

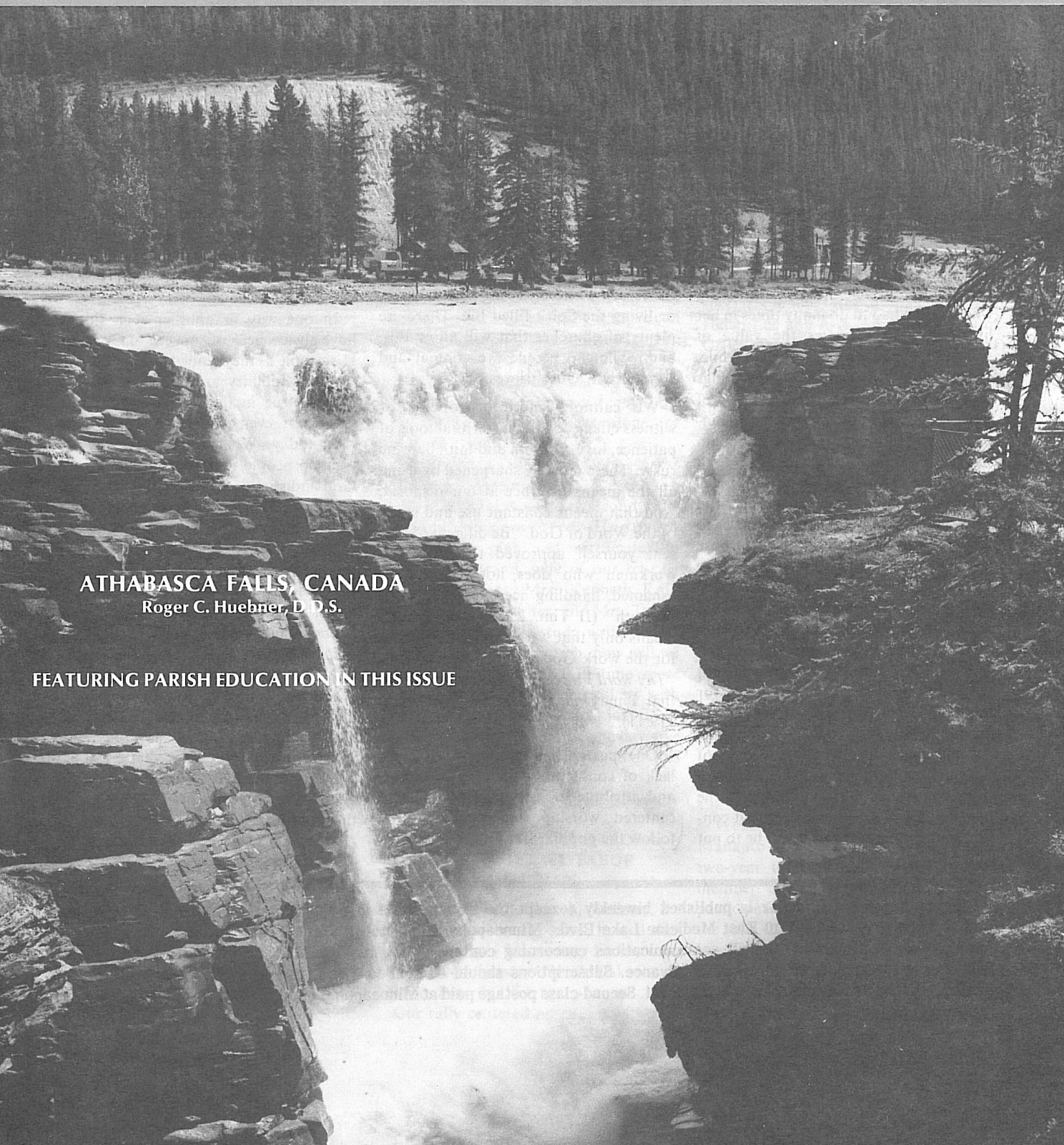
July 25, 1978

The Lutheran Ambassador

ATHABASCA FALLS, CANADA

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

FEATURING PARISH EDUCATION IN THIS ISSUE



MEDITATION MOMENTS

CLEAN UP YOUR ACT

"Now, therefore, put away the foreign gods which are in your midst, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel. And the people said to Joshua, 'We will serve the Lord our God and we will obey His voice'" (Joshua 24:23, 24).

Joshua was recommending a national spiritual housecleaning, something which Israel had to do many times in her history. Anyone knows the value of some thorough cleaning once in a while, an opportunity to get rid of the things that have accumulated over a period of time. Many things can become a hindrance and distract us from our main work.

For the Christian especially, his spiritual life needs to be sharpened and kept in shape constantly if he is to remain faithful to his God. Our purpose in life is to serve the Lord, and to serve Him effectively we must keep in touch with Him. As God's instruments of work and witness, we must look to Him daily through prayer, meditation and serious Bible study. If these do not satisfy, we become careless and look for more, and like Israel allow other gods to creep in and take over. Then perhaps we accommodate ourselves to the ways of the world rather than allowing ourselves to be conformed more and more to the image of God. And the longer that continues, the more difficult it will be to put

them away and get back to true worship.

Ours is to be a life of consecration, something which is sadly lacking in much of the Christian world today. Too many people want the best of both worlds: interested in salvation and for what it means in the end, but not too concerned with holy living here and now or living the Spirit-filled life. There are plenty of churches that will allow this, and while the people are content and complacent, God grieves.

We cannot function properly or witness effectively if the spiritual tools of patience, love, wisdom and faith become rusty. These must be sharpened by using all the means of grace at our disposal. And that means constant use and study of the Word of God. "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15). It is by that means only that we keep fit and in tune for the work God assigns to each of us. "Thy word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee" (Ps. 119:11).

One pastor has commented on the lack of consecration in believers today and attributed it to the lack of Word-centered worship and churches that follow the popular trends. Demand now

seems to be for

—outward activity, rather than quiet adoration;

—banquets instead of Bible study;

—peppy meetings, rather than prayerful meditation;

—showy works instead of sacred worship.

In one way or another such things have always been of concern to God and His people as they tended to adapt to the religious idolatry around them. It was no less true in the time of Moses, or Isaiah, or even at the time of Christ, than today. What is the limit for attracting people to worshipping the true God and stimulating them to holy living and service? Simply being occupied with Christ and His Word is no longer satisfying to many people. And yet Jesus reminds us to be occupied with Him and His business until He comes again.

We ought to be grateful for our own churches and many others who keep that in mind and, at the risk of sounding old-fashioned, continue to keep us in the Word. The Word has been there and will always be there for reproof, correction and training in righteousness. It alone will rid us of the excesses that creep in, will expose the false gods that entice us, and will keep us faithful in our service to the true God.

—Wesley Langaas

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, Newfolden, Minn. 56738, is the editor and all communications concerning content of the magazine should be addressed to him. 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 16, Number 15

OUR PROGRAM OF PARISH EDUCATION

by Miss Judith B. Wold, Executive Secretary
AFLC Department of Parish Education

Did you attend the special conference of Independent Congregations at Thief River Falls, Minnesota, October 25-28, 1962? This conference was the birth of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

The following resolution was accepted: "The Committee on Publications and Parish Education shall continually study the possibilities of publication of materials for religious education by the fellowship and shall present any plans for such to the Annual Conference."

Then from the 1964 Annual Report, we read this resolution: "The Conference recognizes that there is much good in most materials available, but urges the congregation to avoid that which, while being doctrinally sound, may be liberal in practical Christian living; or conversely, may be strong in personal Christian living, but lacking in doctrinal stability."

Through the years other resolutions have been passed to support the program of Parish Education.

The members of the Board of Parish Education have sought diligently to comply with the above-mentioned requests. Much thought and prayer have been given to writing a Lutheran-oriented Sunday School curriculum. We sought to build our course of study on the Bible and considered the need for pre-confirmation instruction. A general outline of courses was approved and writers were obtained largely from among the Association membership.

The Board of Parish Education now has available the following courses:

The Life of Jesus (new), Age Three through Grade One

The Ten Commandments, Grade Two

The Lord's Prayer, Grade Three

The Apostles' Creed, Grade Four

Old Testament History, Grade Five,
Catechism review

New Testament History, Grade Six,
The Sacraments

Christ in the Bible, Grade Seven,
Catechism Review

The Book of Acts, Grade Eight

An Overall Study of the Bible, Grade
Nine

Courses for Teens and Adults

consist of thirteen lessons each:

The Christian Citizen

The Book of Galatians

The Epistles of Peter

Congregational Life and the Bible

A Christian Teen Looks at Life

A Christian Teen and Getting Along
With People (new)

There is available a teacher's handbook to accompany each unit of study on every grade level.

Because we desire to improve the quality of content, evaluation sheets with suggestions for improvement have been mailed to those who use *The Ambassador Sunday School Series*.

Not only have congregations within the Association taught courses from *the Ambassador Sunday School Series*, but other Sunday Schools have also ordered them.

This year we proudly introduce *The Life of Jesus* course for the pre-school, kindergarten and first grade. We hope to complete two years of study on this level. Maybe one course could be taught in classes for those three years of age and the kindergarten and the second course in classes for those four years of age and the first grade. Instead of an additional art or craft packet, the correlated activities are included in the student's quarterly. Both the Bible story and the art pages are to be removed from the quarterly and when completed both are to be brought home for review. The

teacher's handbook is a great help to the teacher.

Another new course of study this year is *A Christian Teen and Getting Along With People*. This is a challenging study of knowing your position in Christ and your relationship in interaction with people. Various situations are created and there are many possibilities for informative discussion. The adult class might be curious as to the contents of this new course.

When Mrs. David Hanson was the Executive Secretary for Parish Education she introduced Sunday School Workshops and the Sunday School Newsletter. Workshops are conducted in response to a local or district invitation. Frequently they are conducted on a Saturday or a Sunday afternoon. We also encourage Sunday School teachers and officers to attend workshops conducted on the state level.

The Newsletter is mailed to every Sunday School superintendent and pastor. Its contents consist of teacher training ideas, bulletin board possibilities, mission endeavors and seasonal ideas. To make this effort worthwhile, the Newsletter should be shared with the Sunday School staff. There is a mailing list of approximately 300.

A filmstrip library has also been made available through the Office of Parish Education. A listing of filmstrips can be made available to you.

Because part of the salary of the Executive Secretary of Parish Education is paid by the Women's Missionary Federation, there are some duties performed for them also.



PARENTS AND THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

by Rev. Ralph M. Rokke, McIntosh, Minn.

Who has the primary responsibility for teaching children the Word of God and for leading them to a conscious saving faith in Jesus Christ? Is it their parents, or is it the local church?

Often parents look to the church to do most of the work in teaching their children to know and love God. Often parents assume that if they have their children baptized, see that they attend Sunday School, and finally have them confirmed, then they have fulfilled their responsibilities in the spiritual upbringing of their children. They are content to let the church do the actual teaching and training of their children.

This is a sad neglect of duty on the part of parents. The fact is that God gives the primary responsibility for the spiritual training of children to their parents. Then, secondarily, the responsibility also belongs to the church.

It is parents who, in that beautiful passage of God's Word, Deuteronomy 6:4-7, are commanded of the Lord to teach His Word to their children. Parents are told to love God themselves, to have His Word in their own hearts, and then to use the situations of daily life as settings for instructing their children in

righteousness.

Churches and Sunday Schools exist, in part, to help Christian parents in their task of raising godly children, but parents are most answerable to God for the outcome of the shared task. Family devotions in the home and parental examples of godly living are the most valuable influences possible in any child's spiritual training. Sunday Schools are helpers for parents but not substitutes.

In a sense, parents and Sunday School teachers are partners in trying to train up children for the Lord, but the parents are always the senior partners. As such, they should be very aware of the work of the junior partner, the Sunday School; they should be encouraging that work in every way possible, and, when absolutely necessary, they should be correcting that work.

How, then, can parents make best use of their children's Sunday School and help the work of the Sunday School? Here are four suggestions:

1. Stay informed about what your child is learning in Sunday School. Too many parents have no idea what their children are being taught each Sunday.

Every Sunday, perhaps on your way home from church, ask your child questions about his class and lesson for the day. As he tells you about what he studied, it will become more ingrained in his own memory and will appear more important to him, since you as an adult are interested in it.

2. Encourage your child to respect his teacher and always be considerate of him. Remind your child to listen attentively.

3. Encourage your child's teacher. Offer to help the teacher in any way that you can. Perhaps you will be asked to make a bulletin board display or puppets for use in the class. Do it! Any such effort shows a Sunday School teacher that you are interested in his work and appreciate it.

4. Make sure that your child has all his assignments done on time. If he has a Bible verse to memorize, help him to learn it.

Churches and Sunday Schools often have to bear responsibility alone for the spiritual well-being of children, without help of the children's homes. This is sad! May God grant to all readers of this article the wisdom to take primary responsibility for the spiritual welfare of their own children.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL REACHING OUT—BEYOND THE CONGREGATION

by Mrs. Melvin Walla, Fergus Falls, Minn.

"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd" (John 10:16).

"Other sheep, not of the fold—" I have been burdened of late years of the many "others." I am afraid many times as individuals and congregations we have to confess we have not been willing to see the "others" outside of our congregations, yes, sometimes even in them. I am thinking of mentally handicapped, physically handicapped. Yes, others, too, whose skin might be a different color, whose culture might be different, who might come not as well dressed as we—maybe no one washed

them up or combed their hair.

What would you do if that mentally retarded boy came and sat beside you because you looked like someone who might care? Would you move over and try to get away, or would you show him you cared because Christ cares? It has been very interesting to see the reactions of people as they are faced with these situations. What a joy it was to take 9-year-old blind Dale and lead him into a Sunday School room and have the children reach out hands of love to lead him to his class, to see that he got what he was supposed to have—to see how he responded to the church service which he knew nothing about—his eagerness to hear more about Jesus. Now he is a teenager out in the world. Who knows what fruit might come from those efforts.

Maybe we don't all live in an area where there are a lot of young people in foster homes or otherwise, because of handicaps, but what a privilege and responsibility if we do. Don't say they aren't important, or they can't

understand. As Christians it is our responsibility to plant the seed and show them the love of Christ. God doesn't expect them to understand as we do who are not handicapped, but He can open their hearts and give faith even as He does to a little child. It has been my privilege the last four years to teach a class of mentally retarded in our church here and what a joy to see the Lord work in their hearts. Surely all of us have those around us who don't go to any Sunday School. We must invite them, not only the children but adults as well. Let us not forget them.

As teachers we need to pray for a vision and love for souls. This comes as we live daily in word and prayer. God works; we need to have obedient hearts. This is what it is to "walk in Christ" as Scripture tells us to do. As Christ reached out to all men, let us also as teachers and members of our congregations also reach out in love and concern to those outside of our congregations, that they, too, might be gathered into the fold.

OUTREACH OF CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

by Miss Eula Mae Swenson, Fargo, N. Dak.

Theodore Roosevelt is credited with having said, "If you are ever going to do anything permanent for the average man, you must begin before he is a man. The chance of success lies in working with the boy—not with the man."

More importantly, the Bible says, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them . . ." (Matt. 19:14), and "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). The outreach of the church to its youth is a function that is Scripturally based. Sunday School is intended to be a recruiting and training center for the Christian church of tomorrow. How well is your church meeting this obligation? Before we take inventory of our Christian training program, let us consider some basic principles in education: (1) We need to know the potential for growth. Ability tests are used to help determine what the learner is capable of doing. (2) We need to determine how much achievement the learner has made. Where is he *now*? (3) We need to direct the learner into avenues that provide optimum learning experiences. What can we do that will help him *become* what he is capable of being?

Let's transfer these principles to our

Sunday School program. Consider:

(1) *The Resource*. What is the potential, spiritually speaking, for each individual? What is he or she capable of becoming? No man-made tests to determine this! Eph. 1:4, 7, 8 remind us that all our resources for now and eternity are in God alone! "Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. . . . In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us." The potential for Christian discipleship lies in God's grace alone. Forgiveness, salvation, and growth in Christ are all possible because of Him. Our part is only to receive these gifts and commit our lives in trust and obedience to Him.

(2) *Achievement*. We need to be concerned about the child's spiritual status *now*. God has a plan for each young life. Are we helping that youth to attain that plan? Standardized tests will plot an achievement profile of accomplishment in academic subjects. Perhaps we can say God also has an achievement profile on each of His children. Consider such a report based on our measurement of obedience, witness, spiritual discern-

ment, and Christ-like living! God alone knows what our report would look like. Our relationship to Him, however, is evident in the life we live. Read Rom. 8:5. Do the individuals in your Sunday School reveal an interest in learning and a desire to be obedient to the Word? Do they possess a trust and faith in Christ that can be nurtured? Then, provide—

(3) *Opportunities for Growth*. Make sure the child's faith is nurtured through God's Word. "Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ" (Rom. 10:17). In its outreach to the youth, the church is responsible to lead them into a thorough study of God's Word. A provision for this kind of Sunday School curriculum with dedicated Christian teachers is most essential. The *Ambassador series* is one tool available for a systematic Bible study. Young people need opportunities to share what they have gained. Paul reminds us: "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10).

What the appetite of our youth for spiritual food by providing opportunities to exercise their faith. As they reach out in witness and Christian service, they will be encouraged and strengthened in faith. At that point, the congregation's outreach and the Sunday School's outreach can enjoy a united fellowship that knows no age barrier.

THE BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS AND PARISH EDUCATION

by Mr. Palmer Haugen, Portland, N. Dak.

A story comes to us from India about four men standing outside an area enclosed by a high wall. Three of these men climbed a ladder to the top of the wall, gave a jubilant cry and disappeared behind the wall.

When the fourth man got to the top of the wall, he found beneath him a beautiful garden containing delicious fruits. Although tempted to jump down to enjoy his precious discovery, he came back down to preach the glad tidings to all outsiders.

This Hindu story emphasizes the truth often set forth in the Bible. We have a duty to tell others the Good News by spoken and printed word.

An important part of the ministry of our church is sharing the printed word. The Board of Publications and Parish Education renders service to the congregations of our Association through the editing publishing, and sponsoring of printed materials either for general distribution or as teaching materials.

Recognizing this importance of the printed word in the ministry of the church, the AFLC at the special conference of independent congregations at Thief River Falls, Minn., on October 25-28, 1962, made provision that our church should be provided with printed materials that would serve as a Christian witness to our people.

Therefore, at this organizational conference of 1962, the AFLC provided for a Committee on Publications and Parish Education and adopted the following resolution, quote:

"The Committee on Publications and Parish Education shall continually study the possibilities of publication of materials for religious education by the fellowship and shall present any plans for such to the Annual Conference.

The committee shall study educational materials available for religious education and recommend to the congregations those that are desirable."

Since this first conference of 1962, our Association has at subsequent conferences passed resolutions emphasizing the importance of doctrinally and scripturally sound teaching materials. Therefore, as early as 1963, the con-

ference recommended an investigation into the possibility of the Association developing its own materials.

In the conference report of 1970, we find the following resolution, quote:

"Be it resolved, that the conference gives thanks to God for the educational means He has provided: teachers' training, Sunday School newsletter, parish education page in *The Lutheran Ambassador*, Sunday School materials and visual aids."

Such is a brief history of the Publications and Parish Education Committee and the service which it has rendered to our congregations.

The committee has made available Sunday School and confirmation materials. In addition to publications, help is available through a filmstrip library, teachers' manuals and a monthly newsletter. We are happy for the increasing number of congregations availing themselves of these materials.

The Lutheran Ambassador continues as a means of Christian witness to all our people. It is a means by which we are also informed about our Association and the work which is being done. It helps tie us together and unifies our joint efforts. It is a means of instruction as is evident by the Sunday School Series and the children's page.

We have also promoted several special printings, such as the booklet "Biblical Baptism" and the devotional book *Waters in the Wilderness*.

As a board, we wish to thank all those who contribute writings and other material to our paper, and to others who have given of their time and talents toward the writing of our Sunday School series and Bible studies and other printed materials.

We ask you to pray for the Board that they may have discernment and guidance in their decisions. Let us as a church render service in the Kingdom of God by faithfully accepting the challenge which God places before us.

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15).



THE AMBASSADOR SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES



Catechism Study	
1st yr. Confirmation	1.30
Old Testament Survey	
1st yr. Confirmation	1.30
Catechism Study	
2nd yr. Confirmation	1.30
N.T. Survey 2nd yr. Confirmation	1.30

Teens and Adults—thirteen lessons each:

- The Epistles of Peter
- The Book of Galatians
- The Christian Teen Looks at Life
- The Christian Citizen
- Congregational Life and the Bible
- Baptism and Spiritual Life (twenty lessons)

A Christian Teen and Getting Along with People

(All the above are \$1.30)

Bill to: _____

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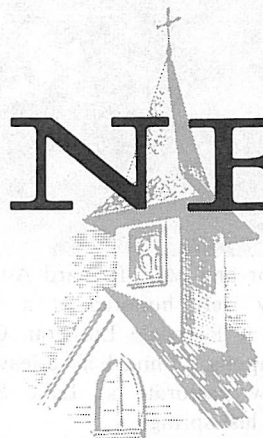
Order from Board of Parish Education, AFLC
 324 N. Arnold Avenue
 Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701

The Ambassador Sunday School Series ORDER FORM

Book	Grade	Quarter	Price Each
Learning to Obey	2	1,2,3	\$1.30
Teacher's Handbook	2	1,2,3	.75
Learning to Pray	3	1,2,3	1.30
Teacher's Handbook	3	1,2,3	.75
The Apostles' Creed	4	1,2,3	1.30
Teacher's Handbook	4	1,2,3	.75
Old Testament History	5	1,2,3	1.30
Teacher's Handbook	5	1,2,3	.75
New Testament History	6	1,2,3	1.30
Teacher's Handbook	6	1,2,3	.75
Christ in the Bible	7	1,2,3	1.30
Teacher's Handbook	7	1,2,3	.75
The Book of Acts	8	1,2,3	1.30
Teacher's Handbook	8	1,2,3	.75
An Overall Study of the Bible	9	1,2,3	.75
Teacher's Handbook	9	1,2,3	.75



Each lesson is
BIBLICAL in source
CHRIST-CENTERED in content
LUTHERAN in doctrine



NEWS of the Churches

ANNIVERSARY NOTED, ADDITION DEDICATED, NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

Sunday, May 21, was a day of activity and rejoicing for Rice Lutheran Church, Bagley, Minn., as the congregation dedicated a recently completed addition to the church building, received 11 new members and celebrated the 70th anniversary of the organization of the congregation.

Rev. John P. Strand, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, brought the dedication message and officiated at the dedication rites. The addition, which includes six Sunday School rooms, cloakrooms and storage closets, was erected by Nelson-Otterkil Construction during the summer of 1977 and made ready for use in September of that year. The dedication

climaxes an effort initiated by the congregation in 1973.

Honored at the 70th anniversary celebration were Mrs. Gena Hough, Bagley, the only surviving charter member; Mrs. Alma Bellefy, a lifetime member who was baptized as an infant at the first worship service of the congregation (Mar. 29, 1908); and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Mathison, for their 44 years of faithful work and service in the church.

Rice Lutheran Church, located 15 miles south and one-eighth mile east of Bagley, was organized June 8, 1908. Pastor Hans Bode of Sell Lake was instrumental in the encouragement and development of the fellowship to this stage of progress. (One of Pastor Bode's daughters, Mrs. Laura Erickson of Bemidji, Minn., was present and recognized at the anniversary, as was Mrs.



The above group was received into membership of Rice Lutheran. They are: Mrs. Owen Shegrud, James Riggs, Dudley Shegrud, Mark Riggs (not shown) and Monroe Newland, through adult instruction; Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Sunderland, Mr. and Mrs. David Sunderland and family, Mrs. Duane Edevold and Neal Stave, by letter of transfer. Pastor Lundeen is shown in the back row, left.

Mabel Evermoen of Bagley, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Benson, were the first couple to be married, 1912, in the new congregation.)

The congregation joined the Bagley Lutheran Parish in 1908 and called Pastor L. C. Opsata to serve the parish.

Land was acquired and the church construction began in the early 1920's. The cornerstone was laid on Sept. 6, 1925, and the completed church was dedicated Nov. 8, 1936. In 1964 the congregation began affiliation with the AFLC and also joined Grace Lutheran Church of Bagley to form a parish.

Rice Lutheran Church has been served by 20 pastors in its first 70 years of existence, as well as by a number of student pastors and concerned laymen. The congregation is presently served by Pastor Mauritz E. Lundeen. Church officers are: Norman Chase, president; Bob Bilden, vice-president; Mrs. Roy Liljedahl, secretary; Mrs. Neal Stave, treasurer; Donald Lewis, Gordon Johnson, Thomas Thompson, Roy Liljedahl, Ed Mathison and Norman G. Nelson, council members.

—Corr.

MASSACHUSETTS CONGREGATION PURCHASES CHURCH

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Fall River, Mass., the Association's only congregation on the East Coast, purchased its first house of worship in June, ending almost five years of using the facilities of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church for services.

The chapel and study at 1249 Rodman St., was originally the home of the local Plymouth Brethren congregation and was subsequently sold to the Portuguese Baptist congregation here, from whom we purchased the building.

We expect to spend six to 12 months in renovation before a dedication date can be considered. Our first service in the "new" building was held on July 2.

St. Paul's was organized late in 1975 and joined the AFLC in 1976. Our new building is in a "deep urban" location, presenting many challenges in home missions as well as a linguistic challenge in evangelism—one out of every three Fall River citizens speaks Portuguese only.

Prayer is requested for our labor and growth, that God's will be recognized and followed in all things.

—Gerard D. Blais, Lay Pastor

PERSONALITIES

Mr. Bob Samuelson, Faith, S. Dak., rancher and member of Bethel Lutheran (AFLC) Church there, is the Democratic candidate for the Second Congressional District in South Dakota in this fall's election. His opponent will be incumbent Republican James Abdnor. Mr. Samuelson has spoken at the laymen's service of AFLC annual conferences on at least one occasion and has spoken as a lay preacher on many occasions in his home church and community.

COOK WANTED

A head cook is wanted at Association Free Lutheran Bible School to begin work about Sept. 1. Please send inquiries to AFLBS, Attention: Mr. Harbo, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

1979 ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

(Elected by the 1978 Annual Conference, June 14-18)

Nominating Committee

Mr. Robert Knutson, McVille, N. Dak.
Mr. Ronald Gravgaard, Tioga, N. Dak.
Rev. Philip Featherstone, Pukwana, S. Dak.

Mr. Paul Flaten, Newfolden, Minn.
Mr. John Arlen Johnson, Sacred Heart, Minn.

Rev. Henry Johansen, Virginia, Minn.
Mrs. Jay Erickson, Minneapolis, Minn.
Rev. Kenneth Pentti, Bessemer, Mich.
Rev. Richard Gunderson, Nogales, Ariz.

Rev. Leslie Galland, Everett, Wash.
(Note: AFLC rules call for a majority of the Nominating Committee to be laymen. Some change in this committee membership may therefore be made.)

Committee No. 1 (Administration)

Rev. Ralph Rokke, McIntosh, Minn.
Rev. Dennis O'Neil, Minneapolis, Minn.

Mr. Richard Franz, Minneapolis, Minn.
Mr. Walter Saaranen, Trimountain, Mich.

Mr. Eldon Hermunslie, Abercrombie, N. Dak.

Committee No. 2 (Schools)

Mr. Victor Parsons, St. Paul, Minn.
Mr. John Mundfrom, Fargo, N. Dak.
Rev. Kenneth Pentti, Bessemer, Mich.

Mr. Dale Finstrom, Buxton, N. Dak.
Rev. Jerome Nikunen, Roseau, Minn.
Committee No. 3 (Missions)
Rev. Kenneth Moland, Minneapolis, Minn.
Mr. Roger Rasmussen, Pennock, Minn.
Mr. Sherman McCarlson, Webster, S. Dak.
Lay Pastor Burton Rygh, Greenbush, Minn.
Mr. Owen Myhre, Abercrombie, N. Dak.

Committee No. 4 (Publications, Parish Education, Youth Work)

Mr. Clifford Dyrud, Newfolden, Minn.
Rev. Robert L. Lee, Valley City, N. Dak.

Mrs. J. C. Eletson, Duluth, Minn.
Mr. Ronald Shane, Kalispell, Mont.
Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom, Nogales, Ariz.

Committee No. 5 (Pensions and Stewardship)

Rev. Gary Skramstad, St. Paul, Minn.
Mr. Wayne Floan, Fertile, Minn.
Rev. Mauritz Lundeen, Bagley, Minn.
Mr. Gus Kveen, Roseau, Minn.
Mr. Amos Stolee, Kenyon, Minn.

BUDGET, AFLC, 1979-80

General Fund	\$ 90,775.00
Schools	150,105.00
Foreign Missions	141,755.00
Home Missions	85,000.00
Praise Program	27,000.00
Total	\$494,635.00

REV. E. J. CONRAD

Rev. Evald J. Conrad, 73, long-time leader in Lutheran evangelism and first full-time director of the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement, passed away in late June in Minneapolis, Minn. Burial was at Cokato following a service at Stockholm Lutheran Church there. There was also a service at Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls, Minneapolis, on June 28. He had been a pastor at Trinity for about 36 years prior to his retirement in 1970 and the six years, 1948-54, when he directed the LEM.

He is survived by his wife, Eleonora, two daughters, three sons, five grandchildren, two sisters and two brothers.

Blessed be his memory.

(Ed. note: Pastor Conrad was much beloved by two generations of Lutherans for his warm, enthusiastic and loving preaching of the Word of God. Before illness sidelined him, he was much in demand for speaking at camps and Bible conferences.)

PASTOR AND WIFE HONORED



Pastor and Mrs. Richard Anderson, as they were honored at a farewell dinner at Rosedale Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn., before leaving for his new pastorate at Lake Stevens, Wash., last spring.

PASTOR HONORED ON ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Members of Roseau Lutheran Church, Roseau, Minnesota, who were joined by members of the other three churches in the parish, Norland, Rose and Spruce, held a surprise party at their Sunday School picnic on Sunday, June 11, at the City Park in Roseau in honor of Pastor Jerome Nikunen's 10th anniversary of his ordination.

He was presented with a beautiful cake from the Roseau Gleaners, baked by Mrs. George Erickson of the Rose congregation, and also gifts of money from the congregations and members. A graduate of the seminary of the Association of Free Lutheran Congrega-



tions, Pastor Nikunen was ordained at the Annual Conference in Cloquet, Minnesota, on June 16, 1968. He has served the Roseau Free Lutheran Parish for the past seven years. Prior to that he served Redeemer Lutheran Church, Ontonagon, Michigan.

It has been our impression that India is not an easy country to enter now in Christian work, that a strong spirit of nationalism has raised many more roadblocks than were there 30 years ago. It is our impression that India is reluctant to admit the missionary who is only a cleric, without skills in medicine or education, for instance. But the Board of World Missions will find out what the prospects are as it makes its investigation.

The thing that we regret concerning the conference action about Mexico and India is that the church at large wasn't notified and informed in a greater way before these matters came before the conference. True, members of conference committees and perhaps members of regular boards had the conference report in advance of the gathering in Minneapolis. Then if they had read the report of the chairman of the Board, they knew in advance about these possibilities. But for the vast majority of the people there was no prior knowledge.

We're not against the Board investigating entering work in Mexico and India. But we are for advance notice about important steps in the church and as much dissemination of information as possible. And we wish that conference delegates would ask for that, too, from all our agencies.

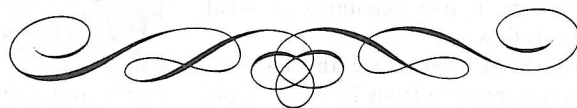
PARISH EDUCATION

We are pleased to devote extra space in this issue to the subject of Parish Education supplied under the direction of our Board of Publications and Parish Education.

This department of our church has done rather well, in spite of this writer's involvement in the work in its earlier years. Much of the credit for the success goes to the two women who have served as executive secretaries, Mrs. David C. Hanson and Miss Judith Wold, the present one. Then there have been the writers of the various courses available in the *Lutheran Ambassador* series. Finally, there have been the members of the Board and those currently serving on it.

Miss Wold reports general use of the *Ambassador* series in our Sunday Schools and by a number of churches beyond the AFLC. The courses are constantly being revised and made as attractive as possible. Financial limitation does raise some barriers, but we feel that worth of content can overcome what may be lacking in eye appeal. And even that gap isn't great.

We hope that you will read the articles presented by our Board in this issue and in succeeding issues, if any material has to be held over. Remember that our Parish Education Department is involved in a most important work—the teaching of children and adults in Christian truth. Pray for this work, support it, get involved in it.



editorials

EXPANDING MISSIONS

The Annual Conference in June gave the Board of World Missions the authorization to begin work in the countries of India and Mexico if the results of its investigations into the advisability of such a move justify it.

The beginning of work in Mexico is almost a foregone conclusion because the AFLC has accepted a congregation in central Mexico into membership and the money is on hand to give some aid to that church. The work in India is somewhat further from commencement, but in all likelihood will be taken up by the AFLC.

The Lutheran Ambassador rejoices in these steps because it has long expressed the hope that the AFLC could move into other areas of the world in mission work besides our first work in Brazil. In Mexico we will be working among Spanish-speaking people, even as our church at Nogales, Ariz., does. In India we could work among the people of the great sub-continent of Asia. Some of us have long been associated with work among the Santals of India and welcome an opportunity to become actively involved in missions in that great country on our own.

Women For Christ

REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY FEDERATION, June 14-15, 1978

Our Annual WMF Convention found us back at Medicine Lake, not only enjoying the showers of rain, but showers of blessings from our Heavenly Father as we met to study and pray together, to carry on the business of the WMF, and to renew our fellowship.

Time is such an important part of the life of each one, so our theme "Redeeming the Time" was very fitting. This theme was based on Eph. 5:16—"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil," and Col. 4:5—"Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time."

The opening prayer service was led by Mrs. Jay Eberth. She had chosen several passages pertaining to prayer: Ps. 116:12, 1 Jn. 5:14-15, 1 Thess. 5:17. These verses showed us that we are not only commanded to pray, but that God does hear and answer prayer. How different things would be in our lives if we would go to Him in prayer first, asking for His guidance and help. Small prayer groups were formed, each group praying for specific prayer requests.

Mrs. David Abel was the song leader for our Wednesday sessions. Orpha Flaten was the pianist for all of our sessions. Our theme chorus was "To Know Christ." This chorus, together with other favorites, was sung with great enthusiasm, a fine beginning to what was to follow.

Miss Elisa Roen gave the morning devotions, reading from Ps. 90:12, Eph. 5:15-17, Col. 4:5-6 and Ps. 39:4. Time is passing very swiftly. As frail, sinful creatures, we must acknowledge our sin.

We need faith in order that we may live each day for the Lord, walking in His wisdom and love. Life at its best is brief like a vapor.

Mrs. Victor Parsons from Victory in Christ Church, St. Paul, Minn., extended us a hearty Christian welcome to which Mrs. Eugene Enderlein, WMF president, responded with sincere thanks to the ladies of the host churches—Medicine Lake, Rosedale, Faith, Morgan Avenue, Victory in Christ, Hope, and Sunnyside, and to all the ladies for taking time out from busy schedules to be in attendance and to share in the blessings that would be received. We extend a sincere thank-you to all who furnished the special music throughout our sessions. Each number had been so well chosen and was so in keeping with our theme. We praise and thank God for the talents He has given and that they are being used to His glory.



Mrs. Victor Parsons, St. Paul, Minn., welcomed the WMF delegates. The officers are shown seated on the platform.

Mrs. John Strand gave the Bible Study, based on our theme verses. Each of us is given a limited time on this earth. Time is a special gift from God and we are responsible for using it wisely. Every breath is God's gift. We can hoard our

money and spend it at our leisure, but we cannot hoard time. Therefore, we must be careful how we use it. Time spent making the Gospel known is an investment and so we should use it to gain treasures in heaven and for spiritual growth. Prayer is essential to maintain constant communion with God. Prayer time for many is a difficult time to keep, but through it and the study of God's Word, we can learn what is pleasing to God and what His will for us is. Are we willing to seek Christ first to know these things?

One of our daily tasks is to build a good relationship with our children during their early childhood. Time with them is an investment that can lead to spiritual growth. We are to take time to show love and appreciation towards others. Pay more attention to the still, small voice of God speaking, telling us "You ought to" do this or that now before it is too late. Doing the will of God demands "self-denial." Are we willing to make this sacrifice?



Mrs. Robert Rieth, left, and Mrs. Bill Moberg and daughter, during a coffee break.

We must be spiritually prepared to properly receive what God's Word speaks to us. If one really studies the Word, so much more is received from it. This is true of anything. One receives only as much as he is willing to put into something. We are to be faithful in all things, not only in time, but also in our prayer life, financial support, etc. The days are evil; use the time wisely. The prayer of each one should be, "Teach us to number our days." As Christians we claim the promises of God. Let us show this in our daily lives.

The annual business meeting was held at which time the proposed budget of \$44,000.00 was accepted for the year 1979-1980. The Nominating Committee for 1979 was announced: Mrs. Melvin

(Continued on page 14)



A PAGE FOR CHILDREN

Happy Acres



OLD FELLOW WITH BRISTLY HAIR

"Grandpa Candidate No. 1 coming in," announced Stephen, while Ann and Mark drew their breaths in dismay. "A gay time will be had by all present! Ann, you got us into this. You should be the first one out to welcome Gramps!"

Ann flushed. For once she could think of no answer for Stephen. Mark started toward the back stairs, saying, "Excuse me, folks. I've got a good book I—"

Mom stopped him. "No, you don't, Mark. You will stay with us. While I go out to welcome our guest I want you three to read the verse on my slate."

Fastened to the cupboard wall above the sink was Mom's slate. She used it for jotting down things to buy in town and things she must not forget to do. Every day she would write on this big slate a verse of Scripture she would learn by heart as she worked in the kitchen. That is why Mark had once said about her, "Mom is just chock full of Bible verses."

Now the three young Johnsons read together Mom's verse for the day: "Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and the stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of this law!" (Deut. 31:12). Mom had underlined the words "the stranger within thy gates."

The three faces sobered. Stephen said, "Leave it to Mom and her Bible verses to set us straight on things."

They could hear the parents and the old man—who had a squeaky sort of voice—coming into the house. So they dutifully walked in to meet their company.

"Mr. Haglund," said Mom, "these are our three oldest children."

Mr. Haglund squinted at Stephen, Mark, and Ann as though they were not

a pleasant sight. He grumbled, "Hm. Kids. Hm!"

Mom went on as though she hadn't noticed the old man's crossness. "Yes, and this is our oldest boy—Stephen."

Stephen offered to take his black felt hat. Mr. Haglund slowly handed it to him, then sputtered, "See that you don't squash it, boy."

Mom led the way into the cozy living room. Dad invited Mr. Haglund to sit down in his own favorite chair—a big, leather-covered rocker.

"Nah," objected Mr. Haglund. "Too hard to get out of."

The comfortable rocker was only the first thing that did not suit this grumpy guest. There was too much sunlight shining on the sofa where he sat down, so Mom drew the drapes to shade him.

He made it plain that he did not care for any music. Not from the radio. Or record-player. Or "that pianner."

He did not want to look at any of the pictures or the magazines that Stephen brought him.

He did not want to see any of the curios from many lands which the Johnsons kept in the large china closet in the dining room.

If one of the children tried to speak to him, he acted as though he did not hear. Even Mom and Dad had a difficult time trying to visit with him. And when the three younger children came down from their afternoon nap and ran happily into the living room, Mr. Haglund just turned a peevish face in their direction.

Beth was too little to notice the old man's bad manners. She went up to him, put one chubby hand on his knee, then pointed to her white sandals and smiled. "See! New shoes; Me got—nice—new shoes!" He said nothing.

Ann wasn't sure, but she thought he

didn't look quite as grumpy when Beth next patted his knee and said, "Hi!"

But Ann could hardly wait until Mr. Haglund left for the Rest Home after he pointed a finger at her and ordered, "You—Girlie—you get me a spittoon. Don't see non 'round here. I need something to spit in!"

Flabbergasted, Ann turned to her mother. No kind of tobacco was used in the Johnson home. Even friends who smoked seldom lit a cigarette or pipe in the fresh-smelling rooms of the old farmhouse. Once, in a hotel, Ann had seen a cuspidor. Curious to know what it was, she had looked inside it. Now this old man wanted such a vile-smelling thing in her own home!

Not knowing what to do, Ann hurried out to the kitchen. She was glad to hear her mother following her. Indignantly, Ann whispered, "Oh, Mom—a spittoon—we don't have—"

"I know," said Mom, quietly. Then she quickly opened a door under the sink, and reached for an empty shortening can. "Here, take this, Ann."

Red-faced, Ann returned to the living room and set the can down beside Mr. Haglund. He did not say "Thank you." He just rumbled in his throat and then spit.

Ann hurried back to the kitchen. She was glad to get away from the old man and to be able to help her mother with getting supper ready.

Supper that Sunday evening was one of the gloomiest meals the Johnsons had ever had. Though he seemed to enjoy eating it, the old man said nothing nice about Mom's supper. Mark wondered how anyone could be so glum about Mom's tasty cooking as he happily ate baked ham and baked potatoes.

Even little Beth seemed relieved when at last Mr. Haglund drove away with Dad.

"So long, Gramps!" exclaimed Stephen, more to himself than to anyone else, as he sank wearily onto a kitchen stool.

"You still want to adopt a grandpa, Ann?" Mark wanted to know as he started out the back door with Mr. Haglund's tin can.

"Not him, anyway!" decided Ann. "Oh, I hope he doesn't ever come back here! Maybe we'd better look for a grandmother instead. I don't think we could possibly find an old lady that chews tobacco, anyway!"

Mrs. Johnson, however, had different ideas about the matter. "I know how you feel, children. Mr. Haglund certainly wasn't good company, and he's not a grandfatherly sort of person. He's a very unhappy person—and I think he's unhappy mostly because he doesn't have Jesus in his heart. So that's all the more reason we should invite him back. Perhaps we can bring him to Jesus!"

Memory Verse: He that winneth souls is wise. Proverbs 11:30

Family Discussion

1. What is the easy and "natural" way for the Johnsons to feel toward this ungracious guest of theirs?

2. Which of them is showing the Christian way of treating Mr. Haglund?

3. Are each of us, even though we are not ministers or missionaries, to help win souls for Christ? (James 5:20)

4. Is Mr. Haglund the Johnson's neighbor? (Matthew 22:37-39; I John 4:7-11; 3:18)

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NEW MEMBERS AT BOSCOBEL

The following were received into membership in Trinity Lutheran Church, Boscobel, Wis., recently: Mr. and Mrs. Walter Laumer, Mr. and Mrs. Terry Young and Myron Meredith. Rev. Larry Severson is the pastor.

LUTHER LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

CHRISTIAN DATING AND MORALITY

**by Pastor Don Greven
Part II**

In the last issue, we mentioned that there are four questions that are of help in keeping before us principles we must live by if we are to experience God's full blessing on our lives in the area of dating. We dealt with the importance of asking the question, "Is my date a growing Christian?"

The second question Christian young people must deal with in their dating is this: "Are my dating activities consistent with or contrary to God's best in my life?" Now as soon as the topic of activities is discussed, the question is always raised, "Which activities are right and which are wrong for a Christian to participate in?" At this point it is important for the Christian not to be swayed by peer pressure, or by the "everybody's doing it" philosophy, or by a list of do's and don'ts. Rather, we must evaluate our activities in the light of the basic purpose of our lives: to live as a witness or ambassador for Christ. "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him" (Col. 2:6). "Walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called" (Eph. 4:1).

In making your decisions on what to do or where to go on dates, the following thoughts should be seriously considered: 1) Would I be ashamed if Jesus returned and found me there? I Jn. 2:28 says, "And now, little children, abide in Him, so that if He should appear, we may have confidence and not shrink back from Him in shame at His coming." 2) Will I feel free to share what Christ is doing in my life, or will I be ashamed to

speaking His name? 3) Will I be a stumbling block if other Christians see me participating?

The third question we must deal with in the area of Christian dating concerns our personal conduct on dates. I Thess. 4:7 reminds us, "For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification." How important that we examine ourselves with the question, "Is there self-control in my actions and speech?" Unless we are on guard at all times, our old nature is so quick to take over in this area. How we need to surrender our bodies to Christ daily, keeping them pure for the one of God's choice in marriage. Let's heed the words of Christ when He says, "Keep watching and praying, that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matt. 26:41).

The last question I would ask you to consider is this: "Am I willing to wait for God's timing in marriage?" While many of you may not be ready for marriage yet, I believe the only way to evaluate your dates is to ask yourself how each date will affect your future marriage. If you really want God's best for your life, wait to date until God provides someone who meets God's highest standards. Both you guys and girls are responsible for knowing the spiritual status of your dates. And remember, that while every teen needs social times, every teen does not need to date, unless that date is someone you can respect in every area, including his or her life.

NOTICE TO LUTHER LEAGUERS

Contributions for our youth page are welcomed. Do you have something to share: news of your league, testimonies, questions, any kind of response or input? Write to me, Tad Spading, 10447 N.E. 110th, Kirkland, Wash. 98033.

CHRISTIAN TEACHER WANTED

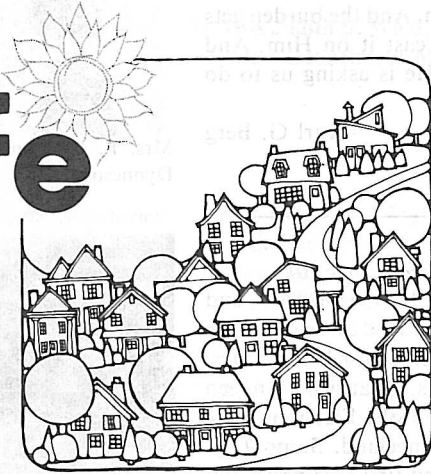
A teacher needed who is proficient in Math and English.

Mustard Seed Faith Academy
Send a letter of application, college transcript and resume to:

Roger Krueger
Box 191

Amery, Wisconsin 54001
Telephone: 715-268-7801

Life on the Edge of Town



A Trip to Colorado

At the end of the school term my sister Valborg and I and our sister Irene Strommen left Minneapolis on a brief trip to Buena Vista, Colo., where the Strommens have built a chalet up against the Collegiate Range, on the slopes of Mt. Yale, to be exact.

We stopped to visit Irene's three married sons on the way, with an overnight stay with the third one, leaving Midland, S. Dak., for the second leg of the journey on June 2. We enjoyed the drive through southwestern South Dakota and western Nebraska. Nebraska has a great range of sand hills in the west. We stopped to pick some dried yucca plants. All the prairies were as green as they could be. We ate dinner in Arthur, Nebr., which boasts a hay bale church. The walls are made of bales with mud plaster. The church has stood since the 1930's and is still used.

On in to Colorado for my first time. We went through Sterling, Brush and Ft. Morgan, great cattle feeding country.

The day was somewhat cloudy so we didn't see the Rockies as early as we would have otherwise. But at Denver we could see them quite well. Denver impressed me as a very busy city.

The drive on to Buena Vista was a beautiful one. We crossed the high valley of South Park before beginning the descent to the valley of the Arkansas River where Buena Vista is situated. Buena Vista lies at an altitude of over 8,000 feet. The chalet, five miles from town, was a thousand feet above that.

Buena Vista

Buena Vista isn't a resort town like Aspen and Vail, yet it has skiing opportunities in the area. It is billed as a western town, but it wasn't as western as our own Faith, S. Dak. Salida, to the south, is "southwestern U.S." in appearance and setting. Both towns are in semi-arid country with the pinon tree characteristic. It is a low round pine.

The Colorado Rockies are higher than the Rockies to the north. There are many

peaks over 14,000 feet. For instance, Mt. Princeton, which we could see off to the south from the chalet, is 14,197 feet. But even though the Colorado mountains are higher and rise 5-6,000 feet above the valleys, they don't look as majestic or aloof as the mountains of Glacier Park and Canada. And, indeed, they can be climbed relatively easily, all of them.

But this isn't to say that they aren't grand, for they are. An interesting range, which we could see far off to the south is the Sangre de Cristo Range (the blood of Christ), so named by the early Spaniards because of their sometimes reddish appearance.

One day we took a trip to Leadville, a mining town. I visited the Matchless Mine of Baby Doe Tabor fame. It is no longer in operation. Once known for its silver mines, today only molybdenum is mined at Leadville. A few flakes of snow came down while we were there. Many snow-covered mountains were visible from the town.

A Church Service

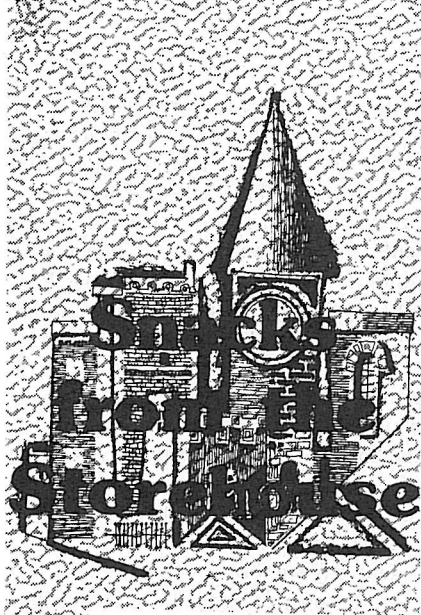
On the Sunday we were in Buena Vista we attended a Missouri Synod service in the evening, held in the Episcopal Church. There is no Lutheran congregation in town, but for some time the pastor in Salida has been coming up to conduct services. The group has averaged 42 in number and it certainly reached that that evening.

The pastor spoke on Jeremiah 23:23, 24 and entitled his sermon "Learn from Your Creator." We were blessed by the service and felt that the pastor revealed a warm spirit.

Minden, Nebraska

Our trip home through Colorado Springs (a whirlwind visit to the Air Force Academy chapel), and Denver (to visit a cousin), and on across Colorado's eastern plains and the northwestern corner of Kansas (overnight at Atwood) was highlighted by a stop at Minden, Nebr., to see Pioneer Village. Backed by Chicago businessman Harold Warp, manufacturer of Flex-O-Glass, the museum boasts 30,000 historical items in 24 buildings on 20 acres. There is an excellent restaurant on the grounds and a motel. I'm not an expert on pioneer villages, but this is the finest one I've seen. If you're in to museums, you'd enjoy this one.

—Raynard Huglen



NOT TOO BIG FOR GOD

How do I measure up? Time and again we take a look at ourselves—and ask. We see a task. A problem. And the problem seems so huge and we seem so small. So very small. There is that Bible class to prepare for Sunday School. The task seemed so huge this Saturday morning. *I* had tried so hard all week to get those folks on the Abundance side of Jordan into focus. At times it seemed *I* had the message. *I* had made the “contact.” *I* had a message to bring. *I* felt so sure of myself. This morning it all seemed to have vanished as surplus manna. The more I looked at the task, the greater it became and the smaller *I* looked in facing the task.

Just *then*—He steps into the picture. Whether I measure up or not doesn't matter after all. It is *HE* who matters. No problem is too great for *Him*. *I* can safely step out of the picture and leave my little problem with Him. A new surge of confidence takes over. Now *I* can face the problems of tomorrow with a song in the heart for He is in charge. What a difference!

Are *YOU* facing a problem just now? It could be a problem of relationship. God seems so unreal to you. *You* have been trying so hard to get Him into focus but so far He seems to be a stranger to you. He seems so huge and you seem so small. Or the problem may be right there in your home. It seems to be on the verge of breaking apart. There is that “mountain” which seems to separate you from your husband or wife. You feel so lonely and helpless. The task of restoration seems so big. So hopelessly big. Or it may be that boy or girl of

yours far out there, away from God. Your heart is so heavy. You tried so hard but it seems you have failed and in despair you almost give up.

Friend—the task is too big—for *you*, but not for Him. I forget that so often—and fail. But I am glad He loves failures, even you and me. He is so ready to step in when we let Him. And the burden gets so light when we cast it on Him. And that is just what He is asking us to do just now.

—Karl G. Berg

(Continued from page 10)

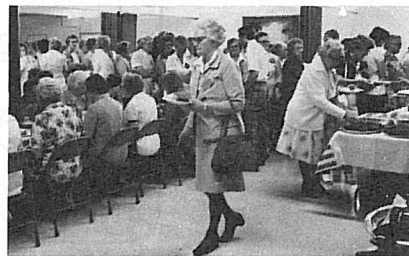
Gravgaard, Mrs. Earl Hartsoch and Mrs. Donald Anderson. The Resolutions Committee for 1979 is: Mrs. Ray Persson, Mrs. Mauritz Lundeen and Mrs. Birdeen Holt. Elections were held. Mrs. Arlo Kneeland, Summit, S. Dak., was re-elected first vice-president, and Mrs. Reuben Wee, Granite Falls, Minn., was re-elected secretary. Miss Judith Wold expressed her sincere thanks to the WMF for the fine camera she received before going to the Holy Land. She has excellent slides and is willing to show them when requested. Another special feature was the presentation of a beautiful hand-embroidered tablecloth presented to the WMF by Pastor Samuel Flores, a gift from the ladies of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of Leon, Mexico.

Mrs. F. B. Monseth led the Memorial Service. This is always an impressive service, when a special tribute is paid to those departed who have been so faithful in prayer and the work of the WMF. Proverbs 10:7: “The memory of the just is blessed.” Jesus had words of comfort and assurance for His disciples as He was preparing to leave this earth, and also for Mary and Martha. He speaks of His victory over death and so His death and resurrection brings to the Christian that hope of a glad reunion with those who have died in Christ. May we continue our faithfulness in service to Him. Soft violin music was played by Mrs. John Presteng during the service. At the close Mrs. Presteng favored us with a violin solo.

After a delicious noon meal, Mrs. Charles Kvanvig led in devotions. She shared passages on waiting—Is. 40:31, Lam. 3:26, Rom. 8:19, 23, 25, and Ps.



Mrs. F. B. Monseth, left, and Mrs. L. C. Dynneson.



The noon dinner at the WMF convention.

27:14. Waiting means trusting. We need to be slowed down in order that we can wait upon the Lord.

Pastor Robert Rieth brought the afternoon message. He expressed thanks for our prayers and financial support of our AFLC Schools. The greatest gift we have is our love for Christ and His work. We are the heart of the church. It is through us that others can be motivated to know Christ and to serve Him. Paul was so committed in his belief that when he came to know Christ he was as zealous in serving Christ as he had been in persecuting the Christians while unsaved. He was now willing to go anywhere to share his new life in Christ. Little did he know that towards the end of his life he would be a prisoner for Christ. He felt he was a debtor in that he must share with others the Christ he had come to know.

How can we speak to those who have a drug problem or other problems? We must simply tell them that Jesus cares for them and loves them. Oftentimes this brings back childhood memories of stories of the love of Jesus. Only He can transform hearts. “Unless a man be born again, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” We cannot show someone else the way unless we know it ourselves.

The church is a hospital for sick souls. We must know who and what He is and what He has done for us by way of the cross in order to receive help. Do you really know Jesus Christ? Do you have that peace in your heart that is found in life in Him? Being a Christian never takes away the hard parts of life. The purpose and goal of life should be to serve Him wherever He puts us, loving the world through Christ right where we are.

Do others see Christ in and through us? The foundation of missions is to show the love of Christ in and through us. Are we willing to lay down our lives to go anywhere? Paul's desire, testimony, and purpose in living was to KNOW CHRIST and TO MAKE HIM KNOWN. Are we who profess the name of Christ willing to pay the price? Have we accepted that call to go anywhere to proclaim Christ and His saving love?

The offering for the afternoon was for the AFLC schools. \$3,475.83 was received. 266 women were registered.

Thursday morning, June 15, we had our Fellowship Breakfast. Mrs. Jay Erickson led in devotions. She based her remarks on Eph. 5:8-17. We so often misuse the golden nugget of time which God has given us. We must never be too busy to sit at the feet of Jesus and learn of Him. Each day we are given 24 hours of time. Make good use of it for you must one day give an account of how you have used it.

A tribute was paid to Mrs. Caleb (Connie) Quanbeck, Madagascar, who had recently been taken home to glory. So often the ones who are effective for the Lord are those who do the things unnoticed—little kindnesses shown out of love for one another. We had a time of sharing Christian experiences.

The Festival Service on Thursday evening, June 15, was another highlight. Mrs. Robert Rieth favored us with a marimba solo after which she led the evening singspiration. Mrs. Bob Dietsche gave the evening devotion reading from Eccles. 3:17, Rom. 13:11-12, Col. 4:5 and Hos. 10:12.

Dr. James Gerdeen, seminarian, brought the evening message, using Eph. 5:1-17. The Holy Spirit was speaking to the churches. Paul is concerned that the church redeem the time. The world has yet to see what God can do with the church completely surrendered to Him. Will your church or the AFLC be that

church which is totally surrendered to God?

Redeem is a special salvation term. It means to buy back from the power of another. We were lost through the power of evil, but Christ redeemed us with His precious blood. We were challenged with three questions. (1) Do we know our Redeemer? (2) How are we to redeem the time? (3) How much time do we have? If you do not know your Redeemer, how can you know and understand what He has done for you? Unless you are in Christ, your work is all evil. Paul tells us to walk in Calvary-love, preach the law exposing sin and unfruitful works, calling "sin" sin, walking as wise and not as fools. We are to give ourselves for others and must walk as children of light, turning from all that would hinder this Calvary-love. Is your church sleeping during the harvest of souls? Does it have testimonial meetings, sharing the Gospel with others? Your church should be a place where souls are won for Christ. The time is short and we need to redeem it by measuring out or scheduling it so we can get the most out of it spiritually. The goodness of God should lead us to repentance. If you do not know your Redeemer, how can you be a part of the church? Trust Jesus Christ alone for your salvation.

The Festival Offering, \$3,244.54, was for Church Extension.

Mrs. Ronald Knutson, second vice-president, presented Honorary Membership pins and certificates to Mrs. John Strand, wife of our retiring AFLC president, Mrs. Kenneth Rolf, 1977 Bible study writer, and Mrs. Tarkel Ose, our 1978 Bible study writer.

As women of the church, how will we account for our time? Is it time spent walking in His will, loving others with Jesus' love, or are we wasting it on earthly pleasures? We must one day give an account of how we have used this precious gift.

—Mrs. Reuben Wee, WMF Secretary

NORTHEAST SOUTH DAKOTA WOMEN MET AT TABOR LUTHERAN

Tabor Lutheran Church, Webster, S. Dak., Howard Kjos, pastor, hosted the spring Women's Missionary Federation rally for Northeastern South Dakota on Friday, June 2.

Our rally centered on nature with the

theme verse being Psalm 19:1: "The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork." Mrs. Reuben Tvinnereim of the local WMF welcomed everyone to the rally and introduced our theme song, "For the Beauty of the Earth," which was sung by all.

Devotions were given by Mrs. Ervin Tvinnereim of Tabor. She read various passages from the Psalms and offered prayer.

Ellen Williamson of Webster was our guest speaker. She showed us beautiful slides centered around Matthew 6:25-34. Her presentation was entitled "Consider the Lilies of the Fields." The slides were about birds, flowers and other aspects of God's handiwork. They reminded us that many of the things we have in this world are taken for granted, but through God all things are created.

Special music was presented by Mrs. Harold Nygaard and Mrs. Eugene Nelson of Saron WMF, Roslyn. They sang "This Is My Father's World." Another special number was a duet by Miss Helen Lee and Mrs. James Swanson of Ortlely WMF, who sang "How Great Thou Art!"

Our offering for the afternoon went to the General Fund of the WMF. The Lord's Prayer and benediction were led by Pastor Kjos. A fellowship lunch was served following the rally.

—Mrs. Edward Davidson

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD TURNS DOWN 'CALL FOR UNION'

Mankato, Minn.—(LC)—Delegates to the 1978 convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod here affirmed the action of their president in turning down an invitation to discuss the "Call for Lutheran Union" issued by the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches.

President Wilhelm W. Petersen of Mankato—who was elected to a second two-year term as head of the 19,500-member church—earlier had declined participation in union talks. In a letter to the AELC he said that the ELC might have joined the dialogue if the call "had been for doctrinal discussion outside the framework of fellowship."

On another inter-Lutheran matter, the

convention also approved remarks in President Petersen's report which cited progress by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to resolve its "doctrinal struggle" but also noted that "Missouri still has a long way to go to get her house in order. . . ."

Among other actions, the convention urged member congregations "to recognize that abortion is the taking of a human life and is therefore a grievous sin, according to the Word of God, except in the rare instance of its being used in the saving of a mother's life."

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