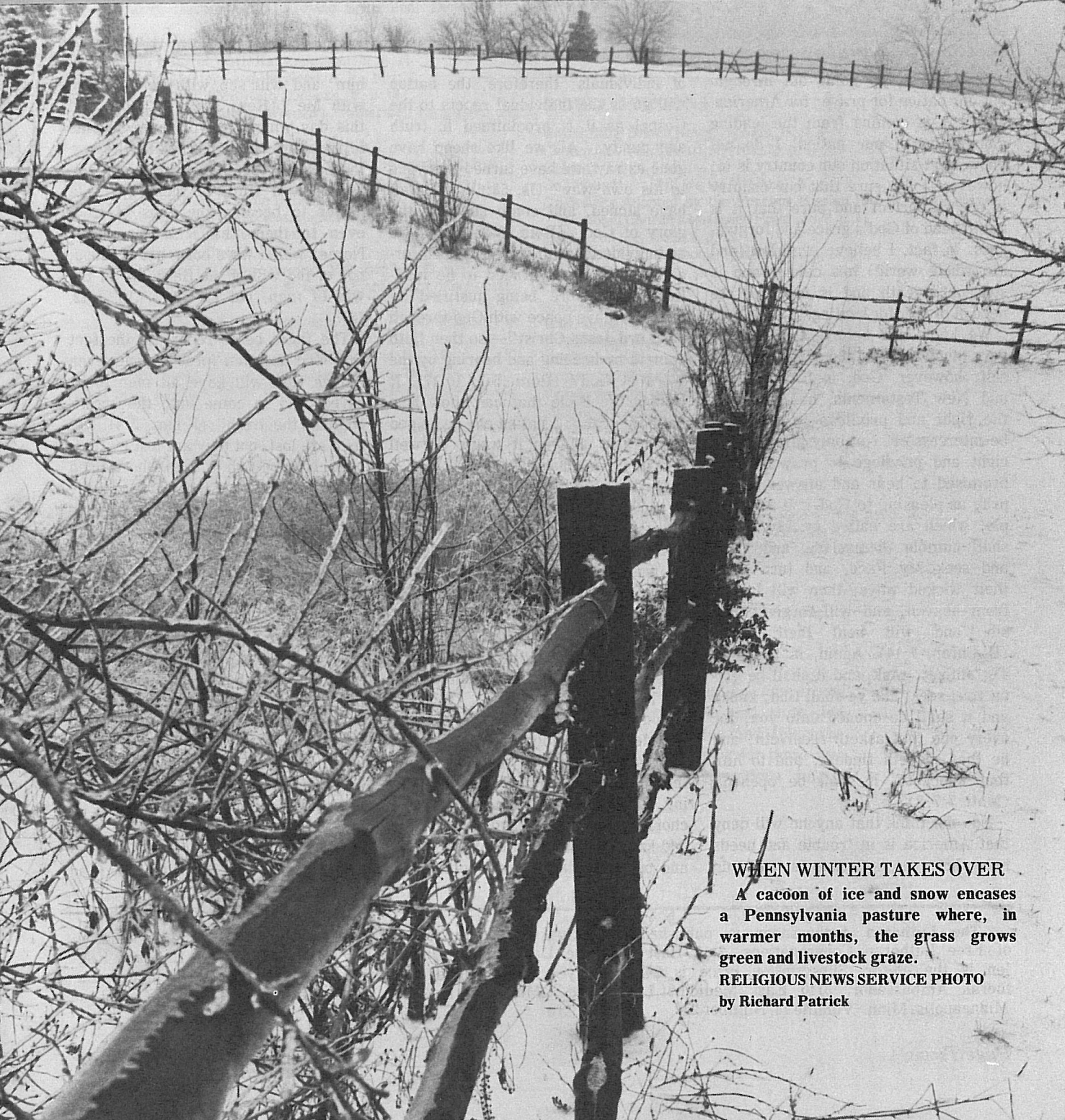


December 28, 1976

The Lutheran Ambassador



WHEN WINTER TAKES OVER

A cocoon of ice and snow encases a Pennsylvania pasture where, in warmer months, the grass grows green and livestock graze.

RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE PHOTO
by Richard Patrick

MEDITATION MOMENTS

DOES AMERICA NEED HEALING?

There is a cry going out throughout our nation for prayer for America. This cry is coming from the leading churchmen of our nation. I do not know what situation our country is in; however, I am sure that our country is not so perfect and pure that it is not in need of God's grace and forgiveness. In fact, I believe America (and the whole world) has cancer and is sick unto death and is in desperate need of prayer for healing.

We know and believe that God is very much able to take care of it Himself; however, God, in both the Old and New Testaments, has given us the right and privilege to pray and be intercessors. Not only given us the right and privilege to pray but has promised to hear and answer, if we pray as pleasing to God—"If My people, which are called by My Name shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My Face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (II Chron. 7:14). Again, in the New Testament: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you; for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened" (Matt. 7:7, 8).

I do not think that anyone will deny that America is in trouble and needs help; however, a nation is made up

of individuals; therefore, the nation will go as the individual reacts to the Gospel as it is proclaimed in truth and purity. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way" (Is. 53:6). "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). Thus, we as individuals need help. We need forgiveness of sin. We need to be justified; "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"—so then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 5:1, 10:17). It is only the Bible that can show how an individual or a nation can be helped and healed. Maybe it would be well for you to read Daniel 9:3-20.

Maybe we need to take a good look at ourselves and ask ourselves some questions. How is our relationship to God? Is God in control of our lives, or are we controlled by self? Self-centered, egotistic, proud, etc.? We need to deal with these sins, be open, be honest. Do we listen to the Still Small Voice of the Holy Spirit? Now, sit down and read your Catechism, the Third Article.

God does not force anyone into His Kingdom. The Holy Spirit calls, enlightens and woos by the Gospel and the conscience; but we must be willing to listen, receive, and make a choice. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to

him, and will sup with him, and he with Me" (Rev. 3:20). "Choose you this day whom ye will serve—but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:15). "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the Sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (Jn. 1:12, 13).

The Bible bears record to the fact that God does not force anyone, even though He "will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (I Tim. 2:4); yet men are lost, but they are lost by their own choice. Noah, a man who walked with God, preached for years; yet, the flood came. Abraham prayed for Sodom and Gomorrah. These cities were destroyed. Moses, and even Jesus, and we can include Paul, prayed for and preached to the people of their times, yet multitudes upon multitudes were lost.

I am sure it is the same today. However, we need, yes, we must continue to pray, for, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (Jas. 5:16b).

Although there are multitudes that become lost, yet there are many who listen to the Gospel and invite Christ into their hearts and become witnesses for Him.

—Marius Haakenstad

The **Lutheran Ambassador** is published biweekly (except the second issue in August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Rev. Raynard Huglen is the editor. Subscription price is \$4.00 per year in advance. Subscriptions should be sent to **The Lutheran Ambassador**, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn. Volume 14, Number 25

An Open Letter to the People and Congregations of the AFLC

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 1:7).

As the Secretary of the Board of Trustees for the Association Schools I have been asked to share with you our stewardship for the Schools.

We thank God for what He has done and is doing through our Schools. Each time the Board meets we are reminded of our many reasons for thanksgiving. The work is challenging and the opportunities for our Schools to serve Christ are unlimited. We are thankful for the facilities which the Lord has provided through you, the people and congregations of the Association. They are tools which can be used in serving our students and through them you, your congregations and communities. We are thankful for the faculty, staff and students whom God has sent to us.

Stewardship is not just a matter of money. It deals with us using our time, abilities and finances in the service of our Lord. The only valid motive for stewardship is our love for Christ.

The Annual Conference passed a resolution asking the Stewardship Committee to raise \$100,000 for the purpose of retiring loan certificates held by the people of the Association. The total value of our property is over \$1,750,000. We presently have about \$500,000 in outstanding loan certificates. The annual interest is \$40,000. The note of interest amounts to \$200,000 over five years.

We are thankful for the concern and support of the Annual Conference. We appreciate the willingness and efforts of the Stewardship Committee. Along with the Stewardship Committee, we ask you to prayerfully consider a Bicentennial gift to the schools for debt retirement.

The conference recommended the consideration of gifts being given to the AFLC Schools in honor of the Bicentennial. The amount of \$200 was suggested. We are appreciative of that suggestion, but realize that the amount of a gift is a matter of personal conscience. Our giving must always be a matter of prayer and guidance by God.

The goal for us as Christians is to commit all that we have to Christ. We then ask Him for direction in the use we make of our money as well as of our time and abilities.

We ask for your prayers for the Board, faculty and students. Please pray about the support for both the regular budget and for the debt retirement program. We desire your gift, if it is one laid on your heart by God, as we believe it will be. As a result of your gift, God will add joy and fulfillment to your faith. It will be a witness and a tool in training our young people to live for our Savior.

We thank God for your prayers and your faithfulness in His work.

In Him,
Robert Rieth, Secretary
Board of Trustees
of the Schools

ARISE, MY SOUL

Arise, my soul, this New Year's
Morning
And put away all doubt and fear;
To all who unto God are turning,
He gives grace from year to year;
He who forever is the same,
Will hear your prayers in Jesus'
name.

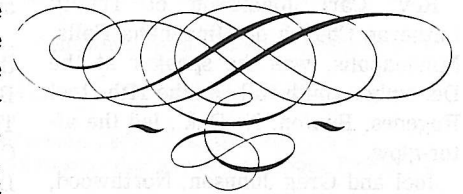
When sunlight on thy path is falling,
Do not forget His love and care,
Nor shrink when He on thee is calling
With fortitude thy cross to bear;
In gain or loss, in joy or blame,
Give thanks to Him in Jesus' name.

Oh, pray, my soul, lest thou shouldst
wander
Away from God and lose His rest;
Pray that His voice from heaven
yonder
May find a hearing in thy breast,
That thou, secure from sin and shame,
May'st lead a life in Jesus' name.

Though earthly hopes and joys may
vanish
And clouds may oft obscure the sun,
My trust in Him I will not banish,
But pray: O God, Thy will be done!
And live and die in Jesus' name.

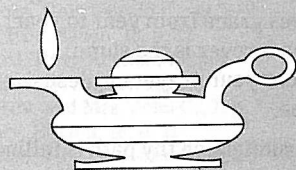
A. Timm

(from Hymnal for Church and Home)



God will not do for us what we can do for ourselves. "Man's extremity is God's opportunity." All along the history of redemption He has been using human agents to help Him in extending and establishing His kingdom in the world. Note some of His "chosen vessels:" Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, the prophets and evangelists, the church fathers, the reformers, the ministers of the Gospel, the Aarons and Hurs who have upheld their hands. Thus, we are all "laborers together with God."

L. S. Keyser



SCHOOL NEWS

DOTS AND DASHES FROM AFLBS

One hundred and twenty-nine students are enrolled in the winter quarter as against 133 in the fall quarter. All but two are full-time students. There are seven new students (six boys, one girl), although two have attended previously. The boys' dorm is at full occupancy.

Rev. David Campbell of New Hope Center, Minneapolis, was the speaker at joint chapel on Nov. 17. A Gospel team and Pastor Moland participated in an evening service at the Center this fall.

David Grothe, Thief River Falls, Minn., has replaced Dave Siekmann, Marshall, Minn., who did not return to school for the winter quarter, on the Youth Rally Committee.

Rev. Carl Johansson of Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls, Minneapolis, was the speaker at the December youth rally on the 11th. Joel Rogenes, Buxton, N. Dak., led the after-glow.

Joel and Greg Johnson, Northwood, N. Dak., are living in the cabin on the Boulevard now, the first to occupy it since Mrs. Becky Anderson and her daughter lived in it last year. It has now been hooked up to city water.

Because the boys' dorm is full it won't be possible to provide beds in the dorm section during the pastor's conference in January or on other special occasions.

Medicine Lake Lutheran Church was packed for the annual Christmas concert on Dec. 12. It was the best turnout in three years. Supper was served following.

The School Christmas dinner was served on Tuesday, Dec. 14. It consisted of turkey and all the trimmings.

Rev. Arnold Stone, who is teaching the class in Revelation again this year, joined other faculty members at the meal. That evening the School Christmas party was held in the church basement. Tad Spading, Kirkland, Wash., of the Social Committee, was the master of ceremonies. Rev. Richard Gunderson, missionary to Brazil, told about Christmas over there. There were many special musical numbers. Gifts were exchanged and refreshments served. An offering was given to the Children's Gospel Mission, Minneapolis.

On Wed., Dec. 15, before classes, a prayer season was observed in the chapel for an hour. Some of the students fasted over the breakfast hour as a spiritual discipline. The prayer season grew out of a feeling among the students that greater consecration among them was needed.

Members of the basketball team, the Conquerors, this year are Ivar Berge, Binford, N. Dak., Kevin Thompson, Minnewaukan, N. Dak., Cary Dietsche, Sand Creek, Wis., Dave Lee, Arvilla, N. Dak., Perry Nash, Wahpeton, N. Dak., Duane Strand, Abercrombie, N. Dak., Jon Rognlie, Minnewaukan, Glen Hodnefield, Radcliffe, Ia., Jim Hjelden, Minnewaukan, Brad Haugen, McVile, N. Dak., and Kevin Spading, Kirkland, Wash. The coach is Ted Kennedy of the Seminary.

Five other fellows are playing on a team made up mostly of seminarians. They are Nick Boyovich, Kirkland, Erling Langness, Ishpeming, Mich., Victor Young, Lyle, Minn., Steve Mehl, Edmore, N. Dak., and Doug Johnson, Sacred Heart, Minn. The men from the Seminary are Paul Nash, John Kjos, Bill Moberg, Mike Klenner, Larry Haagenon, LeRoy

Flickinger, Jerry Holmaas, Richard Bartholomew, and Phil Rokke. Pastor Monseth is also a member of the team.

The Conquerors opened the season with two games against St. Paul Bible College and came out on the short end both times, 78-56 and 75-69, the last one going into overtime.

The First Quarter proctors had dinner with the deans at the Ponderosa Steak House on Nov. 21

Student Officers, Second Quarter

President—Jeff Burmester, Maumee, O.

Vice-President—Dale Kjos, DeLamere, N. Dak.

Secretary—Pam Gohrick, Federal Way, Wash.

Treasurer—Linda Finstrom, Buxton, N. Dak.

Chaplain—Rodney Johnson, McIntosh, Minn.

Proctors, Boys' Dorm

2nd Floor—Victor Young, Lyle, Minn., and Norman Busse, St. Paul, Minn.

3rd Floor—Cary Dietsche, Sand Creek, Wis., and Ivar Berge, Binford, N. Dak.

The 2nd floor chaplain this quarter is Ted Hansen, Britt, Minn., and the 3rd floor one is Lyle Helland, Binford, N. Dak.

Proctors, Girls' Dorm

2nd Floor—Vrenda Bengston, Newfolden, Minn., Renee Oscarson, Wahpeton, N. Dak., and Carol Stulen, Spicer, Minn.

3rd Floor—Becky Johnson, Mentor, Minn., Rhonda Hettervig, Cummings, N. Dak., and Candi Wein-kauf, Wyoming, Minn.

Introducing Our Seminarians

DOORS CLOSED, ONE OPENED

I am Tom Bowers from Dallas, Texas. I always went to church and always believed there was a God, but not until 1967 did I know Jesus Christ personally and know that Jesus could, would and does live within us.

In early 1967 my folks and I moved to Hawaii. The first Sunday in Honolulu we went to a church where the

[Continued on page 6]

The Lutheran Ambassador Schedule for 1977

(Please save for reference)

1. The first date given is the date on which the **Ambassador** is published, every two weeks.
2. The second date is the deadline on which material for that issue must reach the **Editor** at 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Please send all correspondence concerning content of the paper to him at that address.
3. Material which arrives late will not be included in the next issue unless it is of an emergency nature or there is room for it.
4. Unsolicited material is welcome, but it will be used at the discretion of the Editor and as space permits.
5. All material should be in double-spaced typing. Handwritten material will often be delayed.
6. The second issue in August is omitted.
7. In sending in notices of meetings, keep in mind that subscribers receive their copies up to a week or more following the date of publication.
8. Regular writers for the **Ambassador**, as well as other possible contributors, are asked to note the special issues given below so that they may write concerning those topics if they so desire.

Publication Date	Editor's Deadline	Special	WMF Bible Study
January 11	December 24	New Year	Yes
January 25	January 8		
February 8	January 22	Patriotic	Yes
February 22	February 5	Lent	
March 8	February 19	Lent	Yes
March 22	March 5	Easter	
April 5	March 19		Yes
April 19	April 2	Mother's Day	
May 3	April 16	Schools	Yes
May 17	April 30	Pentecost, Memorial Day and Pre-Conference	Yes
May 31	May 14	Father's Day and Pre- Conference	
June 14	May 28		Yes
June 28	June 11		
July 12	June 25	Conference Reports	Yes
July 26	July 9		
August 9	July 23		Yes
September 6	August 20		Yes
September 20	September 3		
October 4	September 17	World Missions	Yes
October 18	October 1	Reformation	
November 1	October 15	Home Missions	
November 15	October 29	Thanksgiving	
November 29	November 12	Advent	
December 13	November 26	Christmas	Yes
December 27	December 10	Year's End	
January 10	December 24	New Year	Yes

PLEASE SAVE FOR REFERENCE!

[Continued from page 4]

pastor preached differently than any preacher I had ever heard. This congregation also had a young people's group called College and Career which met every Wednesday night.

At the beginning I was not interested in going to church or attending this young people's group, which sang songs and had Bible studies, but my folks wanted me to, so I went. As time went on, I was going due to a wanting to and also realizing those young people had something that was lacking in my life. One verse the pastor who led the Bible study repeated many times was "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice."

I was becoming more and more interested in Christianity when in July an Impact Team from Lutheran Bible Institute in Seattle came over for a week of sharing the Word, not only in the church but on the beaches as well. On Tuesday night the group shared individually with people the Four Spiritual Laws. Realizing at that moment my need for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and after repenting of sins, Jesus Christ took over my life as Lord and Savior. At this same time, for the second time the Lord called me to the ministry, and for the second time was refused.

A few years before, our pastor told us we should ask the Lord what He wanted us to do in life. That night I asked the Lord and His answer was the ministry. I told the Lord I was too fearful of being in front of people and would not know what to say. The subject was then dropped, but deep down I knew there could be no escaping.

On Easter Sunday of 1968, having just come back the day before from a two-day vacation on the island of Hawaii, I awoke to a feeling of complete emptiness and feeling that life was at an end. The Lord called again that day and I responded with "Yes, Lord, your will be done." Immediately there was an instant change. Jesus Christ was now in control of my life, giving it meaning, purpose and direction. With the working of the Lord, I was admitted back into college. After having done very poorly in previous attempts and now with the help

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO NORWAY?

There will be opportunity to secure space on the charter flight of the AFLBS Choir to Norway in the summer of 1977. Departure date will be from July 25 to August 1 and the stay overseas will be from 21 to 28 days. Exact details will be announced as soon as they are available.

Write to Mr. Don Rodvold, AFLBS, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441, if you would like to receive promotion materials about this fine opportunity to visit the Land of the Midnight Sun.

of the Lord, F's and D's were turned into A's and B's.

Last year I began theological studies at the end of the spring term, and I was not re-admitted for the fall. Knowing the Lord called me to the ministry, I re-applied at Luther, plus applying as a transfer student at several seminaries, including Association Free Lutheran. All doors closed except at the Association Seminary. The Lord opened the door here and after a month of classes I know this is where I belong and am very happy to be here. The teachings are true to the Scriptures and everyone loves the Lord here. I praise and thank the Lord for opening the doors at Association Free Lutheran Seminary.

—Tom Bowers

CORRECTION

The name of Mrs. David Nikunen (Kathleen) was unintentionally omitted from the list (Nov. 30) of those surviving Rev. John Juntilla, who passed away in late August. Mrs. David Nikunen lives in Roseau, Minn., as does her sister Phyllis, Mrs. Jerome Nikunen.

We are sorry for the omission.



INVITATION TO THE WINTER CONFERENCE

Greetings to you from James 1:17: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." Greetings from Zion Free Lutheran in Willmar, Minnesota.

A very special welcome to Willmar and Zion for the Winter Bible Conference. The conference will begin on Wednesday, February 16, and conclude on Saturday, February 19. It is our hope that these dates might find better attendance at the sessions. We believe such was done in the past and want to try it out again this year.

In this issue of the *Ambassador* there is a list of recommended motels. All motels have been carefully checked out by those in charge of housing. There can, of course, be no guarantee of satisfaction. Yet, we believe you will be happy with all the motels listed. Several motels will be willing to block off rooms for AFLC people. So, it is well to specify your AFLC affiliation.

For those who would desire rooms and fellowship in the homes of nearby members and friends of the AFLC, please write to Mr. Roger Rasmussen, Pennock, Minnesota, or Mrs. Esther Floten, Rt. 3, Willmar. There will be a number of homes open for you to fellowship in.

We look forward to seeing many of you in Willmar!

Zion Free Lutheran
Dennis Gray, Pastor

[Continued on page 15]

editorials

WRITE FINIS TO A YEAR

1976. Look at it. Bicentennial year in the United States of America. And now it descends into the bosom of the past. It is history.

It was good to think more about our nation's history than we are ordinarily wont to do. Any look backward as Americans makes us conscious of God's blessings. They have been many. Ours is a favored land.

But any backward look also reveals the marks and blemishes. Not all is worthy of praise. The unfaithfulness,

the bent toward sinning stand out in bold relief, too. For these, Christian people must bow their heads in sorrow, for their own wrongs and those of the nation.

The times are bad morally and it is difficult to be optimistic. There is a profane and irreverent and skeptical spirit abroad in the land. It is a spirit ripe for judgment. Yet at the same time there are conversions to Christ, perhaps not as many as the statistics which are given out, but there are some. There are individuals in high places and of prominence who openly speak of transformations in their lives because of Jesus Christ. So there are hopeful signs as well as the discouraging ones.

Looking back in our own church, the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, certainly there are reasons to be optimistic. While 1976 can't be pointed out as a year of any particular growth, the groundwork for more was laid in it. We refer to an increased seminary enrollment and the engaging of a home mission director, for example.

There is more we would like to say about our church at this particular time, matters about which we must be concerned as we face into 1977 and the years immediately ahead. But we shall do that next time, God willing. Suffice it to say now that the Lord has given us pleasant company, a task to do for Him and some sense of accomplishment over these 14 years of existence.

For all that has been wrong, then, O Lord, grant us Thy pardon. For all good that we have received, accept our humble thanks and praise. Lead Thou us on in the uncharted way that lies before us. With Thee we need not fear. Amen.

May this be our prayer as we stand at the divide of the years, always a moment of sobering reflection.

ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS
3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

BUDGET RECEIPTS

February 1—November 30, 1976
(10 months)

	Total Budget	Current Budget	Rec'd during November	Total Rec'd to Date	% of Current	% of Total	Needed to Meet Total Budget
General Fund	\$ 82,600.00	\$ 68,833.30	\$ 4,367.32	\$ 40,802.91	59.3	49.4	\$ 41,797.09
Schools	128,249.00	106,874.10	11,263.21	60,647.66	56.7	47.3	67,601.34
Home Missions	78,875.00	64,750.00	11,374.50	47,217.45	72.9	59.9	31,657.55
Foreign Missions	82,800.00	69,000.00	12,234.47	54,410.68	78.8	65.7	28,389.32
Praise Fund	30,000.00	25,000.00	1,566.79	21,176.58	84.7	70.6	8,823.12
TOTAL	\$402,524.00	\$334,457.40	\$40,806.29	\$224,255.58	67.	55.7	\$178,268.42
1974-1975	\$304,090.00	\$253,408.20	\$38,923.67	\$192,900.84	76.	63.4	

IT'S HOW YOU LOOK AT IT

by Roger Ose

"This dry weather has nearly ruined our crop." I've heard that statement several dozen times from farmers in the Midwest this fall. The evident discouragement on the faces of some farmers indicates they are taking it very hard. Other farmers in the area have had the same bad luck, but are trying to make the most of it.

A bad situation is determined pretty much by how you look at it. For example, I met a 62-year-old man in Brazil last July who has made the most of a bad situation.

His name is Oliveira. Shortly after he was born his father was killed in a drunken brawl in Brazil. His mother did her best to care for him. When he was five, his mother warned him to stay away from the workmen who were shredding sugar cane with a big machine. But his curiosity was too much for him. He went right up to the machine, in disobedience to his mother. His left arm got caught in the machine, by mistake, and was ripped to shreds. Shortly after that his mother became ill and passed away.

He was left an orphan at age five. There he was, without a father, without a mother, and without a left arm. He was left to starve to death or beg. He had too much self-respect to beg, and he didn't want to die. So he went to work.

But what can a five-year old boy do with only one arm? He started polishing shoes. He found it easy to apply the polish, and easy to buff it down. But how could he use the polishing rag? He needed two hands for that. He fastened one end to his foot, and held the other end in his hand. That's how he polished shoes. To this day he still carries in his pocket the first coin he earned polishing shoes.

One of his relatives had a guitar and Oliveira wanted so badly to learn to play it. But his relative didn't think he could play it with only one arm.



Roger Ose, left, and his mother, Mrs. Torkel Ose, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

He tried for hours and finally learned to pluck the strings with the index finger and chord with the other three. He laid the guitar across his knees and kept at it until he mastered it.

Next, he got a Mexican gourd full of seeds and fastened it to his right shoe. He shook the gourd and kept time to his guitar music. With his right hand and right foot occupied, he still had his left foot and mouth free. He fixed up a drum from an old kerosene can so he could beat rhythm with a stick tied to his left shoe.

But he still was not satisfied. If he could do three things at once, why couldn't he do a fourth? He bent a heavy wire into a frame, shaped it around his neck, and used it to hold a mouth organ. Now he was ready to perform in earnest. In addition to playing the musical instruments, he learned to sing church hymns and ballads in Portuguese (the language of Brazil), French and English. He travelled through many regions of Brazil giving concerts.

I heard Oliveira give a concert in Iretama, Brazil, in June, 1976. Over a hundred people were packed into the small church and a half a dozen

or more stood outside the door. He played on a beautiful electric guitar, new bass drum, a fancy mouth organ, and a special gourd filled with small steel ball bearings.

He began by accompanying the people as they sang a couple hymns in Portuguese. Then he played one hymn after another and invited the congregation to clap time with the hymns. Because there were five or more of us from United States, he sang in English "I Will Make You Fishers of Men." Then he accompanied himself and sang quite a few hymns for the small children. Following that he gave his personal testimony and shared how a bad situation is determined pretty much by how you look at it. He didn't have many breaks when he was five years old, according to some people. But he had learned to polish shoes with his good arm and one foot. And he was eager to learn to play the guitar.

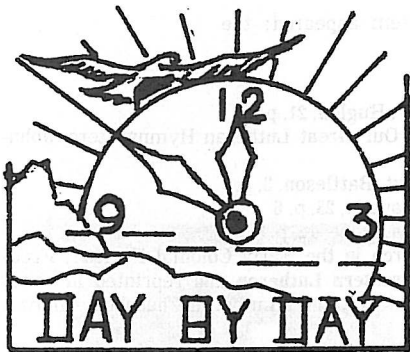
Then he told how his college teacher urged him to be a school teacher. He taught the public school for five years, and they gave him the title, "professor." Today he still uses the name "Professor Oliveira" when he advertises his concerts.

When the concert was over that night in Iretama, Brazil, the crowd gave him a standing ovation. They marvelled at how a man with one arm could play a guitar, a drum, a gourd rattle, a mouth organ, and also sing in three languages. He responded, "Just pray and keep trying. It's all in how you look at it."



The Lord begins as a suppliant asking of us all that we possess, in order that as we surrender everything to Him He may present Himself to our hearts as the possessor and giver of the boundless riches of His glory.

F. Hammarsten



FIRST FULL ASSURANCE OF FAITH

by Lars Stalsbrotten

"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end" (Heb. 3:12-14).

"Take heed, brethren." Watch out for the evil within and without. There is a life and death struggle going on. The conflict is so intense and the danger is so great. We need to help and exhort one another daily, while it is called today. The deceitfulness of sin and of our own heart is so treacherous that we need to watch and pray all the time, lest unbelief sneaks in so that we depart from the living God, or lest we become hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

"For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end."

Those who believe that a born again Christian is not in danger of losing his first full assurance, and even Christ, better strike this word, and hundreds of others, from the Bible.

What is this first full assurance of faith and how did we experience it? We were awakened and saw our sinful condition. We tried to improve our condition, but the more we tried, the worse it got. Finally, we came to the conclusion that our case was hopeless. Then one day the Holy Spirit turned our eyes from ourselves to Christ. He

revealed to us that all we needed was Him. He was our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. Now we knew we were saved. We couldn't explain it, but we knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that we had the assurance of salvation by faith in Jesus alone. Take heed that you hold on to this to the end.

Paul did. He says: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (II Tim. 4:6). I am now ready to be offered.

A Blessed New Year, and thank you for everything in the old.

DR. SVERRE NORBORG TO HEADLINE SPEAKERS AT PASTORS' CONFERENCE

Dr. Sverre Norborg, well-known Norwegian theologian, educator and author, and one-time pastor in Chicago, will be the featured speaker at the annual AFLC pastors' conference at Free Lutheran Seminary, Minneapolis, Minn., Jan. 18-20.

On Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Dr. Norborg will speak on the topic "Has the Lutheran Church

Drifted Away from the True Gospel?" His second lecture, at 9 o'clock, Thursday morning, will be on the subject "The Holy Bible is God's Word." He will also speak at the banquet on Wednesday evening at the Salvation Army camp.

The conference will begin on Tuesday evening with the traditional service of Holy Communion at 8 o'clock.

Participating on Wednesday, in addition to Dr. Norborg, will be Rev. Harold Hosch, Rev. Francis Monseth, Rev. Robert L. Lee, Rev. Dale Mellgren and Rev. Elden Nelson.

Taking part on Thursday will be Rev. Karl Stendal, Rev. R. Snipstead, and Rev. Einar Unseth, in addition to Dr. Norborg.

On Wednesday morning there will be sessions for the wives, beginning at 8:45.

Aid Association for Lutherans will be paying the registration fee of \$10 for each Association pastor attending the conference out of a \$1000 grant for In-Service Continuing Education Support. In turn, that grant is part of a larger allocation by the fraternal insurance company to Free Lutheran Seminary during 1976-77 of \$4500.

Because the boys' dormitory of the Bible School is at full occupancy, guests at the conference will have to seek off-campus housing. Meals will be available in the school cafeteria.

BIBLE STUDIES ON FIRST CORINTHIANS AVAILABLE

Pastor Gerald Mundfrom has prepared a series of studies on Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. The studies consist of extensive paraphrasing of the text, including interpretation and historical setting. A set of questions and answers follow each chapter.

These studies will be useful and helpful for private study and for discussion in groups.

You may order them from:

Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom

1548 Patagonia Road

P.O. Box 1211

Nogales, Arizona 85621

A freewill offering for the material will be appreciated.

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(Complete information concerning prices will be given next time, but the names, addresses and telephone numbers are given now for those who wish to make reservations immediately.)

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