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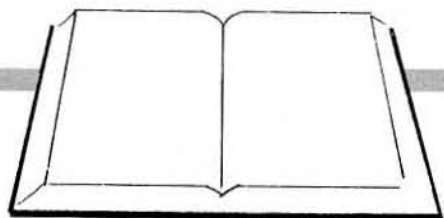
No. 17

# *LUTHERAN*

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Pastor A. L. Hokonson, Family Camp dean, meets Ruth Ann Erickson, Elbow Lake, Minn., and Gary Jorgenson, Tioga, N. Dak.



## *According to the Word*

### **WRONG GOALS**

Whales chasing sardines made the front page news in Tokyo several years ago. Three hundred of these huge monsters became marooned by the encircling shores of the bay which indents Kyushu Island. Here fishermen made a slaughter-pen for these ocean-going mammals. The small fish lured the sea giants to their death. They came to their end by chasing small ends, by prostituting great powers for insignificant goals.

Here is mirrored a fundamental tragedy of men, who with inspiring potentialities were made but a little lower than the angels. It is too bad but often the things pursued are not worthy of the vast purposes for which man was designed. Is it not true that we often become more concerned about what we want and have than what we are? It is easy to become more concerned about what we want than what God wants of us. One of the great purposes of man is found in the words of St. Augustine, "We were made for Thee, and our hearts are restless until

they find Thee."

Reader, God's first purpose for you is that you might know Jesus Christ as your Savior. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Pet. 3:9). If you have not prayed, "God be merciful to me, a sinner!" and meant it, God desires that you come to Him pleading that He will forgive your sin because Jesus died for you on the cross of Calvary. Have you done it? God has created you with this great potential of knowing Him. May you not miss His best because you fail to enter on the way of eternal life!

Another purpose for man is found in II Cor. 5:15, "And he died for all, that they that live should no longer live unto themselves, but unto him who for their sakes died and rose again." Man continues to live after he has found the Savior so he might share the Gospel with others. It is not only that we are to live for Him but that Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are to

live in us and work through us.

As you think of the purpose for which you are living and working, what difference will it make 100 years from now if you reach your goal? Fame can be lost in a short time. Happiness that we find by looking for happiness never lasts long. Once there was a man who was a prisoner in the shallow bay of material success. He talked about bigger barns. The supreme Teacher of Galilee said in solemn tones, "Thou fool, this night thy soul is required of thee: a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

My friend, God's purpose for you is that you might know Him through Jesus Christ the Savior, that you might be like Him—conformed to His image that others might see Jesus in you. Finally, His purpose is that you might serve Him. You who have been created in the image of God, redeemed by Christ and given the Gospel to share, is your purpose in life in line with the great plan God has for you?

—Harold R. Schafer

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# Fourth Family Camp Conducted at Alexandria in August

For the fourth time in as many years the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations conducted a family-type camp at Lake Geneva by Alexandria, Minn. The dates were August 8-14. Four hundred and forty-five persons registered for the camp in addition to many visitors who came for evening and Sunday services.

Evening speaker for the week was Mr. Verne Lavik, Seattle, Wash., West Coast representative for the World Mission Prayer League. He showed some pictures of mission work on two different occasions.

A class in Lutheran doctrines was taught to both the adults and the young people by Dr. Iver Olson, Minneapolis, Minn., professor at Free Lutheran Seminary.

The morning Bible study was divided into youth and adult sections. Both groups studied the book of Ephesians, the former being led by Pastor Chester Heikkinen, Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, and the latter by Pastor K. C. Grundahl, Minneapolis, teacher at the Lutheran Bible Institute there.



Left to right: John Arlen Johnson, registrar, Miss Mabel Johnson, office manager, and Robert Bursheim, treasurer, carry on their duties while Ralph Peterson stops by.



Sheldon Mortrud, Thief River Falls, Minn., business manager of the camp.

Separate class schedules were maintained each day except Sunday for the confirmation-age children, the elementary grades and the kindergarten children. They were under the supervision of Mrs. David C. Hanson, Minneapolis; Miss Judith Wold, Thief River Falls, Minn.; and Mrs. Herbert Presteng, Grafton, N. Dak. The very little tots were tended by baby-sitters managed by Mrs. Robert Dietsche, Sand Creek, Wis.

Dean of the camp was the Rev. A. L. Hokonson, Faith, S. Dak., who has been named to the same capacity for next year together with the other key staff members: Sheldon Mortrud, Thief River Falls, Minn., business manager; Miss Mabel Johnson, Fargo, N. Dak., office manager; John Arlen Johnson, Granite Falls, Minn., registrar; Robert Bursheim, Minneapolis, treasurer; Miss Pearl Aanstad, Hampden, N. Dak., dean of girls; and the Rev. Ernest Langness, McVille, N. Dak., assistant dean of the camp and dean of boys.

These staff members will serve as the committee for next year's camp and will make the appointments regarding other personnel needed.

Special music was provided for

most services by the youth choir under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Hanson, Portland, N. Dak., and by various individuals. One evening a children's choir sang several songs.

A bookstore was available with the supplies being provided by the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement Bookstore. Mrs. Wm. Farrier, Minneapolis, was in charge.

Recreation consisted of softball, volleyball, badminton, box hockey and swimming. The weather was on the cool order and the beach was not as popular as it would have been on warmer days. Miss Gail Clark of Alexandria was the life-guard. Howard Kjos, Minneapolis, was the recreation director. The traditional staff-camper softball game was won by the campers 13-9 in seven innings.

Health services were offered by Mrs. Gary Skramstad, Winger, Minn., and Miss Carol Sorkness, Sand Creek, Wis. Fortunately, there were no major health problems.

A camp paper, *Lake Geneva Echoes*, was published three times during the week. The editor was Pastor Raynard Huglen, Roslyn, S. Dak.

The unofficial breakdown of reg-



Rev. E. J. Langness, assistant camp dean, makes a phone call while Miss Pearl Aanstad, dean of girls, looks on.



A volleyball game. The lake is in the background, the business office to the right.

istration figures reveal that there were 98 children under 12, 162 young people from 12 to 20, and 185 adults. Campers came from eight states in addition to Washington, represented by Mr. Lavik.

Undergirding the entire camp were the prayers of many people of the churches and the various opportunities for group prayer at camp, to say nothing of the many individual supplications made unto the Lord by the campers.

Read the following testimonies in order to find out what Family Camp 1966 meant to both young and old.

### TESTIMONIES FROM FAMILY CAMP

#### Youth

I am so thankful that I could come to Bible Camp this week. It has been a time of spiritual growth and fellowship for me. God has spoken to me about numerous phases of my life. A verse that I can really claim now is Philippians 1:21, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Phyllis Nelson  
Portland, N. Dak.

Camp is a wonderful week that everyone should have the opportunity to experience. It gives you a chance to meet Christian young people who think like you do and can discuss and learn God's Word and will together. I have found that camp is always different every year. There's always something to learn about God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

It's a marvelous thing to see someone accept Christ and even more thrilling if you lead them to Christ yourself. Camp is always refreshing for me after living with the world and it gives me courage to know that there are people on your side and praying for you. I find that after camp I can go back home and face the world with renewed strength to win souls for Christ.

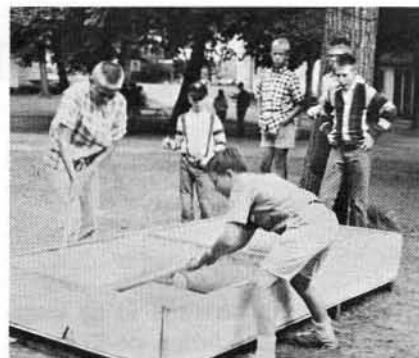
Sheri Olson  
Willmar, Minn.

What has Bible Camp meant to me as a Christian? Well, it has meant many things, but most important was the chance to hear the wonderful news of salvation. It has been a blessing to meet such wonderful Christians. Some of them I have met for the first time, but others I had met last year. It was a wonderful feeling to fellowship with these fine Christians and to read the Word of God together. It gave me such a thrill of joy and excitement to hear others testify as to what the Lord has done for them.

Since I became a Christian my life has been more wonderful in several ways. When it has been difficult for me, it has been a great comfort to be able to come to God with my problems, knowing that



The largest family in attendance at camp was the Gerald Mundfrom family of Pukwana, S. Dak. Left to right, they are. Pastor Mundfrom, Stephen, 4, Daniel, 13, Priscilla, 5, Mrs. Mundfrom, John, 15, Rachel, 8 and Ruth, 10.



Two boys playing box hockey, a popular sport among the younger set.

He will answer prayer and give me strength.

This year at Bible Camp I was particularly impressed with the speakers. It was wonderful to hear from God's Word what a Christian life should be like. Though I had been a Christian it wasn't until after hearing a talk on stewardship that I made the decision to tithe.

It has been a blessing to see several people give their hearts to the Lord at camp. I go home with a real blessing and joy in my heart which I received at Bible Camp.

John Mundfrom  
Pukwana, S. Dak.

The Bible Camp of 1966 has been the best I have ever attended. The Spirit really has been moving in the hearts of the young folk. To see the young people accept Christ as their personal Savior has really been great this year. The high point of every camp, however, is to see the unsaved campers come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved.

Ralph Peterson  
Thief River Falls, Minn.

I thought that camp was a wonderful experience for everyone there. I feel that there was quite a bit of prayer put into this camp. Otherwise it probably wouldn't have turned out as well as it did, for I feel that you can do nothing without God.

I met a lot of Christian teenagers. Some of them were new friends and some of them I had known from other years. Camp was also very

different than it was last year.

All in all camp was joyful, friendly, and greatest of all, the Spirit of God was there in work and play.

Linda Narveson  
Grafton, N. Dak.

### Adults

This is the third year that we have had the privilege to attend our Family Bible Camp. Each year we have found fine Christian fellowship and received blessings from the speakers. It's like entering a different world to spend a week in a camp such as this, away from the rush of the world.

Our children have enjoyed it so much this year. Our five-year-old girl was wondering if we could stay six more days.

We will be looking forward to seeing all of our Bible camp friends again next year and we would like to encourage more young couples to plan on attending our camp next year.

Mr. and Mrs. Ranleigh Anderson  
Spicer, Minn.

We praise and thank the Lord that it was our privilege to attend Family Bible Camp again this year. This is the third year we have been at camp and it is one of the spiritual highlights of the year for us.

There are so many blessings to enjoy at camp, such as the children singing "His Name Is Wonderful" at an evening service, the testimonies of clean-faced teenagers at campfire, and a special blessing for us this year were the deep and profound truths brought out by Dr. Iver Olson in such a clear and simple way.

It seems that at Bible camp one can feel the spiritual pulse of the Association more so than at any other time as we study, pray, work, play and fellowship together.

We, as well as the children, look forward to camp next year if it be the Lord's will, and in the meantime let us continue on as Paul tells us in I Corinthians 15:58: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye sted-

fast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dietsche  
Sand Creek, Wis.

I look not back  
I look not forward  
I look not 'round  
I look not inward  
But I look up into the face of Jesus,  
For there my heart can rest,  
My fears are stilled.  
I leave them all with Him who  
blots the record,  
And graciously forgives and then  
forgets.

This is what Bible camp means to me. I came empty, dry, discouraged and tired both in body and soul, but claiming Ephesians 3:20: "He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think."

Our great God has done this through these servants who have given the Word so liberally and simply and clearly that all could grasp it.

"Did not our hearts burn within us, while he talked with us by the way and while he opened to us the scriptures?"

Mrs. Gilbert Anderson  
East Grand Forks, Minn.

This is the second consecutive year that my wife and I have been privileged to attend our Association's Family Bible Camp, and may I say that this is something that seems to grow on a person as an imperative segment of one's total spiritual experience and life.

In my mind there are three words that quite accurately describe the main impact of Bible camp participation. They are *refreshing*, *strengthening*, and *renewing* of the faith we have in God through our Lord Jesus Christ. To me the contacts with other travellers on this pilgrim road open up a greater appreciation of the vast spiritual resources available to us in our wonderful Lord and Savior.

To have the opportunity to chat and exchange experiences in the

realm of the Spirit with members of a great many different congregations and localities is enriching, but most of all is the preaching and exegesis of the Gospel by men well grounded in the eternal truths of God's holy Word. Yes, these and many other things make Bible camp a rich and blessed experience which remains implanted as another milestone along life's road. Yes, verily, the way of the cross leads home. Let's remember that.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. J. Kangas  
Minneapolis, Minn.

### HARVEST

"The harvest is great, but the laborers few!"  
The Lord of the harvest is calling to you;  
So urgent the call, Christian, do you not hear?  
Make haste! Time is short, and the night draweth near.

"The harvest is ripe"—there must be no delay!  
With willing hearts give, in earnestness pray!  
Help bring in the sheaves, for the fields are now white.  
Come, work while 'tis day, for soon comes the dark night.

Soon cometh the time when the harvest is past,  
When faithful ones find final rest comes at last.  
No more call to reap; God Himself shuts the door,  
And night has arrived, when man reapeth no more.

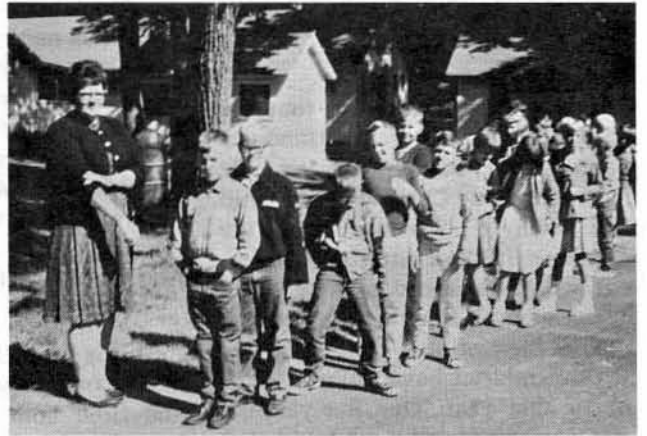
"The harvest is past," opportunities gone!  
To saved ones in heaven, light eternal then dawns.  
But many are left in the darkness outside,  
Who were not brought in while God's door opened wide.

Mrs. I. M. Norum  
Clayton, Wis.

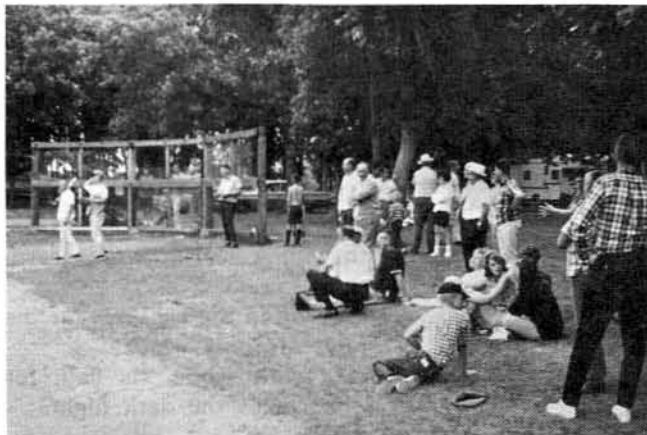
# More Scenes From Family Camp



Some of the young people visit together at the outdoor auditorium by the lake.



One of the children's classes in line for a morning milk break. The teacher is Mrs. Clifford Holm, Badger, Minn.



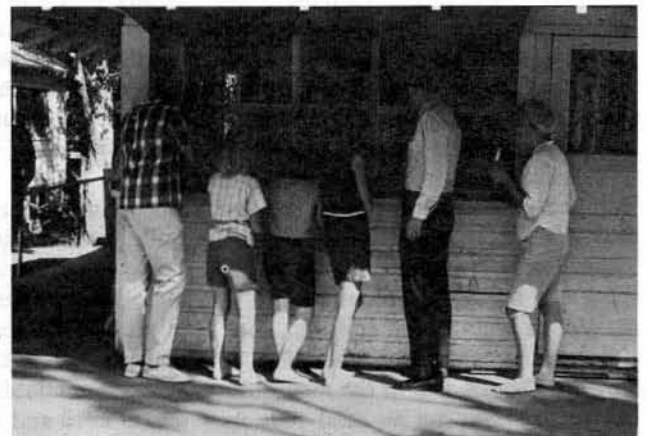
Part of the crowd which watched the annual camper-staff softball game.



A scene from the dining hall at Family Camp.



Mrs. David C. Hanson, Parish Education secretary, led a Sunday school workshop one afternoon at camp.



The canteen is always a well patronized spot at any camp.



## Luther League Activities

### FAITH MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

With the last waves of good-by, we watched the bus go down the highway on its way to Faith for the spring Luther League convention. In the bus, besides the bus driver, were twenty-seven leaguers, our pastor, and a chaperone — it was a moment of victory!

At first, when the trip was mentioned, so many obstacles presented themselves—no drivers! no cars! no money! Finally, well, who could go? It was on a school day. Fathers needed sons to help with spring's work; many girls assist with the dairy work. It seemed impossible for anyone to go. Someone suggested that we send a couple of delegates as we usually do. They can ride with the pastor. But the pastor had different ideas. His goal was that every member from our parish should go.



So early last fall the pastor spoke positively for going to the convention in April. His enthusiasm started to spread to the League. As they met at monthly fellowships in the homes and family night in the church, more and more the discussion centered on how they were going to go. In February a bake sale was held and \$100 realized from it. Someone contacted the local school bus owner and he offered a bus and driver for the 725-mile round trip. Another bake sale was planned. This time girls helped bake, grandmothers and grandfathers contributed, and even aunts of the Leaguers helped. There was a great demand for homemade bread so at this sale eighty loaves of bread were sold. Another hundred dollars was added to the fund.

Enthusiasm rose and soon every Leaguer was eager to go. A sudden late snowstorm delayed the field work for the weekend. Pastor talked to the principal of the high school (a Roman Catholic) who excused the absences of the students on Friday providing makeup slips were handed in on Thursday—so all obstacles were overcome. "All things work together for good to them that love the Lord." Along with the physical effort many prayers had been offered for this worthy cause. Prayers were answered.

Our pastor had been the guiding influence. As we saw them all bow

their heads and pray together before the bus left, we couldn't help but feel a thrill of happiness in knowing our young people were going out to Faith for a weekend of Christian fellowship with other young Leaguers, with a zeal that was overwhelming. We trusted and prayed that on their return they would be filled with a new power which would develop and reach out in innumerable places.

Mrs. Arnold McCarlson  
Webster, S. Dak.

(Editor's note: The writer wrote this story in the hope that it might give some inspiration to other leagues, particularly in planning for the Luther League Federation convention in Kalispell, Montana, next summer. The Leaguers came from the entire parish, but the fundraising projects were carried out by the Tabor-Saron Leaguers.)

### HAVE YOU EVER LOOKED AT MISSIONS MATHEMATICALLY?

by Dale M. Stone

(Student, Free Lutheran Seminary)

How many times a year could you read or hear the Gospel? Is it not true that we could encounter it every day, over 300 times a year? Is it not true that some people your age have never heard? Why should you hear the Gospel and have more access to the Scripture a disproportionate amount of times? Wouldn't it be more fair if 300 people heard it for the first time once each than for you and I to hear it 300 times a year? I think so. Therefore, on a purely mathematical basis, I have concluded that I have some small measure of responsibility towards these people—and, if you claim to be Christians, this burden is also yours.

In two minutes I'm going to share some startling statistics, stimulating stories, and concrete conclusions.

Did you know that for every one convert to Christianity (and this term, as used in this paragraph, includes everyone from Quakers to

Catholics) in Africa, eight are won to Islam? On that continent alone, we are going to have to run a lot faster just to stand still. Have you heard about China's unending line? If we lined the entire nation up, four abreast, and marched them continually off a high cliff, to plunge towards their death, that line would never end. Present-day missions talks in terms of twenty or thirty converts a month—well? And the distressing thing about China is that this country is not even open to missions. Finally, in *Decision* magazine, Billy Graham's statisticians reported that the world is today 8% Christian. Heaven only knows the fraction of these whose names are really in the Book of Life (Rev. 20:11ff). But the amazing fact is that if the shrinking proportion of Christians continues exactly as it did in the first half of this decade, by the year 2,000 only 2% in the world will claim the name Christian. "God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world [not two or eight percent] might be saved through him" (Jn. 3:17).

Dr. Iver Olson told us students at the seminary that it had been conclusively proven that only a very small percentage of people ever come to a saving faith merely by reading the Bible. The majority need help from another Christian. Have you ever taken a pen and paper and written out answers to Paul's questions in Romans 10:14ff? "But how are men to call upon him whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent?" A missionary is a mandatory commodity. If it is God's will that none should perish and that all should come to a knowledge of the truth, then why have some people never heard the Gospel even once? (Vs. 19, "Did not Israel understand?" Vs. 21, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people.") I can only conclude that people whom God made

with the intention of using them as missionaries have said, "No, never!" to God's request that they "Go!" God calls enough people from the ranks of Christians to evangelize the whole world. He does so in every generation. But never has any generation been 100% obedient. Therefore, a sickening and growing proportion of your brothers and sisters never hear the Gospel.

When David Livingstone left his family to go inland in Africa, he described the pain of separation in this way: "It was like tearing my bowels out, for they were actually my flesh and blood." Yet he went in, not counting the cost, and God kept His unqualified promise that "my word will not return unto me void, but will accomplish that whereunto I sent it." In due time, he led an "up-and-up," a chief, to Christ. The chief in turn led his entire tribe to Christ. This was good. Then the chief called the doctor out into the fragrant moonlit air, alone, and asked, "David, do you really think people go to hell forever apart from Christ?" Dr. Livingstone sadly admitted, "Yes, on the basis of the Word as I understand it, all those whose names are not written in the Book of Life are doomed after death to damnation, eternal suffering." The chief immediately stuck his strong finger on the missionary's chest and asked, "Then why didn't you tell us sooner?" (I suppose that as chief he had supervised many funerals, probably even that of his own father.)

Matthew's concluding chapter destroys the idea that only *some* people are called *into* missions. After carefully examining this passage, I have concluded that we are rather called *out of* missions. When Christ issues this command, "Go ye therefore into all the world and make disciples of all nations" (literally, disciple all nations), He is not giving you a choice or option. Of course, this nation is a nation, too; but mathematically, if a person, any person, hears the Gospel once and rejects it, that rejector

does not deserve even one more chance to accept it or hear the Gospel until all men and women everywhere have heard it once each. Don't you agree? Don't you agree responsibly? Don't you agree responsibly today? If you are selfish and covet blessing for yourself and for your loved ones, then act immediately upon Christ's guarantee, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Are you 100% satisfied with your job? Then Christ has called you into it. If not, maybe you missed your call, and should seriously consider investing yourself unconditionally into full-time service. It is logical that because there are openings, right now, in AFLC pulpits, God is making capable adult men dissatisfied with their present jobs, and calling them to the AFLC Seminary to enroll by faith, this fall, September, 1966. Let us pray that these men will all arrive, assured of God's will, and on time.

Further, because there are people who have not heard the Gospel even once, it is irrefutable that God is calling young adults to respect His order to disciple all nations. You agree, don't you? Perhaps you wonder if the unsaved heathen of the world agree. Hudson Taylor, pioneer missionary to China, once approached a new city, one which had never heard the Gospel. He was nervous about the reception that he might receive. Before he could enter the city gates, the pleas of a weeping man assaulted his ears. "My sins, my sins, my sins!" A man had his forearm on his forehead, and was wailing disilluminated in the dark by the side of the gate. The Holy Spirit had convicted this man and prepared him 100% for the Gospel. What if Taylor had acceded to his hesitancy? What if Taylor had timidly turned tail? Brothers and sisters in Christ, II Timothy 4:2 says, "Preach the word, be urgent in season and out of season." When else is there? II Timothy 1:7 says, "For God did not give us a spirit of [feminine, weak-kneed] timidity, but one of

[Continued on page 13]



## A GOOD TIME WAS HAD

A general feeling of satisfaction with the recent Family Bible Camp seems to prevail among those who participated in this fourth annual venture in family camping.

"A good time was had by all" would be a fitting summary of the week. Camp attendance was down from the last two years and yet over 400 persons came, to say nothing of several hundred Sunday visitors. Everyone appeared to enjoy being at Lake Geneva and pleased with the program for the week.

When we speak of enjoying camp, we don't rule out the probing, convicting work of the Holy Spirit. That certainly took place and where it was not resisted there came the fullest enjoyment of all. But back to the physical side of camp, there was satisfaction with the general arrangement of the program and care of the campers. Together with this, a warm spirit of fellowship existed among the campers and the whole group was one big happy family.

Once again, as in past years, a sincere thank-you is due all those who served on the camp staff from the dean and manager on down, or is it up? So many helped in so many ways, not forgetting those who washed dishes and swept floors.

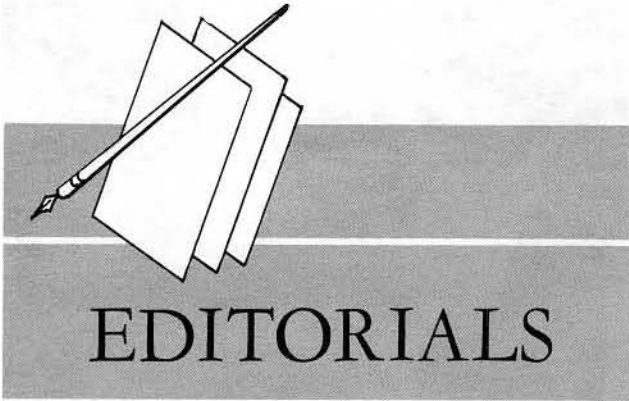
The adult population of the camp appeared to be down from the last two years and the number of children greater. The age bracket with the largest number of campers in it was undoubtedly that of 12-15. Approximately 120 were located here. Surprisingly enough, this is the age group most reached by our local Bible camps. To put it another way, this year at least we have not reached very many of our senior high school youth in our camps, including the Family Camp. And there is no Luther League convention this year. Not being able to involve more of them in a Christ-centered camping movement should be a concern to us all.

The Luther League convention in Kalispell next August will be a fine experience for our older youth. There is a good prospect that the Family Camp can be moved back to July in 1967, thus avoiding a conflict.

This issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador* carries a number of testimonies from people who attended Family Bible Camp and witness to the Lord's blessings received there.

## BIBLE SCHOOL TO START

In about two weeks a sizeable band of young people will come to our Medicine Lake headquarters to begin or to continue a Bible school course. Together with a number of teachers and other personnel they will inaugurate a brand-new Lutheran Bible school. The students will have it very comfortable and home-like. At the same time they will be "roughing" it enough to experience the sense of excitement which comes with being the first to walk a new trail.



# EDITORIALS

## Another in a series on the Apostles' Creed

### THE HOLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Greek is the language of the New Testament. The Greek word for "church" comes from the verb form *ekkalao*, which means to call out an assembly to meeting. The Greek word *ekklesia* speaks of a congregation of Christians gathered for worship, or a company of Christians.

Christians in the world are a "called out" people, called to worship the Lord and to serve Him. They are called to be in the world but not of it. They are not to be conformed to this world, but are to be transformed (see Rom. 12:2).

Christians organize into local societies called congregations or churches. "According to the Word of God, the congregation is the right form of the kingdom of God on earth" (*Fundamental Principles*, No. 1). Where there are believers, the Word of God and the sacraments, there the church exists.

But the Holy Christian Church refers to more than a local chapter. It refers to the worldwide fellowship of believers in Jesus Christ. These faithful may belong to a wide variety of visible church organizations and come from many lands. Furthermore, this Church is made up of the saints who have passed beyond the bounds of time.

Local congregations and church denominations are not perfect. "Members of the organized congregations are not, in every instance, believers and such members often derive false hope from their external connection with the congregation" (*F. P.*, No. 4). Because of the imperfections, no one church body is to be equated with the Holy Christian Church, nor can the sum total of the members of these churches be said to make up the Holy Christian Church. Only that Church is perfect and her perfection and holiness come from the Holy Spirit and the Son.

I believe in the Holy Christian Church. Jesus said, "I know my own and my own know me" (John 10:14b). These who are known, and who know, make up the Holy Christian Church, where she is found locally, and in her universal meaning.

How many students will there be? No one knows yet. You will find the pictures of seven of them in this *Ambassador*. Let us say that there will be at least 12 and possibly a good many more. We know a few of those who are coming personally and can assure our readers that there will be a very fine type of student at the Free Lutheran Bible school.

Not all of those who attend will come from Association congregations. Our policy is to invite any students who think that we have the kind of school they would like to attend. But from the young people of our own churches we hope to eventually get students for the seminary and in the case of others, both professional and volunteer workers in God's kingdom.

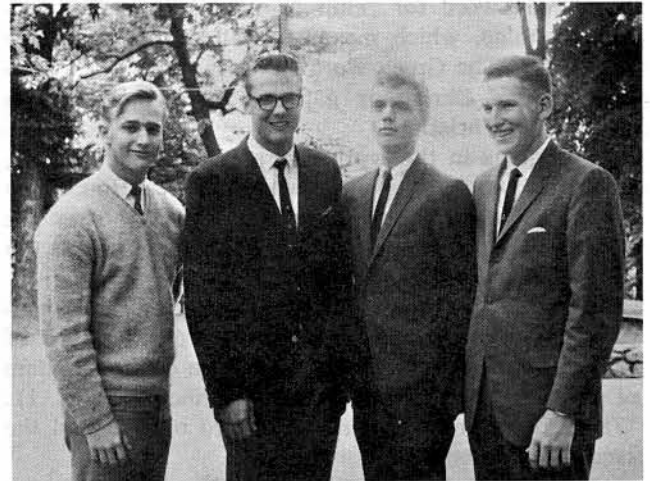
Do you realize that by the end of this month the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations and interested friends will have over 30 young people entrusted to their care in a seminary and Bible school? This is a most wonderful development and an amazing one. It is the Lord's doing and we ought to be humble before it.

There are two things we are to do. First, we must pray much for our schools. Prayer will bring down the Lord's blessing and cause it to be multiplied through the students a thousandfold. Lack of prayer will make of this gift of God something that were better not started.

The second thing we are to do is to give generously toward the support of our schools. This may be chiefly done by contributing, in the case of members, toward the schools and Praise Program items in the congregational budget; or in the case of friends, toward these causes in gifts to the church treasurer in Minneapolis. (By the way, let us get used to thinking in terms of "schools" now, instead of "seminary" alone.) It should be a surprise to no one when we say that increased, steady support is going to be needed from now on lest our schools die in infancy. Let no one underestimate the task, nor, on the other hand, be overawed by it. The Lord will make us able.



These three girls will be at the Bible school this fall. Left to right, they are: Rosemary Hanson, Portland, N. Dak., Mary Dahlgren, Lake Park, Minn., and Jean Presteng, Grafton, N. Dak.



Left to right: Richard Anderson, East Grand Forks, Minn., Louie Falk, Buxton, N. Dak., Richard Aasness, Doran, Minn., and Ralph Peterson, Thief River Falls, Minn., will be among the boys attending Free Lutheran Bible school this year.



Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Jacobson, formerly of Sebeka, Minn., who visited camp and are assisting in the establishing of the Bible school. Mrs. Jacobson will serve as dean of girls.

## DISTRICT INSTRUCTORS' TRAINING PROGRAM

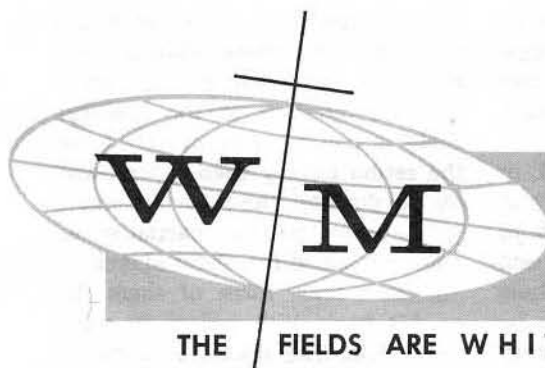
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# WORLD MISSIONS

THE FIELDS ARE WHITE UNTO HARVEST

## "CALLED TO FOLLOW"

"Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your servant. Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister [to serve], and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:27, 28).

"Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that we should follow in his steps" (I Pet. 2:21).

The story of Christ's followers

is the story of missions. We talk about the history of the Church, and it is a pretty sad history, filled with persecution of the faithful and corruption of the Master's way. This is because we use the word "church" in a sense in which the New Testament does not use it. We talk of an outwardly visible religious organization, while the Bible when using the word "church" refers always to a group of believers. The true history of the church

is written in heaven and is much different from our church history observations. Some things we can say for certain as to the invisible church of true believers in any age. They are in the passage quoted above.

First, they follow in His steps. Second, they are here on earth to minister.

Third, they give their lives for many.

The story of those who would piously and scripturally follow Christ is the story of mission activity. From the time of Spener and Francke's Lutheran Bible College at Halle, Germany, in the second century after Luther until our own day, pietism has meant following in His steps, ministering and giving one's life for others. Pietism is a slur word to the liberals of our day, which they equate with ignorance and anti-scientific Bibliolatry, but the truth remains that pietism in Germany, in Scandinavia and in the world today represents an ex-



The Word of Life Youth Camp at which Pastor John Abel spoke in July. He is pictured on the extreme left of the picture.

perience of vital Christianity and personal dedication to a living Savior and His world task.

Personally experienced Christianity has always resulted in a heart burden for the lost. It was such a burden that brought a young man named Hudson Taylor to the newly opened coasts of China about a hundred years ago. This brought about the formation of the China Inland Mission in 1865. Hudson Taylor began the work alone, traveling about the provinces of China often in danger from bandits, heathen priests, a superstitious people and dreaded diseases. He coined the faith motto: "God's work, done in God's way, will never lack God's supply." So in the course of a hundred years, over 1,300 missionaries have gone out from this humble beginning of faith.

You and I who are united together in a Lutheran pietistic emphasis called the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, are embarked together on a great adventure of faith. We have had to look up and follow in His steps to minister with dedicated lives. We look not to human power, for our resources, humanly speaking, are small, but we have decided to place our hand of faith in His nail-scarred hand and to follow. We have continued our stand on the firm promises of His Word and the faith expressed by our fathers. This is a heroic thing for these last days, and according to prophecy it will not be easy or popular. The prophetic Word exhorts us, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life... behold I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast that no man take thy crown" (Rev. 2:10 and 3:11).

As I write these lines we have just received the first reports on the Annual Conference through the pages of the *Ambassador*. We do praise God for the united vision and spiritual tone of the Conference. We congratulate you, brethren, on your willingness to humble yourselves and go forward by faith in an ever larger program of witnessing as you follow in His steps

and give your lives for many. Only God knows the great plans He has to accomplish through our Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Ours is not to question how? or why? but simply to respond, "Here am I."

Missions at home and abroad, or shall we say, living Christianity at home or abroad, is this response of "here am I" to God's searching and saving voice. I am reminded of how Christian love caused souls to be won here recently. It is the story of Peter.

Peter and Olivina are a young married couple in their early twenties. They worked on a farm until Peter's eyes became so bad that he could not stand the bright sun. He consulted various druggists and used a portion of home-cure remedies but his eyes continued to ache and his sight continued to grow dimmer and dimmer. The area priest and his mother felt he should make a trip to a sacred shrine and there make a promise to the saint, but he himself felt this was a waste of time and money. And anyhow, by now he couldn't see enough to travel by himself. Finally a young Christian trucker, whom he had worked for at one time, saw him again and said, "Why don't you come into Campo Mourao? You and your family can live in a little shack back of my house, and maybe we can get some friends together and help you."

It was thus that Peter came with his wife and two little children to our city. Visiting with the young Christian trucker, I came to know Peter and his situation. I told him that shortly I would have to go to the city of Londrina where I knew a fine eye specialist and that I felt quite sure he would be treated there and at the evangelical hospital, free of charge. Peter went on the 4-hour journey with me some weeks later. It was a pity to see this nice looking young man in the prime of life having to be led by hand, unable to do much more than dress and feed himself. We found a good reception among my former doctor friends in a city where I had

worked for four years. The examination was given and the verdict was not too pleasant. Peter would need an immediate delicate eye operation. He would have to spend at least 30 days in the hospital. Sight in one eye was entirely gone, the retina having been eaten away by the disease. The other eye might yet be saved, but only partial vision could be hoped for. Peter stayed, in all, six weeks, three of them flat on his back with orders to move very little. The doctor told me he had hardly ever seen such patience in a man. Perhaps it was because Peter believed it was God who had sent him to Londrina, and in the hotel room the night before he was committed to the hospital, we had a long talk. We went over the way of salvation and Peter asked the Lord Jesus to come into his heart and take over his life.

Six weeks later I took Peter home. The hospital bill was completely cancelled by the director. The doctor gave all his services and considerable medicine free. These men were all Brazilians, none were missionaries except myself. I could not help but thank God for the spirit of understanding cooperation and charity I found among these Brazilians. Here was also visible fruit of the Gospel and answers to prayer.

Back in Campo Mourao Peter and Olivina's living conditions were miserable. They had one little room about 6 feet square, cooked and slept in it. Their little children were on the dirt floor, sickly-looking and flea-bitten. I talked to some of the Christians in the area. We went to visit some of the local saw mills. The big lot owner in the area gave us a lot and we set to work to build a small four-room house for them. Within a week it was finished. Since then Peter has made a fence around it, painted it and even added on a porch. They are certainly praising the Lord for all that has happened in their lives this year, and one concrete way in which it has shown itself was when they came and offered to do the cleaning work in our little chapel only about a

[Continued on page 14]

## RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEES FOR THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 1967

### COMMITTEE NO. 1—Administration

Rev. Harold R. Schafer, DeKalb, Ill.  
Rev. Karl Stendal, Kalispell, Mont.  
Theodore Shields, Eagle Butte,  
S. Dak.  
Gordon Johnson, Grand Forks,  
N. Dak.  
Harold Kilness, Plainview, S. Dak.

### COMMITTEE NO. 2—Schools

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N. Dak.  
Rev. A. L. Hokonson, Faith, S. Dak.  
Fred Ferguson, Tioga, N. Dak.  
Steve DeVries, Valley City, N. Dak.  
Ingvald Rokke, Strandquist, Minn.

### COMMITTEE NO. 3—Missions

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Rev. G. H. Spletstoesser, Pine River,  
Minn.  
Clifford Berglee, Brockton, Mont.  
Mrs. Helmer Melseth, Blaine, Wash.  
Mrs. Wm. Farrier, Minneapolis,  
Minn.

### COMMITTEE NO. 4—Stewardship

Pastor Gene Sundby, Newfolden,  
Minn.  
Rev. J. G. Erickson, Radcliffe, Iowa  
Lyle Voiss, Grand Forks, N. Dak.  
Alvin Gulbranson, Fertile, Minn.  
Julian Harstad, Cummings, N. Dak.

### COMMITTEE NO. 5—Publications and Parish Education

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N. Dak.  
Rev. F. B. Monseth, Valley City,  
N. Dak.  
Mrs. Joe Gandrud, Culbertson,  
Mont.  
Miss Lillian Koski, Cloquet, Minn.  
Clarence Norgaard, Ferndale, Wash.

### COMMITTEE NO. 6—Youth Work

Pastor Otto Saukerson, Beloit, Wis.  
Rev. R. Snipstead, Ferndale, Wash.  
Robert Rokke, Grand Forks,  
N. Dak.  
Joseph Bosmoe, Pierpont, S. Dak.  
Albin Haugen, Kloten, N. Dak.

### COMMITTEE NO. 7—Pensions

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Rev. Lars Stalsbrotten, Eugene,  
Ore.  
Robert Uppencamp, Beloit, Wis.  
Bert Tildahl, Minneapolis, Minn.  
Leslie Kjos, Kalispell, Mont.

### GENERAL RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Rev. Julius Hermunslie, Spicer,  
Minn.  
Dr. Iver Olson, Minneapolis, Minn.  
Miss Pearl Aanstad, Hampden,  
N. Dak.  
Arne Aanestad, Fargo, N. Dak.  
Mrs. Clifford Holm, Badger,  
Minn.

### Luther League

*[Continued from page 8]*

power and love, and self-control." Farmers, what good is unused seed? Christians, what use is an unused Holy Spirit? Matthew 7:2 says, "The measure you give will be the measure you get." Only kingdom seekers are promised "all these things as well" (Matt. 6:33). Only the righteous are promised "in all he doeth, he will prosper" (Ps. 1).

Do you have the ability to share the Gospel? Millions, billions, have the ability to receive it. I can't say that every family should pack their bags for the mission field. But I can't say for certain that every

family should not. This one thing I know. God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. First, He wants your sins. Then, He wants your life. He has a will for your life. My testimony to you is that only God knows my abilities, Further, only God knows all the world's needs. None else knows the vertical, the horizontal, and the intersection of these factors. This means that I am being ridiculous if I exclude God from my vocational planning. Therefore, I pray, "God, overrule me, and guide me, today and always."

Do you like trophies and awards? Christ has an unequalled honor, hidden in His secret heart, ready for you upon request. It is His omniscient, His all-knowing plan for your life (Ps. 32). Jesus guarantees, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Mk. 1:17). After all, isn't that what life is all about?

### TENT MEETINGS HELD IN NEWFOLDEN RECENTLY

Evangelist Clarence Haaland conducted two weeks of evangelistic meetings in Newfolden, Minn., July 24 to August 7. The meetings were sponsored by the Free Lutheran parish, Gene Sundby, pastor.

The parish had the joy of seeing several persons make decisions for Christ through this evangelism effort.



Two girls play badminton. Note some of the cottages in the background.

**World Missions**

[Continued on page 12]

block from their home. Peter said, "We have very little money but we can give our time and energy to the Lord." I remember one Sunday not long ago when they had been out in the country to visit his brother and got up early to walk 6 miles in the rain to get to church. Peter doesn't have very good vision even in the eye that was saved, but his operation was a success and he can now get along without being led by the hand. The greatest operation was the one done by the Holy Spirit in his heart.

Pray for Peter and Olivina and family. They have so little, but seem so happy in the Lord. It is a witness to their relatives and neighbors, and now through them several new doors have been opened for the Gospel in this area.

Our Lord has called us to "follow," to "minister" to the needs of others, "to give our lives in service to our Lord." As we do these things only He knows what blessings might flow out of these earthly vessels. "Christ also suffered for us leaving us an example, that we should follow in his steps." Amen.

News note: This article was written while the writer was at an Interdenominational fundamentalist youth camp called "Palavra da Vida"—"Word of Life." A busload of youth or 24 came from Campo Mourao with Pastor Abel, who was one of the speakers at this Camp. Over 300 teenagers were in attendance.

**REV. VIGGO S. DAHLE**

The Rev. Viggo S. Dahle, 72, passed away on Aug. 29 in Minneapolis, Minn., where he had been living in retirement. Funeral services were conducted at the Albin Mortuary in Minneapolis and Nordland Lutheran Church, Paynesville, Minn., with burial in the church cemetery.

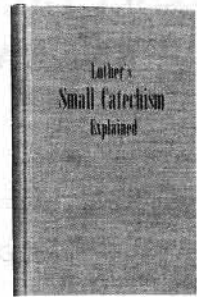
Born on June 7, 1894, in Duluth, Minn., to Rev. and Mrs. Ole Dahle, he was educated at Augsburg Col-

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**WOMEN'S MISSIONARY FEDERATION OF AFLC**

**Treasurer's Progress Report  
February 1 to August 31, 1966**

	Proposed Budget for Year	Total Received (7 months)
Cradle Roll .....	\$ 100.00	\$ 108.00
Junior Missions .....	1,400.00	752.54
Church Extension .....	3,000.00	1,904.30
Honorary Membership and In Memoriam .....	500.00	410.40
My Missionary for a Day .....	3,000.00	1,394.76
Mission Scholarship .....	1,000.00	75.00
General Fund .....	3,000.00	2,396.86
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>\$12,000.00</b>	<b>\$7,041.54</b>

lege and Theological Seminary, graduating in 1922 and 1925 respectively. He was ordained into the ministry of the Lutheran Free Church in 1925 and served parishes at Barton, N. Dak., New London, Minn., Hawley, Minn., North Heights, St. Paul, Minn., and Circle Pines, Minn.

Pastor Dahle was married to

Cora Severson in 1925. In addition to his widow, he is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Earl Biegler, Ogden, Kan.; a son, Vincent, New London; three sisters, Mrs. Leif Awes and Borghild, both of Minneapolis, and Mrs. Milton Hilliard, Carlsbad, Calif.; and two brothers, the Rev. Trygve Dahle, Spicer, Minn., and the Rev. Ernst Dahle, Minneapolis.

# CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

## CHURCH-WORLD NEWS GLEANINGS FROM AN EDITOR'S READING

Selfishness, anger, carelessness, neglect, pride, are all symptoms of a deep-rooted cause—a spiritual disease the Bible calls “sin.” Accidents, injuries and fatalities are only results. The physical effects are produced by spiritual causes, so the cure for this slaughter on the highways is a spiritual rebirth. Then and only then will the old things of selfishness, anger, carelessness, pride, pass away and everything become new (II Cor. 5:17). Because we have the mind of Christ, love will replace selfishness, humility will replace pride, peace will replace anger, and we will live and die as Christians should.—Billy Graham in *Decision*, August 1966

In many respects we stand far removed from what would have pleased the apostles and need desperately to bring ourselves under the searching scrutiny of the New Testament. If the conciliar movement (the WCC, etc.) were an open invitation to that kind of engagement, evangelicals would welcome it. Or at least, evangelicals had better pursue that kind of engagement, in the midst of their uncertainty about the conciliar movement, lest they declare to all the world that their greatest concern is a mere promotion of evangelical self-satisfaction, rather than a burning zeal to serve Christ. In that case, evangelicals will simply be painting themselves into a corner, and the twentieth century will pass them by. But if they resolutely determine to find for themselves the Biblical renewal whose absence elsewhere they lament, they can yet restore to twentieth-century Christianity in its last decades the bright luster that has faded in the recent past.—Editor in *Christianity Today*, May 27, 1966

All this is years behind me now, yet each time my daughter's birth-

day arrives, each time I see a girl her age, each time I hear the term “unwed mother” or anything relating to it, I relive it all in a moment. This problem is not something you escape in nine months, you must live with it the rest of your life. It is not something that happens only to the other girl; it could happen to you. It is not romantic or glamorous or in any way adventurous—it is pure hell. “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”—Anonymous in *Our Sunday Visitor*, July 31, 1966

It was hardly enlightening or heartening to see disc jockeys become defenders of Christendom by burning Beatles records. Equally unenlightening and disheartening was the sight of a Ku Klux Klan grand dragon tending a similar bonfire. The KKK and its “popularity” in parts of the South is infinitely more an insult to Christianity than anything any Beatle could say.

It was arrogant certainly, typically arrogant, for Lennon (John) to compare Beatle popularity with that of Christ, even though it probably is true that thousands and thousands of teen-agers pay much, much more heed to the Beatles and their noise than to thoughts of religion, Christian or other.—Robert W. Smith in the *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune*, August 14, 1966

### PORNOGRAPHY ATTACKED

The East African *Standard*, long respected as the opinion-leading daily newspaper of East Africa, has attacked the “glut of pornographic paperback magazines, mostly imported from America, openly to be seen on the counters of Nairobi bookshops and kiosks.”

The Kenya-based paper was sent to the Assemblies of God headquarters in Springfield, Mo., by a missionary in the area, who added that “we are . . . humiliated to note nearly all this filth comes from America. I have yet to see any such literature from China or Russia. While Amer-

icans spend millions for foreign aid, Peace Corps and missionaries, supposedly to help living standards of the people, at the same time they contribute to moral delinquency of people who are looking for a worthy example, by allowing pornography to be exported.”

The Kenya editorial and missionary's remarks were quoted in the denomination's 190,000 circulation *Pentecostal Evangel* under the headline, “Publishers Without Principles,” by its editor, the Rev. Robert C. Cunningham.—Willmar Thorkelson, *Minneapolis Star*

### MISSOURI SYNOD PR DIRECTOR TO JOIN BIBLE SOCIETY STAFF

New York—(NLC)—Dr. Norman L. Temme has resigned as public relations director of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to join the staff of the American Bible Society as executive secretary for education and information. He will assume the post here on September 15.

Dr. Temme, 44, served as associate director of public relations for the Missouri Synod from September 1958 to December 1963 when he was named director. He succeeded Dr. Oswald C. J. Hoffmann, who resigned the previous summer to become full-time speaker on The Lutheran Hour, the international radio program of the Lutheran Laymen's League.

### 3 MAJOR LUTHERAN BODIES REPORT 8,675,634 MEMBERS

New York—(NLC)—America's three major Lutheran church bodies have a combined baptized membership of 8,675,634, a gain of 90,465 or 1.053 per cent. Together they represent more than 95 per cent of all the Lutherans in the U.S. and Canada.

The largest of the three denominations, the Lutheran Church in America, reported 3,265,505 members at the end of 1965, a gain of 12,114 or four-tenths of one per

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cent. It has 6,216 congregations and 7,257 pastors.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod increased its membership by 43,667 or 1.566 per cent to a grand total of 2,788,241. The Synod has 5,948 congregations and 4,636 pastors and reported 424 parishes without a full-time resident pastor.

The American Lutheran Church's membership of 2,621,888 marked a gain of 34,684 or 1.34 per cent. It has 5,247 congregations and 5,867 pastors.

Complete statistics on the Lutheran Churches in America are being compiled by the Division of Public Relations of the National Lutheran Council and will be announced in the near future.

### LCA ADOPTS POLICY STATEMENTS ON SOCIAL, POLITICAL ISSUES

Kansas City—(NLC)—Position papers on church-state relations, capital punishment, poverty, and Vietnam were adopted by the Lutheran Church in America at its third biennial convention here, June 21-29.

In addition, the 688 delegates considered a brief statement on religious liberty and then referred it back for a broader and more comprehensive study of the issue. It was specified that the report should deal not only with the freedom of religious minorities but also the "liberties of persons who elect not to be religious."

All the documents were prepared and recommended by the LCA's Board of Social Ministry and all were the subject of extensive debate before approval by the convention.

A statement which is to be regarded as "an expression of the theological stance of the LCA concerning the relations between Church and State" rejects both the absolute separation of church and state and the domination of either one by the other. Instead, it advocates the "institutional separation and functional interaction of church and state."

"Institutional separation" means

that "church and state must each be free to perform its essential task under God," the document explains. "Functional interaction describes a process which takes place in areas in which church and state, each in pursuit of its own proper objectives, are both legitimately engaged."

Abolition of the death penalty was advocated in the statement on capital punishment and members of LCA congregations in places where it still exists were urged to encourage their legislatures to abolish it."

Opposition was expressed to the death sentence on the grounds that "it falls disproportionately upon those least able to defend themselves," makes irrevocable any miscarriage of justice, and "ends the possibility of restoring the convicted person to effective and productive citizenship." Also stressed was the impossibility of demonstrating a deterrent value in capital punishment.

Support of government programs to combat hunger and poverty, including the distribution of the means of birth control to the culturally deprived, was emphasized in a statement in which the LCA "commits itself to the struggle against poverty in full continuity with the Biblical testimony about concern for the poor."

In response to four memorials on Vietnam, the convention endorsed a statement which declared that Christians "must take cognizance of the fact that simplistic solutions are unrealistic."

"Neither extended war nor immediate unilateral withdrawal by the United States seems to answer the problem," it said. Continuance of the present limited war seems to be no solution.

"Consequently, it is important that every effort be made to bring all parties to the conflict toward a stance of openness and flexibility with a readiness to respond to whatever beginnings of solutions may emerge."

The LCA committed itself to "continued works of mercy, relief and rehabilitation in Vietnam

through Lutheran World Relief," and also pledged joint efforts through the Lutheran World Federation, the National Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches, and particularly the Churches in Asia, "in the quest for fuller understanding and possible solutions of the international issues related to Vietnam."