

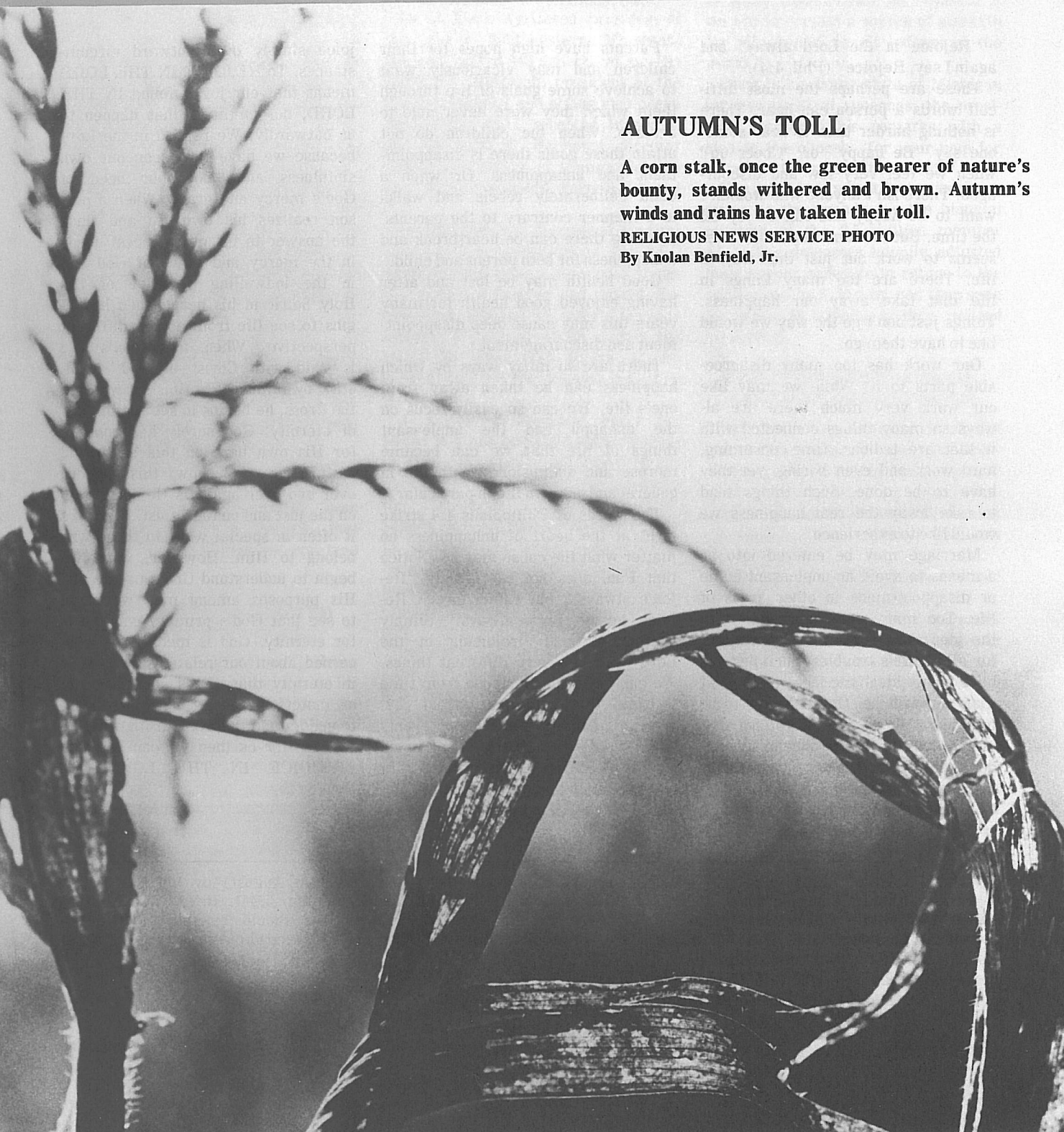
The Lutheran Ambassador

AUTUMN'S TOLL

A corn stalk, once the green bearer of nature's bounty, stands withered and brown. Autumn's winds and rains have taken their toll.

RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

By Knolan Benfield, Jr.



MEDITATION MOMENTS

REJOICE ALWAYS

"Rejoice in the Lord alway; and again I say, Rejoice" (Phil. 4:4).

These are perhaps the most difficult words a person can hear. There is nothing harder than to hear someone say "Be happy" or "Cheer up" when we feel very low and discouraged. There isn't anyone who wouldn't want to be happy and full of joy all the time. But for some reason it never seems to work out just that way in life. There are too many things in life that take away our happiness. Things just don't go the way we would like to have them go.

Our work has too many disagreeable parts to it. While we may like our work very much there are always so many things connected with it that are tedious, time-consuming, hard work and even boring, yet they have to be done. Such things tend to take away the real happiness we would like to experience.

Marriage may be entered into as a means to avoid an unpleasant home or disappointments in other areas of life. Too many enter marriage with the idea that it will be a "cure-all" for all of life's troubles. Such persons have highly idealistic ideas as to what marriage will be. One only has to be married a short time to realize that in the routine of life ideals are seldom realized and often the problems one may try to avoid are only multiplied in the marriage relationship.

Parents have high hopes for their children and may vicariously want to achieve some goals of life through them which they were never able to achieve. When the children do not attain these goals there is disappointment and unhappiness. Or when a child deliberately rebels and walks in a manner contrary to the parents' teaching there can be heartbreak and unhappiness for both parent and child.

Good health may be lost and after having enjoyed good health for many years this may cause deep disappointment and discouragement.

There are so many ways by which happiness can be taken away from one's life. We can so easily focus on the unhappy and the unpleasant things of life that we can become morose and disillusioned with life in general and our own life in particular.

The words of Philippians 4:4 strike right at the heart of unhappiness no matter what the cause may be. Notice that Paul does not say simply "Rejoice always," but rather says, "Rejoice in the Lord always." Simply "rejoicing" and "rejoicing in the Lord" are two very different things. We can have things happen from time to time that bring us great joy. We can rejoice in these happy events with great enthusiasm. The world outside of Christ shows great ability to express this kind of fleeting joy. To rejoice in the Lord is not to re-

joice simply over outward circumstances. To REJOICE IN THE LORD means that our joy is found IN THE LORD, not in things that happen to us outwardly. We rejoice in the Lord because we have first seen our own sinfulness and know our need of God's mercy and grace. When a person realizes his own sin and finds the answer to his own deepest needs in the mercy and grace of God and in the indwelling presence of His Holy Spirit in his heart, then he begins to see life from a very different perspective. When a person's life is "hid with Christ in God" (Col. 3:3), by faith in His finished work on the Cross, he begins to see life in view of eternity. God surely has concern for His own here on this earth and in this life. God shows this concern over and over again as He sends rain on the just and on the unjust. He shows it often in special ways to those who belong to Him. However, when we begin to understand God's nature and His purposes among men we begin to see that God's primary concern is for eternity. God is much more concerned about our relationship to Him in eternity than He is about worldly or material success. When we begin to understand this basic truth of God's concern for us then we can begin to "REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS."

—Laurel M. Udden

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The Word... or the World?

by Pastor Edward A. Johnson
(LCA), Ohiowa, Nebr.

In a flat, bare area of sand dunes at the tip of the northernmost coast of Denmark, on the northern end of Denmark's main peninsula called Jutland, stands the resort community of Skagen. This community (pop. 8,780) is sometimes referred to as Denmark's Cape Cod, for the Danish royal family and other leading families of the country have summer homes here. But the area also is known for its high winds and fierce storms, for here the North Sea waters come sweeping into the narrow straits between Jutland and the southern coasts of Norway and Sweden. Sometimes the winds whip the waves into waterspouts 15 feet high.

Along the coast the sand dunes shift constantly, even though many are partially covered with grass. Further inland there are healthy stands of pine trees.

In the early days a Lutheran church was erected along this coast to minis-



The Church at Skagen
(Courtesy, Caroline W. Olsen)

ter to the seamen who came this way. The tower of St. Laurentius Church, one of those stepped, indented white plaster or stone towers that are so typical of Danish churches, was a landmark that could be seen clear out at sea. Worship and pastoral care were available for those who came to shore.

But the high winds and the ever shifting sand dunes forced the people to shovel sand away continually from their church. They made heroic efforts to keep the sand away until a sandstorm which swept through the region in 1775, one year before our Declaration of Independence, buried all but the tower of St. Laurentius. Today that tower can still be seen; it is known locally as *Skagens til-sandede kirke*, "Skagen's church gone to sand."

One thinks of this church as one reads such Scriptures as I John, or Jesus' words in Matthew 7:24-29 about the men who built, one on the rock, the other on the sands. In I John 2:15-17 we are given a clear-cut choice between the shifting sands of this age and the Rock which is our only sure foundation for eternity:

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

The Word—or the world? The choice might seem obvious to anyone whose eyes are not hopelessly blinded by self-will and pride, or by

the glitter of possessions and material security. Unfortunately, even for many Christians, temptation is strong and the choice becomes very difficult.

John writes to a Christian community well-grounded in the faith. "Ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one" (v. 14). Now they are to keep themselves free from sin, but whenever they find themselves sinning despite their best intentions and their commitment to Christ, they have "an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world" (2:1-2). They are not to worry excessively about their sinfulness; let them rest their case in their attorney's hands, as George Truett once put it, their Attorney who will win a favorable verdict for them before God's tribunal.

They have known these truths all along, John writes: "I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning" (v. 7). Yet in one sense it is a new commandment (v. 8), because Jesus showed us God's love in a whole new way by coming down and being that love for us in His life, His ministry, and His death.

Throughout his epistle John draws a sharp line between light and darkness, good and evil, life and death. Though we live in this world, he declares, we are not to be of it. We are not so much separated from it as detached from it. The world rightly claims much of our energy and attention as we go about the necessary business of living, but it is never to

claim our ultimate loyalty.

By "world" we mean all in this life and on earth which would divert our focus away from God and from His eternity and would induce us to find our security in earthly comforts and prestige. "The world is that organized system which acts as a rival to God," Charles Caldwell Ryrie writes (in *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary*, Moody: 1962, p. 1469). Worldliness means seeking the temporary things of this world more ardently than the enduring, eternal things of God. It is not merely a matter of where we go or what we do on Saturday night; it is a matter of inner attitudes and affections. As Luther put it: "To have a god is nothing else than to trust and believe him with our whole heart" (*Large Catechism*, First Commandment, *The Book of Concord*, ed. Tappert, Fortress: 1959, p. 365).

For some the god is money, a \$40,000 home, social status, sporting events, land or cattle, thoroughbred horses or dogs, the government or the party in power, one's family and its prestige, or something else that is earthly. All these things are good in their place, but when they replace God in someone's life they fall under the condemnation of v. 15: "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

The drifting sands of worldly affections and obsessions will bury the light of Christ in our lives and choke Him out if we do not keep them in check. "... Though God loves the world of men (John 3:16), we must not love that which organizes them against God. . . . The command is not, 'Love not too much,' but 'Love not at all'" (Ryrie, *loc. cit.*).

Our society and world deliberately shut God out of our lives, proudly affirming that He is "dead." By "the pride of life" (v. 16) John means that empty, insolent, hollow assurance and boasting which trusts vainly in its own power and brilliance and style of life, never seeing how empty the things of the world really are.

Some modern theologians speak of "man come of age," a generation that thinks it has simply outgrown God and the supernatural as it outgrew its baby clothes. A clergyman in a college town in the West once spoke

of this generation "come of age" with great affection. When I asked how he could make such a heathen assertion, he retorted somewhat irritably, "Well, of course, men can get along without God if they have to! Doesn't every kid have to grow up and learn that there comes a day when he can't lean on his old man any more?"

"Little children, it is the last time" (2:18). Such a brazen thrusting aside of God's standards, God's morality and righteousness, and Christian faith and churchgoing, in a day of growing social approval of all kinds of lust and wickedness and an alarming upsurge in alcoholism, drug traffic, witchcraft, and other evils, reminds us that the last times of increasing and rampant wickedness are a lot closer than we like to think.

The Word or the world: which will you choose? Remember that Jesus puts it very plainly in Matthew 6:24: "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." James speaks of the necessity for the Christian to "keep himself unspotted from the world" (1:27), adding: "Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (4:4).

Hear the words of our Lord again: "If the world hate you, know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you" (John 15:18-19). "Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets" (Luke 6:22-23). "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 10:22).

But Christ also promises to give us peace as the world never can, if we abide in His Word (John 14:27). Only

then shall we be truly His disciples and truly free (John 8:31-32). So John now writes (v. 17): "He that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

Why are we not to love the world? (1) Because it wars against God for space in our hearts. (2) Because the things of this world are not the things of the Father. (3) Because all that is in this world eventually passes away and disappears.

Why base your security, Christian friend, upon what is already in process of dissolution? One "relevant" theology after another promises "modern man," whoever he is, the final, contemporary answer to all his dilemmas; and one by one each of these "relevant" theologies bites the dust. Inflation can ruin the economy; the political scene changes annually; kings and empires vanish and are forgotten; such crutches as drugs and alcohol take their mounting toll of human lives and minds. But to do the will of God is to build on the Rock, our one sure foundation that will outlast time itself. Such builders will not be buried in the sands of the age.

The church has become overly identified with our godless age. Even the ungodly know that she has compromised her witness, miring herself down in the world instead of lifting men up out of its mire. "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" (v. 17).

The Word—or the world? The choice is yours. Don't put it off!

THANK YOU, LORD, FOR KEEPING ME

Thank you, Lord, for keeping me
Constantly so close to You;
Chastening me when I turn aside,
So self-willed, wayward, filled with
pride.

Oh God, my every path you know,
So prone my impulsive heart would
go
Where danger lurks and shadows
come
And evil hides from sun to sun.

You know I must always rest in You,
Completely in Your will to be
For peace to reign within my heart
And joy to fill my every part.

Mable Quanbeck
McVille, N. Dak.

LUTHER LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

FALLING IN LOVE An Essay in Four Parts Part IV

by Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom
Grafton, N. Dak.

Now I should like to say something about dating in general, say your first date together.

The feeling seems to be that in order for such a date to be a success, you must be able to keep the conversation going every second of the time.

Do not ever be caught without any more to say. Such is the unforgiveable sin in dating, so it seems. In other words, you just must be an expert conversationalist, if you hope to be a success at dating. Such seems to be the thinking today. Therefore be ready to talk on anything from soup to nuts, just so you keep the conversation going.

Now if you believe this, consciously or sub-consciously, you are going to feel embarrassed, you are going to feel that you are a failure on your date when the conversation comes to a lull. And this can be a real worry.

I remember when going to high school that occasionally I walked home with a certain girl who lived in the same area of town I did. I enjoyed walking with her, in one sense, but dreaded it in another sense, because I could never find very much to talk about.

After walking about four blocks together, we would then each go our own way. I was always relieved when our journey together ended, because after walking together that short distance I was completely exhausted in finding something to talk about. After

four blocks, I was scraping the bottom of the barrel. I was almost pulling my hair in order to find something more to say.

Those four blocks really challenged my full concentration power and then some. I actually found it easier to work out algebra and geometry problems (as we called them in those days) than to carry on a conversation with this girl in this short walk. And she was a nice girl. I liked her company very much.

Some of the experts on dating might give you lessons on how to be a good conversationalist, and this might be in order.

But better than that, just learn to be yourself. What is wrong in not carrying on a conversation at all, and just enjoying each other's presence?

I can remember when I began dating my wife. She was not a great conversationalist, and she still isn't. And before I become somewhat of an experienced preacher, I didn't have so much to say either.

I can remember that oft times we just sat and said nothing to each other. Sometimes when riding in a car, we would go miles and not say a word to each other.

But there was no embarrassment. No feeling of uneasiness, and we were both relaxed.

These silent times are pleasant memories now. I do well remember with joy in my heart the times we sat together this way, not staring at each other (I had to watch the road) but very much aware of each other's presence.

How very happy and thankful I was to just be near the girl whom I loved; and then to realize that she, too, was happy and contented to be near me. It was a wonderful feeling as we sat together or rode in a car together, neither one saying a word.

Someone once said, "Silence is golden." Under certain circumstances, I believe it is golden.

I do not believe there is anything gained to just keep talking when you really haven't got anything worthwhile to say.

When dating, if you can just learn to accept each other's presence when silent, as well as when talking, you will feel much more at ease on your date.

And if the person you are with likes you when you are talking, they will like you when you are not talking as well. Maybe even better.

Now, in conclusion, let me leave this thought with you.

As a young person you need Jesus. You need Jesus very much in the matter of dating, falling in love and finding a mate. Don't try to do this all by yourself.

Don't leave Jesus behind somewhere or standing in a corner when you go on a date.

You don't take Mom and Dad along on a date. This wouldn't be so good, **but do take Jesus along.** You will be wise in so doing.

Take Jesus along, not only to keep you from falling in love with the wrong girl or boy, and out of temptation, but take Jesus with you in order to get the very most out of your date, your courtship, your engagement, and finally, your marriage.

Jesus is not a fifth wheel on any date. Three is not a crowd when Jesus is along.

Let Jesus add His blessing on all that you do, and you will never be sorry that you did. Remember, too, that He wants to bless you, and will bless you, if you let Him and heed His wise counsel and the guidance He gives.

The best textbook that you can read in preparation for dating, courtship and all that it leads to, is the Bible.

And read the whole Bible. Make an effort to get God's complete message. You can't do this overnight, but work at it.

Find a continuous place at Jesus' feet, and readily listen and learn all He has to say to you.

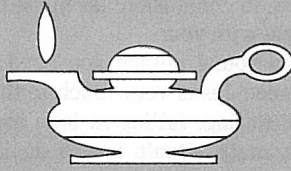
Such is not dull or boring, but very rewarding in the most rewarding way possible. Such will greatly help you in dating and seeking a mate.

Be systematic in your Bible study. Have a plan. Don't read a verse here and then one there, jumping all over the Bible. You don't read any other book that way.

If you don't want to start at the beginning of Genesis, at least start at the beginning of some book in the Bible, maybe one of the Gospels.

Try to get the central message of the particular book you are reading

(Continued on page 9)



SCHOOL NEWS

INTRODUCING OUR SEMINARIANS

Forget Not All His Benefits

"Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits" (Ps. 103:1-2).

How easy it is for us to forget all that Christ has done and is doing in our lives as we allow Him to! So often we are tempted to focus on self rather than our Savior. I am grateful for this opportunity to share with you a brief testimony because it gives me a chance to reflect on the grace and mercy of God in my life and to praise Him for His patience with me.

As I was growing up, the way of salvation was made very plain to me. However, it was not until I was about 15 years old, at a Bible Camp, that I was brought to the point where the Holy Spirit convicted me of my sin enough so that I saw my lost condition, and was willing to stop resisting His will and way in my life. So it was that by His grace I was converted, and brought back into a saving relationship with Christ. "Forget not all His benefits."

After high school, the Lord very plainly showed me my need to get into the Word of God and to seek His will for my life. He led me to attend the California Lutheran Bible School in Los Angeles and there He strengthened my faith in Christ and in His Word. It was also there that I met God's greatest gift to me, next to salvation—my wife, Mary Ellen. We were married in 1966, and God has blessed us with three children, Cynthia, Matthew and John, all gracious gifts of God. So often we take our families for granted and it is good for us to pause to thank the Lord for the great blessings of our life's part-

ner and children. "Forget not all His benefits."

After Bible School I attended the University of Minnesota for four years, was graduated, and taught music in Brooklyn Center, a suburb of Minneapolis. After three years, the Lord opened the door for full-time youth work in a Minneapolis church and I resigned my teaching position to accept that call. It was during that year that the Lord led me to the AFLC seminary, mostly through Rev. David Molstre's ministry in Minneapolis. For the past two years I have worked as Youth Director at Calvary Lutheran of Minneapolis while attending seminary and during my senior year I have the privilege of serving Scandia Lutheran, Sedan, Minn., as their student pastor. For God's leading day by day and year by year, I must add, "Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name."

As a postscript, I want to thank all of you in the Association for providing and making possible the seminary that we have. What a gift of God, to have a seminary that is true to the Word of God, true to Christ, and that is true to the task of preparing men to proclaim the way of salvation in this great day!

Don Greven

MALE STUDENTS OCCUPY NEW DORM ON OCTOBER 12

On the traditional Columbus Day, October 12, the male students at AFLBS moved into the new dormitory. For some hours that afternoon and into the evening, fellows, and girls, were busy carrying suitcases, personal belongings and furniture into the rooms on second and third floors. By nightfall the students were pretty well settled.

The men had lived in crowded and temporary quarters for four weeks when the change was made and they welcomed the spacious new accommodations.

One classroom and the student lounge were put into use on October 29. These are on first floor. Dr. Iver Olson had the privilege of teaching the first class in the new building. Other areas of the building will be put in use as they are readied.

Wire netting has been placed around the tennis courts. A wire backstop has been placed on the softball diamond. A large outdoor basketball court will be in readiness at least by next spring. The basement of the dorm will contain a good area for indoor recreation. A stove and refrigerator are available for student use.

PROMOTION DAY HELD ON OCTOBER 12

The first annual fall Promotion Day, on Oct. 12, did not bring out many prospective students for AFLBS, but a good time was had by those present.

Only about a dozen young people came, but they had the opportunity to be present when the men's dorm was put into use.

On Saturday morning two regular classes were taught, by Pastors Snipstead and Huglen. They were followed by a singspiration and sharing time led by Pastor F. Monseth. The morning closed with a period of testimonials by present students as they shared why they were in Bible School and what the School means to them. Pastor Snipstead led this session.

The afternoon was devoted to recreation and the moving into the new dorm.

In the evening there was the monthly youth rally. Guest speaker and singer was Mr. Dale Lundgren. After lunch an afterglow (singing and sharing) was held in the dining hall. Seminarian Paul Persson led it.

The next Promotion Day will be in April and it is hoped that a large group of young people interested in attending Bible School will come for that. And it is hoped that more will come out next fall when another Promotion Day is held then, too.

NEWS EVENTS

Rev. Clemmence Dyrud, Silverton, Ore., brother of Rev. Amos O. Dyrud, dean of the Seminary, spoke at the joint chapel service on Oct. 9. Pastor and Mrs. Dyrud were on a visit of several weeks in the Midwest to visit

(Continued on page 13)

Women For Christ

BE NOT ANXIOUS

by Mrs. Donald Jacobson
Binford, N. Dak.

"Since we have such a huge crowd of men of faith watching us from the grandstands, let us strip off anything that slows us down or holds us back, and especially those sins that wrap themselves so tightly around our feet and trip us up; and let us run with patience the particular race that God has set before us" (Heb. 12:1).

"If you want to keep from becoming fainthearted and weary, think about His patience as sinful men did such terrible things to Him" (Heb. 12:3).

"Let God train you, for He is doing what any loving father does for His children. Whoever heard of a son who was never corrected?" (Heb. 12:7).

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

"Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow" (Jas. 1:2, 3).

"So let it grow, and don't try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete. If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask Him, and He will gladly tell you, for He is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask Him; He will not resent it" (Jas. 1:4, 5).

As you listen to the conversations of men and women around you, how

many sound really content with what they have? How many Christians really show forth the joy that should be in their lives? People are restless, murmuring, always wishing things were different. If we could just change things—if we could have this or if that person didn't do this—then we could be content and happy. But think of this, God is over all. As He looks down upon the millions of people surely He can see what is best for us. Are the people whom you know as the most content and happy people, the ones who have a perfect situation to live in? Let go and let God! Really turn your problems over to Him.

As long as we try to do things by ourselves our problems seem so big. A full surrender to Christ, fully trusting in Him to care for us is the only answer. As we look backwards for just a moment we can see so many instances when He has shown His great love for us. Will He not continue to watch over us in the future? "Be not anxious"—yet how much of our time is spent in anxiety.

These earthly things are nothing;
Do not fret your time away,
For Christ will soon be coming,
Set your goal upon that day.
Do not be so anxious;
He will help you each day to meet,
Just be sure that you are ready
To stand before His judgment seat.

ABOUT BETTY CROCKER COUPONS

A very special thank you to the women of the various WMF organi-

zations who contributed Betty Crocker coupons towards the purchasing of equipment for our Bible School kitchen. This project was suggested and carried out by the Medicine Lake W.M.F. and they were overwhelmed by the response. A total of 35,000 points have been contributed which gives a cash value of \$175.00. A variety of items have been purchased which include an electric meat slicer, electric meat grinder and cabbage shredder, 20-quart kettle, toaster, timer and miscellaneous utensils.

General Mills is discontinuing the Club Plan for special projects due to price increases and the economy. However, should you have any coupons still on hand, please send them to our Bible School Headquarters no later than December 1, 1974. We can still get some items directly through the special Club Catalog, so don't delay.

The Bible School cooks are grateful for the new equipment added to the kitchen and extend their thanks also.

May the Lord continue to bless our WMF's and may He be glorified through a labor of love for Him.

—Committee

WOMEN HONORED AT TIOGA



The Women's Missionary Federation of Zion Lutheran Church in Tioga, N. Dak., honored two of its members at the August meeting. Honorary membership pins were presented to Mrs. Henry Rohde and Mrs. Roy Syverson in appreciation for their years of faithful service in the work of the WMF. Mrs. Raymond Davidson officiated at the ceremony. Mrs. Jack Christianson and Mrs. Arthur Haakenson presented the pins and certificates to the honored women. Rev. Forrest Swenson is pastor of the congregation.

May God bless these women and continue to use them in the Ladies Aid.

Mrs. Cliff Iverson
Secretary



WORLD MISSIONS

THE FIELDS ARE WHITE UNTO HARVEST

THE BIBLE INSTITUTE AND SEMINARY IN BRAZIL

Below are some pictures of our Bible Institute and Seminary in Brazil taken just before construction began on our new administration-classroom and chapel building.

You will notice the beautiful fields around the campus. A few years ago, in 1965, when Pastor Abel first walked

up in this area with the owner of these lands, Mr. Paulino Slomp, all of this was forest area, with some brushland. Today bulldozers and modern equipment have turned the area into beautiful rolling fields overlooking and surrounding Campo Mourao. Only our area has some of the original trees. Pastor Alvin Grothe, Missionary Knapp and the rest of us have tried

to preserve all of the original big trees and to plant others, letting the grass form in their shade, so that we have a lovely campus comprised of about six acres of land. The students also plant rice and soybeans in some of the small adjacent fields. Missionaries' homes have come up on the edge of the property and Brazilians are beginning to build also around the property.

The missionaries and students and national pastors of your Brazil field ask your continued prayers. We live in a time of stress, rapid inflation, worldliness and materialism. It is not easy to go off to Bible School and be a very poor person for some years. Yet the Holy Spirit makes us all rich through His Word, His grace and His miracles. Prayer is the secret. Please hold all of us up before the Throne of Grace.

In His service,
Pastor John H. Abel



In these joined shots, roughly put together, you see the entire front of the Bible Institute and Seminary grounds. A main state highway runs past the front and is due

to be paved within three years. To the left is the boys' dorm. This also contains a classroom, library and kitchen. To the right is the girls' dorm, containing a

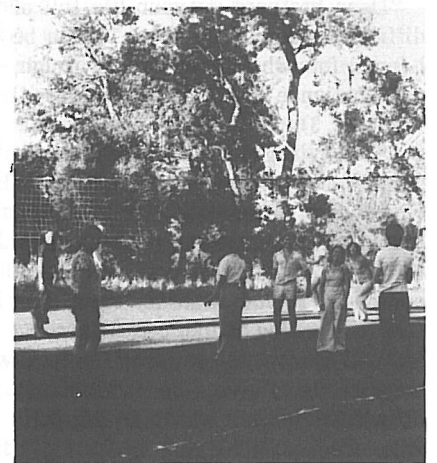
classroom, music room and office. The administration and classroom building is now being constructed between these two buildings.



An aerial view of the Institute-Seminary land. Near the road you can see the two dormitories. The line marks the boundary of the property.



Some of the students in front of the kitchen. They come from four of our congregations in Parana.



Students playing volleyball during the physical education period.

editorials

MAKE USE OF OUR SCHOOL

Each year a goodly number of our Bible School students come from outside the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. In one way or another these people have heard about AFLBS and have made the decision to take all or part of their Bible training with us. It is good to have them come. We are glad if we can have a part in their spiritual enrichment and they, in turn, do us good.

It should be borne in mind, too, that not all the support of AFLBS, or of any aspect of the Association work, comes from within the AFLC. A significant portion of it comes from individuals, and at times from congregations and other organizations, beyond the Association. For these friends we are very grateful.

Not long ago the Bible School office received the request that information be sent to a sizeable group of young people in Kansas City, Missouri. Whether this will produce any future students for AFLBS no one knows. But little by little the fact of our school is spreading across

our country and Canada. We can expect more students to enroll from beyond our own church borders.

Therefore, it is in order that we encourage people from our own congregations to make full use of the Bible School. While young people of other churches recognize the value of a conservative Lutheran Bible training, let us be sure that we do also and that every person beyond high school in the Association knows of our Bible School and is offered the opportunity to attend. Of course, there must be the desire to come, there must be a willingness to live under the regulation of the school, there must be a willingness to work, but if these factors are present, it should be made known that AFLBS is available for such persons. Persons of all ages come, but generally it is easier for young people to come and such training comes at a peculiarly advantageous time of life for them.

Association Free Lutheran Bible School, with its new dormitory for men, is now able to accommodate about 70 more students on campus than it presently has. Therefore, the question of space is not a problem in the near future. In addition, any number of students staying off campus can also be taken care of. With increased enrollment, faculty and staff can be added.

But basically what we are saying today is this, as Association people, make use of our Bible School. Parents, encourage your children to attend. Young people and others, consider attending Bible School for a year or two, or even just one quarter, if that is all you can manage. In some families several children have already come to AFLBS during its eight years of operation. A tradition has already developed and we think it is a good one.

Make use of our School.

(Continued from page 5)

and studying. I recommend Henrietta Mears' book, **What is the Bible All About**, as a good aid in this.

There is a great deal of emphasis today in specialized doctrinal study. You have a certain doctrine you are interested in and so you search the Scriptures to find out all you can on that one doctrine, or on one particular subject, thus making an encyclopedia out of the Bible. Special Bible courses are written just for young people and their problems, etc. Maybe you can find a Bible course on dating and courtship some place.

Now this isn't exactly wrong and I am sure something could be gained by such a study. But there is a danger in this method, too. Many people and groups go astray by just this method.

They study only pet portions. They go off on a tangent. Jehovah's Witnesses are an example. Your

"tongues movements" and various groups who get all "hepped up" about the Holy Spirit are another group that do this.

I believe God wants you to study the whole Bible. And when you study the Bible as a whole, out of that will come the wisdom you need for the particular situation or problem you face.

If you have a general idea what the Bible is all about (and the more you know the better), then when you have a problem, be it in relation to the things we have just talked about or something else, the Holy Spirit will cause you to remember that Word of God which you have stored in your mind and heart, and you will be able to get the God-given wisdom, the very best there is, in finding the solution to your problem.

The answer to your every question is to be found in the Bible, but it

doesn't work to have the Bible on a shelf and then when you have a problem to try and find the answer.

The Bible isn't indexed that way, and the wisdom found there can't be catalogued in this way. You need to have that Word of God in your mind and heart for a while in order that it might grow and develop there so that it can give you the wisdom you need for the problems of life.

Therefore, store it up in your mind and heart, even from cover to cover. Remember what the Bible says.

You can never exhaust this book, the Bible, but you can become acquainted with it as a whole, even a book at a time.

And I can give you no better advice than to read and study your Bible in preparing for dating, falling in love, becoming engaged, and getting married.

Wishing you God's blessing.

Lew Speegle Stops Fooling Them

Best thing about my father-in-law was that he always trusted me. Right after my wife and I were married and moved out to California, he confided in me.

"Now, Lew, I'd like to buy a house. Maybe spend about ten thousand, maybe a little less. I want you to look around for me and see if you can find just the right one. Remember, I can go as high as ten thousand."

I hunted around until I had just the right house for him. I knew he was fussy.

"The very best I could do was ten thousand, five hundred," I told him. "If you can't go the extra, maybe I can help you."

"Don't worry, Lew," he said. "I can swing it, I think. It's such a nice little house. Thank you, Son."

After I helped him move, being very careful not to scratch his favorite easy chair, I took his check, cashed it and paid the owner his eight thousand five hundred. Then I counted my change—about two thousand dollars—and pocketed it.

I never did get around to telling my wife all the details of how I got her father his house. Maybe it was just as well she never found out about it. Because from then on, deals seemed to come natural to me, and there was something in that wife of mine that didn't like spending money that wasn't perfectly straight.

One day, she really got provoked. "We're through," she said to me. "This is all I can take."

I never was much good at reasoning with a woman. "Look," I said. "What's the difference if I pulled the wool over Old Lady Cavin's eyes on that school site deal? She's happy about it. Things are fine. 'You're an upstanding young man,' she told me. Kissed me on the forehead before I left like I was her own son. And furthermore," I told my wife, "I notice you're perfectly willing to spend the

money as long as you don't know how I make it. Oh, Honey, can't you see—"

But she never heard the rest of my story. "I'm through with you, Lew Speagle," she said. "I'm not only through spending your crooked money, I'm through with you. I'm taking the baby and you're getting out."

It must have been about then I started traveling. You really see the world when you're with a carnival. There's money in it, too.

I tried the Navy for a while, but I couldn't stand the pay long.

I was front man for a couple of men who ran a little sideline with dice and cards. There's good money in that, too, and after a while, you get used to the characters who come in to play the games.

Like that old German fellow that wandered into the casino where I was working back before the first world war. He was a character all right, a real lover of music with a fond hope of sending a young violinist to Europe. He kept playing some phonograph record over and over that night. "Berceuse from Jocelyn." In between records, he'd tell me about the young man he was going to send over to Germany to study. He was going to finance the lad with the money he'd been saving for 12 years. He had twenty-two hundred and he came to the casino to turn it into five thousand, all for the young musician!"

We played all evening. He was a character, but I have to admit the old fellow was big about losing all his cash.

I've worked 12 years to save it, but I-I always pride myself on being a good loser," he told me, "so we'll shake hands."

I walked around to his side of the table and put my arms around him. "More than shake hands, Professor. I have to come over and put my arms around you. You remind me of my dear old grandfather." That was how

I got hold of the old fellow's watch in his pocket.

I made London my next stop and booked up with Madame Bernice Deploya, a short, plump East Indian "clairvoyant and mystic" from the Bronx. Like I said before, I never was much good at reasoning with women. She and I had most of our trouble over watches and stickpins I lifted from the clientele.

When I was through with that job, I left for New York City and finally Chicago in 1924. My particular trade was a little slow that year, but I heard that street corner hawking was good on Skid Row. This seemed a little beneath me, I thought at first, but I became used to the atmosphere when I found out how much you could make with "genuine African diamonds" at ten cents a piece.

I sold a lot of genuine all metal bird whistles, too. Of course, I had a very glib, convincing talk. "Here you are, gentlemen, just the combination of two beautiful gifts to take home to the little woman and that sweet little child. For just one dime, one tenth of a dollar, you can keep your wife, or get her back again, with this genuine African clear-cut diamond ring. Genuine all-metal whistling birds, too, to delight the kiddies' hearts and make their eyes shine. Let the little woman know you're a real father."

Then one night some happy "song-birds" drowned out my "line." They were singing on the Gospel wagon belonging to the Pacific Garden Mission down the street. I lost all my customers to the wagon and there was nothing to do but make a move to the next block. I folded up my portable jewelry kit, packed my metal birds and then—sat down on the curb and listened to their songs.

There was a clogged-up, choked feeling in my throat as I listened to the singing. Lew Speegle with a lump in his throat? "You need a change, Lew," I told myself. So I made straight for Mexico City the next day. I went south by train—freight train.

Sharing the same car with me there was a fellow who had figured an interesting angle.

"Aincha gonna get no shut-eye, pal? It's gettin' on for midnight," he remarked,

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HOME MISSIONS

NOGALES NUGGETS

The other day, little Gabriel Mercado, Jr., after a week in first grade, was showing us his notebook. There were pages of carefully copied letters and then one page with some scribbled drawings.

"Son, why did you waste this page?" his father asked.

"No, the teacher asked us to draw a 'conjunto de cosas' (mixture of things), said the first grader, so I did."

"Marvelous!" I thought. "A first-grader already knows the word 'conjunto' and I barely know it myself."

Well, this letter will be a "conjunto," a mixture of things about the work in Mexico. We came back from Conference in Thief River Falls last June full of inspiration and the warmth of fellowship. Besides, we brought back warmth in a concrete way to the Mexican brethren in a good supply of quilts made by the WMF women. It is beginning to get chilly nights now so we were looking over the quilts today and admiring them before we gave them out. They are warm, colorful, easily washed, and a real display of good workmanship! They will be an encouragement and a witness to many people. You'd be surprised how many people can get under one quilt. Thank you for your labor of love, Newfolden, Tioga, Fargo ladies, and all!

Our aim this year in Mexico has been to consolidate the work in the

six different areas and bring the scattered groups together. We have been so thankful for the Mission bus in this effort. Another thing that is helping us is the new bus system in Nogales, Mexico. There has always been good service on the main streets, buses every five minutes. But now they have put on a lot of smaller buses and vans to go into the narrow side streets and canyons. These "puddle jumpers" charge more than the regular buses but the fare is still only 8¢. So now the Buenos Aires people can attend services in Heroes Canyon, the Reforma people can go to Corregidora, etc. That way the two pastors can concentrate on meetings in the four main areas. This is a great help as both have other jobs besides their ministry. Gabriel Mercado is in charge of our bookstore and works there with a helper. Rene Ochoa has a job in construction to help support his family of five children.

We have just built a meeting place in one of these areas, the C.T.M. district, named after the labor union whose workers live there. These people are squatters and do not own their lots but they have been apportioned on the basis of "first come—first served." Pastor Mercado's brother-in-law, Manuel Ramirez, was able to get a lot for us in connection with his own cabin, made of pieces of corrugated tin and what-not. The lot would have been bigger but one day while Manuel was gone, some people quickly built a shack on one corner, and so got the right to it. That is why we hurried to put up a frame building, as by now every spot is taken except those on the steep hillsides. Our lot is fairly level and didn't cost too much to fill in. The two pastors are both builders and lost no time in putting up the walls. We have screen on the windows instead of glass. When it gets cold we will have wooden shutters. There is only a dirt floor so far.

The roof is on. We have been meeting there ever since construction was begun.

Now a surprising development. We thought it would be a year or more before the question of buying the lot would come up. In fact we made the building in sections in case it had to be moved. But last week they started surveying. Praise the Lord! We should have the title some fine day. Now we had better get ready for the down payment.

Augsburg Lutheran Seminary in Mexico City is sending a teacher for another Institute beginning Nov. 1st. This is in connection with the "Plan of the Seventy," Luke 10:1, a plan for training lay workers that is used throughout Latin America. Some of our young people have jobs and families so that a residence at the Seminary is out of reach, but they would still like to study to serve the Lord in their congregation. So instead of the student going to the Seminary, the Seminary comes to the student.

Rev. Ray Rosales, head of the Extension Department of the Seminary, was the first to bring these courses to Nogales, in Sept., 1972. That was when Gabriel Mercado took the courses and graduated. Since that time Neemias Dias has been coming here for regular Institutes. This time he will give a double Institute, first a postgraduate course for pastors, then studies for beginners on the ten courses that form the complete series. The students already have their programmed materials and are working. Pray for them. Pray especially for Rene Ochoa, who is not of Lutheran background.

Our radio program was off the air in September, but our goal was to have it on again by Oct. 6th, every Sunday morning over XENY. Pastor Jose Luis Zamora of the World Mission Prayer League is the speaker. We knew him from Mazatlan since he was "knee high." We thank God for his programs which reach about 20,000 listeners.

The "Word of God" Christian bookstore is another means of getting out the Word in Nogales. We are cooperating with John Fields in this project. He had a vision for it as there was no Christian bookstore in this city of

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The Word of God Christian Bookstore

PLEASE DON'T CRY, MOMMY

Mommy, why are you lying on the bed staring at my picture so sadly? Are those tears I see? Don't cry, Mommy. I'm happy.

I suppose it's hard for you to understand why God would take a five-year-old boy away from his mommy and daddy. I know what you're thinking. He'll never be able to enjoy life—to go to school, play ball and go on dates. No fishing, catching tadpoles and climbing trees. Mommy, I wish you could understand how unimportant those things really are. Just think, I'll never know pain, heartbreaks, hate and loneliness. Things are different here. It's so wonderful I can't even describe it to you, but even if I could I doubt if you could understand.

Jesus is with me, Mommy. He came when the car hit me. I didn't even feel any pain. I wish you could see Him and know Him as I do. If you did you wouldn't be crying. You'd be rejoicing with me. You'd know we would be together soon. You see,

Mommy, I didn't really die, just my body. I wish you could see my smile. You always were happy when I smiled. I wish you could meet all my new friends. They were chosen like me. Some are from Africa, some from China. We all love each other and there are no fights. Can you imagine a place where kids don't fight?

Mommy, don't start crying again. Don't worry about me and how things might have been. Look ahead and reach out. Share the love you had saved for me with all the lonely people. There are many. Many who are born in a world surrounded by hate, regret and fear. Without the love of Jesus they will know only darkness. Jesus has a job for you, Mommy. You are capable of so much love. Go out and spread it around and beautiful things will happen. Most important of all, look to Jesus and He will help you. He's waiting, Mommy, He's waiting for you to ask Him for His help.

Kathleen Filas, AFLBS
Corcoran, Minn.

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I tried to go around that by saying I had something on my mind, didn't feel like sleeping.

"You worried?"

"Yeah, guess so," I admitted.

I started to hum. It sounded like a hymn. Then I began to say words, "Jesus — Saviour — pilot — me." My singing trailed off into the darkness of the rattling freight.

"You got Jesus worries," he said quietly.

I thought he wasn't just all right. I told him so.

"No," he told me. "I been ridin' these rods for near 40 years. I know Jesus worries when I see them. Ain't had none myself, but I've rode with many guys heavy with them. Seems like I'd start wondering about Jesus one of these days myself."

I didn't get that slant. "You believe in Jesus?" I asked him.

"Don't rightly know. Reckon I do. Seen Him trouble so many men. Like He's troubling you right now."

"Who says it's God I'm worried about? Maybe it's my wife and baby I haven't seen for fifteen years."

"They say it all goes together. When a guy gets Jesus worries he sees himself as the skunk he is. That's what seems to happen to every guy I ride with who's got Jesus worries."

Somehow, the lights in Mexico City looked a little tarnished on that trip. The tavern women all looked alike to me so I rode the "rods" right back to Chicago.

Soon as I was back in the city, I made for Skid Row. But this time I wasn't selling a thing. I was on the receiving end.

My first night back, the old Gospel

wagon rattled down the street. The men were singing "Jesus—Saviour—pilot—me," and I stepped out to the edge of the curb. I began to sing with them, strange as that may seem.

* * * * *

The man on the freight train was wrong. I didn't have Jesus worries. Not Lew Speegle. Not any more, anyhow. I had Jesus.

But even after I became a Christian, I couldn't stay out of the selling field very long. When a man is used to convincing people, you can't break him of the habit. So I reported to the Pacific Garden Mission and booked up with the Gospel wagon. I started telling about salvation from sin, and about Jesus!

Spare evenings I wrote many letters to all the people I'd swindled. Nineteen letters I stuffed into the mailbox in one night. The longest one was addressed to the U.S. Navy, regarding desertion of one Lew Speegle.

Shortly thereafter, I departed from the Pacific Garden Mission for jail. First the navy took me to a North Chicago jail, then to one in Washington.

When my trial came up in Washington, I gave the officers the whole story from the beginning, desertion, to the ending, Jesus. When I was through talking, several officers went into a huddle in the courtroom. The general officer in charge asked me if I knew what the desertion penalty was.

Of course I did. "My citizenship may be taken away and I can be sent to Leavenworth, Sir," I answered, full of sincere respect.

The officers crossed the room in a hurry. "Speegle," they stated, "in view of the—uh—miraculous change in your life, we are sentencing you to serve out your enlisted term aboard a government vessel. Then you're a free man."

They meant it, too. I began serving my term, and before it was half over, I had my honorable discharge.

Then I went home to my wife and boy. "Sure, I still love you, Lew," my wife said. "Now that you've stopped fooling everybody, including yourself."

UNSHACKLED; Courtesy, Pacific Garden Mission, Chicago, Ill.

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their sons David and Dennis and other relatives and friends. They also took in the homecoming at Oak Grove Lutheran High School in Fargo, N. Dak.

Angelo LoVallo of Christ's Mission was a recent lecturer at the Schools while in the area. A converted Roman Catholic priest himself, he speaks and writes about the differences between evangelical Protestantism and Roman Catholicism.

On Oct. 16, Dr. Andreas Aarflot of Oslo, Norway, spoke at the joint chapel service. An authority on Hans Nielsen Hauge, Norway's most famous religious figure, he is a teacher at the Independent Seminary (Menighets-fakultet) in Oslo, but is spending some months in the U.S.

The senior Gospel Team from AFLBS and Pastor F. Monseth took part in the commissioning service for Miss Priscilla Wold on Sunday, Oct. 27, at Bethany Lutheran Church, Abercrombie, N. Dak. Priscilla is a graduate of AFLBS and will go to Brazil in the next several months.

COMING EVENTS

- Nov. 25-27 — Final Examinations, 1st Quarter
- Nov. 28-Dec. 1 — Thanksgiving Vacation
- Dec. 2 — Registration for Winter Quarter
- Dec. 15 — Annual Christmas Concert



NEWS

of the Churches

Zion Lutheran Church of Willmar, Minn., celebrated its 11th Anniversary and the burning of the mortgage on September 15, 1974. Pastor Leslie Galland spoke on the theme "Let Us Praise the Lord." Pastor Strand, president of the AFLC, gave the message in the afternoon.

Those giving greetings during the day were: Pastor T. F. Dahle of Spicer, Minn., Rev. Marvin Haara from Brooten, Minn., and Mr. John Arlan Johnson, Sacred Heart, Minn. Greetings were received from Richard Gunderson, missionary to Bolivia, and Rev. Hubert DeBoer of Thief River Falls, Minn.

Received into membership during the day were the following families: Mr. and Mrs. Gary Lane of Willmar, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Tommeraasen of Willmar, Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Thompson and girls of Spicer, and

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Torkelson and family of Kerkhoven, Minn.

Zion was organized in August, 1963, under the name "Free Lutheran Mission." In 1969 the name was changed to Zion Free Lutheran Church. In 1964 the present church building was purchased from the local Assemblies of God congregation. The pulpit and altar were received as gifts from Black Oak Lake Lutheran Church, rural Montevideo, Minn., a former Lutheran Free Church congregation. The baptismal font was a gift from Faith Lutheran Church of Granite Falls, Minn.

The late Rev. Morris Eggen first served Zion. Following that service was given by students Marvin Haara, Richard Gunderson and the late Reuben Wee. Rev. Hubert DeBoer was the next pastor and the present pastor is Rev. Leslie Galland Spicer.



Mr. Leif Fostervold, center, begins the burning of the congregation's mortgage. Pastor Strand is shown on the right.



The new members who were received into the congregation on Sept. 15. Pastor Galland is shown at the rear, center.

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60,000. (The city grows so fast since the American industries came in that it is probably 100,000 by now.) We are renting a little place on a busy part of the main street set right in the midst of some cantinas (bars). It is a good setting for a rescue mission. Meetings are held there every Friday night, as well as daytime Bible studies. Be praying that God will prosper as the Bibles, tracts and devotional literature go out.

I stuck the name "Nogales Nuggets" at the top of this letter as it occurred to me that we are in this mining community and engaged in mining ourselves. Pastor and Mrs. Dynneson, Norma Haag, and the Leonard Swansons are panning for real gold, the precious souls that Christ died on the cross to save.

In His name,
Leonard and May Swanson

SEM BOARD HEAD DEFENDS OUSTER OF DR. TIETJEN

St. Louis—(LC)—The decision to fire Dr. John H. Tietjen as president of Concordia Seminary here was a "difficult and trying experience for every member of the Board of Control," the chairman of that board said here.

The Rev. E. J. Otto was also sharply critical of Dr. Tietjen for calling the proceedings a "charade" and for not appearing before the board to defend himself.

And a spokesman for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod said that the board's decision to dismiss Dr. Tietjen on grounds of heresy and administrative malfeasance could be considered the only ruling needed to oust the former seminary president from the ministry of the LCMS.

"Dr. Tietjen was offered repeated opportunities to appear before a variety of synodical bodies to state officially his concerns," Mr. Otto stated. "This he continues to refuse to do. He now says he will not appeal the decision but continues to attack the church of which he is a member."

Added Dr. Otto: "It would seem to me that, for the sake of the church, Dr. Tietjen would bring his concerns to the proper bodies of the Synod."

In announcing his dismissal, Dr. Tietjen said that he received official notice of the special meeting only ten days prior to the meeting and that he had informed the board that "other responsibilities" made it impossible for him to attend the meeting. He had previously refused to attend a meeting of a faculty hearings committee which was reviewing the charges against him.

No further information will be released by the Synod until the time given Dr. Tietjen to appeal has passed, Mr. Otto stated. "While we realize the deep interest of the church in this unusual time, we feel that the release of the material would not be in the best interest of Dr. Tietjen when its release could jeopardize a future appeal."

According to Synod by-laws, the former seminary president has 90 days to appeal the decision. Dr. Tietjen has said he would not do so.

Dr. Tietjen's status as a clergyman

of the LCMS is now in doubt, since a recent change in the Synod's by-laws says that in such cases the "findings, transcripts and all information should be forwarded to the district president."

Dr. Teitjen has been a member of the Synod's English District during his entire ministry. But since Concordia Seminary is under the jurisdiction of the Missouri District, it is unclear which part of the church now has jurisdiction in his case.

The former seminary president said that he intends to continue in the LCMS ministry and that he categorically rejects the charges lodged against him.

THEY DIDN'T SAY

We knew a family who moved in from the Far West. They came to stay. But in a little over a year they sold out and went back whence they came. A man who knew them told why they had gone. They were homesick. They missed their old friends, and no new ones came in to take their places. It was all very well for people to say, as some did, that it was their own fault. But it was not. The people about them, like the Priest and the Levite, had come and looked on them and then passed by on the other side. They were so busy along the main highway they had no time to stop at the lane.—S. N. H.

—Doran's Minister's Manual

But what joy it will be when no sinful thought will ever pierce the heart; no unholy desires defile the mind; no memory of sin trouble the conscience; when every trace of sin has disappeared from soul and body; when we awake to a morning without sin at home with God!

—F. Hammarsten,

Daily Meditations (Gospels)

Abstain from all things that the Spirit, through your conscience, shows to be hindrances; turn absolutely away from them, if the gaining of the crown is dear to you.

—F. Hammarsten,

Daily Meditations (Gospels)

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Romans 12:21

TOMORROW

The Christ is calling out your name—
Why don't you heed His voice?
He wants to be your Savior, too,
But you must make the choice.
The Christ wants you to turn from
sin,
The Christ wants you to answer Him;
But you say, "Tomorrow."

The Christ is standing at your heart,
He's stopping at your gate.
The time is swiftly passing by—
Why do you make Him wait?
The Christ wants you to turn from
sin,
The Christ wants you to let Him in;
But you say, "Tomorrow."

The Christ is coming from the sky
In chariot of flame.
Saints, seraphim, and angels cry
Hosannas to His name.
The burning banners are unfurled,
The Christ has come to judge the
world—
There is no tomorrow.

Marlene Moline
Lansing, Iowa

THE WORD

"Almighty God! Thy Word is cast
Like seeds into the ground;
Now let the dew of heaven descend,
And righteous fruits abound.

Let not the foe of Christ and man
This holy seed remove;
But give it root in every heart,
To bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world's deceitful cares
The rising plant destroy;
But let it yield a hundred-fold
The fruits of peace and joy

Of as the precious seed is sown,
The quickening grace bestow,
That all whose souls the truth receive
Its saving power may know."

By J. Cawood, 1816

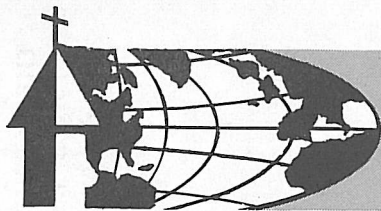
Contentment opens the source of
every joy.

James Beattie

He never sought in vain that sought
the Lord aright.

—Robert Burns

The Father will quicken His pace
when the child cries. —Scroggie



THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

** Sixty per cent of New York City's children aged 12-18 use alcohol regularly, with 36,000 of them exhibiting early signs of alcoholism. National statistics show 60 per cent of all American children have drunk alcohol by the time they reach the seventh grade.

** The smoking habit victimizes 3,000 new American teen-agers daily. Smoking among teen-age girls has doubled in the last six years.

** Emperor Haile Selassie has been removed from effective power in a bloodless coup in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. No change in the friendly attitude toward missionaries is expected. Many Christian agencies are heavily involved in famine relief in this drouth-stricken land.

** Norwegian atheists have begun a heavy attack against religion. Church leaders hope the challenge will rouse Norwegians from their tepid attitude toward Christ and the church.

** The world's population is expected to pass the four billion mark in the next three months. Most of these babies will be born in countries that can least afford to care for and feed them.

DR. DAVID PREUS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE ALC

Detroit—(LC)—Dr. David W. Preus was elected here as expected to his first six-year term as president of the nation's third largest Lutheran body, the 2.5 million member American Lutheran Church.

Dr. Preus, 52, was named on the second ballot at the ALC's seventh biennial convention as he easily defeated four other nominees for office, which he has held since death cut short the presidency of Dr. Kent S. Knutson on March 12, 1973.

On the first ballot, Dr. Preus received 638 votes or 79 less than the three-fourths majority needed. On the second ballot, his total rose to 680

votes or 42 more than the two-thirds majority required.

Runner-up on both ballots, with 162 and 154 votes, was Dr. Frederick W. Meuser, president of Evangelical Lutheran Seminary at Columbus, Ohio.

Dr. J. Elmo Agrimson, president of the ALC's Southeastern Minnesota District, polled 140 and 121 votes; Dr. Gordon S. Huffman, president of the Eastern District and acting vice president of the ALC, received 12 and 3, and Dr. John W. Bachman, director of the ALC Office of Communication and Mission Support, garnered 3 and 0.

Dr. Knutson had completed his first two years as president of the ALC when he died after a six-month struggle against a bizarre and deadly disease that attacked his central nervous system, a malady which it was believed he contracted during an extended trip to the tropics and Far East.

A native of Madison, Wis., Dr. Preus is a graduate of Luther College at Decorah, Iowa, and Luther Seminary in St. Paul, and also attended the University of Minnesota Law School, the University of Edinburgh in Scotland and Union Seminary in New York City. He has honorary doctorates from Wagner College, Luther College and Pacific Lutheran University.

Ordained in 1950, he served congregations in Brookings and Vermillion, S.D., from 1950 to 1957 and was a campus pastor at the University of Minnesota for a year before becoming pastor of University Lutheran Church of Hope.

PRESIDENT FORD UNEXPECTED GUEST AT ALC CONVENTION

Detroit—(LC)—President Gerald Ford told delegates to the seventh general convention of the American Lutheran Church that their theme—"Ministering to a Hungry World"—was a "stimulating call to any assembly of committed people."

Addressing 1,000 delegates and 600 visitors at Cobo Hall on the evening of Oct. 10, the nation's chief executive said that such responsibility will call for sacrifice and that "our life styles to some extent must be adjusted if we are to remain a source of strength for all peoples in all nations of the world."

Back in his home state of Michigan for two political speeches, the president concluded his remarks with a plea to the church "for your help for all people throughout the world."

The president was a last minute addition to the agenda for the biennial meeting of the 2.5 million member ALC. The delegates happily adjusted their supper schedule to return to the auditorium by 6:30 p.m. and then sang for nearly 45 minutes as they awaited his arrival.

MORE "SINGABLE" HYMNAL URGED BY ALC DELEGATES

Detroit—(LC)—Repeated pleas for simplicity, singability and grassroots involvement in determining content marked a discussion of a common Lutheran hymnal at the seventh general convention of the American Lutheran Church (ALC).

"The church isn't listening to our needs," stated one delegate.

A resolution adopted here increases the size of a committee to review the proposed hymnal material for the ALC to two parish pastors, two lay people, two theological professors, two district presidents and one staff person from the ALC's Board of Publication.

It also directed the review committee to "pay particular attention" to the "usability and adaptability" of material for the majority of congregations in addition to the "theology of the liturgy and the hymns."

The committee was asked to consult with pastors and congregations concerning the hymnal's content.

The ALC is cooperating with three other bodies in producing the common

hymnal through the Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship (ILCW). Other partners are the Lutheran Church in America, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

Convention delegates reaffirmed the ALC's commitment to the inter-Lutheran project and instructed ALC representatives to the ILCW to vote for including the three ecumenical creeds (the Apostles' Creed, the Ni-

cene Creed and the Athanasian Creed), Luther's Small Catechism and the Augsburg Confession in the hymnal.

Finally, the resolution asks that the Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship, the ALC's Division for Life and Mission in the Congregation and the hymnal review committee report to the ALC Church Council for sharing with the ALC's 1976 general conven-

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