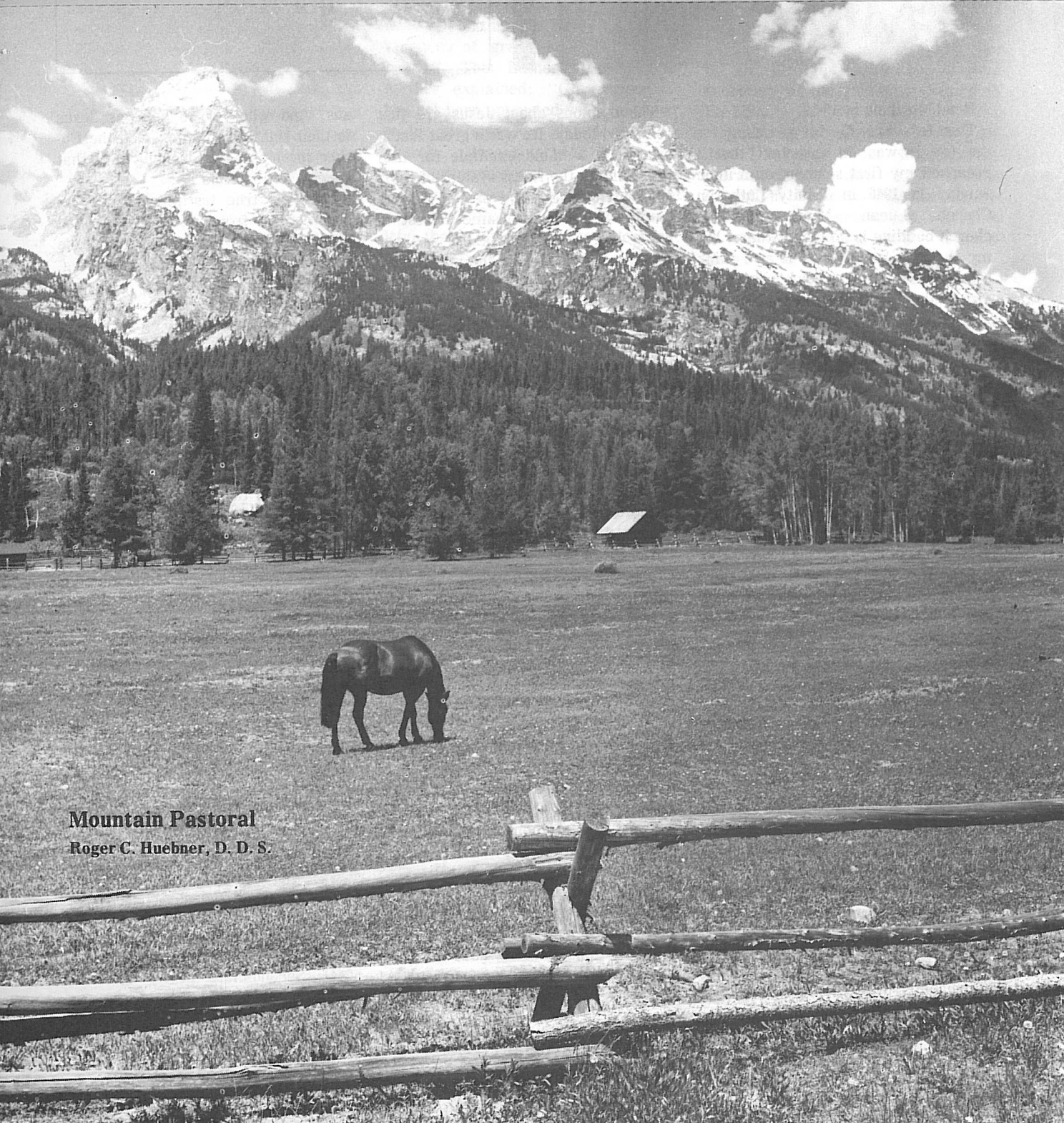


July 27, 1976

# The Lutheran Ambassador



**Mountain Pastoral**  
Roger C. Huebner, D. D. S.

# MEDITATION MOMENTS

## THE GREAT QUESTION

Read Matthew 16:13-19.

This text has special meaning for me for it was on this text that I preached my first sermon, on a June Sunday in 1948 in Trinity Lutheran Church, Lucan, Minnesota. The church building is no longer there, but my thoughts go back to it as I think of this text. What apprehension preceded that first sermon and what work and prayer went into it.

We have before us in the text two important questions. Questions are an important part of our speech. How many conversations begin with a question, such as, "How are you?" or "What do you know today?" Questions like those are only ice-breakers, but others are deadly serious. A boy asks his girl friend to marry him, a student asks his teacher, "Did I pass the course?"

And answers are even more important for they reveal what we think and know. By an answer a student is judged and a jury decides guilt or innocence.

Jesus sought a sampling of opinion from His disciples as to what the public thought Him to be. How had people sized Him up, He wondered. "Who do men say that the Son of man is?" The answers, the disciples reported, were varied, but all thought well of Him. He was one of the prophets at least, they conceded.

The opinions about Jesus are just as varied today. He was a great teacher. He is a noble example for life. He set forth the finest system of moral law. He taught one way of coming to God. He Himself came closest to being like God. Still others are not so complimentary in their opinions, while some call Him Savior.

But the questions about which Jesus was primarily concerned that day with His disciples was the one directed to them, "But who do you say that I am?" It was one thing to hear the report of others, quite another to hear directly their hearts' testimony. Peter, usually the spokesman for the Twelve, answered triumphantly, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." In other words, "You are the Promised One, the Deliverer, the Hope of the world." How this testimony must have gladdened the heart of Jesus.

Jesus asks the question of us, every one, "Who do you say that I am?" Do we respond immediately, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God—my life, my hope, my Lord"? Or do we think of some of those other things about Him mentioned earlier and leave it at that?

Christianity is devotion to a person, to Jesus Christ. Ultimately, it is not a creed or statement of truths which invites my faith, but the Person Je-

sus. And whoever so believes Jesus is then rightly related to God the Father for it is only through Jesus that we can come to God.

Yes, the true testimony about Jesus comes from more than head knowledge. The Holy Spirit must take that knowledge and make it living, as the Explanation tells us. This means an acceptance in the heart, not just one time, but always, of what Jesus has done for us. It means a submission to Him daily that life may be lived under His direction. It means the putting aside in life, with His help, of the weights, hindrances and sins which call us from the evil side of life to walk in those ways. It is the living in that kingdom which the gates of hell can't overthrow.

Reader, can you call Jesus the Christ, Jesus, Lord, in this sense, so that it is your testimony and your life reveals that you live by this commitment? If you cannot do so, then stop and consider the direction of your life and the dangerous way you walk. It is on the confession of Peter, and of all who confess it with him, that Jesus builds His Church, and of which He is the cornerstone. The lives of the prophets are building blocks in it, as are the host of saints. We may share it, too, if we are His own.

—Raynard Huglen

---

The Lutheran Ambassador is published biweekly (except the second issue in August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Rev. Raynard Huglen is the editor. Subscription price is \$3.50 per year in advance. Subscriptions should be sent to The Lutheran Ambassador, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn. Volume 14, Number 15

# BEHIND THE WALLS . . . ON THE ROCK . . . WITH THE WIND

by Missionary R. W. Gunderson  
LaPaz, Bolivia

It is with a deepening concern that I write this, for time is passing and I wonder where are the thousands who committed themselves to full-time service for the Lord at "Explo '74"? All these, not to mention the multitude who have made commitments for foreign mission service in less ostentatious surroundings such as at our Bible School and other similar places.

In spite of all this, and that is much to be considered, I am doubly concerned for the church and its role in this matter of missions and preparing people for participation in missions. In our churches, as an Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, foreign missions are not nor have they been inactive throughout the years of our short existence. On the other hand, I feel that the churches could be failing these young people in our midst who are in a period of development in preparing themselves for full-time mission service. May it never be said that the AFLC was a hindrance to the sending of missionaries called by God!

So many institutions fall into patterns of perpetuation without knowing why and then quickly, when threatened by new ideas, jump behind the wall of the "what was good for grandpa is good for me" type of thinking. Recently, I again read the **FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES** which could easily deteriorate into that type of thinking if we do not grasp the meaningful Biblical and practical concepts of the church stated within. Our confessional statements also stand as a strong Biblically-orientated bastion for the confession which we proclaim. Excuse me for being so blunt, but I am afraid that these which we have are only a nod of the head, without any knowledge of them. In the minds of far too many they are archaic, dust-covered, hidden as a treasure for only a selected few to uncover, such as the church leaders and theological students. As a result of this type of think-

ing we have had in recent years winds of theology which have swept and continue to sweep through the churches, bringing all types of ideas. It is true that truth as pure as gold has come forth but much has been so twisted that it smells like garbage. Others have tried to change. Others have rearranged. Others terminating or initiating or innovating, ingratiating, inspiring, and, of course, some have tried to tame others, meanwhile others blaming. All the while we have the statement, "... we believe that the symbolical books are a correct understanding of Holy Scripture..." How is it that we haven't noticed this? We are too busy perpetuating a way of life instead of the Lord of life.

It is my honest concern that we are going to be taken unaware by the new wave of mission interest and spontaneity that is already upon us. We know that it is right to send out missionaries, have a mission budget, cooperate with the women who seem to understand something more than the men do about missions, so that they have an organization that even has the word "mission" in its title and a work is put forth to educate all of us about it. But what is going to throw a monkey wrench into this whole tranquil scene of perpetuation are these young people volunteering in large numbers for foreign missionary service. Where are we going to get the money to send them out? How come it costs so much to support a missionary? Where are they going to go? How come they are doing what they are doing? And so with these new people will come new ideas. They will ask many disturbing questions and suggest unorthodox methods for missions. About that time a lot of people are going to start running for those familiar old walls and in angry frustration find them to be full of holes and very unstable.

Permit me to enumerate some soft spots in the perpetuation of the mission syndrome. The first is the rigidity of organization. The mission board is

the sending body, the missionary the sent one and the church the supporting institution. Now that is just fine in the majority of cases, but what happens when exceptions come along? Writing as one who has been led by God to serve Him in a missionary society and has gone out from his church body to serve, I can very happily say that there is freedom within our Association to serve in this way. On the other hand, we have the mission society as a sending organization, but the danger is that some would want to make it something which it isn't, an especially anointed sender that is a much more sacred way of sending people. What we need to see is the hand of the Lord in our lives and let His Spirit bear witness to us.

Another idea about missions is the missionary who senses that he doesn't need to be sent by anyone except the Lord and off he goes as an independent, trusting the Lord only. I will be honest and say that I have a hard time seeing this point of view, but would be glad to hear the views of those who support such an idea. Like I say, we must see the hand of the Lord in these matters.

Another area where there could be problems is the emphasis of mission work or job descriptions. Many times that is how new organizations come into existence and because they are new many will be suspicious. Some will feel that evangelism is the only task of missions. Others will see new ways of going at the task of ministering to the varying needs of the peoples. Some will feel that we must minister only to the physical needs. These are observations based upon experience and I predict that we will see many new ideas in the future. In all of this we will have to be grounded in the Word, knowledgeable to what it teaches and sensitive to the Spirit's guidance.

It is apparent, then, that I must set before you some basic Biblical principles for missions. These will be very brief but very essential.

First, what is missions? Missions was a concept long before the New Testament times. It was the responsibility of the people of God so that the coastlands would hear (Isaiah 60:9). And who are the coastlands? They were those on the other side of the Great Sea (Mediterranean). The Egyptians, Romans, those of the Hellenic Peninsula. Secondly, missions is a New Testament mandate, "Go, therefore . . ." (Matt. 28:19). It is interesting to note why the "therefore" is found in this verse. Looking at verse 18, we see that Jesus very clearly again emphasizes His authority. His authority sends. In His authority we are to obediently go. Going in His enveloping authority we disciple, baptize and teach. His authority moves the Church as a body to bring about the reality of missionaries going out.

Thirdly, the teaching of Jesus points out very clearly the Biblical principle of sowing the seed of God in the best ground. In the parable in Luke 8:5-15, we see that there is a prepared place for the seed, why it takes root, how it grows and in the end bears much fruit (**Frontiers In Missionary Strategy**, C. Peter Wagner, p. 40-43).

Fourthly, that Paul in the actuation of his call did certain things in a consistent pattern. Reading again the book of Acts to look for these concepts, Paul went to the areas of concentration according to the existing units. His work was confined within the limits of Roman administration. Paul didn't do it by himself, but by establishing centers of Christian life in a few strategic places the Gospel spread naturally to the surrounding area (**Missionary Methods: St. Paul's Or Ours**, Roland Allen, pp. 10-17). I would like to add to Missionary Allen's list by mentioning that Paul never attempted to build on another's work (see Romans 15:20). Also, Paul kept moving on, entrusting the work to the Christians in the established congregation. As Paul walked in the Spirit, he was given constant confirmation in the fellowship and through the God-appointed prophet, Agabus. Then lastly, Paul was a great letter-writer and ministered greatly through these letters. The Scripture shows us much more but I would like to glean a few references and give a sequence of propagative responsi-

bilities which we have.

A.) We are to be **prophetic** in our telling and foretelling of the plan of God for mankind in the person and work of Jesus Christ (Heb. 1:1, Col. 1:28).

B.) **Planters**, as I already mentioned.

C.) To be **primary-movers**, as was Paul in going into new areas bringing into existence congregations.

D.) **Pacesetters** means that we have the responsibility to be out ahead giving the best example by doing (I Cor. 14:17, II Cor. 10:14-16, Phil. 3:12-14).

E.) Very closely related is the **pedagogical** call we have to teach the ones won to the Lord, as well as those who are interested to come to know Him (Col. 1:28, Heb. 5:12).

F.) **Propinquity** means to be near though we are not always physically near (I Cor. 5:4).

G.) A part of the **pastoral** call is the nearness we have with one another as well as to know the brethren and be known by them, giving guidance (Jn. 10).

H.) We are to be **peacemakers** basically in the relationship of the individual to the Savior (II Cor. 5:16-20), being as Paul says, ambassadors for Christ. Jesus has given His Church the ministry of reconciliation so that God's people live in peace, building up one another in love (I Cor. 14:19).

Now that I have given a brief Scriptural outline in regard to missions, I would like to give you an idea of what is going on in missions today. It is worth mentioning that mission strategy has undergone drastic changes in the last decade or more. We hear such terminology as "Liberation Theology," "The Third World," "indigenization," "aconientizacion" (awakening the conscience of the person), "contextualization," etc. But some rather old ideas have all at once become very contemporary. There are those of Roland Allen whose ideas of spontaneous church growth and methods regarding missionary activity were proposed almost 50 years ago. It was Allen who wrote, "Spontaneous expansion begins with the individual effort of the individual Christian to assist his fellow, when common experience, common difficulties, common toil have first

brought the two together. It is this equality and community of experience which makes the one deliver his message in terms which the other can understand, and makes the hearer approach the subject with sympathy and confidence . . ." Further on he says, "We can neither induce nor control spontaneous expansion whether we look on it as the work of the individual or of the church, simply because it is spontaneous. 'The wind bloweth where it listeth,' and Christ, and spontaneous activity is a movement of the Spirit in the individual and the church and we cannot control the Spirit." "Thus, many of our missionaries welcome spontaneous zeal, provided there is not too much of it for their restrictions . . . Such missionaries pray for the wind of the Spirit but not for a rushing mighty wind . . . and if we cannot control it, we ought, as I think, to rejoice that we cannot control it." I have quoted Roland Allen because there is a spontaneous raising up and commitment of young people to missions today. By God's grace let us not seek to control it. Let us not be seized by terror but rejoice in the tremendous possibilities of God's work. Let us ask ourselves what God's plan is for us and be carried along according to His perfect will.

If and when this same spontaneous growth takes place in the mission-founded church, we will recognize it for what it is, praise God for His moving among them, and will be moved along as the Spirit would have us be part of this spontaneity.

---

#### A GOOD-NIGHT PRAYER

Now the light has gone away,  
Jesus, listen while I pray,  
Asking Thee to watch and keep  
And to send me quiet sleep.

All that has been wrong today,  
Jesus, Savior, wash away;  
Help me every day to be  
Good and gentle, more like Thee.

Let my near and dear ones be  
Ever near and dear to Thee;  
Oh, bring me and all I love  
To that heavenly home above.

Amen  
—Selected

# THE RUIN OF HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG, FOUNDER OF THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

By Rev. Howard Kjos  
Roslyn, S. Dak.

## Part II

### GOD'S FIRST PRINCIPLE— HUSBAND IS HEAD

When God's fundamental principles are violated, we open the door to Satan's entrance and subsequent influence. Herbert W. Armstrong did that, and fell prey to Satan's oldest and favorite strategy, deceiving the one created to think that he will be his equal but subject helper. Let us now hear what the Scriptures say. They speak so plainly on God's order for the home and Christian teaching.

"Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord" (Colossians 3:18).

"Let the women keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but let them subject themselves, just as the Law also says. And if they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church. Was it from you that the Word of God first went forth? Or has it come to you only?" (I Corinthians 14:34-36).

"Let a woman quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being quite deceived, fell into transgression" (I Timothy 2:11-12).

"Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything" (Ephesians 5:22-24).

A man should never study the Bible with the illumination of his wife. His mind is better equipped to separate truth and error. He tends to be more objective and logical in interpreting Scripture; she will be more emotional and intuitive. Does the Church determine doctrine for Christ, the Head of the Church?

It is quite significant, I believe, that it was NOW that Armstrong began, for the first time, to study the Bible seriously. He had, through the violation of God's principle described above, opened the door to Satan's mind-control, and the evil one now trusted him to study the Bible, under his tutoring. He therefore released Armstrong's will so that he could study the Scriptures.

But deception through his wife was not the only strategy Satan used on Armstrong. It was only a beginning.

### GOD'S SECOND PRINCIPLE— HUMBLE YOURSELF... THAT HE MAY EXALT YOU

Now we know that all heresies originate from Satan, the father of lies and the enemy of the souls of all people. But we also know that he works through people to propagate his deceitful doctrines. The first qualification Satan's man must have is some motivation to accept Satan's



Rev. Howard Kjos

lies and then to propagate them. My personal opinion is that Satan found an entrance into the heart and mind of Herbert W. Armstrong through his DESIRE FOR PRE-EMINENCE.

Scripture teaches us that Satan's original sin was exalting himself in a desire to be equal with God. We discern him in the description of the king of Tyre (Ezekiel 28:15-19) and the king of Babylon (Isaiah 14:13-14). (Please read these two passages to understand better Satan's attitude in his rebellion.) Seeing Armstrong's desire to exalt himself, Satan would have no difficulty in understanding how to work with him. It was with a similar line of thinking that he tempted Adam and Eve with the promise that they could become "like God" (Genesis 3:5). Satan knew how to use this man's failures and frustrations, along with his yearning for superiority, to turn him to religion as the avenue through which to pursue with zeal that upon which he had set his heart.

After leaving the Church of God (Seventh Day) he began giving lectures in a little one-room country schoolhouse. This is the way this man, who couldn't get along in anyone else's denomination, started his own. In the light of his early career the theme of his lectures was, to borrow some typical Armstrongian adjectives, truly "astonishing," "shocking," "incredible." This general failure lectured on "The Biblical formula for success and prosperity."

Although he had apparently failed in almost every legitimate secular and religious endeavor, he had never ceased to long for wealth, education and fame. The topic of his lectures reveals his continuing preoccupation with this unsatisfied lust. And from this time he did begin to succeed, for Satan recognized that Armstrong was now ready and the time was right. The Destroyer became very benevolent toward this ardent seeker and showed him how to succeed, as his servant. Armstrong was now successful in his own eyes, but ruined in the judgment of his Creator.

When a man has gone that far along the road he seldom turns back.

[Continued on page 10]

# Women For Christ

## REPORT OF THE 14TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY FEDERATION

"My country 'tis of thee,  
Sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee I sing; . . .  
Our father's God to Thee,  
Author of liberty,  
To Thee we sing;  
Long may our land be bright  
with freedom's holy light;  
Protect us by Thy might,  
Great God, our King."

What an appropriate song for this convention and the Bicentennial year of the birth of our great nation. We could gather in this free land of ours to worship in freedom from fear of being imprisoned and persecuted for our faith. Many were the prayers that ascended to the Throne of Grace in thanksgiving for the manifold blessings that have been ours these past 200 years, asking for continued protection and guidance that we, as Christian women, might do our part in helping shed this "light from above" always and in all places.

Again this year, as we came from our various congregations, we anticipated many blessings from the Lord. This was sensed in the goodly number who attended, the warm hospitality that we were greeted with, the renewing of old friendships, and the making of new ones. We were all anxious to have a closer fellowship with our people in the beautiful "Copper Country," a place where we had not had an annual convention before.

The sessions were all held at Suomi College, Hancock, Mich., June 9-10. The banner at the front of the assembly room bearing our theme, THE CHRISTIAN'S PRIORITIES and the theme verse SEEK YE FIRST . . . (Matt. 6:33), silenced us for the opening prayer service led by Mrs. Eugene Enderlein. We were reminded of our freedom of worship. As we divided into small prayer groups, the Lord was praised and the many special requests were prayed about.

Mrs. Rodger Olson, our song leader for all of the WMF sessions, opened our singspiration by reading from several of the Psalms, telling how we are to sing praises to God. The songs, devotions, welcomes and special music were all in keeping with our theme. Mrs. Robert Dietsche, WMF President, challenged us to more areas of service; and in all service, "to God be the honor and glory." In the opening devotions, Mrs. Fred Woimanen said, "The best of this life is void without Christ." Mrs. Eleanor Johnson, WMF president of the host church,



WMF officers, left to right, are Judith Wold, Mrs. Reuben Wee, Mrs. Ronald Knutson, Mrs. Reuben Emberson and Mrs. Robert Dietsche.



The noon meal at WMF Day, June 9.

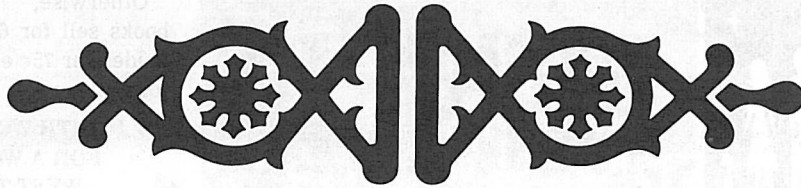
Maranatha Lutheran, said, "Praise to God, so lustily sung by the women, arises from a heart full of gratitude for ALL THAT GOD IS AND DOES." A detailed program is in the May 18th issue of The Lutheran Ambassador.

It was with a great deal of sadness that we learned Pastor and Mrs. Hermunslie would not be with us this year. They, so to speak, have become permanent "fixtures" at our conventions. Olive Jacobson was asked to lead in prayer for Pastor Hermunslie, who had just undergone surgery, and for strength for his dear wife.

Mrs. Michael Brandt led the Bible study based on our theme verse. She brought out so many good things, but space permits mentioning only a few. The heavenly kingdom we seek should be sought first for ourselves and then for others. Our task is not to save people but to disciple them. We should strive to develop Christ-like qualities in our lives—we should not leave this to chance, but be diligent and faithful in our seeking, sensitive to God's will in our lives.

To what do we give the most time and money? If our priorities are to be in right order, we must go according to the Word of God which says, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. . . ." God tells us plainly what we are to do, and then He also gives us the power to obey His Word. EACH individual must develop his own relationship with God. The family is God's design and God's laboratory. Am I playing my role in the family according to His Word and will? Our responsibility as parents is to teach our children obedience in preparation for obedience to

[Continued on page 10]



# "HIS" Luther League Retreat

**HELPING  
INSPIRING  
SERVING**

**When: September 4-6 (Saturday Noon through Monday Noon)**

**Where: Grace Lake Bible Camp, Bemidji, Minnesota**

**Cost: \$12.00**

**STAFF:**

Pastor David Molstre

Keynote Speaker, Evangelist  
and Youth Worker of AFLC

Mr. and Mrs. P. Boberg

Sharing two hours with youth advisors  
and youth workers.

Pastor Rodger Olson

Leading a workshop on  
"Music in Your Luther Leagues" and  
"How to Start a Musical Group."

Pastor Richard Anderson

Leading a workshop on  
"Youth Ministries in the Local Church."

Mr. Steve Lee

Leading a workshop on  
"Brazilian Summer Ministry."

Pre-registration will be greatly appreciated!!! Send them to:

Pastor R. D. Anderson  
140 West 44th St.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Sessions for: **Both** youth (those entering 9th grade and older) and youth advisors and youth workers. We will be having sessions together as well as different sessions for youth and advisors.





# PARISH ED

## SHARING CHRIST WITH OTHERS

**Judith B. Wold,**  
Executive Secretary,  
Parish Education, AFLC

"Now that I have met and talked with you I feel that I know you," is a statement we hear ourselves saying frequently. Talking, sharing and praying together are three great privileges we can enjoy in this life. What do we talk about? Surely the events, cares and needs of this present life are real to each of us. How we need the support of our fellow neighbors. But there is a second dimension that is so very exciting. This is our spiritual earth walk. The cares and concerns involved in our spiritual needs must also have an important place in our daily conversations with our fellow neighbors. We should be as comfortable speaking about God and the Lord Jesus, as we are discussing the weather and the happenings of the day. New insights into the Word should so thrill us that we will be anxious to share this with other believers. These are eternal truths that give spiritual energy for our earth walk.

Teaching the ways of God and the workings of the Spirit of God in our personal lives is a continuous process. Spiritual truths are not learned all at once. Home Bible training and spiritual daily living is so very, very needful. Now the home training program is so beautifully supplemented with the organized church providing a good Christian Education program which includes something for the tiny tots and the adult years.

The AFLC Women's Missionary Federation through the Cradle Roll program provides something to reach the parents of children prior to three years of age. Maybe some congregations have an organized nursery class for them.

A few years ago the AFLC Board of Parish Education presented The Ambassador Sunday School Series.

This consists of students' quarterlies that are available from grade two through the adult class. Materials for first grade and below have not been attempted because of the need for more visual presentations for those years. There are three quarters of Bible study for each of the grades two through nine. Church doctrine as presented in Luther's Small Catechism is also a part of this curriculum. The other courses consist of thirteen lessons each. Last year four workbooks were made available for the confirmation classes.

Listed below are the levels of teaching materials and their titles:

- Learning to Obey (Commandments) Grade 2
- Learning to Pray (The Lord's Prayer) Grade 3
- The Apostles' Creed Grade 4
- Old Testament History Grade 5
- New Testament History Grade 6
- Christ in the Bible Grade 7
- The Book of Acts Grade 8
- An Overall Study of the Bible Grade 9

### Senior High and Adult Courses

(The following courses contain 13 lessons each.)

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

### The Confirmation Courses

(Each book contains material for one year of study.)

- First Year Confirmation—The Commandments and Creed
- Old Testament History
- Second Year Confirmation—The Lord's Prayer and the Sacraments
- New Testament History
- (These four books sell for \$1.00 each.)

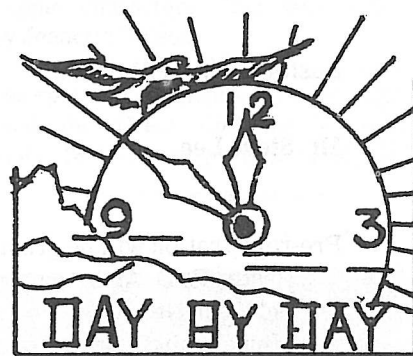
Otherwise, quarterly student's books sell for 65¢ each and teacher's guides for 75¢ each. There is a charge for postage.

## JUDITH WOLD'S ITINERARY FOR A WORKSHOP TRIP WEST THIS SUMMER

- Aug. 1-2—Minot, North Dakota
- Aug. 3-4—Tioga, North Dakota
- Aug. 5-6—Culbertson, Montana
- Aug. 7-8—Travel
- Aug. 9-10—Kalispell, Montana
- Aug. 11—Travel
- Aug. 12-13—Spokane, Washington
- Aug. 14-15—Travel
- Aug. 16-17—Astoria, Oregon
- Aug. 18-19—Eugene, Oregon
- Aug. 2-21—Vancouver, Washington
- Aug. 22-23—Kirkland, Washington
- Aug. 24-25—Lake Stevens, Washington
- Aug. 26—Open
- Aug. 27-28—Everett, Washington
- Aug. 29-30—Ferndale, Washington

Miss Wold will be accompanied on the trip by Pattie Erickson and Margie Sorteberg, both of Roseau, Minn. They are graduates of Association Free Lutheran Bible School. The trio will present the work of both the Women's Missionary Federation and Parish Education at each place.

Watch locally for more information about the workshops and for any change in schedule.



## GOD'S FREE GIFT by Lars Stalsbroten

We use the same Scripture that we had in the last issue, namely, John 16:23-24. Read it please.

I mentioned last time that our name is no good. We are polluted, sinful, completely bankrupt, poor, wretched,

*[Continued on page 14]*



---

# editorials

---

## EUROPE AGAIN

When you read this I will be on a trip to Europe, God willing, my second one. When most of you read this, the way the delivery of the **Ambassador** has been going, I will have arrived in Norway, the land of my ancestors.

Before coming there, I will have set foot on Scottish soil for the first time, in Glasgow, and visited in the "north of England," as they say it. The W. L. Austins of Halifax were to be my hosts and with their Volkswagen, purchased since my last visit, planned to show me points of interest in their part of the country.

After leaving the Austins, I was to go to Hull, an eastern seaport. Like so many Norwegian emigrants, my father arrived there from Norway on his way to America, journeyed by train to Liverpool on the other side of the country and then sailed to Boston in the New World. That is why I included a stop at Hull on this trip.

The final stop in England was to be at Newcastle. From there, on Sunday afternoon, August 1, I will have sailed aboard the Norwegian ship **Blenheim** for Stavanger, arriving at 9 o'clock the next morning. If the North Sea was peaceful, the voyage will have been a pleasant experience.

I look forward to the visit in Norway. Seventeen first cousins on my father's side live there. Perhaps I will get to see them all again. Two others have passed away since 1967. My one remaining aunt at that time has since gone on. There are others, some of them relatives, whom I shall also miss this time. And that is why, too, I shall be grateful for all those whom I can yet see.

This is a pleasure trip primarily. But it is also something which contributes to my development as a person and as a Christian. We are molded by life's experiences, by what we see and what we hear, and by those we meet. My world view is enlarged by these experiences, beginning with the stop in Boston to visit a Lutheran church convention and an historic American city.

I shall meet Christian people along the way and want to be a Christian witness as I travel and as I visit with others.

Upon my return I shall, in the providence of God, share some report of the trip with you, the readers of the **Ambassador**. I trust that what is reported then will not prove too tedious, but rather turn out to be of interest to many of you.

In the next issue, if all goes well, there will be some

report from Boston, but otherwise, until my return, the Lord watch over us all and be gracious unto us, everyone.

—Raynard Huglen

## WHITHER FAMILY BIBLE CAMP?

There was some discussion about the development of a Bible camp by the Association in the Saturday afternoon session of the recent AFLC annual conference in June in Hancock, Michigan. Specifically, it concerned a valuable piece of property which the Lawrence Dahlgren family of Lake Park, Minnesota, would donate to the Association providing that it would be developed as a camp under a specified plan and timetable.

There is no question but what the proposed gift of the Dahlgrens is a most generous one. Those who have seen the property, which fronts on two lakes in Becker County, is a beautiful and choice location.

Nevertheless, the proposed project is a large one and it is unfortunate that on the at least two occasions when it has been discussed at gatherings of AFLC people there haven't been more present to hear about it. And it is a real question whether any major decision should be attempted at a Saturday afternoon session of our conferences. Too many people have gone home by then.

In the matter of the AFLC developing its own camp facility there must be discussion about the place of the Family Camp itself. It doesn't hold the place of prominence in 1976 that it did in 1966, for instance. By Friday night of this year's camp at Lake Bronson 209 persons had registered. On the first day of the first such camp ever held, July 8, 1963, there were about 50 more people than that present on the first day. Those camps at Alexandria, Minnesota, regularly went over 500 registrations, if memory serves correctly.

Perhaps location has made the difference, some will say. Alexandria was 125 miles from the Twin Cities, Lake Bronson is 350. And yet Lake Bronson is easily accessible to much of the Eastern North Dakota District and the large Northern Minnesota District.

That brings us to the point that more camps are being operated by AFLC districts now than in 1963. The Southwest Central Minnesota District has conducted its first camp this year ever. The Minneapolis District has operated camps the past several years. The Eastern North Dakota—Western North Dakota—Eastern Montana Districts have conducted family camps for a longer time, although Eastern North Dakota was involved in youth camps from the beginning.

Almost certainly, with more camps being operated in the church, both of the youth and family types, attendance at an AFLC-sponsored camp, will hardly reach the levels which could be assumed automatically before. And in a church which preached de-centralization, districts can hardly be faulted for building up their camping programs.

We are not speaking against an AFLC-sponsored family camp, but only trying to raise issues which must be faced. To get back to the Lake Park property, will our churches support that considerable project when they are doing more and more on the district level? Will congregations 200 miles or more away from Lake Park drive that far

for work days and to build cabins? It would almost seem better if the district(s) nearest the proposed camp site would develop the camp for those people could take a personal interest in it, more so than those who are farther away and may already own camps for which they are responsible.

The project will be a large one financially. Everyone agrees that some of the facilities would need to be winterized at once. Surely, there would be good opportunities for renting out such a camp, but the financial outlay for building would be great even with the most generous donation of the land by the Dahlgrens.

Another thing. If the AFLC develops her own Bible Camp and conducts official weeks of camping, the districts

of the church should clear their own calendars so that they did not operate camp weeks in conflict with them, it would seem to this writer. There are problems in scheduling if camps must be rented, but an AFLC camp would have to have the support of all if it were to be viable. We are not speaking of those beyond the Upper Midwest area.

We'd like to see the Lake Park project developed, but there is a lot more discussion which must take place first before anything concrete is done and we hope that discussion will take place, through the **Ambassador** and in public forums. And let the final decision be made where there is a truly representative group of Association people present so that the will of the church will be truly known.

[Continued from page 5]

### A Word of Caution

Beware of the Father of Lies, friends. He is a tricky one! Be sure he will work on your weakness, too. He will deceive you and ensnare you if you give him a chance. Just give him an inch and he will take a mile without you realizing it. Let him who thinks he is standing take heed, lest he fall.

Any person who falls takes others along—into hell.

### Our Hope Is in His Strength

We can't withstand our adversary by ourselves, you know. But, by God's grace, our weaknesses can be turned into strengths, because "we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses..." (Hebrews 4:15). Hebrews 11:34 tells of many who by faith "from weakness were made strong." Paul confessed, "When I am weak, then I am strong" (II Corinthians 12:10).

In another article we will discuss the doctrines that developed out of this unholy alliance, and compare them with revealed Biblical truths.

(To be continued)

(Ed. Note: The first installment in this article is to be found in the March 23 issue.)



[Continued from page 6]

God. The best way to teach character to children is to be an example—"have it around the house." Older women should likewise help train the younger women. Don't be too busy to pray. Things happen when we pray that don't happen otherwise. Why pray? God commands it. He also promises to meet our needs. He wants to give us more than our needs. He is our creator and responsible for our welfare. He deserves our supreme love and devotion. We should earnestly seek Him with our whole heart and a willing mind.

Linda Moan, our pianist, played a medley of soft music during the Memorial Service, led by Mrs. Philip Featherstone. This service honored the memory of our women who have gone to be with the Lord during this past year. It was a beautiful service, challenging us to continue the unfinished work of those who have departed. Mrs. Jerome Nikunen sang a very impressive solo "Inside Those Pearly Gates."

The annual business meeting was held, at which time the proposed budget of \$36,000.00 was accepted for the year 1977-1978. This was an increase of \$3,500.00 over this year. There were two motions (1) to increase our monthly support to our missionary wives by \$25.00 per month and (2) to give \$100.00 per month towards the support of Priscilla Wold, both motions effective July 1, 1976. Both motions carried so are now a part of our projects.

The Nominations Committee for 1977 was announced: Mrs. Bert Boy-

um, Miss Elisa Roen and Mrs. Jay Erickson.

The Resolutions Committee for 1977 is: Mrs. Bruce Dalager, Mrs. Erling Brekke and Mrs. Verle Dean.

Elections were held. Mrs. Arlo Kneeland, Summit, S. Dak., was elected 1st vice-president and Mrs. Reuben Wee, Granite Falls, Minn. was re-elected secretary.

Personal greetings were brought by two of our missionary wives, Mrs. Lawrence Dynneson and Mrs. John Abel. Letters of greeting were read, one from Mrs. Mae Swanson, and the other from Mrs. George Knapp, Mrs. Connely Dyrud and Priscilla Wold.

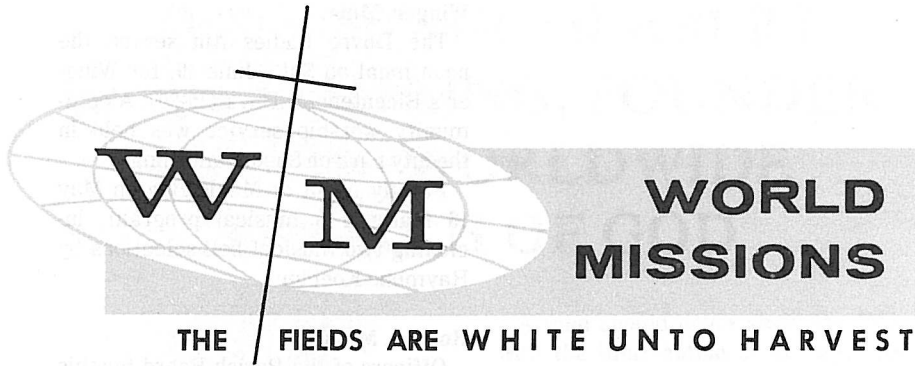
A delicious dinner was served in the cafeteria at noon. The tables had been decorated beautifully. The clever "apple characters" had been made by Jeanette Nelson.

In the afternoon Pastor Philip Hagen spoke on our theme verse. He also read the Great Commission from Matt. 28:19-20. In part, he said, we

[Continued on page 13]



Part of the audience at the WMF convention in Hancock.



We sing two hymns, have Bible reading and prayer.

The hearse arrives at the time marked. The family bids the body farewell. One sister wails traditionally and is dragged off to a bedroom. The lid is pushed onto the protruding nails and the coffin is carried out. The hearse, two cars and a city bus go to the cemetery. It is soon over.

What happened to Helio? He was wayward and did not keep good company. One night when walking home with his friends along the highway, they found amusement in a dangerous game. As cars passed, they tried to push each other out onto the highway. Helio wasn't quick enough on his short leg. When his so-called friends saw that he was hurt, they ran. Later in the night someone found him and took him to a doctor. He died 36 hours later. A body is always buried within 24 hours here in Brazil. And that's where we picked up the story of Helio again.

The Sunday after the funeral we visited Dona Gabriela. We talked about Helio. She mentioned that she had a book of his. She had loaned it to the neighbor, who was eagerly reading it. We wondered what it was. She sent Helio's sister over to get it. The workbook from Children's Camp! I eagerly looked through it, wondering if the neighbor could find the path that leads to Christ in this book. I believed he could.

The neighbor later came over with his family and we read Scripture and had prayer. This family is eager to learn more about God and His Son, Christ. Tentative plans were made to return for meetings in these two homes. Four years ago we used to have open-air meetings in this part of town.

Pray that there will be souls won to our Savior in this area where there is a group of about 30 workers houses.

Praise God for the witness of a Bible Camp workbook!



O Lord, what Thou sayest is true. Thy care for me is more than all the care I can take for myself.

—Thomas a Kempis

## HOW MUCH IS A WORKBOOK WORTH?

by Missionary Helen Knapp,  
Brazil

R. Helio Bueno was to have his 16th birthday on April 21, 1976. No one could tell us what the R. stood for. He was a big boy, with curly black hair and dark skin. He had several brothers and sisters, all older than himself.

When Helio was one and a half-years old, something happened. His mother had been outside washing clothes on a slab of wood. She came in and prepared his bottle. When she gave it to him, he couldn't take hold of it. Something was wrong with his hand and arm. There seemed to be a limpness in his leg, too. She realized something was seriously the matter.

Helio's mother, Dona Gabriela, carried him into town to Dr. Garcia. Here she was told her child had polio.

Helio was a strong-willed child and he soon was able to get around, dragging his uncooperating leg; his hand and arm pretty much recovered.

When Missionary George Knapp first met Helio, it was at the request of his mother to come to the hospital and take him home after an operation to lengthen his leg.

Helio was soon moving around more quickly and attending school. He and school never became very chummy, though. The children were not considerate of his limp and lessons were hard for him.

After the missionaries met Helio, he and his mother and sister came to church quite often. But none of them ever came to that all-important decision for Christ. Old habits and su-

perstitions have strong holds on the un-educated.

For three years we were in and out of touch with Helio. His mother would come and ask us to talk to him. He was skipping school. He skipped Sunday School, too!

One thing he gladly went to was Children's Camp. One year we studied "How Our Bible Came to Us." Helio was 12 years old. His penmanship was very good, even though in his 15th year he had not finished the 4th grade.

Each year at camp we do many interesting things on paper. These are carefully sorted out and at the end of camp each camper receives his papers inside a cover he has made in crafts class. This is his "workbook" that he proudly takes home to show.

Helio's workbook? Yes, it is neat, and well kept. It is one of the proud remembrances that Dona Gabriela has of her young son. She shows it with pride.

The day after our return to the field, in April this year, we were notified that we were wanted at Dona Gabriela's home in short order. Helio's body was going to be buried at 3 o'clock! It was now 1:30. We were having nothing but trouble with the pump on our well that day. Dirty clothes, wet clothes, no water! But these are small things, unimportant when a friend needs us. We quickly pick up our hymn book and Bible and leave for the other side of town.

There is a crowd around the small four-room house. The body is in new clothes, in a frame box covered with cloth, on a table in the living room. Candles are burning. We are assured by a dry-eyed mother that the body will not be taken to the Catholic Church, before going to the cemetery.



# NEWS

## of the Churches

### ZION, WILLMAR, INSTALLS PASTOR

Pastor Dennis Gray was installed as the Pastor of Zion Lutheran in Willmar, Minnesota on March 21. A reception was held in the church basement following the service. Pastor John Strand, AFLC President, was the installer. Pastor Gray began serving Zion on January 25. He served Bethel Lutheran church in Grafton and the Aspelund Lutheran of Langdon, North Dakota for several years before moving to Spicer.

Pictured above, left to right, are Pastor Trygve F. Dahle, Mr. John Farness and Pastor Dennis Gray at the March 21st installation service in Willmar. Mr. Farness is the oldest member of the congregation and drives to church nearly every Sunday with his wife and daughter Thelma.

### FROM HERE AND THERE

#### Thief River Falls, Minn.

The first issue of the **Parish Newsletter** came out in June. It contained also these words as to purpose: "I am planning to come into your home each month to share with you some of the happenings in our parish." Rev. Eugene Enderlein is the pastor of the parish (Our Savior's, Reiner and Emmanuel). **Kalispell, Mont.**

The corner lot just east of Faith Lu-

theran in Kalispell has been purchased for further expansion. The lot has been cleared of debris. The church foundation has been painted gold. Also, the office in the church has been completed now and all the furniture in it has been made by men of the congregation.

About 20 youngsters and the teachers attended a roller skating party which closed out Jean Brown's Bible Club at Bissell School in April.

The 4-H'ers served coffee at Stillwater Lutheran following the service on Rural Life Sunday, May 23.

John Rieth is the pastor of Faith and Stillwater Congregations. **Dalton, Minn.**

A banquet honoring graduating seniors of the parish was held on May 11 at Kvam Church. Rev. Dale Mellgren of Abercrombie, N. Dak., was the guest speaker and also brought along special music from his parish.

Confirmation services for 14 young people were held on Sundays, May 16 and 23, in Kvam, Tordenskjold and Zion Churches.

Rev. Wendell Johnson was pastor of the churches through May, but has since moved to Stacy, Minn. Seminarian Charles Kvanvig is serving the four-point (also Sarpsborg) parish this summer.

#### Winger, Minn.

The Dovre Ladies Aid served the noon meal on Sat., June 19, for Winger's Bicentennial Days (19-20). A community worship service was held in the city park on Sunday morning.

Family Night at Maple Bay on May 16 featured a musical program, including two musical bell selections by Raymone Koehler.

#### Roseau, Minn.

Officers of the Parish Board for this year are Orris Rassmusson, president; Joe Erickson, vice-president; Judy Voll, secretary; and Tom Fugleberg, treasurer.

Rev. Herbert L. Franz, Cloquet, Minn., was the speaker at Church Night at the Roseau County Fair in Roseau this year.

The Gleaners mission group is preparing a cookbook. June 2 was a work day for the project.

The Rose Church library has 150 books available for circulation.

Rev. Jerome Nikunen is pastor of the four-point parish (Rose, Roseau, Norland and Spruce.).

#### Drummond, Wis.

Pastor Ronald Knutson of the three-point parish (Faith, Moland and Drummond) is conducting services in the Barnes Town Hall also this summer. Services are at 6:30 p.m.

Christine Hanson of Faith, a graduate of Association Free Lutheran Bible School, is serving as parish worker in the parish this summer. This includes some office work.

Ted Hanson of Faith was honored by the Ondossagan School System upon his retirement as bus driver and custodian. Several gifts were presented to him by fellow employees.

From the Newsletter—"Even though many night owls become bedbugs on Sunday morning, I still do not believe in the theory of evolution."

#### Greenbush, Minn.

The annual congregational picnic for United Lutheran was held on June 6 in the city park. The meal was potluck.

Rev. Karl I. Stendal is pastor of the congregation.



[Continued from page 10]

sometimes get lost in the vastness of God's missionary plan. What can I do, personally, individually? How can I help? Pray and give. "Go ye" is not impractical. Let God use us in our world WHERE we are. The need is ever present. We perhaps see the needs but how do we personally get the message of Christ to the people? God would have us use our theme verse as the basic approach—Seek ye first. . . . In all the needs we see and the people about us, seek Christ first. Do we lack courage and boldness to share Christ with others? Is this our lack or is it a lack of concern for those about us? Love and concern for others will be given us when we seek Christ first. Many would rather get involved in various programs instead of letting Christ be first. WE NEED NOTHING MORE THAN CHRIST IN OUR LIVES. The big problem is our heart's relationship with Christ. . . . How do we seek God? By prayerful and deliberate study of the Word. If we cannot daily find time for study and meditation on the Word, our priorities are wrong. If we do not have Christ, we cannot serve Him. The things we lack for Christian living are provided when we possess Him. We must stop in our "busyness" to seek Him; then we can go forward as a people and as a nation. Our prayer should be: "Forgive us and give us grace to set our priorities right so that we can serve YOU." We were given so much food for thought and personal application.

129 registered on Wednesday, June 9. The offering received for the General Fund was \$1,320.40.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Women's FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST on Thursday morning was well attended—82 registered. This traditional breakfast which is open to all women is a time of informal sharing of spiritual blessings and experiences and a time for questions regarding WMF work. Mrs. Kenneth Pentti led in devotions, turning our thoughts to Matt. 6:19-21. She admonished us against setting our sights on earthly things. EACH one should have this single purpose in life, that of

serving God. If we know Christ we need not be anxious. Let us trust our Heavenly Father with our whole being. Other thoughts shared were that God supplies our strength and every need in times of trial and sorrow as well as in good days . . . We must have a spirit of love. We have no love of our own . . . We must feed daily on the heavenly manna . . . Be busy in prayer . . . our choice is simple when we ask His guidance . . . Our life should be one of service and communion with God.

Of the 121 congregations listed, 110 have been and/or are now supporting the WMF work and projects. We sang the birthday song to one of our dear ladies, Mrs. Eletson, whose birthday always is during Annual Conference.

At our FESTIVAL SERVICE Thursday evening a well-filled assembly singing praises to a great God, the devotions and the special music prepared us for the message we were to hear from Pastor David Molstre, based on our theme verse "Seek ye first. . . ." He challenged us with several questions: What does this verse really mean? Why did Christ say this? How can I seek God's righteousness? How do I apply this verse to my own life? Our seeking is a hungering and thirsting after the things of God. We find this difficult in our own strength. We do not love God as we ought or as much as we want. What an impossible task this is, especially for non-Christians. If by nature we are so wicked and self-centered, how do we begin to fulfill Matt. 6:33? Is our thirsting and seeking satisfied by following rules, regulations and discipline? No, this would be mechanical, so we must go back to the Sermon on the Mount. If our life is built on anything else than Jesus' blood and righteousness, we cannot have salvation. We need to see God for what He is and what we are. Through God's grace we must see how "nothing" we are. Only when God becomes great and we see ourselves as poor sinners, can we have the right beginning. Then we can begin talking about priorities. Wise men always fear and respect God. All of the great men and women of the Bible were great because they were poor in spirit. By recognizing the greatness of God and our sinful condition, we can become His ser-

vants. We have no rights in self, only in our Lord, by God's grace. Christian service and Christian living are our two big priorities. ALL must be done unto Jesus. Everything so done will bear fruit. We need quiet intercession as well as public sharing of Christ. Godly lives lived at home and on the job are as important as any sermon preached on Sunday. How do we become Godly? By having a right spirit and by being God-fearing—leading into God-trusting. We can entrust our sins and our eternity to God. When we have a personal relationship and acquaintance with Him we can begin to love Him. Sanctification is a lifelong process. Only as we know God personally can Christian priorities be manifested from within. When we are willing to let God control our lives, we can live as we ought. At the close of this powerful sermon challenging us to service, it was very fitting to conclude with the installation of the new Home Missions Director, Pastor Eldon Nelson. Let us, as members of the AFLC, uphold Pastor Nelson and his family in prayer as he assumes his new duties.

The Cradle Roll/Junior Missions offering was \$1,673.90.

As God was glorified in song, the spoken Word and in our business we felt our convention had again been a good one. "Seek Him first" so that we and our nation may receive the blessings He wants to give to His people.

—Mrs. Reuben Wee, Secretary



✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠  
✠✠ **In Memoriam** ✠✠  
✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠

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

MINNESOTA  
**McIntosh**  
**Bert Haagenon, 69, Mar. 28, Mt. Carmel**

[Continued from page 8]

lost. So our greatest need is FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

Have you ever noticed how mightily the Holy Spirit declares the forgiveness of sins?

Listen to this: To Him give all the prophets, and we could add, all the apostles, all the evangelists, and all the saints in heaven and on earth witness, that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name (Acts 10:43).

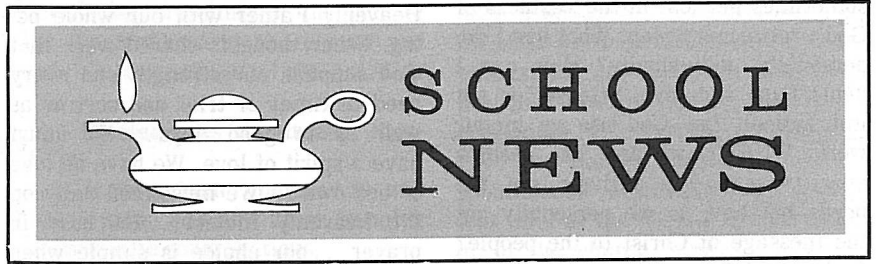
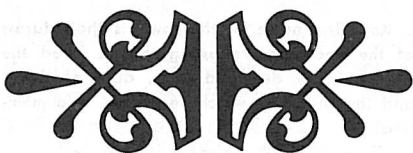
And in Luke 24:46, 47, Jesus said to His disciples: "Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

How tender and compassionate! "Beginning at Jerusalem." As if He would say: Let those who mocked me, spat upon me, crowned me with thorns, nailed me to the cross, be the first to hear that there is forgiveness for all in my name.

I want to bear witness right here in the Ambassador together with all the prophets, all the evangelists, all the apostles, and all the saints in heaven and on earth, that everyone who believes in Him receives as a free gift the forgiveness of sins through His name.

Paul says: in the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.

The word of forgiveness in His name has been established by thousands and millions in heaven and on earth, and for that reason unbelief becomes the most unreasonable thing on the face of this earth, the greatest crime and the worst sin in the whole world. What about it? Are you guilty of this sin? Repent and receive the unspeakable Gift.



### MORE ABOUT THE TOURING AMBASSADORS

"Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us, we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (II Cor. 5:20).

In Acts 1:8, Jesus gives us the command to be His witnesses or ambassadors. It is truly our joy to be able to travel this summer and share with others the peace and joy we have in knowing Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. As ambassadors we are also messengers with the most important good news of all—the message of salvation!

We have been traveling and singing since the first week of June and have enjoyed the openness and warmth of the congregations and the sweet fellowship we share in Jesus Christ.

Following the blessed time we had at the annual conference in Michigan, we sang at Ishpeming, Mich. on June 13. On the 14-16, we visited the congregations in Duluth, Virginia and Cloquet, Minn., finding time to tour an iron ore mine, drive up to Spirit Mountain, and visit the American Bible museum in Duluth.

June 17-19 were open days due to weddings in which several of the members were involved. Meeting again in Minneapolis, we were on our way once more, this time singing at Kenyon twice on Sunday morning, the 20th, and enjoying a picnic with the parish in the afternoon. Sunday evening we were in Minneapolis, sharing our songs with the Medicine Lake congregation. June 21 and 22 were spent at Cannon Falls and Zumbrota, Minn., respectively. On Wednesday, June 23, we enjoyed a day at Whitewater Bible Camp near Rochester, Minn.

Our next stops were at Modale, Ia.,

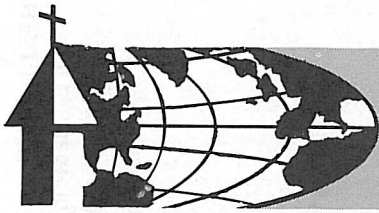
and Newman Grove, Nebr. on the 24th and 25th. On June 26, we sang and shared at Dannebrog, Nebr., which was largely a Danish community. Sunday, June 27, we had programs at Polk and Benedict. The evening concert in that parish was cancelled and we made our way to South Dakota and sang at Wallace on the 28th.

The next stops were at Sedan, Spicer and Wadena, Minn., on the 29th and 30th of June and the 1st of July. July 2 and 3 were open so we had a chance to stay with the families of two of our members. The 4th was spent at Maple Bay in the a.m., and at Lake Bronson youth camp in the p.m. Monday, July 5, was open and on July 6th we sang in Newfolden. We also made a half-hour tape for the "Trumpet of Truth" radio program on KTRF, Thief River Falls. Wednesday and Thursday we had a chance to visit some of our friends and some of our families. Friday and Saturday we enjoyed sharing at Eastern North Dakota Camp by Devils Lake and at the AFLC Family Camp at Lake Bronson.

Our next stop is Faith Haven Bible Camp at Battle Lake, Minn., where we are to be counsellors for the week, leaving there on Friday, the 16th. We are looking forward to the rest of our tour, which includes a visit to the West Coast.

It's hard to express our gratitude to those with whom we have come in contact so far. We are very grateful and remember you in prayer. May God bless you all.

All love in Christ,  
Lorilee  
Martha  
Allen  
Janell  
Karen  
Duane



# CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

## CTCR ISSUES GUIDELINES ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT FOR DISCUSSION IN LCMS

ST. LOUIS—The Commission on Theology and Church Relations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has adopted a report on capital punishment which concludes that “according to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, government has the authority to apply the death penalty,” but “is not required to exercise its right to administer it.” The LCMS adopted a convention resolution in 1967 that declared “capital punishment is in accord with the Holy Scriptures and the Luthern Confessions.”

Prepared by the CTCR Social Concerns Committee in response to a specific request to prepare and disseminate guidelines to help the Synod make judgments regarding capital punishment, the report examines the historical and theological aspects of this issue and discusses some of the practical considerations involved, before ending with the following conclusions:

—government has the authority to apply the death penalty.

—the authority of the government to apply the death penalty can be abused.

—government is not required to exercise its right to administer the death penalty.

—Christians should exert a positive influence on the government’s exercise of its responsibility of bearing the sword.

The report notes that the ethical and societal concerns that accompany discussion of capital punishment were heightened by the 1972 U.S. Supreme Court decision that imposition of the death penalty in certain cases then before the court constituted cruel and unusual punishment. It points out that the church has the responsibility to discuss this matter and to reach “conclusions that conform to the expectations of the Biblical revelation en-

trusted to it for teaching and proclamation.”

To support its conclusions, the CTCR committee cites Scriptural and Confessional references, including the need to distinguish between “God’s kingdom of grace and His rule in power.” This Lutheran teaching is further explained: “Government . . . has not been entrusted with the power to forgive sins; the church has. The church . . . does not ‘bear the sword’ as government does.”

While acknowledging that the Bible gives government the right to administer the death penalty, the report recognizes that this right can and has been abused. It points out that “neither the Scriptures nor the Lutheran Confessions state that the government must impose the death penalty” and that “Lutheran Christians may have their own reservations concerning the necessity of government exercising the right of capital punishment as it strives to carry out its responsibility.” On the other hand, the report notes, a decision that some other form of punishment be imposed “would not necessarily constitute a denial of God’s will for government or a surrender of its mandate.”

The report on capital punishment urges all Christians “. . . to love, to pray for, and to extend a ministry of Law and Gospel to both victims and perpetrators of crime, because everyone needs the compassion and Christian witness of the children of God who want others to know what they know, feel what they feel, hope what they hope, and have what they have through Jesus Christ, their only Savior and Lord.”

(Ed. note: The U. S. Supreme Court has ruled recently that the death penalty does not in itself constitute “cruel and unusual punishment,” but there are situations where the imposition of the penalty would be opposed to the spirit of the Constitution.)

## LC HEAD AGAIN TESTIFIES ON INCOME TAX PROPOSALS

Washington, D.C.—(LC)—Oral arguments against proposed amendments of income tax regulations that would define “an integrated auxiliary of the church” were presented here by Dr. George F. Harkins, general secretary of the Lutheran Council in the USA.

Appearing at a public hearing on June 7 in behalf of the American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America, Dr. Harkins reiterated the objections he raised in a written statement to the Internal Revenue Service last March.

Dr. Harkins charged that the proposed regulations “constitute an unwarranted intrusion by the state into the affairs of the church . . . fail to take into account the pluralistic nature of the American religious community . . . appear to be contrary to the legislative intent underlying the relevant Internal Revenue statute.”

“We would recommend that the Internal Revenue Service not adopt these specific proposed regulations,” he said. “They would create more problems than they would solve. They also pose serious constitutional questions.”

Dr. Harkins urged instead that “some means be devised whereby each church could validate for itself which organizations related to that church are to be considered integrated auxiliaries.”

Under the suggested changes, an integrated auxiliary of the church is defined as an organization “whose primary purpose is to carry out the tenets, functions and principles of faith of the church with which it is affiliated and whose operations in implementing such primary purpose directly promote religious activity among the members of the church.”

Examples given by the IRS of qualified organizations include men’s and women’s clubs, mission societies and

**THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR HOUR BROADCASTS**

with Rev. Herbert Franz

RADIO STATION	SUNDAY-TIME	FREQUENCY
WKLK, Cloquet, Minnesota	SUNDAY - TIME	1230 AM
KKIN, Aitkin, Minnesota	12:30 p.m.	930 AM
KWAD, Wadena, Minnesota	10:07 a.m.	920 AM
KRSI, Minneapolis, Minnesota	6:30 p.m.	AM
KQAQ, Austin, Minnesota	9:00 p.m.	FM
KWLM, Willmar, Minnesota	6:30 p.m.	970 AM
KRWB, Roseau, Minnesota	3:00 p.m.	1340 AM
KEYZ, Williston, North Dakota	8:30 a.m.	1410 AM
KFNW, Fargo, North Dakota	8:00 a.m.	1390 AM
KWAT, Watertown, South Dakota	1:00 p.m.	1170 AM
KTFC, Sioux City, Iowa	1:00 p.m.	950 AM
KVSR, Rapid City, South Dakota	6:30 p.m. SATURDAY	103.3 FM
WATW, Ashland, Wisconsin	7:00 p.m. SATURDAY	97.9 FM
WHDF, Houghton, Michigan	12:30 p.m.	1400 AM
WJMS, Ironwood, Michigan	12:30 p.m.	95.9 FM
	7:30 a.m.	1400 AM
		590 AM

religious schools, while those unqualified would include church-related hospitals, elementary schools, orphanages and homes for the aged.

**COMMEMORATIVE STAMP  
ISSUED HONORING  
LUTHERAN NURSE**

Atlantic City, N. J.—(LC)—The design of a 13-cent U.S. commemorative stamp honoring Clara Maass, the Lutheran nurse who gave her life during yellow fever research in Cuba, was unveiled on June 6 during a ceremony here at the annual convention of the American Nurses' Association.

Assistant Postmaster General Alfred C. Maevis, participating in the event, announced that the stamp will be issued on August 18 at Belleville, N.J., the site of the Clara Maass Memorial Hospital. The issue date is August 18 rather than August 24 as widely reported earlier.

In ceremonies following the unveiling, the American Nurses' Association established a Hall of Fame and inducted Miss Maass as one of the first members.

She was born in East Orange, N.J. on June 28, 1876. After graduating from the Newark German Hospital School of Nursing in 1895, she became head nurse there and, when the Spanish-American War broke out, she volunteered to become a contract nurse with the U.S. Army. She was discharged after service at army camps in Florida and Georgia and in Santiago, Cuba. But she volunteered

again in 1900 for further duty and was sent to the Philippines to continue her work with yellow fever victims.

She then returned to Cuba where experiments were being conducted by a U.S.-Cuban team that included major Walter Reed and Major William C. Gorgas, the army sanitation officer who later would control yellow fever and malaria to make possible the construction of the Panama Canal. The team sought to determine the causes and cure for the wildly-spreading disease.

Assigned to Las Animas Hospital in Havana, she volunteered to take part in the experiments which sought to prove that the stegomyia mosquito was the carrier of yellow fever. Bitten initially on June 4, 1901, she contracted a slight case of yellow fever from which she quickly recovered. She volunteered to be bitten again on August 14, contracting a more severe case, and died 10 days later. She was the only American and the only woman to die during the experiments, which proved the stegomyia mosquito to be the yellow fever carrier and led to the virtual extinction of the disease.

The Newark German Hospital later became the Lutheran Memorial Hospital and, in 1952, the name was changed to the Clara Maass Memorial Hospital.

**THREE LUTHERANS NAMED  
TO OFFICE IN HYMN SOCIETY  
OF AMERICA**

New York—(LC)—Lutheran music specialists have been elected to

office in the Hymn Society of America as president, treasurer and executive director of the 54-year old organization, with headquarters in New York City.

Another Lutheran, Dr. Ralph Mortensen, retired after eight years as the society's treasurer. A pastor of the American Lutheran Church, Dr. Mortensen served as a missionary in China for 15 years and as a staff member of the American Bible Society for 23 years before his retirement in 1966.

Named to a two-year term as president of the Hymn Society was Dr. L. David Miller, dean of the School of Music of Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio.

Elected to succeed Dr. Mortensen as treasurer was William Lambacher, chairman and president of The Springfield (Ohio) Bank. He is a member of the ALC.

W. Thomas Smith, also of Springfield, was named to the newly-created post of executive director of the Hymn Society, succeeding Dr. William W. Reid, a Methodist, who has served many years as executive secretary of the society. Mr. Smith is a member of the Lutheran Church in America.

The society adopted a new constitution which made possible a reorganization of its officers and committees, but affirmed its purpose to promote the writing and publishing of new hymns "related to the needs of the American people and their churches," but retaining the best of the older hymns of recent centuries.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR  
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minn. 55427  
Second-class postage  
paid at Minneapolis, Minn.