to Christ. The divine hand that crushed the thing that would have led us into worldliness and possibly caused the loss of our soul, lifted us out of destruction by means of what we believed a calamity. Have we fully realized the truth of Matthew 19:23, 24? Was this apparent loss not a blessing in disguise? Earthly treasures can-

not be taken along at death, no further than the cemetery, and if by means of this cloud God has taught us to lay up treasures in Heaven, have we not cause to glorify Him for permitting us to behold the bright light hidden therein?

Clouds! Bereavements come. Our dear ones are torn from us by the grim Reaper, who not only reaps the bearded grain, but the flowers that grow between. But knowing that He who Himself arose from the dead, giveth His beloved sleep, should we not rather rejoice that they have out-distanced us in reaching that blissful goal toward which we are journeying? Out of this world of sin and sorrow, and misery, and suffering, into the Gloryland where there shall be no more pain, and where the Lord shall wipe

[Continued on page 12]

WOMEN for Christ

THANK YOU

The officers and members of the W.M.F. would like to extend a personal note of appreciation to Pastor and Mrs. Stalsbroten for their excellent Bible studies which have been printed in *The Lutheran Ambassador* this past year. These lessons have been the product of much prayer and study, and have blessed and challenged the souls of all who have used them. Thank you again, so much.

As editor of the women's page, I would also like to thank personally the many women who have contributed articles and reports to this page of our paper in 1967, and to Pastor Huglen who has given such generous space for the Bible studies and the women's page. May we encourage others who have had special blessings or ideas to share to send them in for our paper.

—Mrs. Jay Erickson

THE BLESSINGS OF HOSPITALITY

Mrs. A. L. Hokanson
Faith, South Dakota

Hospitality—what a gracious word! Does it bring to your mind countless instances of friendly visits, happy meals, comfortable homes and guest bedrooms, precious fellowship with kinfolk, friends, and neighbors as guests in

your home and theirs? God's Word has several references in regard to hospitality: "A lover of hospitality" (Titus 1:8), "Given to hospitality" (Romans 12:13), and in Hebrews 13:2, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." How very, very true!

Before starting this article, I went through one of our guest

books given to us on our third wedding anniversary by loved ones we were visiting in northern Minnesota. There are 478 names (and messages) therein—174 of them were from missionaries from distant lands, pastors and wives, evangelists, and so forth, but by far the greatest number were written by friends in the congregations we served, and from loved ones—cherished memories associated with each one of them. How the Lord has enriched our lives through other Christians! What heart-warming experiences we have had these twenty-nine years in the Lord's vineyard as we have shared fellowship with friends in their homes and ours. We have long since started on another guest book purchased from Missionary Arthur Olson from China. We do rejoice over the blessings people have brought into our lives by their friendship, love, and visits.

What an opportunity to witness for the Lord by such visiting. As we read in Malachi 3:16 and 17,

WMF TREASURER'S PROGRESS REPORT

February 1, 1967, to October 31, 1967

	Annual Budget	Amount Received (9 months)
Cradle Roll	\$ 100.00	160.00
Honorary Membership and In Memoriam	500.00	821.05
Mission Scholarship	1,000.00	1,196.73
Junior Missions	2,000.00	1,634.18
Church Extension	3,000.00	1,016.25
My Missionary for a Day	4,500.00	3,113.23
General Fund	3,000.00	1,600.85
	<u>\$14,100.00</u>	<u>\$9,542.29</u>
Non-Budget Receipts:		
Convention Offering to Bible School		1,429.28
Mission Festival Offering to Library Fund		737.86
Special Gifts to Praise Program of AFLC		120.00
Special Gifts to Bible School		221.00
Special Gifts to AFLC Missions		535.15
		<u> </u>
Total Receipts		\$12,585.58

Notice to all WMF members: The greatest needs at this time are for the General Fund and Church Extension Fund. Please continue to remember this work with your prayers and gifts.

"Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord harkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him."

What prayer fellowship we have had, what instances of "building one another up in our most holy faith," what an encouragement and testimony has been given to children and adults in the home. Not only have we received food for the body, but food for the mind and soul as well, through sacred music and literature shared, as well as good conversation, meals, and lodging.

But the Word of God speaks, too, a word of caution—not to limit our hospitality to those who can repay it in like manner. How often have we prepared meals and lunches and given Christian counsel and literature to the "unwanted" in society—to vagrants, the homeless, the lonely, needy, and sinful? There are many opportunities even in our day to be good Samaritans. How do we meet this challenge to "sow the good seed" in word and deed?

Sadly, there are many who feel that even among Christians "hospitality with a plus" has become a lost art or gift. Is your home open to prayer meetings, to Christian fellowship groups during the year? Is your church or mine known as a warm-hearted and hospitable place of worship and genuine Christian fellowship? Shall we permit God's Holy Spirit to remind us anew of the danger there is in *falling* to show love unto strangers, or "unto one of the least of these," His brethren? God will bless and reward each one who has gone "the second mile" in expending strength, time, money, energy, and concern among the brethren, and shown hospitality to all who come to our doors.

Sun-lit Clouds

[Continued from page 10]

away all tears! Had the little one so mournfully laid away lived to maturity, are we sure it would have continued on the narrow way with the saved and not followed the throngs on the broad way to destruction? God knows, and He has not left us comfortless. His word tenderly pleads with us to discern the bright light which is in the cloud.

Clouds! Loss of friends or position, sickness, trials, afflictions, discouragements, misunderstandings, all have their hidden silver lining, visible to the eye of faith—faith that realizes that all things work together for good to those who love God—faith that trusts when the sight grows dim and cries: "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him," faith that clings to His Word, "What I do thou knowest not now, but thou wilt know hereafter," faith that is consoled by His precious promise, "Your sorrow shall be turned into joy"—overcoming faith! Faith that sees the light which is in the cloud, even though it be "through a glass, darkly," fills the drooping spirit with new buoyancy.

Some day, when the mists have cleared away, and we shall know even as we are known, basking in the sunlight of His smile in that glorious City which has no need of the sun or moon or stars, the Lamb being the Light thereof—all things will be made plain, and we shall marvel at His wondrous ways in guiding us. Pilgrim days over, what a Welcome Home will greet the ransomed hosts as the pearly gates swing ajar, and they join the chorus of saints who have gone before "unto him who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, be glory and dominion forever!"

—Reprinted from *The Friend*

NOTICE

The Christmas issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador* is the regular, but enlarged, edition for December 12, 1967. Therefore, it will automatically be mailed to all subscribers. You do not need to order one for yourself, if you are a present subscriber.

Copies for friends may be secured by using the enclosed order blank and sending payment for the order as requested.

Perhaps you would like to give a gift subscription of the *Ambassador* for Christmas. You may do that also by using the order blank, reverse side.

Thank you.

BIBLE VERSES

"While we were yet helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly" (Rom. 5:6).

"But we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God" (I Cor. 1:23, 24).

NOTICE

Occasionally, through an error in mailing, you may miss an issue or two of the *Ambassador*. When you are certain that you have missed an issue and your subscription is still in force, please write our office for the missing number and it will be furnished free of charge.

Should you continue to miss copies of the *Ambassador*, write and ask that an inquiry be made as to the reason.

Address all inquiries and requests regarding subscriptions and mailing to:

**The Lutheran Ambassador
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55427**

MY TRIP TO NORWAY AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Raynard Huglen

Part V

Trains

Was the impression given last time that England is not a pretty country? I am sorry if it was because England is both pretty and charming. My intention had been to convey the bleakness of the old industrial areas and the fact that the countryside in general was not as "neat as a pin" as I had supposed it would be.

Leaving Charfield and Bristol, I headed by train for London by way of Oxford. First, a word about trains in Europe. They are much more popular as a means of transportation there than in the States. The Milwaukee depot in Minneapolis was a little bit lonely on the night of July 10, but the stations in England and other countries were throbbing and bustling with activity. Not that the trains were always filled, but there were many people using them. In all, in Europe I boarded, left or changed trains in over 30 railroad stations so I got quite a good look at the situation.

In England especially the trains run like clockwork. Passenger trains carry only passengers and leave right on the dot. It was equally amazing time and again to find the trains pulling into the stations within a minute or two of schedule. At one depot I had two minutes in which to change trains and this involved walking up and down considerable flights of stairs. There are many passenger runs in England. In Liverpool I missed a train

by minutes but was able to get another in just half an hour, taking a slightly different route to my destination.



Churchill's grave in Bladon Village. The flower-covered grave is that of his mother, and his father's is to the left of that.

Churchill's Grave

A bus took me from Oxford, the university town, to the Bladon corner and I walked a mile or so to the village where Winston Churchill, Britain's war-time prime minister, is buried. It was an ideal day with only a threat of rain. One had to walk still further through town before spotting the gray stone St. Martin's Church, up off the street behind a vegetable garden. Then to an alleyway and the churchyard entrance. Noting a small cluster of people just past the church itself and immediately to the left of the church entrance, it was not difficult to determine that this must be the grave site. There it was, a starkly simple grave for a very great man, a striking contrast to some of the grotesque tombs and memorials I would see the next day in Westminster Abbey.

"Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill, 1874-1965." Only that inscription is found on the grave

stone which is made of white marble. England has done little to publicize his burial place but a steady trickle of people come by to see it.

Blenheim Palace

Not far away, as the crow flies, but some distance for one who has to walk, is Blenheim Palace, outside of Woodstock. My own way led through a cow pasture where I saw more of those grand old trees which abound in England. So large are they that it would take three men to reach around them. They must be hundreds of years old.

Churchill was born at Blenheim in a bedroom that looked very simple compared to the other grand rooms in the place. We tourists were told that day that he wasn't to have been born there, but he arrived before expected and his parents had to borrow a layette from another expectant mother in Woodstock.

Winston Churchill lived the first eight years of his life in Blenheim Palace. It is a grand palace, although showing its age quite badly on the outside. The estate is very spacious and the gardens lovely.

Oxford

With a couple of hours at hand before leaving for London, I went over to Christ Church (college) in Oxford before a cafeteria supper because someone told me that he considered its campus the most beautiful. Oxford University is made up of 26 colleges scattered over a city of 104,000, so you can see that I could do no more than sample them.

The information officer was about to go off duty when I arrived, but he shared a few bits of information. Christ Church, he said, is the largest college in Oxford with some over 800 students. At least ten Prime Ministers were undergraduates there, including Anthony Eden and Douglas Home. Lewis Carroll wrote *Alice in Wonderland* at the college whose chapel was designed by Christopher Wren. At 9:05 each evening, he told me, the 7-ton bell tolls 101 times in

honor of the 101 original students in the school which was started in about 1525.

Across the street is Pembroke College, which was attended by Senator John W. Fullbright of Arkansas. It is one of the smallest colleges at Oxford.

Home on the Range

There's a special feeling about approaching London. When did we first hear that name? When we read about Dick Whittington's cat? Likely before that, when we played "London Bridge Is Falling Down." Yes, it is an old and magic name.

Arriving at the Paddington station, I was pleased to find that there would be room available at the Duchy Hotel on Lancaster Gate, a hotel operated by the Norwegian government, and also that I could as easily get a cab in London as any place in the world.

After getting settled in a plain, but comfortable room, I walked over to a restaurant for an evening snack. Two boys, apparently American, were singing various songs to guitar accompaniment. A customer, likely American, requested that they sing "Home on the Range," and they were able to do that. So there I was, about an hour in London and hearing that greatest of all American cowboy songs. Had I travelled very far after all?

London Town

What approach should one take when one has a day to spend in one of the largest and most fascinating cities of the world? My decision was to see, by walking, just as much as I possibly could. Those of you who are familiar with London can appreciate the distance covered, then, in seeing these places: Hyde Park (near the hotel), Buckingham Palace, Whitehall Palace, No. 10 Downing Street, Big Ben and Parliament, Westminster Abbey, the Thames River with its London and Tower bridges, St. Paul's Cathedral, Aldersgate, London Tower, Trafalgar Square,

Fleet Street, Piccadilly Circus and Carnaby Street.

Westminster Abbey is a beautiful building. Like all old churches in England, part of its exterior was very grimy. Other parts showed evidence of cleaning by sand-blasting. Many famous people are buried beneath the Abbey and are memorialized by plaques in the floor. The one most interesting to me was that of the famous missionary explorer, David Livingstone. It occupies a central position in the Abbey. Livingstone's heart, you will remember, was buried in Africa, but his body was brought back to Westminster Abbey to be honored with kings and queens.



Westminster Abbey

The outer aisles of the Abbey are filled with tombs and memorials. The latter may honor famous people who are buried there or elsewhere. It was my feeling that Westminster Abbey has been greatly cheapened by this odd collection of memorials. There isn't much they can do about that now, but what has happened is unfortunate.

In St. Paul's cathedral, Europe's fourth largest, I saw Holman Hunt's original painting, "Christ Knocking at the Door." You have seen it some time or other, but it is rarely seen today, other variations of it being more popular.

On Aldersgate Street I read the plaque posted on an iron fence, marking the spot where John Wesley attended a meeting house one night in 1738 and felt his heart "strangely warmed." He counted that date as his evangelical conversion. From that time he went on to become the great evangelical leader of Methodism. That, too, was a holy spot for me.

I saw something else in London which I will remember at least as long as Big Ben or Trafalgar Square. It was somewhere near Whitehall that he stood, pathetic and bewildered. He was a man perhaps in his forties, quite tall. The leather of his heels was either cut out or stepped down so that his shoes looked like slippers. Unshaven and unkempt, he was the picture of desolation. He paused as if uncertain and the last I saw of him he had somehow shuffled across the street and was headed for who knows where. The thought that came to my mind was this, how can a man this forlorn be found or permitted in a major civilized city with all of its missions, the Salvation Army and a welfare state? He was the graphic picture of the man who has slipped through somehow and is completely forgotten.

My stay in London was brief, but while it lasted it was like stepping into the history books and story books. And yet, with all of its history, I was surprised at how much like America it really was.

BIBLE VERSES

"Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead" (Luke 24:46).

"Having canceled the bond which stood against us with its legal demands; this he set aside, nailing it to the cross" (Col. 2:14).

"And he died for all, that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised" (II Cor. 5:15).

WINTER BIBLE CONFERENCE DATES SET

The fifth annual Winter Bible Conference will be held at Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, McIntosh, Minnesota, the Rev. Hubert F. DeBoer, pastor, February 8-11.

Program details will be announced later.

CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

LUTHERAN APPOINTED HEAD OF ARMY CHAPLAIN SCHOOL

Washington, D.C. (LC)—A Lutheran chaplain has been appointed commandant of the United States Army Chaplain School at Fort Hamilton, N.Y.

Named to the position late in October was Chaplain Theodore V. Koepke, a clergyman of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod who has been at the school since he completed an assignment as top military chaplain in Vietnam a year ago.

The appointment was announced here by Major General Francis L. Sampson, the Army Chief of Chaplains.

Chaplain Koepke, who holds the rank of colonel, succeeds Chaplain Edward Saunders, a Roman Catholic who has been assigned to a position as staff chaplain for the United States Continental Army Command at Fort Monroe, Va.

He is the fifth Lutheran to serve as Commandant since World War II.

FORUM HEARS 3 SPEAKERS ON DEMANDS OF SOCIETY

Minneapolis (LC)—The Lutheran Social Welfare Conference of America was told here that constructive and destructive forces in contemporary society have placed new demands on the family, the individual, and the community.

High among the demands singled out by a series of speakers at a three-day forum sponsored by the conference was a need for increasing flexibility.

The conference, a new organization stemming from consolidation of the National Lutheran Social Welfare Conference and Associated Lutheran Charities, met at the Leamington Hotel here late in October.

First of three keynote speakers to explore the dual nature of several contemporary forces was Dr. Armin Grams of Detroit, head of

the Merrill-Palmer Institute program for human development.

After contending that mobility is such a force, he observed:

"The blessing is that it keeps one fresh and adaptable, constantly learning priorities. We need to look more at mobility in terms of its contribution to the family. We can change and roll with the circumstances."

Conversely, mobility has contributed to man's rootlessness, he continued. "It hurts to be uprooted, and, thus, there is reticence to become involved."

"The pace of change is relentlessly quickening," Dr. Grams stressed. "Knowledge is doubling today at a fantastic rate, and an effect is increasing helplessness and inadequacy. We need to look at this impact in resourcefulness."

At another point, he called attention to tendencies to develop child-centered homes which destroy both the world of the children and the world of the adults. "The result is one big glob of adolescence," he contended.

Children tend to grow up too quickly, he explained, and it fosters immaturity among adults.

Another speaker was Dr. Gisela Konopka of Minneapolis, a professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Minnesota, who also stressed the problems of change as they confront the individual.

Pressures peculiar to our time, she said, include rapid urbanization, technological advance, an intensified competition, a shrinking globe, change in family concept, change in standards and values, and growing affluence.

On technology, she held that "perhaps the greatest strain lies in the demand for flexibility in regard to employment."

"A question for the future," the social ministry specialists were told, "is whether retraining will even be able to keep pace with the numbers thrown out of their form-

er job by the impact of new technological knowledge."

While stressing that individuals cannot close their eyes to the changes in society, she contended that "for each of us it means freeing ourselves from the romantic image of the past and the unfair condemnation of our times."

The social work professor emphasized that "the Church can work very tangibly to help people accept the changing form of reality."

The third speaker was Dr. Richard H. Luecke of Chicago, director of studies at the Urban Training Center for Christian Mission, an inter-denominational program in which Lutherans cooperate.

The administrator, a clergyman of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, focused on change in relation to the community and observed that ghetto residents have been denied constructive motivation.

Housing marches and other organized efforts, he said, have helped make "the invisible to become visible" and have helped to create greater awareness of the problems of the ghetto.

FOR DR. FRY OF THE LCA, AN UNEXPECTED INVOCATION

Chicago (LC)—Minutes before the 16th annual meeting of the National Hearing Aid Society was scheduled to get underway here, officers discovered they had no clergyman on hand to give the invocation.

As they discussed their plight in a corridor of the Sherman House, a tall man wearing a clerical collar walked by and entered a nearby room. At his heels, came the officers of the NHAS.

To their query, "Is there anyone here who could pray for us?" the man in clerical garb responded, "I guess I could, I've had a little practice."

A few minutes later he was in-

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roduced to society members as a Lutheran clergyman who had agreed at the last moment to take part in the opening ceremonies of the meeting.

With that the Rev. Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, president of the Lutheran Church in America, chairman of the Executive and Central Committees of the World Council of Churches, former president of the Lutheran World Federation, and possessor of 30 honorary degrees and even more church honors, stepped forward and with the ease of one who has opened hundreds of meetings, gave the invocation.

MODERN TERMS HELD NEEDED ON THE MEANING OF SIN

Chicago (LC)—Christianity must focus a greater emphasis on the meaning of sin in contemporary terms, a Lutheran Mission Conference was told here early in No-

ember.

The speaker was Dr. Conrad Bergendoff of Rock Island, Ill., president emeritus of Augustana College there, and former executive secretary of the Board of College Education of the Lutheran Church of America.

"My analysis of the disease of the churches today would start with the meaning of sin," the retired college president observed. "This word has almost dropped out of religious circulation.

"Certainly a Church which has as its central doctrine the forgiveness of sins through the need of Christ must give substance to the meaning of sin if forgiveness is to have any relevance for our lives.

"A church that interprets the will of God to its contemporaries must therefore show forth the dimensions of a Gospel deep and broad enough to comprehend all the sins for which we must seek the forgiveness Christ offers."

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