

April 20, 1976

The Lutheran Ambassador



READY TO GO OUT
Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

MEDITATION MOMENTS

PARENTAL INFLUENCE

The Christian parents of our day are deeply concerned because of the temptations and worldly influences that assail our children on every hand. We fear for them. We feel at times that we should hem them in in some way or never let them out of our sight, in order to protect their souls from the onslaughts of the Devil. However, we know that is not the solution—overprotectiveness will not keep the Evil One from tempting them.

There is much that we would like to impress upon our children in such an indelible way that they would never forget it, and in order that they would remain safe and pure and out of the clutches of the Evil One. At the same time, we feel helpless to try to impress upon them the dangers and temptations they face. We sense that they do not fear these dangers as we do. And we realize that we cannot expect them to learn in a very short while what it has taken us a lifetime to learn.

But let this be our comfort and encouragement—God is with us! And God has created within our children an openness toward their parents' guiding (be that guidance good or bad). Therefore, unless something comes between us, causing the children to lose respect for their parents, our children will listen to us and trust us more than anyone else. We can be assured that our influence will leave its mark upon them.

We may not always be able to make our convictions clear to them, but the kind of life we live, the example we set, and the standards we uphold do get through to our children. They get to know us better at times

than we know ourselves. They soon learn to "read us like a book," even though they do not grasp everything we try to teach them. If we are hypocrites before our children, we will only confuse them and lose their respect.

We must not lead any kind of double life before them. We dare not preach and teach one thing, and then set an opposite example.

The parental influence that my wife and I had on our children when they were small was impressed upon us through these incidents.

We debated whether we should get a television set. There were arguments both for and against, in our minds, and we feared that television might influence our children in the wrong way. We did end up getting it with the hope of being able to control its use.

But, sad to say, we soon discovered, as many a parent has, that we could not control it. What now came over our television set was there for our children to see. But then, as parents, we began to discern what appeared on the screen. We voiced our approval or disapproval before our children and soon we discovered that they, too, were discerning what they saw in the same way. They were too young to understand why certain things were bad, but their young minds did not ask why. Since Mom and Dad saw them to be bad, they now took sides with us in voicing their disapproval. In the same way they sided with us in what we believed to be good.

We also saw this in our children in a different situation. Like most small children, they would become

restless in church. I wondered if they might develop a lasting dislike for church services, because it seemed to be such an ordeal for them to remain reasonably quiet during the worship service. Many a parent has asked the same question.

But then we noticed that as our children played the role of being adults, being in church had a very prominent place in their play. They did not question whether it really belonged in the life of an adult. They deemed it important, even though church-going (when reality and not play) proved to be somewhat unpleasant and to a large extent beyond their understanding at the time. They did not rebel at going to church, but accepted it as all-important both because of what we said and by the example we set. It was not our command but our influence that caused our children to follow us in this.

Small children do not determine what is right and wrong on the basis of their own feelings, as much as we might imagine. Somehow God has given them the wisdom to realize that they are not as wise as their parents. Therefore, they trust their parents' leading even when they cannot understand it, and when they must do some unpleasant things.

Proverbs 22:6 promises, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Be encouraged, Christian parents, God is with us! Let your love and example get through to your children and, though they do not fully understand your leading now, it will accomplish great things in keeping them from sin and on the narrow way.

Gerald F. Mundfrom

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What is Original Sin?

Concerning the 2nd Article

by Rev. Eugene W. Enderlein,
Thief River Falls, Minn.

Introduction

"Original sin is like a man's beard," so answered Dr. Martin Luther; "though he shave it off today so that he is smooth around the mouth, it is back the next morning!" He warned, "We must always resist it and cut off its hair." The old familiar McGuffey readers expressed it well with this axiom: "In Adam's fall, we sinned all."

Within ourselves and all around us we see the terrible reminders of original sin. Something is wrong with the world. Some sickness fills the human heart. Luthardt stated in the "Fundamental Truths of Christianity" that in all the ancient literature there is an undertone of sadness, a homesickness for a lost home. Everywhere there are dim deep-seated traditions of a golden age, a happy home, a blessed life in the beginnings of the human race. Today we see mankind seeking by various means to regain that which he senses he has lost. Why is there a mad rush for amusement and excitement? Why do young and old seek to be busy with dates, joyrides and parties? Why is there so much consumption of alcohol and use of drugs and pornography? Why so much experimentation with the occult and general unfaithfulness? Why is there dislike for an evening with the open Bible or distaste for an evening in church?

Man on his own has attempted to answer these questions and provide remedies. Some believe that pleasure will gratify and satisfy, but it fails. Others work for riches, honor, position and power, hoping that these things will fulfill and save their troubled souls, but they fail. People are left with despair, disappointment



Rev. Eugene W. Enderlein

and despondency. Worldly philosophies and worldly wisdom call out, "Look higher and deeper," but these also fail and leave their seekers disappointed. The human soul aches, desiring answers. These remedies fail, because the diagnosis is wrong. We must go to the Bible to see what is wrong with us. It offers the only valid explanation. **GOD ALONE CAN ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS.** He is the Creator of man, and He knows the ailment that has infected and afflicted man. This ailment is **SIN**. Sin makes the heart impure, the flesh lustful, the mind unclean and the will perverse. Sin has broken the harmony in God's creation. Sin separates from God. Sin makes man conscious of guilt and is responsible for his unrest and unhappiness. Sin is a fact of humanity; ignoring it will not make it go away; denying it will not remove it. It is here, at work in every heart.

The Origin of Original Sin

Let us briefly recall how original

sin came about. Picture that beautiful garden paradise where God placed the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. The Garden was made of rich soil and had three rivers flowing through it. It abounded with all varieties of plant life. Every tree for food and for pleasure grew there. God was lavish in His lovingkindness to His first children. However, one tree was prohibited to them, as a testing point. A test of their love and obedience was absolutely necessary in this new creation. A careful reading of Genesis 3 will show how the Devil awakened in Eve a suspicion that God is not good. Instead of focusing her attention upon all the trees that were allowed to them, she yielded to his deceits and focused her attention upon the one tree prohibited to her and Adam. Finally, Satan boldly lied to her, "You shall not surely die." Suspicion in her heart led her to doubt, and doubt led to unbelief. Unbelief is the source of all sin. Actually, the challenge that Satan gave to Eve was, "Cut loose from God and then you'll really be free!" Of course, he is injecting the same argument into people's minds today. As soon as Eve had sinned, she became devilish herself and wanted Adam to sin also. Sin propagates itself. After Adam willfully disobeyed God, the two ran to the trees, foolishly hoping to hide from God.

Immediately upon sinning, Adam and Eve experienced death. Truly, "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). They experienced spiritual death instantly, and finally physical death. Certainly death is the greatest proof of the reality of sin. Spiritual death is the alienation of sinful man from God. The worst result of sin is

eternal death or eternal separation from the presence of God. This is what awaits every person who is not converted to Christ.

The Bible teaches original sin from beginning to end. Though human nature rebels against this, truth is still truth. From birth onward there is in each of us a "bent" to do evil, a preference for sin. By nature a young child does what is bad. He must be taught to do good. "Total depravity" is our human condition. Therefore, because the Bible teaches it, we believe in original sin.

Understanding Original Sin

A thoughtful look at Romans 5 will enhance our understanding of original sin. Verse 12 declares, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Our blessed hope of victory over this condition is declared in verses 17-19, "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."

"We were by nature the children of wrath" (Ephesians 2:3). We received this nature from our parents while we were in the womb. But our hope, our blessed solution lies in our Lord Jesus Christ. Luther explained that Adam "is the figure of him that was to come. By one sin Adam makes all those who are born of him guilty of the same sin of his, and gives them what he has, though it is quite foreign to them. In like manner Christ makes all those who are born of Him righteous and saved through His righteousness, which is foreign to them and unmerited by them. Therefore, as we are damned by a foreign sin, so we are redeemed by a foreign righteousness."

It is impossible for our human minds to comprehend the real terror of sin. A full recognition of the nature

of sin would kill us. This hereditary sin is so deep a corruption of nature that reason cannot understand it. It must be believed because of the revelation of it in the Scriptures. David recognized our corruptness from our very beginnings, when he stated in Psalm 51:5, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."

The PRICE GOD PAID FOR SIN is an indication of how terrible it is. The phrase "who gave Himself for our sins" explains the great price that had to be paid. Sin is NOT a light matter for it embraces the kingdom of Satan and the wrath of God. Luther warned against being blinded by our sin. He challenged us to guard and protect ourselves from its hurts. Recall the agony of our blessed Savior in the garden of Gethsemane (read Matthew 26:36-46) as He faced death for us on the cross, the necessary payment for our sins. His disciples were groggy and kept falling into sleep instead of being alert and watchful. Our Savior summed up our condition with verse 41: "The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." We must wake up and stay watchful and alert, lest sin overcome us!

The world scoffs at the idea of the human race falling into corruption because the first couple bit into the forbidden fruit, but the true child of God who believes the revealed Word of God accepts this truth with all of its sobering consequences. Let those who make light of God's truth concerning the reality of sin take a warning from Isaiah 5:20: "WOE unto them that call evil good, and good evil."

The Work of God Needed

It is so important to understand that original sin cannot be overcome or even neutralized by any human efforts. Our old nature, or "old man," meaning our entire person, which is corrupt, seeks to be satisfied by carnal things. ORIGINAL SIN IS BOTH CONCUPISENCE (the evil inclination to carnal things) AND THE LACK OF ABILITY TO FEAR AND TRUST GOD. Original sin is lack of righteousness: we have no knowledge of God, no fear of God or trust in Him, and we do not have the power to produce these things. How pointedly the Scriptures express this truth, "All we

like sheep have gone astray" (Isaiah 53:6). Romans 3:10-18 also gives us a vivid description: "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips; whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes." Jeremiah realized the sinfulness of the human heart: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). This awful lust at work in our members brings forth fruit, or evil deeds, which finally leads to death, eternal separation from God. Oh, this truth should make us shudder! We can understand how Jeremiah felt when the ugliness of his sinful heart became clear to him, "After that I was instructed, I smote upon my thigh: I was ashamed . . ." (Jeremiah 31:19).

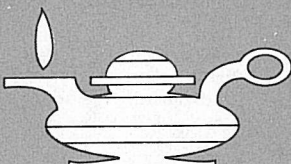
World history demonstrates original sin in mankind and also Satan's tyranny. Lustful power enthralls men and causes them to commit gross vices.

Some say that original sin is just an impediment to spiritual growth. No! We say that it corrupts our whole nature. Lutherans believe that our entire being is affected by it, and that man needs the Holy Spirit to overcome it.

Our Only Hope

Our only hope is to become new creatures in Christ. Lutherans believe that original sin remains after baptism, but its guilt is removed. The Holy Spirit begins to mortify lust and create new impulses in the child of God. We must daily repent of sins, resist the devil and the evil impulses of our old nature, and cling to Jesus Christ in sincere faith and trust. We do not need to be ruled by our sinful nature; it no longer rules or dictates when a person belongs to Christ. We

[Continued on page 11]



SCHOOL NEWS

PROMOTION DAYS TURN OUT WELL

A large group of young people, mostly juniors and seniors in high school, attended the annual Promotion Days at AFLBS, Apr. 2-3. Approximately 70 were registered. In addition, there were 18 chaperons, former students and parents who came.

Activities began on Friday night with a student-led service in the church. Reuben Quanbeck, McVille, N. Dak., student society president, announced the program which included brief talks by four present-day students and two alumni. They told about school life and the value of a Bible school experience. There were several musical numbers also.

Following the service many went to Minnehaha Academy to see the AFLBS Conquerors play in the City YMCA playoffs. Unfortunately, the Conquerors lost 49-51 and thus were eliminated from further competition this season.

The evening closed with a sing-spiration in the rec room and a lunch prepared by a committee.

On Saturday morning four classes were conducted, giving the visitors an idea of what to expect in the way of classwork at the school. Old Testament (Hosch) and Philippians (Huglen) were offered for the Juniors and Psalms (Dyrud) and General Epistles (Moland) were available for the Seniors. Mr. Rodvold, music director, led a choir rehearsal at 11 o'clock and conducted the group in an appearance at the evening service.

Prospective students challenged the Conquerors in a basketball game on Saturday afternoon at Hosterman Junior High School. The Conquerors came out on top. Other visitors to the campus spent the afternoon visiting stores and points of interest in the metropolitan area.

Promotion Days concluded with the monthly youth rally on Saturday evening. This was the final rally for the year and it featured Pastor Kenneth Moland of the faculty as speaker. In addition to the mass choir, the school choir and choral club provided numbers. Pastor Monseth, advisor for youth rallies, led the ser-

vice and Joel Rolf, McIntosh, Minn., led the "afterglow" time of sharing following refreshments.

Many of the visitors were able to attend one of the worship services in Twin Cities Association churches on Sunday morning before leaving for their homes.

Out of the group in attendance, it is hoped that many young people will come to study God's Word at AFLBS, some as early as next fall.

BASKETBALL SCORES

(YMCA Playoffs)

AFLBS 57

Bethlehem Baptist 53

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran 49

AFLBS 41

End of season.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 2—Choir Home Concert, 7:30 p.m.

May 8—Junior-Senior Banquet, 7:45 p.m.

May 9—Choral Club Home Concert, 7:30 p.m.

May 11-13—Final Examinations

May 14—Graduation, 8:00 p.m. Rev. John P. Strand, speaker

AIRINGS FROM AFLBS

The Omega Gospel Team made a trip to Hatton, N. Dak., and northern Minnesota, Mar. 27-28. At Hatton they took part in a youth day on Saturday night. On Sunday they sang at United Lutheran, Greenbush, in the morning and at Roseau Lutheran, Roseau, in the afternoon. Seminarian Jay Eberth accompanied the team.



Coach Moland, left, goes over game strategy with Ivar Berge, partially hidden, Lou Valdez, Dave Grothe and Jim Hjelden.



The AFLBS Conquerors at the first playoff game.

The Alpha Gospel Team presented special music at services sponsored by Victory in Christ Lutheran Church in St. Paul on Apr. 4. Rev. Herbert L. Franz, Cloquet, Minn., was the speaker at the services.

Rev. and Mrs. George Knapp, Calvin and Carol, took part in the March meeting of the Mission Club. Slides from the Brazil field were shown. The Club presented Carol with a baritone ukelele for use in her work with other young people in Brazil.

Dr. Magne Olson, son of Dr. and Mrs. Iver Olson, will be the speaker at the school banquet on Sat., May 8, at Swiss Chalet. He is a professor at the University of Chicago. It is expected that his topic will be on a Bicentennial theme. The student committee has chosen II Chronicles 7:14 as the banquet theme.

Next time we will carry a list of couples from AFLBS who have become engaged during the school year.

A MOTHER'S HAND

A mother's hand is comforting. A father's hand is strengthening. A mother reached a war hospital when her son was very sick and asleep. She very lightly laid her hand on the forehead of her sleeping son, and he smiled in his sleep and said, "Mother."

"My mother's own hands, her beautiful hands,
That guided me over life's sands;
I bless God's name for the memory
Of Mother's own beautiful hands."

(from Doran's Minister's Manual)

OUR EVANGELIST'S SCHEDULE

Evangelist David C. Molstre has these appointments in the immediate future. Subsequent ones will be announced in the future.

Apr. 25-29—Sand Creek, Wis., Philip Featherstone, pastor

May 16-23—Ferndale, Wash., R. Snipstead, pastor

Be faithful in prayer for the work of our evangelist-youth worker. Great things are wrought through prayer.

BOOK REVIEW

Hear Him, by Pastor Lars Stalsbrotten, 49 pages, \$1.00 postpaid.

Pastor Stalsbrotten, retired AFLC pastor living near Eugene, Oregon, has published a paperback booklet of meditations on the parables of Luke 15: the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son (Prodigal Son).

There are 20 meditations in all, each one about two pages in length and easily read.

In simple and clear words, Pastor Stalsbrotten points the reader to the Savior, to the One who more than anything else wants to find the lost one and bring him home to the Father's house.

Ambassador readers may have a good sample of Pastor Stalsbrotten's writing style and message by reading his brief devotionals in each issue this year under the heading of "Day By Day."

The cover of **Hear Him** is done by Elias Ismael Veerman, a businessman in Eugene, who was converted in a POW camp at Nagasaki, Japan.

The booklets may be ordered by writing to

Mrs. Esther Stalsbrotten
86363 Greenbriar Drive
Eugene, Oregon 97402

There is a discount of 25% for quantities of 100 to 200 and 50% for orders above 200.



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

MINNESOTA

Newfolden

Oscar Oswald, 78, Mar. 24, Westaker

GOD'S LOVE

How can we express in words
The wonderful love of God?
God so loved the whole wide world
That He gave His only Son,
That all who will believe in Him
Shall have eternal life.

Jesus died because He loved us,
We should live to love Him, too,
And show in what we do or say
That we belong to Him.
He gave His life for you and me,
Can we do less for Him?

May we never lose the wonder
Of the things that God can do.
Dear Lord, make something lovely
Out of my life today—
That others may see Jesus,
And love Him, too, I pray.

Mrs. Laura Norum
Amery, Wisconsin

ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

BUDGET RECEIPTS

February 1—March 31, 1976

	Total Budget 1976-77	Current Budget	Received during March	Total Budget Receipts
General Fund	\$ 82,600.00	\$13,766.66	\$ 4,559.03	\$ 5,664.84
Schools	128,249.00	21,374.82	4,157.24	6,815.60
Home Missions	72,000.00	12,000.00	2,922.03	4,722.83
Foreign Missions	82,800.00	13,800.00	3,334.34	6,011.37
Praise Fund	30,000.00	5,000.00	850.14	1,155.77
TOTALS	\$395,649.00	\$65,941.50	\$15,892.78	\$24,370.41
1975-76	\$304,090.00	\$50,681.64	\$ 7,838.95	\$15,362.59

Women For Christ

"THE BEST GIRL IN MY CLASS"

My five-year-old granddaughter proudly presented to me her kindergarten class picture. She pointed to one pretty little girl in the front row and announced, "She's the best girl in my class."

"Why is she the best?" I asked.

"Because one day one of the boys was real mean to her, hit her, pulled her curls and called her bad names—but she wasn't mean to him. She just looked at him and said, 'I forgive you!' She was happy but he felt ashamed. That's how I know she's the best girl in the class."

My heart leaped for joy! My little granddaughter's discernment was tops! I know, too, "the best girl in the class" must have a mother who taught her little daughter the truth about sin and the urgent need of a forgiving spirit.

Our homes and our churches could be a foretaste of heaven on earth if we knew what that little girl had learned. "The best girl in the class" would put many adults to shame. She said, "I forgive you" without even waiting for an apology. Adults say, "I can't forgive until he comes to me and admits he's wrong."

This is not the spirit of forgiveness the Bible teaches. Jesus did not pray on the cross, "Father, forgive these people for crucifying me when they ask for forgiveness." He prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).

It is true, no one receives cleansing until he opens his heart and prays, "God, be merciful to me, the sinner!" (Luke 18:13). The Word is clear, "If

we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9). Yet, Jesus is ready to forgive even before the sinner comes.

"The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked" (I John 2:6). Jesus walked daily with a loving, forgiving spirit. The truth is, we do not have it any better with God than we do with our fellow-men. If we refuse to forgive someone in our hearts for an obvious wrong—God cannot forgive us. We cannot hope for God's mercy if we are proud, demanding and merciless. "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your transgressions" (Mark 11:25).

Life without daily repentance is spiritually poor. There is no joy, peace or power. There is no fruit. Heaven is not present in such a life.

Every happy home is made up of two good forgivers. Every happy church that is a blessing to many, and seeks to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ, is made up of many good forgivers.

One day, maybe much sooner than we think, we will face our Judge, the One who knows and reads the hearts of all men. Will He say, "I will not forgive you, because you did not forgive"?

"Lord, crucified, give me a heart like Thine;

Teach me to love the dying souls around.

Oh, keep my heart in closest touch with Thee;

And give me love, pure Calvary love,
To bring the lost to Thee."

Christine Anderson (ps)

EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA WOMEN SLATE RALLY

The spring rally of the Women's Missionary Federation of the Eastern North Dakota District will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, N. Dak., on Saturday, May 1, with registration beginning at 9:30 a.m. Rev. and Mrs. John Abel, missionaries to Brazil, will be our speakers. Rev. Harvey Carlson is the pastor at Trinity.

Mrs. Russell Duncan



SECTION TEN WMF HONORS TWO WOMEN

Mrs. Dick Dimick and Mrs. Barney Rust were honored by the Section Ten Lutheran Church WMF with Honorary Memberships in the Women's Missionary Federation in a ceremony last fall. Rev. Norman Tenneboe is the pastor of the congregation which is located near Cumberland, Wis.

"Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised."

Proverbs 31:30

BLAZING TRAILS

By Susan M. Nordvall
Ross, Minnesota

"This Wagon Train Pilgrimage you're setting out on, sponsored by the Bicentennial Commission of Pennsylvania, is really very reminiscent, is it not? What new horizons do you see for us here and now as we look into the future?"

To this Oline quickly answered, "We're hoping for a great revival! We hope for the return of the youth to the churches. It seems they haven't needed the church. But," she added wistfully, "I believe they're beginning to see the uselessness of all this rebellion. But we Christians have a big job to do!"

We were winding up our visit and from the moment I arrived I knew that these were no ordinary people. Their spotless garage was lined with horse harnesses and collars all scrubbed and oiled; genuine leather fly net and elegant brasses, some imported. Inside their home, horse-related articles and decorations created a high-stepping atmosphere, and I realized it was no wonder that this couple, Andy and Oline Erickson, were the first in Minnesota to sign up on this nationwide Wagon Train.

On April 12th, the Ericksons and son Kent left the St. Paul fairgrounds, Ardy as State Teamster, driving one

of the three official Minnesota wagons, drawn by his own four-horse hitch of fine Palominos. And so, wagon wheels were heard, clattering down Larpenteur to Hwy. 61 and on to Hastings by nightfall!

The Andy Ericksons are members of United Lutheran Church, the AFLC church in Greenbush, Minnesota. Rev. Karl Stendal is pastor of the congregation. Mrs. Erickson is a sister of Mrs. Alma Wold, head cook at the Association Bible School.

The Ericksons learned of the Wagon Train over a year ago through a small advertisement and what started as an idle muse, "Wouldn't it be fun to go?" soon turned into, "Why not go?"

"We're free and we have the time!" "Our son's horse sure needs a good workout!"

"Let's grab the opportunity when it comes along!"

And so Kent postponed his senior year at the University of Minnesota to continue his education with his parents on their retracing of history.

The dream becoming reality soon entailed long hours of hard work, many letters to be written and arrangements made. After suitably sized and aged horses were obtained, they had to have various vaccinations

and tests. They were shod with borium-treated shoes and trained to travel up to 30 miles a day, becoming accustomed to the various situations they would encounter on their 90-day trip. They were professionally examined and passed. For Oline, part of the preparation was sewing the appropriate clothes of the prairie schooner age.

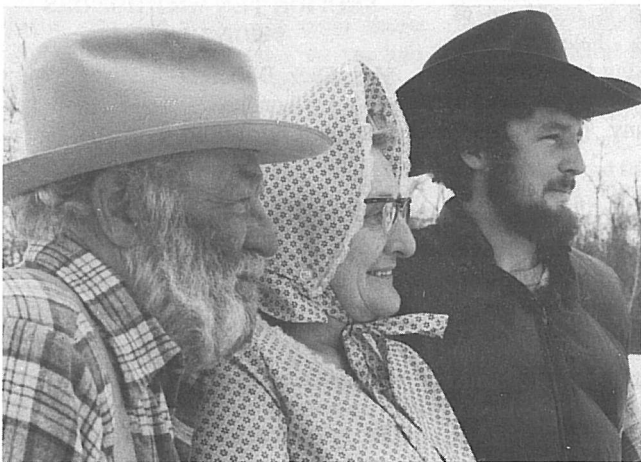
The Ericksons and others from Minnesota, North and South Dakota, from Iowa and Wisconsin met at Le Crescent, Minn., the day before Palm Sunday, and on Monday began the push eastward to Valley Forge, following the historic Great Lakes Route. Arrival date is July 4th!

They will average some 20 miles daily and various activities are planned along the way. As the different routes from all over the nation converge, the Wagon Train will grow. It will stop at various places to help in local celebrations and as people ride out to meet the Wagon Train and to send with it their own scrolls, reaffirming their faith in this country, they become more than spectators. This is truly a celebration that touches people everywhere! Mementos sent with the Train will be displayed at Valley Forge.

What does an all-out celebration like this do to our nation? To our state and county, and to us, the neighbors of the Andy Ericksons?

As they and others trek back to the cradle of our liberty where this na-

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Andy, Oline and Kent Erickson

—Photo by Roseau Times-Region



The Ericksons with the four-horse hitch they are using on the trip to Valley Forge.

—Photo by Roseau Times-Region

editorials

HIS LEGACY AN EXAMPLE

Some of you know about it, others don't, but the late Mr. Paul Bjornstad of Duluth, Minnesota, included the Association in his will. Now that is no surprise to anyone who knew him because it was evident that the AFLC work was his work.

From the start he was interested in an organization which would perpetuate Lutheran Free Church ideals, which were those of free and living congregations. He rejoiced in the beginning of a seminary and a Bible school. Mr. Bjornstad was a familiar figure at conferences and other gatherings in the fellowship. He walked among us as an elder statesman for God.

In his will he left something for each of his daughters, but the major portion of his cash assets went to God's work through the Association, some over \$25,000.

The amount is not so important, although it is a sizable one. The important thing to notice is that Paul Bjornstad did what we might have expected him to do, put Christian work in such a special position in his disposal of his worldly goods. Through wise use of his bequest, his influence will continue on, even though he is no longer among us.

The thought for us in this is: let us also make generous provision for God's work in the goods which we will leave behind, whether they be much or little. It is simply tragic how thousands and thousands of dollars are lost to God's work each year in legal fees and taxes because Christians who controlled those funds had made no provision for their distribution upon death. And even where provision is made, God's work may have been intentionally or carelessly slighted.

Follow the example of Paul Bjornstad and others in leaving something for the ongoing work of fulfilling Christ's Commission to evangelize the world. God will bless you for it.

DOUBTFUL WITNESS FROM BEYOND

It has been claimed by a daughter and a clairvoyant from England that communication has been made with the deceased Dr. A. D. Mattson, a leading Augustana Seminary theologian in his time.

The name A. D. Mattson has some special meaning for this writer because he leaned heavily on two of Dr. Mattson's books when writing his bachelor of theology thesis in seminary. His **Christian Ethics** was widely used in its time as a text on Ethics.

But this talk about communication with him from Beyond, even though he had spoken of such before he died in 1970, seems very far-fetched. In reading the **Minneapolis**

Star article (there is a book on the subject now), we became more depressed as we went on, rather than uplifted. Dr. Mattson's supposed impressions of Bishop Pike (whose religious beliefs were certainly suspect), Charles (?) Wesley and Martin Luther, over on the other side, do not ring with reality, but seem the product of a fertile and hallucinating imagination.

We hope that this book, **Witness from Beyond**, will not start a spate of foolish speculation on a subject (the after life) about which we have been told little. It is enough that what has been told reveals a very wonderful experience for those who in this life come to God through Jesus. For the rest, we can afford to wait and watch.

And, as for Dr. Mattson, may he rest in peace.

HONORING MOTHERS

The Gospel text for the Sunday before Palm Sunday was the Song of Mary, commonly known as the Magnificat. In that text our attention was drawn to the woman God chose to be the mother of His Son. Certainly she was the flower of womanhood, to be chosen for such a great honor.

Mary did her part well. With Joseph, she gave Jesus the best home possible. In earnest and loving mother-and-son talk she shared with Him from her deep knowledge of the Scriptures. Under her guidance He was able to increase "in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man."

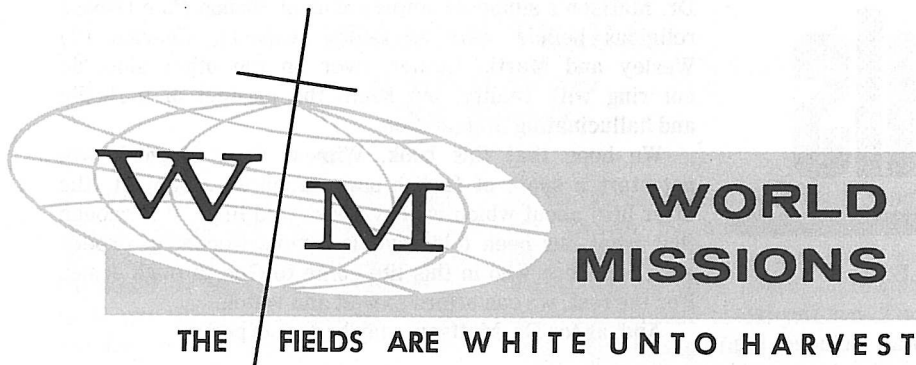
We seldom think of the "silent years," when Jesus, from the ages of 12 to 30, lived at home as a teenager and then as a young man. But during those years, too, there must have been hours and hours of conversation on the things of God and about daily problems. There must have been many seasons of prayer together. Somewhere, too, in that span of years, according to tradition, Joseph, the faithful and godly stepfather, passed away, leaving Jesus, as the oldest child, to be His mother's trusted helper in caring for the younger sons and daughters in the family.

Mary is the great example of good motherhood. Some walk in her footsteps even today. Thank God for them. They set their children's feet in the right paths and surround these who are flesh of their flesh with their prayers. Such mothers we honor in a particular way.

On the other hand, our hearts ache for those children today who are being brought up in abnormal situations where there are no husband-wife relationships, due to choice, or where there is a communal life-style which obliterates family units. In countless other situations there may be a traditional family structure, but strong moral principles are sadly lacking on the part of the parents. What chance, then, for development into people who can contribute something to life rather than adding to society's problems?

God help us. God have mercy on us. Let us as individuals and congregations seek to build strong family units which embody a definite system of authority under love.

God bless Christian mothers and continue to make them a blessing. Let us honor them or their memories on May 9, Mother's Day, but also now and always.



THE 1976 FOREIGN MISSION TOUR

By Pastor and Mrs. Trygve F. Dahle

This will be just a brief summary of the 1976 tour of our mission field in Brazil, South America. The members of the group were: Mr. and Mrs. Oluf Oppen, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Mr. and Mrs. George Hartman, Dalton, Minnesota, Rev. and Mrs. Trygve F. Dahle, Spicer, Minnesota, Rev. Richard Snipstead, Ferndale, Washington, and Rev. (Missionary) John Abel, who acted as tour guide and interpreter.

We left Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, Monday, February 23, at 10:10 a.m., on a Northwest Orient plane for Miami, Florida. The day was clear and sunny so the ground below was visible almost all the way. Mrs. Ray Jacobson and Mary Rolf were at the airfield to see us off. We had a very smooth flight. Below we could see where the mighty Missouri River joined the Mississippi, and later on where the great Ohio River entered. We flew over the west shore of Florida, the Gulf side, so we had a "bird's-eye-view" of most of Florida, including the everglades. We touched down on time, 2:22 p.m. EST.

We had a little over a two hour wait before taking off for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, but instead of flying nonstop to Rio as scheduled, we were rerouted through Panama just after sundown and had a two hour wait there before boarding a 747 for Rio about 10:00 p.m. There was ample room in that big plane and nothing to see out the windows, as it was pitch dark, so we bedded down, the stewardesses helping us with blankets and pillows, and when we woke up we were get-

ting ready to land in Rio about 7:00 a.m. their time (three hours earlier than STD. time). It was 80 above in Rio, Tuesday, February 24. We spent about an hour searching for Pastor Abel's suitcase, which evidently had been left in Panama.

After filing a claim, we were on our way to Hotel Argentina, 20 miles away, and it was a rough and fast ride, the streets being broken up because of building subways, and also, freeways on stilts, also because of the decorations for the "Carnival," a three-day celebration ending on Ash Wednesday, which would bring in about 1,000,000 people. Lodging would be at a premium. After a five hour rest we had dinner, after which we took a three hour "sight-seeing" tour of the city's beauty spots. We had several brief tropical rain showers, but saw the great statue of Christ on Corcovado Hill, the highest in Rio. We also took a trip up to Sugar Loaf Mountain, and took the aerial ride in the cable car up to the top of the mountain. From there we could see several of the beautiful beaches and the hotels along the beaches, and the city, or part of it, below. It was a beautiful sight. When we returned, we had dinner and retired for a good rest.

Wednesday the 25th, we were very thankful to God for His protection and care. We met every evening in one of our rooms for devotions and prayer. We were well fed on our planes everywhere, almost too much at times. After touring the downtown and many other places of interest, including the Maracana Stadium, the largest indoor stadium in the world, seating over 200,000 (this is where Billy Graham held his meetings in Bra-

zil), we headed for the airport for an hour and a half flight to Sao Paulo. We arrived there at 1:30 p.m. and took taxis to Domas Hotel where we rested, while Pastor Abel looked up his friend, Pastor Bill LeRoy, who is pastor of the Conservative Presbyterian Church there and also has a language school, where our missionaries go to learn the language of the country, which is Portuguese. He has a large car and knew the city from end to end. Pastor Abel engaged him to take us around. We met and visited with the teachers and then we went out to see the new school for missionary children, about 20 miles from downtown, in a new part of the city. Sao Paulo has grown from 7,000,000 to about 12,000,000 in the last few years. It is Brazil's largest industrial city. Its airport ranks among the busiest in the world.

Thursday, February 26, we boarded a plane for Fos Do Iguacu, to see the largest waterfall in the world. After loading, we taxied to the end of the runway and the pilot throttled the plane to top speed, and just as he was about to lift off, he suddenly reversed the propellers and taxied back to the airport. After a few minutes we were asked to leave the plane and go back to the waiting room. It was then learned that one engine did not develop enough power to warrant a safe flight. We thanked our Heavenly Father for His protection from a possible crash. It was noon, so they had to feed us in their restaurant on the airfield and wait for another plane brought from Rio. So our flight was delayed over two hours.

Because of this delay, we were about three hours late on our schedule. The other plane had to come from Rio and when we were loaded we took off without incident, but had not gotten far before we ran into quite turbulent weather in spite of the fact that we were flying above the clouds at 39,000 feet. There were "thunderheads" sticking up here and there above the clouds that we had to dodge. We went through one and that was the roughest time I have experienced in the air. The last half hour we had nice sunshine, flying below the clouds, and the pilot took us directly over the falls at about 2,000 feet, and

banked the plane so we could get a good look and take pictures, and then he circled and flew over the falls in the opposite direction and banked the other way so the passengers on the other side could see and photograph the falls, after which he landed at Foz Do Iguacu. Because of the lateness of the hour, we could not visit the falls that day, so we went to our hotel for the night, about 20 miles away.

We got a small bus the next morning to take us to the falls, which were fantastic, to say the least. It was like Pastor Abel said, "Every turn of the road we saw a different view and a new falls." We spent about two hours there, following the blacktopped walk, getting down to the very bottom of the "Devil's Throat," as it was called. The air was full of a heavy mist, resulting from the churning waters; and being it was a clear and sunny day we had a beautiful "rainbow," which we photographed. We could not stay long there or we would have been soaked from the spray. We then took an elevator to the top, 80 to 100 feet. It was the most spectacular falls I have seen.

The next stop on our tour was to be Asuncion, Paraguay, but because that flight had not been confirmed and neither of our hotels had been reserved, we decided to stay another day at the place we were and visit Argentina and Paraguay at the place where the three countries come together. However, we had to get another hotel as our first hotel was only reserved for one night.

Friday morning, February 27th, we secured a small bus and drove to a spot where there was a ferry across the river, about one-half mile wide, and we landed on Argentine soil, where we spent about one-half hour, made some purchases of "knick-knacks," and returned by the same small ferry. Then we drove over to Paraguay via the Bridge of Friendship, where we visited in a small town and saw many stores on one street covering about two blocks long, where dozens of merchants sold practically the same wares. Then we returned to our hotel in Foz Do Iguacu and retired for the night.

Saturday, February 28th, we arose early, and took the early bus for

THE GUIDELINES ADOPTED BY THE FOREIGN MISSION BOARD FOR THE BRAZIL NATIONAL CHURCH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:

1. The recipient of this assistance will have as his only religious work or affiliation the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.
2. Pastoral work of the recipient will have the priority. Secular work shall not consume more than one-half of a day.
3. The recipient must actively take part in and encourage all areas of the AFLC work in Brazil.
4. The recipient must be a graduate of the AFLC school.
 - (a) A graduate of the Bible course is eligible to receive a maximum of 50% of the established base figure.
 - (b) A graduate of the Missionary course is eligible to receive a maximum of 75% of the established base figure.
 - (c) A graduate of the Seminary course is eligible to receive a maximum of 100% of the established base figure.
5. A recipient who is married is eligible to receive a maximum of 100% of the established base figure. An unmarried recipient is eligible to receive a maximum of 60% of the base figure.
6. A recipient is eligible for assistance for a five (5) year period. A one (1) year per site maximum extension at 25% of the established base figure is permitted, if the Field Conference determines that the situation and future growth potential warrant such an extension.
 - (a) Years 1 and 2, recipient is eligible to receive a maximum of 100% of the established base figure.
 - (b) Year 3, the recipient is eligible to receive a maximum of 75% of the established base figure.
 - (c) Year 4, the recipient is eligible to receive a maximum of 50% of the established base figure.
 - (d) Year 5, the recipient is eligible to receive a maximum of 25% of the established base figure.
7. The recipient is to make a report of the work, at least quarterly, to the Brazil Association Board.
8. The Brazil Association Board is to make a bi-annual report to the AFLC Foreign Mission Board.

Campo Mourao. This was about a 160-mile trip, the road all blacktopped except about 20 miles, which was very rough. When we arrived at Campo Mourao, about 3:00 p.m., there was no one to meet us as the Bible Camp was in session and Pastor Dyrud was the only full-time missionary on the job, except for Miss Wold. So we got two taxis to take us to the mission headquarters, where we were welcomed by the Dyrud family and shown our sleeping quarters.

(To be continued)

[Continued from page 4]


praise God for this truth of Romans 6:6: "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him (Jesus), that the

body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin," and "For sin shall not have dominion over you; for ye are not under the law, but under grace" (6:14).

You and I can choose Whom we will obey. We can choose to obey our Lord Jesus Christ, and we will bear fruit unto eternal life. Through His power we can daily put to death the impulses of our sinful nature.

"Oh, blessed Father, take full control of my mind, actions and will. Through your Holy Spirit, control my thoughts and actions that You may bear the fruit of righteousness in my life. Put to death the dictates of the 'old man' within me. Dear Savior, reign supreme in my life, for Your Name's sake. Amen."

NEWS of the Churches



MOLAND LUTHERAN CONGREGATION OBSERVES 80TH ANNIVERSARY

The 80th anniversary of Moland Lutheran Congregation of Mason, Wisconsin, was observed on Sunday, November 16th, with morning and afternoon services and dinner served at noon by the ladies.



[Continued on page 15]

PASTOR AND MRS. GEORGE KNAPP AND CAROL RETURN TO BRAZIL

Pastor and Mrs. George Knapp and Carol left Minneapolis, Minn., on Friday, April 2, and returned to Brazil the next day after a stay of about six weeks in the U.S. where Carol sought medical consultation and treatment.

Her illness was diagnosed as muscular dystrophy rather than multiple sclerosis. Doctors have called it "recessive-progressive," meaning that it appears to be a slow-developing type and they have told her to go ahead with plans for further education and nurses training, her vocational goal. She is planning to return to the U.S. in a year and a half for such purpose.

While in the States, the Knapps were able to attend the wedding of their son Halvor to Virginia Johnson and also an organ recital by their son Charles, a student at Valley City State College in North Dakota. And while the visit was by no means intended for deputation, the family did make a few church appearances to tell of the work on the Brazil mission field.

The prayers of the church continue to be with Carol in her medical need and with the whole family.

MORGAN AVENUE CHURCH SPONSORS MISSION FESTIVAL

The annual Week of Missions Emphasis was held at Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn., Mar. 21-28. Rev. Chester Heikkinen is pastor of the congregation.

Speakers during the week were Mr. S. A. Sidholm, local director of International Students, Inc.; Alpha Jaques, missionary to Kenya under the World

Mission Prayer League; Rev. John Abel of the AFLC mission in Brazil (his wife and family shared in the service); and Philip Roth, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod missionary in Hawaii.

Sessions of the conference were held on both Sundays and on Tuesday and Friday nights of the week.



NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED BY SPOKANE CHURCH

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord" (Psalm 122:1).

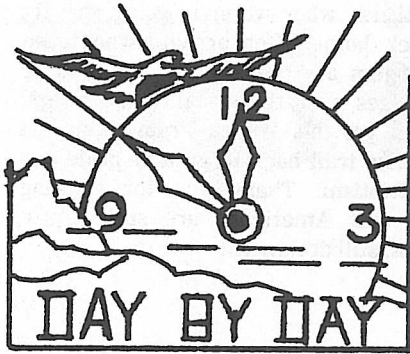
Olivet Lutheran Congregation of Spokane, Wash., had a most blessed and happy day on Dec. 28, 1975, when we received nine new members into our church: three through adult confirmation (two were also baptized), four persons through congregational vote and two children through bap-

Rev. Karl Berg is the pastor at Olivet.

After the morning worship service the Women's Missionary Federation at Olivet served a delicious dinner in honor of the new members.

The new members at Olivet are, left to right, front row, Mrs. Donald Miller and Jeff and Julie Moreau; and back row, Pastor Berg, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Dora Lynn Moreau, Mr. and Mrs. Terry Lynn Whiteley and Brian, and Mr. Ray (George) Hammond.

—Mrs. S. R. Kurle



A LIVING SAVIOR

by Lars Stalsbrotten

"Now upon the first day of the week . . . He is not here, but is risen" (from Luke 24:1-9).

Easter is the most outstanding festival of the year. Good Friday without Easter would have been a disastrous defeat, but Good Friday with Easter is the most glorious triumph. It is our Savior's decisive victory over sin, death and the power of the devil, and His victory is our victory.

Easter of the old dispensation stands for liberation from the thralldom and bondage of Egypt, and also deliverance from the death angel. These were things typifying and foreshadowing the living realities of the New Testament Easter.

Through our crucified and risen Savior we are truly liberated from the slavery of sin death and the power of the devil. He who broke the chains of death and came out of His grave Easter morning has abolished death and has brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel.

No other religion in the world has a living Savior. On some of our university campuses they have what they call a religious emphasis week. They have speakers representing various religions, trying to make people believe that one religion is just as good as the other. That's all sheer nonsense.

Buddha died, Confucius died, Mohammed died; but Jesus alone rose from the grave . . . He died but He lives and that makes Christianity stand out alone as the saving religion.

Those who trust in these other re-

ligions have no hope beyond their graves, but we have a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Listen to what Peter says: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (I Peter 1:3-5).

Do you have this living hope?

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

** The Gospel ship LOGOS, guided by a local pilot, collided with a tug boat while entering the harbor at Istanbul, Turkey, in January, to open a book exhibition. The ship's crew feared expulsion from the port, but the widely publicized accident actually attracted thousands of Turks aboard to see the displays of educational and evangelistic literature, and to view films.

** Bulgaria has never had a strong evangelical church. Currently, 17 percent of the 8.5 million population belong to some church, but only two percent are active believers. There are 40 evangelical pastors. Communist infiltration has made these few pastors suspicious and distrustful of one another.

** The recent recession burst the American illusion of eternal prosperity, according to a government report. Many families can no longer afford a new home or a private college education for the kids. Giving to charity is also off 15 percent.

** Gospel messages in newspapers in Indonesia elicited 10,000 responses from Muslims who wanted to know about Christ. 6,400 of them enrolled in Bible correspondence courses, and 638 became Christians. These new believers have been organized into 34 new churches.

—Tyndale House Publishers

YOUR HOME MUST BE FOUNDED

Your home must be founded upon the Rock that stands
When storms come assailing and floods wash the lands.
Securely it stands in shelter of the cross
Whose light breaks the darkness and guards against loss,
Where the cross is on guard, evil powers are barred.

Send word unto God for His gracious help to ask,
He'll strengthen your hands and give speed to your task.
When morning ascends, when the evening is come,
The incense of prayer let arise from your home;
And angels draw nigh when your prayers soar on high.

Let Him who in Cana did bless that festal day
Be daily your guest as the years pass away.
How blest is the home that Jesus calls His own,
Where He is the Lord, and His peace reigns alone.
His presence defends hearth and home of His friends.

God prosper your journey until close of day,
And show you His love that illumines your way.
He led you to heav'n that home on yonder shore,
Where friends meeting friends, with the ransomed of yore,
Shall ever abide as His Son's chosen bride.

J. Paulli

(from Hymnal for Church and Home)

"In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world."

Hebrews 1:1, 2

[Continued from page 8]

tion began, we feel proud to be Americans, proud again of the principles which inspired our forefathers, and we take another deeper look at who we really are. We are reassured that great people continue to exist and we are challenged to dream a little ourselves!

"Many people feel disappointed in our country!" Oline exclaimed. "I don't! Everyone should get out and vote. We have freedom! We've been to other countries and when we get back we feel so thankful. We should all volunteer to do things and make things better!"

Mrs. Erickson continued to tell me she planned to do some loafing along the way while she rides in the back of the wagon. (Her son and husband will crowd the front seat.) But a lady who answers the doorbell on the trot, who is perfectly calm about having raised ten outstanding children, who has worked alongside her husband in almost every aspect of good for her community, will scarcely be idle. She plans to read, to crochet a coverlet, to keep an extensive log, to write to all her family and friends. She hopes to see everything from here to Pennsylvania. In the evenings she plans to walk, to feel the good country and as the wind sweeps her new long gingham skirts, perhaps she'll recall the other pilgrimages long ago when ladies had so much less and her heart will

swell with praise for all the good that has come to her.

Having family scattered across the nation, Erickson grandchildren everywhere are being readied to meet the schooners, hoping to ride along for a day.

"This whole idea of going to Valley Forge by horses is really nuts!" declares Andy, but you get the definite feeling you could never "rein" him in.

Grand older people (Andy will be 70 during the trip) do not become that way suddenly. They've been grand and have practiced the good life for some time. Through their large kitchen window I couldn't help but notice the very neat little house across the alley. They had purchased it a few years back to have the opportunity of restoring it. Inside they have recaptured well the charm of yesteryear, old stoves, presses, waffle iron and coffee grinder and many, many fascinating articles. Here their city grandchildren can have waffles for breakfast after they fetch in the wood and a pail of water. Many people and school classrooms have visited the quaint house and Oline's cookies with milk never tasted better anywhere!

Before leaving, Oline said, "We have prayed for a safe trip."

Although the Ericksons consider this trip a rare privilege and rightly so, I believe many of us would not have the courage, even in these days,

to press on with it. It is an amazingly daring ambition and makes one wonder at the courage of our forefathers who weren't going to fly back home after arrival, who faced dangers all the way, and who had no bridges over the streams and rivers. And yet this Wagon Train is blazing a new trail back to greater pride and patriotism. Thank you for showing us that Americans are still persistent, still dreamers!

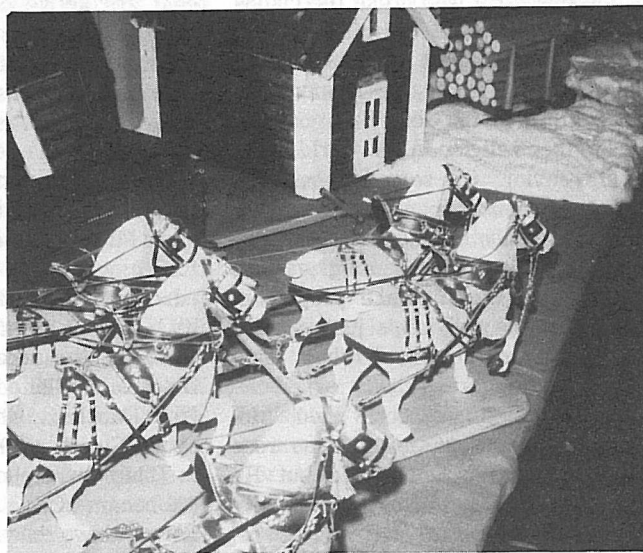
HELP THEM SEEK GOD'S APPROVAL

Make your child feel that the approval of God is of greater consequence than the approval of man. Remember the words of old: "Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house and when thou walkest by the way and when thou liest down and when thou risest up." A learned man has said: "If I prefer truth to all other things it is the fruit of my mother's teaching." What an opportunity mothers have! Of my sainted mother, who died in my infancy, I have but a few slight recollections; but the most vivid one is this, that she taught me to pray and told me some impressive Bible stories.

L. B. Buchheimer



Oline Erickson in a kitchen of yesteryear.



Part of Andy Erickson's collection of horses.

[Continued from page 12]

Pastor John P. Strand, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, was the guest speaker. Present pastor is Rev. Ronald Knutson.

The opening anniversary service began at 11 o'clock, with the prelude played by Joan Lulich and Julia Bergman. The Sunday School and the Choir provided special music. Pastor Strand spoke on the Lord's Prayer, based on Matt. 6:9-13, reminding us of whom we're speaking to, and the meaning of the petitions.

Joan and Julia also played the prelude to the 2 o'clock service. Vice-president Jerry Heino welcomed visitors and read the greetings from pastors unable to attend. Mrs. Violet Berweger read the history of the congregation. Vincent Seguin, grandson of Rev. Henning Yderstad, the founding Pastor of Moland, read some reminiscences written by Sigrid Yderstad, daughter of Pastor Yderstad. There were several vocal and instrumental numbers by George Dybedal, Brigetta Nelson, Mrs. Faith Martin, Mrs. Barbara Fanberg, Carrie and Katie, Marie Dybedal and Darin Lulich, and a message by Pastor Strand.

At the close of the afternoon service, Pastor Strand led in the dedication of the new addition.

Recalling our rich heritage and His promises for the future, we sang hymns of praise to God, closing with the doxology, "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow."

Following the program, ice cream, cake and coffee were served by the Moland ladies. The Lord truly blessed us on this day, giving us ideal weather for the occasion. Over 300 people attended the services both morning and afternoon, sharing with us the delicious ham dinner and afternoon refreshments.

Guests came from Minneapolis, St. Paul, Two Harbors, Duluth and Finland in Minnesota, and from Eau Claire, Rice Lake, Superior, Wausau, Wentworth, Hayward, Iron River, Ashland, Cable, Drummond, Grandview, Sanborn, Marengo and Mason in Wisconsin, and, yes, even from Texas! Everyone enjoyed browsing around the new rooms, reminiscing over the pictures and clippings on dis-

play and visiting with friends old and new.

—Julia Bergman

TEN GRADUATED IN NOGALES, MEXICO

February 10 was a special day in the Corregidora congregation in Nogales, Mexico, as it marked the graduation of ten students from the Extension department of Augsburg Lutheran Seminary in Mexico City. There was an impressive service that evening in the meeting place high on Corridora hill, conducted by Rev. Neemias Diaz of the Seminary. The graduates received their certificates with the laying on of hands by the four pastors who took part: Rene Ochoa, pastor of the congregation; Rev. L. C. Dynneson, pastor of Triumph Lutheran Church of Nogales, Ariz., Gabriel Mercado, assistant pastor of Triumph, and Rev. Diaz. As part of the program, the graduates sang two hymns composed by a member of the class, Sra. Olivia de Estrada.

After the graduation there was a confirmation service in which four adults were received into membership in the congregation. One of them, the wife of one of the graduates, came to a decision for Christ while studying some of the courses with her husband.

This took place at the closing of the third institute of the "Plan of the Seventy," after completion of home studies over a period of 12 months. Teachers of the institute were Rev. Diaz and Pastor Gabriel Mercado, himself a graduate of the Extension courses in 1973, and now serving as Spanish language pastor at Triumph, as well as working on the Mexico side.

We have been a part of the Plan of the Seventy since 1972 and find it a practical way to train Christian workers. It takes education to the student instead of taking him away from his home setting. The student keeps his job and lives at home in his community. This movement is gaining momentum in the third world and seems to be relevant to the thinking and economy of Latin America.

We do not visualize these ten graduates as being trained for a job but

rather as active church members in a volunteer capacity. One of them is the wife of Pastor Ochoa and she already takes much responsibility in women's groups and by having charge of vacation Bible schools. On the night of graduation, Sra. Ochoa's mind could not have been entirely on the service as her third child (they have five) was in the hospital fighting for the sight of his left eye. He is still in bed after being shot with a sling-shot and we do not know if he will recover his sight but we dare to believe that when it heals he will see.

Among the graduates there is one man who seems to show promising possibilities, but we wait on the Lord in regard to His calling for each one. We trust that the Corregidora congregation will profit by the training of these young people, as it already has shown signs of spiritual growth. The members have been tithing and making sacrifices in order to buy a building lot and just last week they completed the transaction. So now the next thing is to get materials and build. Let's pray with them in this project.

In June, 1976, a conference will be held in Colombia to decide the future of Augsburg Lutheran Seminary. There is a possibility that it may be moved to Colombia, as it serves the whole Northern half of Latin America. This has a real bearing on our work in Mexico, not in regard to resident studies, as we have no college graduates to meet the entrance requirements, but as to the Extension department. We see as a vital need theological training for the church. The ministry of the Word of God is the work of the whole church and not only the pastors. Therefore we pray that the Plan of the Seventy may continue and prosper.

—Mrs. Leonard Swanson

"For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted to me my petition which I made to Him. Therefore I have lent him (Samuel) to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is lent to the Lord."

I Samuel 1:27, 28 a, b

WHO IS DEAD?

I heard that God has died,
Yet nothing seems to mourn;
The larks still sing as gayly
Above the fields of corn.

The sun still keeps its path,
Its rays are just as bright;
Perhaps it was my ears
That did not hear it right.

Can it be God who died,
As I was sure they said?
Perhaps the news should be
That we have died instead!

Marlene Moline

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