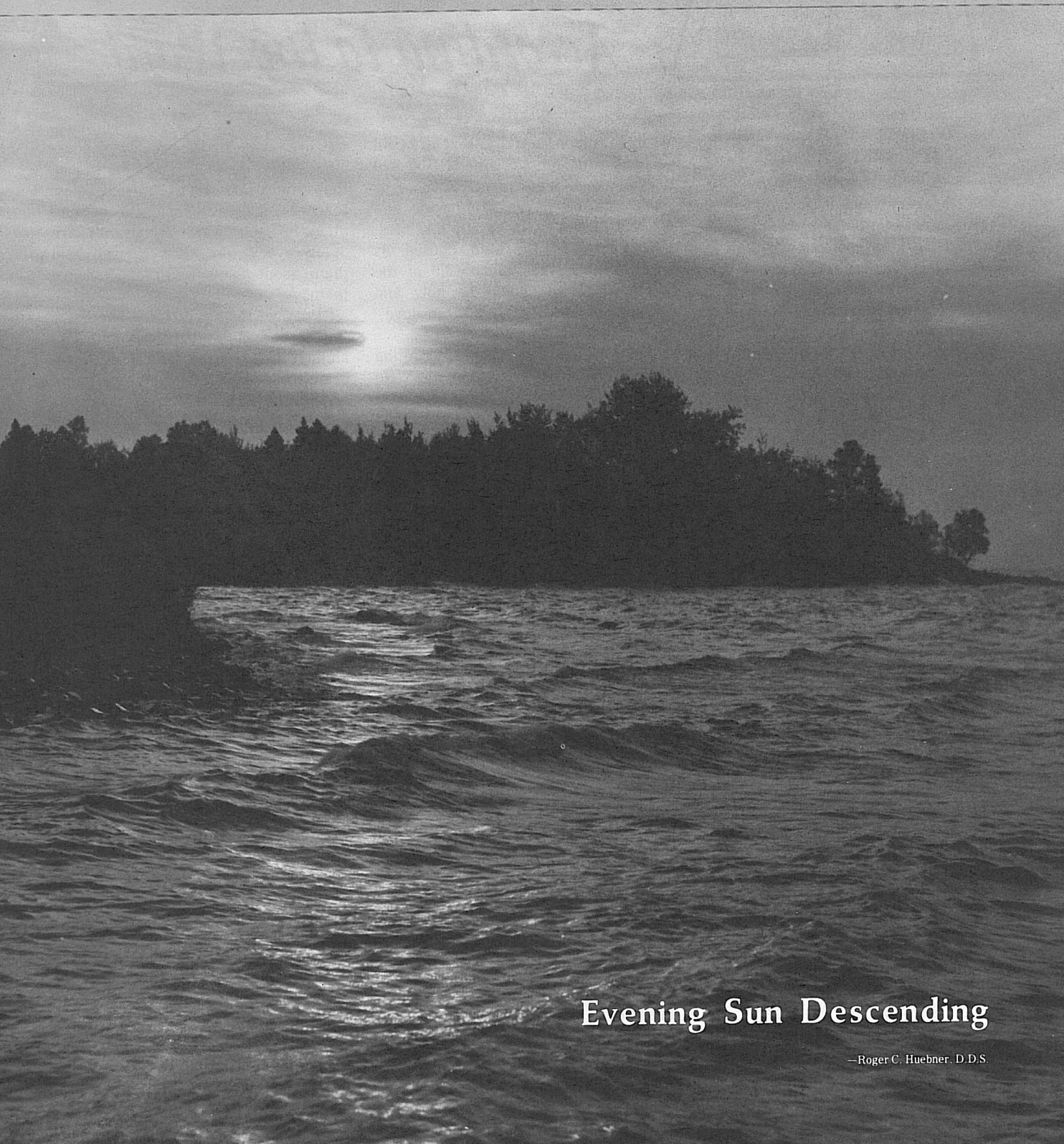


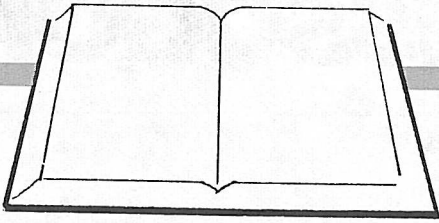
September 14, 1971

The Lutheran Ambassador



Evening Sun Descending

—Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.



According to the Word

IF CHRIST IS MY SAVIOR, IS CHRIST'S PROGRAM MY PROGRAM?

"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (I Pet. 4:10).

God's love was shown when He sent His Son to make complete restitution for each one of us. When we receive Christ as "our" Savior, we are given the opportunity to have a part in sharing this salvation with others. God wants each one of us to be saved. "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest" (Lk. 10:2). If we are partners with God, we must remind ourselves that we have but one real purpose in life—to spread the Gospel near and far. Stewardship becomes our real concern. Bearing in mind the cost of our redemption, we should be more ready to give a favorable response to the admonition given in Eph. 5:15-16 (Phillips): "Live life, then, with a due sense of responsibility, not as men who do not know the meaning and purpose of life but as those who do. Make the best use of your time despite all the difficulties of these days." Let us not fill our time off the job

with so much activity that we fail to have time for worshiping God and serving our fellowmen. God needs each one of us in His work and He has chosen us to be His disciples. "According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love" (Eph. 1:4).

You and I know that Jesus is coming again. When He comes again, "He shall come to judge the quick and the dead." He commands His followers to prepare mankind for judgment. There is only one hope for a world lost and sunken in sin, and that is Jesus Christ and His cross. "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Christ Jesus" (I Cor. 3:11). "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). What are we doing about it?

We must put forth much more effort in using the resources God has blessed us with that His name be glorified. We must tell others the good news of salvation. It may be the word coming from our mouth, or it may be the means given us to send others to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love. This is the reason that

we urge you to generously support our Bible School and Seminary, that more pastors, missionaries, teachers, and lay people can be supplied for this work. Thousands are dying every day. Has anyone told them about Jesus who came to save them?

"Pray ye the Lord of the harvest." But it is one thing to pray this and another to sacrifice for Christ's program. We sometimes play the game of the politician. We make promises but fail to provide the money and man-power to put into effect what we are in favor of. The means by which we can reach the millions who are waiting to receive the Gospel depends on this outreach of our discipleship.

What has happened to our love for Christ and his kingdom when the work of the church must lag and sag because of inadequate funds and manpower? We of the AFLC have a wonderful opportunity to serve our God through our Bible school, a conservative seminary, and our missionaries; but as our service increases, our needs—financial and otherwise—increase. Time is short. In Rev. 22:12, Jesus says, "Behold, I come quickly." Let us go forth to meet the needs. The harvest is here!

Reuben Wee

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The Abels Tell of Their Trip Through Central America

Dear Brethren,

Greetings from the sixth Central American country, Costa Rica. Here, near the capital city of San Jose, we have the continental divide. On one side the waters fall toward the Pacific Ocean and a few miles out of town they begin to fall toward the Atlantic. It has been raining every afternoon. You can almost set your watch at three o'clock, when it begins. The rain is making a peaceful patter on our tent. We have both our camper and our 8-man tent set up here on the large spacious lawn of the Latin American Mission Radio Transmitter Station. The radio is called "Radio Cultural" and they also have programs that are aired in the states, such as the "Latin American Reporter" heard Saturday mornings over KFNW in Fargo, N. Dak.

We arrived Saturday evening and then on Sunday had an opportunity to attend a Spanish worship service and another in English designed to serve language school students and business people here. We have found the Costa Rican people among the most friendly of these fine Central American people. You know, this is the one republic that has no armed forces. They use only police and night watchmen, thus spending no money on armed services.

Tomorrow it will be one month since we left Minnesota and I noticed on our speedometer that we have covered just over 5,500 miles. Tomorrow should see us in Panama by evening, so now we must make the decision whether or not to send the family on to Brazil by air or whether to ship our car to Colombia or Ecuador and go on driving down the Pan American Highway. We were a little tired and discouraged upon arrival in Costa Rica, but staying with missionary friends and having a few days of good rest has raised our spirits, so after an investigation of costs we may yet drive. One word,

especially to older American tourists considering driving through Central America, DON'T. The problem is not gas or food. You can get plenty of both all the way along. The problem is roads and people. The worst roads we have encountered so far have been in this beautiful country of Costa Rica. They are very narrow, full of chuck holes, and people walking on both sides. Places like Guatemala and El Salvador had better roads, but even more people and animals on the road. Sometimes you average about 20 miles an hour trying to avoid these. A 200-mile-a-day run is a good average, taking into consideration the delays and difficulties of border crossings. Panama is supposed to have wide and excellent highways. It seems to me that if one takes a trip down one coast of Mexico and back through central mountain area of Mexico City, you have seen the panorama and the general conditions of all of Central America. The King of Spain was supposed to have asked Cortez what Mexico looked like, and Cortez took a piece of paper and crumbled it up and laid it before the King saying: "This, your Majesty, is Mexico." I would say we might also add, Central America."

Our car is running well, but our little overloaded trailer began to show frame cracks as we went along. Finally it got so bad in several places it seemed about to sag to the road. We were looking for a place to get some welding done as we drove through a little city called Naranja, Costa Rica, when we spotted a shop with some trailers in front. We discovered it was a small company for making Jeep trailers. Well, we ended up spending a day in this town while they took our trailer apart and from the frame up reinforced and welded it. All for the cost of \$20.

It has been our joy to run into several Peace Corps workers as well

as missionaries in each country. We met a couple of Americans also who were out looking for fishing and hunting spots for the magazine **Sports Illustrated**. As we write this, we are thankful that we are well and soon over the worst stretches of the road. Everyone says the South American part of the road is better than Central America.

Let us retrace our steps a little and tell you about our trip through Guatemala. This is the first country after Mexico, a country of fertile valleys and sharp ridges. We found, however, that the roads were not as steep, nor the mountains as high as in Mexico. One constantly passes coffee farms and banana plantations. One of the first things we noticed about the people is that every man carried a machete. This is a working tool for them. The Indians are also dressed very colorfully in this country. We stayed in an Indian town called Chimaltanango. This town is about 30 miles outside the capitol and is at an elevation of 6,000 feet, somewhat higher than Guatemala City. The climate is cool here most of the year, a reason why these people use colorful ponchos. These people are direct descendants from the ancient Maya tribes and still dress much the same as they have for centuries. Most of their clothing is woven by hand. The men usually do the weaving and the women the knitting. They are not especially interested in selling their wares; who would be, after all that work? They are a quiet, sober-faced group, whom the missionaries say speak very frankly in comparison to those of Spanish blood. The Indian will tell you just what he thinks without cracking a smile.

Going out of Guatemala City on the Pan American Highway we came upon a bicycle race. Besides the contestants there were motorcycles carrying the judges, police, etc. The road was not roped off, so we had

to kind of dodge in and out between the cyclists as we went up hills and around curves. This made the race just as exciting for our youth as for them. The line of cyclists stretched out for over a mile, so it took us some time to get through. The kids thought this was great, but it almost made a nervous wreck out of this driver.

Guatemala was enjoying three days of festive activity in honor of a patron saint. We were told that they have 90 days a year of vacation between the national holidays and holy days. They celebrate the 4th of July also, plus the French Independence Day and other special days of their friends around the world. Nothing like promoting friendly consolidation with your friends.

As we were going to our friend's home at the Central American Mission in Chimaltanango in the early evening, we heard sirens, sounds of fire crackers, the racing of motorcycles and then out of the darkness came some young men in running shorts, carrying a large flaming torch. They were marathon runners from various schools carrying this torch to the next city, starting off a series of sports events. Yes, these people are great lovers of sports, but they do not seem too concerned about their safety as they undertake them.

From Guatemala we drove on to El Salvador. The land was lower now so we had a more relaxed time of it. Less mountain switchbacks, but then there was an added concern. Having one good highway in these countries, or only one paved road, the Pan American Highway, everyone and his donkey wants to use it. We found the road on both sides carrying an almost constant stream of people and animals. It was upsetting to several times round a curve only to find a small cattle drive coming down the road, or people playing ball on the highway.

We spent one night in the capitol, San Salvador. This is a small but beautiful city full of traffic circles planted into flowers and speckled with small parks. However, we saw much evidence of Communist propaganda painted on the walls and streets of the city. There were plenty of "Yankee Go Home" signs, etc., around.

Those of you who know your geography of this region will explain that we had to go through Honduras to get to Nicaragua. This is correct, but there is only a narrow corridor of Honduras that one must cross to get to Nicaragua and this was done in a few hours. Driving through the country of Nicaragua, we saw much poverty and places that looked more like desert than anything else. It often seems paradoxical to find yourself one hour in the cool green mountains and then a short time later down in a hot cactus country. Many people were living in mud huts with thatched roofs and a couple times in Nicaragua we were stopped by school children holding a rope across the highway and then asking you to make a contribution to their school, which we were always happy to do, and at the same time hand out dozens of Gospel tracts in Spanish to them. We personally wondered if we as a nation would not get more blessing and do more good by spending a few million dollars to help some of these poor backward neighbors than blasting it off on a moon trip. It seems there are plenty of problems on this planet that could claim our time, talent and taxes.

We are starting this letter in San Jose, Costa Rica and ending it in Panama. This is the rainy season in Central America and the dry season in South America, so the heat is tempered each day by a cool rain and we are told that in South America it will be dry and cold. We shall have to write more about Panama and our shipping our car to South America, etc, in a later letter. I shall close with an interesting experience in San Jose, Costa Rica. We attended an English-speaking church service for language school students and American families in the city on a Sunday morning. All visitors were asked to stand and give their names at the end of the service. This led to a university professor coming up to me after the service and saying, "Do you know I was once in your home in Parana, Brazil?" We then discovered that this friend had been a missionary in Brazil some 12 years ago and now was a teacher from Goshen College, Goshen, Ind.

This good doctor and his family were running a student exchange program in Costa Rica. I had forgotten the occasion when he had a meal with us in the interior of Brazil, but my wife remembered the occasion and now he insisted on returning the favor, so the next evening found all nine of us Abels at his home. We enjoyed fellowship with his family and a lovely supper, something we really welcomed after having made most of our meals on a one-burner gas stove outside our tent. A small world, isn't it? There is a spiritual lesson here also, I'm sure. The good will we sow today will come back some day, somehow and somewhere. Jesus has asked us to go forth bearing precious seed, and to sow in the fields of the world. The Old Testament tells us, "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days" (Ecc. 11:1).

Please follow us in prayer that we might be your sowing and reaping representatives in the spiritual fields of South America. For now, in His service,

The Abels

10 COMMANDMENTS FOR CHURCH ATTENDANCE

1 Thou shalt not come to service late, or for the Amen refuse to wait.

2 Thy noisy tongue thou shalt restrain when speaks the organ its refrain.

3 And when the hymns are sounded out, thou shalt lift up thy voice and shout.

4 The end-most seat thou shalt leave free, for more must share the pew with thee.

5 The offering plate thou shalt not fear, but give thine uttermost with cheer.

6 Thou shalt the bulletin peruse, and look there for the church's news.

7 To the minister thou shalt give heed, nor blame him when thou'rt disagreed.

8 Unto thy neighbor thou shalt bend, and of a stranger make a friend.

9 Thou shalt in every way be kind, compassionate and of a tender mind.

10 And so, by all thy spirit's grace, God shall be seen in this, His place.

—Selected

I took his hand

HELPLESS AND HUMBLE

Today at the B—— Hospital I ran across an old friend of mine who has suffered from a heart ailment for more than ten years, during which time he has repeatedly been in the hospital for shorter or longer periods. Today he seemed to be in a bad mood. He complained that he could not sleep either night or day, that he could not eat, that he could neither sit nor lie in bed, and that the doctors did not seem to know which of the several medicines he was taking were really helping him.

"Is there anything I can do for you?" I asked.

"Not a thing," he blurted out. "I tried to write a postal card home, but I had to give it up because I couldn't even hold a pencil in my hand." He closed his eyes and heaved a miserable sigh.

Having known him many years, I am acquainted with the fact that he has suffered a great deal from poverty also, as well as from being misunderstood and mistreated by many people. Under such conditions, who would not be discouraged and despondent?

There are otherwise two things which seem to have kept up his courage somewhat. One is the reading of books and periodicals, which has given him an astonishingly rich and comprehensive grasp of things in general. He has virtually lived in a world of letters. The other is the struggle he has maintained to keep faith alive, even though it has been a self-righteous kind of faith.

After his first outburst today, however, he felt more and more like a poor and needy sinner. "When God lays His hand as heavily on one as He has on me, there is very

little of self left to trust in. I am learning to depend only on God's grace, on what Jesus has done for me."

It was good to hear him talk this way and to see how heartily he entered into the conversation and took part in prayer. I could not help but think of the verse: "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time" (I Peter 5:5-6).

There are, after all, some patients who recognize God's mighty hand in their suffering and are humbled thereby to accept salvation by unmerited grace in Christ.

—Wm. Hagen

(In the following unsolicited article, three daughters recall some of their pleasant memories of their departed mother. Their touching tribute to their mother should carry some lessons for us all.—Editor)

A TRIBUTE TO OUR PRECIOUS MOTHER

Anna Opland, Thief River Falls,
Minnesota

Mother passed away unexpectedly early Monday morning, August 9. What a joy to know that she is at home with Jesus now, but what an ache of lonesomeness there is in our hearts.

If all who profess to be children of God would live as Mom lived, there would be more souls saved, as her life was a living testimony of her faith. She had so much love for everyone that she could never carry a grudge no matter what. She

was quick to ask forgiveness if she thought she in any way had hurt anyone's feelings, but she never expected anyone to come and apologize to her.

Mom was unable to attend church the last years because she couldn't be in crowds, but she had a tremendous concern and love for the Free Lutheran Association. One of the real sorrows that she expressed so often was hearing of trouble in churches—this seemed so out of place between Christians. She enjoyed listening to Rex Humbard, Pastor Franz, Billy Graham and others on TV and radio. Heaven seemed so close to her when she listened to Rex Humbard, she told me. She did not criticize or condemn other churches. Her only concern was that the Gospel was preached, so souls could hear the truth and be saved.

We could always depend on Mom for wise counsel. She had such good sense. Though she never had much money, she managed what she had so well that she not only paid her bills, without going into debt, but also was able to help those who were in need. Without her financial help one pastor's family, very dear to her, would not have been able to pay their bills each month. She never spent much on herself; she was always thinking of others. She found Christian joy in the true way: Jesus first, others second and herself last. She had the unique ability of making her home so attractive without spending much money.

Mom had a sense of humor and could laugh heartily. I never remember her being crabby. She was so pleasant no matter how she may have felt physically. We were always greeted with a big smile. Oh, how much we can learn from our mother!

Mom loved the young people. She did not like to hear criticism of them, or the condemning of any person, church or group of people. She rather urged love, understanding and much prayer.

It made Mom so happy to see the beautiful crops around Thief River this year. We had to give her a ride to see the crops several times this summer. It made her rejoice

[Continued on page 13]



Luther League Activities

Edited by Wayne Pederson

A BIBLE STUDY IS A BIBLE STUDY IS A BIBLE STUDY Wayne Pederson

People are asking about materials for Teen Age Bible Studies (TABS). As you begin the new school year you, too, may be thinking about starting a TABS group, and you may be wondering about materials, too.

A recent discussion with a pastor friend brought this to a point. I have suggested to youth groups each time they meet to simply take a paragraph or two from the Bible and honestly share their thoughts on what God is saying.

"Yes, but what materials can we use to help us?" The pastor expressed his genuine concern that youth groups or anyone else in the churches could study Scripture without some materials and helps.

I came away discouraged. This is doubtless a real problem. But, it disturbs me that a group of Christians depends so heavily on someone else telling them what the Bible is saying. It's tragic that Christians can't let the Word of God speak to them directly.

We have been spoon-fed too long. We've received wonderfully digested sermons every Sunday. We've heard Sunday School teachers go over carefully planned lessons. And these have been important and necessary. They have been so good that we have

come to rely on someone else's blessing to give us a blessing. We're so accustomed to hearing what someone else says about the Bible, we haven't given God a chance to speak to us directly. The Bible should be an open book to everyone.

The real reason we can't get into the Word is that we haven't tried. Satan has fooled us into thinking we can't do it. And so you'll not think me a visionary, I'd like to suggest how it can be done.

First, make sure each teen has a copy of Scripture. Try a new translation that talks about Christ the way we would talk. I suggest **SPEAK OUT**, the teenage version of the **Living New Testament**.

Second, before the session the leader must engross himself in the portion of the Word to be discussed. Like a pastor preparing his sermon, the study leader must make that passage a part of his life. Before it can be meaningful to others, he must demonstrate from his own life that it is meaningful to him. The temptation with prepared, canned material is to teach it with academic detachment. It is too easy for the leader to talk in the third person without running it through his own experience. It thus becomes dry and meaningless. Remember as you teach in any group situation with any kind of materials that you put flesh on the bones by

showing how these truths are important to you.

Then, the leader must be vulnerable. The leader should be honest enough to admit his failings and God's healings. We are all sinners, in need of God's forgiveness and power. The leader must share his own life in a way others can identify with. It must relate to kids where they are—at school, in the locker room, on a date. We must together find ways we have found how God relates to our personal frustrations. And we need to see Biblical characters this way—as men and women who have shared our need for Christ in their lives.

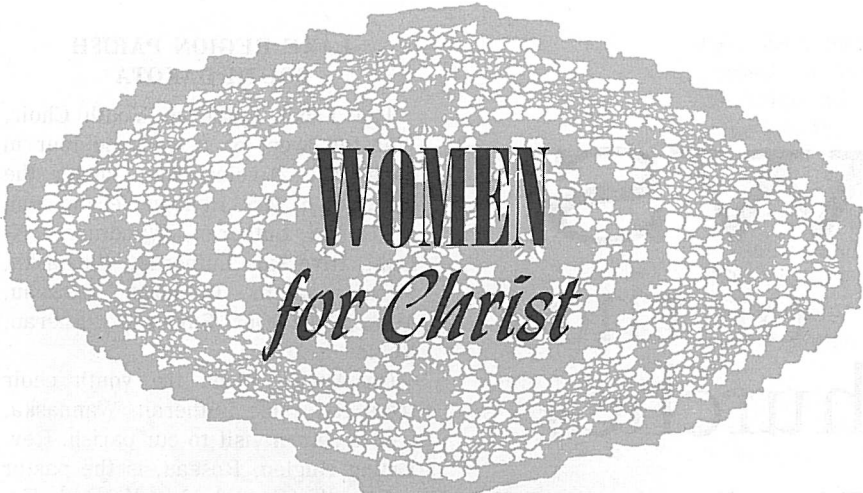
As the leader makes himself vulnerable before the group in this honest way, the group itself will unmask. They will begin to share how Christ has helped them or could have helped them in their personal lives. They, too, will begin applying Bible truths to their own problems.

You may spend the first five or ten minutes of the study with each person in a corner jotting down impressions of what God is saying. They may want to write a paraphrase of their own. It has worked beautifully to have each young person share what God spoke to him from the paragraph. This way each one gets to share, he **looks** for something to share. You'll thrill at the good things that come up—the good discussions that get moving. The object is to get these life-changing truths to the personal level where Christ can do His life-changing miracles.

Ask yourselves these questions as you discuss the Bible? How does this relate to my life? What is Christ saying to me? How does this change my outlook on life?

I can promise you this: you'll find one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. You'll encourage one another. You'll love and accept other Christians more sincerely. And you'll grow as you share Christ with others.

Jesus invites you to try it with these words: "Oh, there is so much more I want to tell you. . . When the Holy Spirit, who is truth, comes, He shall guide you into all truth" (John 16:12-13 LNT).



WOMEN *for Christ*

YE ARE EVEN MY WITNESSES
by Mrs. Thelmer Swenson
Radcliffe, Iowa

God looked and said, "There is none to help" (Isa. 63:5).

Christian women, God is speaking to you today. We read in Luke 20:2: "The harvest is great, but the labourers are few." We are needed more today than ever before because the time in which we have to work for Him will soon be over. Just take a look at the world situation. You will soon realize that your opportunity to serve the Lord will soon be over. Many signs point to the coming of the Lord. "When you see these things come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads: for your redemption draweth nigh" (Lk. 21:28).

God wants US as His witnesses. "YE are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen" (Is. 43:10). Notice he said "YE." You see, the Lord saved us to serve Him and witness to others about the way of salvation. Either we are a mission field or we are a missionary. What category do you find yourself in?

Perhaps you are one who makes excuses when asked to do some service in your church. But did you know that the busy people are usually the ones that never say No when called upon? As housewives and mothers we never run out of work in our homes, but the Lord wants us to take time for Him, too. Just to mention one in the Bible who, when God called for him to rise up and go with a warning to the people who were living in wickedness and sin, Jonah rose up. But instead of doing God's will, he went in the opposite direction. Re-

member, though, God did not give up on him.

So often we do the same thing. We want our own way and then the Lord has to deal with us. Many times it is after going through difficult times that we realize that we are helpless in ourselves and then we turn to Him for help. But, thank God that He is a merciful God and is so patient with us.

Think, my friend, about what the Lord has done for us. Just think how He suffered for us! He took our sins to Calvary and in Is. 43:25, we read: "I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins." We should praise God and be ready to serve Him at all times.

As mothers in our homes, we have a mission field right where we are. Our children are our responsibility, you know. God placed them with us for such a short time and we should make use of every minute to speak to them about Jesus. We have failed somewhere along the line as we see our young people today who seem to be searching for something they do not have. I wonder how much time is spent in prayer for our children? This is so important! We can talk to the Lord even when we are busy with our household chores; so why are we so careless when God says: "Call unto me, and I will answer thee and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" (Jer. 33:3). Jesus is always there, ready to listen to us.

Then, too, we can pray for others, which is one way of being useful to the Lord. Prayer can travel around

the whole world. Did you realize that? It has been said that prayer has a broken wing if it does not carry us across every ocean. Just think about the missionaries who need our prayers. We can talk to the Lord about their needs, too. I heard of one who, when home on furlough, attended the prayer meeting in her home church and not once did she hear anyone mention the missionaries in their prayers. She knew at once why she had been having such a hard time on the mission field. We need to wake up and get going for God! We need to let God speak to us, too, and this happens also when we take time to sit down and read His Word. This is sitting at the feet of Jesus, my friend. He has promised so much if we only take time to listen to Him speak to us. You will not only be a happier Christian, but you will find joy in witnessing to others about Him, too. Your heart will sing unto the Lord! So, let us right now ask Jesus to help us pray this verse in the 119th Psalm: "I am thy servant; give me understanding that I may know thy testimonies."

SOUTH DAKOTA WOMEN TO CONVENE AT FAITH

The annual convention of the Women's Missionary Federation of South Dakota will be held on Wednesday, October 6, at Bethel Lutheran Church in Faith, Edwin Kjos, pastor.

Mr. Yeddo Gottel, a 1971 graduate of Free Lutheran Seminary, will be the speaker. Early in 1972 he will return to his native Brazil to become a pastor in the church there.

Morning and afternoon sessions will be held. The convention will welcome two new Ladies Aids into the organization, Buffalo Lake of Sisseton and Ortleby of Ortleby.

DALTON CHURCH HONORS FOUR WOMEN

A special program was given at Zion Lutheran Church, Dalton, Minn., on August 6 when four members of the Ladies Aid were honored with pins and Honorary Memberships in the Women's Missionary Federation.

[Continued on page 10]



NEWS of the Churches

PASTOR FRANZ TO VISIT WEST COAST

The Reverend Herbert Franz of Cloquet, Minnesota, will visit the Pacific Coast during October upon invitation from Ferndale, Washington. He will be guest speaker at a two-week Evangelistic Crusade October 20 to 31, sponsored by Triumph Lutheran Church of Ferndale. Other churches in the area have pledged their support. Triumph Lutheran Church, scene of the coming meetings, is located in a strategic northwest area of Washington reported to be the fastest growing area in the nation. Because of industrial development and the availability of jobs, people are flocking into the area. A concerted effort will be made during the coming meetings to reach into the homes of the area and to bring as many as possible into touch with the Gospel. We would covet the prayers of our sister congregations in the Association as we anticipate these meetings, that the needed spiritual awakening may come. Pastor Franz will be heard on radio stations throughout the area as well as at the nightly services in Triumph Lutheran Church. Dave Goebel of Everett will be guest soloist and song leader.

Pastor J. G. Erickson

NARROW ROAD REJOICERS TOURED WISCONSIN, MINNESOTA

The Narrow Road Rejoicers, singing group from the Dalton, Minn., parish, Wendell Johnson, pastor, made a tour into Wisconsin and points in Minnesota this summer. From July 18-24, they visited the following places:

Finlayson, Minn., Drummond, Cumberland, Colfax and Glenwood City, Wis., and Stacy, Minn. Concerts were also given at the churches of their own parish, Sarpsborg, Kvam, Tordenskjold and Zion, all of Dalton. Two rest homes in Wisconsin were also visited by the group.

Traveling in the entourage were ten girls, two boys, Pastor and Mrs. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Rorvig and Mrs. Mel Lawman.

Eileen Larson reports: "We had a very blessed time and enjoyed the warmth and friendship of the Association churches. Prayers followed us all the way. The Lord had prepared and guided our every step. All our expenses were provided before leaving so the offerings were given to the AFLC Bible School.

LAKE REGION PARISH SOUTH DAKOTA

The Tabor Lutheran Youth Choir, Webster, went on a weekend tour in June. The 21-voice choir, under the direction of Mrs. Reuben Nelson, sang at United Lutheran, Wyndmere, N. Dak., Riverside Lutheran, Wannaska, Minn., Salem Lutheran, Roseau, Minn., and Our Savior's Lutheran, Veblen, S. Dak.

On August 28-29, the youth choir from Riverside Lutheran, Wannaska, paid a return visit to our parish. Rev. Erling Huglen, Roseau, is the pastor of the church and Mrs. Kenneth Egen is the director.

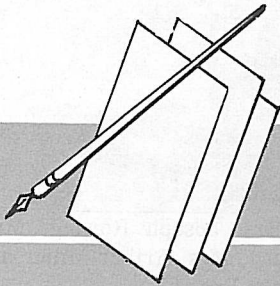
Buffalo Lake Lutheran is the newest member of our parish, joining in June. Rev. Raynard Huglen will be installed as pastor of Buffalo Lake Lutheran, located southwest from Sisseton, on [Continued on page 10]



Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church



The Narrow Road Rejoicers



EDITORIALS

THE ROLE OF THE CONFERENCE

“Conferences of the congregations of our fellowship do not enact law for the congregations, but simply recommend actions and practises to them.”

Declaration of Faith, III:3

The **Guiding Principles** of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations imply that there will be an annual conference of the church and the **Rules for Work** set it up.

Specifically, the paragraphs are these:

Guiding Principles: “Agencies found desirable for conducting the joint activities of congregations, such as conferences, committees, officers, etc., cannot in a Lutheran Free Church, impose any obligations or restrictions, exert any compulsions, or lay any burden upon the individual congregation, but have the right only to make recommendations to, and requests of, congregations and individuals” (No. 11).

Rules for Work: “The AFLC shall hold an annual conference which usually opens the evening of the second Wednesday in June and which shall elect the necessary committees and officers, and determine what church activities in particular it shall recommend to the congregations” (No. 5).

Both of these paragraphs also emphasize the point we are making today, that actions of conferences are not binding upon the local congregation, which is the sovereign unit of the church fellowship, as was enunciated last time. Conference committees, then, are careful to couch the resolutions directed toward the congregations in language which will in no way dictate or **demand** action. Therefore, words such as “recommend,” “urge,” “suggest,” etc., are used.

It is understood that no congregation is compelled to follow the recommendations of conferences. It decides, under the Word and Spirit of God, whether any conference suggestion is worthy of support.

How effectively does a church fellowship operate under such a free system? It seems to work quite well. In prac-

tise, the congregations usually give strong support to the requests of the conference. They feel that delegates to the conferences act in good faith in making their decisions and that, by and large, what comes out of the conferences is good for the common work.

The Association is a fellowship of free congregations. The congregation is sovereign, under the Word and Spirit of God. And yet, to really fulfill its purpose it needs other congregations with which to work. In mutual trust and co-operation, with no one telling another what it **must** do, but suggesting what it might do, the Lord’s work is done.

Whether as much is done as ought to be, in the Lord’s eyes, is another matter, but today we speak of the freedom of the congregation as over against the church conference.

EDITOR TO NEW YORK

When you read this, most of you, your editor will be in the East, visiting the cities of New York and Philadelphia. A Lutheran Editors’ Conference is being held in the City of Brotherly Love, Sept. 21-22. That is one reason for the trip.

But another will be the fulfillment of a long held wish to visit New York City and observe some of the evangelical Christian work that is being done to reach the helpless humanity of that great city. More directly we have in mind the work of Jim Vaus, David Wilkerson and Tom Skinner. But there are other less heralded outreaches we may have time to see also.

The trip will be reported through the eyes and mind of one who has had very little contact with the large city (our apologies to Minneapolis). We hope to make the visit long enough to get some small feeling of what it is like to live there and what it must be like to be trying to do Christian mission work in a great metropolis.

Starting with the first issue in October, you can look for the first of our reports on this most interesting journey.

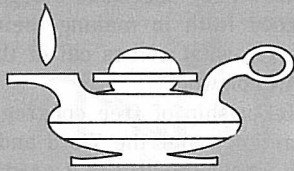
ANOTHER PLEA, MR. PRESIDENT

President Nixon has given a strong personal pledge to help save the Roman Catholic parochial school system in the United States. He made the promise in a speech to the Knights of Columbus, meeting in New York recently.

That was good news to the Roman Catholic Church, but not to those who are interested in holding the lines against state intervention in church affairs. The Supreme Court has ruled that there should be no such aid on elementary and secondary levels.

However, indirect aid may be sought to accomplish this very thing. And indirect aid, any way you slice it, is real aid.

So much of the parochial school system in the U.S. is operated by Roman Catholics that any discussion on the issue must of necessity involve them. But whether the schools be theirs or others, let’s not depend on public tax money to keep them solvent, whether it be through tax credits or whatever. Church and state in our pluralistic society must be kept separate, for the protection of the rights of all.



SCHOOL NEWS

MORE NEWS FROM THE BIBLE SCHOOL CHOIR TOUR IN NORWAY

(Although the choir tour in Norway is over now, we publish this report, excerpts of letters from Director Rodvold, from the early part of the trip. We hope to print further reports as they become available.—Ed.)

August 9, Arendal

The tour progresses smoothly, so very well that it becomes difficult to question that it is not God's will that we be His ambassadors by giving our testimonies to our friends and relatives in Norway. And without a doubt a strong fellowship has already been established where we have sung and stayed in homes. But that is not a surprise because we are so much alike. We think much as they do about such things as politics, social behavior, war and peace, and, most important of all, theology. Their worries are much like ours: liberalism, permissiveness, moral breakdown. Likewise, their pleasures are like ours: fellowship in Christian love.

What are the differences then between us and them? Between our homes and theirs? I can detect none except the obvious: more original oil paintings on their walls (I have yet to stay in a Norwegian home without original oil paintings). Fewer television sets (they exist to a great extent as evidenced by the antennae we see, but not in the typical home in which we stay). And the meals are slightly different. I view this as a positive difference also since their eating habits are less likely to result in obesity. They feed us wonderfully. Also frequently. But it is the type of food that does not seem to make one put on so much weight. And how they serve! Very delightful!

We, the choir, were greatly honored when we visited Tønsberg. There each of us received a silver medal sus-

pending by a blue ribbon and were declared to be nobility by the city manager, Theodore Brock, a hero of WW II and well known in Minneapolis for his appeals on behalf of Norway and the underground during the War, as he resided in Minneapolis as an envoy of the Norwegian government.

August 17, Egersund

I have only a guess as to how many people we have sung to since our arrival, but it is more revealing to look at it this way: only four of our concerts have not been full houses with standing room only. Even those places not filled were nearly so. Most of our programs have been held in the prayer houses of the Misjonssamband. These are owned by the mission people of the state. They are rather small, ranging in seating capacity from 150 to 300. I would guess the average to be about 200, not including the large turnout to the tent meeting in Kristiansand (1500) and a sizeable number at our two concerts thus far in Oslo.

The choir is very much appreciated and, frankly, very highly regarded (forgive me). Our program is much the same as the one we sang in the U.S., with one considerable development: we have added an "informal" group of songs consisting of our choruses, the songs we love to sing at Bible School. These are very appreciated by the Norwegians. But most appreciated, I believe, are the Spirituals, "Jeg er saa glad," and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." The audience seems to be nearly overwhelmed at the conclusion of our last song, "Battle Hymn." They "ooh" and "ah" and literally gasp.

Love from the Choir,
Donald L. Rodvold

[Continued from page 7]

Corsages were presented to the honored women, from left to right in the



picture: Mrs. Joseph Rovang, Mrs. Alvin Larson, Mrs. Arthur Miller and Mrs. Garman Brand.

A table was decorated with candles and flowers. Placecards containing Bible verses were placed at each place for the honored guests.

Mrs. James Formo

[Continued from page 8]

Sunday, Oct. 19, by Rev. John P. Strand.

On the same day, in the afternoon, Saron Lutheran, Roslyn, will dedicate a fine new addition to the church. Pastor Strand will officiate. The addition provides a spacious ground level entry and new basement steps. The addition floor is carpeted throughout.



Saron Lutheran Church

The annual parish WMF rally was held at Hope Lutheran, Sisseton, last spring, with a large turnout of women. Mrs. Melvin Walla, president of the WMF, was the honored guest. Several women from Ortleigh Lutheran Church were present also.

Rev. Justin Torgrimson of Sioux City, Ia., will be the speaker at the evangelistic services at Tabor Lutheran, Oct. 17-21. There will be a story for children at each service.

The annual parish rally has been set for Oct. 31 at Saron Lutheran. A Gospel team from the Bible School and a faculty member will be invited to take part in the two services that day.

In spite of all our follies and sins, true believers may have God's constant presence, and in Him we can have all and more than all the godless find in their wealth. God in heaven; God in the pathway of daily life; God in the heart—this is blessedness. (F. B. Meyer)

14. Why cannot God save the ungodly? (Rom. 1:18 and Jn. 5:40)
15. How is it possible to draw near to God? (Is. 57:15 and Matt. 6:6)
16. Perhaps you have experienced thoughts of questioning God's ways similar to those expressed in this Psalm. If so, how did you experience deliverance? (Gen. 41:16 and Is. 43:1-2)

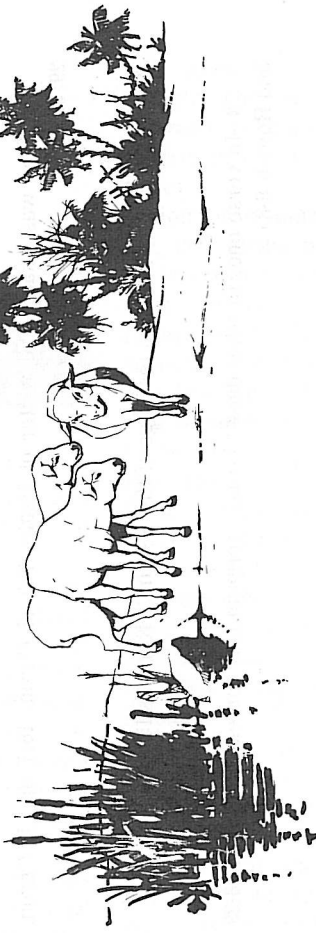
On his ninetieth birthday, George Mueller gave this testimony: "I was converted in November, 1825, but I only came into the full surrender of the heart four years later. The love of money was gone, the love of place was gone, the love of position was gone, the love of worldly pleasures and engagements was gone. God, God alone, became my portion. I found my all in Him; I wanted nothing else. And by the grace of God this has remained, and has made me a happy man, an exceedingly happy man, and it led me to care only about the things of God."

Oft times the day seems long,
Our trials hard to bear;
We're tempted to complain,
To murmur and despair;
But Christ will soon appear,
To catch His bride away,
All tears forever over,
In God's eternal day.

Chorus
It will be worth it all,
When we see Jesus;
Life's trials will seem so small,
When we see Christ;
One glimpse of His dear face,
All sorrow will erase,
So bravely run the race
Till we see Christ.

—Esther Rusthoi

WMF BIBLE STUDY



Psalm 73

A RIGHT SENSE OF VALUES

October, 1971

In the beginning of this Psalm, Asaph, the author, reveals his temptation to envy the wicked. Later in the same Psalm, we see how he was delivered from this temptation and how he profited by the experience.

The wicked often profit from unfair business dealings because their conscience is insensitive. A real Christian considers the leading of the Holy Spirit and values a good conscience above ill-gotten gain. Prosperity, popularity and pride are often closely related. The wicked desire to be left alone so they can continue in sin and self-centered living without restraint.

There is a warning here for Christians also. A certain Christian man confessed that the waywardness of his children was caused by his own critical words and attitude toward the church and pastor. His children lost confidence in the Word. How much better it is to tell the certainties and joys of the Christian life to others and tell only God our doubts and misgivings.

Finally Asaph finds the right estimate of life in the sanctuary of God. From its high plain and pure atmosphere he views the unseen as well as the seen, the eternal as well as the transient. When once the soul crosses the border between this life and the next, the material things of this life will be of no value.

As Asaph ponders these truths, the clouds suddenly break and the burden rolls away. He sees that God does not reward goodness with **things**, but with **Himself**, and he turns to God in adoring love. How important it is for Christians to count on the constant presence of God in this life, to let His counsel guide us, to let Him be our strength and sustenance. Then when we change worlds, we shall only enjoy more fully our eternal inheritance.

There are many good verses in this Psalm, but let us memorize verse 28 for now.

1. Who was Asaph, the writer of Psalm 73? (I Chron. 16:7 and II Chron. 29:30)

2. What is the intended message of this Psalm? (Romans 15:4)

3. In verse one, to what does "Israel" refer in this context? (Rom. 2:28-29 and Rom. 9:6-8)

4. Why is the prosperity of the wicked not a wholesome thing? (I Tim. 6:9-10 and Prov. 21:6-7)

5. Summarize the picture of the wicked as stated in verses six through nine.

6. The wicked often seem content in their sin, but what very important quality do they lack? (Is. 57:20-21 and Ps. 10:4)

7. Why are Christians chastened in this life? (verse 14; Heb. 12:6; Rev. 3:19)

8. Why did the Psalmist decide not to tell anyone his doubts? (I Cor. 8:13 and II Cor. 3:2)

9. What thought was painful to the Psalmist, in verse 16? (Job 42:1-6 and Ps. 118:8)

10. What change of attitude did Asaph receive after going to the sanctuary? (Jas. 5:11 and I Cor. 2:9)

11. How does Asaph feel in his heart after this experience in the sanctuary? (verse 22; Neh. 2:2; I Tim. 6:12)

When a man draws near to God, he is most full of self-loathing. God forgives him, but he often finds it difficult to forgive himself.

12. From what sources may we receive the counsel and guidance of God on this pilgrim journey? (Ps. 119:105; Ps. 122:1; Heb. 11)

13. What is the greatest of all treasures that we may possess? (verses 25-26; Jn. 1:3; I Jn. 2:12)

If you are a true Christian, believe that every wind which blows upon your life comes from God's love and grace.

to see others prosper. She couldn't understand jealousy in others because she wasn't bothered with it herself.

Living for Jesus day by day was the motto of her life. Though to us her life was an example of what Christ wanted in His followers, she felt the power of sin in her life and the need for forgiveness each day. She would often talk to us about how she had to cling to Christ whose blood cleanses from all sin and be found in His righteousness. "Amazing Grace" was one of her favorite songs and which she had Emerald sing shortly before she died.

So often we who are Christians say we have surrendered all; yet our pride rears its ugly head in hurt feelings, feeling humiliated or offended for some little thing, by criticizing or elevating ourselves through gossip. We need to really surrender all and not clutch favorite sins to our bosoms. Only then can we be used of the Lord.

We hope and pray that we can be the examples to our children and others that our dear mother was to hers.

Irene Sollid, Emerald DeBoer
and LaVerne Nyflot

AFLC BOARDS TO HAVE WORKSHOP SEPT. 28-29

A workshop for the members of all regular boards and committees of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will be held on September 28 and 29 at the church's headquarters in Minneapolis, Minn.

Tuesday the 28th will be devoted to the joint meeting while Wednesday will be used for separate board sessions.

The chairman of each board or committee will report on the work being done with special reference to problems and plans for the future.

All persons concerned are asked to make a special effort to attend this workshop.

PERSONALITIES

New address for **Rev. Francis Monseth** (Association Schools faculty) is 4111 Lake Drive, Robbinsdale, Minnesota 55422.



FAMILY CAMP MEMORIES

Cartwheels of Happiness—Right there in the somber, dignified hospital corridor I wanted to turn cartwheels! My vacation request from work had been granted!!—six days off to attend Family Bible Camp—Praise the Lord—Alleluia—we were set to go!!!

Conversation Lines—Maybe our varicose veins were bulging as we stood in line for meals but there were happy compensations. The credit column boasts such entries as: ...meeting a man who knew my father when Father traveled 16 miles in sub-zero weather via horse and buggy to preach to a rural northern Minnesota congregation... making the acquaintance of the "green house" lady from Thief River Falls who was attending her very first Bible Camp. She and her husband study Bible prophecy. Pastor Heikinen, here they come—.

...meeting a mother who traveled with eight of her nine children to camp. Her husband and oldest son rounded up straying herefords before joining the family at camp on Sunday morning.

...coming to know the 3 sisters—Petra, Dagny and Hilda—each coming from a different state to walk arm-in-arm at camp.

Now where could you beat that combination of line up experiences?

Mrs. M. B. (Gene) Smith
Minneapolis, Minn.

LOVE NOT THE WORLD

I John 2:15-17: "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 forever."

God has laid a burden on my heart and I cannot get away from it, how we have lowered our standards at Bible Camp, the short low-neck and short dresses, men's topless bathing suits. They are not of God but of the devil.

You are tempted this way, but I am tempted differently. I want beautiful clothes, a home and dishes—things I don't need at home and at Shady Lane Nursing Home I had two windows to the west, and where I live now, no windows to the west. I wanted one and prayed about it. The answer God gave me is, what kind of a light are you in this dark place?

We dress and want like the world. Does the world see Christ living in me, in you? Let us raise our standards at Bible Camp, not lower them. And we have church elections on Sunday; and close Bible Camp on Sunday instead of Monday as we used to do.

II Thess. 3:5: "And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ."

If we were concerned about Christ's soon return and souls that are lost on the way to a Christless eternity without hope, we wouldn't be so concerned how the world dresses and wants.

Mrs. Pauline Pope
Wadena, Minnesota

LUTHERAN—CATHOLIC DIALOGUE

In 1967 a joint committee of Lutheran and Catholic theologians was established. The Norwegian member of the committee was Prof. Einar Molland from the University of Oslo.

Altogether they have now had five sessions, and at the last one they prepared a summary of the results of the dialogues.

These members concurred that a new understanding has been reached in several areas of the Christian faith. A press release even stated that a remarkable degree of unity has been reached with respect to an understanding of the office of the ministry in the Church.

Progress was noted also "in a common understanding of the papal office," but it was said, too, that "in this area differences still remain."

Most striking was the "concensus reached to the effect that no longer need the age-old controversial question concerning justification separate our churches."

When we say that this is striking it is because the first Vatican Council (in 1870) pronounced anathema upon the Lutheran doctrine of justification by faith.

And these (Vatican) Councils are, according to Catholic dogma, infallible!

How can these two points of view be reconciled?

Furthermore, how can Lutheran theologians go along with "progress in a mutual understanding of the papal office?"

(Translated from Utsyn by Pastor Karl Stendal.)

BOOK REVIEWS FROM THE BIBLE BOOK NOOK

THE STORY OF THE STRANGE FATE OF THE ZAM ZAM

by Sylvia M. Oiness Price \$3.35
Reviewed by Mrs. Reuben Gunderson

120 missionaries from all parts of the United States and Canada set sail for South Africa from New York on board the Zam Zam in 1941. But after about three weeks on the high seas they ran into trouble with German surface raiders, who fired

shrapnel upon the ship. This caused much destruction upon the ship and they were forced to leave the boat. They were picked up by Germans and kept as prisoners. Not one of the missionaries was hurt during this time. God was faithful, who promised to take care of His own. Some missionaries were sent to concentration camps, separated from loved ones. Miss Oiness was later returned to the United States.

WHAT I SAW BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

by Russell Duncan Price \$1.50
Reviewed by Mrs. Reuben Gunderson

Mr. Duncan is telling of his travels a few years ago behind the Iron Curtain. He was on a tour sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture to study farming methods of the Russian people. Their government is quietly building toward world supremacy. Agriculture is undergoing many changes in East Germany. Food is scarce. Half the field work is done by horses. The women do the work inside the barns. The Communists spend a lot of time trying to prove there is no God. They worship nature and intellect. The young people worship political power. Mr. Duncan was also able to point souls to the Lord Jesus Christ while in Russia.

SPEAKING WITH OTHER TONGUES

by Oliver Knutson Price \$3.35
Reviewed by Mrs. Reuben Gunderson

Speaking in tongues was for accomplishing the difficult task of bringing the Gospel to others at a time when known languages were the only means available. Therefore this gift was given. Because interpretation of tongues seems to be a prerequisite to speaking in an unknown tongue it becomes evident that the meaning of what is said is really the important thing, and not the speaking itself. If there be no interpretation it is of no value to anyone. Paul in his discourses on tongues makes it clear there is a great difference between speaking with tongues, intelligible human languages understood by the

hearers, and speaking in an unknown tongue, unintelligible, no human language at all, understood by no one.

BUT HOW CAN I KNOW

by H. W. Gockel Price \$5.50
Reviewed by Mrs. Reuben Gunderson

How can I know there is a God? The world around us is full of the footprints of God. Surely He must be! We do not follow the path to Him by footprints, but God has spoken to us in His Word. The Bible tells us many things about God which nature cannot tell us. How can I know the Bible is the Word of God? The Bible has proved it is the Word of God by the many prophecies fulfilled which were written hundreds of years ago. The Bible is a book of power, transforming lives. It is written "that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through his name."

Why did Christ die? He died for us and for our sins. Are all men sinners? Yes, there is no difference "for all have come short of the Glory of God."

(The above books may be purchased from the Bible Book Nook, 809 McHugh Ave., South, Grafton, N. Dak. 58237. Please include something for postage and tax).

SECOND CHILD OF EDITOR'S COUSIN COMMISSIONED AS MISSIONARY

Miss Reidun Taranger, Huglo, Norway, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Birger Taranger, was commissioned as a missionary to Ethiopia on June 20 in ceremonies in Stord Church, Leirvik. Mrs. Taranger is a first cousin of the *Ambassador* editor, Pastor Raynard Huglen.

When Miss Taranger goes to Ethiopia next year she will join her brother Bjarne who is also serving in that land.

Dr. and Mrs. Merton Strommen, Minneapolis, Minn., had the privilege of being present at the commissioning. Mrs. Strommen is also a cousin of the missionary's mother.

CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

REV. OSCAR J. NAUMANN RENAMED HEAD OF WELS

Watertown, Wis.—(LC)—The Rev. Oscar J. Naumann, 62-year-old president of the 381,000-member Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, was named to a tenth term of office at the church's 41st biennial convention here, August 4-11.

Elected on the first ballot, he received 176 of the 222 votes cast.

Also re-elected were two other incumbent officers, the Rev. Carl H. Mischke of Juneau, Wis., as first vice president, and the Rev. Manfred J. Lenz of Delano, Minn., as second vice president.

Mr. Naumann, in accepting the presidency for another two years, told the delegates and visitors, that "as the Lord gives me strength, I pray that He also gives me the wisdom and humility for this responsible office."

"Above all," he added, "I pray that He keep us faithful to His Word in this age of unfaithfulness and increase in us zeal to share that Word with all men."

Mr. Naumann was born in Wood Lake, Minn., June 24, 1909. He was graduated in 1931 from Northwestern College in Watertown and in 1934 from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Thiensville, Wis.

He then served as a faculty member at Northwestern College (1934-36), as a pastor in Toledo, Ohio (1936-40), as a professor at Dr. Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minn. (1940-46), and as a pastor in St. Paul, Minn. (1946-59).

Mr. Naumann was first elected to the WELS presidency in 1953, and, for the next six years, he served both as president of the church body and as pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church in St. Paul.

The presidency became a full time office in 1959.

The convention here was also highlighted by a proposal, put forth in an opening address by Mr. Naumann, which suggested the initiation of consultations with "orthodox Lutheran

churches around the world" next year.

Such consultations, he explained, would be "aimed at the formation of a worldwide synodical conference founded on the same confessional principles on which the former Lutheran Synodical Conference was founded."

Dissolved during the past decade, the conference encompassed the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, as well as the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

The WELS suspended fellowship with the LCMS in 1961, charging that it was carrying on joint church work with other Lutherans with whom it was not in full doctrinal agreement, contrary to the position of the Lutheran Synodical Conference.

The ELS had suspended fellowship with the LCMS earlier on the same grounds.

After the WELS and ELS withdrew, the conference was dissolved, and the SELC subsequently became a district of the LCMS.

Mr. Naumann, in his address, recalled that 1972 was the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Lutheran Synodical Conference and suggested that "we would be remiss in our duty if we were to let this centennial pass unnoticed."

He observed that the initiation of global consultations might be undertaken jointly with the ELS, and he recommended that a convention committee "propose an appropriate resolution on this subject."

In other action, the convention adopted a resolution authorizing the creation of a team, composed of two pastors and a male teacher, to begin mission work in an area still to be selected in South America.

Earlier this year, a survey team toured South America and recommended that work be launched in one of three places—the area of Tucuman, Argentina; the area of Santa Cruz, Bolivia, or the area of Medellin, Colombia.

The convention left the final choice to the WELS Board for World Missions.

Mission churches presently are maintained by the WELS in the African nations of Zambia and Malawi; Germany; Puerto Rico; Mexico; Japan; Hong Kong; Taiwan; Indonesia; and India, and among the Apache Indians in Arizona.

Headquartered in Milwaukee, the 121-year-old church body has approximately 1,000 congregations in 35 states and three provinces in Canada.

During the convention, 20 congregations in the United States and Canada plus 45 pastors and 38 male parochial school teachers were received into membership of the church body, the fourth largest in North America.

The WELS has been described by some observers as "the most uncompromising in its dedication to confessional Lutheranism."

Sessions here were attended by some 300 delegates.

OSWALD HOFFMAN ON THE MOVIES

ST. Louis, Mo.—"A good deal of the motion picture business has become a kind of skin game. The idea is to show as much skin as possible, as much as you can show, that is, and get away with it."

Dr. Oswald Hoffman, speaking on The Lutheran Hour broadcast Aug. 22, scored the movie industry for its "pollution of mind and spirit."

"People insist on eating garbage. Not every R-rated movie is garbage," Dr. Hoffman said, "but a lot of them are. They are garbage for any person, whether he is above or below 17. Garbage makes you sick."

Dr. Hoffman said sex, lewdness and looseness are nothing new. "The Bible tells it like it is; the story of humanity and its rebellion against God," he said.

"I don't think we need to go back to the 'good old days' when men sat on the street corners and waited for a woman to board the streetcar

so that they might see her exposed ankles. That's not a healthy way to look at sex. Nor do we have to go to the other extreme, exposing everything in order to establish the claim of freedom.

"Taking off one's clothes is not the road to freedom, as a lot of people can tell you who have tried to find freedom that way. Freedom for a human being, one who is truly human, is not just skin deep."

Dr. Hoffman said it is time today's society came out of its worship of sex.

"There is freedom to be had," he said, "but it won't be found in self-conscious displays of the human body. Freedom is a thing of the spirit, as is sex itself. The freedom people are looking for is the one Christ offers. I put it bluntly. He forgives the abuses of mankind, and He sanctifies the good gifts of God."

The Lutheran Hour is sponsored by the Lutheran Laymen's League and has its headquarters in St. Louis. The League is an auxiliary organization of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

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