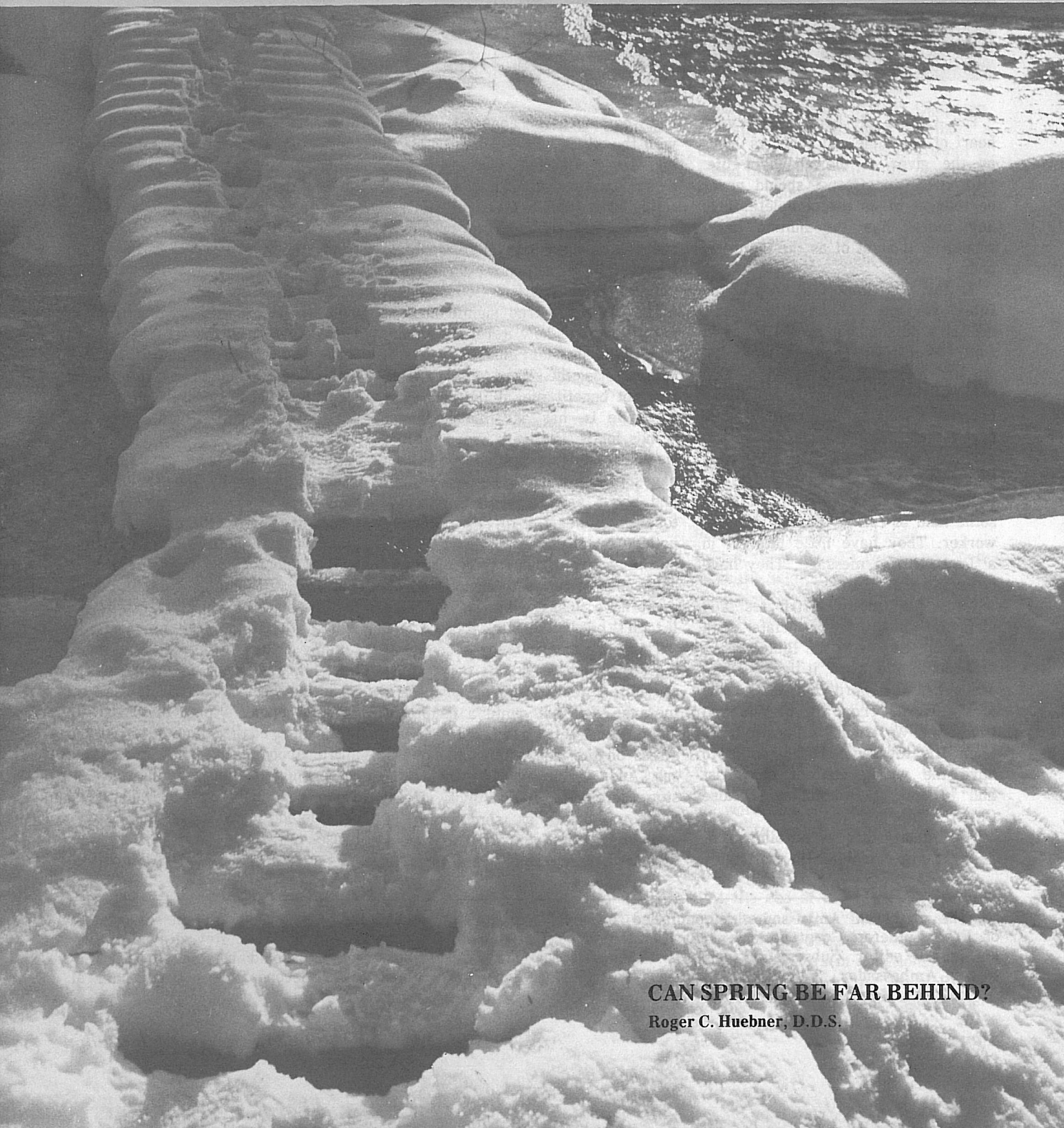


February 24, 1976

# The Lutheran Ambassador



**CAN SPRING BE FAR BEHIND?**

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

# MEDITATION MOMENTS

## THE WORD BECAME FLESH

The Gospel of John is the very heart of our Bible and portrays Jesus as the giver of the abundant life. (However, this Gospel should never be thought of as the complete Bible any more than the human heart should be thought of as the complete body.)

In this very important book of the Bible, we are introduced to Jesus, not as a person, but as the Word of God (John 1:1). Then, in verse 14, we are told that this Word of God became flesh (a person). Jesus now became a walking Bible with a message for us.

There is a danger in forgetting this great truth about Jesus. In our time, many think of Him only as some kind of compassionate miracle-worker. They have little interest in a Jesus with a message. They have no ears to hear His message.

Jesus has many attributes and virtues, which we associate with His being. But when the Bible speaks of Jesus as the **Word**, it does not say Jesus **has** the word, but that Jesus **is** the Word. They are as one and the same. We cannot separate Jesus from His message. To do so is to have the wrong concept of Christ and to end up worshiping a false Christ, a false god.

This means that as a follower of Jesus, I am compelled to thoroughly

and continuously acquaint myself with the whole of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments (the Holy Spirit being my teacher), or I will never really know Jesus as He is.

Even Jesus' dying on the cross and rising from the dead will be meaningless to me if, somehow, directly or indirectly, the Word of God does not make clear the true significance of that event and how it relates to my gaining the abundant life.

Jesus, as the Word made flesh, will not benefit me, if the record of what He is, has accomplished, and stands for is not made known to me. If this record is bottled up in the pages of my Bible lying on a shelf and never speaks to my mind nor touches my heart, it means absolutely nothing to me. The Word or message of Christ has to penetrate my darkened soul in order to benefit me. I must have Jesus with this message if I am to be blessed with salvation.

There is a danger today in segmenting Jesus and worshiping only a part of Him, completely overlooking His message. Let me quote a couple of examples: There is a great deal of stress on the wonderful name of Jesus. And this is good, if we do not stop there. Too many think of the name of Jesus as some kind of magic word that will do great things when repeated and brought to

memory. We dare never forget that there is a Person with a vital message behind that name. Too much attention to the name of Jesus could be used by the devil to divert our attention away from the whole Christ and from the fact that He is the Word made flesh.

The same danger exists with an over-stress on the blood of Jesus. I say that with due respect to all that Jesus' blood stands for and without any thought of minimizing what the shed blood of Jesus has done for lost sinners such as you and me.

But again the devil would like to lead us astray by having us make some kind of magic charm out of the blood of Christ, thereby hoping to gain all the benefits of the Christian walk without going through the hard work of acquainting ourselves with the message of Christ, which is the Word of God.

Many things are good, and many things are virtuous in our Christian walk, but we must be careful that we do not accept a part of Christ, to the neglect of the whole of Christ and all He stood for. We must understand these things in the right light so that Satan does not rob God and use a segmented Jesus to further Satan's cause.

Gerald F. Mundfrom

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# Justification by Faith

by Rev. Karl I. Stendal,  
Greenbush, Minnesota

Article IV—It is also taught among us that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God by our own merits, works, or satisfactions, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God by grace, for Christ's sake, through faith, when we believe that Christ suffered for us and that for His sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us. For God will regard and reckon this faith as righteousness, as Paul says in Romans 3:21-26 and 4:5."\*

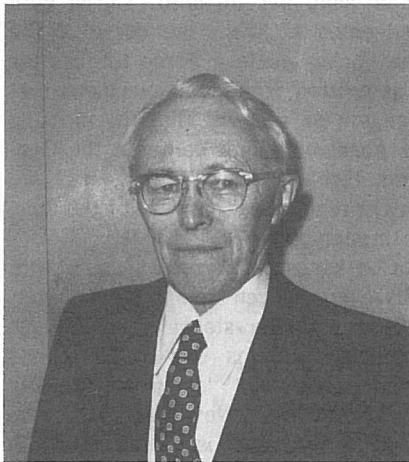
About 13 years ago the Lutheran World Federation met in Helsinki, Finland. One important theme for discussion was justification by faith, which, as an informed Lutheran knows, is a main pillar in Lutheran doctrine and precisely so because it is much emphasized in the Holy Scriptures.

That these men, meeting to represent world Lutheranism, failed to agree on a concise formulation as to what JUSTIFICATION is points to an erosion of faith in the area of Christian-Lutheran teaching.

The results of these doctrinal discussions in Helsinki have been much criticized by others, who take an uncompromising stand on the Scriptures and Lutheran confessions.

Pastors and teachers in our schools and congregations are, of course, deeply concerned with "holding forth the Word of truth." And so is every other Christian who really loves the Word.

In the following paragraphs let us think together as to how we may teach and share the truth of justification. And as we do this we must prayerfully make certain that we look at the



Rev. Karl I. Stendal

topic from God's point of view. For when we speak forth from the Scriptures we speak with authority—God's authority.

## I. We are justified by grace through faith for Jesus' sake

This truth we cannot grasp of ourselves, for we read, "And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." It probably is correct that in our times people find it hard to understand God's Word concerning justification because they have not become needy sinners. Also, it is so easy for people to blame circumstances and other fellow men for their problems and so they do not sense that they are individually under God's judgment and wrath because of their sins. This may also be the reason that rather little is said in our day about personal sin and being personally lost in sin. Yet every Christian worker knows that he must first of all make certain that

he presents the truth of God from God's point of view. Since no one can of himself understand what sin is, God's spirit must show that to each individual; this is what makes it so important that we unite with Paul as he said: "I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God."

## II. Justification is reconciliation to God

Much is said about God's love nowadays; less is said about reconciliation. Nearly everybody likes to hear it said that Jesus loved us so much that He died for us and that the cross reminds us just how much Jesus did love us. But the Bible tells us that Jesus was the Lamb of God who bore our sins, in that our punishment was laid on Him. Here we have an inexhaustible theme setting forth the purpose of Jesus' coming to Bethlehem. He was born to die.

All speaking about God's love without mentioning that His love brought Him to the cross where He reconciled us to God is all in vain. It is even misleading.

## III. Justification means that God, for Jesus' sake, declares a sinner not guilty, accounts to him Christ's righteousness and looks upon him in Christ as though he had never sinned

At this juncture I would like to use the following homely illustration. I shall suppose that I am deeply in debt to a store in my hometown. In my deep concern I walk into the store to see the owner and express my heartfelt concern over my debt. But at the same time I admit that I cannot possibly make payment, for my liabilities are steadily increasing. With a friendly smile the store owner reaches into a drawer and pulls out

a letter which says: "As you know, I am a fabulously wealthy man and I wish to use my wealth in paying off the debts of those who recognize that their situation is hopeless. I understand that in your town there lives a man by the name of Karl I. Stendal who owes you a large sum of money and cannot pay his debt. Enclosed is a blank check signed by myself. Please fill in the appropriate figures indicating Stendal's total debt. Cash the check and credit the amount to Stendal's account."

Now I might burst into tears or put on a stoic appearance but in either case the debt was paid in full—by another. He had satisfied every requirement of law. And for his sake I stood there debt free. Surely the joy bells would ring within, but they would ring only in response to the one who had paid my debt.

Jesus has paid our debt and He is waiting for sinners everywhere to acknowledge the sin debt and the guilt over against a righteous, holy God.

Wonder of wonders, a Christian is one who is righteous and a sinner at the same time. He is sinful because he cannot of himself square his account with God; he is righteous because in Jesus he is forgiven his sin and guilt and stands clothed in holy garments furnished by his Redeemer.

#### **IV. Justification is this, that a sinner, for Jesus' sake, becomes a child of God and an heir of heaven**

In Romans 8:15-17, the Apostle Paul tells us: "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God; and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together." Paul says further, in verse 32: "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things."

One who trusts in Jesus Christ is free from the Law of God that pro-

nounces judgment and condemnation upon sin and sinners. This time let the Letter to the Galatians, 3:10-14, speak to us: "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, 'The just shall live by faith.' And the law is not of faith: but, 'The man that doeth them shall live in them.' Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, 'Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:' that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

God keeps a different account with His own children than a slave owner would with his slaves. The Apostle explicitly affirms this in Gal. 4:1-7 (remember that "servant" literally means slave): "Now I say, that the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; but is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: but when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

Doubtless we shall never on this earth fully grasp these truths, for how could we understand that a child of God can inherit heaven, live in freedom and happiness over against the fact of sin? How can he believe that the Lord loves him as much when he is weak in faith as when he is strong?

Praise God, the basis for our hope of eternal life is never in anything we can present, but in Jesus and His completed work of salvation!

And lastly,

#### **V. Justification means that sinners are justified and saved only one at a time**

No one is saved because he joins a church and attends services. No one is saved because he contributes, even generously. No one is justified and saved because he regularly reads the Scriptures and prays. For all these religious exercises may merely be works of man's fallen nature. Indeed, someone has said that man is incurably religious!

But man is justified and saved when he has forsaken every attempt to make himself deserving before a holy, righteous God and for Jesus' sake alone trusts that his sin is forgiven.

But he comes alone. God does not save congregations and families; He saves individuals only; no one can atone for sin but HE WHO DIED.

Our Lord does not make a bird that it should get a wing caught in a hunter's trap, for birds are made to soar up under the clouds. Neither does God make man that he should be a slave of Satan and sin. Rather, God's intention with man is that he should sit "in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:6b), for we were created for fellowship with God.

By grace through faith in Jesus, by becoming reconciled to God, by having Christ's righteousness accounted to us, by becoming a child and an heir for Jesus' sake, by letting Jesus save us individually, WE ARE JUSTIFIED.

Then we let God's Word be our authority. Then we see the topic we have tried to develop from God's point of view.

This is justification by faith.

\*Quotation for **The Book of Concord**, 1959, by permission of Fortress Press.

#### **PASTOR STENDAL HOSPITALIZED BY HEART ATTACK**

Pastor Karl I. Stendal, Greenbush, Minn., writer of the above article, suffered a heart attack on Feb. 10 while visiting a patient in the Roseau, Minn., hospital. He has been confined there and will have to refrain from his parish duties for some time. Let us remember him and his family in prayer and pray for his soon restoration to his work.



## ASSOCIATION PASTORS' CONFERENCE HELD IN MINNEAPOLIS LAST MONTH

The annual pastors' conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations was held at Free Lutheran Seminary in Minneapolis, Minn., January 20-22. The seminary students and lay pastors in the church also took part.

Rev. Kenneth Moland, teacher in the Association Bible School, brought the meditation at the opening night communion service. Rev. John P. Strand, AFLC president, was liturgist.

On Wednesday morning there were

two lectures. Dr. Iver Olson of the Schools faculty discussed the topic "Justification" and Rev. Julius Hermunslie, Fergus Falls, Minn., emeritus, considered the subject "Ministering to the Aged." At the joint chapel service at 11 o'clock, the Bible School students joined the group and heard the message by Rev. Philip Haugen, Fargo, N. Dak., on I Corinthians 1:26-31. The Choir sang "God's Son Has Made Me Free" and "Behold a Host."

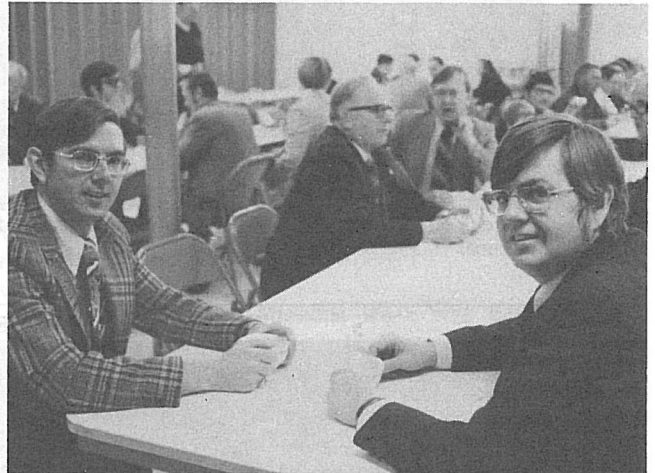
After the noon recess the gathering

heard Rev. Karl I. Stendal, Greenbush, Minn., present a paper on "What is a Lutheran?" The theme of the presentation by Rev. Hubert F. DeBoer of Thief River Falls, Minn., was "Ministering to the Alcoholic."

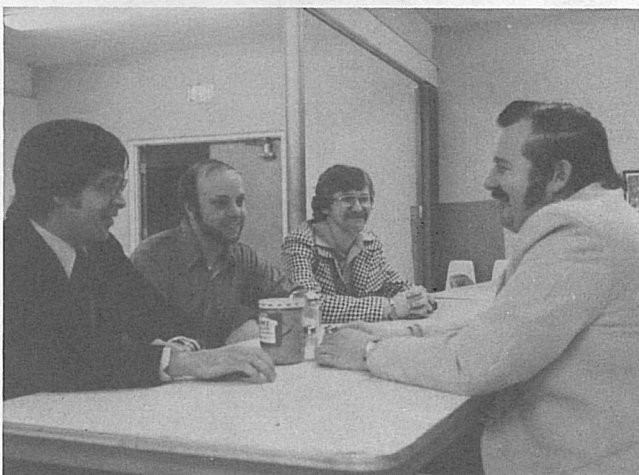
The most popular lecture in the Twin Cities area is one by Dr. Karlis Kaufmanis, professor of astronomy at the University of Minnesota, on "The Bethlehem Star." Dr. Kaufmanis gave that lecture at the banquet at Jolly Troll Restaurant on Wednesday night and stimulated thinking as



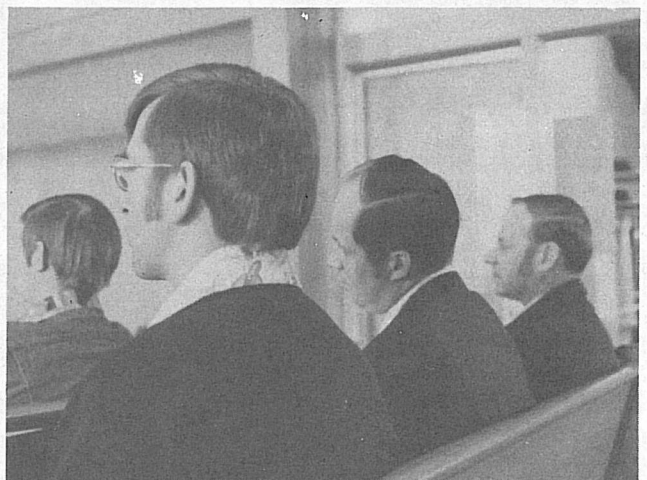
Pastors Hubert DeBoer, left, and Julius Hermunslie.



Pastors and brothers, Timothy, left, and Gary Skramstad.



Larry Haagenson, left, a seminary student, visits with three men in the ministry, David Molstre, Philip Haugen and Eugene Enderlein.



Left to right, Pastors John Rieth, Kenneth Pentti and Ronald Hoehn.

well as being thoroughly entertaining.

In the closing session of the conference on Thursday morning there were three more presentations. Two were by Rev. K. E. Heggstad, Cokato, Minn., an evangelist for the Hauge Innermission Federation. One was on "The Third Commandment" and the other on "Submission in the Life of a Christian." Rev. Harold Hosch, faculty member of the Schools, gave some insights he had gained from

his visit to the Holy Land last summer in the final lecture of the conference.

Rev. Amos Dyrud of the Schools and Rev. Albert Hautamaki of the business office were the leaders of the morning devotional periods.

Most of the active pastors of the church were registered for the pastors' conference.

A session for pastors' wives was held on Wednesday morning.

#### OUR EVANGELIST'S SCHEDULE

Evangelist David C. Molstre announces the following appointments for the immediate future:

Feb. 29-Mar. 18—Tioga, N. Dak., Forrest Swenson, pastor

Mar. 28-Apr. 1—Culbertson, Mont., Verle Dean, lay pastor

Apr. 4-8—Dalton, Minn., Wendell Johnson, pastor

Apr. 11-16—Ishpeming, Mich., Ernest Langness, pastor

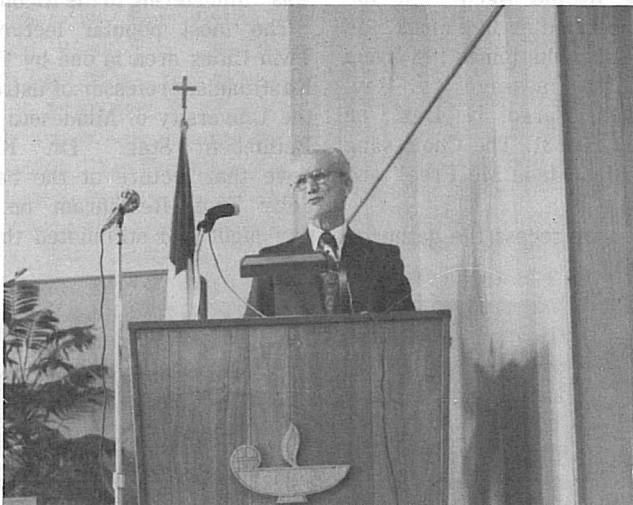
Apr. 25-29—Sand Creek, Wis., Philip Featherstone, pastor

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

Pastor Molstre informs us that he has 28 weeks of meetings set for 1976, with only two or three openings available remaining. Four weeks are confirmed for 1977 already.

Contact him at R.T. 2, McIntosh, Minn. 56556, or by telephone at 218-563-4224.

Remember to pray for our evangelist as he conducts these preaching missions throughout the church. Pray that God's Word will have free course in hearts and that Pastor Molstre may be strengthened for his task.



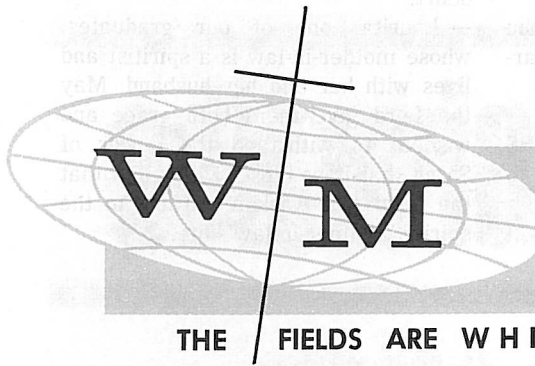
Rev. K. E. Heggstad, who gave two lectures at the conference.

#### THE FACULTY OF THE ASSOCIATION SCHOOLS



Foreground, John P. Strand; left to right, seated, Kenneth D. Moland, Iver Olson, Francis Monseth, Amos Dyrud, Harold Hosch and Anker Harbo; and, standing, Donald Rodvold and Raynard Huglen.





**WORLD MISSIONS**

**THE FIELDS ARE WHITE UNTO HARVEST**

**I AM LUCIA DE LIMA**

My beloved friends in Christ, I would like to share my testimony with you. I'm 18 years old and I accepted Christ two years ago. First of all, I want to thank the Lord for His rich blessings given to me in my life and for taking me out of a worldly environment.

At home we never had a home life we could call happy. My parents separated when I was nine years old. So my mother passed us children off to uncles, aunts and friends.

Then my mother married again and we each returned home again in time. But this marriage broke up after five years and two more children.

But it was during this time that my stepfather was with us that something marvelous happened. His mother and brother accepted Christ and always invited us to go to church with them. I always thought that if I went to church with them then I would turn Christian. I must confess that I never thought of the spiritual life nor life to come. For me all that existed was this earthly life; our existence was just to live and then die. And if I was a good girl, I'd never go to hell.

I considered going to a Catholic high school with the help of a scholarship, but the more I thought it out and prayed to the saints, the more I didn't like the idea.

In 1972 some students from the Association Lutheran Bible School started visiting our home and later started having Bible studies in our home. I paid close attention to these young people. I noticed how happy they were and how their lives seemed so full and complete. I, too, started



looking for that inner peace that they had but I looked in vain because I sought for it in the world.

In June, 1973, I decided to enter the Bible Institute to study. I talked to a student who had studied there and he recommended that I study the Bible. Then everything happened fast. On the 2nd of August I was already at the Institute and I felt that my life was already changing. Now I was living in an atmosphere that was happy and healthful.

When I arrived here I felt the love these young people had for me and each other. They had the riches in other things that I had been looking for.

I started reading the Bible and God started speaking to my heart with each word read and with each class attended I realized that I was a sinner who had to be forgiven and that I needed God's grace.

One day Dona Ruby (Mrs. John Abel) invited us girls to come and talk

to her individually. She explained to me the four spiritual laws in a little tract. At that moment I felt someone in me saying, "Receive Christ NOW, don't leave it until tomorrow." I invited Christ to come into my heart and be the Lord of my life.

Many things changed in my life, such as the way I treated my friends and enemies. I also felt more genuine love to each person. I always feel that if God is love, Christians should show that love also.

Now I would like to help those who need Christ. I'm nothing, but I would like to share the Christ in me with others.

I have studied two years at the Bible Institute and would like to study one more year, the missionary course, so that I can work for the Lord better where ever He may call me. Even if it's to some place where I don't like to go, I will be willing to go.

Every day I pray for my family that they will accept Christ and be saved. I know that away from God we are nothing, but with God at our side we have everything.

I also ask that you remember to pray for my family with me. "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me; and that life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me" (Gal. 2:20).

Let's remember Lucia in our prayers that she may continue on in her God-led plans for the future. And that her family may come to know the Lord, as she asked for in your prayers.

God separates these lives and takes them out of complete destruction for a purpose and His plans are great and hard for us to understand but with lives transformed day by day, we can only give Him the thanks.

Sent in by  
Missionary Connely Dyrud

**PRAISE AND PRAYER  
FROM BRAZIL**

**Praise the Lord for:**

— the safe arrival of Mrs. Dyrud's mother, who plans on spending a few months here.

- the refreshing cool weather we have been having, after many days of sweltering heat.
- new students entering Bible School this year.
- various improvements on the school campus.
- successful DVBS's.
- the Lord's presence at our Bible Camps.
- cards, letters and news from home

received on the field and for our good postal service.

**Pray for:**

- a family in Central church (John and Terizinha) who are having marital problems.
- the American tour to Brazil.
- the children reached during DVBS that they will continue coming to church and will bring their parents.
- Dona Eva's husband, that he will

let his wife come to church and also that the Lord will work in his own heart.

- Laurita, one of our graduates, whose mother-in-law is a spiritist and lives with her and her husband. May the Lord give them both grace and wisdom to withstand the power of Satan that is so close. Pray, too, that the Lord will work a miracle in the spiritist mother-in-law's life.

**SENIOR CLASS, AFLBS, 1975-76**



**SENIOR CLASS, AFLBS, 1975-76**

Front row, left to right, Deb Nelsen, Kathy Ostrand, Barbara Myhre, Mavis Miller, Susan Sorteberg, Deb Wire, Vickie Bjorgaard, Judy Moan, Suzi Draeger and Lori Hamann; second row, Linda Butterfield, Karla Nygaard, Myrtle Thompson, Naomi Nash, Karen Russum, Patty Broden, Kendra Broten, Cheri Carter and April Nygaard; third row, Jim Hoialmen, LeRoy Flickinger, Lyndon Swanson, Paul Haagenson, Allen Herset, Keith Nash, Dick Moberg and David Rudebusch; and, fourth row, Douglas Erickson, Chuck Gryte, Mike Rudebusch, Phil Schumacher, Randy Nelson, Reuben Quanbeck, Arne Berge and Bob Ordway. Not pictured: Lou Valdez, Terry Kornberg, David Meissner and Sheri Gertzen.



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# editorials

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## MORE ON BRORSON

Before any more time goes by, we want to add a post-script to the fine article by Mr. Don Rodvold on H. A. Brorson, which was contained in our Christmas *Ambassador*.

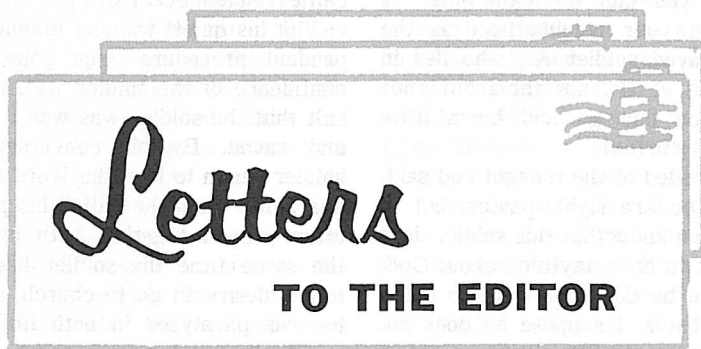
When he was working on the article, Mr. Rodvold commented to us that there wasn't a great deal of biographical material available about Brorson. But he was able to assemble some facts: that Brorson is called the "poet of Christmas," that he was influenced by pietism, etc.

In light of all this, it was with interest that we noticed an article by Johannes Dahl in the Norwegian magazine *Sambaandet*, Christmas, 1975, about H. A. Brorson. Here were a few more facts and thoughts to add to what the *Ambassador* article contained.

For instance, Mr. Dahl writes that some of Brorson's songs are of a cheerless and heavy spirit. Once when Brorson was asked about this, he led his visitor into a room to show him one of his sons, crippled in his feet and unbalanced in mind. Then the visitor could better understand the mood of **some** of Brorson's songs. It is further indicated that a number of his children died at early ages. Sorrow was often a guest in the home.

Out of the crucible of hardness came blessing, not only in a wealth of hymnody, much of it of a lighter, brighter spirit, too, but in a fruitful ministry as a pastor. While Brorson was bishop in Ribe, an awakening occurred. Mr. Dahl reports that Brorson would usually preach for at least three hours at a time, but the Spirit of God was able to work so mightily that the people were not conscious of time. Souls were added to the kingdom of God.

Just these few added bits of information concerning the man who gave us "Behold a Host Arrayed in White," "O Seek the Lord Today" and "Thy Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We."



### A MIRACLE THAT I AM ALIVE

For quite some time after my accident I did not know if it would be possible for me to walk or write again. But I thank the Lord for permitting me to live and, I hope also, to serve Him.

It was my right arm that was badly broken in the accident and my right thigh also required surgery. It is a miracle that I am now able to write and to walk again, though I am still a little weak.

I feel that it is a miracle from the Lord that I am alive. May He lead and guide us in His own way in the days ahead. I have received such a rich blessing in reading Billy Graham's book *Angels*, and also H. E. Wisløff's *Safe in His Arms*.

But above all, as I read my Bible, I find Jesus more precious than before. He is so real and precious, right at hand, and speaking directly to me more than ever before. I truly believe that sorrow and pain bring us closer to our Lord and Savior.

May He give us the grace to help others know and love Him. May He also give me the inspiration to write a little again, as He wills, for **The Lutheran Ambassador**.

Mrs. Laura Norum  
Amery, Wis.

(Ed. note: Mrs. Norum is the widow of Pastor Ingvald Norum and she has written both prose and poetry for the *Ambassador*. We rejoice in her fine recovery from her injuries.)

Most of the difficulties of trying to live the Christian life arise from trying to half live it.

Henry Drummond

It is better to suffer wrong than to do it, and happier to be cheated than not to trust.

Samuel Johnson

# Wonderful Experiences in the Work of God's Kingdom

## JENS B. AS A MISSIONARY

Jens B. was a remarkably well-built and handsome man. He led a proper, moral life, and on account of his quiet and unassuming manner he was respected and loved by everyone. He resided with his wife and youngest child on a little farm, but as his health had recently become rather poor, his farming did not amount to much.

The spiritual awakening which passed over my parish had also reached the district where Jens lived. One day, while his wife was sitting indoors at her sewing machine, their little six-year-old boy came and cried, "Mama, Papa is sick!"

The wife laid her sewing aside and followed the child out to the wood shed. There lay Jens weeping on the earth floor, and praying. While the tears rolled down his cheeks he took his little son in his arms and said, "Oh, my dear boy, what an ungodly father you have!" Then he said to his wife, "You have never known what a wicked husband you have."

"But my dear Jens you have always been so good to me."

"That may all be, but I've never been a Christian. The Spirit of God has awakened me from my self-deception, and now I see I have done nothing but sin since I was a child."

Jens was spiritually awakened, that was certain. Through spiritual guidance in the Word of God, he soon found peace and salvation through faith in the atoning blood of Christ. By thus appropriating the peace of God in his heart, he felt at the same time the urge of doing something for the salvation of others. But for this he did not feel himself particularly efficient.

A few months after his conversion Jens came to me the long distance of twelve miles to my home to have a conversation with me. During the conversation he suddenly said to me:

"I wish that God now would take me home to Himself, because I feel that there is so little that I can do for Him."

"But my dear Jens," I said, "you seem to me a very ungrateful man. In the first place you have lived as a Pharisee the most of your life and now when God in His mercy has saved you so that you might begin to serve Him you want to run away from Him, and wish yourself at home in heaven." Then I read to him the following words of Jesus in His sacerdotal prayer: "I pray not that Thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldst keep them from the evil" (John 17:15). "Why does Jesus pray to His Father that He should not take them out of the world? For the reason that the Father has something for His disciples to do."

"Yes, but I?" said Jens. "What can I do?"

"Yes, you can do something," I said. "In your neighborhood is the sick unsaved soldier K., who lies in the home of H., not far from your home—you can go and be a little missionary to him."

Jens smiled at the thought and said, "Well, you are right, pastor, but of course you know that this soldier does not want to hear anything about God, and since he does not want to listen to the pastor, I suppose he does not care to hear me, either."

The soldier K. had been in the Civil War and had been wounded and now was paralyzed in both legs up to the thighs. He had a pension from the government and paid for himself at the home of a farmer by the name H. Several people had visited him frequently but the soldier could not endure to have anyone speak to him about God. He was all ears to hear about other things. Especially was he interested and communicative when the conversation turned toward war or to hunting and fishing, but the min-

ute anyone touched upon spiritual matters, he felt "miserable" and asked to be excused from further conversation. If a person did not stop he would draw a heavy quilt over his head to prevent hearing him. The same thing happened to me when from time to time I visited him. As soon as I tried to touch upon his relation to God the end was always that the quilt flew over his head and each time I had to leave without any results, as I could not afford to sit at his bedside and waste my time. It was not easy to say how long he could keep his head under the quilt.

Therefore I said to Jens, "You have more time and patience than I have. Pray God for wisdom and grace to do something for that soldier." Jens promised that he would do that. At the beginning Jens had the same experience as the rest of us. The quilt came up over the soldier's head, but Jens had plenty of time and patience. He sat there like a cat watching a mouse. After a while it became too warm and it was too hard to breathe under the quilt, and whenever the soldier peeked out there sat Jens. When K. understood that he could not protect himself with a quilt over his head, there was an end of this practice against Jens, whose visits became frequent every week.

With his quiet, winning manner and prudent procedure Jens gained the confidence of the soldier with the result that the soldier was won for God and saved. By his conversion the soldier began to love the Word of God and Jens, whom he called his pastor, often prayed together with him. At the same time the soldier began to feel a desire to go to church; but as he was paralyzed in both limbs, he had to be carried from the house to the wagon and into the school house where the services were held. His place was right by the door.

Once immediately after the service the soldier lifted his hand and said, "There is not one of you who has as much reason to thank God as I have. A new light has risen in my soul and God has made use of Jens as the means of my salvation."

Dear reader, may the Spirit of God fill your heart with the desire to win someone for Jesus!

—E. B. Slettedahl



WORLD NEWS



**SNOW DAY HELD AT AFLBS**

A winter sports day was held at AFLBS on January 31 and quite a few students took part in it.

In the afternoon there was ice skating and sliding at a recreational area in New Hope. The weather was ideal and everyone had a good time. There was even a football game in the snow, brief, but lively while it lasted.

After a pizza supper in the dining hall, three comedy films were shown in the boy's dorm. Popcorn and kool-aid were available.

The rest of the evening was free but some of the students played football, ping pong and "round robin" ping pong. In the latter, ten or twelve players participate, taking turns returning the serves and staying in the game until an error is made.

The Social Committee was in charge of the snow day. On February 13 a Valentine's party was held in the form of a "roommates game." Pairs of roommates were questioned separately about one another and the answers compared to determine the winners. Besides refreshments, there was a large Valentine box from which many sentimental greetings were distributed.

**COLLECTED ITEMS FROM AFLBS**

Speaking of snow, a fine "snow-person" was put up on campus on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 8. Sherrie Remick, Tacoma, Wash., and Miriam Johnson, New York Mills, Minn., seemed to be the guiding spirits behind it. The snowman met a terrible

fate the next day when some neighborhood children knocked him down. Some other snow sculpting was also done that pleasant Sunday afternoon.

The Mission Conference ended on Feb. 8 and it proved a real blessing to all. Perhaps the largest turnout was the night when Dr. and Mrs. Richard Phillips, former prisoners of the North Vietnamese, gave their interesting account of their experiences. The John Abel family shared in a number of the services with special music and testimonies. Vickie Haugen, McVile, N. Dak., served as pianist for the conference.

At the Mission Club meeting on Feb. 2, letters were written to missionaries. The Mission Club served fellowship lunches after several of the Mission Conference meetings.

Mrs. Becky Anderson is serving as assistant dean of women now, replacing Marge Benson who had served in December. Becky and daughter live in the log cabin formerly occupied by Mrs. Alma Wold and Denise.

The proposed Choir trip to Norway has now been definitely called off for 1976. Plans just did not materialize. Naturally, the choir members are disappointed, but are looking forward to a spring tour which will take them east, perhaps as far as Washington. The Choral Club, an all-girl group, will cover points in North Dakota and Minnesota in its tour.

The Conquerors were victorious in their first playoff game on Feb. 2 against Cross of Glory Lutheran, 53-51. In the second game, Gethsem-

ane defeated the Conquerors, 62-56. The game which was to have been played with Concordia Junior College JV on Feb. 10 will be re-scheduled.

The third or spring quarter of the AFLBS year will begin on Monday, Mar. 1.

**WHAT THE MISSION CONFERENCE MEANT TO ME**

The mission week really meant a lot to me. God spoke to me in many different ways. How important it is to spread the wonderful news of Jesus to all people and we right now have our own mission fields at home and at work. We were told to sow seeds "by all waters," to really be open to God's will, to really seek Him. I'm still a babe in Christ and I have really learned a lot and Jesus will teach me many more things. "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen" (II Peter 3:18).

Sue Thundercloud  
Milwaukee, Wis.

Missions week was very good because God was working in the lives of many people. The key verse for the conference was Acts 1:8: "Ye shall be My witnesses." This challenge was given to us to go and be witnesses for the Lord Jesus Christ. We should want to be witnesses for Jesus if we have Him in our lives. God spoke to me this week to follow Him completely. I want to do His will in all things. We are to take up our crosses and follow Him and let Him lead in our lives. Right now I do not know where God will lead me, but I know He has a plan for my life. I have to trust Him to show me where He wants me to be. Psalm 32:8: "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye." The Lord will teach me where to go and show me the way. Are you willing to follow Him? The Lord will show you the way.

Glen Hodnefield  
Radcliffe, Ia.

[Continued on page 13]

# STEWARDSHIP

## LET GOD BLESS YOU— THROUGH YOUR OFFERINGS

Many times we have heard the words "God Bless You" as Christian friends part. It is a real nice wish for someone when said in all sincerity. I know a man who changes these words by saying, "Let God bless you." This little word makes a real challenge for Christians to allow God to bless them. The question is, "Am I standing in the way of God's blessing?" We need to examine ourselves. Do we have some unconfessed sin in our lives and so not allowing God's blessing? Are we careful always to obey the laws of the land? The insignificant ones and the spirit of the law as well? Are our thoughts and motives always according to God's will so as to allow His blessing? Do our words always reflect the love of Christ in our hearts? God loves and blesses those who keep His commandments.

God promises to bless us in our tithes and offerings, but there are certain requirements. One is that we give with joy, not grudgingly or of necessity. God blesses a cheerful giver. In II Cor. 8, Paul is telling how the grace of God has been shown in the churches of Macedonia. "For in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of liberality on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints" (vs. 2, 3 and 4).

"But FIRST they gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God" (vs. 5). And in verse 7, "Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in utterance, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in your love for us—see that you excel in this gracious work also."

Another place in the Word where we read of God's promises on tithes and offerings is found in Malachi 3:10-11: "Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house; and thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil; and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts."

I have heard several people testify to the promises in God's Word in regard to tithes and offerings. When they give 10% of their income to the Lord's work, they never have to suffer for other needs and, most of all, they tell of how it is easier to meet other commitments from the 90% left than it had been with the 100% before.

My wife and I started giving 10% of our adjusted gross income about 15 years ago, after the Holy Spirit gave us the conviction that we were using God's share, by not giving 10% for His Kingdom's work. Over these

past 15 years we have really been finding out that "you can't out-give God." He has been blessing us more and more each year. We are way over the 10% now and God still takes care of all our needs in abundance. It is so important to do all spiritual acts for God according to the principles in His Word.

It is only by the grace of God that we can do anything for Him. This is just as true in the area of tithes and offerings. So, FIRST we give ourselves to the Lord, THEN, "Each one must do as He has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work" (II Cor. 9:7-8).

Why don't you pray for God's will to be done in your lives in regard to your tithes and offerings?

LET GOD BLESS YOU.

Arlo R. Kneeland  
Summit, S.D. 57266

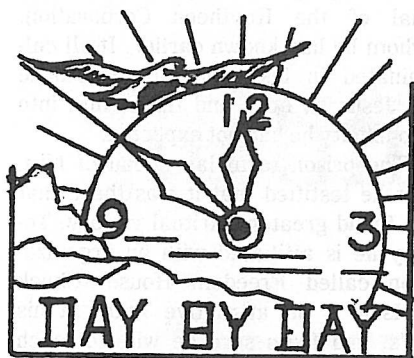
Member, AFLC Stewardship Board

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

#### BUDGET RECEIPTS

February 1, 1975 to January 31, 1976  
(Final)

	Total Budget	Received during January	Total Received	(-) Short (+) Over	% Received
General Fund	\$ 64,250.00	\$16,948.45	\$ 64,296.16	+ 46.16	100
Schools	102,000.00	27,802.23	97,926.39	- 4,073.61	96
Home Missions	53,000.00	11,302.93	62,684.43	+ 9,684.43	118
Foreign Missions	66,840.00	14,910.80	72,559.92	+ 5,719.92	108
Praise Fund	18,000.00	5,229.68	16,715.81	- 1,284.19	92.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$304,090.00</b>	<b>\$76,194.09</b>	<b>\$314,182.71</b>	<b>+10,092.71</b>	<b>103.3</b>
1974-1975	\$264,200.00	\$46,001.35	\$258,469.25	- 5,730.75	97.8
Legacies: \$32,811.55					
Dorm Fund: \$10,038.96					



by  
Lars Stalsbroten

### THE RIGHT EMPHASIS

Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation (Psalm 68:19).

How we praise God for His daily benefits and blessings. This time I want to pass on a blessing that came to me through a Danish bishop. He spoke on the verse, "I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed" (II Tim. 1:12). I read this in *Morning Glory* some time ago. It was so good that it is worth repeating many times. It was translated from a paper in Norway.

This is how the bishop started: People believe in so many things today. They believe in prayer. They believe in baptism. They believe in communion. Some even believe in their own faith. I don't believe either in prayer, or baptism or communion.

People were shocked at what they heard. This was unusual: a bishop who believed neither in prayer nor in the sacraments. Some were ready to stand up and protest. But then the bishop continued: I believe in Him. I believe in Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. Therefore I pray. Therefore I thank God for my baptism. Therefore I kneel at the altar and receive the communion.

What would it profit me if I believed in all these other things and did not believe in Him? NOTHING. Absolutely nothing.

The bishop went right to the core of the matter. He had the right emphasis. In many of our Lutheran churches today the emphasis is placed on being faithful church-goers, being

baptized, going to communion, then you are good Christians.

But you can do all these things and still go eternally lost if you do not believe on Him. Do you hear that?

This is a word for us pastors. We need to learn from this bishop how to preach. This is what I call old-fashioned Lutheran preaching. Many Lutheran churches have drifted so far from this kind of preaching today that they can't even see land.

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### JOHAN DAHLEN, FORMER PASTOR OF SCANDIA AND LEBANON CHURCHES, PASSED AWAY IN JANUARY

Rev. Johan B. Dahlen, 71, passed away in Luverne, Minnesota, on January 19. Retired, he was serving as a visitation pastor at Grace Lutheran Church there. Of Association congregations, he served Scandia Lutheran Church, Stanley, N. Dak., from 1939-42, while serving the Palermo parish, and Lebanon Lutheran Church, Leeds, N. Dak., while serving the Church Ferry parish.



He was born on January 1, 1905 to Mr. and Mrs. Knut Dahlen at Luverne. He was a graduate of Augsburg College, Minneapolis, Minn., in 1930, and of the Seminary in 1933. He was assistant pastor at Bethany,

Seattle, Wash., for a year and then served at McGregor, Minn., from 1936-38. He was a chaplain in the U.S. Army from 1942-46 and a pastor at Barronett, Wis., from 1946-50, before going to Church Ferry. His last regular pastorate was at Balfour, N. Dak., before moving to Luverne.

The funeral service was conducted on January 24 by Rev. Norman P. Olson and burial was in the Maplewood, Cemetery. Pastor Dahlen is survived, among others, by one brother, K. Berner Dahlen, and one sister, Elsie, both of Minneapolis.

Blessed by his memory.

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### FAMILY CAMP DATES RELEASED

The 1976 Association Family Bible Camp will be held July 5-11 at Galilee Bible Camp, Lake Bronson, Minn., site of last year's camp. Rev. David C. Molstre will be the dean of the camp.

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[Continued from page 11]

I attached a new meaning to the word "missions" after the week of the mission conference was over.

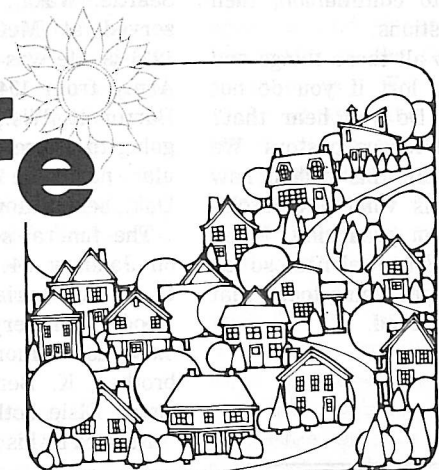
Saturday night everyone was challenged to give their whole life in full-time service to God. I felt burdened to go forward for I had given my life to Jesus, so I should be willing to serve God. Row upon row of people went forward and knelt to acknowledge that they wanted to serve God. I felt that I had nothing to offer God. Praying to God, I asked for forgiveness and help. Then, reading in my Bible, I came across Luke 21:1-4: "And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury. And He saw a certain poor widow putting in two small copper coins. And He said, 'Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them; for they all out of their surplus put into the offering; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live on.'"

I must give my whole life to God so that He will be everything to me.

Rita Ward  
Sedan, Minn.



# Life on the Edge of Town



## TWO MEN, TWO EXPERIENCES

Recently I had the unexpected opportunity to hear two men speak and both situations were moving experiences.

In the first case, two Bible School students and I went to an evening service of the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement Mid-winter Conference at Augustana Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis last month. We seated ourselves in the balcony facing the chancel.

Sometime in the early part of the service, Rev. E. J. Conrad was called upon to give a greeting. This was a surprise to me for he has been in poor health for some years and I hadn't seen him for many years. In my student days at Augsburg he was one of the best known "evangelistic" Lutheran preachers in the Cities and, through the LEM, in a wide area of Lutheranism. He served Trinity Lutheran of Minnehaha Falls and was a campus visitor every now and then.

But now as I saw this man come to the lectern, I must confess that I couldn't recognize him. And his speech was difficult to understand, perhaps half of it intelligible to me. Yet, there was something about the voice pattern and inflections that brought back memories.

I do know that he spoke to us about the blood of Christ and how it is what

we need and all that we need, referring to the phrase from the old song, "nothing but the blood of Jesus." Then he also shared this that in the past years he has lived close to the edge of eternity and that has influenced his thinking a great deal.

There were various reminiscences, some of which I could make out, others not, but at any rate, it warmed my heart to see this veteran soldier of Christ once more and to hear the word he had for us in this rare opportunity to speak in public. We did not rise in tribute to him, but well we might have done so.

Then the next night one of the fellows invited me to join him in a trip to Bethel College in St. Paul to hear the converted Nixon aide, Charles Colson, speak. It didn't take much persuasion for me to go along.

Several thousand people had gathered to hear the testimony of this man who spent seven months in federal prison for an offence related to Watergate. Having heard about him, I was anxious to hear from him directly and to determine for myself whether he seemed genuine.

And I have to say that I came away convinced. Simply and without fanfare, he told of how Jesus Christ had taken away the emptiness and hunger in his life. Having been raised in a cold and formal religious setting and having found fulfillment of sorts in public service, Chuck Colson's spir-

itual interest was aroused first by a testimony for Christ given by an official of the Raytheon Corporation, whom he had known earlier. It all culminated in his eventual acceptance of Jesus as Lord and thrust him into a publicity he had not expected.

The prison term lay ahead of him, but he testified that it was there that he found greater spiritual victory. Today he is affiliated with an organization called Freedom House. Chuck Colson is an attractive man, in his 40's, and I am sure he will do much good as he goes about telling of the power of Christ to change lives.

## On Sounding the Horn

A while ago I drove up behind a car stopped at one of our intersections to let other traffic pass across. The only trouble was that we had the right-of-way. So after a moment I sounded my horn to remind the other driver of our rights.

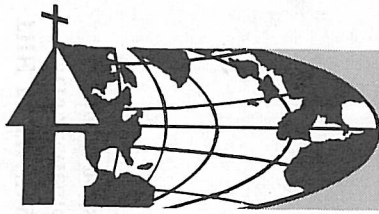
We were both able to move on and I had saved my second or was it half a second? Anyway, my immediate reaction wasn't one of satisfaction over what I had done. What had I proved to one who may not have felt comfortable in a certain situation and needed a moment to assess the next move?

It set me to thinking about two things which have long been obvious to me. The first is that we drive by the grace of God. All of us have been in situations where a matter of feet, sometimes only inches, separate us from accidents, or in the reference of time, a second or two makes the difference. This holds true for the best of drivers. We are spared because God spares us.

The second observation about driving is that the old nature rides along very naturally. A fellow motorist drives aggressively or foolishly and makes us slow down or move where we hadn't intended to. Or the other driver may be timid and indecisive and we lose precious seconds. What feelings toward him rise in our hearts?

This writer, and driver, at least, has more than once been shamed by lack of charity toward other drivers along the way. Have you experienced something similar?

—Raynard Huglen



# CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

## THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

— Evangelistic ads in newspapers in Burma, Southeast Asia, during the last two years have brought 4650 requests for a free Bible correspondence course. Most of these completed the course and have become Christians. Forty Buddhist monks were converted. Missionaries have been refused entry to Burma for several years.

— Americans are the most religious people on earth. Forty percent attend church or synagogue weekly and only six percent state no religious preference. However, 75 percent see no relationship between their religion and their judgments of right and wrong.

— The Bible is the world's most translated book, now printed in 1550 languages. Karl Marx is a distant second at 62, while Alexander Solzhenitsyn is the most widely translated current writer in 35 languages.

— A revival is reported among young people in Yugoslavia. Two Yugoslavian Bible institutes report record enrollments and evangelistic crusades are packed out, even though advertising of the crusades is forbidden.

— Czechoslovak communists are tightening the screws on the church. Persecution is worse than it has been for several decades.

—Tyndale House Publishers

## HISTORY OF BIBLE TOLD IN NEW FILMSTRIP PRODUCTION FROM ABS

NEW YORK—The American Bible Society has begun distribution of its new production of the award winning filmstrip series, "How the Bible Came to Us," which traces the history of the Bible from Jesus' time to the present.

"The program has been rewritten, expanded, re-scored and rerecorded," explained Dr. James Z. Net-

tinga, ABS Executive Secretary for Information. "The result," he said, "is virtually a new production that's exciting as well as significant for people of today. It demonstrates how the Bible has continued to speak with freshness and vitality to every generation."

Through narration and dramatic dialogue, the story marches through the centuries, showing the great writers, translators, scholars, printers and distributors of the Bible at work. Among those pictured are Paul, John, Jerome, Wycliffe, Gutenberg, Erasmus, Luther, Tyndale and King James I.

The original series consisted of four parts: "The Bible is put into Writing," "The Bible crosses Europe," "The Bible comes to England," and "The Bible comes to America."

The new production has added a fifth, "The Bible in the World Today," which covers the latest translations, particularly the Today's English Version. This part compares some of the most recent English translations and explains the challenges faced in translating God's Word into the everyday common languages of people throughout the world today.

Average running time for each of the five parts is nine minutes.

The new production has been in preparation for over a year and has involved new photography and picture research as well as completely new narration.

"How Our Bible Came to Us" can be ordered from the American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, New York 10023. The cost is \$35.00 for the series. Its order number is No. 19009.

## MARYLAND MAN'S DOLLAR INCREASES SIXTY-FOLD

ST. LOUIS—A Lutheran layman from Maryland has found a way to

feed as many as 240 children a month on one dollar.

He is Robert L. Cox, a member of Calvary Lutheran Church, Baltimore, and one of eleven members of a Wednesday evening Bible class there studying "Christian Experience."

The class leader, Robert Chapman, recently gave the class members a dollar apiece and challenged them to spend the money within the next week as they thought Jesus Christ would have spent it.

Chapman reports a variety of results. One lady bought a box of rice and gave it to a relief agency to feed the hungry. Among several members who contributed their dollars directly was one who broke the amount into quarters and gave them to various charitable causes. Another felt that his dollar would be increased, so he pledged five dollars a month to Lutheran Bible Translators. A few days later he received a salary increase, of which ten percent plus the Bible class dollar equaled exactly what he had pledged to LBT for a year.

Then there is Cox's experience, perhaps the most imaginative, and certainly the most fruitful in terms of "return on the dollar." The insurance agent took his dollar to work and talked among his fellow employees about how it could do the most for the cause he had already chosen to benefit, world hunger. The office staff decided to invest the dollar in a box of Christmas ornaments, made a green felt tree for the wall and spread the word that anyone who made a donation to hunger within the week would have his or her name written on an ornament for the tree.

At the end of the week, all the ornaments had been "bought," and Cox went to his Wednesday evening class with sixty dollars in donations, which was handed over to the World Relief office of The Lutheran Church-Mis-

souri Synod, for hunger relief.

In a letter commending Cox and his office staff for their "thoughtfulness and concern for others," Dr. Leslie F. Weber, executive secretary for the LCMS Board of Social Ministry and World Relief, said that the sixty dollar contribution would provide 240 children in Calcutta, India, with nourishment for a full month.

"While the other members of your Bible class spent their dollars in most wonderful ways of helping people," Dr. Weber wrote to Cox, "I suspect that your dollar will reach the largest number of people."

## Directory of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

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